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CONTENTS

FORBY SUTHERLAND'S GRAVE	M.H.N.
EARLY AUSTRALIAN FLAGS	Alf Midgley
1868 REPORT SUTHERLAND ESTATE	M. Hutton Neve
HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEAKER'S CHAIR	L. Toulmin
PIONEER LIFESAVING & BOARDRIDING	Fred Midgley
E. G. VINCENT MEMORIAL SEAT	S.C.A.M.
EMU BOTTOM HOMESTEAD (V.)	Elva Carmichael
LADY TYPEWRITERS NOT WANTED	Australasian Post
CRONULLA DIARY 1902/1923	Alf Midgley
REV. DR. RBT. DEY	Fred Midgley
FORGOTTEN SHIRE NAMES	Hutton Neve
SOUTHCRONULLA ABORIGINAL SITE	M.H.N.
"I REMEMBER"	Geo. Heavens
CRONULLA FIRE BRIGADE STATION	Shire Pictorial
THE PRESIDENT WRITES	H. Ivers
ILLUSTRATIONS ...	A. & F. Midgley

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FORBY SUTHERLAND'S GRAVE

In Nov. 1869 a Sydney periodical, the "Colonial Monthly", published an article referring in general to Kurnell; the landing by Cook, the burial of Forby Sutherland, and the statement "that a large tract of land, including in its area the grave, has recently passed into the hands of Mr. Thos. Holt" The article refers to the fact that the "Philosophical Society of New South Wales affixed a commemorative tablet in the year 1825" to mark the first landing by the Endeavour's Master in the Ships pinnacle (The correct date is 1822).

Information in the article was partially supplied by a Mr. Kendall, "A settler of long standing", who provided the curious information that a lily bulb was planted at the head of Forby's grave -- when or by whom is not stated.

In referring to the Philosophical Society's plaque the magazine drew attention to the fact that "the celebrated (Judge) Barron Field" had composed "an admirable sonnet apropos the occasion":-

Sutherland's Grave

'Tis holy ground! The silent silver lights,
 And dreamy shadows, falling year by year
 Upon his sleep in soft Australian nights,
 Are joys enough for him who lieth here
 So sanctified with rest. We need not fear
 The marble monument o'er such a spot!
 That soul, the first for whom the Christian tear
 Was stied on Austral soil, hath heritage
 Most ample. Let the ages wane with age,
 The grass which clothes this grave shall wither not:
 See yonder quiet lily: Have the blights
 Of many winters left it on a wilted tomb?
 Oh peace! Its fellows, glad with green delights,
 Shall gather round in deep eternal bloom.

M.H.N.

* * * * *

New South Wales Mailbox: before Federation as the Commonwealth of Australia, each State was entirely responsible for all Government facilities — including not only Defence but also Postal Services. All letter-posting boxes therefore carried the insignia of New South Wales. One of the last existing of these was outside the Menai Post Office. Some time ago the Midgley brothers (whose forebears came to Menai, then Bangor, in 1896) suggested that the P.M.G. be approached regarding the donation of this box to the Society. Liaison was carried out through the courtesy of the Shire Council and about three months ago the historical mailbox was given us, and is now in the care of the President.

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VALE: it is recorded with regret that Mr. Norman Horwood, the foundation secretary of this Society, passed away on Sept. 17 last and was privately interred. He was Hon. Secretary from 1966 to his resignation 1972.

EARLY AUSTRALIAN FLAGS

On April 29, 1770, Lieutenant James Cook, later promoted to Captain, landed at Botany Bay from His Majesty's bark "Endeavour" and raised the Jack in the name of King George III.

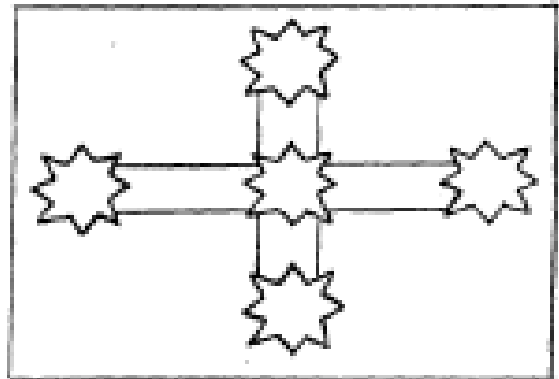
Again, on January 26, 1788, at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson, Governor Phillip raised the Jack on the occasion of the founding of the first white settlement in Australia,

The Jack, in pursuance of the Royal Proclamation on April 12, 1606, consisted of St. George's Cross and St. Andrew's Cross. On January 1, 1801, by Proclamation, St. Patrick's Cross was added, making the Union Jack as it is today. The Union Jack, flag of Britain, is situated on the top left-hand corner of Australia's National Flag. The design resulted from a competition which attracted about 30,000 entries from all over the world following Federation and opening in 1901 of the first Commonwealth Parliament.

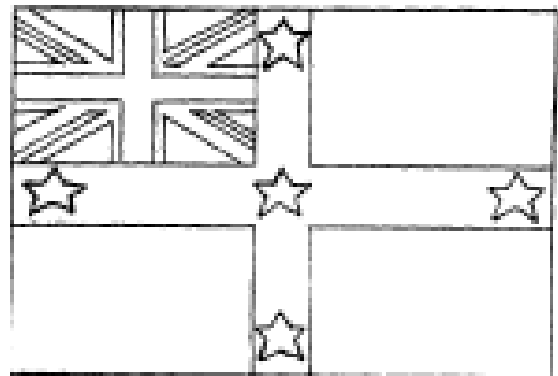
The prize of £400 (\$800) was equally divided between five entrants -- four Australians and one New Zealander, whose designs were almost identical. Ivor Evans a fourteen-year-old schoolboy and member of a several-generation Melbourne canvas firm, is credited with the design of our National Flag. To the original six-pointed star under the Union Jack a seventh point was added in 1908 to represent the Commonwealth Territories, the other Stars representing the Constellation of the Southern Cross.

Credit for the first "Australian" flag -- long before the present National Flag was even thought of was the Eureka Flag, flown by the miners during the Eureka

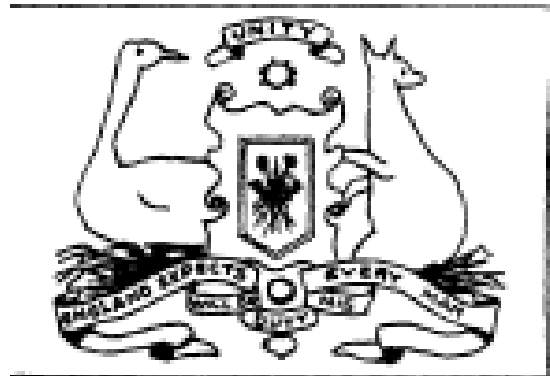
Stockade incident at Ballarat, Victoria, on December 3, 1854. This flag was plain blue, adorned with a white cross and five stars, one at each extremity of the cross and one in the centre. The original flag is in the possession of Ballarat Public Art Gallery,



Eureka 1854



National Colonial 1823



Bowman's 1805



However, three other "Australian" flags were flown before the Eureka one. The honour of flying the first flag bearing an Australian emblem belongs to John Bowman, who had a farm at Richmond, NSW. Bowman arrived in the colony in 1798 and settled on the land, naming his place "Archerfield". When news of the British victory at Trafalgar in 1805 was received, Bowman celebrated by making and flying a flag of his own design. On a piece of white material he painted a kangaroo and emu on either side of a shield bearing a rose, thistle and shamrock. Above the shield was the word "Unity", and below was a scroll bearing the words, "England expects every man to do his duty". Bowman erected a flagpole at his home and ran the flag to the top. This flag is preserved in the Mitchell Library.

In 1823 John Bingle, in collaboration with Captain John Nicolson, Royal Navy, designed the Australian Colonial Flag. This was approved by the Lords of the Admiralty as a national flag for Australia and was adopted by Sir Thomas Brisbane's Government. It consisted of the St. George Ensign with four stars placed in the four quarters of the fly. Someone added a fifth star in the centre, but this was strongly disapproved by its designers, who considered it embodying American notions. Captain Single was an Englishman who conducted survey operations along the eastern coast of Australia in 1822 and was afterwards closely connected with the commercial and shipping life of Newcastle.

The original Australian League flag hoisted as the standard of those working for the abolition of convict transportation is in Launceston Museum. It is 12 ft. by 9 ft., made of deep blue silk, with the Union Jack quartered in gold on the blue field; around the flag is a white border with the words "Australian League, Tasmania, 1851". It was flown for the first time on the 1st February 1851. It was the "battle flag" of the Anti-Transportation Society of which the Rev. James West of Launceston was the prime mover. At this time the five stars stood for Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and New Zealand. Queensland then was still part of N.S.W., and the Swan River (Western Australia) was then only sparsely populated. The flag was taken to England by a deputation from the Society, and returned at the masthead of the "Swift", and then carried all round Tasmania. It was used as a model for scores of smaller flags in Australia. The original was made by a group of women in Launceston.

Alf. Midgley

Sources: "World's News" 1934, 1950r Mitchell Library, Sydney:

Author's Notes.

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Potatoes: this food item is often in the news at the present time. This once humble commodity has borne the name "Spuds" for generations. The name was derived from England. In the early days of potato cultivation, an organisation known as the "Society for Prevention of Unwholesome Diets" agitated strongly against their use. From the initials of that Organisation the potato became colloquially known as S.P.U.D. -- hence our "spuds".

Beach Road was the original name of the Kingsway Caringbah to Cronulla.

Shire Archives Acquisition:1868 REPORT SUTHERLAND ESTATECorrect Burial Site of Forby Sutherland Indicates

Last October, on the recommendation of Mr. B. Sargeant, the Shire Librarian, the Shire Council purchased an invaluable document dealing with the foundation history of the Holt-Sutherland Estate. It consists of about 78 foolscap pages, beautifully handwritten in copperplate. There is a similar report by R.C. Walker compiled in January and April 1868 in the Holt Papers : vide "An energetic Coloniser": H.E. Holt (1972) pp 104-5.

It is a detailed Report by Mr. Robert Cooper Walker, a Sydney attorney who was Holt's agent whilst Holt was on a visit to England. It is dated January 1868, and describes the work already carried out in the initial development of Sutherland Estate. The 12,000,000 Estate had already been divided into 32 paddocks, each "enclosed by rails, log, wire or brush fences".

According to Mr. Robert Walker, "The whole of the estate was very thickly timbered and some of the timber valuable for building purposes". He goes on to say that, except in patches where the timber had been reserved, "it has been ringbarked, which is the only effectual way of destroying timber at anything like a remunerative cost where it grows so thickly as it does here Until the timber is killed, no grass will grow".

Holt lost no time in having the paddocks prepared: one small paddock, adjacent to Belgrave Av. and Esplanade, Walker reported, "has been scrub-bed three times — in 1861, 1864 and 1866 -- and is now free from scrub; it is principally covered with couch, but there is rib grass, buffalo, and kangaroo grass in it, and it carries a great quantity of stock ... All the Timber is well killed and all the fallen limbs are used as required for firewood, which has cleared off a great deal"

Punt House,: "Next to the small paddock at the house is the Punt Paddock, which is used for keeping the working horses in, and is enclosed with a 3 Rail Split fenceIn this paddock at the extreme North point is a punt house, built of stone, containing 4 rooms and two kitchens. The punt . belongs to Government, and works from the point mentioned, to Tom Ugly's point, a portion of which, where the Punt lands, also belongs to the Estate. The Punt is for the convenience of travellers on the Main Road to Wollongong, but as there is no provision made by the Government for working the Punt, and not sufficient traffic for anyone to lease it – the puntman is paid from the Estate 10/- per week, and he gets all he can make from the traffic".



(N.B.: This "Main Road" was laid down by survey in 1864, permission having

been granted by Holt for it to cross his Estate. It was little more than a bridle track -- but today is mainly Princes Highway as far as Sutherland. Here the road swung southwards (= East Pde. and Loftus Pde.) to join the Illawarra Road on the "Loftus Heights" -- i.e., the top of Woronora Rd. at Engadine).

"The Homestead": the existence of this building was unknown until this Report was perused. To quote:

"This is situated on Sandy Point at the entrance to Gawley (=Walker's spelling) Bay, close to where the Bridge** crosses over the Bay to Cummins Point (= Taren Point). It comprises a neat four Roomed Stone built House with two attics, with out-kitchen and workmen's house at the back. The house is fenced in by a small paddock covered with a thick sward of couch, and is on a very pretty site, commanding a fine view of the George's River, Towra, part of Botany Bay, and Sans Souci, and Koggerah (= Walker' a spelling) Bay on the opposite shore. There is a good 5 stall Slab Stable, and a Store adjoining it, which is enclosed by a small yard: at the back of this there is a cart and plough Shed. There is also a good Blacksmith's forge, with everything complete in it. At the southwest corner of the small pad-dock enclosing the house is a good Stockyard, Branding Pen, Cowshed a n d calf pen, and slaughter yard"

It would seem that this Homestead was probably erected about the same time as the Punt House (completed by 1861). After the opening of George's River Bridge ("Tom Ugly's") in 1929, this cottage became known as the "Gate House", presumably where the Tollmaster lived -- the tollgate was finally removed in 1952.

"The Homestead" may have been demolished when the mansion "Sutherland House" was completed in 1881 -- unless it was incorporated in the rear of the building; old plans showing subdivision of the Sutherland House "home" grounds gave no indication of an adjacent small stone building.

** Holt had a wooden bridge built across the entrance to Gwawley Bay, for easy access between the homestead and the eastern paddocks.

Forby Sutherland Burial Site: the late Elias Laycock of Cronulla lived at "Alpha Farm" (Kurnell) from 1849 to about 1858 or 1859, when his father, John Connell Laycock, sold the property to Thomas Holt in 1860. In 1923 Laycock, then an old man in his eighties,# escorted a party from the Royal Australian Historical Society to try to ascertain the site of Forby's internment. As a child of about 4-6 years he had had an old aboriginal woman as a nurse (who also must have been in her eighties), who stated she had watched the burial as a small child, and, indicating an area on the beach , would say to little Elias, "white man buried there".

Cook recorded in his Journal (his associates, in their own accounts of the voyage, did not mention the burial), on May 1, 1770: "Last night Forby Sutherland seaman departed this life and in the AM his body was buried a shore at the watering place which occasioned my calling the south point of this Bay after his name". (underlining is mine -- MHN)

Elias Connell Laycock born 8th May 1845, Pitt St Sydney – he would have been 78, not in his eighties – comment from Alice Miller nee Laycock 3 July 1984

According to a record, Holt had had an area near "the watering place" fenced in, stating that a "white man" was buried there. Laycock scotched the idea, stating that the remains of rotting wood posts were part of his father's dairy. What Laycock did not know, however, was that when Holt's employees were digging in the vicinity of the old dairy (probably demolishing it) they unearthed part of a human skull (not an aboriginal one). Realising it was the grave of Forby, the Report states that the site was fenced, with orders that it be not disturbed.

The present monument marking the presumed site of Forby's grave is at least 100 yards from "the watering place", which Cook stated was the burial site: a dairy would naturally be placed close to a watering source -- for washing down the bails etc.: so that it would appear that Elias' father, John Connell Laycock, had built his dairy over Forby's grave.

This is the first historical record of a definite grave site; As well, Walker's Report states that Holt named the estate after Forby Sutherland --whose burial site he knew.

Boat Harbour: the Holt/Walker MS should also prove of great value to the "527 Boat Harbour Committee", set up under Local Government authority last year "for its management, care and control" by a group of voluntary members (of which I am one). In Cook's time the sandhills were vegetated with both timber, scrub and grass, most of which Holt destroyed in order to sow stock grasses. Walker's Report names some of the trees ringbarked and killed, and also names some of the grasses planted. This information should be of much assistance to the Committee in their plans for regeneration of the native growth around the Boat Harbour area.

I am advised that Mr. Sargeant will have copies made of the MS as soon as possible, these to be available for those interested in perusing it for research purposes. The Shire Council is to be congratulated on its speedy action in purchasing the MS as soon as it was offered.

-- M. Hutton Neve

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Sutherland/Woronora Bus Service, commenced by the National Park Bus Co. for a trial period in 1934, celebrated its 40th year of service in December ---it is now apparently permanent!

Stock Problems: Nov. 6, 1909: Mr. Wiltshire, Cronulla, complained to Sutherland Council that about 20 head of cattle were continually straying in the town.

Symbol of Growth: Nov. 1911: The PMG decided that the increased population about Ewie Bay warranted a public telephone.

"The Old Woman's Bonnet" is the correct name for the headland "The Bonnet" at Illawong (Como West). The Holt-Walker 1868 Report indicates this.

HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEAKER'S CHAIR IS AN AUSTRALIAN GIFT

During my visit to England last year, while I was with a party being conducted through the House of Commons, the guide casually mentioned that this Chair "was a gift from Australia".

When the House of Commons was bombed by the Germans in 1941 the Chamber and the furniture were destroyed. The Hon. R. G. Menzies, then Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, immediately offered to replace it with a replica in both style and colour. Specially selected timber from the Queensland

Black Bean tree was chosen, and its duplication of the original is a magnificent specimen of the woodcarver's art. When the new House was opened in 1950, the Speaker's Chair held pride of place again, harmonising perfectly with the dignified new Chamber.

Being an Australian I was naturally interested to have a closer look at this lovely Chair and to read the small plaque on the back of it. As I broke away from my party, a London "bobby" politely blocked my way, even though I told him why I was interested, saying: "I'm sorry, Madam, but you must keep with your guide and group". It is like this in every public building one inspects -- there are always at least two policemen unobtrusively, but alertly, following every group of visitors. Bags and purses are searched before one enters; and one must not leave the escorted group. London, sadly, is of necessity continually on guard against the ever-prevalent threat of bomb attacks, not only from the I.R.A. but also from other countries.

The Federal. Elections:

Last May I was in London during the Federal Elections. Visiting Australians were required to vote in person at Australia House, in The Strand, the voting beginning on May 8th and continuing until the closing date in Australia (May 18th). On the ten voting days it was estimated that up to 1600 voters called daily. On some of the days in Australia House it was so crowded that space was difficult to find -- I ended up sitting on one of the marble steps and using the step above me to mark my ballot papers.

There was a 24-man team on duty during the ten days of voting, these dealing with mail votes not only in the limited Kingdom but also from places ranging from San Francisco to Moscow; others were coming in from Geneva, The Hague, Warsaw, Belfast, and also the thirteen Australian Embassies throughout Europe. I was told that in 1972 the return registered at Australia House totalled 7,784 -- the highest received until 1974, when no less than 15,000 had been cast when voting closed.

-- L. Toulmin

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Baking Powder was first manufactured in Australia at Market St. Goulburn in 1871. It was the formula of a Dr. Waugh, a member of a family who were well known in the medical profession.

Jan. 22, 1901, Queen Victoria died: Her reign began in 1837.

PIONEER LIFESAVING AND BOARDRIDING

The Lifesaving reel familiar on the beaches of Australia and now being used in most other countries is an Australian invention whose origin is not well known. Before 1902 there had been seventeen drownings at Manly, easily our most popular beach seventy years ago. Fear of further drownings caused the Surf Bathers' Association of New South Wales, now the Royal Life Saving Society to set up rescue equipment on a few Sydney beaches.

The Surf Bathers' Association was formed by a group of young men in 1907 from five Sydney Clubs-- Manly, Coogee, Bondi, Cronulla and North Steyne.

The rescue equipment consisted of a pole to which was attached a length of rope with a circular lifebuoy tied to it, but early tests proved the idea inadequate. Next came a lifeline coiled in a box, but the possibility of tangling made it hazardous. Main claimants invention of the present-day reel are Lyster Ormsby, the first Captain of the Bondi Surf Bathers, and John Bond, who claimed his idea stemmed from watching a kitten playing with a reel of cotton. A model was made at Ormsby's home from a cotton reel and two hairpins.



The first public demonstration of the reel was given at Bondi on December 23, 1906. A fortnight later it was used to rescue two boys, one of whom gave his name as Charlie Smith. This lad was later to become a famous Australian and to leave his name in history as the greatest of all pioneer aviators, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith.

The first boat designed for use in the Australian surf was built by a Walter Liddell, and launched by a group of enthusiasts at Bondi beach 1906. It was catamaran type, named the "Surf Kings, with a crew of three, but it was found entirely unsuitable for heavy seas.

The first boat to cope fully with Australian conditions was the "Manly" built in 1913 to the design of Fred Notting with a Norwegian plan for a guide.

The first attempt at using a board for surf riding was made at Manly Beach in 1910, when four members of the local Surf Club experimented with a solid board about 7 feet long, 3 feet wide and rounded at one end. Their attempts to stand on the board were unsuccessful, but they were able to shoot small waves while lying on the board.

At the end of 1914 the Hawaiian swimmer Duke Kahanamoku used a board at Freshwater (NSW), and early the next year demonstrated board riding at a surf carnival at Dee Why, shooting breakers nearly 20 ft. high and up to 150 yards. On a few occasions a young lady went out with the Hawaiian and stood on the board with him when a wave was taken-- a remarkable balancing feat because Kahanamoku used a solid board only 8ft. 6 inches

long made of sugar pine. Duke Kahanamoku used his famed surfboard on the Cronulla beach on February 7, 1915.

By 1933 Australian surfers had invented the hollow board, and four years later the modern streamlined board made its appearance on our beaches. It was not until 1945 that the Royal Surf Life Saving Association decided officially that surfboards could be used for rescues.

Kahanamoku's original board is now in possession of the Freshwater Surf Club.

Fred Midgley.

Sources: "The World's News": Tucker & Co..

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E. G. VINCENT MEMORIAL SEAT at Cronulla Beach Reserve: over the past forty years many will have paused to rest on a seat-bench of trachyte (a light - coloured tyre of volcanic rock) on their upward stroll from the beach, and to watch the ever-changing seaward scenes. A few will have noticed the mall plaque on the back of the seat: "Erected by his fellow townsmen in remembrance of Ernest George Vincent, obiit July 23rd, 1932". Today only elderly residents will recall this local citizen, "who displayed sterling qualities during his residence in Cronulla, coupled with his high sense of civic responsibility and philanthropy": so spoke the late Mr. E. S. Shaw then President of the Shire, as he unveiled the simple memorial. As there was a small credit balance of £2.19-6 (\$5.95) in the Memorial fund after all expenses had been met, this amount was donated to the trustees of the Cronulla School of Arts for the purpose of obtaining a framed photograph of the late :Mr. Vincent (who was president of the School of Arts Committee), to be hung in the School of Arts building".

S.C.A.M. 28-1-1933

(from Shire Records kept by Geo. Heavens)

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Boomerangs: the aborigines had different types for different purposes. The boomerang used for hunting and fighting was a non-returning weapon, about 3 ft. long with a curve about 9 ins. from the end. It turns over and over in the air, striking its quarry directly or on the first bounce. The hooked boomerang (with a long sharp hook at one end), used in warfare, caught on the opponent's shield and swung behind it to strike him with great farce., Returning boomerangs were curved in the middle and slightly twisted so that their arms were in different planes. They were used for wheeling flocks of birds towards the hunting parties.

(Extract "Learning About Australia" Aboriginal Weapons: published by Paul Hamlyn Pty. Ltd., Sydney)..

The first meeting of the newly incorporated Shire of Sutherland Council was held on December 5, 1906, with Clr. Wm. Judd President, and Shire Clerk Mr J.W. Macfarlane, who held office until 1923 when the late Mr. David Kirkby was appointed.

EMU BOTTOM HOMESTEAD: Built 1836 (Victoria)

Eau Bottom lies 36 Km northwest of Melbourne - appx.21½ miles. One motors along the Tullamarine freeway past the airport and leaving the freeway on the Sunbury outlet.

"When George Evans built his homestead and stables, he had no choice but to use the local materials that were available to him. He took the stones from the nearby hillside and laid them with great precision. He used a mortar which was made of sandy loam taken from the site, and he felled trees and split timber to make shingles for the roof. By necessity, he could use only the most simple building techniques, but this primitive house stands firmly today as a tribute to his great pioneering spirit". (Opening paragraph of Homestead booklet).

The homestead has six rooms for the visitors to inspect. The first is the Souvenir Shop where one can purchase miniature horseshoes, useful hooks and barbeque forks, all made by the blacksmith on the site. Also available are the usual postcards, rulers, bracelets etc..

The second room one enters is the kitchen. Unlike "Como" and other historical homes of the day when the kitchen was detached in ease of fire, the kitchen at Emu Bottom is between other rooms. Here, one can watch a young lady preparing damper and cooking it on a hanging griddle-iron over the fire. When cooked, the visitors sample the damper. An unusual gadget on show was a spit for cooking meat; it hung over the fire and when wound up with a key had a clockwork action and spun the meat around.

Other rooms on show were the parlour, the schoolroom and two bedrooms, the children's and the parents'. The children's bedroom had an elaborately painted ceiling for such a primitive-type house. Outside the schoolroom on the verandah visitors are given a cup of tea.

The blacksmith stands at his forge, where a very well preserved bellows works to satisfaction, and it is here he makes the articles for the home-stead to sell. Four horses are stabled at the back of the smithy. From memory one was a riding horse and the others were draughthorses.

A. pen of sheep were waiting to be shorn when I was there, but the owners of Emu Bottom were having trouble in persuading the local shearers to shear with hand--clippers. Behind this pen was a woolshed where party functions are now held.

The whose setup is a credit to the owners, and the homestead was opened to the public in 1969-70.

The closing paragraph from the Homestead booklet reads:-

*Future Developments: it is planned that Emu Bottom will become once again a working homestead as it was in the 1850s. The crops, vegetables and the grains grown in the 1850s will be planted and harvested in the same manner as used during this period.

"The property will be transformed to as near as possible to its original working state when it flourished in the mid-1800x. Work which was execute by hand or horse-drawn implements will be reintroduced to make Emu Bottom a

working homestead of the 1850s".

For the lady members who are interested in beating the current high cost of bread, I'll share the recipe of the Homestead damper:-

Colonial Damper Recipe

2 cups of plain flour
 1 dessertspoon of baking powder
 good pinch of salt
 add water and mix to a soft dough
 mould into a large pancake
 cook to brown -- approx. 10 mins. each side.
 This, of course, was baked over an open fuel fire.

-- Elva Carmichael

"The Good Old Days":

LADY TYPEWRITERS NOT WANTED

There was quite a commotion in Australian banking circles in 1898 when the Bank of New South Wales appointed to young "lady typewriters" to work the new-fangled machines.

Many conservative bank men voiced misgivings about "this unwarranted intrusion by females' into the man's world of loans and ledgers. But the loudest cry came from bankers' wives. The Wales' files contain a letter to a Divisional Inspector by a banker's wife:

"Sir, if you send a woman to work here in the same branch as my husband, you may be sure I'll leave him".

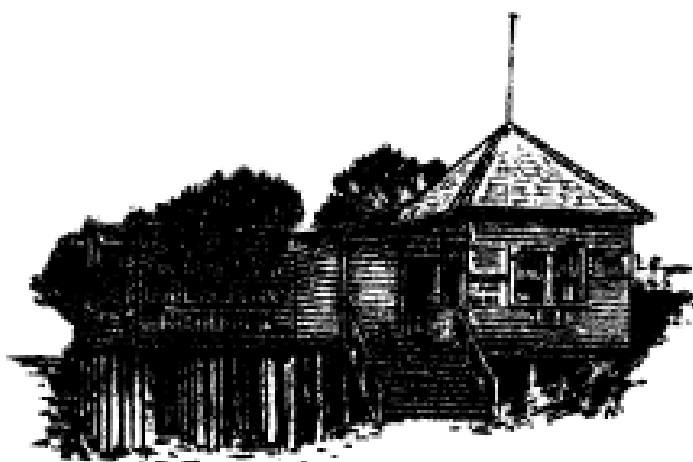
The idea of employing women in those days was so revolutionary that the bank took special precautions. The young ladies began work at 9.30 a.m. and finished at 4.0 p.m. so that news of their appointment would be kept from the general public. Their hours were also designed to guard against their coming into contact with male staff — a situation which then appeared fraught with peril (though whether the peril men for the men or for the women was not stated?).

-- Australasian Post 1972.

Mrs Macquarie's Tree: on a hill in Parramatta Park once stood a very large gum tree. At Mrs. Macquarie's request, a convict built a spiral stairway of wooden steps leading to a wooden platform amongst the branches. Mrs. Macquarie used to climb to the platform, sitting; in the shade of the gum leaves and enjoying the magnificent view, looking down to the Parramatta River and westward to the Blue Mountains. The convict received his freedom for the construction of this arboreal retreat, There is no record of the actual location of the tree -- long: since gone.

DIARY OF SOME EVENTS AROUND CRONULLA BEACH 1902-1923

- July 1902: A whale measuring 50 ft. in length became stranded on the beach and later died.
- March 1904: Cronulla Cricket Team played a challenge match against Helensburgh on a pitch near the beach, this being the Cronulla team's ground for a number of years.
- March 1906: An informal meeting of swimmers convened by Neville Cayley was held in the rock caves at the southern end of the beach to discuss forming a Surf Life Saving Club.
- March 1907: The club was formed at a meeting in Cronulla School of Arts, presided over by Clr. Charles McAlister. R. Monday was elected president, and N. Cayley secretary. The first Clubhouse was an old cable-tram car.
- Feb. 1908: Harry Wigzell of Sutherland requested Sutherland Council to grant him permission to hire out deck chairs on the beach, in addition offering to look after the dressing shed and toilets.
- Aug. 1908: Neville Cayley, secretary of the Club, forwarded plans to Sutherland Council for a proposed shelter-shed for the life-line to the beach, to which Council agreed.
- Sept. 1908: The Shire Council let the right to Mr. White Of Bexley to provide hire chairs at one penny each to visitors on the beach.
- Dec. 1908 Cronulla S.L.S. Club approached Sutherland Council with the object of ascertaining whether the Council would be willing to erect a Club and Casualty-house at a cost of about £110 (\$220). Council declined, as funds were not available.
- Jan. 1909 A Picnic Shelter was erected for a tender of £9-10-0 (\$19) by W. Cole & Son of Rockdale.
- Feb. 1909s The S.L.S.Club contributed £37 (\$74) towards the total cost of their new Clubhouse and Casualty room, Sutherland Council paying the balance of £71.15.0 officially opened Easter Monday, the festivities including a Surf Carnival.
- June 1911: Eight additional seats to be placed in Cronulla Reserve on the instigation of Clr. McAlister.



- Nov. 1911: Lifesaver J.A. Hughes was permanently appointed by the Council as a lifesaver on the beach, for a wage of £2-10-0 (\$5) weekly.
- Dec. 1911: Lifesaver Hughes to be supplied with a suitable hat, ornamented with a hatband to show his authority on the beach.
- Oct. 1912 Rockdale Municipal Band was hired to play on Sunday afternoons and holidays on the beach, for a fee of £5 per recital.
- Jan. 1913 Council advertised for applications from persons qualified to act as Inspector under P.C. Ordinance No. 52, with hours from 8.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. and wages £3-0-0.
- Aug. 1913 Anglican clergyman, the Rev. Isaac Armitage, refused permission to hold monthly meetings near the beach, Council advising that they did not have-be power to grant the request.
- Oct. 1913 Cronulla's new S.L.S. Clubhouse opened by Shire President Clr. Hyndman, in the presence of a number of visitors and residents. Mr. Varney Parkes, son of Sir Henry Parkes, unveiled the Pennant on the new edifice.
- Dec. 1913 John O'Neill was fined 5/- with 6/- costs and £1-1-0 professional costs in Kogarah Court for resting on Cronulla Beach clad only in a bathing costume.
- Sept. 1914: Council agreed to renew S.L.S. Club's lease of the Club House for a further three years at £3-0-0 per annum.
- Oct. 1914 Council refused permission to an applicant to sell ice-cream blocks at the Reserve near the beach.
- Oct. 1914 Fee for hire chairs on Cronulla Beach rose from one penny to twopence, the attendant to receive 75%.
- Nov. 1914 Charge for admission to the Ladies Dressing Shed was 3d; with 6d for hire of costume, 1d for hire of towel, and 1d for hire of bathing cap.
- Dec. 1914 Council advertised for a manageress for the Ladies Dressing Shed for £3-0-0 per week. Miss Florrie Cooper of Cronulla we the successful applicant.
- March 1915: In response to a request from Lifesaver Hooley it was decided by the Shire Council to purchase four hotwater bottles for resuscitation work.
- April 1915: Mr. D. Lawrence complained to Council that straying cattle were destroying trees and shrubs in the Reserve and beach vicinity -- which had grown to a splendid condition.



Surf boat and club members, 1926

- Aug. 1917: Official ceremony of switching on the electric light installed at Cronulla was performed by Shire President Clr. Cecil ("Joe") Monro in the Bandstand pavilion at 6.30 p.m..
- Oct. 1918: Council refused permission for the selling of fruit on the beach; and sought police action against undesirable conduct of bathers who loitered on the beach clad only in costumes.
- March 1921: Council decided to engage a band for Cronulla Beach for Easter Monday if people did not object. Cronulla jazz Band performed.
- May 1922: The first sea-front wall on Cronulla Beach was officially opened, the work being done by contractor Frank Fretus and twenty three men.
- Aug. 1922: The Shire Council unanimously agreed to purchase a surf boat for use on S.L.S. Club at Cronulla Beach.
- Aug. 1922: Council decided to place four electric lights along the new sea wall and twelve on the Esplanade.
- Sept. 1922: A shark watchtower, forty feet high, was erected on the beach , the S.L.S. Club members to act as spotters.
- Aug. 1923: Clr. Hand was shocked in reporting to the Shire Council t e a t people danced on the promenade outside the kiosk. Clr. Harris, in repudiating the remarks, said worse things took place in parks.

-- Alf Midgley

Sources: Hurstville "Propellor": "St. George Call": Author's Notes.

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CANVAS WATERBAG: One of the most familiar objects in outback localities of Australia during the summer months is the canvas waterbag. It is a boon to bush workers and rural travellers needing a drink of cool water. The waterbag was introduced by Major Thomas Mitchell during his famous exploring expedition in Queensland in 1846. They were camped near the site of the town of St. George in south-western Queensland, near the Balonne River. Mitchell improvised the now familiar canvas waterbag when he had a tick flourbag smeared with a generous supply of mutton tallow. Into the treated bag the Major poured some water, and for the rest of the journey the party was never without a refreshing drink when needed.



Previous to the introduction of the waterbag the old-fashioned goat and sheepskin water containers were generally used Australia by pioneer settlers.

Fred Midgley

Source: "World's News"

REV. DR. ROBERT DEY

The Rev. Dey was the first clergyman to establish a permanent Christian Cause in this district; later to be Sutherland Shire, at Sylvania in 1884, in Holt's "Sutherland House".



Born at Inverune, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Dr. Dey received his early education at Keith in Banffshire. His training was completed at Edinburgh University and at the Congregational Theological Hall in the same city. After pastorates at Nairn and Glasgow, he came to Australia in 1880 and was located first at the Victoria Parade Church in Melbourne. In 1882 he came to Sydney to the Marrickville Church, and in the 52 years residence in Sydney saw vast changes in the metropolis of Sydney. He became one of the best known ministers in the Commonwealth — amongst all denominations. Dr. Dey had three grandparents each of whom died when well over the 90-year mark. His father, a staunch Congregationalist, died aged 87.

For six years Dr. Dey was Secretary of the N.S.W. Congregational Union. During his pastorate at Marrickville and the six years he was Secretary of the Union he was instrumental in establishing churches at Rockdale, Kogarah, Sylvania, Sutherland and Dulwich Hill. He also revived the church at Katoomba. Early in his ministry at the church at Marrickville it was added to at a cost of £2000 (\$4000). By an irony of fate and without historical accuracy the church was later called "The Roseby Memorial Church".

In 1901 he became owner of the "Christian Herald", and in 1904 he took over the editorship, a position he held for several years. With Alderman Moorhouse of Marrickville, Mr. Peter Forbes, Mr. Fletcher Booth and others, Dr. Dey was instrumental in forming the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of N.S.W.

Mrs. Dey was born at Fecharbs which, with its Milne Institute, offered unique educational facilities for the youth of Morayshire. She was the third daughter of the Rev. David Dewar, a prominent Disruptionist, who in 1843 sent his five daughters to Jersey (Channel Islands) to complete their education. She spoke French fluently. She and her husband were married at the Free Church Manse, Fecharbs (Scotland) on April 3, 1874; of their nine children three died in infancy.

-- Fred Midgley

Birth of Wool Industry: Sir Joseph Banks and his womenfolk were probably amongst the first to popularise "Botany Bay" wool. Banks wrote a work entitled "Circumstances Relative to Merino Sheep"; and his sister and his wife had each three costumes made of wool, which they nicknamed "Hightum" , "Tightum" and "Scrub". The first was kept for special occasions, the second for less special purposes, and the third for everyday use.

Australia has no monopoly of the boomerang -- it was known and used both in ancient Egypt and in south-western Europe many centuries ago.

FORGOTTEN SHIRE NAMES

As the Shire slowly developed in the early days of this century, some local names were forgotten, others changed with the changing conditions.

According to an early map, "Woronora Road", linking the Miranda/Caringbah area with Woronora River crossing, was renamed President Avenue in honour of the Shire's first President Clr. Wm. Judd. The western end of the road then terminated at the "National Park Road" (Princes Highway); but before the advent of the railway in 1885 ... it had been a timbercutters' route following tracks in the vicinity of First Ave. Loftus and the Woronora Cemetery (1895), to Woronora River ford and then up the Menai Hill on to Liverpool. (Some of these western tracks are within the Holdsworthy -military area).



Map of district 1895
showing Bladeville
(The Sun: 21-7-1939)

Birniemere was used as the general name of Birnie's 1815 grant of 700 acres at Kurnell:

Holtmere was in the southern part of the Kurnell Peninsula both names existed on Lands Department maps at least until the advent of World War 2.

Connell's Hill (143 ft.) was a sandy scrub covered hillock in Holtmere, with "Green Hills" on the eastern boundary of Holtmere. This would now be in the vicinity of the Metropolitan Sand Gravel Pty. Ltd. land where sandmining is playing havoc with the ancient dunes.

Prior to the establishment of a Postal service at Miranda in 1892 this centre area was known as Ardlin; this was the address given by Macfarlane (later to be the first Shire Clerk) when he applied for the position of postmaster. Residents complained about the name, as did the Holt-Sutherland Estate land Co. Ltd. and they suggested either "Miranda" or "Kiora". According to an authenticated record, Mr. James Murphy of the Estate Coy. selected Miranda. The nomination of the alternative may explain the origin of the naming of Kiora Road.

Homewood was a small locality on the Holt-Sutherland Estate about three miles from Sutherland Railway Station and adjacent to "the junction of Cronulla Beach Road and Yowie Bay, road (s)". "Cronulla Beach Road" or "the beach road" is the Kingsway from the corner of Port Hacking Road Caringbah to Cronulla. The "Yowie Bay road" would seem to be the southern part of Kiora Road and Attunga Road.

Comyn's Point (erroneously "Common's") was the old name for Taren Point.

Murphy's Heights: this was between Carina Bay and Green Point Rd. Como,

and included the site of James Murphy's old "Pleasure Grounds" which were developed around the foreshores of Georges River and the railway.. The original Como Railway Station was so sited to provide easy access for the picnic trains which from Dec. 26th 1885 ran special weekend excursions to these "Pleasure Grounds", where were Refreshment Rooms and a plentiful supply of rowboats. At that time there was no settlement, and it was not until after World War 1 that Como began to become a scattered residential area. The Railway Construction Camp and school had closed in 1885, and it was not until 1921 that a new school was built

Highfield/"Surprise": following :a decision to establish a postal service at Highfield in 1912 (until then regarded as part of Miranda), postal authorities objected to the name of Highfield as well as with the alternatives of Mansfield, Bindarra and Greenbush, claiming all three were similar to other postal locations. The Acting Postal Inspector suggested the name of "Surprise" but withdrew it in favour of the proposal by the Shire Clerk (Mr. J W Macfarlane) to name the post office after a local street -- i.e. Caringbah, for being aboriginal it was unlikely to clash with any other postal centres.

Bladeville as such is a forgotten settlement -- it is now Kirrawee. In 1908 the local people applied for postal facilities, and a receiving office was established at "Mrs. Blade's Grocery Shop situated on the main Sutherland/Cronulla road, a little over a mile from the Sutherland Post Office". It was estimated that there were about 160 (adult) residents in the vicinity. The post office was closed in 1915 when a letter delivery service began from Sutherland. The name was apparently used until the extension of the electric train service from Sutherland to Cronulla.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: PMG Historical Section: Lands Dept. Map 1935: Author' e Notes.

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South Cronulla Aboriginal Site: A short time ago I was thrilled to learn from our member Mrs Lettie Shannon (The Esplanade, South Cronulla) of some aboriginal paintings underneath a rocky overhang on the beach in front of her home. The paintings were of a bird and an animal, in faded reds and orange shades. It was about eight years ago that Mrs. Shannon last saw them, out a visit to the location early in August showed the tragic but inexorable ravages of Time: a rock fall had completely destroyed them. The overhang had been semi-circular in shape, providing shelter from the southerly winds, and facing the sunny east. Only part of the lower piece of the satin-smooth rock surface still remains. According to what little is known of aboriginal habitation in this area, these small and delicate paintings must have been made several hundred years ago.

- M.H.N..

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During the gold boom in north Queensland, Chinese coolies came by the thousand, scratched for gold -- and buried it a gain. Years later the graves were opened and the coffins shipped back to China. Mixed with the bones of the of the deceased, much gold thus made its way illegally out of this country.

"I Remember"

"OUR MISS SMITH"

Miss Smith was a lady. She had come out here from England, and she became my mother's dearest friend.

Miss Smith was a cripple. She had had a horse-riding accident as a child, and had broken her knee. The doctor set it while she was sitting in a chair -- so that when she stood up after several weeks her leg was still sitting down. To cover his mistake the doctor designed a boot with about four different angles to bring her foot down to ground-level again. It was like a great club hanging on a slender limb. Miss Smith was sensitive of this, and so always wore long dresses to the ground. Even so, she walked as though she was about to ascend some stairs and had then changed her mind and glided forward.

When we settled on the Woronora the first thing was to buy a boat. We had a special one built by Alf Colling of red cedar, with a draught of only 4 inches -- a beautiful skiff, costing £12-10-0.

Now we had to explore the river. I was twelve, my brother nine, and Miss Smith "was real old" probably about thirty. We set sail on a S.W. course towards Engadine, and after a short row came to Brown's Creek on our left, and decided to explore it. After about half an hour it became very shallow. We had taken a bit of water, and Miss Smith was sitting on the seat-back with her feet on the seat; I was rowing, and my brother was up in the bows with a homemade spear in case of trouble.

As we rounded a bend, horror-struck -- a goanna about 6 feet long was on the riverbank, legs raised ready to run, and watching what our next move would be. My brother ran the length of the boat to the back seat; Miss Smith stood up and the boat shot forward; Miss Smith went over the side-- flat on her ladylike rear, recovered, and took off downstream. The water was no more than a few inches deep, but her screams of "It's a crocodile! -- save me"; and the clumping and splashing which went on upset the goanna, who speedily tore along the bank and into the water across the creek in front of Miss Smith, and up the other side and away.

Through my tears of laughter I can still see Miss Smith trying to wipe her face clean with a small ladylike handkerchief, her hat and its enveloping veil all dishevelled, sitting on a wet sandbank midstream in the muddy waters of Brown's Creek.

"OCCIE" MATSON

The little man with thinning hair was so busy, so important as he worked behind the counter at the Sutherland Council Chambers. I, a small boy of about 12 years old, handed him an envelope with money enclosed, and said, "Here's the Rates, Mr. McFarlane".

His reply surprised me: "I'm not Mr. McFarlane, son. The Shire Clerk is inside. My name is Mr. Matson".

Oscar Matson, or "Occie" as I eventually came to call him, was indeed

a very important man: he was the Council Cashier cum-Rate Collector, Justice of the Peace, and General Assistant to the Shire Clerk; and he had all the answers to the never-ending list of questioning ratepayers.

However, on the other side of the penny, Occie on the stage in front of the footlights was a riot -- a comedian compere of the first water; his comedy and wit brought laughter and tears from one end of the Shire to the other; he was one of the funniest men on stage that Sutherland ever produced. He specialised in leading community singing.

The Matsons lived in a small cottage (still standing) in Jannali Avenue South, about opposite Brindsley's Joinery Factory.

Occie died, I suppose, about 25 years ago, and Mrs. Matson about ten years ago. Their only daughter married Rus Luxford, Sutherland's barber for about 30 years. Nell and Russ still live in the Shire, in Cronulla.

-- Geo. Heavens

CRONULLA FIRE BRIGADE STATION On Nov. 1, 1930, the Cronulla Fire Station was opened in Gerrale Street Cronulla, opposite the main beach. The fire engine was manned by one permanent officer and ten volunteers.

There was no mains water at this time, the only water being from household tanks and wells. In the event of a house fire, the water had to be pumped from wells by a pump on the fire engine. Bush and grass fires had to be beaten out, and on many occasions this took a great deal of time.

In 1945 a committee of wartime ex-wardens decided a fire brigade was necessary in Caringbah, and a hose post was formed in 1946 with nine auxiliary firemen, the truck being supplied by Capt. Harry Hinte. In 1959 the Cronulla Fire Station was closed and all members were transferred to a modern fire station in Mansfield Avenue at Caringbah.

-- Shire Pictorial, 1972.

Rail Transport Museum: At the end of October the Museum held its last Visitors' Day at Enfield prior to its removal to Thirlmere, a few miles south of Picton. It will be re-opened here next year, where it will not only have more room for displays but also a section of several miles of line on which to operate short steam runs. Over the "farewell" weekend some 17,500 people visited the Museum, of whom about 13,500 arrived by special steam trains from Central. A proportion of all charges were paid to the Public Transport Commission which, with no cost of effort on their part, gave them approximately \$10,000 profit: a forcible fact indicating the enthusiastic support of the general public for steam train excursions. An extra train had to be speedily brought into service to cope with the milling Sunday crowds -- and every train was packed.

Australia's first Street Lamp was lit in Macquarie Place on April 7, 1826. In the following year Sydney's streets were lit with one hundred whale-oil lamps.

THE PRESIDENT Writes

As the Bulletin moves on towards the "press", another year draws to its close. As it reaches you, 1975 will have begun, and I wish you all the best in your activities in this new year. In addition, another year of the Society ends with an annual general meeting in March 1975, so this Bulletin is the last to reach you before the election of officers for the next year.

This year has been my third as President, and although I was not a foundation member of this Society I have been strongly supported by the enthusiasm of all members, executive and general. This enthusiasm appears to increase continuously, as does the attendance at the monthly general meetings, and has been greatly appreciated.

I wish to thank the Sutherland Shire Council for its continued support with printing, and also attention to the placement of another historic milestone; and to the Sydney County Council for the continued use of its premises in Eton Street Sutherland for monthly general meetings. Thanks are also due to the Department of Social Services for the use of the rooms in Eton Arcade for executive meetings.

Finally, I especially thank the Jannali Bus Company for providing excellent service in our many outdoor excursions.

1975 promises to be an active year once again, with prospective activities for another six months arranged or in the course of negotiation. The Society looks forward to your continued interest.

H. Ivers, President, 1974

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The first Telegraph Line in Australia was opened on March 3, 1854, between Melbourne and Williamstown, a distance of 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. New South Wales officially opened its first telegraph line on Dec. 30, 1857. The famous "overland telegraph" between Adelaide and Darwin was opened by Charles Todd on May 22, 1872, The first "long distance" telephone conversation took place between Port Augusta and Semaphore (S.A.), a distance of 240 miles, in 1878 -- two years after Dr. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

"Gannon's Forest is a small postal village in an agricultural district of that name lying between Cooke's and George's Rivers in the Parish of St. George, Electoral District of Canterbury, and the Police Department of Parramatta. There is one tobacco manufactory in the district, which is an agricultural and pastoral one. The nearest place is Newtown, 8 miles north, with which place there is communication by coach thrice a week. Population about 300 persons, chiefly settlers and small farmers."

-- NSW Gazeteer and Road Guide, 1862"

Gannon's Forest was previously known as "Lord's Forest". Today this is the Municipality of Hurstville.

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

SUBSCRIPTIONS become due and are payable on 1st January 1975. The rates are now \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 Junior Members (to 18 years if fulltime student). (Members who have joined since 1st October 1974 are financial until end of 1975.) Early payment of your fees Would be much appreciated by your Council.

GUEST SPEAKERS

January Members Night..

February: Metropolitan Water Board Representatives, to tell about the "Shoalhaven Scheme", which is to bring water from the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers into the Sydney Water Supply, as required.

(It will be of special interest to members intending to join the weekend excursion to that area in March).

March: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

April: Mr. R. Gilroy, of Mount York Museum.

May: Mr. E. Utick; E.G. Waterhouse Memorial Gardens.

June: Mr. O. Brown Deverall; subject to be announced.

EXCURSIONS

February 1; FORT DENISON, (and other sites during afternoon). Leaving Cronulla 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9.0 a.m.. Including launch fare, Adults \$2.50, Juniors \$2.00. Visitors 50 cents extra.

March 1 - 2: Weekend Tour to Shoalhaven District.. Kangaroo Valley, etc.:

Fares \$25.00 each.

Deposit Fee \$5.00 required with each booking; bus is filling rapidly and we would be glad to hear from you as soon as possible if you are thinking about making the trip. ONLY ONE BUS will make the journey -- if more than required number wish to book, we will take names for cancellations.

If you wish to pay off the cost of the trip, part payment will be received at each meeting.

All costs must be paid in full on or before February Meeting night, to enable us to meet our commitments.

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ITEMS FOR SALE: Badges \$0.50: Car Stickers 00.30: Souvenir Tea, Jam and Sugar Spoons \$1.00: Bottle/Can Openers \$0.75.

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AILEEN GRIFFITHS

Hon. Sec

We suggest you detach this page for reference: Fixtures are overleaf.

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Publications Committee (1974-5): Mr. Geo. Heavens (Convenor), Mrs. M. Hutton Neve Editor, Messrs R. Hall, F. Midgley, B. Sargeant, The President (ex.-officio).

Contributions: Members are asked to submit material for the Bulletin -- any items of interest having a historical background; they need not be entirely confined to Shire material. Please state source if extracted or rewritten material is used; interviews with elderly residents and personal reminiscences are always welcome. If hand-written, please print names in B L O C K letters. Hand to President, Convenor or Editor. Contributions for April 1975 issue to be handed in not later than Annual General Meeting (March 14) — preferably at February meeting.

Bulletin copies are supplied to all branches of the Shire Library, and also to the Shire President, Shire Clerk, and all Councillors.

Extra copies of the Bulletin may be purchased for 5c each while limited stocks are available.

Publications of Local History are on sale at each monthly meeting: proceeds are paid to the Society... Illustrated History of Sutherland Shire": 50 c (F. Midgley): "Bygone Days of Sutherland": \$1.00: "Thos. Holt": 60 c: "Kurnell": 50 c: all these are illustrated: "Martha Matilda" (Mrs. James Birnie); leaflet: 20 c. The last four are by M. Hutton Neve.

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This Society is affiliated to the Royal Australian Historical Society and to the National Trust of Australia, New South Wales Branch.

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

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Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday, commencing 8.0 p.m., in the Auditorium of the County Council (Electricity) Building, Eton Street, in Sutherland. Visitors are welcome.

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* * * * * President: Hon. Sec.:

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*****8