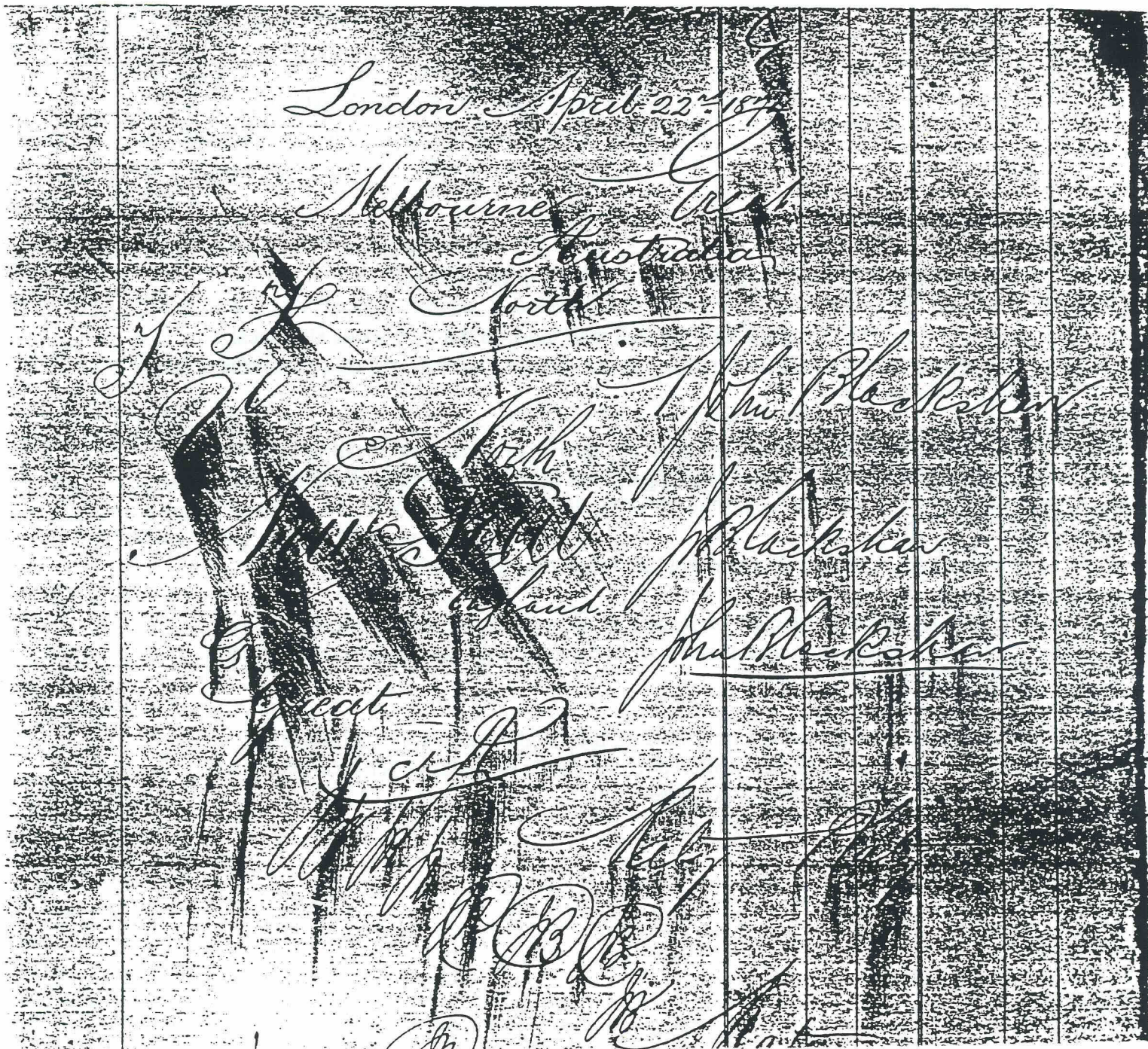


St George Historical Society
Inc.

Bulletin

SPONSORED BY ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1998 Edition



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NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 10 What's happening in our neck of the woods?

Mr. John Logue of Rockdale City Council, will speak to the St. George Historical Society about current affairs impacting on the lives of Rockdale and other denizens of the St. George area.

Mr. Logue looks forward to answering any queries or concerns or hearing your views on life in the area. So put your thinking caps on and come prepared for a stimulating evening.

MARCH 10 Scotland Remembered and Wartime Experiences.

Once again, we have been very fortunate to secure Miss Margaret Fleming who will capture our imagination with her evocative description of Scottish life and personal reflections of WW2.

Miss Fleming has agreed to bring some of the delightful cards she painstakingly handcrafts and has generously offered to donate the proceeds of her lovely work to our Society. So bring your money with you!

APRIL 14 Red Cross in Action.

Mr. John Lechners will speak on the good work of the Australian Red Cross. This should prove most informative. Please come and hear exactly what does get done behind the scenes of this noble institution.

MAY 12 A Cornish Affair.

Ms. Maxine Gray will talk about the "Cornish Society" to which she belongs. The Cornish were characteristically industrious and hard working people who added greatly to pre and post Colonial life and national prosperity.

As will be evidenced on the night, our Cornish heritage warrants rather greater recognition than that traditionally afforded by Australian historians and popular folklore.

JUNE 9 A River Somewhere.

Mr. Peter Sage, one of the Society's more widely travelled members, will present a slide show on the Hawkesbury River. As always, we are guaranteed to enjoy an informative and beautifully compiled presentation. Come early or you will most definitely not get front row seats!

JULY 14 Annual General Meeting.

Yes, it is that time of the year again. **P-L-E-A-S-E** consider how you might be able to play a more active role in your Society's operation. Remember many hands make lighter work!

A film will be played after the election of Office Bearers if time permits.

Meetings are held 8 PM every second Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Meeting Room 1st Floor, Rockdale Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Members, please bring a plate. Visitors are welcome.

FROM THE EDITOR...

On behalf of the Committee, please accept our good wishes for a happy and healthy 1998.

As Honorary Editor/Chief Sleuth, my goal is to search those remote nooks, crannies, catalogues and dare I suggest grannies - in short leave no stone unturned in my pursuit of stimulating reading material for **you** the Reader of this publication.

I am indebted for the principal article of this edition of the Bulletin, to Society member Mr. Bruce Blackshaw. It was a rare treat and privilege to handle the source material from which the article was derived, the journal of his Grandfather's voyage en route from the Mother Country to Colonial Australia.

Readers, the Editor would appreciate having further stones (but not grannies) tossed gently in his direction for inclusion in our Bulletin. If an article tickles your fancy, then it is not improbable that it will prove interesting to fellow members. Please put pen to paper and forward or contact me if you would like to suggest or contribute something for the Bulletin.

Kind regards,

Wesley Fairhall

Vale John Curran

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent passing of a fellow member Mr. John Curran. To his brother Albert and family, we offer sincere condolences for their loss.

John was a genuinely warm and friendly man who always had time to share in some good cheer. We shall miss his characteristic laughter and his dogged determination, despite failing health to attend meetings and functions organised by the Society.

John rest in peace.

LYDHAM HALL VOLUNTEERS' ROSTER

Would all members kindly consider volunteering in the capacity of Lydham Hall guides. Guide work is not onerous, requiring two hours on a Saturday or Sunday from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Bring a friend/s and enjoy the period charm of **your** historic house. The following table indicates the days requiring volunteers. Direct enquiries to Mrs. Bettye Ross on 9589 0229.

JANUARY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	24th B. Ross	25th J. & W. Bradshaw	26th Australia Day Open 12 to 4 p.m. B.Ross, D. Lenane, S. Ericcson, J. Fairhall, W. Fairhall
	31st		
FEBRUARY		1st	
	7th	8th	
	14th	15th	
	21st J. & W. Bradshaw	22nd	
	28th	1st March	
MARCH	7th	8th	
	14th	15th	
	21st	22nd	
	28th	29th	

A BACKGROUND ON THE BLACKSHAW'S.

A summary of John Blackshaw's life is as follows:-

John was born 1853 in London and emigrated to Australia when 21 years of age in 1874, initially residing in Melbourne. Whilst in Melbourne, John married his first wife Elizabeth Duffy in 1880, Elizabeth unfortunately died in 1891 during childbirth. John subsequently remarried a Sarah Winpower, predeceasing his second wife in 1896 when they were living at Glebe in Sydney.

John's eldest son Alfred Leslie Blackshaw, proved to be a dynamic force in the Hurstville area. Alfred was elected Mayor of Hurstville in 1911, when only 29 years of age. Other claims to fame include his being patron of the Propeller Newspaper's "Young Writers' League" and his being the first person to bowl a cricket ball at Hurstville Oval. John Blackshaw died when living at Penshurst in 1972 aged 92 years of age.

The Blackshaw Pavilion in Penshurst Park was erected to his memory

About the Journal....

The journal is some 17 pages in length and as it is very evocative of the period, I have decided to treat it in a serial format to be run over the course of the year. Words of the Journal or names that are indecipherable will be bracketed or replaced with a question mark. The construction and grammar are as transcribed direct from John Blackshaw's hand.

The JOURNAL - A MEMORABLE VOYAGE

Monday July 13th 1874. Boarded the "Peterborough", she took on board 50 tons Gunpowder...went to bed 1/4 to 12 p.m.

Tuesday July 14th Weighed anchor about 2.a.m. got up 3 or 1/2 past could not sleep for the noise, sighted the coast of France about 5.P.M. o'clock, glorious weather, passed an emigrant ship called "Berkley Castle" bound for New Zealand she was towed out by a tug & when left to herself made direct for the coast of France so we have at present the start of her. Past over the spot where the "Northfleet" went down of (Dungeneas), turned into Berth 1/2 past eleven.

Wednesday July 15th Awoke 4 a.m. with the noise, not only of the hoisting of the sails, but the men singing. "The Crew are allowed to sing & take what (time) they like in hoisting the sails." The tug left us about 5.a.m., we lay in a perfect calm all day, not a breath of wind stirring, plenty of excitement caused by a lad, who was put on board in a most mysterious manner, without bedding or any thing else, he comes from some Reformatory School & should say that they could do no good with him so paid his passage & sent him to the Colony. Sited the Isle of Wright 8.30 P.M. Turned in 11.30 P.M.

Thursday July 16th Called by Cook 6 A.M., sighted Portland Isle, Pilot left us & took all letters, sent one home sailed under a stiff breeze at the rate of 7 or 8 Knots per Hour, had Salt Junk "Salt Beef" for the first time.

Friday July 17th Sailed at 7.30 a.m. passed the "Great Victoria" bound for Calcutta, Tasker Second Cabin Passenger taken ill & fetched Doctor to him had to act as Spokesman for doctor on Acct of patient being deaf & Doctor's weak voice, came over very green myself about 2 o'clock, hurried into birth slept for an hour got up much better, Baron Louis Hillbron got severely ? by the crew for screaming at them. They had his arms behind him & lay him full length on deck and then one of the sailors was elected judge, he was ordered to have a few raps on the head with a bosun handle & then well bashed with the broom all over face, head & then gave him the ropes end across his posterior & to wind up threw a bucket of water over him & laid him in the (Scripper.). This took place about seven p.m. turned in about 11 p.m. The Crew played leap frog all around the deck.

Saturday July 18th Felt very green after breakfast & continued the same all day could not eat or drink anything. Baron Louis Hillbron had the pleasure of being washed by the Crew. They shot him into a large tub of salt water with his clothes on. They then striped him of every thing & two ? of sailors cut all his hair off as close to his head as possible & thoroughly washed him from head to foot, we lay in a perfect calm in the Bay of Biscay all day saw several (strange) fish & Sun fish could not catch any. The first mate searched Baron ? & things found a pistol. The pistol was taken away from him.

Sunday July 19th No Service all day, saw a lot of porpoises did not try to catch any. Got into conversation with a Third Class passenger & found out that I had played against him at cricket in 1872 Oval Hackney Wanderers & St. James, his name is Mr. Willie, dropped in for a good thing for tea the pink of a fowl which had just left the Saloon a rare luxury felt a little better in health after dinner. Not much improvement in Tasker in bed all day.

Monday July 20th A Glorious day (spanked) along at about 8 Knots an hour, had a jolly evening. 1st the Apprentices in our birth stayed up till 12 p.m. dressed two of the Sailors up one with my dressing gown the other with a swallowtail coat with brass buttons, my Box hat & umbrella, gave them a couple of cigars & sent them strolling after much to the amusement of all on board. Tasker much better up all day.

Tuesday July 21st Had a ? over night which lasted till the morning nearly all passengers on board green very ill myself, got sick. The sea running very high causing the waves to wash through the port holes & give us a good dunking much to the disgust of the female community had beastly salt junk could not eat any dinner only bread, cheese & pickles, sighted the coast of Portugal, Turned in 9 p.m.

Wednesday July 22nd Felt first class made a good Breakfast & Dinner in the afternoon tried to catch some "Stormy Petrels" or as the Sailors call them "Mother Carys Chickens" spent best part of day on poop, had a (rare) spice in the evening ? of sailors dressed up one as an old man the other as a woman went round to the passengers with a hat.

Thursday July 23rd Felt first class all day eat a jolly good breakfast tea & Dinner, scorching hot in the sun, a bit of a row with one of the sailors for screaming at the first mate. Tasker much better, "Doctor" "Chips" & ? spent evening in our Cabin

Friday July 24th The following is a list of souls on board

Captain	(Gardnerien) RNR
First Mate	Cooper
Second Mate	Abery
Third mate	Crawford RNR
Midshipman	Meredith, Durell, Hadley
Doctor	Lewin

Steward	Edbrook
Bo'sun	Murrell RNR
Carpenter	Geo Martin
Cook	(Dipson)
Cooks Assistant	?
Stewards Boys	Feranie & Read
20 Sailor Men	Buston, Irving, Jones, Scott, Stegman, Moore, De Lousi, Mew, Hutchinson, Coles, (Focult), Crawford, Harvey, Cortes, Balford, Gilespy, Gibbons, Murray, Viney, Wolf
2 boys	Farrier, Vogel
1st Cabin Passenger	Mr Crosdale, Mr & Mrs Whitborne 4 children & Mary Hitch, Mrs Carter, Mr Joseph
2nd Cabin Passengers	Gladstone, Tasker, Blackshaw and Schneberger
Third Cabin Passengers	Mr Lane, Miss Turner, Mr Willie, Master Willie, Miss Willie, Miss Bell, Mr Mrs & Master Hook Mrs Johnson, Mr Miller Miss Griffen, Baron Louis Hillbron, Mr Edwards & two sons Masters

Scorching hot in the Sun goodness knows what it will be in the tropics, lost my own appetite & found one of the Sailors, Baron Louis had several fits in the course of the day, passed in about 12 p.m.

Saturday July 25th ? stoned the Cabin out which the first mate confiscated ? ?
Baron Louis had another series of fits, one of the hottest day we have had since we left England it being scorching hot in the sun about 12 a.m.

Sunday July 26th Was awoke about 1 a.m. with the rolling of the ship & the rain peltting down on deck, fined up about 7 a.m., sited the Island of Madeira about 12 miles of from the beam also the Coast of Africa right for'ard, made a cake for the first time, no service all day.

Monday July 27th Turned out about 6 Bells had a good plate of porridge & a rasha of Bacon for Breakfast, a close sultry day, no wind, rained about 3 p.m. a nasty Mist, Third Class passengers presented a petition to the Captain asking him to put Baron in an other berth & not allow him down among them on acct of his uncleanness, which was refused.

Tuesday July 28th Amuse myself by playing Crib all the Morning. Punched Baron's head for hanging about our Cabin, he retaliated & threw a pot of hot Tea over me & bolted on to the poop & stood by the Captain went up & kicked him off. Had a nasty fall, which raised a lump on my leg as large as my fist ordered to have salt water pumped on it & then ? which the Doctor gave me, spent a very jolly evening had a small party in our Cabin the following Gentlemen were present
Crawford, Meredith, Durell, Hadley, Bo Sun "Chips" Read Scot Irving Gladstone & Myself. Passed in 1/2 past 12

Wednesday July 29th Rose about 4 Bells played Crib all morning, had a couple of ? good hard work after dinner, Irving, one of the Sailors "a brother to John Longmead, "Basinghall" St IC, leg very much swollen & bruised, caught a fish "Sulb" small with a very long head.

Thursday July 30th Saw doctor regarding leg, progressing favourably. Excessively hot all day, dark ? had Crawford & Meredith in our Cabin, had Drog, one of the best nights on board was on deck till 12p.m.

Friday July 31st Ran short of provisions had to make chips?. Getting hotter & hotter every day position Long 24 West Lat 27.48 North

TO BE CONTINUED...

WHAT'S ON.....

Australia Day Get Together at Lydham Hall

DATE: Monday 26/01/98

TIME: 12.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M.

This will be a pleasant occasion for members (and friends) unable to attend the monthly evening meetings, to meet, chat and indulge in a devonshire tea. Lydham Hall will be advertised as open for public inspection.

The day provides a splendid opportunity to invite a friend to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

COST: \$4.00 - inclusive of entry fee & devonshire tea.

CONTACT: Bettye Ross on telephone number 9589 0229 or Joan Fairhall on telephone number 9546 5555 to advise of your attendance.

Tour of the Queen Victoria Building

DATE: Wednesday 04/02/98

TIME: 10.00 A.M.

This should prove to be an easy and enlightening day organised by the Friends of the Hurstville Library. The Q.V.B. is readily accessible from Town Hall Station. Do come and hear how the White Elephant was transformed into the most profitable retail site in Australia.

MEET: 10.00 A.M. at the Information Desk.

Take or buy your luncheon which can be eaten in the Q.V.B.

COST: \$5.00 donation to the Friends of the Hurstville Library.

CONTACT: Jean Jehan on telephone number 9579 3262.

Watson's Bay Bus Trip

DATE: Thursday 26/02/98

TIME: 9 A.M.

The day run by the St. George Historical Society will include a bus tour of Watson's Bay with a local historian to provide a full commentary. Morning Tea will be had in Rushcutter's Bay Park with luncheon at the Rose Bay RSL Club.

MEET: 9 A.M. in Ormonde Parade Hurstville.

COST: \$10.00 each (not inclusive of luncheon).

CONTACT: Joan Fairhall on telephone number 9546 5555

Richmond Ramblings

DATE: Tentatively set for Mid March

TIME: Yet to be decided

The day organised by the Church of England Historical Society will include a tour and talk on the famous Francis Greenway designed St. Peter's church and nearby cemetery.

COST: \$5.00 (inclusive of Morning Tea). Proceeds to the Church of England Historical Society.

CONTACT: Joan Fairhall on telephone number 9546 5555

Some proverbs to ponder:-

"A worm is in the bud of youth and at the root of old age";

"A loud voice bespeaks a vulgar man";

"A man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client";

"A man has learned much, who has learned to die"; and

"A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds."