



KARRAKATTA CLUB INCORPORATED

Founded in 1894

A Member of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs



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THE KARRAKATTA CLUB

PERTH 1894 - isolated, the overland telegraph unfinished and the Trans Australian railway still years away.

Limited education was available - mostly poorly resourced primary schools and certainly limited availability for girls' education. Primitive health facilities with only eight hospitals in the whole of WA and even the largest, the Colonial Hospital only employed its first trained nurses as Matron in 1910.

But then change starts. After years as a colony ruled by a Governor and Executive, WA became self governing in 1891.

1893 brought the first of the gold rushes, huge increases in population and bade farewell to the Victorian Age.

1894 saw the birth of the Karrakatta Club, owing its existence to a Miss Best, the founder of a twelve member reading group known as the St George's Reading Circle, who met monthly to share and discuss a selection of books.

Dr Emily Ryder, an American visitor, was so impressed that she persuaded Miss Best and her fellow reading group member to form a club on the same lines as the Education Clubs for Women in America.

"A women's club will encourage women to think things out and come to a conclusion, defend their opinions and have the courage to hold them"

The aim of the Club was to bring into one body the women of the community "for mutual improvement and social interaction." The founders intended no barriers, economic or other obstacles to preclude anyone from joining.

Several notable women were involved in the Club's formative years; Miss Best and Miss Nisbet - both heads of a private girl's school, Mrs (later Lady) Madeleine Onslow - an outstanding member, the first President, who had been raised in Italian music and artistic circles. Her passion encouraged other women to realise "the highest that was in them"

Others included Dr Roberta Jull and Mrs J. Cowan, later Dame Edith Cowan who became our very first female parliamentary representative. Photos of these early Members and many other distinguished women who have been involved with the Club over the years are on display in the Club's foyer.

EDITH COWAN C 1900 WA MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



Edith Cowan was in office from the 12 March 1921-22, March 1924. Born Edith Dircksey Brown on the 2 August 1861, Geraldton WA, she died on the 9 June 1932 in Perth, WA

Initial areas of interest to the Club included hygiene, literature, legal and political issues.

Limited health care facilities and the influx of gold diggers leading to typhoid outbreaks were instrumental in the Club Members organising a petition of 1000 signatures to draw attention to the poor sanitation.

Guardianship of children, teachers pay, divorce, assault (especially involving children), the debate on Federation, and votes for women were issues of concern.

In 1889 the reputation of the club was such that Mr Cyril Jackson, Director of Education appealed to the Club to help combat "sore eyes" in school children. The Club's advocacy of a female inspector of Aboriginals, and appointments of women to the Children's Court followed, never before had an organised body of women take on such issues.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LYCEUM CLUBS

The Karrakatta Club has been a member of this international organisation since 1920. Although usually attached to Universities, it was clear that there would not be a large volume of women graduates for many years so the Karrakatta Club became the home of Lyceum in WA.



To this day our Lyceum activities still form a vital part of the Club providing weekly, fascinating speakers;

WEEK 1 LITERARY

WEEK 2 GENERAL

WEEK 3 ARTISTIC

WEEK 4 TRAVEL

In addition to these stimulating and informative programs, frequent, special events and speakers can be enjoyed during Friday lunches. Musical and other entertainment on Thursdays, Book Club, Bridge and Mahjong and Art Focus Groups cater for all interests.



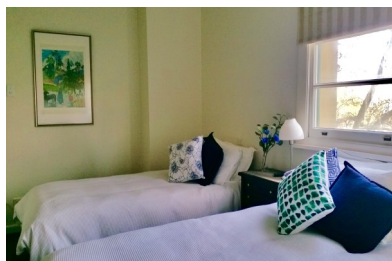
Members with Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall

FACILITIES

The Club offers excellent restaurant and private function facilities, comfortable accommodation in a quiet oasis in the Perth CBD overlooking the picturesque Elizabeth Quay.



Dining Room



Modern comfortable accommodation



Sitting Room



Elizabeth Quay

OUR PREMISES

The first Club rooms were two small shops at 158 St Georges Terrace, next to Foy and Gibsons- 2 rooms for 2 years.

This was followed in 1898 by a move to the J and G Mutual Chambers on the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace.

In 1911 the Commercial Union Building in St Georges Terrace was home, before moving to the first building at 186 St Georges Terrace, purchased by the Club in 1923.

The Club has had its current home at the elegant and historical Lawson Buildings at 4 Sherwood Court since 1986. Erected in 1937 as part of a job creation exercise during the depression, and renovated in 1984, it maintains its charm and history.

The move from the club's previous premises at 186 St Georges Terrace took long and laborious negotiations. Furniture from the old building found a home here and some of the wrought iron balustrade from 186 has been skilfully incorporated into the current entrance. The sale of the remaining balustrade funded the purchase of the ornate sideboard which is in the dining room upstairs.

Hopes of a maintenance free, recently renovated building were not quite realised as plumbing headaches were present for quite a while.



Left: Entrance

Above: Lawson's Building

LADY ONSLOW'S QUOTE FROM HER ANNUAL REPORT

"I am not aware of the existence of any club in the Colonies which contains within it so much potential for expansion, so much room for healthy growth, as does this little one of ours. Since no club should ever see the risk of degenerating into a mere society or clique, the only qualification for members is not money or position, but good character and earnest of purpose"

The President, Executive and Members of the Karrakatta Club offer you a warm welcome and thank you for visiting the Club.

Membership and function enquiries are always welcome; please contact reception, telephone 9325 8111 or email reception@karrakattaclub.com.au

