

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



NEW SERIES No. 3

JANUARY 1972

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### CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTES	Harold Ivers
BULLETIN CONVENOR	Geo. Heavens
HISTORIC JANUARY	M.H.N.
BOOK REVIEW - THOS. HOLT	B. Sargeant
NSW RAIL TRANSPORT MUSEUM	.....
THE FIRST SHIRE COUNCIL	M. Hutton Neve
CRONULLA NEWS OF 30 YEARS AGO	Elva Carmichael
NATIONAL PARK MOTOR BUS SERVICES	Fred Midgley H.
GOGERLY AND THE SATIRIST TRIAL	Hutton Neve
CYCLE CLIPPINGS	A, Midgley
HERE AND THERE	.....
ILLUSTRATIONS	Fred Midgley

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Interest in the Society's activities remains high, as indicated by the attendances at general meetings and the support of organised tours and inspections. The Society's outings have been exceedingly successful, blessed on every occasion by beautiful weather. The all-day outing to Richmond and the St. John of God Hospital was a perfect day and enjoyed by all. Our thanks are due to Bro. Timothy and his staff for their co-operation. In connection with these outings I would like to express my gratitude to the Jannali Bus Coy. for their excellent service and for the courtesy of the driver Mr. Ted Colman - who has now become a member of the Society.

On a historical note I would like to mention that last August whilst on a motor trip along part of the old Overland Telegraph route, my family and I spent one night at the little almost deserted town of Beltana, some 150 miles north of Port Augusta. Beltana is on the site of the southernmost repeater-station of the old telegraph line, and the night we stayed there was the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Overland Telegraph.

1972 draws to a close as I write this, and I wish to extend to all my best wishes for 1973, and to thank both members and the Executive Council for their efforts; the Sydney County Council for the use of their auditorium; and the Shire Council and their officers for the valuable support given during 1972 as well as for the numerous invitations to Council-sponsored events in the Shire, -- Harold Ivers

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BULLETIN BOARD CONVENOR

This is the third of the New Series of the Society's Quarterly Bulletin, again with some most attractive drawings by Mr. Fred Midgley -- there is no doubt these illustrations add to the interest of the stories.

The first two issues have also created no little interest amongst those non-members who have seen them, and several of my own friends have asked if copies are available. Under our postal registration in "Category B", which allows us to have reduced postage charges, all financial members must be "sold" a copy, this charge being made against the member's annual subscription: we are permitted to supply without charge certain public bodies (libraries etc.) We may dispose otherwise of not more than 25% of our total print. Thus it is not possible to make any unlimited supply of the Bulletin available for non-members. One copy is sent to every secondary school in the Shire ---but it is obvious that only a handful of students would have an opportunity to read it -- if they even know it is in their school library.

Contributions from any member will always be welcome, and these may be either paragraphs or longer articles; some of the latter will be illustrated where possible. The general aim of the Bulletin Board is to provide varied authentic information of local history -- not only relating to this Shire, although this is of course a primary consideration.

-- Geo. Heavens, Convener.

## HISTORIC JANUARY



Apart from the foundation of NSW 26th there are three other notable dates:-

William Dampier	Jan. 4,	1688
George Bass	Jan.30,	1771
Capt. Jas. Cook	Jan.17	and
	Jan.30,	1773/4



William Dampier was an intrepid nautical adventurer who, after buccaneering in the West Indies and the Philippines, decided to explore south-wards. On Jan. 4th 1688 he made landfall at Cape Leveque at the entrance to King Sound on the mid-coast of Western Australia (then New Holland). It was he who described the Aborigines as "the most miserable people in the world". Dampier had the honour of being the first to write about Australia "A New Voyage Around the World", published in 1697 and proving a "best seller".

George Bass was born in the small Lincolnshire village of Aswarby on Jan. 30th 1771, the only child of a tenant farmer. At 13 years he was apprenticed to the local surgeon-apothecary, qualifying at 18. He then joined the Royal Navy as a "surgeon's mate". His subsequent voyage to New South Wales in 1794 and his varied associations (together with Matthew finders and the boy William Martin) are too well known to repeat here, What is less known is that Bass also undertook several land excursions- he was one of a party who found the 1st Fleet's lost cattle at the Cowpastures; discovered some good grazing land near Prospect Hill; crossed on foot from the Cowpastures to Wattamolla; and attempted to cross the Blue Mountains, using scaling irons and ropes to tackle the immense precipices - but his party were defeated by exhaustion, hunger and thirst.

Contain James Cook had in 1769/70 circumnavigated the islands of New Zealand, and then discovered Eastern Australia, thus proving that New Zealand was not part of the "great southern continent": but there were still some who believed that another land mass existed in the Southern Hemisphere In command of the Resolution, and accompanied by a smaller ship the Adventure, Cook left Plymouth in 1772 to search for an Antarctic Continent. On Jan. 17th 773 the Resolution crossed the Antarctic Circle near Enderby Land -- the first recorded ship to do so. Cook's attempts to penetrate further south were blocked by ice, and so he turned northwards. In the fogs of these southern waters he lest contact with the Adventure, but met safely with her some time later in Queen Charlotte Sound in N.Z..

The following year Cook twice more crossed the Antarctic Circle, this time under terrible conditions of icy storms and towering icebergs. On Jan.,30th 1774 Cook reached within 1200 miles of the South Pole in Latitude 71 degrees. No other ship was able to pass beyond this southern latitude until 1823.

AN ENERGETIC COLONIST: biographical account of the activities of the late Thos. Holt,

M.L.C.: by Henry E. Holt: Melb., Hawthorn. 1972. \$6.95.,

Any person interested in the history of Sutherland Shire will be eager to read, and will be grateful for this, the first full-length book on Thomas Holt. In fact, its appeal will not be limited to the local scene, and devotees of Australian history will find this a useful work.

Apart from Mrs. Hutten Neve's informative pamphlet on Thomas Holt, to date one has had brief entries in the Australian Encyclopaedia and the Australian Dictionary of Biography on which to rely. Now we have what may be regarded as the definitive life of Thomas Holt. The degree of research carried out by the author is indicated by the copious footnote references. The author's style is not unfortunately of great literary merit or content, and therefore reading of the book is not easy. However the sheer diversity of Holt's activities, his undoubted energy and the changing times in which he lived (and which he helped to shape in no small degree) capture the interest of the reader. I found that the more I had read, so the book became progressively absorbing.

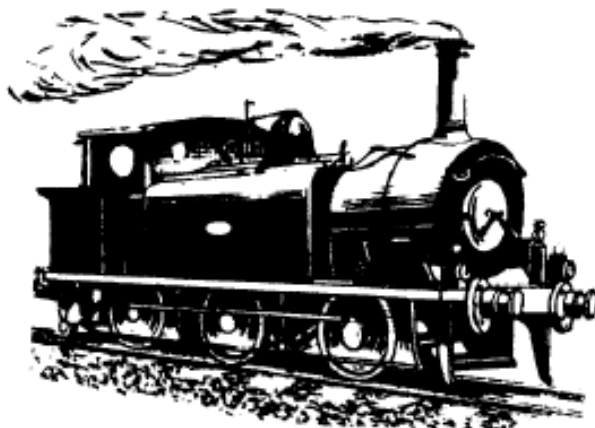
The book, as a physical object, is well produced, with a pleasant type face and good layout. It is a matter of regret that the author's careful re-research and documentation have been marred by the index. Every reference checked was one page out, e.g. Horbury Terrace, pp. 12,13 and 41 according to the index, actually appear on pp. 13,14 and 42 respectively. Another error quickly apparent is the captioning of the illustration facing p. 157 as a photograph of Sutherland House Sylvania, when it is in fact "The Warren" (at "Cook's River" -- or Marrickville).

Review by B. Sargeant

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The New South Wales RAIL TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The Museum was established by the above Society of amateur rail enthusiasts in association with the Public Transport Commission of NSW, in the Ne.1 Roundhouse at Enfield. At present only the first stage is being opened, and a far more comprehensive display will ultimately be exhibited. A wide range of steam locomotives and other rolling stock may be seen. The Museum is open each Saturday and Sunday from 11.0am to 4.0pm. Adults 30c:Children 10 c: Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children 60c).



The Museum site is itself an authentic railway scene, for it is the former Enfield steam locomotive depot -- no longer needed because of the total use of dieselised transport. There are facilities for barbecues, and refreshments may be purchased. There is also space for the parking of cars.

## THE FIRST SHIRE COUNCIL



"The first meeting of the first elected Council of the Shire of Sutherland was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday the 5th day of December 1906 at 6.30 p.m."



That formal statement marked the birth of Local Government for Shire No. 133, named "Sutherland" by the State Governor Admiral Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, on March 15th 1906. A provisional council meeting in June 1906 prepared the ground for the first local elections. Both the candidates and the voters were required to qualify as ratepayers.

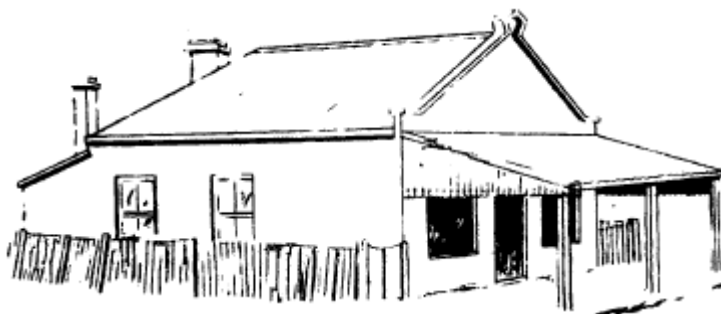
The "Shire Council Chambers" was a small wooden shop in "Railway Parade" (Princes H'way, just past the Commonwealth Bank), which Cllr, Thomas Lehane agreed to rent for the purpose. The Shire Clerk was provided with living quarters at the rear,

Amongst the first matters to be considered were arrangements for the valuation of the new Shire and subsequent rating, and for the transfer of varied responsibilities from the Department of Works, including the taking over of maintenance of roads and bridges within the next six weeks.

The meeting of January 14th 1907 received the Seal of the Council, designed by the Sydney firm of John Sands. Mr. J.W. Macfarlane was appointed Clerk at a weekly salary of £2-10-0 (\$5.00). The President Mr. Judd was re-quested to "make arrangements with the Bank for financing Council": it was decided that the President's personal allowance be £30 per annum; Councillors to be allowed "sixpence per mile travelling allowance for attending

Council meetings". This last would cover either steam train fares or as a contribution towards the use of the Councillors' horses and buggies.

Varied Road Works were an immediate concern, and residents were quick to advise Council of their needs --a bridge at Burraneer Bay Road needed attention, while the wooden bridge in Kiora Road Miranda required urgent repair --it was decided to pipe the creek water under the bridge. The "Dover Point Rd."



Rented premises in Railway Parade (Princes H'Way) was meeting place of the first shire Council



*Cllr. R. W. Cook*



*Cllr. C. McAlister*



*Cllr. J. Hill*

was another calling for immediate attention; this was the "New Illawarra Road" surveyed in 1864, later known as the Sydney Road -- now the Princes Highway, The Public Works Dept, had officially given the name of "Dever Point" to Horse Rock Point Sylvania, but the locals ignored this and kept to the original, so that "Dover Point" soon fell into disuse.

It was not until the February meeting that Council decided "as a matter of urgency" to authorise the purchase of an Accounts Ledger and certain other essential record books: and at the same time authorised the purchase of tools for their infant "Works Department" -- "Adze 1/6d, Rock Picks at 1/6d ea, Napping Hammers, 1/- ea., Spalling (= Spalding) Hammers 1/6d ea., Muck Picks 3d ea., Boring Rods, Drills, Jumper, Tamping Rod --- 10/- the lot". Road Work was carried out by "pick and shovel", with horses and carts assisting.

The first "Field Day" took place in March, when Councillors went by steam train to Waterfall, from where local inspections were carried out with borrowed horse transport (presumably arranged by Cllr. McAlister) or on foot, until they arrived at Heathcote, where Cllr. McAlister "provided refreshments" at his home.

In April 1907 Council decided to seek wider powers of administration, as "the regulation of the erection of buildings as to height, design, structural materials, building line and sanitation". Subdivision of estates was already beginning, and Council decided also to control this, "so as to secure due ways of access to the rear as well as to the front of buildings erected or to be erected thereon". There were already problems of private roads to blocks of



*Cllr. E. W. Hyndman*



*Mr. McFarlane*



*Cllr. T. Lehane*

land which, if subdivided, would prevent or hinder adequate access to neighbouring landowners.

Settler deputations showed that there were several active local groups --the Miranda and Cronulla Schools of Art, Miranda and Menai Progress Associations, the "Tramway League". At the request of Menai Progress Association a special Council Field Day was held on April. 8, 1907, led by Messrs. Owen Jones (Hon. Sec.), Bentley, Mayman and Smith to discuss the proposal of a bridge over the Woronora River adjacent to Price's Boatshed, when sites, road access and even costs were discussed. This agitation was to continue for several years before the bridge eventuated. The "Tramway League" asked Council "to take the lead in furthering the scheme for connecting Sutherland to Cronulla by a tramway": and the League were assured that Council would support the project in every possible way.

During this first year "Reserve No. 41759" was officially named "Cronulla Park" on July 29th; and concerning "Water conservation on the Peninsula of Cronulla" Council made a donation of £5 "towards making provision for same at the Oaks Water Reserve No. 41763 providing local subscriptions to the Council be raised". This was apparently done, for in January 1908 Council authorised that its own donation be used "for the purpose of decking, providing more piping, erecting pump and building retaining wall".

To close this first year the President reviewed initial progress. There had of course been grants from the Public Works Dept. to meet road construction, including the commencement of a road from Sutherland to Como; but road maintenance had to be met from Council funds. President Judd could therefore state with some pride that if all due Rates were collected there would be a total income for this first year of £2,300, thus permitting Council to begin 1908 with some £1200 in hand. At this time the population was approximately 1600 and the unimproved value of rateable land was only about £200,000 --today it is about \$283 millions... Surely a good initial record for an inexperienced Council.

(extracted from the Minutes of the first Minutes Book, by courtesy of the Shire President and Shire Clerk).  
-- M. Hutton Neve.

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Woronora Water Scheme: in February of this year (1930), owing to the economic conditions, the Water Board was compelled to close down the work of constructing the Woronora Dam and Pipe Line. Council was very concerned and as a result of public meetings that were held in various parts of the Shire a monster petition was presented to the Water Board, and after representations to the State Government and Water Board, arrangements were made for the Sutherland-Cronulla Water Scheme to be commenced as unemployment relief work. Arrangements were also made through the State Labour Exchange for the bulk of the men to be engaged through Council's employment agency, and as a result 350 men were engaged locally.

-- from Records kept by Geo. Heavens

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January 1st: "Federation Day" - Australia (1901)

January 22nd: Queen Victoria died in the 64th year of her reign (1901)

January 29th: "Anniversary Day" - Auckland N.Z.: date of the official foundation of the settlement (1840).

CRONULLA NEWS OF THIRTY YEARS AGO

These snippets of news are taken from an "Observer" dated Friday 2nd May 1941, Vol. 2, No. 38. At date of writing this the latest "Observer" is Vol. 20, No. 44, and is now published on Thursday. The paper has tried to keep as near as possible to its original telephone number as best it could with telephonic changes over the years: in 1941 it was Cronulla 254, now 523.5954.

At the Cronulla Theatre for Fri. and Sat., 2nd and 3rd May at 7.30 p.m. and matinee Sat. 1.30, Bette Davis was in "The Letter" and Spencer Tracy in "North-West Passage". Tues. 6th May were two other features unknown these days. Reservations were made at Mr. Kenny's Chemist shop; but from memory I would say it wasn't necessary to reserve.

An Auction Sale on Sat. 3rd March at 2.30 p.m. was to be held at Howards Auction Rooms, 90 Curranulla St. (opp. newsagent), of furniture. Auctioneer -- Jack Shaw.

On Wed. 4th June was a "Grand Community Concert" at Cronulla Theatre; programme by the "Ivy Ross Camp Concert Party": compared by Harry Yates of 2UE.

Cronulla Railway Estate: Auction Sat. 17th May at 3 p.m. Terms 20% deposit, balance 2 years. Interest 5% per annum. Interesting to bowlers, yachtsmen, golf, tennis swimming and fishing folk. DON'T MISS THIS SALE. W.Souter & Co. Auctioneers, in conjunction with F.B.Walker, Kingsway, Cronulla, The last subdivision in Cronulla township. Eight excellent building lets, elevated and well drained, situated Searle Road, Cronulla, ever - looking Gunnamatta Bay & Park, now being reclaimed. Near Railway Station, Public School, shops, bowling green and tennis courts.

A "Public Notice" read: "During the months of May, June, July and August our business hours will be as under:-

Monday to Thursday	8 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. till 8.30 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. till 12.30 p.m.

Note: open all day Wednesday. F.E.Lord, Penprase Bros.

Other advertisements: "Cherie Salon" grooms hair at 53 Kingsway, opposite theatre ... C.E. Weekes proprietor of Pacific Garage, "Your Chrysler Agent" .... J.T.Nelson & Sons, General Storekeepers, Caringbah; a trial solicited orders delivered, 'Phone Cronulla 42 .... W.Cridland, Surveyor, "Nyalora", Judd Street, Cronulla; also Pitt St. Sydney .... And another: Special Notice - Dairy Farmers Milk Co. is now delivering milk - rich in cream & food value at Caringbah and Miranda. Ring Cron. 199 and our van . will call, 68 Curranulla Street.... In the year 1941, when manpower was short, I wonder if the service in our stores was any better than it is now? -- it couldn't be worse than some stores I know today!

My reason for having this old "Observer" was an obituary on the back page. "Mr. George Lamb died at his daughter's home, Mrs. Dallimore, Kingsway, Cronulla, 27th April". My grandfather (G.Lamb) had lived in Cronulla since 1912.

-- Elva Carmichael.



THE (ROYAL), NATIONAL PARK, MOTOR BUS SERVICES



Horse buses had operated between Loftus junction (now Loftus) and Audley before the turn of the century. It was not until 1914 that the motor bus made its appearance over the same route.

Ned Toyer, whose father and brothers owned a prosperous nursery business at Sans Souci, launched out into the transport business with two Albions each of about 12 seats capacity, the body being of the charabanc type. The engines were of two cylinders with chain drive. Toyer also used these buses to transport soldiers to and from the top of Artillery Hill. One can imagine the heavy going these buses must have endured on the steep grades out of Audley.

Next proprietor was Ted Newlyn with two Vulcans, an A.E.C., a Dodge and a Lancia Charabanc. A tragic accident on a Sunday morning with one of the Vulcans while descending the hill to Audley resulted in the deaths of six people when the bus crashed into the Guest House. The crankshaft snapped and the brakes were unable to hold the lead.

This accident caused Newlyn to relinquish the bus service in the National Park, and in 1925 he operated two pneumatic-tyred Karrier buses in opposition to the Sutherland-Cronulla trams. This service lasted about eighteen months and terminated when one of the buses came into contact with a large tree.

Cobb & Co. had their well-known drivers in "Cabbage-tree Ned" and "Let-er-go Gallagher" -- from whom the well-known expression originated. Newlyn also had a driver who was "heavy-footed" with a desire for speed and he was well-known as "Let 'er go" Harry Hardy.

Reg Hammill took over the National Park buses from Newlyn and did a brisk business carrying picnickers from



Sutherland to Audley, in addition to meeting trains in the National Park, Hammill did not retain the service for long, however, and sold to Ramsey, who had been in partnership with Darby and Perry who operated the South Sydney Bus Coy,

This service was forced out of Sydney by the Lang Government which instituted Government operated buses in the city. Ramsey operated White buses purchased from the defunct South Sydney Bus Co.. He also operated White Charabancs which were also used on the run from Sutherland to Woronora River when

it commenced a trial period at Christmas 1934. Regular service to this area commenced in February 1935: The first drivers on this service were Jim Bourke and Dick Deane, the latter having a long term of service close on thirty years in the National Park.

On Ramsey's death the service to National Park and Sutherland — Woronora River passed to W.A. (Joe) Gardiner who sold the last—mentioned service to Mayman Bros, of Menai,

A service was still maintained from Sutherland to Audley and between the National Park Railway Station and Audley. As late as 1952 Gardiner was operating two 1928 Whites, one of which worked most weekends with two later model Whites (N/0 and 710) purchased about 1946.

The bus service then passed to Tuck who sold the now declining route to Roberts, who reduced the service to one bus. The increasing number of motor cars entering the National Park caused the demise of one of the longest horse drawn coach and motor bus services.

Route 182 (Sutherland—Audley) ceased operation in October 1971, when the only bus, a White, M/0 575, was deregistered. This brought to a close fifty seven years of public transport to the community.

Patronage was almost nil at the finish and during the last year of its active service the White served mainly the use of a neighbouring operator who hired it for school runs.

(Acknowledgment: "St. George Call": Historical Commercial Vehicle Assn.)

— Fred Midgley.

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### THE YEARS OF THE "DEPRESSION" (1930s): How People Lived..

#### Advertisements in S.C.A.M. Newspaper:

Sept. 5. 1931 (under Public Notices): Ladders in Stockings: Don't throw away your old stockings: Ladders mended at 1d an inch. 6d minimum charge, -- Miss L. Ball, Boulevard & Bath Rd., Sutherland.

Sept 12, 1931: Milk 0! From can to consumer. 6d per quart. Delivered twice daily. -- Len Johnson, Hotham Rd., Sutherland. Phone 242 Sutherland.

Wanted: Work on Poultry farm by strong willing youth aged 18. 10/— per week and keep. References. .L. Julien (address given).

October 6. 1906: First Doctor: Sutherland gained their first resident Doctor of Medicine, Dr. Rooke, who commenced his practice in East Parade.

-- from the Records kept by Geo. Heavens.

Gogerly and the "Satirist" Obscenity Trial: 1843:

On a remote Pt. Hacking hilltop known as, "Gogerly's Point" is an ancient sandstone cottage, said to have been built by convicts employed by Simeon Lord which, if this can be substantiated, would make it by far the oldest build-in the Shire -- 140 to 150 years old.

It was to this part of the Colony that Charles James Gogerly retired with his family after serving a term of 12 months imprisonment for his part in the publishing of the "Satirist.. and Sporting Chronicle" in 1843.

Three men Thomas Revel Johnson, editor; Charles William Brown, printer ; and Charles James Gogerly, printer & publisher; -- had the rather dubious honour of being the first newspapermen in the Colony's 55 years of press history to be charged with having produced an obscene publication.

Although it was shown: that a George O'Brien was the bona fide proprietor of the Satirist (in that he financed it), it was these three men who appeared before the Supreme Court on April 18, 1843. Gogerly for his part claimed he had no responsibility in the matter, being employed merely as a servant of the paper at a weekly salary and was not aware his name was connected with it until after publication. The paper apparently went through ten issues before ceasing - there are now only a few odd copies left.

The first issue claimed that "... our Object is to expose and repress 'humbug' either judicial, magisterial or political .... satire is to be the weapon we shall fearlessly wield". (Feb. 4, 1843),

To appreciate some of the pungently slanderous and libellous "satire" one would need to know the leading public figures of the day. A weekly column under "Miles' Boy" must have stunned, horrified -- and petrified -- the leading lights of Sydney Town. In its short life it must have been a best-seller: To quote a few of the more respectable (?) of "Miles' Boy says":--

.... We would advise Mrs.-Lamb to look after her second daughter as there are more than one scabby sheep in the family !!

.... When Bob Cooper's wife comes back what will he do with the woman and the two children at Juniper Hall?

.... If Mr. C---y is not a little less flash with the odious strumpet he has attached himself to, since his brutal conduct drove his unfortunate wife to the Lunatic Asylum, we shall give him a place in the Satirist.

.... Husbands should not allow such bland\* treatment on their wives and daughters:  
( \* this refers to Dr. Bland, Colonial surgeon).

The jury, directed by Mr. Justice Burton, took no time in convicting all three; Johnson was jailed for two years, and Gogerly and Brown for one each.

(Satirist and Sporting Chronicle copies per courtesy Mitchell Library)

M. Hutton Neve

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January 20. 1265: Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester (1208-1265) may be regarded as the "father" of the British Parliament; a few months before he was killed in battle he was responsible for assembling representatives from all the shires to meet as a political executive group -- thus laying the foundation for the future House of Commons.

CYCLE CLIPPINGS

November 7, 1908: The application of-the newly. formed Sutherland Bicycle Club for permission to hold road races on the Shire roads met with no opposition from Sutherland Council provided the Traffic Act Ordinances were not infringed.

December 1, 1908: Fourteen pedalists faced the pistol on Saturday fer . Sutherland Clubs first race, The winner turned up in Loveday, and Fletcher a few inches away, second. These two lads hail from Miranda.

Thornton secured fastest unplaced time. Messrs. R. Cook, G.E.Desmond and Hillman were responsible for the handicaps. Mr. Hillman was timekeeper, and LW. Boyle starter and judge. The 1st and 2nd prizes were gold medals, and the fastest time an Open Order. These will be presented at a concert at Boyle's National Hall,

January 23 1909.: Handicaps of Sutherland Bicycle Club. A five mile road race over the National Park course at 4.0 pm. today (23rd) is scheduled as here:— Grimshaw, A. Meeves, A. Loveday (scr.), N. Fletcher (5 secs.), A. Wilson (10 secs.), G. Beach, W. Beach, F. Beach (3 secs.), Harry Beach (30 secs.), J. Bennett, J, Gilligan, J. Scanlon (50 secs.), O. Travers (1 min.), B.Boyle (8 secs.).

Mr, Hillman will be timekeeper and Mr. E.W. Boyle judge. The course is in splendid condition.

June 17, 1909: For a 3 Guinea medal presented by Sutherland beneficent Ted Boyle, the "Peerless" Cycle Club are contesting a road race at Sutherland. The course is from the "Hotel de Boyle" to National Park and back, completing a distance of ten miles.

March 1912: C. Cutcliffe of Sutherland NSW, won the Australian Cycling Championship over 5 miles at Sydney.

(A cyclist of much distinction for many years, Cutcliffe in later years conducted a hire-car service in Sutherland).

(Extracts quoted from "St. George Call" and "Sydney Mail") -- A. Midgley.

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ORIGIN OF STREET NAMES:

Do You Know the Origin of Your Street Name? Can you add to the following?:-

Judd St., Cronulla: named after the first Shire President.

Holt Rd Frederick Rd Taren Point: after Frederick Holt who lived in Sutherland House Sylvania for many years.

Dolans Rd. Dominic St., Cronulla: after Dominic Dolan, who had a block of land at the head of Burraneer Bay in the 1860/80s.

Stapleton St., Sutherland: after Charles Stapleton, the first butcher in Sutherland before the Township was established); he supplied meat to the railway construction camps 1883-86.

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November. 18, 1911: A petition containing many names was presented to. Sutherland Council signed by ratepayers against the nuisance of a vast number' of straying cattle.

HERE AND THERE

MR. J.V.S. MEGAW (late of Gynea) was for some time a member of our Executive Council. He was regarded as an authority concerning the Aborigine--especially so relating to this southern area. As noted in our October Bulletin Mr. Megaw left Sydney last August to take up the Professorship of Archaeology at the University of Leicester, England. In view of the service he rendered both to the Society and to the Shire in general the Executive Council at their Nov-ember meeting elected Professor Megaw as our first Hon. Member.

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FERNLEIGH,: Mr./Mrs. E. Alcott were recently advised by the National Trust that their Burraneer Bay cottage\*\* had been classified as "C", as a "building of considerable late-Victorian interest". In 1873 Mr. Charles York bought the vacant block of land from Thos. Holt, and immediately began the erection of his home. No one knows why a later owner superimposed the metal figures of 1821 over the front door.

\*\* According to colonial classification of buildings a single-storey house was regarded as a "cottage".

ELIZABETH FARM, Parramatta: "It is unique in being the only home in the world whose construction can be traced back to within five years of the establishment of civilisation in the continent on which it stands .... It has been continuously occupied as a domestic dwelling since 1793 It was the first property in Australia on which the techniques of organised husbandry were employed; the first in which a plough was used; the first on which fodder conservation was regularly practised; the first that was farmed almost entirely by free labour".

-- Extract leaflet: Elizabeth Farm Museum Trust

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE STUDIES: published by the Shire Council, Pamphlet No. 3: Geography, Geology & Archaeology of the Shire: by Dr. D.F. Branagan and J.V.S. Megaw. (Through a printing error the No, 4 Pamphlet was published before Ne.3) Pamphlet No. 4 outlines the Development of Commerce & Industry: by M. Hutton Neve. All the Pamphlets are illustrated, and may be obtained free from the Council Chambers and from all Branch Libraries.

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President: Mr. H. Ivers	Actg. Hon. Sec.:	Bulletin Convener
620 Princes H'way,	Mrs.G.F.Griffiths,	Mr. G. Heavens,
Sutherland: 2232.	34 Richmount St.,	78 Toronto Pde.,
Ph. 521.1407	Cronulla: 2230.	Sutherland: 2232.
	Ph. 523.5801.	Ph. 521.6190

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

Please Note Fixtures January to May 1973

## SOCIETY NOTES

(from information supplied by the Actg. Hon. ,Secretary) \_

The Actg. Hon. Secty. Mrs. Aileen Griffiths, reports that membership is increasing, as also are attendances at the monthly meetings.

Following the replacement of the past Secretary, there have been a number of outstanding matters to be adjusted before the Executive Council could function to advantage. The Executive Council appreciates the efforts of the Actg. Secretary in coping so capably with these.

The Secretary would be interested to have suggestions from members both for Guest Speakers and Excursions during the coming months.

Resume of last quarter's Fixtures:

### Guest Speakers:

October: unfortunately Mr. Don Sinclair (who had intended to speak on "The Story of Gilbert & Sullivan") became ill and was unable to attend. Mr. Blunden, speaking on the topic "Aboriginal Artefacts in the Shire", filled in at a moment's notice and gave a most interesting address.

November: Mr Peter Hutton Neve: "Romance of Steam" was his subject – and what a fascinating subject it was. Big trains, little trains, old and new, were illustrated by outstanding slides,

December: Films from Sutherland Council — "Host to a Nation" Bicentenary and "E.G. Waterhouse Camellia Garden"; and by courtesy of the Metropolitan Water Board, "Aboriginal Rock Drawings at Woronora".

### Excursions:

October: St. John of God Hospital, Richmond, and tour of Richmond Township. This was a delight for both students of history and those just wishing to spend a pleasant day.

December 2: Inspection of Mitchell Library – by a limited party. This was voted a most interesting outing, and it was suggested this could well be repeated.

December 9: Open Day at Tramway Museum Loftus (or, to give the correct title, South Pacific Electric Rly. Co-op Soc.).

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions for 1973 become due and payable as from the 1st January 1973. May we ask for early payment, as this will assist the Society.

COMING EVENTS: January 12: Members' Night: Speakers = Mr. S. Stedman, Mr. C. Law, Mrs. M. Hutton Neve.

February 9:, Speaker from NSW Military Historical Society.

March 10: The Work of the Royal National Parks Rangers.

April 13: Films/Slides by Mr. and Mrs. Ivers of their motor trip to Inland Australia.

May 11: Annual General Meeting.

The President, Secretary and Executive Council wish all members a bright and prosperous New Year.

-- Geo. Heavens, Convenor.