



Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Quarterly Bulletin

APRIL, 1969

Price: 5 cents

"SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

APRIL 1969"

c/- 9 Animbo Street,

MIRANDA. 2228

Dear Member,

At our third Annual General Meeting held on Friday, March 14.th, the following members Were elected as officers and members of the Society Council for the coming year,

President	-	Mr R. Harrison
Vice Presidents	-	Mr. C. Law
	-	Mr. J. Walker
	-	Mr. D. Kirkby
	-	Mr. N. Taplin
Hon. Secretary	-	Mr. N. Horwood
Hon. Treasurer	-	Mrs. A. Griffiths
Hon. Archivist	-	Mr. B. Sargeant
Committee	-	Mrs. V. Edwards
		Mrs. I. Mowbray
		Mrs. N. Priestly
		Mrs. M. Hutton Neve
		Mrs. H. Taplin
		Mr. C. Spencer
		Mrs. R. Russell
Hon. Auditor	-	Mr. R. Wallis

Two of our members are at present enjoying trips overseas and both expect to visit many countries and to complete their voyages by encircling the world. wish both Mrs. E. Carmichael and Mr. G. Heavens bon voyage and a cafe return. No doubt both members will have much to tell of the historic sites and monuments which they have seen on their journeys.

Although there is scarcely 12 months left in which to plan and prepare for the forthcoming Bi-Centenary Commemorations in 1970, the Federal Government and the State Government have done very little and from all reports the Sutherland Shire Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Commemoration Committee are further advanced with plans to commemorate the occasion appropriately. As members may have noticed from local newspapers, the emblem of the Committee is the Coat of Arms granted to Captain Cooks widow, as recommended by the Historical sub-committee. Another recommendation of the Historical sub-committee, which has been accepted, is the issue to all ratepayers and residents of the Shire of a transfer "sticker" for car windscreens, depicting the Cook Coat of Arms, to mark the Bi-Centenary. Many other suggestions have been made, which are under consideration. Steam Tram No. 1 which ran between Sutherland and Cronulla is now in the possession of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences and I intend to recommend that this tram be displayed in the Shire during the Bi-Centenary Commemorations.

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Should any member have suggestions of suitable Commemorative activities for the Bicentenary I would be very pleased to hear from you.

One of the Society's objects for the Bicentenary year is to have, an Historical Museum established and to this end we hope to; present our proposal to the Shire Council,

N. HORWOOD.

Hon. Secretary

"SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - QUARTERLY BULLETIN APRIL
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Meetings - Our General Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Sydney County Council Showrooms, Eton Street, Sutherland.

Friday April 11th Members night - short papers by:-
Mrs. P. Sinclair
Mr. D. Kirkby
Mrs. M. Hutton-Neve

Friday May 9th A programme of slides depicting the story of Mosman

Friday June 13th An illustrated address by a representative of
the South Pacific Electric Railway, on the
trams of Sydney.

EXCURSIONS

Saturday April 12th All day bus excursion to Liverpool, Camden district

Saturday June 14th Parramatta - 1/2 day

Edited by:
M. Hutton Neve

Bulletin No. 11,
April' 1969.

PACIFIC EXPLORATION BEFORE COOK

Lieut. James Cook was not sailing into unknown southern seas when he crossed the Equator for the first time, on his way to the South Pacific via Cape Horn. Other than the information provided by Capt. Samuel Wallis' South Pacific voyage 1766-8 and his discovery of Tahiti (named "King George III's Island") -- and Other islands -- it seems incredible of belief that Cook did not know of earlier explorations in Northern Australian and South New Guinea waters.

The Roman geographer Strobe (circa BC 20) made reference to a large land mass about 20 days' sail SW from India -- probably either Sumatra or NW Australia; Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79) made similar reference to a southern land mass. Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), in his "Divine Comedy" refers to the Stars of the Southern Cross.

An Arab writer of the 12th century, El Adrisi, described part of the South Island of N.Z. with special reference to the large (now extinct) bird named by him the "seemoah" -- from which it is believed the Maori word "moan for this bird originated. The South Island was then inhabited by a scattered pre-Maori race, who were conquered by the incoming Polynesian Maoris a century or so later.

It is fairly definitely recognised that from about the 6th-10th centuries A.D., both the Arabs and the Chinese had explored the seas south of the New Guinea area; but after that period their voyagings diminished as they found it more profitable to develop their overland commercial trade. It is very probable that some future research scholar may run to earth long-forgotten Chinese maritime documents in Peking -- or Canton.

There is in the Mitchell Library a copy of a 16th century map (1542) executed by a Fleming Johnne Rotz (anglicised to Roty) who came to England in the train of Anne of Cleves. This map, now in the British Museum, he presented to Henry VIII. The map clearly indicates that the Portuguese had explored most of the eastern Australian coast from southern Tasmania to about Brisbane, probably between 1516--1526. They had also crossed the Tasman Sea, for a small far-northern section of the North Island is very clearly and recognisably delineated.

There is some rather hazy evidence of the landing and careening of a strayed Spanish ship at Woollahra Point just before the end of the 16th century; and there is also a similar possibility that a second Spanish ship, when' searching for the first, careened in the vicinity of Port Hacking. According to a 1912 record, definite evidence existed then of the visits of these two ships. The suggestion was that they may have been the Santa Isabel (later wrecked in Torres Strait) and her search-ship the Santa Barbara, both ships belonging to Mendana's second voyage of exploration 1595 to the Solomon Islands region. I have been unable to ascertain any information regarding these Spanish relics -- rock drawings of the ships

and signatures of some of the sailors, and some iron bolts; probably the Woollahra Point Relics may have been destroyed in foreshore "development". The exact Pt. Hacking location was not given.

---- M.H.N.

ENTERTAINMENT FIFTY YEARS. AGO: KING'S BIRTHDAY JUNE 8, 1914

(extracted from the Daily Telegraph of that date)

Her Majesty's Theatre: "The Argyle Case" (Chas. A. Millward & Maggie Moore) –

Tivoli: The. Ada Reeve Season: also... A "Tango Tea" (afternoon)

The Little Theatre: "The School for Scandal" (Mr. Hugh Buckler & Miss Violet Paget)

Town Hall: Recital: also ... Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Glaciarium: Skating Exhibition

Imperial Saloon: Dancing

Foreign Lectures Society: "Anatole France"

Zoological Gardens and Aquarium: open to the public

City Picture Theatres: Crystal. Palace, Lyric, Colonial, Spencer's Lyceum
(these were of course black-and-white silent films)

TOURS:

New Hebrides Tour by Burns Philp (ship) £25 (period not given)

Ocean Excursion (10 days): Sydney, Eden, Melbourne, Tasmania: 1st Saloon £6-6-0 return: Passengers maintained aboard at all ports except Melbourne

Sea Trip: Sydney-Melbourne' return, 1st Class by S.S .Melbourne SS Co. £4

(today a 4-day "mini--cruise" to Melbourne . = 460.00 1st Class; and. (S40.00 2nd Class Return).

Holiday Shopping Bargains:. at Farmer's (city) -- navy serge tailorcut costumes 25/6d to 42/6d; even. gowns crepe-de-chine silk, 94/6d

"Sailed on. Tuesday the Star, Captain Bierney*, to fish off the coast of New Zealand". -- Sydney Gazette, 30/3/1806

James Birnie, later of Kurnell, was whaling in N.Z. waters.

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Sydenham (Sydney): named after a London district. The name originates from the Saxon "leof-subaema", named in a charter granted by King Aethelred in A.D. 968, and means "my dear son's farm".

Bangor was the name originally given to the Menai area. . . .

Early Books of Australia

I recently had the pleasure of reading three rare books written by three First Fleeters namely: Surgeon-General John White, Captain Watkin Tench of the Marines, and David Collins, Judge-Advocate and Secretary for the Colony. All three books were published in London between 1789 and 1798 and are now out of print and consequently of considerable value as collectors' pieces. Although not one of the writers could be ranked as a literary giant, their chronicles gave many interesting sidelights on the voyage to Botany Bay, their arrival and impressions thereof, and of the foundation and early days of the Colony of New South Wales. Speaking of the arrival of the Fleet in January 1788, Collins said:

"The southern shore, about Point Sutherland, seemed to possess the soil best adapted for cultivation; but it was deficient in that grand essential fresh water, and was besides too confined for our numbers. There was indeed a small run of water there; but it appeared to be only a drain from a marsh and by no means promised that ample or certain supply which was required for such a settlement as ours".

When Captain Phillip set out a few days later to visit Port Jackson, in search of a better site for the young Colony, Collins tells us:

"But as his search might possibly prove fruitless, and that the few days which it should occupy might not be altogether thrown away, he left the Lieutenant-Governor (Major Robert Ross, -Commandant of Four Companies of Marines) at Botany Bay, with instructions to clear the ground about Point Sutherland and make preparations for disembarking the detachment of Marines and the convicts on his return should that place at last be deemed the most eligible spot".

Thus had Sydney Cove not offered a more adequate water supply plus a better harbour, Point Sutherland may have been the scene of the first settlement and Sutherland today, instead of Sydney, the capital city.

-- John Walker

Editor's Note: Reprints of these interesting books may be borrowed from the Shire Libraries. The Mitchell Library has originals of these editions.

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"The Beheading of St. John the Baptist Church": the village church of Doddington (Kent, Eng.), mentioned in the Domesday (or Doomsday) Book of 1086, had by 1467 acquired this unique name. Tradition has it that when Richard I brought to England the stone whereon John the Baptist was beheaded, the King's cortege stayed the night in the village.

An Early Movie Film ?? "Australia's Beautiful and Fascinating Actress, Miss Vera Pearce, will shortly make her debut as a photo-player in "THE SHEPHERD OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS", An Australian Story Through and-Through".

-- Daily Telegraph 4/6/1914

Micheldene was a small local area between Darke's Forest and Southend.

"YOUNG MR. BANKS"

Joseph Banks was a rich young Lincolnshire squire of 25 years when he decided to join Cook's first South Seas' expedition as a botanist. He had been born with an incurable curiosity for everything that Nature could offer him -- as a boy he had collected specimens of plants and insects of every type. He much preferred his Nature rambles to his school studies of Latin and Greek. He went up to Oxford University where he continued these studies under the guidance of a capable tutor.

In the course of events he met the already famous Swedish botanist Dr. Daniel, Solander; and he later invited Dr. Solander to join his "team" on the Endeavour, including also four artists and four servants, two of the latter being negroes. A Mr. Ellis, Fellow of the Royal Society, wrote:

"No people ever went to sea better fitted out for the purpose of Natural History or more elegantly. They have a fine Library of Natural History, all sorts of machines for catching and preserving insects; all kinds of nets, trawls, drags and hooks for coral fishing; they have even a curious contrivance of a telescope, by which, put into the water, you can see the bottom at a great depth when it is clear. They have many cases of bottles with ground glass stoppers of several sizes to preserve animals in spirits. They have several sorts of salts to surround the seeds. In short, Solander assured me this expedition would cost Mr. Banks £10,000": twice as much as the cost of the ship itself, even after the cost had been nearly doubled by repairs and additions. **

-- "The Voyage of the Endeavour"

(G. Arnold Wood: Melbourne 1944)

The above sum would probably approximate about \$200,000.00 today. - Ed..

Banks' Writing Desk: Mr. K. G. Hunter-Kerr, Paddington, has an enviable writing desk -- an historic antique.

"It is early Chippendale in design and is reputed to have been given to the young Joseph Banks for his use in the Endeavour on his round voyage to Australia 1768-71. Much later it was brought to Sydney by a great-niece who settled in Australia with her husband, a surveyor called John Lethbridge:

-- Sydney Morning-Herald .10-1-1969..

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Horse's Skull Protection: when an old house was being renovated during 1968 in the village of Little Shelford near Cambridge (Eng.), a huge chimney was discovered, and under the hearth was buried a horse's skull -- an ancient tradition in East Anglia believed to protect the home from evil.

The First Primary School may have been at Sylvania in 1883; but a large railway construction camp was established at Como about 1881-2, and a school is believed to have been opened about that time -- there was certainly a school at Como at 1883.

BACKGROUND TO THE CAPTAIN COOK BICENTENARY

ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE was one of the most famous of British geographers of the 18th century; He had been with the East India Coy. for many years and was thoroughly acquainted with the eastern seas on both sides of the Equator. He was also a student of maritime exploratory history, having carefully perused especially, the writings of the sea-explorers Magellan, De Quiros, Torres and the Dutch. He was positive that a large southern continent existed south of New Guinea,

The Royal Society decided he was the ideal man for the Tahiti expedition and accordingly nominated him as captain of the Endeavour Bark, considering him to be "a proper person to be sent to the South Seas, having a particular turn for discovery, and being a navigator, as well as skilled in observation".

Dalrymple, although eminently capable in every way, was unacceptable to the Government as he was not an officer of the Royal Navy. Instead, the command was given to a little-known junior R.N. officer. -- a man who had never even crossed the Equator. Dalrymple was a gentleman born, a scholar and a writer: James Cook, grandson of a Scotsman, son of a Yorkshire farmer -- first a farm labourer like his father, then a grocer's assistant, then a Whitby coal-ship employee, and a self-taught scholar. Mathematics, astronomy and cartography were his favourite studies and hobbies; and because of these qualifications he was finally accepted for the R.N.. His North American mapping of the St. Lawrence and adjacent areas were so amazingly accurate that the Royal Society (to whom he was by now well known), agreed to let him lead the South Seas expedition in place of Dalrymple -- for which act Dalrymple never forgave Cook.

Amongst the historical information collected by Dalrymple was a little Spanish book of 1640 detailing Torres' expeditions in southern New Guinea waters. Included in the booklet was a map of Torres' sea-track through the Straits now bearing his name. Dalrymple gave this to his Royal Society friend Joseph Banks for his own information, Banks was thus from the start fully acquainted with at least some of the history of Spanish South Pacific exploration.

Royal Society gave Cook 120 guineas as their fee for him to act on their behalf during the expedition. As well, he received £120 per year for "victualling" -- that is, for the purchase of better food and drink than were served to the seamen under him. As well, he received R.N. pay of 5/-- per day as captain of the ship. These payments excluded tentative financial arrangements in connection with the publication of his Journals and Reports, etc., after his return.

Communion Rails from Endeavour Timber: In the parish church at Stockton-on-Tees (Eng.), the communion rails and the holy table are made from-oak taken from the Endeavour while repairs were in progress before Captain Cook's third and last voyage round the world (he was murdered by natives (contd. over)

(The opinions expressed in this Bulletin do not necessarily reflect those of this Society.)

when he landed at one of the Hawaiian Islands 1779). The oak was secured by the captain of the Resolution (1776-17801, Capt. William Christopher, who was a firm friend of Cook's, both being parishoners of the church.

-- M.H.N.

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Tenterfield District Historical Society have recently recorded aboriginal tribal songs, in various dialects, sung by Mr. Dick Donnelly -- who describes himself as the last of a wild tribe and the last Jocabal aboriginal singer. His first two recordings were songs in the Jocabal dialect, composed before the coming of the white man. The other songs were composed after white settlement.

-- DAWN Aboriginal Magazine, January 1969

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Thomas Raby. (Reiby), who settled at the Hawkesbury after his marriage, soon engaged in shipbuilding. Having served for some years as an officer in the East India Coy.'s fleet, this seemed a natural outcome. The Sydney Gazette reported Feb. 16, 1806 that "The hull of the vessel building by Messrs.

Raby and Wills is nearly finished". For some years the partners ran a lucrative river-trading business on the Hawkesbury, from Windsor to Broken Bay and Sydney.

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Early Menai Settler Robert Cook became a member of the first elected S'land Shire Council in 1906, and conducted "Cook's Pleasure Grounds". He continually stressed the need of a bridge over the Woronora River, and after years of representation a contract was let in 1911 for an all-timber bridge construction despite Lands Department officials, who were opposed to it. Mr. Farquarson the contractor, hauled huge logs to the site on the western side of the river with bullock teams, commencing to build from the Menai side Opened in October 1912, this was the first road bridge in the Shire and opened up a new influx of residents to Menai.

-- from "Light of Faith" (Woronora River Congregational Church History: by A. & F. Midgley,

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Native Raiders: We are very concerned to state that the natives have lately been very troublesome about the farms on the banks of George's River Last week they plundered the grounds of Mr. Strode. A prodigious number of spears were thrown, to which musket-shot were returned as long as their ammunition lasted.... the assailants ... betook themselves to flight, having first set fire to the dwelling house and done every other mischief in their power.

-- Sydney Gazette, 9--6-1805

(the farms referred to were on the upper reaches of George's River) Annandale (Sydney) is named after a town in Scotland.

For Sale: Two working Bullocks, 30 guineas each: a Horse, 47 guineas; 24 sheep at £1-17-0 each; Turkeys 4/3d, and Geese 5/- each.

-- Sydney (Gazette, 10-3-1805