



Kogarah Residents' Guide 2012 History





Above: Kogarah High School Poster
Kogarah Post Office 1895, Photo from
Kogarah Local Studies Collection

Below: Railway Parade, Kogarah, circa
1915. Photo from Kogarah Local Studies
Collection; and Belgrave Street, Kogarah.



Kogarah

.... a look back at
the last two centuries

The name Kogarah is Aboriginal, meaning place of reeds and takes its name from the reeds that grew in the inlets along the Georges River and at the head of Kogarah Bay. In 1999, Kogarah City Council adopted an image of reeds to use in its logo. The Aboriginal people of the area are believed to have been the Darug-speaking Kameygal and Bediagal bands who lived in the area around Botany Bay between the Cooks and Georges Rivers.

The Early Days

The first recorded European visitors to the area were on Lieutenant James Cook's voyage in 1770. They explored the shores of Botany Bay but ventured no further inland.

The first grants of land in the area which later became the Kogarah Municipality were taken up by the Townson Brothers in 1808, Patrick Moore in 1812 and James Chandler in 1822. By the time of the 1828 Census the total population of the district of St. George was 184 comprising of 120 men, 16 women and 48 children. Between the 1830s and early 1860s settlement in the Kogarah area increased slowly with the area remaining primarily an agricultural one with the establishment of market gardens in what are now the suburbs of Kogarah, Beverley Park and Blakehurst.

Access to the area by road gradually improved and this in turn attracted more settlers resulting in the population of St. George more than doubling, from 2,600 to 5,647 in the five years between 1856 and 1861. The single event to have the greatest impact on the area now covered by Kogarah City was the construction of the railway line linking Sydney to Wollongong. Kogarah Station opened when the Illawarra Line opened to Hurstville in 1884. A steam tram service from Kogarah to Sans Souci began in 1887 and residential development rapidly followed.

Kogarah becomes a Municipality

Residents, led by local solicitor Joseph Hector Carruthers, began agitation for a local council and Kogarah Municipality was proclaimed on 22 December 1885. At the 1901 census Kogarah's population stood at 3,892 with 96% being either Australian born or born in the United Kingdom. Development in the first half of the 20th century was significant with the expansion of



Kogarah Municipal Council Chamber, 1918

suburbs, in particular Carss Park, Beverley Park and Oatley.

By 1949 Kogarah Municipality's population had grown to 39,000. Significantly though the ethnic background of the population had not changed and less than 2% of the population was born in countries other than Australia or the United Kingdom. Thirty years on, the 1971 census shows that whilst the population had grown to 47,197 only 4.4% were from a non-English speaking background. By 2006 more than 23% of the 53,206 residents were born in non-English speaking countries and 35% spoke a language other than English at home.

Achieving City Status

In 2008 Kogarah became the first Local Government Area in NSW to become a city by popular vote. Nearly 70% of residents voted to rename the Kogarah Municipality as the City of Kogarah, thereby granting the area City status.

The Kogarah Town Square development in Belgrave street which was officially opened on 5 September 2003 has become a hub of activity in Kogarah, combining commercial and residential development with Kogarah's Library and Cultural Centre also calling it home. Today, the Kogarah CBD retains much of

its 1920s appearance. The old post office is still an architectural feature on Railway Parade and is used for community services. The Kogarah Fire Station has stood on its present site in Gray Street since 1907. In November 2011 the City of Kogarah was named Overall Australian Winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful National Sustainable Cities Award. This prestigious award recognises the outstanding environmental initiatives and commitment to sustainability shown by the community and Council.



Kogarah Town Square Development

Jubilee Oval

the history of one of Kogarah's iconic sports grounds

Jubilee Oval stands on part of the 87 acres originally granted to Archibald McNab on 23 December 1853. Edmond English (1818-1912) purchased the grant on 23 May 1854 for £400. In 1882 Edmond English built the Kogarah Hotel, on the corner of what is now English Street and Princes Highway. The adjacent English's Paddock became a recreation ground for cricket and football. A 10 acre portion of the paddock was purchased by the NSW government for £2000 and dedicated as Kogarah Park on 1 July 1896, the first public park in Kogarah. The park was managed by trustees and continued as a sports ground. Control of the park passed to the Council of the Municipality of Kogarah on 29 August 1906. Local rugby union, Australian rules, rugby league and cricket clubs all used the ground.

Celebrating Council's Jubilee

In 1920 Kogarah Council commissioned John Sulman to draw plans for improvements to the park, including a playground, tennis courts and a bowling green. The park was fenced and a picket fence erected around the oval, but nothing else came of the plans. To celebrate Kogarah Council's jubilee (50th anniversary) it was decided to build a 760 seat grandstand and improve the oval at a cost of £3000. A highlight of the jubilee celebrations was a rugby league exhibition



Jubilee Oval, 2011

match between St George and Newtown at the newly completed Jubilee Oval on 14 March 1936. St George made an inauspicious debut at the ground, defeated 26 points to 10 by Newtown. St George's home ground was Earl Park at Arncliffe and they did not play at Jubilee Oval again for another 14 years.

A Record Breaking Performance

St George had been offered Earl Park for £5000, but had been unable to afford it and from 1940 the team was based at Hurstville Oval. In early 1950 Kogarah Council leased Jubilee Oval to the St George Rugby League Football Club. St George played their first premiership match at their new home ground against South Sydney on 22 April 1950. 12,500 spectators saw history repeat itself when St George lost 17 points to 15, but defeat would become very rare in the coming years at Kogarah. St George were defeated by Balmain on 26 June 1954 at Jubilee Oval. It wasn't until 31 July 1966 that the Saints were beaten at Kogarah again, losing to Western Suburbs 12 points to 9. St George were based at Kogarah during their world record breaking 11 successive premierships from 1956 to 1966.



Jubilee Oval, 1935

Kogarah War Memorial

Since 1923 the Kogarah War Memorial had stood in Gray Street opposite the fire station. Deemed to be a traffic hazard it was relocated to the north west corner of Kogarah Park and dedicated at the Anzac Day dawn service on 25 April 1968. In 1970-1971 Kogarah Council made substantial alterations at Jubilee Oval at a total cost of \$52,000. The toilets were replaced, spectator areas enlarged and a retaining wall built along Jubilee Avenue.

St George were based at Jubilee Oval until the end of the 1985 season. They then relocated to the Sydney Cricket Ground for the 1986 and 1987 seasons and to Belmore Oval for the 1988 season. Kogarah Council was in the process of commissioning a new 3,000 seat grandstand, which was estimated to cost \$500,000. St George returned to Jubilee Oval in 1989 with the new stand completed ready for the 1990 season.

The Dragons Return Home

St George continued at Kogarah Jubilee Oval from 1989 to 1998. 1999 was the first year of the St George-Illawarra joint venture, which saw Jubilee Oval as one of the club's home grounds. In 2000 the club moved to the Sydney Football Stadium, with both Kogarah Council and the St George club agreeing that a proposed 20,000 seat stadium to meet NRL requirements was impractical at Kogarah. St George-Illawarra returned to the newly renamed OKI Jubilee Oval for the 2003 season. The club did not play at the ground in 2008 because of renovations. The federal government provided a total of \$8.8m in funding for the works, which were completed in time for the 2009 season, when the ground was renamed WIN Jubilee Oval.

In late 2010, the Federal Government provided \$2.2m in funding to go towards improving facilities at the ground. In addition \$13m was provided by



Jubilee Oval Aerial, 1970

the NSW State Government for major renovations, which saw the stadium close for the first part of the 2011 National Rugby League season. The first match back at Kogarah on 1 May 2011 saw St George Illawarra defeat Parramatta 30 points to nil.

Jubilee Today

The renovation project comprised a new northern grandstand extension with an additional 1466 undercover seats, lift service, hospitality room, corporate suites upgrade, an additional four indoor and 23 outdoor corporate suites, two additional bar and concession outlets, increase in catering facilities, new male, female and disabled toilets, 80,000 litre water harvest tank, new western entry and turnstile upgrade, digital audio/visual upgrade for the entire stadium and four new NRL change rooms with separate medical, massage and strapping rooms plus hot and cold recovery spas and landscaping. A new community facility was also constructed within the southern grandstand that offers community groups and other organisations a modern space for hosting meetings and events.

Today, the St George-Illawarra Dragons continue to use WIN Jubilee Oval as their Sydney home ground, with five matches scheduled to be played there during the 2012 NRL season.



Jubilee Oval Centenary, October 1985

Carss Bush Park

... a delightful local leisure destination with a story



Entrance to Carss Park Estate, early 1900's

Carss Park is named after William Carss, a Scottish cabinetmaker who purchased 120 acres of land in the area in 1863. Carss' land was partly undeveloped bushland and partly wetlands with stands of mangroves. He built a house on the point in Carss Bush Park, which today is known as Carss Cottage, and lived there with two of his three children until his death in 1878. The vault in which he was buried can be seen today beside the picnic area near Carss Park Café & Grill.

The land remained in the possession of the Carss family until 1916 when it was left by Mary Carss, daughter of William, to the Sydney Sailors Home. The trustees of the Sydney Sailors Home did not have the capacity to develop the area and planned to put the estate on the market.

Local residents became aware of this intention and put pressure on Kogarah Municipal Council to acquire the land and retain it as public open space. Sydney Sailors Home gave preference to Council over private developers and the sale of the estate was completed in 1923. Council reserved part of the area as parkland and subdivided the remaining land into building blocks.

The original parkland area was 43 acres but since then by land reclamation and resumption, the area has been greatly increased to include playing fields and large picnic areas. The area of reclaimed

foreshore remains unreserved Crown land. Today the parkland covers an area in excess of 60 acres.

Carss Cottage

Carss Cottage was located on parkland area and initially used to accommodate a ranger appointed by Council to look after the park. By 1928 the cottage was rundown due to white ants. The stonework on the Cottage was however in excellent condition and so Council decided to renovate and repair the dwelling.

On Australia Day in 1924 the suburb of Carss Park was created when 374 home sites were auctioned. On the same day, Kogarah Council dedicated Carss Bush Park for public use.

In 1970, the Carss Park ranger was moved from Carss Cottage to a new residence at nearby Harold Fraser Oval. The cottage was converted to a historical museum that is currently leased to the Kogarah Historical Society which collects items relating to Kogarah's past and present history, thus keeping alive records and memories of the local area. Visitors are welcome at the museum every Sunday afternoon.

Today, Carss Cottage is of outstanding cultural significance and is classified in the register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and a permanent conservation order on it was gazetted on 27 June 1988.



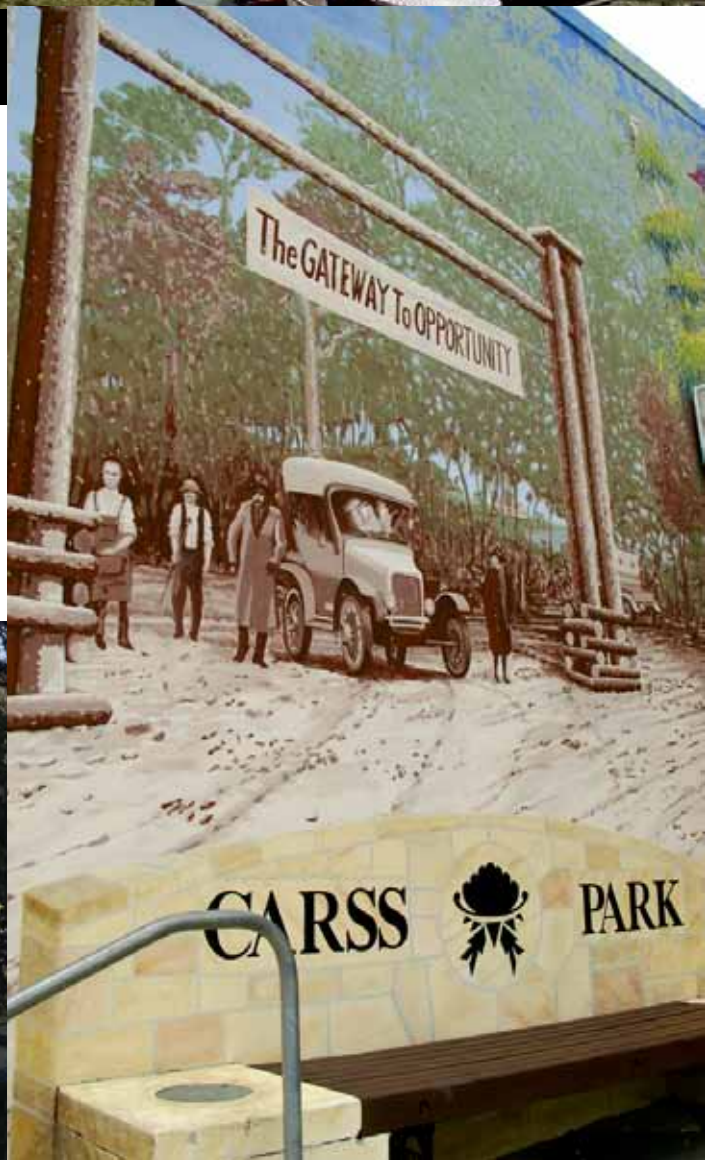
A Better Lifestyle

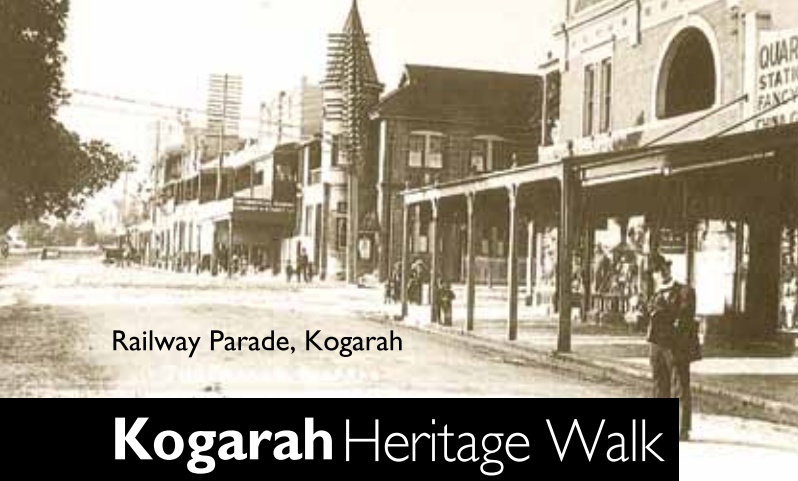
Carss Bush Park is also classified and today is a valuable community asset with its tidal pool, sandstone walls and remnants of Australian vegetation predating European settlement.

Carss Bush Park is one of the few large tracts of open space in the St George region providing a focal point for many forms of outdoor recreation that improve the lifestyle of our residents as well as making a significant contribution to the quality of the urban environment. There are picnic facilities for families to use and enjoy, an Olympic pool and café at Carss Bush Park, making it an ideal leisure destination.



Carss Bush Park today





Railway Parade, Kogarah

Kogarah Heritage Walk

1. 90 Railway Parade

Completed in 1892 to the design of Government Architect W L Vernon, this former Post Office is a good representative example of the Federation Anglo-Dutch/Arts and Crafts style. It is historically significant as evidence of the substantial commercial development that occurred with the development of the Illawarra Railway in the late nineteenth century. Its distinctive cylindrical corner tower and 'candle-snuffer' copper roof make it prominent in the Kogarah CBD streetscape.

2. 92 Railway Parade

Occupying a prominent corner position, this commercial building is historically significant as it reflects development within the main commercial centre of Kogarah in the early twentieth century. Constructed in 1912, it is a good representative example of the Federation Anglo Dutch Style.

3. 1 Belgrave Street

Formerly the Government Savings Bank, then the Commonwealth Bank, this early 1930's adapted building is important historically as it represents development within the main commercial centre of Kogarah between the wars. It is a good representative example of a suburban commercial building designed in the Inter-War Free Classical style.

4. 4-14 Gray Street

Rare within the City of Kogarah, this group of Edwardian two-storey terraces is located within the Kogarah Township Estate, one of the earliest subdivisions in the Local Government Area (est. 1884). Notable for its overall picturesque qualities, these terraces retain many original features including 'flying gables', tuck pointed brickwork and iron palisade fences.

5. 200-204 Railway Parade

Located on the corner site, this building represents the Federation Period of development within the main commercial centre of Kogarah. It is a good representative example of the Federation Free Style.

6. 9 Bowns Road

This is a representative example of a large early twentieth century residence displaying very good Federation Bungalow stylistic influence in its façade detailing. It represents development that occurred along the railway with the establishment of the Bayview Park Estate c1880. The sympathetic rear addition demonstrates the ability to make alterations to a heritage item while maintaining its streetscape value and character.

7. 10A Bowns Road

Opened in 1887, the Kogarah School of Arts was the centre of administrative and social functions within the Kogarah Local Government Area for many decades. The building contained a library, lecture room, large hall for various functions and productions, various meeting rooms and offices.

8. 26 Gray Street

Opened in 1907 by local resident Joseph Carruthers, Premier of NSW at that time, Kogarah Fire Station is a very good representative example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style and reflects the establishment and growth of the Kogarah commercial centre.

9. 15 Derby Street

The former Kogarah Presbyterian Church and Church Hall (former Church) are examples of the progressive development within the Local Government Area. The late Victorian Gothic church (c1890) and Inter-War Gothic hall (1928) also reflect the social standing of the church c1930.

10. 22 Hogben Street

Located within the Station Park Estate subdivision (est. c1885), this two storey late Victorian corner building (c1890) formerly accommodated a shop and residence above.

11. 1A Kensington Street

A substantially intact single storey Inter-War brick church and former shop designed by Peddle Thorp and Walker displaying Art Deco stylistic influence. The place is of importance to a recognisable group within the local community and an important element in the development of the Kogarah centre. The building is notable for its decorative brick detailing.

12. 14-18 Premier Street

This group of single storey brick terraces is a relatively rare example of early Federation period terrace housing within the Kogarah Local Government Area.

13. 10 Premier Street

This building is a fine representative example of a modest late nineteenth century single storey cottage displaying Victorian Italianate stylistic influence.

14. 2-8 Premier Street

A good representative example of late nineteenth century terrace housing displaying Victorian Italianate stylistic influence. Along with adjacent dwellings, this group of buildings makes an important contribution to the streetscape and the historical development of the Kogarah Township Estate (est. 1884).

15. Kogarah High School

This three storey Inter-War Arts and Crafts style building represents a later development overlay in the Kogarah Township Estate (est. 1884) as the Kogarah centre expanded and consolidated providing cultural institutions.

16. 14-16 Victoria Street

Built c1890, this pair of two storey brick Victorian Italianate terrace houses, Beatrice Villa (No. 14) and Lillyville (No. 16), represents one of the earliest buildings in the area.

and illustrates the early speculative building in Kogarah in anticipation of the demand produced by the development of the Illawarra Railway. The relatively small number of Victorian Italianate terraces in Kogarah suggests this style of housing was less popular in the growing township of the late nineteenth century.

17. 15 Victoria Street

The St George Girls High School is indicative of a later development overlay in the Kogarah Township Estate (est. 1884) as the Kogarah centre expanded and consolidated, providing cultural institutions.

18. 6-8 Victor Street

Located within the Kogarah Township Estate (est. 1884) this Victorian Italianate duplex was completed in 1886. The two houses were named Lyndhurst and Danehurst. From 1887 to 1892 the building served as a 'Ladies School' and is now used as a private residence.

19. 17 Montgomery Street

The Kogarah Courthouse is a good example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style and contributes as a later overlay to the Kogarah Township Estate subdivision, reflecting the development of the area in the early twentieth century.

20. 22-26 Montgomery Street

Built in 1888, Leah Buildings is a two storey terrace notable for its excellent Victorian Italianate stylistic influence. It is representative of the grand developments that occurred with the establishment of the Kogarah Township Estate Subdivision (est. 1884). As an investment property, the three houses had many commercial tenants over the years, including solicitors, estate agents, a nurse and undertaker.

21. 28 Montgomery Street, Kogarah

Leahville is an example of the high quality investment properties which appeared in the new commercial heart of Kogarah after the opening of the Illawarra Railway. This Victorian Italianate style two storey terrace was built in 1888 by importer George Frederick Wells. The Wells Company was Australian Agent for Singer Sewing Machines.

22. 52 Railway Parade

This two storey building is historically important as it represents the development which occurred within the main commercial centre of Kogarah in the late nineteenth century. It is a good representative example of a suburban commercial building displaying fine Victorian Italianate stylistic influence.

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