

John Veage

Fred Matson Jr. 1988

Photograph

Fred Matson was born in 1899, the third generation of boat builders from Yowie Bay - many of them accomplished sportsmen, musicians and artists.

Fred was deeply interested in Aboriginal culture. He collected a large array of stone implements from Sutherland, Cronulla, Port Hacking and Kurnell. Some were made from basalt, a volcanic material which he concluded had been imported from the south coast in trade deals.

In Fred's *Life Album* in Sutherland Library, he writes that he had bequeathed half of his collection to the Library. Prior to his death in 1993 he gave the other half to a friend for safekeeping.

In 2019 former SSHS president, Bruce Watt negotiated with the friend for a semi-permanent loan of this collection to Sutherland Shire Museum.

Bruce Howell, a Wiradjiri descendant on the Sutherland Shire Council Aboriginal Advisory Sub-Committee, has painstakingly curated and catalogued the collection.

John Veage, the *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader's* photographer, kindly donated this photograph to SSHS in 2021.

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Fred Matson Jr, 1988

Fred Matson was born in 1899, the third generation of boat builders from Yowie Bay, many of whom were accomplished sportsmen, musicians and artists.

Fred was also deeply interested in Aboriginal culture. He collected a large array of stone implements from Sutherland, Cronulla, Port Hacking and Kurnell. Some were made from basalt, a volcanic material which he concluded had been imported from the south coast in trade deals.

In Fred's *Life Album* in Sutherland Library, he writes that he had bequeathed half of his collection to the Library. Prior to his death in 1993, he gave the other half to friends, the Nation family for safekeeping.

In 2019 former SSHS president, Bruce Watt, tracked down the family and negotiated for a semi-permanent loan of this collection to Sutherland Shire Museum.

Bruce Howell, Wiradjiri man on the Sutherland Shire Aboriginal Advisory Board, has painstakingly curated and catalogued the collection.

About the photographer:



Photographer John Veage, has been a photographer/journalist for Fairfax Community Newspapers for 35 years. He has also been official photographer for Cycling Australia for 20 years and Surf Life Saving Australia for 30 years Surfing Sutherland Shire.

References:

- 'Sutherland Shire Museum Acceptance of Donated Materials,' 15 March 2019
- 'The Matson Collection,' by Bruce Watt
- Email from Lee Nation, 18 June 2021
- <https://www.theleader.com.au/profile/993/john-veage>