

## **Farm cart**

Built in the 1920s, this cart belonged to the Kerslake family who had a market garden at Illawong from the 1920s to the 1950s. Don Rothnie of the Menai Men's Shed organised the cart's restoration in 2014. It was completely stripped, repaired and repainted, and parts of one wheel remade.

## Farm cart

This horse drawn vehicle was manufactured in Sydney around 1920. The addition of leaf springs to the dray style cart provided a more comfortable ride on the poorly made, unsealed roads of the day.

The cart was used from the 1920s through to the 1950s by the Kerslakes, a pioneering family who operated a market garden at Illawong. Produce, including potatoes, onions, carrots and many other vegetables and flowers were taken daily from Illawong via Lugarno ferry across the Georges River and by road to Paddy's market in the city.

Horse drawn vehicles were still in common use in Sutherland Shire until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Replaced by a GMC truck in 1956, the cart was then housed under a lean-to shed. During 2014 the cart underwent extensive restoration by members of Menai Men's Shed, including dismantling, timber and metal restoration, wheel repairs, painting and reassembly. Special thanks to Don Rothnie who instigated the restoration. It is proudly displayed as an important reminder of the Shire's rural past.

### Reference:

- Bruce Watt, 'Heritage Week at the Museum', *SSHS Bulletin*, May 2015, p. 7.