

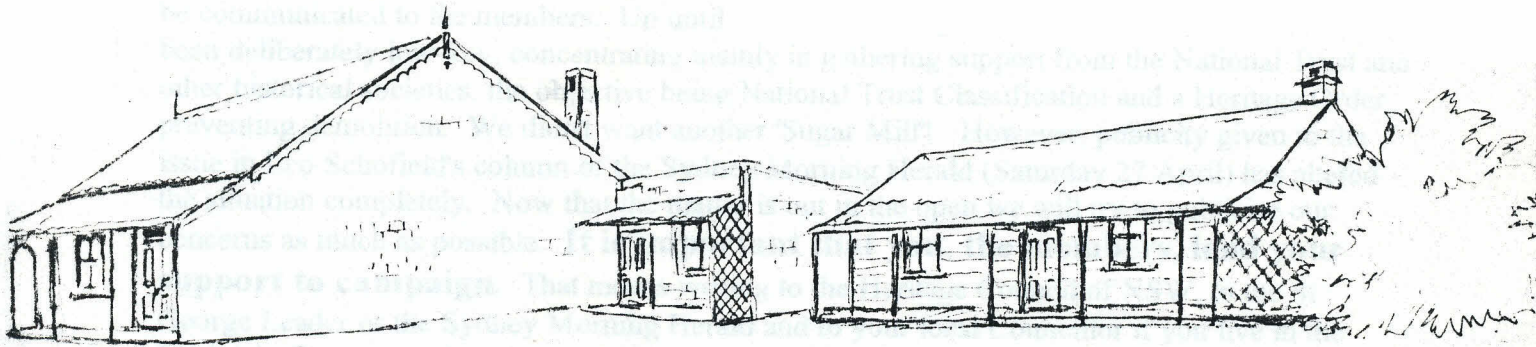
St George Historical Society Inc.

Bulletin

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

HERITAGE WEEK SPECIAL EDITION

MAY 1996



NEXT MEETING

'SAVE Banbury Cottage'

A TALK WITH SLIDES

14 MAY

1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, 8pm, Princes Highway, Rockdale.

Thank You, Members

Thank you to those members who generously gave of their time to be on the Lydham Hall roster for the first of the Heritage Week Open Days, held on Sunday, 28 April. A mix up somewhere in the communication between Rockdale Council and the National Trust resulted in Lydham Hall being advertised in the National Trust's calendar as being open on 28 April, as well as 4 and 5 May. Our thanks to Bettye Ross, Arthur Ellis, Margaret Persen, Patricia Molla, Les and Doreen Sykes, Heather McLaren, Bob Lee, Tina Jowett, Cathy Sayer and Mel O'Shea.

Why a special bulletin?

Firstly, we wanted to promote our *Early Interiors and Interior Features* exhibition, but more importantly there have been some recent developments with *Banbury Cottage* which needed to be communicated to the members. Up until now the campaign to save the Mascord home has been deliberately low-key, concentrating mainly in gathering support from the National Trust and other historical societies, the objective being National Trust Classification and a Heritage Order preventing demolition. We didn't want another 'Sugar Mill'! However, publicity given to the issue in Leo Schofield's column of the Sydney Morning Herald (Saturday 27 April) has altered the situation completely. Now that the matter is out in the open we will try to publicise our concerns as much as possible. **It is important that you, the members, lend your support to campaign.** That means writing to the Heritage Council of NSW, to the St George Leader or the Sydney Morning Herald and to your local Councillor if you live in the Rockdale City area. If you are not a confident letter-writer we have enclosed a form letter with this bulletin. We urge you to take action. Thomas Mascord's house is a unique remnant of this region's rural past and every effort must be made to save it from demolition. At this stage we have the full support of the National Trust and we are optimistic of securing an interim conservation order on the building. Artist, Daphne Kingston, whose special interest is early 19th century buildings, regards *Banbury Cottage* very highly and has allowed her sketches of the house to be used in the campaign. If you would like to know more about *Banbury Cottage* - come to the next meeting! (details on front page)

LYDHAM HALL

A CHANCE TO HAVE SOME INPUT

Would you like to have a say in the way Lydham Hall is run? You may have some bright ideas as to how to present the museum in a different manner or perhaps a brilliant way to promote Lydham Hall to the public. We want your creative participation. The Lydham Hall Local Committee is calling for additional people to join the committee. Enquiries Bettye Ross 5890229.

May 1996

Heritage Council of NSW
Planning and the Environment
GPO Box 3927, Sydney 2001

Dear Council Members,

I write to express my concern at the threat posed to a house known as Banbury Cottage which is located at 23 Chandler Street, Kogarah. The property has been bought by Askor Pty Ltd with the intention of redeveloping the site. This would by necessity involve demolition of the building.

Banbury Cottage is an intact and rare example of a farm cottage of the 1870s and an important remnant of the rural phase of development once common to many areas of Sydney. It has undergone comparatively little in the way of modifications for modern living and is very representative of the humble dwellings occupied by market gardeners of the period. Banbury Cottage possibly better demonstrates the living conditions of these pioneer settlers than most other surviving examples of the region. Also very significant is the fact that the house has been occupied continuously by the descendants of Rockdale pioneer, Thomas Mascord, up until November, 1995, thus ending a relationship with this site which dates to at least as early as 1868.

It is most important this building be retained, not just for Rockdale but for the people of the southern Sydney region. I urge you to act in this matter to ensure the preservation of this building and site.

Yours faithfully,

St George Historical Society Inc.
presents

Early Interiors and Interior Features

of houses in the St George District



SAT. 4 & 5 MAY

9.00am - 3pm

Lydham Hall, 18 Lydham Ave., Rockdale

Admission FREE

Sponsored by Rockdale City Council