

“Perfection not Profit”

Railway Parade Hotel, Kogarah, and the Stroud family

Speaker: Janette Hollebhone

Janette shared with us the result of her considerable research on the history of one of the local buildings, the Railway Parade Hotel, Kogarah. Janette supported her talk with photographs which gave us a greater appreciation of the story as it unfolded.

The hotel was built by John Parker in 1886 at a time when there were very few houses in the area. He held the first licence until 1887 when the hotel was purchased by William Stroud who had recently arrived from England with his wife, Elizabeth, and their family. William became Licensee and held the licence until 1895 when it was taken over by George John Hendy who remained Licensee until 1905 when the lease “expired by effluxion of time”.

By this time William Stroud’s son, Frank, had grown up and spent some time in England gaining experience in the hotel trade. He became the next Licensee in 1905 in which year his daughter Phyllis was born at the hotel. The motto of Stroud’s Hotel was *Perfection not Profit*.

Phyllis, who is still living, was a local beauty. She had been crowned *Miss Surf Queen* at Cronulla in 1925 in a contest between surf clubs from Dee Why to Cronulla.



Frank & Violet Stroud & their four girls in the sitting room of the hotel

Frank Stroud became very interested in local sporting activities and community affairs. He promoted a Cribbage Tournament with prizes of £1.1s and 10/6d, followed by a Progressive Euchre Tournament with first and ‘booby’ prizes. The Kogarah Federal Football Club held its meetings at the hotel and, in 1906 a meeting was held there to form an old boys union in connection with the Kogarah Superior Public School. Frank was appointed to the Committee and remained a member during his years in Kogarah. He often contributed to the entertainment of members with his rendition of *Old Boy* and his soliloquy *Tub-be or not to be*. His sister Florence, who was a singer and pianist, was an active Committee Member of the Old Girls Union.

The St George District Regatta was held in 1906 and, from 1910, the St George Sailing and Motor Boat Club meetings were held at the “Sailing Club Rooms at Stroud’s Hotel, Kogarah”. Frank also generously donated to local causes such as the Cottage Hospital and the Kogarah Park Fund.

Another interest of Frank’s was boxing. He set up a gym at the hotel to assist the training of amateur athletes and he sponsored walking races in conjunction with the Amateur Athletic Association.

In 1913 the hotel advertised in the St George Call, “*Under new Proprietorship, JT Rainbow presents compliments to all old and new friends*” and later that year about one hundred friends assembled to farewell the Strouds. Frank was presented with a gold watch and, in response, said that he “*felt that the family reputation, established by his parents, had to be maintained by him.*”

James Rainbow bought the hotel and leased it to Tooth & Co in 1920. He sold it in 1923 to Jules Eisen and, in 1926, John Francis McGrath was Licensee. By 1930 the building had undergone major changes and, when Jules Eisen died in 1936, the hotel was run by John H Eisen as Manager of Jules Eisen's Estate. In 1950 it was sold for £150,000 to Arlington Investments and the name changed to Railway Parade Hotel Pty Ltd. In 1954 the name was changed to Kogarah-Rex Hotel Pty Ltd and again, in 1968, to Kogarah Hotel. Finally, it became Kogarah Inn in 1974.

This grand old hotel has certainly had a colourful history and still occupies a prominent position in the centre of Kogarah.

We were very pleased to have several members of the Stroud family attending our meeting who showed us some old family photographs as well as adding to Janette's presentation with personal stories and anecdotes.

Mavis Ward

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN... THE BULLOCK DRAY STOOD ON THE GRASS NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO CARSS COTTAGE?

In April 1972 the KHS Newsletter reported that a bullock wagon was the latest acquisition. Thereafter, the early leaflets about Carss Cottage contained information about the background.

The wagon outside the Museum came from Bigga near Crookwell. It was used until about 1940 to transport wool and wheat to the rail-head. Originally drawn by twenty bullocks, the wagon was named "Bluebird" and was owned by Messrs D. & A. Cameron. At present the wagon is fitted with horse-shafts. For use with bullocks, a centre shaft and chains were used.

Eventually, wear and tear, and the fear that children might injure themselves in climbing on the wagon, forced the Society to remove the wagon.

In November (1991) the dilapidated wagon was taken away from Carss Cottage. "It will be missed but its poor condition rendered it unsafe as it was something on which children (and some bigger ones too!) liked to climb."

May Grieve's son had a property at Jamberoo and the wagon was removed there, with a plaque attached giving its history. After Mr Grieve's death, the new owners were not interested in the wagon and it was again moved. Unfortunately I could not find where it now rests. Do you know? I would like to complete the history of the old bullock wagon that delighted so many visitors to Carss Cottage.

REFERENCE - KHS Newsletter January-February 1992 p.1

Did you know.... That Cardinal Gilroy worked in the Post office as a boy? All right, I expect you have heard that remarkable story. But did you know he worked in Carlton Post Office? His supervisor was Miss Lilla Solomons who was the officer-in-charge in the early 1900s. She was later Mrs Maynink.

I found this in notes typed about postal services in the Kogarah area, covering Blakehurst, Oatley and Sans Souci as well. They are in our Vertical File. The typist did not note the reference but I assume the detailed information came from the archives of the PMG. The last date mentioned is 1981.

Betty Goodger

RAILWAY PARADE HOTEL from 1886

The Noel Butlin Archives Centre, ANU Canberra, hold the records of many of Kogarah Hotels because all Tooth & Co records were stored there. The earliest reference to the Railway Parade Hotel, near Kogarah Station, appears in the Beer Totals Book (N60/392) in April 1895 when George J Hendy was licensee, so further research was needed for the earlier history.

The plans for the *Proposed Hotel Kogarah* were for John Parker, dated in ink 13 April 1886.

Notes:

Cellar under Bar and Private Entrance.

No of Rooms:

Ground Floor 9 Rooms & Scullery etc

First Floor 9 Rooms (Bed) & Sitting Room and 1 Bath Room

Second Floor 11 Bed Rooms, Bath Room

Total Rooms over 1200 cub ft contents

30 exclusive of Bath Room, Scullery

Plans show Stable Yard with 4 Stall-Stable, Coach House, 2 toilets & Urinals

Certificate of Title, V796 F239 at the Land Titles Office shows that John Parker of Kogarah, Builder, bought the land at Kogarah, Parish of St George, County of Cumberland, in Railway Parade from the Australian Mutual Investment & Building Co Ltd, containing 17½ perches, being Lots 10 & 11, Sec F, DP 1397 and part of 1200 acres originally granted to James Chandler by Crown Grant dated 19 October 1831. This document is dated 10 July 1886.

This property was purchased by William Stroud of Kogarah, Licensed Victualler on 21 October 1886. Immediately he took out two separate Mortgages, one to James William Johnson & James Scroggie, both of Sydney, Esquires, and another to John Parker of Kogarah, Builder.

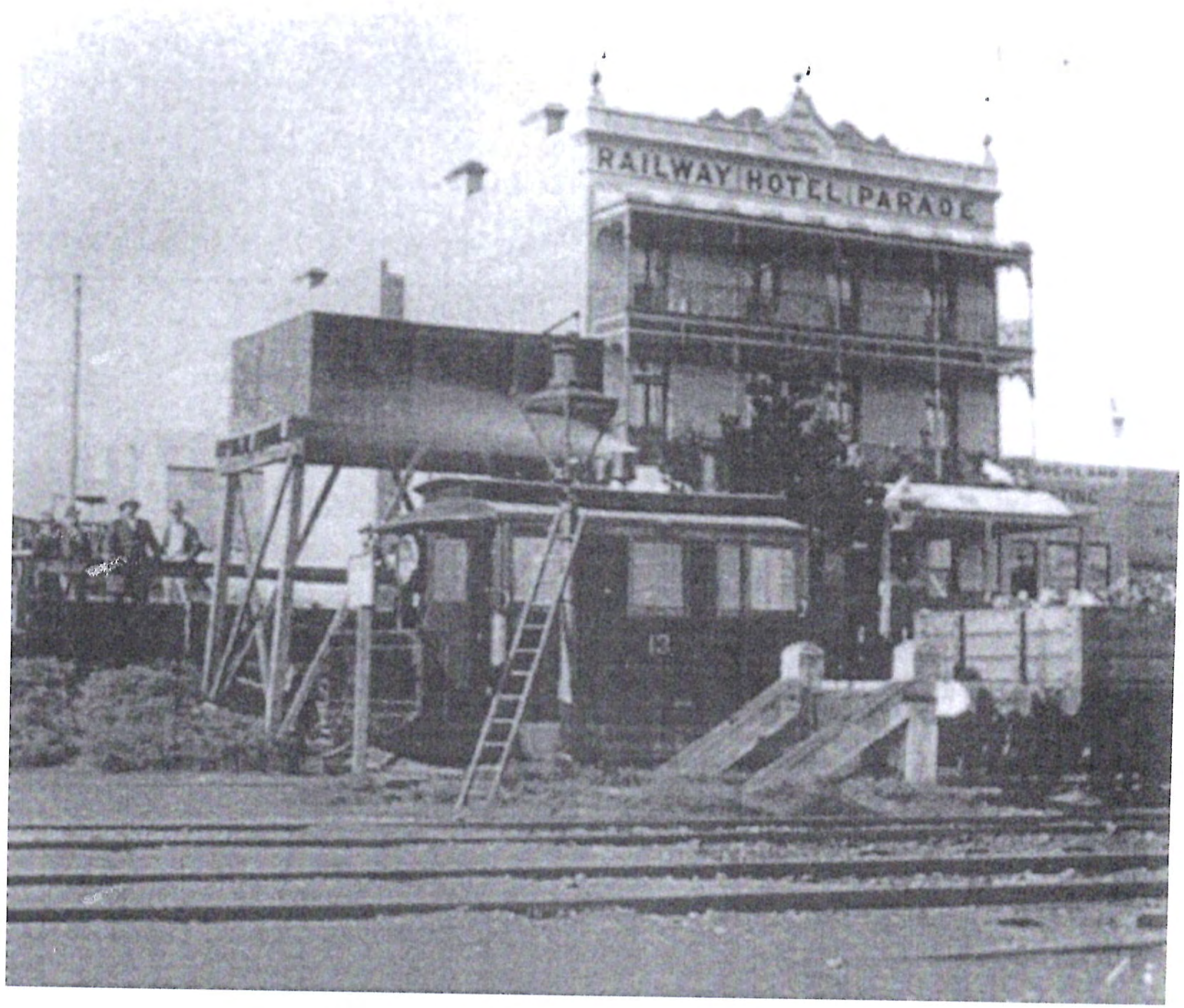
Joseph Rich of Kogarah, Hotelkeeper became the Licensee on 21 February 1889. Another Mortgage was dated 30 September 1889 to Tooth & Co Ltd.

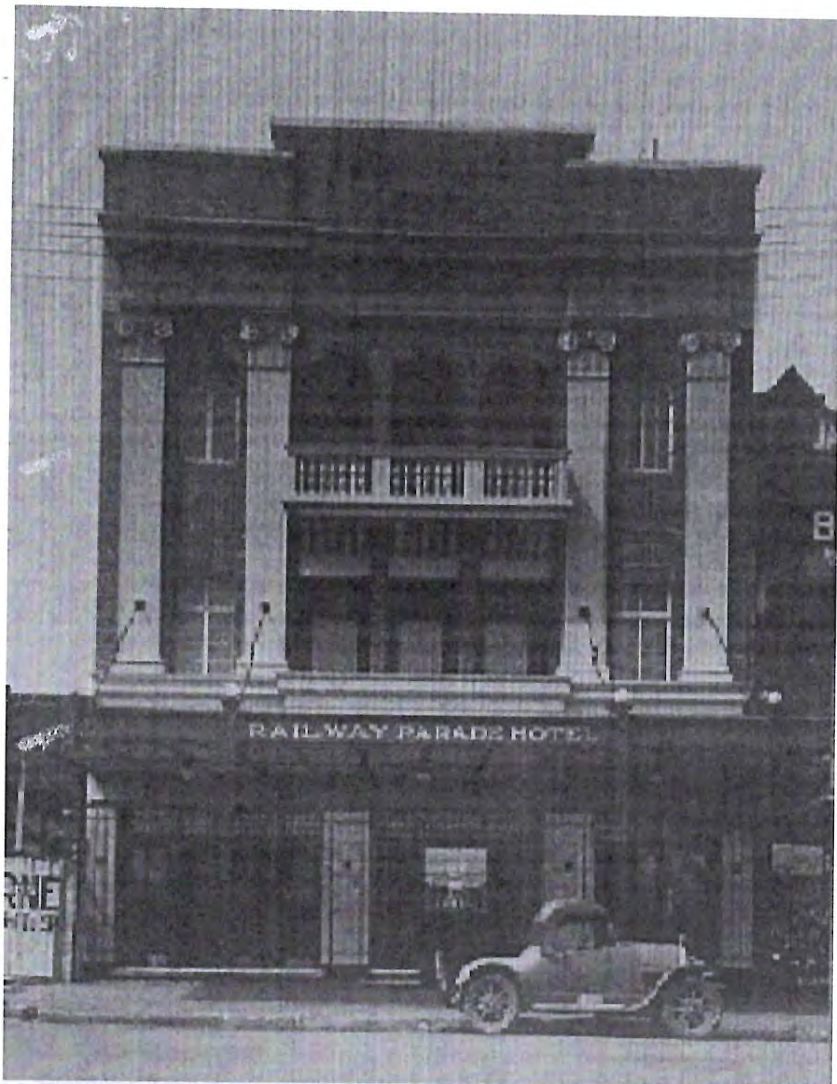
In April/May 1890 all Mortgages were discharged and fresh Mortgages taken out with the same people, except for John Parker, Builder.

Joseph Rich surrendered his Lease 28 March 1895 and a new Lease was issued to George John Hendy of Kogarah, Publican on 28 March 1895 which expired 5 February 1905. William Frank John Stroud of Kogarah, Hotelkeeper became the new Licensee on 28 February 1905.

On 24 August 1906 Elizabeth Stroud of Hurstville, Widow became owner by transmission as her husband, William, had died on 31 May 1905. William Frank John Stroud continued as Licensee until October 1913 when ownership of the land and hotel transferred from Elizabeth Stroud to James Thomas Rainbow of Kogarah, Hotelkeeper on 13 October 1913.

Janette Hollebhone





Railway Parade Hotel, Kogarah C1930, also became another Rex pub.

Rex Investments Pty. Limited, a division of the L. J. Hooker Investment Corporation Limited, which operates "The Rex at Canberra," was originally incorporated as a proprietary company in November, 1937.

The first active association of Rex Investments with the hotel trade was in 1950, when the company purchased the Ainslie Hotel at Canberra from the Federal Government.

The company acquired the Railway Parade Hotel at Kogarah in November, 1950.

This hotel is now known as the Kogarah-Rex.

Early in 1951, Rex Investments acquired two properties in Macleay Street, Kings Cross, then known as Oriana and Baroda. Building regulations and restrictions prevented an immediate start to work on these properties. However, permission was granted for the reconstruction of Oriana and it was decided to proceed with this and retain the completed venture as the residential section of the proposed Hotel Rex.