

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY BULLETIN



No. 41.

AUGUST 1982

Price: 20 cents

CONTENTS

A MOTEL AT CAIRNS	F. Midgley
PORTUGUESE WRECK IN N.Z.?	M. Hutton Neve
CLR. C. K. PARKHILL	B. Sergeant
COUNCIL'S 1936 "HISTORICAL COMMITTEE"	M. Hutton Neve
EARLY MOTOR GARAGES – CRONULLA	F. MIDGLEY
THE QUARRY	G. Heavens
ENGADINE PUBLIC SCHOOL-50th Anniv.	M. H H. ,
TRACING FAMILY HISTORY IN U.K.	M.H.N.
HALLEY' S COMET	R, Pike
ENGADINE LITERARY INSTITUTE	M. Booth
1st ANNUAL REPORT -- BANGOR	F. Midgley
THE WEDDING RING	G. Heavens
CENSUS & ABORIGINES	M. Hutton Neve
OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS	M. H.N .
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS	F. Midgley
HERITAGE COUNCIL N.S.W.	-----
PRESIDENT'S NOTES	H. Ivers
ILLUSTRATIONS	F. Midgley

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA CARD No & ISSN 0586-0261

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE POST AS A
PERIODICAL (CATEGORY B) No. N-B-H. 2071

SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN: AUGUST 1982:

A MOTEL AT CAIRNS

On a recent coach tour holiday to Queensland in June we stayed for three days and four nights in Cairns at the Captain Cook Travelodge Motel and Restaurant, situated on the northern side of the city in Sheridan Street, It is the main thoroughfare and, being part of the Highway 1, carries an almost continuous movement of traffic north and south.

Outside the Motel near the footpath is a giant statue of Captain Cook, facing south , with the right arm raised. This colossal figure in dark blue and white, is 45 feet high and weighs 8 tons, standing on a platform supported on three pedestals.



The restaurant was tastefully arranged to that period of 1770, with the walls and ceiling of wood panelling; the Bar was entered through an oval type archway. The young men and girls waiting at the tables were dressed in period costume; an attractive dark -complexioned young lady was thought by some of our group to add to the setting as Cook was involved with the people of the Pacific Islands.

A nautical touch was even added to the toilets, which were designated "Gulls" and "Buoys".

If you visit Cairns and like a little touch of the past, call in to the Motel -- Captain Cook has his arm raised in welcome.

On the coastal region of Queensland, Cook's name is on Highways, Straits, Bridges, with even cannon and anchor replicas of the Endeavour.

-- Fred Midgley

* * * * *

Georges River George Bass, Matthew Flinders and Bass's 14-year-old "servant" William Martin, explored Georges River in their small rowboat Tom Thumb during nine days in late 1795. Afterwards, Governor Hunter approved the name "Georges River". One usually assumes the river was named for George III -- but perhaps it was named for the young explorer ??

PORTUGUESE WRECK IN NEW ZEALAND WATERS?

After sailing down the eastern coast of Australia in the early 1500s, did one ship turn east to be wrecked N.Z.?

Some months ago a strange wreck was sighted from the air on the west coast of the North Island near Dargaville.

It is thought to be a Portuguese caraval, the small sturdy ships used for maritime exploration; and maybe one of the two ships lost by Cristoforo Mendanca after his 3-ship flotilla had passed through Torres Strait into the South Pacific and are thought to have sailed down the eastern coast of Australia in the 1520s.

The Northern Wairoa Maori, Maritime and Pioneer Museum has been granted rights by the Historic Places Trust to investigate the wreck, which- is lying in about 25 feet of water and just under the sand of Dargaville's ocean beach.

Of the fleet of three ships, it is possible that, after coasting the eastern seaboard of Australia, two of them turned west, one being wrecked near Geelong (the "Mahogany Ship"), and one turned east and was wrecked on the west coast of northern N.Z.; while the third returned to Portugal with maps, some of which have survived -- generally known as the "Dieppe Maps".

Portuguese ships, as well as many Dutch, are known to have been wrecked on the West Australian coast. There are 110 recorded shipwrecks off the west coast of the North Island, some of which would have been Australian fisheries ships sailing southwards to hunt the whales and seals from about 1797.

At the June lecture given at the Royal Australian Historical Society's History House by Mr. Kenneth McIntyre, author of "The Secret Discovery of Australia" (by the Portuguese in the early 16th century), he suggested that the Dargaville wreck could be part of the "mahogany ship" which had, over the centuries, drifted across the Tasman. I doubt if this is possible, because the weak current forming just South of Kangaroo Island, skirts the Great Australian Bight in a westerly direction, continuing up the coast of Western Australia until it merges with the powerful Equatorial Current. A weak Eastern Australian current flows SE towards the east of Tasmania and then swings northward. There is no contact between the weak westward current across the Bight and this current coming down the eastern coast. The Tasman Sea is noted for its violent storms, so it is extremely doubtful whether even the major part of a wreck could survive being tossed and battered for perhaps 200/300 years in Tasman storms; and especially so when during the last 200 years there was busy trans-Tasman shipping. A drifting wreck would either have been sighted --or rammed.

The discovery, however, is of extreme interest both to Australia and to N.Z., for if it is one of Mendanca's caravals lost between here and the North Island, and if it can be identified as an early 16th century Portuguese vessel, it would ante-date Tasman's explorations by about 100 years -- and Cook's claim by about 200 years.

I am now awaiting further news and photographs from N.Z. with, I hope, some early reports by the maritime archaeological investigations. Their divers, however, have to wait for, both tides and diving conditions being suitable, so that it may be some time before we have further proof that the Portuguese were the first to discover Eastern Australia -- and perhaps also New Zealand.

M. Hutton Neve

Historical Dates for September:

1802: Sept. 17: first reference to Australian Freemasonry.

1842: Aug. 1s the Sydney Herald changed its name to the Sydney Morning Herald.

1846: Sept. 29s A despatch of the Governor's contains the first official suggestion of a central authority for the whole of Australia.

1918: Sept. 22: first direct wireless message from England to Australia received at Wahroonga (North Shore).

Two-headed. four-legged Men! when the Aborigines saw their first horse-men, shortly after the establishment of the Penal Colony, they were petrified, thinking they were some terrible kind of double-headed apparitions which could outrun their own fleetest runners. When, many years

later, with their fears long gone, they were to make some of the best and most daring of Aboriginal stockmen on the big cattle stations.

"Local" Patronage: A Sutherland resident is very keen on patronising local business and industry. He won't go to town for anything that can be bought in Sutherland. We understand he recently had a tonsillectomy, and when asked if he would have chloroform or ether, he replied; "I'll have a local anaesthetic or nothing; "

Shire Sentinel (now defunct) : 13-12-1946.

(The ultra-patriotic Sutherland resident was our redouble Geo. Heavens)

Mick Derrey we are sorry to hear that Mick has been off-colour for the last couple of weeks.- so we've missed having one (or more) of his always interesting recollections of past days. We hope that Mick will with the November issue, not only make Issue but also send in "the usual" as well! for having missed this August

An appeal from Bernard Sergeant, our past Shire Librarian:

Can anyone help ???

COUNCILLOR C. K. PARKHILL

Arising from the Shire Council's current Indexing Project, we have been including information on all Councillors from 1906, in order to have a complete record of their terms of office. This information is basic and includes full forename for identification purposes -- not insignificant when one considers .3 Councillors Harris (2 in the same Council), 2 Councillors Lewis (again on the same Council), etc..

So far we have established accurately the forenames of all Councillors except one: this is Councillor C. K. Parkhill, who was a member of Council for 3 years only, in the 1920-1922 Council.

I am writing this to the Editor of the Society's Bulletin in the hope that a member of the Society, or a reader of the Bulletin, will be able to assist in providing the forenames to match these initials of C.K. Parkhill. We not only need to know the forenames, but also --- if possible - some quotable authority for the information. None of the Council Minutes appear to give this detail. The only newspaper reference to the election in January 1922 that I have been able to locate, gives the surname incorrectly as Cargill !!

The source of the initials C. K. is the back of an old Council photograph of Councillor Parkhill, although some references in Council Minutes also give these initials. It is of interest to note that David R. Kirkby in his manuscript history of the Council 1906-1956, refers to the fact that Councillor Parkhill was fined under the Local Government Act for not attending and giving an apology for being absent from the election of the Shire President for the year 1922. This was the only time that such a fine was mentioned in the manuscript, but one can-not be sure if it was the only time it was levied. Councillor Parkhill was absent from almost every Council meeting from late in 1921, and throughout all of 1922, although no reason was given every time his leave of absence was extended.

-- Bernard Sergeant

Telephone: 799--2796

521-0415

Sir Richard Bourke's statue, standing outside the Mitchell Library, is Australia's first statue and was unveiled in 1842. The day was declared a public holiday, and the large crowd attending were addressed by the Governor of the Colony Sir George Gipps (1838-1846). Sir Richard was the preceding Governor (1831-1838).

COUNCIL'S 1936 "HISTORICAL COMMITTEE"

A Forerunner of our Society?

Preservation of Historical Shire Records

In the Shire Council Minutes of Dec. 2nd 1936 there was a brief reference to Kurnell as an historical site, as well as many other spots associated with the early days of the Shire, when "attention was drawn to the excellent book published by Frank Cridland O.B.E."

Although the report is extremely brief, no doubt the Council had in view the forthcoming Bi-centenary celebrations being planned for the beginning of 1938 to commemorate the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and thus the beginning of settlement in New South Wales -- although it was then officially a "Penal Settlement" and not a free Crown Colony,

The Minute records tersely that the "President (Clr. E. Seymour Shaw) recommended that a permanent Historical Committee be formed, with the President as Chairman and one member from each Riding, to take whatever steps they considered necessary to collect and preserve the history of the Shire, and that a suitable building be set aside for this purpose".

Councillors were asked to contact elderly residents to obtain early photographs and any other memorabilia available.

The late Mr. David Kirkby referred to this Minute in his manuscript, but he has no reference of any further action. As Mr. Kirkby was, at the time of writing his "Fifty Years of Council History," a foundation member of the Society (formed in 1966), I feel sure that he would have made some reference to any continuing action by this Committee. There was also no reference by any Council officer to this 1936 Committee, several of whom attended the inaugural meeting convened by the Shire President Clr. Gietzelt to consider the proposal to form a Sutherland Shire Historical Society although after 30 years this is understandable.

It therefore seems that the Council of that time considered it to be wiser to co-operate with the State Bicentennial Committee rather than to attempt anything ambitious. After the State-wide efforts and excitement of the Bi-centenary had died down, the Committee appears to have disappeared into limbo. By 1938 there were ominous rumblings in Europe and in Asia of another World War, when the paramount interests of the whole Shire would be involved.

Whether any of the Councillors of that 1936 Committee ever attempted to collect reminiscences of the early days, or any photographs etc., is now unknown. It may be so, because of persistent rumours that a senior Council officer, when clearing out cupboards and preparing material for packing, to move into the new building in 1965, sent a lot of "old papers, photographs and other rubbish" to the Cronulla rubbish tip!

- M. Hutton Neve

EARLY MOTOR GARAGES IN CRONULLA

Service for the motorist was a big step forward when Jack Hill opened his garage in Kurranulla Street Cronulla in 1915. It was the first gar-age in the Shire, and was almost 10 years ahead of Arthur Perks who entered into a similar type of venture on the Princes highway Sutherland, facing the railway, in 1924.

The double-storeyed building occupied by Jack Hill was almost opposite the site of today's post office. On the side of the building, in large letters, was 'Jack Hill Universal Motor Garage. It stood out prominently as a background to a photograph o a Victory March in 1918.

Hill also serviced marine engines, and at the request of a planter from the Solomon Islands put an engine in a 40 ft. boat built at John Hill s boatshed at Gunnamatta Bay where there was a slipway for launching. Jack Hill sailed it to the Solomon Islands, where he stayed for two years.

Nathaniel Bull owned the first motorcar in Cronulla, but he never drove it --- Jack drove it for him. He also drove the French-built Clement--Bayard car which his father bought and also drove.

At Hill's garage horse-shoeing and general blacksmithing were also carried out; this reflecting the period when blacksmiths turned their business from horse to horsepower.

According to Sands Directory, Jack Hill was in business in Cronulla from 1915 to 1922, in that location..

A news item in conjunction with an advertisement appeared in the October 10th 1919 issue of the "Propeller", a weekly newspaper published in Hurstville. It was headed "Flying Men as Motorists..

Two former Royal Air Force pilots, Hammond and Coleman, who served in World War 1, opened a motor garage next to Monro Flats Cronulla. As well as having several new cars for hire they installed the first petrol bowser

Phone either Cronulla or Hurstville

JACK HILL, Universal Motor Garage

First Class Touring Cars
for Hire Day or Night

Quick and Reliable Repairs.
Any Class of Motor
Engineering



All supplies, Sundries,
and Accessories for Motor
Bicycles, Cars and Motors
Kept in Stock

Marine Engines a Specialty

CURRANULLA STREET CRONULLA

in Cronulla, this first being made available on Eight Hour Day. Much patronage was bestowed on the Returned airmen after the opening of the garage. Called the "Cronulla Motor Depot", the proprietors could be contacted by telephoning Kogarah 475.

The new cars they had for hire were 7-seater Buicks. Their services included Garaging, Filtered Petrol, Oils, Grease, Carbide, Tyres and Accessories. From their kerbside pump Shell petrol was sold at 34d (35 cents) a gallon.

In 1922 the Cronulla Motor Depot had new proprietors, Roy G. Bailey and P. Whetherilt (D.C.M., late A.I.F.). The telephone number was now Cronulla 116. Their advertisement read: "Electrical, Steam and Internal Combustion Experts. Ford Spares a specialty. Benzine (petrol) at the kerb".

Fred Midgley

Sources: Sands Directory 1915 and 1922, from which the two illustrated advertisements were re-drawn to original size, from Sydney City Council Library: Miss C. Hill:

"Propeller": Author's Notes.

The Motor Traffic Act was passed in N.S.W. in 1909, and the first motor car was registered in 1910. Prior to that it had been the responsibility of local councils to control the movement of traffic in their municipalities and shires. These councils imposed local speed limits.

Telephone No 116 Cronulla

CRONULLA MOTOR DEPOT

(ROY G. BAILEY) (P. WHETHERILT D.C.M. late A.I.F.)

General Engineering, Repairs, Supplies and General Service
(Next Manero Flats)



Motor Traders Association
N.S.W.

CRONULLA

Excellent Cars for Hire at any time
Filtered Benzine at the kerb.
Oils, Greases, Tyres and Accessories
always in stock



FORD SPARES and repairs a Specialty. Electrical, Steam and Internal Combustion Experts

THE QUARRY

Who remembers Gilmore's Orchard, McPherson's Bush, Simpson's Nursery, Nichollson's Forest, Bullman's Garage, Hewett's Piggery -- and Oak Road Quarry?

Oak Road Quarry! New that was e place to remember -- a virtual "Devil's Island", where old George Candy reigned supreme. George Candy was like unto the taskmaster of the Roman era -- the only thing he lacked was a big whip. His famous words "Give us a go, son -- get that stone on the truck". These were uttered whenever any of his slaves straightened their backs. If anyone dared to light a fag, he would say: "You're paid to get the stone out, son, not to fill the place with smoke!

In the morning (7.30) it was bitterly cold and wet -- it was always wet; the quarry floor was wet, and the stone was wet, and the wet softened one's hands. Each piece of stone was as heavy as you could lift, for it had to be stacked onto the trucks; fingers were constantly squashed, and skin torn, so that much of the stone was marked with human blood. As one truck pulled out, another was always waiting to pull in --- they never stopped.

As the day advanced the sun shone into the white quarry, the glare giving Us headaches; the humid temperature rose it became like an oven, with no breeze to move the petrol fumes or the stifling hot air,

There were men bouncing "jumpers" to make holes to put charges down approximately 20 feet, and an extra penny an hour was paid for this work. I saw many fist fights -a men. quarrelling over who would get the drill so as to get the extra ¾d a week pay. These were men who with wedges swung 14 lb hammers all day, reducing huge rocks just blown out, to smaller sizes; this paid a penny a day extra -- 5d a week bonus; and then the men with gads and 4 lb hammers reduced the stone to road-ballast size; and us truck loaders, who received the base rate of 1/10/2-d per hour.

George Caley would walk up and down uttering a constant hymn of hate --we were a lazy lot according to him. We had doctors, lawyers, tradesmen, white-collar workers -- all types of men big and small, weak and strong, fit and sick, all undernourished, working in the quarry. Tom Cupitt was the powder-monkey who blew the walls down each day (the only time we got a blow); in between times he would prepare and load his charges ready to fire them. He also assisted Roy Brew the blacksmith, who had his forge next to the powder magazine outside the quarry in the gully.

A sanitary pan full of water stood in the shade, and a rusty jam tin nailed to a stick served as a cup if you were thirsty. There were n o toilet facilities at all, but plenty of bush -- if you could find time to obey Nature's demands and slip away while old George wasn't looking. Harry Roffey, who was the timekeeper, called twice a day at least, to make sure everyone was present.

Father Dunlea would ride up on his horse and say "Bless you, my boys, you look all done in" -- and ride away again.

Vic Brown had the cushy job in the office in Merton Street; rumour had it that he got the job because he was a Eason (he wasn't). Don Rogers was the nipper whose job was to gather firewood and boil up another sanitary pan of water in time for 12.00 o'clock lunch.

The stone was conveyed by lorry to the various roads which were being built by other slaves-- although we were officially known as "relief workers, each job having its own overseer or "slave-driver" - Herb, Bob and Tiger Green; Tim Thornton ; and at Menai, Arthur Midgley. These men had been the old Shire Council outside staff, and they were tough, weather-beaten types now relegated to jobs of authority, They became fiends possessed of devils, their purpose being to drive the undernourished unemployed until they dropped

This area, once Oak Road Quarry, is now known as Birch Place, a peaceful little haven of lovely homes -- far removed from the noisy and smelly place of blood and sweat of the mid-30s.

-- Geo. Heavens

* * * * *

ENGADINE PUBLIC SCHOOL'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

Next month the school will celebrate its first half-century. There was only a very small village when Miss Laura Porter, on behalf of the Engadine Ratepayers & Residents Association, made the initial application in July 1929 for a school to be opened on the dedicated site at the corner of Railway Parade and' Engadine Avenue. She listed only 13 pupils between the ages of 4- and 10 years, but when the school opened in Sept-ember 1932 there were 39 children.

The school has a present enrolment of 766 pupils -- but there are now Engadine West, Yarrawarra, Marton and Bosco schools as well.

"Anniversary Day" will start at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday Sept. 23, and will continue throughout the day until 9.0 p.m.. The gala day will include children wearing fashions of the 1930 s, a maypole dance, the brass band of the school, a flag-raising ceremony, and tree planting. There will also be sporting events.

Refreshments will be available, also a crafts stall; and a special 50th Anniversary teaspoon will be on sale.

Mr. F. Midgley of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, will have on display a selection of Photographs from his very large collection, including a number of early Engadine.

- M.H.N.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY TO ITS U.K. ROOTS



A very useful little leaflet has recently been issued by the British Tourist Authority, 171 Clarence St. Sydney, obtainable without charge. While written primarily for visitors intent on tracing their ancestors "from Home", it nevertheless contains a wealth of basic information.

The leaflet covers England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland (and also some sources in Dublin), The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The principle sources and their addresses are quoted, with brief notations, and in some cases fees are given. It also gives advice on Parish and County records. In the Public Records Office London, "The Home Office records of convicts transported to Australia is relatively complete, and enable one to locate the Court who passed sentence".



The records of Births Marriages and Deaths since 1837 are obtainable from the General Register Office, St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway London, WC2B 6JP. The cost of a Full Certificate of Birth Marriage or Death (as from April 1, 1982) is £9-60 posted; or £4.00- if the applicant attends at St. Catherine's House and makes the search personally.



Payment from Australia may be made by cheque, inter-national money order or draft (payable in London): note that these must be expressed in Sterling. The English stg. £1,00 is equal to about \$2.60; but an enquiry at your bank will give you the correct exchange rate.

If you intend to try to trace your family history while visiting England, "Fit is most important to assemble all the information you can about your emigrant ancestor from relatives, old family records, and local and national archives. Details of his date of birth (or at least, approximately), occupation and religion, h i s marriage and the births of his children if they were born in the U.K.. Clues to his place of origin here should be collected without some idea as to where the emigrant came from only a very small percentage will have any success with their searches in Britain."



(illustrations
from above
(leaflet)).

There is a Society of Genealogists in London, who will undertake research for overseas applicants, the fee being stg. £5.00 per hour or stg.£40.00 per day. While tracing one's ancestors, whether convict or free, is a fascinating subject it can also be complicated and most certainly is expensive:

M. Hutton Neve

HALLEY'S COMET IS COMING

Last month the phenomenon of the total eclipse of the full moon by the earth's shadow, last seen about 140 years ago, recalls another forthcoming phenomenon of the solar system -- Halley's Comet in 1985, last seen in 1910.

Halley's Comet, the name of the most celebrated of the periodic comets, takes its name from Edmund Halley (1656-1742) who, in 1705, predicted that the comet of 1682 would return in 1758. This proved true, and the comet has since returned in 1835 and 1910, its period being about 75 years, but this varies considerably owing to planetary perturbations.

Comets are celestial bodies which move in elliptical or hyperbolic orbits and are usually accompanied by a long shining tail. This tail is thought to be produced by a combination of the solar wind (ionised hydrogen originating in the sun) and the interplanetary magnetic field. When in parallel the effect is to produce a tail pointing away from the sun.

The hyperbolic comets are seen once only, so do not reappear: the elliptical comets are periodic, and their recurrence can be calculated with accuracy.

Halley's calculations indicated that the comets of 1531 and 1607 were identical with his own, and it may be taken as practically certain that the comet of 1066, depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry, is Halley's. It is also quite possible that it is the same as the comets mentioned in the Chinese records as having been seen in 87 BC and 240 AD..

P. J. Trezise in his book "Quinkin Country", concerning the pre-European period of the Australian Aborigine, proposes a theory relating to the continent-wide belief in the Rainbow Serpent. "Along with the dingo legends, they indicate -a travel pattern from south to north.... The myths of the Rainbow Serpent also demonstrate that travel took place from south to north It is more likely that the Rainbow Legend had its origin in some spectacular natural phenomenon such as a mighty comet which blazed across the sky from south to north in ages past".

Halley's Comet is next due in December 1985, and should be visible in the pre-dawn sky of Australia, travelling from south to north and north to south on its orbit around the sun. It could be visible up to March and April 1986.

- Russell Pike

Sources: Everymans Encyclopaedia: "Quinkin Country"; P.Trezise 1969: "The Comet is Coming" by Nigel Calder: this book is not yet available in Australia.

* * * * *

Aug. 1, 184D: Transportation of convicts to N.S.W. ceased.

Aug. 6, 1699: Wm. Dampier l anded at Shark Bay, W.A..

Aug. 12,1829: Perth, W.A., founded.

Aug. 13, 1819: First public demonstration of wireless telephony given at the Royal Society in Sydney.

THE ENGADINE LITERARY INSTITUTE & RECREATION CLUB HALL

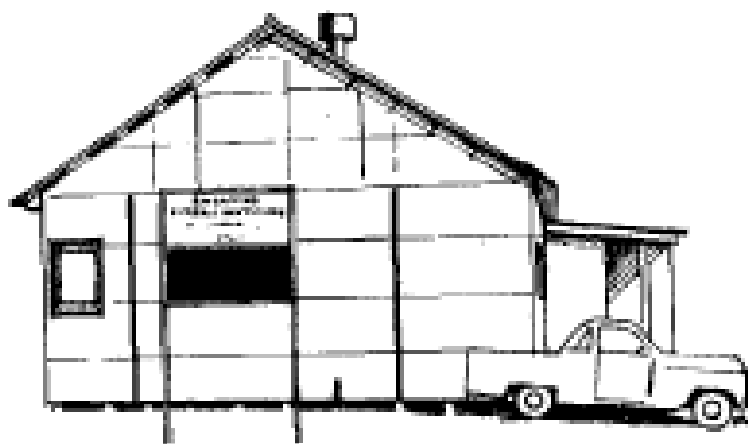
The account of the opening of the Institute Hall (as it was known) in the February issue of this Society's Bulletin brought back many memories to me. Although I was twenty years' too late to attend the opening, as we did not come to Engadine until 1951, I was there to watch, with very mixed feelings, as the bulldozer's blade razed the poor old building to the ground.

The original hall, opened with such ceremony in 1931, measured 19' by 35'; and this later proving too small for the needs of the growing population, was enlarged to 35' x 75' in 1945. It was a very plain timber and fibro building, and was situated on the hill next to the larger of the two Water Board reservoirs (that reservoir was built shortly before the Hall was demolished).

No kitchen facilities were provided until after the Hall was enlarged, when an annexe was erected on the northern side. This was used as a kitchen and also as an auxiliary hall for small meetings. Before this was done, tea and coffee had to be heated on an outside fireplace for supper.

As the wishes expressed at the opening ceremony for electric lighting for Engadine were not granted until 1938, when some street lights were put up, it was the custom for those who came to dances or parties in the evening to bring their own lamps, these being then hung up in the Hall to help with the illumination. Afterwards the lamps were needed to light the way home for those who were on foot and lived some distance off in the bush.

Being the only one for its size for many miles around, the Hall was in great demand for Church services of all denominations, Wedding Receptions, Dances, Concerts, Flower Shows and meetings of all kinds. Classes for Ballet, Physical Culture, Judo and First Aid took place regularly.



ENGADINE LITERARY INSTITUTE

In 1945 it was leased to Mr. P. Jones as a picture theatre, at first for Saturday nights only, then for Wednesday nights and Saturday Matinees as well. This continued until 1956 when Mr. Jones vacated the Hall for his own premises, and it was then available for general use once more.

During its days as a theatre, the floor was jacked up at the back to provide a better view for patrons at the rear of the auditorium.

From about 1958 it was in daily use as "Pinocchio Kindergarten" until the present kindergarten was built near the Civic Centre. Polio Immunisation Clinics were held there by the Health Department, and the Red Cross set up its Mobile Blood Donors Service several times.

However, by the end of the 1960s the Hall was beginning to show its age and, as many of the Churches and other organisations had built halls of their own, demand for the Institute decreased. This meant that it could no longer hope to pay its own way and also provide modern amenities for the public.

In June 1972, all those bodies which regularly used the Hall were notified that the Committee had decided to cease to take bookings owing to difficulties in maintenance. For many months it stood empty, until the day in 1973 when it was demolished. Now no trace of it remains. There is just a vacant space, usually fringed by parked cars, and the Hall is just a memory.

-- M. Booth

***** ** *

Capt. Cook & 1770 The Landing celebrations at Kurnell this year -- the 212th anniversary -- were held on May 1st: and members will be delighted to learn that the Capt. Cook Landing Trust invited our Hon. Sec. Mrs. Merrell Taplin, to plant a young tree in the name of the Society. Such tree-planting is not only a practical gesture but a permanent one ---instead of spending money on a wreath-laying ceremony. We hope Merrell made a good job of bedding down the sapling!

Ivy Alcott. B.E.M., J.P., our well-known member, was recently honoured by being elected Patroness of the Cronulla Red Cross. She has worked for this Branch for very many years and thoroughly deserves the honour given her.

Surf Road Cronulla was, according to an old 1908 map, known as "Yowie Street".

-----.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

of the

BANGOR PROGRESSASSOCIATION

MR. BENTLEY

The meeting of the Bangor Progress Association took place on Saturday, the 26th April 1902.



MR. JONES

A letter was received from and the Lands Department stating that the Government had under consideration the throwing open of more land for settlement at Bangor.

The Balance Sheet showed a balance of 13 shillings and a penny.

The President, Mr. Batchelor, delivered the following Address:-

“We have met on this occasion under conditions which will perhaps make this the most important meeting we have held since the establishment of this Association, being its first Annual General Meeting. The position of the Association has, I am pleased to say, greatly improved during the year, and we have the means, directly or indirectly, of improving the roads leading to and from the settlement.

“With the able assistance of the Secretary, Mr. Jones, who wrote again and again to the Hurstville Council urging it to repair the road to the Lugarno Ferry. The Council at last determined to form a deputation to the Government, and invited one of our members to be on that deputation. What was the result? Success! we were fortunate to get a grant of £200; which, I am pleased to say, in my opinion, if spent in a proper manner, will be a real boon to us and a saving to the Government in the long run. The approach to the punt is also in hand, which again shows what our Secretary can do with his pen; and I believe the able assistance of the Punt Master who pointed out the dangerous position of the punt and so greatly assisted us.

“We also have a grant of £20 to be spent on the road from here to Campbelltown and, although a small amount of money, it may be the means of getting a larger grant in future.

“It gives me great pleasure, to say the least, to congratulate you all for the hearty manner in which you worked to get a school. I sincerely hope it will be well attended, so that the Minister will have no excuse for not building a public school here without the least possible delay.

“Some weeks ago you will remember we gave a send off and presentation to Mr. William Webb, one of our members, and with the able assistance of

the Committee and the handsome manner in which Mrs. Webb treated us with refreshments and 'kiss cakes', I think we have reason to call it a pronounced success.

'The receiving-house for letters, I am sorry to say up to the present has been a failure, but we will not lose heart but try again on a future occasion.

'I am also sorry to have to remind you that during the year we have lost nine members through the same having become unfinancial,, but we have gained one new member - and a good worker. I have also to mention that we had two visitors during my term of office -- Mr. Brown from Sutherland and Mr. McFarlane from Miranda.

'Your Balance Sheet shows that after paying all expenses during the year you have a balance in hand of 13 shillings and a penny, plus furniture and effects valued at about 15 or 16 shillings; which, I say, speaks well for a new Association. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to thank you one and all for your hearty co-operation during my term of office'.

The following Officers were re-elected for the ensuing year- twelve months: Presidents Mr. Batchelor; Vice Presidents Mr. Gribben Secretary, Mr. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. C.. Bentley.

Note: Mr. MacFarlane was to be the Shire Clerk of Sutherland Shire Council from Dec. 1906 to Dec. 1928. William Webb enlisted in the Military Forces and had the distinction of being the first resident o f Bangor to enlist. Five families who moved from Miranda to Bangor before the turn of the century were -- Midgleys, Bentleys, Gribben, Webb, and Mayman. -- F.M.

Source of Annual Report: at. George Advocate in Public Library, Sydney.

--Fred Midgley

Menai Drought 1936: Shire Council Minutes of 18-11-'36 reported receiving a Petition from Menai residents concerning the prevailing drought. It was pointed out that house tanks were dry, and Council was asked urgently to find a means of supplying drinking water for the unemployed Relief workers in Menai. It was emphasised that standpipes at both Menai and Lugarno were an urgent necessity. In a further Minute in the following month Mr. Owen Jones of Menai asked Council to supply a pump for the public well, but Council replied that three pumps had previously been provided and that each had been either damaged or stolen.

Veno Street. Bottle Forest (now Heathcote East) was named after a famous racehorse of about a hundred years ago by his jockey John Higgison, who had retired to live in that area.

THE WEDDING RING

My business in the late 1930s was the Sutherland Library, as many of the older residents will recall.

One day a lady and a ten-year-old boy came into the shop, the lad holding a handkerchief marked with blood to his mouth. I remarked, as shopkeepers are prone to do: "Been to the dentist, son?" and the boy nodded.

The mother was selecting a book from the shelves, and I noticed she seemed to be crying; so just to liven things up a bit I remarked "Hey! It was the boy who'd had his tooth out -- he's the one to be doing the crying."

I realise now it was a silly thing to say-- the result was terrible. The woman came over to the counter and burst into a flood of tears (I felt a damn fool), then told me she had had to pay for the tooth's extraction with her wedding ring as she had no money, and Mr. Swan had given her 7/6d change. (10/- would have been a good price for the gold content of an old wedding ring at that time).

She was a Mrs. Smith, and she lived with her husband, a Helensburgh coal miner who was out of work, and lived in a, shack along the 'mad mile' in the bush. (This is now the Princes Highway Just out of Sutherland).

Later in the day I went and saw old Swannie and gave him the 10/- for the ring, which I put in the till. Each time the Smiths came in I put the money they had paid me into a tobacco tin, and when it had accumulated to the sum of 10/-, I felt the ring had been paid off.

So when Mrs. Smith came into the shop at Christmastime I said to hers "Someone has left you a Christmas present", and I gave her the wrapped tobacco tin with the ring enclosed. I'll never forget how grateful she was, and how strongly her hair smelt of burning gum leaves. She unwrapped the parcel, looked at the ring, grabbed me and inflicted me with several kisses as a reward.

Many quite respectable families lived in the bush along the "mad mile" at that time. To mention ones Mr. and Mrs. McKell lived just apposite the Smiths where the Military installation now is. Mr. McKell was brother to the Governor General; and when I enquired if this was true, he replied: "I was born in the same bed as Bill, Mr. 'Evans'".

-- Geo. Heavens

THE CENSUS AND THE ABORIGINES

Tragedy" of the "Botany Bay" Clan

The first Census of Great Britain was taken in 1801 (actually, the "Domesday Book" of William 1 which listed detailed ownership of all property and of residents, could have been called a Census). The first Census of the Colony of New South Wales was taken in 1828, but there had been several Musters previously.

The Aborigines were excluded for nearly 2 centuries, it being stated in the 1871 Census Report:

"The Aborigines of the Colony have not been included either in this or in any previous Census. Their wandering habits, their apparent incapacity for civilisation and state of vagabondage into which they seem to fall whenever brought permanently into contact with the whites, would render any enumeration difficult, and the result not to be relied on to any extent"

Ten years later, the 1881 Report stated:

"No attempt has yet been made to ascertain the number of native tribes inhabiting this portion of Australia, difficulties which appear insuperable having hitherto barred any attempt to count them. Perhaps but little practical benefit would result from ascertaining in any year the number of these unfortunates, who seem destined to die out before settlement...."

As far as is known, there would have been less than fifty living in the pre-Shire at 1881, all detribalised, with very few fullbloods. Thomas Holt employed five or six who (according to a photograph) were possibly fullbloods. The "Botany Bay" tribal clan had been almost annihilated about 1740, when most of the group took shelter in a large rock overhang near Turriel Point while on their way to a gathering of local clans at South West Arm, during a tropical downpour. Cook remarked on the relative paucity of Aborigines around the Botany Bay area. Proof of the tragic rock-fall was found by Harry Simpson (whose family were early settlers) when he dynamited the rockfall in 1918 and uncovered numerous skeletons of all ages.

Almost 200 years passed before the Aborigines were included as "Australian citizens" and counted for the first time in 1971.

--- M. Hutton Neve

Source: Australia 1788-1988: Bulletin May 1982

(being preparation of Bicentennial History)

* * * * *

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

April: Mr. Fred Midgley traced the history of Road Transport in the Shire, illustrating his Address with a selection of slides from his large historical collection. The roads were mainly "horse and buggy" routes, so the drivers of the first motorcars had many problems. Not until after World War 2 were the roads modernised to take the increasing number of motor vehicles of all types.

May: Our member Mrs. Jean Manuel gave an unusual Address about the contact made by the Mayor of Lake Como in Italy during the time of her Shire Coil Presidency. She received an official-looking envelope to "The Lord Mayor, Town Hall, Municipality of Como". The Italian Mayor had written to six Como towns in different countries, but we were the only one to reply. In replying, Mrs. Manuel explained the status of our small Como, and sent him a brief history of Como, together with photographs several publications relating to the Shire in general.

June: Our Deputy President, M. Geo. Heavens, gave a most interesting Address covering the history of Fire Protection in the Shire. He explained the basis of the "Volunteer Fire Brigade" -- composed of local residents who gave their services as a "community duty" to their district, and were on call at all times. George described in general the operation of the V.F.B., as well as relating several amusing incidents. On display were several photographs and the Fire Brigades' "memorabilia" given him on his retirement. For his 32 years' service George was also presented with the Queen's Exemplary Fire service medal.

July: Dr. P. Moore gave a most informative Address dealing with the "Early Days of Botany in Australia". He referred to the visit of Cook and Banks, and Banks' delight in the great and unique variation of the flora; and also to the interest taken by both Col. Wm. Paterson and later Alan Cunningham. It is estimated that the Aborigines have been here for over 40,000 years, and in that space of time there would have been changes in climatic conditions and therefore in the environment-which to some extent was also affected by the Aborigines' habit of periodic "burn-offs" of scrub and long grasses (for these often inhibited hunting). The Address was illustrated with a number of clear and beautifully coloured slides. Dr. Moore also referred to numerous types of trees, amongst which was the "dragon tree", a type of eucalyptus giving off a blood-red sap which was used medicinally by the early settlers.

Society Photographic Exhibitions: during June an exhibition of photographs was held at the 12th Annual Festival of Arts on June 26 and 27 at the Oyster Bay Public School, and was well attended on both days.

Mr. John Allum, manager of the Commonwealth Bank at Sutherland, asked for an exhibition of Photographs in the Bank, commencing mid-July.

A similar exhibition will be held at Marton School, Kingswood Rd. Engadine in conjunction with the Fete on Saturday Aug. 8, commencing 11.0 am.

Another Photographic Display will be at Sutherland Uniting Church Spring Fair at Flora St., Sutherland, on Sept. 18.

Also in Sept., another photographic exhibition -- particularly those of Engadine, will be held at the Engadine Public School in September during celebrations to mark the school's 50th Anniversary

I shall also be arranging a Photographic Exhibition at the Engadine Show on Nov.. 6.

Fred Midgley, Exhibitions Convener.

THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW:

The Australian Garden History Society deals with the study and collation of gardens -- usually associated with the landscaping of the homes of wealthy pioneer settlers, for most of these were planned in English "period" styles, exotic trees, shrubs and flowers were used, the general idea being to reproduce a neat and tidy parkland effect.

"Historic Buildings of Sydney" is an informative booklet produced jointly by the Public Works Dept. and the NSW Heritage Council. It lists fifty buildings in the greater metropolitan area, most of them designed by Government architects over the past 170 years or so. Obtainable from the Heritage Council, 4th floor, 175 Liverpool Street.

The Goulburn Brewery, probably the oldest brewery/flour mill complex in NSW, is to be restored. Sergeant Jonas Bradley came here in 1791, and was granted land near Goulburn. His son William, in partnership with William Shelly, built the brewery and mill in 1836. The complex is classified by the National Trust NSW and is listed on the National Estate Register. The NSW Government has made a grant available on a "dollar for dollar" of up to \$238,000 for restoration.

Federation Mansions "Gundimaine House" in Shellcove Road Neutral Bay, has been restored, and is an excellent example of the early years of this century. The historic elements of the garden have been retained, incite. ding a magnificent black bean tree, and "period" plants will be made in the garden to provide an appropriate setting.

"The Year of the Tree": this commenced officially on World Environment Day, 5th June 1982, and so will continue until mid-1983. The objective is to make everyone aware of the value of trees, both in the conservation and the cultural environments, in rural landscapes, streets, parks, and in home gardens.

Extracts from Heritage Conservation News, Vol. 1, No. 2: issued free of charge from the Heritage Council, 175 Liverpool Street.

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT WRITES

My comments to readers this time relates to the hardware of the Society, as it has so often done before. When in the earlier days of the Society the "few", who made the beginnings of the Group, were able to provide the motivation and the facilities, the need now exists for a share of the Society's functions to be accepted by more members.

I am happy to say that one of these functions, the preparation of our social atmosphere, at the end of our monthly evening meetings, is being ably performed by members, on a voluntary system.

A serious problem remains, however, in the storage of antique artefacts, some of which are quite bulky. The recession of the Museum project into "limbo" has placed a severe strain on the welling places of our members, and with no relief in sight.

Members are therefore requested to look about their dwellings for any storage space which could be made available. Items which are at present stored under a member's house or in his garage which are quite bulky --are a wood-burning stove, a mangle, a wooden fireplace surround, and also other smaller items.

As a result of the difficulties in "museuming", the Society is diverting some of its accumulated funds into production of historical publications. These funds, with grants from the Royal Australian Historical Society, bring instead an expectation of literary output.

-- Harold Ivers

* * * * *

FIXTURES: ADDRESSES

AUGUST: 13: Colonel R. Sutton: Geo. Barney: C/0 Royal Engineers: "His Contribution to Our Heritage".

SEPT. 10: Mrs. M.. Hutton Neve: Dr. Carl Solander:
Brilliant Swedish Botanist -- little Recognised in Australia as Banks' Assistant.

OCT, _ 8: To be announced.

NOV.. 12: "

* * * * *

EXCURSION REPORT

The outing to MOSMAN was a delightful day -- it is good to see some of the lovely "old" homes in that district and to observe how faithfully they have been restored.

As this report is being prepared, we are about to visit BALMAIN, but by the time the Bulletin is released, the tour will be over.

On August 15, a party of sixteen members will leave to visit MURWILLUMBAH district; we have had to finalise the number of travellers to enable us to purchase the tickets at the time recommended and reluctantly cannot increase the size of the group.

SPRINGWOOD: September 25: The guide will be Mr. J. A. Maddock,

Hon. Sec. of that Society. (We will not be visiting Norman Lindsay's cottage, as that is a full day tour on its own).

Bookings are heavy, but if you are interested, please contact Mrs. Cutbush at 523.1847 and she will help you. Leave Cronulla at

8 a.m., Sutherland 8.30 a.m.: tickets are \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for visitors.

KANGAROO VALLEY: November 27: we will do a "round trip" on this outing, and being daylight-saving time gives us more hours for sightseeing. We will leave Cronulla 8 a.m., Sutherland 8.30 a.m., and do not expect to return to the Shire until about 6.0 p.m.. Members \$7.50 and Visitors \$8.50. Bookings now open.

WEEKEND 1983: we give early advice that the annual weekend tour will be March 4-5-6, 1983. We are arranging to visit Clyde River and Bateman's Bay District, and hope this will appeal to you. Full details have not yet been finalised, but it is hoped we will be able to "do" the weekend for approximately \$85.00 each, fully inclusive. Bookings will be open at October Meeting, so we will be able to tell you more at next month's meeting, and in November Bulletin.

FUTURE OUTINGS: if you have any favourite place you think would be of interest to our members for an outing, please let us know so that we may discuss and possibly include your special place in our calendar.

For Bookings, please contact Mrs. A. Cutbush 523.8147: for any other Tote Information, Mrs. Cutbush, Mrs. Gumbleton (524.1660), or myself at 523..5801.

Aileen Griffiths,

CONVENER.

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 Editor's address.

Copy for the November issue should be in the Editor's hands by October 8.

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 appears on all our publications --- ISSN 0586-0261.

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

Illustrated History of Sutherland Shire: F. Midgley: \$1.00

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

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

To be published Sept/Oct.: The Early History of KURNELL to CRONULLA (illus.)

The 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.m., in the recreation room of the Shire Council's Administrative Centre in Eton Street Sutherland (2nd floor). Members' visitors and intending members welcome.

* * * * *

President:

Mr. H. Ivers,
6 Raymond Place,
Engadine: 2233.
Ph, 520.6324

Hon. Sec.:

Mrs. M. Taplin,
199 William-1g Rd.,
Caringbah.
Ph. 524.5095.

Publications Convener

Mr. G. Heavens,
78 Toronto Pde.,
Sutherland: 2232.
Ph. 521.6190.

Hon. Treas.: Mr. S. Stedman, 495 Kingsway, Miranda: 2228.

Editor: Mrs. M. Hutton Neve, 26 First Av., Loftus 2232: Ph. 521.2578.