

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY BULLETIN



No. 40

M A Y, 1982

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

SCHOOLDAY MEMORIES

I read in the SMH of January 21st of the passing Miss Dorothy Ann Wiles, aged 92, of Burwood.

It brought back pleasant memories of over seventy years ago when she moved to Sutherland and became my Infant Teacher in 1910; and also of her father the Rev. Henry Wiles, who was appointed minister to the Methodist Church in Flora Street. They built a home in Glencoe Street (next to today's Presbyterian Church), which was on our track through the bush to the school.

Dorothy Wiles was then about twenty years of age, with fair hair and complexion.' She loved bush flowers, so my sister and I would gather wild flowers on a Sunday afternoon to give to her as she came out of her gate to on Monday morning. In season, in a bunch of flowers there was Waratah, Boronia, Christmas Bush, Dillivinnia and Bluebells.

When we gave her the flowers she would take a hand of my sister and myself and wind our way along Flora Street to school singing:-

"Sweet bush flowers
Pretty bush flowers
Growing so gay and free
They are our own Australian flowers They are the flowers for me."

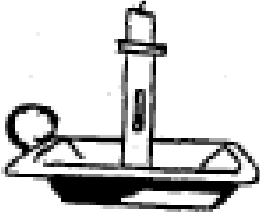
Sometimes it would be the song "Graceful Swaying Wattle".

In 1916 the Rev. Wiles conducted "Church Service for Peace" in the playground under a large tree, most of the children attending.

The tree is still there today, and I think a plaque should be placed nearby to commemorate that event.

-Mick Derrey

Elias Howe (1819-1867) should be regarded as the "Patron Saint" of all women, for it was this American who, in 1841, invented the first practical sewing machine, thus releasing millions of women from the slavery of hand sewing.



OUR HERITAGE DISPLAY

The exhibition of photo-graphs and artefacts for .our Heritage Display at the Civic Centre during Heritage Week (March 22 to March 28 was indeed a very successful one. I feel that there is a

growing awareness in the community of Heritage Week. The tables carrying the old artefacts and the stands for the photographs were well set out, giving ample room to move about, this resulting in larger groups of school children to be accommodated dated at the one time.

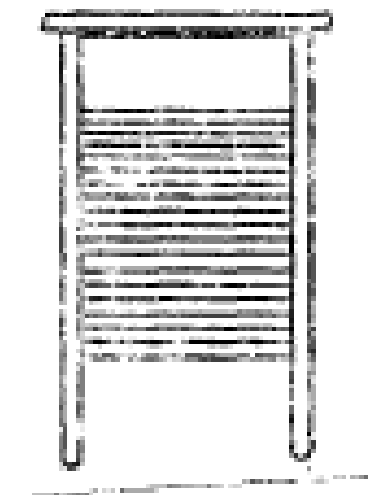
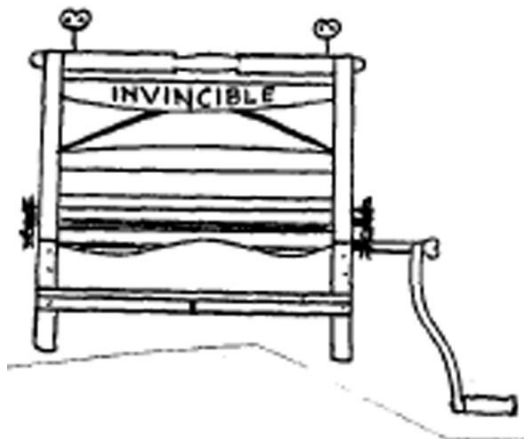
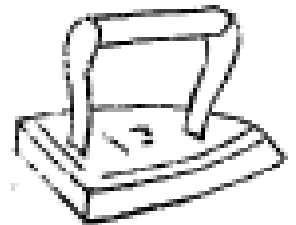
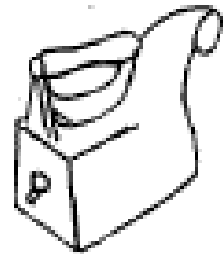
Though talks to the children were not originally planned, most teachers asked for them; and their request was met by



Mrs. Hutton Neve and myself, Mrs. Neve gave talks with appropriate objects from the display on how the pioneer women did their washing and ironing. I gave talks from two slide cassettes

Interest by the children was very noticeable two project sheets with drawings explaining sixteen artifacts on the tables added to the enjoyment like a "treasure hunt" to find them, especially amongst the primary groups. This was an idea not used last year, and the sheets in most

cases have been retained in project books b y the students at the request of teachers.



Adult patronage was considerably enlarged on last year, and many expressed their thanks at both aspects of the exhibition. Many elderly residents met there, not having seen each other for years --descendents of pioneers such as Gogerly, Laycock and Collings, to mention just a few, were present.

930 children attended in groups during the four days. In the evenings groups of Girl Guides from Loftus and Engadine also came. Attendance by adults after 700 p.m. was:- Monday, 43, Tuesday 46, Wednesday 93.

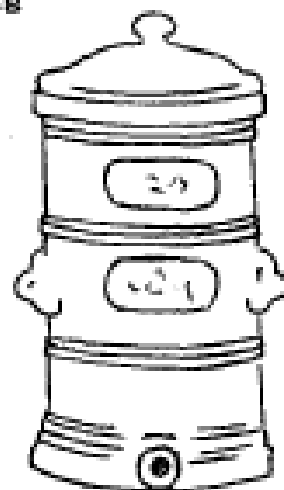
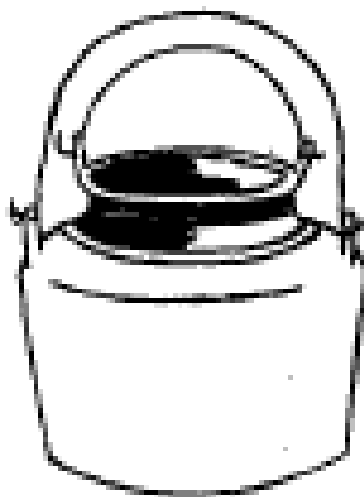
The Society is grateful for publicity of the exhibition in the local press which was extremely good, supplied by Council's Public Relations Department.

I thank Clr. Michael Addison, who is also the Shire's representative on the Heritage Council, and also all departments of the Shire Council and staff who assisted in making this co-operative venture such

a success. I also express my thanks to those 25 members of the Historical Society who so willingly volunteered to help either in transportation, arranging exhibits or manning the Exhibition; also to those who loaned artefacts and photographs for exhibition.

The Exhibition was good publicity for the Society and can only add to it ' a prestige in the community. Names of several residents were given to the Society indicating that they may be able to assist with some oral history and possibly photographs. Ready availability of old photographs for the Local History Library or the Historical Society was regrettably not forthcoming.

Sale of books and posters from a table at the entrance to the exhibition realised an amount of \$154.50 for the Publications Trust Fund.



A display of 350 photographs remained at the Civic Centre until Sunday afternoon, March 28, for the three-day Rotary Conference, a request for a photographic display having been received in November last year.

-- Fred Midgley,

Exhibitions Convener.

FINANCIAL DONATION TO THE SOCIETY

The following letter was received from Mrs. Nola Watt, one of our members, and a Director of H.N. Olsen Pty. Ltd. of Sutherland:

17 Jindabyne Street, Frenchs Forest
NSW 2086.
8-3..1982.

Dear Mrs. Hutton Neve,

On behalf of the Directors of H. N. Olsen Pty. Ltd. of Sutherland, I have much pleasure in making a donation to the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

We would in particular like to support the Publications Committee with their publication of the history of Cronulla and Kurnell, and take pleasure in enclosing our cheque for \$250.00 for that purpose.

With very best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Nola Watt

Hon. Life Member: at the Annual General Meeting in March Mr. G. Heavens nominated Mick Derrey, as an Hon. Life Member in recognition and appreciation of unique contributions to local history, drawn from his amazing memory of events from about 1904. Mick was born in Gymea, has lived all his life in that area -- and has just celebrated his 78th birthday. "Many happy returns" for future birthdays, Mick; and keep up your seemingly unlimited supply of past events for Bulletin readers.

-- M.H.N.

On March 23 the Sydney Morning Herald issued its 45,000th edition of continual publication -- a great record.

SALE OF HEATHCOTE HALL ESTATE



Recently-the old mansion on the above estate (Heathcote Hall) was sold, leaving the company with only 34 unsold allotments out of the original 169 blocks.

We have decided to sell the remaining blocks at the pegged down prices set down by the Federal Land Sales Control, cut our losses, put the company into voluntary liquidation, and wind up its affairs.

The Land Sales Control has just fixed our selling prices on these blocks at approximately- the same figure as present Council rating values, which values, by appeals at each triennial assessment since the 1930 depression years, we have succeeded in

getting reduced to their present low level, considerably- below actual market values today, and with the extension of the electric railway to Waterfall and Wollongong, which it is generally understood will be one of the first post war works carried out by the Railway Commissioners, actual land values in the Heathcote district will greatly enhance, just as they have done on the Cronulla and Bankstown lines, and on all outlying areas where the railway has been electrified.

All the blocks are of spacious area, the standard dimensions being 60 feet frontage by 159 'ft depth. With a few exceptions the average price is £45 per lot (15/- per foot).

The selling conditions set down under National Security Regulations are cash or not less than 1 per cent deposit, with not more than three years' terms and interest at not more than 4¾ per cent.

Our resident manager on the Estate, Mr. H.V. Stork., can only be definitely contacted on the Estate at weekends at the present time owing to his national service obligations.

Heathcote Hall Estate Ltd.

Source: Advt. S.C.A.M. 7-7-1945.

-MHN

May 20, 1837: Queen Victoria came to the Throne.

July 19, 1814: Matthew Flinders, Australian navigator and explorer, died.

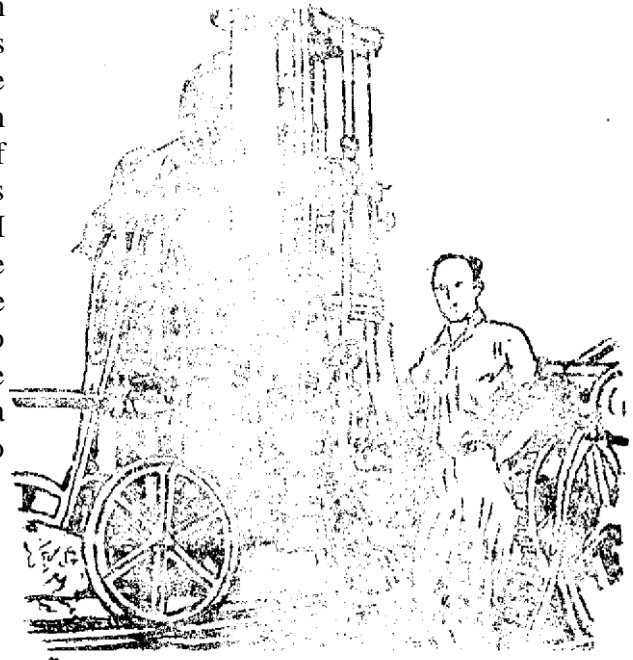
HIDDEN' COAL SEAMS

Having read Mr. Frank Cridland's "Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire" (1st edition 1924: revised 1950), his chapter on the "Hidden Coal Seams" and the problems encountered on the project, I cannot let it pass with-out challenge.

Mr. Cridland states that his story came from the lips of James Murphy, the principal actor in the averted tragedy. The story tells of the three holes drilled -- one on what is now the Cronulla Golf Course, one at Dolans Rd. and the other at Dents Creek on the North West Arm Rd.. All were failures through problems encountered with which I to-tally disagree, having known and worked with the man who drilled the holes in the Shire, Mr. Fred. Dent.

I will briefly tell the story of how I came in contact with Fred Dent. In 1926 I was approached by a Mr. S Pepper, who at the time was boring for coal at Helensburgh half a mile west of the Helensburgh turnoff on the Princes Highway. He asked if I was interested in a job on the Diamond Drill. I was given a letter of introduction to the Chief Inspector of Mines ,Mr. Farrier. In the interview he said he wanted me to go to Berrima as the foreman was sick and unable to go. In the meantime I was to go to Yarra Bay. He gave me a letter of introduction to the foreman, who was Fred Dent.

I alighted from the tram at what is now Bunnerong Creek, and walked a long way through the



Alf Dent,. brother of Fred with Drilling Rig

scrub to a rocky hill where I contacted the gang boring for coal, on what was to become the site of the Bunnerong Power Station. I was there only a week. While talking to the foreman, Fred Dent, then a man of sixty-seven, he asked me where I came from; and I said "Sutherland". He then told me that as a young man how he bored for coal in Sutherland. Pointing to the drill then in operation he said, "This is the drill I used".

A photo of the drill is in the Archives of the Sutherland Shire Library (Local History). In later years I work-on the same drill as a sub-foreman; and knowing its workings and the capabilities of those foremen Diamond Drillers, the problems encountered in the Sutherland Shire were minor, details.

As a small child I would go to the Diamond Drill site with my father and see the round stone core laid out on the ground near the bore hole. I often saw James Murphy --probably more than Frank Cridland, the writer of that Shire History, having been born on Dents Creek half a mile from the bore site on the North West Arm Road -- long before there was a road, The last time I spoke to James Murphy was in 1916. Murphy knew my mother in the early years of the century, as She had worked for him when he was the proprietor of the Yowie Bay Hotel in 1908-09.

My opinion is the failure of the Murphy Syndicate was the lack of finance to sink a shaft over 2000 feet; and at that time also Australia was coming into the grip of the great depression of the 1890s.

But to another historical feature besides boring for coal at Dents Creek. It was there that the Foldner family, who lived on the corner of Belmont St. and Flora St. (now the grounds of the Catholic Church) would take their washing in times of drought; there was also Mrs. Brooks who lived in an historical home at Kirrawee; and also the Dubes, Averys and Goughs families. Logs were also cut there and snigged out of the gully by bullocks for Coles Timberyard at Sutherland -- the site is now Durban Court.

Mick Derrey

Destroying Rats and Mice in the Home: A 19th century suggestion was to" sprinkle plenty of cayenne pepper or camphor in the holes and they will soon disappear",

(Editor: a cat will do the job more effectively -- and with sadistic pleasure!).

SOME EARLY CHARACTERS

In every small town and community almost everyone was known to each other, and a stranger or new resident was easily recognised. Some lived their lives and played their part in the shaping of Australia in an unobtrusive way. Then there were those who, by the way in which they lived, their employment, and the manner or way they dressed made them "characters". Every town and village had them.

Several interesting anecdotes have been told regarding the tribe of Aborigines who lived round about Sans Souci up until 1885.

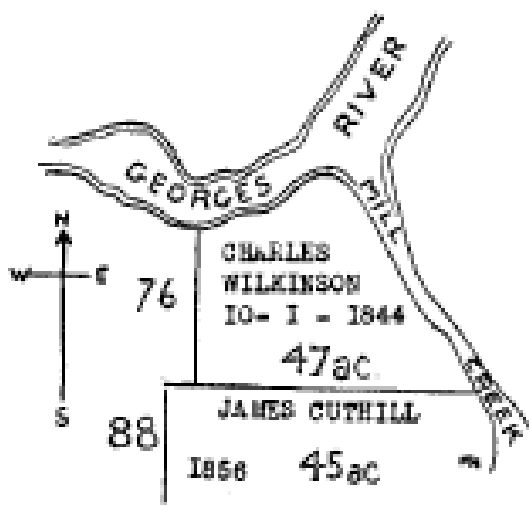
In the drawing opposite, taken from a photograph by F. Robinson of Carlton, are five of these well-known identities of Sans Souci and the land across the Georges River fifty years before it became the Sutherland Shire.

First of the group in the drawing is Biddy, who was the wife of "King" Kooma of a Wollongong tribe. When Kooma died she married an Englishman Billy Giles about 1858. They lived on the property which had belonged to Mr. Alexander Cuthill on Mill Creek, a tributary on the southern bank of Georges River, Mr. Cuthill was shot on April 28, 1854, riding in his gig on Cooks River Road while going to Sydney. The property of 47 acres had first been taken up by Charles Wilkinson on January 10, 1844 (see Map).

Two half-caste waifs, Billy and Louie, had found a home and kindly treatment with Billy and Biddy.

The means of subsistence for the Giles family was native bees' honey and oysters. They had a small herd of goats and a number of quince trees on the flat. Visitors were fed on damper and liberal amounts of stewed quinces when in season.

They also had a pack of dogs. A well-known Port Hacking resident, when he visited there on occasions, declared that the dogs were so poor that they leaned up against a tree to bark.





The tall gentleman at the back of the group was known as Jimmy Lowndes. He was considered one of the best horsemen on the Castlereagh before he came to Sans Souci. Old residents declared he was the greatest expert with a lasso ever seen. He was a past-master with a bullock team, and for years drove a team for Thomas Holt on his extensive proper-ties, including the Holt-Sutherland Estate. Jimmy Lowndes was a true athlete, and was also deadly with a gun. he died at Liverpool about 1901.

Next to Jimmy Lowndes is Joe Brown, who was not so well known as the rest -- a quiet peaceful citizen of Sans Souci.

Sitting in the front next to Biddy Giles is Jim Brown, known as "Jimmy the Loafer" apparently he was not related to Joe Brown. Jimmy was one of idle habits and was generally despised by the residents. He would fences people for miles on being called by his euphonious title using language more forcible than polite. He appears to be wearing some kind of uniform. The other man in the front, dressed in the loose fitting garments, is the oldest in the group, Joey, the eldest brother of Biddy Giles. In his later years he lived about Sans Souci. He was. and hunt rather than to follow his usual occupation which was gathering oysters. He was the most intelligent of the group. and approached nearer the habits of civilisation than the others



Many of the old Sydney sportsmen visited the area for it was fairly well stocked with game -- but a waste at the time with indiscriminate shooting. The sportsmen contributed to the support of old Joey, who was a general favourite.

-- Fred Midgley

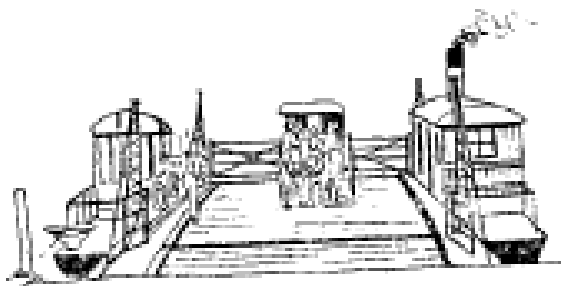
Sources: St. George Call, May 14, 1904: Author's Notes.

* * * * *

CROSSING INTO THE "HEATHCOTE DISTRICT"

After the first Crown Lands sales in the northern part of the "Heathcote District" -- the name given to the pre-Shire in the 1850s-- a few settlers (other than the odd horse rider en route the Illawarra district) began to cross Georges River to the

Sylvania, and then spread towards Miranda (which then included Caringbah) where there was good farming land., From the 1840s there had been a few isolated camps of timber men and the like, as well as the abortive settlement at Bottle Forest (Heathcote East) between 1842 to about 1855,



STEAM DRIVEN FERRY AT SYLVANIA IN 1893. ABOUT 1910 AN ADDITIONAL FERRY WAS PLACED IN SERVICE.

In 1864, shortly after the Hon. Thos. Holt had begun to purchase land, a "Government road" was put through from Georges River to-just past Sutherland -- more a bridle track than a road. This "road" was serviced by a row boat "ferry"; the "ferryman" -received no wages, collecting the odd fare from infrequent passengers. The Holt Estate, however, paid the ferryman approximately 10/- weekly to "oversee" strangers crossing alongside Holt land.

The first commercially organised punt service began in 1879, the punt being hand-worked by a coil rope. In 1888 the first steam ferry came on the run, these continuing until the opening of the Georges River ("Torn Ugly's") Bridge in 1929.

* * * * * M. Hutton Neve

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Congratulations to all those who gained election at the Annual General Meeting in March. In particular, I welcome Mrs. Ada Cutbush to the Committee. Thanks are due to Mrs. Barter for her efforts in publicity and "social" over the past year.

The Annual Meeting was well attended, and lively interest shown by all in the election procedures. These matters were not the only features of the evening, for we had the pleasure of the company of Councillor Michael Addison, who conducted the important duty of chairing the election of officers and committee members. During the counting of votes Clr. Addison spoke to us about the work of the Heritage Council, and its progress or otherwise in the preservation of our heritage; and in particular, progress with the Museum project.

On this latter subject Clr. Addison reported that, contrary to what we had come to believe, this project is now "in limbo": so that members who have exhibits and treasures put away in spare rooms -- and in sheds, under floors and above ceilings -- will need to continue with this arrangement for an indefinite period.

The recent Heritage Week Exhibition provided by the Society at the Civic Centre on March 22, 23, 24 and 25 was an outstanding success, and much credit is due to Fred Midgley, who made the arrangements and provided most of the exhibits. Considerable interest was shown, some visitors asking whether the Exhibition was remaining open through the weekend, in order to bring more visitors and friends.

Unfortunately, carriage of exhibits from place to place risks loss, and at the date of writing some valuable material is missing from the collection.

-- H. Ivers, President

(The missing material was located in another part of the Civic Centre shortly before this Bulletin went to press--Editor).

* * * * *

Menai Public School now has an enrolment of 500 pupils. A group of 67 (9 to 10 years) Attended Heritage Week display at the Civic Centre. The Shire Christian School at Menai has an enrolment of 260 and a waiting list; and 2 classes (60 in all) also visited our Heritage Week display.

"OUT OF THE PAST": Extracts from S.C.A.M.

The "Sutherland Cronulla Advertising Medium" was founded on April 4, 1924 by the late A.E. Vowles who sold the printing business to the late Mr. J.G. Hall and his son Reg. SCAM ceased publication in April 1960.

Cycling News: Goulburn to Sydney: With a superb exhibition of stamina and doggedness two Sutherland riders, L. Lawrence and R. McRae, made history for the Shire in last Saturday's gruelling road race. Riding in their first race over 50 miles, under a fiery sun, and in the company of the cream of the cycling fraternity, both lads put up a display that will go down in the annals of road racing in this district. A tremendous crowd at Goulburn lined the roads at the start, and all settled down to a good pace, covering the 86 miles to Picton in remarkable time. Reaching Razorback, Lawrence started a "jam", and taking 4 riders with him sailed over the top with a good clear lead; and at the same time McRae came ups Continuing on, they finished in 5th and 14th places respectively out of 148 starters.

--Sept. 27,1941

(N.B.: The participants in this race are still residents of the Shire: Les Lawrence lives at Miranda; Reub McRae lives at the corner of Oak Rd. and Monro Av. Kirrawee.

The "feeders" (refreshments en route) are also local).

"Welcome Home" to Mr. H. N. Olsen: This happy occasion was for the purpose of extending a "welcome home" to Mr. Olsen, and an equally warm welcome to his Lister Miss Mary Nasborg (Denmark) and is staying with the Olsens. Recently Mr. Olsen had a reunion in Denmark with his family, after having been domiciled in Australia for 25 years. The gathering was entertained by songs and music, ably rendered by Mr. and Mrs. David Kirkby and Miss Wasborg, Mr. R. Johnsen, Danish Chef, and Staff, prepared and provided delightful refreshments in true Danish style, Nola Olsen exhibited the many gifts brought from overseas by her father.

-- Nov. 22,1947 (See also p.26 : G.H.)

"The Good Old Days " : An Advertisement of Sept. 27, 1941:--.

5¼d of our Cash in Advance Ticket System.

Mixed and made by latest modern machinery. Delivered throughout the Shire. P. Shoemith, Kingsway, Miranda.

Sutherland's First Fire Appliance & Crew:

Sutherland is now equipped with a fire engine and appliance.: and is manned by a voluntary brigade, which consists of ten men under the captaincy of Mr. Arthur Austin. His team of fire-fighters are:- A.R. Paton, G. Cook, H. Walker, W. Yardsley, G.A. Webb, L.W. Whitmarch, C.F. Dahl-Helm and H.B. Roffey, who for a fortnight received tuition and training by Mr. S. A. Brown from headquarters. Mr. Brown reports he is well satisfied with the progress they have made. The engine at the present time is stationed at the Council garage, and in case of fire the 'phone numbers are LY2262 and L1'2242. Now that the district has been declared a fire area, residents will be well advised to clear their property of all unnecessary growth and rubbish. Anyone wishing to burn off must first obtain permission from the fire official and under no circumstances is a fire permitted to be lighted after sunset. Penalty for a breach of these regulations is not exceeding £20

(Of these first firemen,, A.R. Paten, W. Yardsley, GA Webb, C. Dahl-Helm, are still living. ---GH

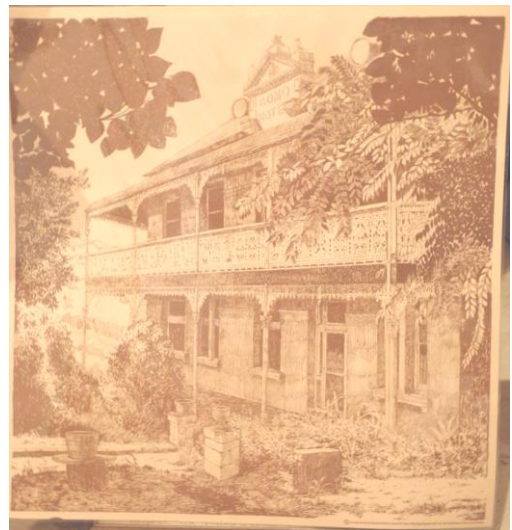
New Masonic Temple at Sutherland.t.: The ceremony of setting the foundation stone of the new Temple in Sutherland was performed by the Grand Most Worshipful Bro. Aubrey Halloran last Saturday. Lodge Sutherland has only been in existence for six years, but it was not long before it was found necessary to have a larger accommodation. The building is a fine structure and will provide sufficient accommodation for some time to come, but provision has been made for adding storey at a later date. The ceremony concluded with the hymn "Abide with me" The company, including the ladies, was then invited to cross over the road to Lobb's Hall where a number of toasts were honoured with refreshments. Bro. D. R. Kirkby then rendered solo.

-----Feb. 20 1932.

The above items were selected by Geo. Heavens

Como Hotel Posters: appx. 3 x 2 ft.: \$2.50
The poster is a reproduction from an original work of art by the Council's staff, and is reproduced in Sepia.

The reproduction depicts the old-world charm of the original building and emphasises its attractive 'iron lace". A number were sold to appreciative visitors during Heritage Week. They are available from the Sutherland Library or the Society's next meeting.



SYDNEY TO KURNELL BY MOTOR COACH



KURNELL

KURNELL
CAPT. COOK'S
LANDING PLACE
 Daily (except Sun. & Mon.) &
 Public Holidays
 Coach leaves Government Tourist Bureau,
 Challis House, Martin Place, Sydney,
 at 10.30 a.m.

Every Australian, and every visitor to these shores, should visit Kurnell, Australia's most historic spot. You will proudly remember having stood where Captain Cook stepped ashore, and walked where first white man trod. See the hallowed place, marked by well-inscribed obelisks and the very spring from which the Endeavour's water tanks were replenished. The Trustees' Cottage provides a miniature museum, and its walls a gallery depicting the Birth of a Nation on this Island Continent.

And now, after more than 180 years, dependable access by land all the way has been established. An amazingly luxurious 40-passenger coach of special design and fitted with ten wheels, all of which are driven, easily negotiate the marshes and the famous sandhills. These sandhills will be remembered as providing the desert scenes in filming the Australian pictures "Forty Thousand Horsemen" and "Rats of Tobruk."

When booking ask for free booklet entitled "Kurnell and its Memorials", written by K. R. Cramp, O.S.E., M.A., F.R.A.H.S., former President of the Trust and past President of the [Boys] Australian Historical Society. It is the best guide available. Fares Adult, £1. Child, 10/- LUNCHEON EXTRA

Fares
 Adult, £1; Child, 10/-
 LUNCHEON EXTRA

Coach leaves Government Tourist Bureau, Challis House, Martin Place, Sydney.

at 10.30 a.m.

Every Australian, and every visitor to these shores, should visit Kurnell, Australia's most historic spot. You will proudly remember having stood where Captain Cook stepped ashore, and walked where first white man trod. See the hallowed place, marked by well-inscribed obelisks and the very spring from which the Endeavour's water tanks were replenished. The Trustees' Cottage provide a miniature museum, and its walls a gallery depicting the Birth of a Nation on this Island Continent.

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Stan Latta commenced a bus service between Cronulla and Kurnell in 1917 with an American made 8 passenger 1928 Stutz sedan. the next vehicle. was a 1934 Reo bus bought from the Kogarah Bus Co.. then came the ubiquitous Bedfords. All these vehicles were conventional, being driven by the rear wheels. This made negotiating swamp and sane extremely difficult as there was no road, but the service' continued for three and a half years.

A road was finally surveyed, and on February 28,1953 the Premier Cahill turned the first sod to commence its construction.

Several years prior to this important event Mr. Spencer Lowe, proprietor of the Alexandria Bus Coy., whose services revolved around the suburb of Newtown, began a tourist service from Martin Place in Sydney to Kurnell. Spencer Lowe also operated the Windsor to Brooklyn an. Hawkesbury River Tours in conjunction with a ferry.

Mr. Lowe considered a conventional vehicle driven by the, rear wheels was impractical, and decided to have a vehicle built for the difficult terrain to Kurnell.

A former army G.M.C. cargo truck of 2½ tons 6 x 6 (ie. driven on all six wheels)

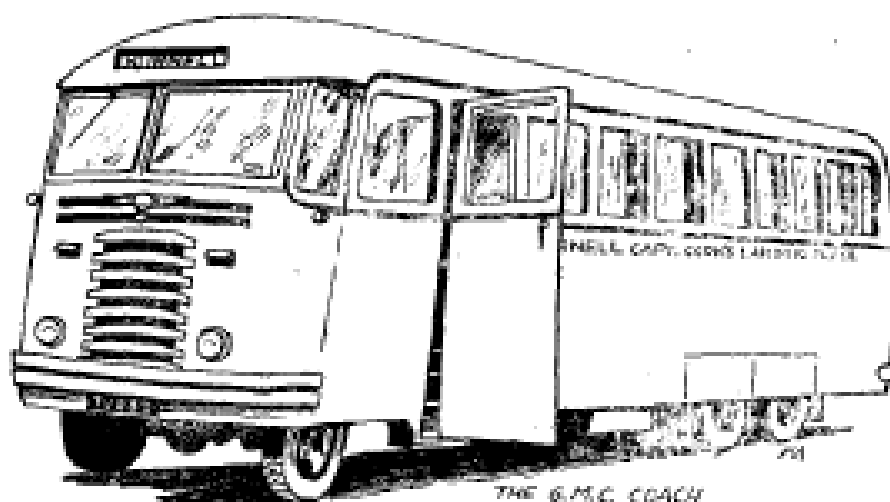
Copy of tourist brochure for August 1952.

was purchased, but modifications had to be carried out; the extension of the wheelbase 19 ft. 9 ins., and other conversions were done by R.M. Campbell of Bankstown; and bar-tread tyres were fitted to all wheels.

The coach body was built by Properts Pty. Ltd. of Newtown to seat 40 passengers. In order to gain sufficient height over the wheels the body was raised by placing 10 ft. by 2 ft. wooden members transversely across the chassis. The coach was 32 ft. 9 ins. long, and at the time it was claimed to be the largest touring vehicle in N.S.W..the 36 h.p. G.M.C. (General Motors Commercial) engine was kept, and drove the coach on all 10 wheels, the front-wheel drive being used only in the difficult sections of mangrove swamps, and sand.

The coach required 4 steps for entry, had dustproof half-open windows, blue upholstery seats, and the exterior was all-over cream. A public address system was installed, and on the right hand side of the driver a shovel, mattock and an axe were carried for emergency. The coach was issued with tourist plates.

Accompanied by a Jeep in case some difficulty should arise, the inaugural trip left The Government Tourist Bureau, Challis House, Martin Place, Sydney on October 21st 1951. A party of interested passengers included the Commissioner of Road Transport Mr. A.A. Shoebridge and Mr. Justice Ferguson, President of the Kurnell Landing Place Trust. The route from Sydney was along General Holmes Drive



and Brighton, thence over Tom Ugly's Bridge; return was via the Princes Highway.

Difficulty was encountered in negotiating some of the sharp curves due to the length of the vehicle and a fallen tree, At the edge of the sand drift the front axle was engaged and the coach, now driving on all 10 wheels went through without a falter. The local residents were astonished at the sight of the first tourist coach to enter Kurnell.

A copy of the tourist brochure opposite is one issued in August 1952. Mr. L. Manny, who travelled on the coach in that year, supplied most of the information contained in this article; as also did Truck and Bus Transportation, Military Transport of World War II; and Author's Notes.

--- Fred Midgley

* * * * *

EARLY- USES OF BEACH SANDS

"In the Australian summer of 1831-32 the merchant and entrepreneur James King filled 11 bags with sand from an Eastern Suburbs beach and sent it off to London to be made into glass. Two years later, the finished articles came back to Sydney....

"King's experiment was motivated by profit. In the 1830s, ships returning to Britain took on stones as ballast for the lightly laden return trip ...King saw in the fine white sands around Sydney a payable ballast which could be sold to European glass manufacturers. The Government failed to implement the scheme, much to King's disgust.

(From review in S.M.H 6.12-1953: "Australian Glass" --Graham).

Note: King knew what he was talking about. he served his time to glass-making in Scotland. His activities in NSW included a very successful pottery for household ware on his Irrawang (Raymond Terrace) property, now partly sub-merged by the Grahamstown Water Storage reservoir of the Hunter District Water Board. Up to that, time all pottery was imported.

King was also a successful vigneron. He exhibited wine in his own containers in Britain, for some of which he received awards. He even had his own label .

-- Russell Pike

" TOWRA POINT= A LINK TO SIBERIA

Most Important Nature Reserve in NSW"

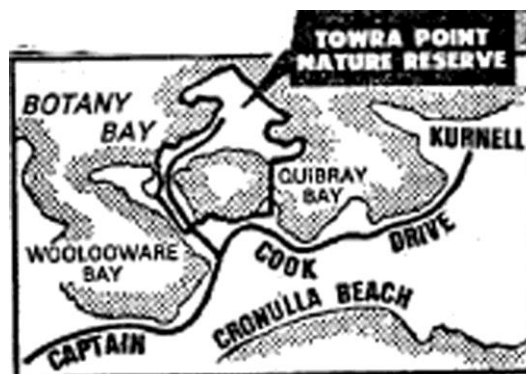
After many years of wrangling between State and Federal Governments, Towra Point at Botany Bay has finally been transferred to the State Government.

Towra Point, one of the last migratory habitats for birds making the long sea crossings from Japan and Siberia, was proclaimed on March 16 by the Minister for Planning and Environment (Mr. Bedford) as the "most important nature reserve in New South Wales".

Towra Point, he said, would be the focus of the pro-posed Botany Bay Headlands National Park, incorporating Captain Cook's Landing Place at Kurnell and Bare Island at La Perouse.

The Reserve of 281 hectares (714 acres) has long been a matter of great concern to conservationists. not only because of its unique migratory value, but also because it is one of the very few areas practically still in the virgin state as seen by the Endeavour crew For many years the eastern beachfront has been greatly disturbed by boating parties, whose launches have disturbed the delicate ecological structure of the submarine grasses; and whose parties have littered the beach with discarded rubbish, and often tramped into the marshy Areas on "exploration".

"Towra Point", the Minister pointed out, "has world significance because it



provides food and protection for these birds throughout the northern winter. It is a complex estuarine system of sand spits, bar mud flats, dunes, beaches and mangroves".

* * * * *

Source: SMH 16.-3-'82 M. Hutton Neve

Captain Walter D. Cridland. R.A.A., a son of Captain Frank Cridland of Caringbah, was killed in action in Borneo on June 27, 1945, after having served in the Middle East and New Guinea. One of his brothers, Flight Lieut. Alan Cridland, was killed at Darwin in November 1942. The late Captain Frank Cridland, C.B.E., served in World War I. His name of course, is best remembered amongst Shire residents as the author of "The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire" (1924 & 1950),

M.H.N. Reference: S.C.A.M. 7-7-1945

Congratulations to Mr. Sydney Stedman, our Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Life Member, who was awarded a Commendation and Plaque "for long and outstanding services to the community".

Apostle Spoons: at one time it was fashionable to have a set of these small afternoon tea spoons -- in sterling silver, of courses so named because each spoon differed in having the head of one of the Twelve Apostles--St. Peter holds a fish or key; St. Thomas a carpenter's spear or square; St. Andrew, a martyr's cross; St. John, a cup with winged serpent (the cup of sorrow); St. Philip, a cross (usually on a staff); St. Bartholomew, a large knife; St. Matthew, a wallet or purse or sometimes an axe; St. Jude a lance or saw -- sometimes a club; St. James, the Great, a pilgrim's staff; St. James the Less, a fuller's pole; St. Matthias, a halbert or axe; St. Simon Zelotes, a saw; St. Paul a sword. Occasionally a set includes one to identify Christ, with the design of an orb and cross and a hand raised in blessing.

Moss Vale: at the time of the construction of the railway in the 1860s the sole inhabitant of the district was Jeremy Moss, and so the place was named after him.

CAMPING AT THE WORONORA RIVER I 1883

A party of seven men led by Walter Moyse of Botany spent Easter or 1883 camping on the banks of the Woronora River. They were R.J. Clarke, T. Vyner, R. Moyse, H. Mouse, W. Hamilton and -- Lewingtone

A single-masted vessel the "Kingfisher", schooner rigged was sailed by the owner Walter Moyse from Botany. His fiancée Ann, foster daughter of William and Emma Jane Rust, lived at Sandringham, and they were to marry on September 19, 1883,

The Rusts were prominent citizens of Sans Souci, coming there in the 1860s. William Rust bought Sans Souci House on Rocky Point and opened a hotel. In 1872 Mr. Dettman took over the hotel when William Rust built the first Prince of Wales hotel, renaming the locality around Rocky Point after his birthplace, Sandringham.

Rust had three sturdy houses built, "Ellesmere", "Denleight" and "Broughton". All still stand to-day.

"Broughton"; built in 1884. as a belated wedding gift for Walter and Ann Moyse

William Rust was one of the committee formed in 1884 which through its efforts resulted in Kogarah becoming a municipality

The Kingfisher, 22 ft from bow to stern, dropped anchor in



in the clear waters of the Woronora River near the peculiar rock formations and cave called the "Old Woman's Bonnet". In those days some people referred to it as "Sally's Bonnet".

There is a delightful story entitled "The days when we went Gypsying", by an unknown writer who, with others also came by sloop and camped at the "Old Woman's Bonnet", in May 1869.

A dinghy made several trips with men and camping gear to the shore. The two sails had of course been lowered, and now the "Kingfisher" was covered with tarpaulins and fastened down.

It was an area spasmodically visited. Up on side of the "Bonnet" someone by the name of F. Pearce had carefully painted his name in large bold but neat white letters. The culprit had taken his time in disfiguring the "Bonnet" --which is some 30 ft. in length and of various widths.

Three suitable poles were cut to support the small tent on a clear patch of ground near the river. Wood was gathered and cut, and a fire lit for cooking and to boil the billy, near the front of the tent.

As the evening shadows deepened, the hill opposite with a number of dead trees which had stood so stark in daylight, gradually faded and mingled with other objects. The nights were still, occasionally broken by the strange cry of the mopoke in the hills opposite, or by the leaping of mullet in the river. "Kingfisher" rode at anchor, swinging about with the movement of the tides. At times the river was like a millpond, the little ship casting a perfect mirror like reflection in the early morning.

There were a couple of musicians in the group. one played the concertina and another the tri meet. There was also a photographer who recorded some of the activity of his companions with a glass plate camera; excellent pictures they were too of the group and the "Old Woman's Bonnet".

Fishing lines were dangled from the rocky- outcrop, but what type of fish caught is not known. There was plenty of fish in the river in those days, including blackfish. Some of the party rowed up the river to the mouth of Still Creek to try their luck with the lines there. About half a mile up the river from the mouth of Still Creek a sandbar formed a barrier to vessels the size of "Kingfisher", and was barely navigable even at high tide.

Some of the men put on boxing gloves and, assisted by

their seconds and a timekeeper, enjoyed themselves immensely. One of the contestants, Harry Moyse, rode with a party of twenty to Goulburn in 1886 on "penny farthing" bicycles; considering the condition of the roads in those days it was quite a feat of endurance.

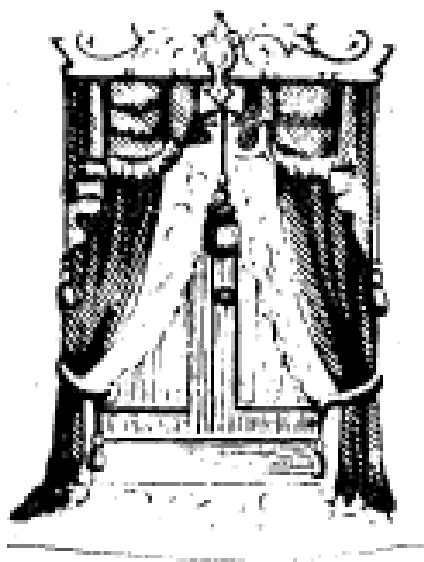
After Walter Moyse married he decided to sell the 'Kingfisher' and sailed her from Sans Souci to Sydney on his own.

Unfortunately, this story does not have a happy ending: Walter died aged 32 in 1886, leaving Ann a widow with a baby daughter, Lucy.

-- Fred Midgley

Source: Lieut. Commander F.G. Moag, I.B.E., of Sans Souci (grandson of Walter Moyse), Kogarah Historical Society: Author's Notes.

"HERITAGE WEEK" AT THE ROYAL



A small but steady stream of visitors -- including a number of our Society -- were given orally conducted tours of "History House".

The two downstairs reception rooms had been arranged with a mid-Victorian setting, including palms, an aspidistra, a "hostess" and a "visitor". The lady was becomingly dressed in an attractive "afternoon gown" of the 1850s. The "visitor" was John Richard Hardy, Parramatta magistrate and first Gold Commissioner in 1851 -- in authentic

- uniform.

Mrs. Merrell Taplin organised the display, being very ably assisted by members of the RAHS Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. Taplin expressed her appreciation of the co-operation of officers of the

Botanic Gardens for the loan of palms and ferns; and to Mr. Fred Midgley for the loan of the two display figures.

M.H.N.

MILNER' S NURSERY

About 1912 Mr. Torn Milner acquired 15 acres of Holt-Sutherland land. It extended from where The Palms Nursing Home President Avenue Kirrawee, now is; south to Forest Road and down to Bath Road. The rest of the land to Oak Road was taken up at around the same time by Mr. Webber.

Milner' s 15 acres was fenced in by Claude Gough and partner. The clearing was done by a bullock terra owned by Charlie James who came from Helensburgh. He also did the ploughing.

Mr. Bob Ritchie was placed in charge of the proposed nursery. He was camped on the property in a tent with a small tin cooking galley, in the bush at the rear of The Palms Nursing Home site, obscured from the road.

Mr. Milner, who came from Arncliffe, made a visit twice a week, Monday and Friday, to see how everything was progressing, and of course brought the pay.

After the land was cleared the logs and scrub were dragged into heaps with the aid of the bullocks, ready for burning. It was on a nice, still summer morning, but as soon as the fire got going a westerly wind sprang up, and the fire got out of control. There were no fire brigades and very few men to fight it. I doubt whether they could have stopped it for the surrounding bush was so thick.

On that day Ted Lye ; was down near. the Natural Stone Bridge on the North West Arm Rd. I found out later that he was looking for new land for his garden, having to vacate his property for the opening of the clay pit at Miranda -- now the site of Miranda Fair. He was engulfed by flames and had to submerge himself in Dents Creek until the flames passed. It was rumoured at the time that he was burnt to death, and also that our shack near North West Arm Road was supposed to have been burnt down. The fire extended to Grays Point and Yowe Bay.

Up to this stage not one tree or seed had been planted at Milner's. A dam was built in the creek; at what is now the foot of Churchill Ave., where us kids. would have a 30 yard swim. He also built 1½ acres of bush. House which extended from Churchill Av. to Bath Rd. Covered by wire netting and tea-tree, Milner would sow Kentia Palm seed by the quarter ton. It was watered by .way of a powerful pump and engine with a large flywheel. There was also a 3-inch main to the bush house and the whole area was flooded about once a fortnight.

The Kentia Palm seeds, which were about the size of a peanut, came from Norfolk Island on the freighter Macambo. On arrival at Sutherland railway goods yard it was brought to the nursery on a horse-drawn vehicle by Dubes, who had a selection on the northern side of president Av.. Milner's warehouse was in Newtown.

It was not until 1918 that Mr. Milner decided to build his home, which is now The Palms Nursing Home. It was built by Sid Zealey, who also laid the bricks for the Council Chambers in 1916, and were laid for £1-0-0 per thousand by contract. In later years the nursery was taken over by a Mr. Simpson, who eventually subdivided, but Churchill Av. and Kirrawee Av. of today are all part of Milner's Nursery.

Mick Derrey

* * * * *

Mrs. Enid Garling of 47 Kissing Point Rd. Turramurra 2074 (ph. 44.1628), in writing a family history, is seeking additional information concerning her grandfather Thomas John Price, who settled on Woronora River on Nov. 1, 1899.

In her letter she mentioned her mother's "trek" to attend Sutherland Primary School. She had to row across the river, walk 1½ miles up the hill (the site of the old bullock track, now cemented) and across a track in the Woronora Cemetery in all weathers to get to school.

Similarly, the Midgley twins walked from their home about a mile above the river, following the same route to the Sutherland school. However, by that time the wooden bridge had been constructed across the river; this was recently demolished after the building of the new bridge. For their secondary schooling, the twins took the train to Hurstville, and then walked to and from that station to attend Hurstville Technical High School -- in all weathers. Today, special buses transport all Menai secondary children to Sutherland.

-- M.H.N.

Shoppers' "Lay By" System:

the trade slump of the depression years caused Sydney retail stores to invent the lay-by system, with Anthony Hordern's store first advertising such a service on Oct. 10, 1930, with Hordern Brothers following six days later. Since then, it has become firmly entrenched and increasingly popular.

Sun, Oct. 1981.

<u>President:</u>	<u>Hon. Sec.:</u>	<u>Publications Convener</u>
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Editor: Mrs. M. Hutton Neve, 26 First Av., Loftus 2232: Ph. 521.2578.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: the 35th AGM, held on March. 12, was well attended. Clr. Michael Addison presided at the Election of Officers, and afterwards gave a short informal Address concerning Heritage Week. The election resulted:

President: Mr. H. Ivers; Deputy President : Mr. G.Heavens; Vice Presidents: Mrs. A. Griffiths, Mr. u. Archer; (Mr.F. Midgley declined nomination): Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Taplin; Hon. Treas.: Mr. S. Stedman; Research & Fublicity:Mrso M. Hutton Neve; Arch),ves Officer: Miss D. Oliver; HonAuditor: Mrs. M.A. Becker. Committee Members: Mrs. A. Cutbush, Messrs. B. Griffin, K. Mathews, F. Midgley and R. Sowden.

Publications Committee: Mr. G. Heavens, Convener: Mrs. M. Hutton Neve, Editor: Messrs. D. Archer, B. Griffin, F. Midgley.

"My dear friend Daniel Solander":

Under this delightful title there is an exhibition of memorabilia relating to Dr. Solander at the Macleay Museum, Sydney University; this opened on April 1st and closes on May 7th.

As Dr. Solander was the botanist on HMS Endeavour with Captain James Cook and it Joseph Banks, this should be of more than passing interest to members.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Members are invited to submit material for the Bulletin; this need not be confined to local history, but this is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please indicate source. If hand-written, 'please print names in CAPITAL LETTERS. Hand to Convener or Editor, or post to Editors address. Copy for the August issue should be in the Editor's hands by July 9.

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

The Society is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society and the National Trust (NSW Branch).

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS are registered with the National Library in Canberra in accordance with the International Standard Serial Numbering; this automatically includes copyright. The Society's registered number appear on all our publications -- ISSN 0586-0261.

PUBLICATIONS OF LOCAL HISTORY are usually on gale at each monthly meeting, proceeds being paid to the Society. The following are available:

Illustrated History of Sutherland Shire: F Midgley: 50 c.

The Hon. Thos. Holt, MLA (illus.):M. Hutton Neve: 50 c.

The Story of Woronora Cemetery (illus.): .M. H. Neve \$2.50

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

Monthly Meetings of the Society are held on the 2nd Friday of each month, commencing at 8.0 p.a., in the recreation room of the Sutherland Shire Council's Administrative Centre in Eton Street Sutherland .(2nd floor). Intending members welcome.

* * * * *

FIXTURES

SPEAKERS

May 14: Mrs. Jean Manuel

"COMO" (Around the World)

June 11: Mr. Ken Auld "TAREN POINT & CARINGBAH"

July 9: Awaiting confirmation from Speaker

August 13: Awaiting confirmation from Speaker

EXCURSION

May 22: Full day tour of Mosman

As announced at the February general meeting,

Leave Cronulla 8.30 a.m.

Leave Sutherland 9,00am"

Fares: Members \$4

Visitors \$5

As announced at the Executive Meeting May 5th The tour is booked out, And there is a waiting list.

Please ring Mrs. Ada Cutbush 523.31479

or

Mrs. :A.. Griffith 525115801 for any further information.

* * * * *

EXCURSION REPORT

Following the Annual General Meeting, new sub-committees have been elected and I wish to advise the following are members of the Excursion Committee for 1982:

A. Griffiths, Convener; Mesdames A. Cutbush, E. Gumbleton, V. law Messrs. D. Archer, D. Batch

The weekend to Tea Gardens and Raymond Terrace was a big success -- many reminders of our younger days with "mine host" Tony Purcell on Saturday evening, after an outstanding tour of the District with members of Raymond Terrace Society, during the day.

Enquiries for the May trip to Mosman are with Mrs. Gumbleton; at her request she will not be taking the bookings this year and you are asked to contact Mrs. Cutbush regarding outings after the May visit to Mosman.

MAY 22: MOSMAN - leaving Cronulla 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9, a.m. Members \$4.00, Visitors \$5.00 (for cancellations Mrs. Gumbleton 523-1660)

JULY 17: BALMAIN - Leave Cronulla 9 a.m., Sutherland 9.30 a.m. Members \$4.00
Visitors: \$5.

SEPTEMBER 18: To be announced. In May Bulletin 525-8147 all

Bookings for Excursions with Mrs. A. Cutbush,
enquiries either to Mrs. Cutbush or myself on 523-5801.

If you have any places you would like the Committee to consider for visiting, would you please tell us about it we try to take the outings to places you, the members ask for.

Aileen Griffiths

Convener