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ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



LH 34/323/1

ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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7 Lynwood St
Blakehurst

FEBRUARY 1991

NEXT MEETING

DATE: 8pm.Friday 15 February.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, 1st Flr. Rockdale Town Hall,
Princes Hwy Rockdale.

BUSINESS: General.

GUEST SPEAKER:

"PIONEERS DOWN UNDER"

A witty, amusing and very interesting look
at our forebears will be presented by JUDY
DUNN.

Don't miss this one! Come along for an
entertaining night

SUPPER ROSTER: Members please bring a plate.

34/323/2

CARCOAR WEEKEND AWAY

MARCH 9th and 10th

THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US ON OUR WEEKEND AWAY TO CARCOAR!

There are still seats available if you are interested in seeing this wonderful old central west town. Carcoar has loads of character, charm and atmosphere and Joan Fairhall has arranged a full itinerary of events.

THE TOTAL COST OF \$80 IS TERRIFIC VALUE. It includes coach trip, dinner bed and breakfast and 2 morning teas.

Coach departs Blakehurst 7.30am with pick-ups at Rockdale and Hurstville Stations.

To Carcoar via Bathurst, overnight accommodation at Cowra.

Returns Rockdale Railway Station approx. 5.30pm Sunday

Contact Joan Fairhall on 546 5555.

OFFICE BEARERS

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AUDITOR: MRS L THOMPSON

THE LATE MRS ANN STAHL"MRS EVEREADY"

St George Historical Society is saddened by the recent loss of one of its life-members, Mrs Ann Stahl. A very alert 98 year old, Mrs Stahl, accompanied by her son, Allan, was a regular attendee of Society meetings. Our sincere sympathies go to Allan who was her constant companion and protector. The following is a transcript of the funeral address given by the Rector of St David's, Arncliffe, the Rev. Norman Robinson.

Mrs Ann Stahl was born in Junee in 1892, the only child of Mary and John Miller. As her mother was often in hospital and father worked on the railway and was away a lot, Ann spent a lot of her time with other people. She was a very good scholar at school, coming Dux. She wanted to be a teacher, but was unable to go to Wagga High School.

Mrs Stahl's young adult years were much brighter - she enjoyed her work was an excellent pianist and loved dancing. She played the piano at many dances and helped in community work. During the First World War she lost many friends and cousins.

About this time she met a nice widower from Sydney with five children. She married John Stahl and lived at Tempe. Ann had five children - Dora, Leslie, Basil, Clem and Allan. Dora was married at St Davids in 1945.

These were hard years for Ann - with the Great Depression followed by the Second World War. Two sons, Basil and Clem, went to war and returned safe and sound.

The next fifty odd years Ann enjoyed life to its fullest. She travelled extensively - was on five cruise ships - went to N.Z., Norfolk Is. and Tasmania - she was nicknamed "Mrs Eveready". At 92 she went on Oriana to Tasmania - played Blackjack at the Casino and won, then to Melbourne Cup and won again - in the company of Clem and Dora. At 94, she flew over Sydney in Alan Bond's Airships and watched the Grand Finals from the air.

Mrs Stahl belonged to various organisations, being active in the Boy Scouts movement, Life Member of St George Historical Society, and up till Christmas '89 played indoor bowls with Arncliffe Senior Citizens. Ann lived in the St George area for nearly 70 years, mainly in Bexley and Arncliffe.

Most of her later activities were possible by the help and support of her son Allan, who was devoted to his mother and cared for her - they were great pals.

Mrs Stahl died happy knowing her life was full, and in her 98 years had the best of health, with minor accidents. She leaves one daughter and three sons, their wives, children and great-grandchildren.

KOGARAH SCHOOL CELEBRATES CENTENARY

St George &
Sutherland Shire
Leader 1970

"On visiting this school I found the accomodation scanty and the appearance of the school very poor....."

This is a quote from a minute dated October 1, 1890, by the then Minister for Education (Mr J H Carruthers), and it refers to the new Kogarah Public School. The words have been echoed over the years by various school and Parents and Citizens Association authorities.

Mr Carruthers had a special interest in the school - it was in his electorate and he lived near it. His minute continued "As a Roman Catholic school is in the neighbourhood competing, and as the locality is growing, steps must be taken to increase the accomodation and improve the appearance of the school. There is a piece of vacant grown 'shown' on the sketch hereon which should be acquired by resumption or purchase. Let the architect prepare a plan for a 2 storey building of some pretension - providing adequate accommodation for girls and infants."

A photostat copy of the minute is included in a history of Kogarah Public School prepared by Mr J J Fletcher, of the Education Department Research Section, to coincide with the school's 100th anniversary this month.

The school had its origin in 1870 when classes began in St Paul's Church, Kogarah. Two denominational schools - a Catholic (opened in 1862) and a Wesleyan (1863) - were in existence already, but the classes set up in St Paul's Church were designed to be inter-denominational rather than Anglican. For this reason local residents had promised to send 88 children to the school when it was established - 64 were of school age already, the remainder were between the ages of one and three years.

In May, 1870, the Council of Education (the authority responsible for allocating Government finance to schools) agreed to "come to the party".

The district school inspector (Mr J Huffer) suggested the same month that the school's name be changed from its original title Rocky Point Rd to "Koggerah" Non-vested Public School. A non-vested school meant that the building did not belong to the Education Council and could be used for religious purposes outside school hours.

The first teacher, John W McDonnell, arrived on August 5 1870, and the school began operating soon afterwards.

In 1875 the then inspector (Mr W McIntyre) investigated and decided a public school completely separated from the church was "desirable".

The first school building was completed in November, 1876. It was designed to accommodate 100 children and had a five-roomed residence for a teacher.

By 1890 the school had outgrown its accommodation and was in condition described in Mr Carruther's minute. Extensions were added, the first of several in the years between 1891 and the 100th anniversary this year.

This is a copy of a letter recently forwarded to us by Brian Madden, a member of St George and Canterbury Historical Societies. He thought it more appropriate that it be retained by us rather than Canterbury.

Full of local historical references, it makes interesting reading.

Thank you, Brian.

95 Hampden Rd
Five Dock
12 Sept. 1962

Dear Sirs,

I was very interested in the talk on early Rockdale last Saturday night as I myself was born just a few minutes walk from Brighton le Sands almost 78 years ago.

My grandfather, James Beehag, and his brother, William, came to Australia just 2 religious minded young men when it was all bush.

My grandfather bought 99 acres of bushland from what is now known as Princes Highway (old Rocky Point Road) to a few yards from Brighton down the right hand side of Bay St which at that time did not exist. It was years later that Bay St was made by my own father (Samuel Tatler) who for 16 years was overseer on Rockdale Council. My grandfather gave an acre of ground on which the Methodist Church of Rockdale now stands, and his brother, William, built the first Sunday school of ti-tree and hessian. The first public building of a permanent nature was opened by the Rev. R. Amos for people called Methodists, the locality at the time being known as Rocky Point. We were friendly with the Geeves family and children from each family went to Rockdale school. Mr Fred Geeves and one of my brothers were inseparable.

I remember Brighton when it was all bush and when I was a little girl there was one shop conducted by a Mr Lowe. After some years a park called "Shady Nook" was formed and I always think it was a pity that it was ever changed as it was a very popular walk from Rockdale to the beach and have a rest in "Shady Nook". I have been told by my mother (she was Margaret Beehag) of the days when she was a girl and her brothers carted wood to Sydney before there was ever a George Street. It was just a bullock track. We often tried to get mother to see a reporter and tell her story of the early days which was very interesting. She died at the age of 88 about 31 years ago. She was born at Canterbury and her people came to Rockdale 10 years later and resided where Mr Draper's Nursery is now and lived there the rest of her life.

I am
yours respectfully
Amy Slade