

No. 18.



Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Quarterly Bulletin

January 1971

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C/o 9 Animbo Street,
Miranda, 2228.

Dear Members,

The Harbour cruise was attended by approximately 55 persons, and seemed to be enjoyed by those present. The excursion over Garden Island was most interesting and we owe our thanks to Mr. L. Duckett for acting as our guide and for his courtesy in answering our many questions. After lunch, taken on Clark Island, we then inspected the establishment on Snapper Island. This was a most fascinating tour and all were impressed by the amount of work done by the young cadets over the years, but particularly of the enthusiasm of Commander Forsyth in collecting such a unique display of emblems of the various vessels of the Navy, past and present.

The President and myself attended, as representatives of the Society, the Conference of Affiliated Historical Societies, held on Saturday 30th October and Sunday 1st November, and learned much of the activities of similar societies.

We regret to record that Mrs. M. Annen has left the Shire and is living at Mona Vale, so that she will not be able to attend meetings, although she has agreed to retain her membership in the Society and so will not lose touch with our doings.

N. Horwood,

Hon. Secretary.

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Programme of Activities for the First Quarter 1971.

Meetings:- Our General meetings are held on the second Friday evening, each month, at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Sydney County Council Showrooms, Eton Street Sutherland.

Friday 8th January:- An address by Miss S . Mourot, Associate Mitchell Librarian.

Friday 12th February:- Mr. T.E. Hanley will give an address "Early Australian Coins".

Friday 12th March:- Our Annual General Meeting followed by slides taken on previous excursions.

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Excursions: Sunday 7th February 1971 - The Society members have been invited to participate in the Annual Interdenominational Commemorative Service, to be held at 3 p.m. in St. Philip's Church, Church Hill.

Saturday 17th April 1971- An all day bus excursion to Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Ebenezer.

The President Writes.

James Birnie Pioneer (1762-1844)

Earlier this year, it may be remembered, Mr. Horwood, Honorary Secretary, discovered the tombstone of James Birnie. in an obscure place in Botany Cemetery. It seemed to him that the distinction of being the first landowner in what is now The Sutherland Shire warranted a more honoured and prominent memorial. Accordingly, he conceived the idea that it should be brought to a place at Kurnell and suitably erected there as a Civic and public tribute to the pioneer. The Council of our Society had no hesitation in supporting the proposal when put to it by Mr. Horwood, and agreed to his suggestion that Sutherland Shire Council be asked to undertake the work. Although not unsympathetic the Shire was not able to commit itself to the cost of the undertaking in present circumstances.

While this situation is accepted with regret by this Society the suggestion is now made that perhaps further thought could be given to the proposal. We may for instance consider instituting a public appeal for funds to perform the work. A project of this nature could well evoke the interest of other organisations such as Service Clubs etc. Its achievement would surely reflect to the lasting credit of Sutherland Shire Historical Society. I commend this proposal to members for thought.

The Society's thanks and gratitude to Mr. Eric Jeahan and Mr. Eric Lukeman for interesting papers presented to the October meeting are recorded herein.

C C. Law.

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This Bulletin has been prepared by an Editorial Board consisting of Messrs. J. Walker, N. Horwood and E. Lukeman.

Members are cordially invited to submit items of historical interest for inclusion in future Bulletins.

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the contributor and not necessarily of the Society.

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-Veteran Real Estate Agent-

The spectacular growth and development of the Sutherland Shire has largely, centred around the activities of its Estate Agents; and in that field none has played a more prominent role than F.R. Shaw, who may be regarded as a pioneer as well as a veteran. In fact the business which he conducted for many years, and with such distinction, has a direct link with the first full time vendor of real estate in the Cronulla-Sutherland area.

In 1904 (two years before the Sutherland Shire was established) a gentleman named H.J. Priestman set up business as the first full time agent in Cronulla (then called village of Gunnamatta). Prior to that a number of agents operated from City Offices and a few locals conducted sales in conjunction with other businesses (Lance Giddings for instance).

During World War 1 (in 1917) William Ross Souter purchases Priestman's Real Estate business and in 1919, upon his discharge from the army, the late Edward Seymour Shaw joined the firm. His brother Fred, (a soldier, returned after active service in Northern France, and a career as a marine engineer) also became a partner, in 1922. Auction rooms were built in Kurranulla Street on the site to-day occupied by a hardware house near Cronulla Post Office. The partnership was dissolved in 1923. Seymour took over Miranda Real Estate; while Fred retained the Cronulla Auction Rooms and the Cronulla Estate Agency. Fred expanded his interests by buying the business of C.J. Monro, when "Joe", (a personal friend) entered Parliament for a second period, in 1949. This he conducted as C.J. Monro Pty. Ltd., until it was taken over by Stan Dyson.

In 1938, "Seymour", because of. the pressure of his other business interests, transferred his Miranda business to Fred, who carried it on alone until joined, again by his brother "Seymour", in 1965. Upon the death of "Seymour", in 1968, a board of directors was set up to control the firm F.R. Shaw Pty. Ltd. but the company has now been sold and both F.R. and A. Shaw have resigned as directors.

"F.R.", who at various times during his long and colourful career either conducted or controlled Cronulla Estate Agency; The Miranda Estate Agency; the Sutherland Property Exchange and the Engadine-Heathcote Estate Agency, has thus severed his connections with his old firm and even the premises, which was its headquarters at 577 Kingsway, have been sold and will probably soon be demolished and another historic landmark, linking the present with the past, will disappear from the Miranda business centre.

W.R. Souter & Co's Agency was opened on that site soon after the end of World War 1. Operations were first conducted from a cottage but that office was demolished in 1921-22 and the present brick building erected. Adjoining was the Post Office, operated in conjunction with a General Store now Penprase Hardware but then controlled by the late J.W. MacFarlane (Shire Clerk of Sutherland

Shire Council from 1907 to 1928). Across the road was the Sutherland-Cronulla Steam Tramway Water Tanks. This was

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Veteran Real Estate Agent (Cont).

convenient for business, as, while the engine took in water, many land and property sale transactions were discussed or even finalized and other passengers made deposits in, or withdrawals from, the N.S.W. Government Savings Bank for which Seymour Shaw held the agency.

Verily, the transfer, in 1920, of the Rev. Augustus Rutherford Shaw, from Bulli, to take charge of the newly formed C. of E. district (soon afterwards to become a Parish) of Sutherland, was an event of momentous importance in the annals of local history. The Reverend Gentleman not only rapidly established himself amongst his flock as a worthy pastor; but brought with him a family of six, which readily adopted the Shire as its home and worked tirelessly for its advancement.

Edward Seymour Shaw, M.B.E., Shire Councillor for twenty-six. years with nine terms as President was a leading light in local community life. His interests and influence extended from Miranda Anglican Parochial affairs to the Hospital Board, Education and library movements and international Rotary.

Matron Edna Shaw, O.B.E., equally well known in the Sutherland area, is a name inseparable from Crown Street Women's Hospital.

"F.R." (Fred), eschewing public life excepting for a brief three year term as a Shire Councillor, made his none the less important contribution to the common good quietly through his business activities.

Now having severed his connection with the firm which bears his name,, Fred has virtually gone into retirement. However. he has retained his right to practice as a Real Estate Consultant, Auctioneer and Valuer and has, this, not finally terminated his connection with the Real Estate World in which he so long figured as the personification of business integrity and an agent who always placed the interests of his clients in a position of paramount importance

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Goodbye 1970

As we move out of the Cook Bi-Centenary year, some of us may have mixed feelings about the .year's festivities. ' I confess that I have, for, although we had. good fun and pageantry was provided in large measure, unfortunately there were some disappointments.

My biggest "let down" was the Kurnell re-enactment. The actors did a good job and didn't appear upset by the unscheduled intervention of pranksters. But, if someone happens to read this

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Bulletin 99 years hence, I hope he or she will prevail on the organisers of the Tri-Centenary celebrations to use Cook's and Bank's Journals accurately, in any re-enactment of the landing.

For me, the outstanding events of the year were:-

1. The Commemorative Symposium held in the Council Chambers from 1st to 3rd May.
2. The recovery, restoration and distribution of "Endeavour's" cannons.

THE SYMPOSIUM.

Mr. N. Horwood, as Convenor of the Historical Sub-Committee, Shire Bi-Centenary Organisation, suggested the Symposium and brought it to fruition. He brought off something of a coup by persuading Prof. J.C. Beaglehole to attend, and assembling the most eminent group of speakers to make the week-end a most memorable experience. We all look forward to publication of the proceedings.

THE CANNONS

The sensational recovery of all six cannons, jettisoned to help re-float "Endeavour" after she struck the reef, was not only atop news story throughout the world; -but it also proved to be a most appropriate 200th birthday present. We should be thankful that one of these unique relics has found a permanent home at Kurnell.

AFTERMATH.

After the fireworks display on Sydney Harbour (and the subsequent king-sized traffic snarl), the departure of the Royal family, who had spent so much time with us, and the removal of flags and bunting from City streets, the rest of the year's celebrations seemed like flat beer.

So much was said and written in such a short space of time about the Captain, his crew, the ship, and the voyage, that a reaction has set in. Understandably, people are tired of the subject.

However, as an Historical Society, we can feel some satisfaction as we bid goodbye to 1970. In our way, we have helped celebrate a great event, now indelibly recorded in the history of the Shire and the nation.

Eric Lukeman.

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The Journals kept on board 'Endeavour'.

By N. Horwood.

Many of the voyagers aboard the "Endeavour" kept hand written journals of the voyage. It is from these journals that we have such a complete and interesting account of the day to day events, both tragic and comic, which took place on board the vessel.

Most importantly, and the most well known, is of course the Journal kept by the Captain, James Cook.

The holograph Cook Journal was put up for sale in March 1923 by Sotherby's, who were selling it on behalf of the trustees of the late H.W.F. Bolckow, M.P., who had lived at Marton-in-Cleveland Yorkshire. It is indeed very appropriate that the Journal should have been kept for over fifty years in the little town where James Cook had been born in October, 1728.

The National Library in Canberra purchased the Journal and it remains in their possession and is on display in the public gallery to-day. It is from that Journal that Professor Beaglehole has taken the text for his book "The Journals of James Cook The Voyage of the Endeavour". That Journal is now known as the Canberra manuscript.

A copy of the Cook Journal, was made by Richard Orton, transcriber, who was clerk to James Cook on board the "Endeavour", and after passing through many hands, it was presented to the Australian Museum in 1895, and they exchanged it in 1935, for certain relics from the Mitchell Library.

Another copy of the Cook Journal, made by various persons, including Richard Orton, was kept for many years in the Library at Windsor Castle, and in 1935 was presented by King George V to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

A third-copy of Cook's Journal now resides in the Library of the British Admiralty, and it is thought that this copy is the one which he handed over to the Admiralty upon his return to England.

There also exists two portions of the log kept by Cook and a copy which is incomplete. The two incomplete portions are now housed in the British Museum, whereas the almost complete log copy is held privately by Lieut.-Commander Palliser Hudson.

What seems to be the official log is also now kept in the British Museum.

Although we may safely presume that the sailors on board the Endeavour were mostly illiterate, and were rather men of action than men of letters, yet many did in fact write and kept journals.

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Amongst those mariners on board, the following wrote journals, which have survived and are now in the Public Records Office, England:-,

Lieutenant Hicks,
William Gore,
W.B. Monkhouse,
Robert Neolyneux,
Richard Pickersgill,
Francis Wilkinson,
Stephen Forwood,
John Bootie,
J. Monkhouse,
Charles Clerke,
and four anonymous journals.

All journals kept by the crew or officers of the "Endeavour", were collected by Lieutenant Hicks just prior to the ship reaching Batavia. This collection of privately kept journals was one of the instructions contained in the Secret Instructions given to Cook before leaving England.

These instructions were binding only on the crew and officers and of course did not apply to the civilians who were carried on board.

The civilians were, Banks and those who accompanied him, and many of these also wrote journals.

Banks' Journal is now in the possession of the Mitchell Library, Sydney. There are three other copies, one in the Alexander Turnbull Library, New Zealand, one is privately owned by Lord Brisbane, and the other is on loan to the National Maritime Museum, London.

Charles Green, Daniel Solander, Peter Briscoe and James Roberts also kept journals of the voyage.

The journal kept by Peter Briscoe is now lodged in the Dixson Library, Sydney, and that kept by James Roberts is kept now in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Both these journals appear to be based on the journal kept by Pickersgill and the details of the voyage are quite brief.

The journal kept by James Roberts commences on 27th May, 1768 and continues until 14th May 1770, finishing just after the "Endeavour" left Botany Bay.

From the journals of Briscoe and Roberts we learn that Forbe Sutherland was the poulterer on board the "Endeavour".

The death and burial of Forby Sutherland is also recorded in both these journals, so it is incorrect to say that Cook was the only one to record Sutherland's death as I have heard some say, and as I have seen recorded in some articles.

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
QUARTERLY BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

C/- 9 Animbo Street,
MIRANDA. 2228.
1st January, 1971.

Dear Member,

As our new financial year commences on 1st January, all subscriptions for 1971 become due from that date.

We would appreciate receiving your subscription renewal as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
N. Horwood
Hon. Secretary

Renewal Fee \$1.00

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