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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN ... Nov. 1982

The following letter has been received from our Shire Clerk....

Administration Centre,  
Eton Street, Sutherland.  
1st September, 1982.

The Hon. Secretary,  
Sutherland Shire Historical Society,  
199 Willarong Road,  
CARINGBAH. N.S.W. 2329.

Dear Mrs. Taplin,

I am very pleased to have received your Quarterly Bulletin, together with the booklet detailing the history of the Woronora Cemetery.

You are to be congratulated on the standard of the articles, and I can appreciate the amount of research involved.

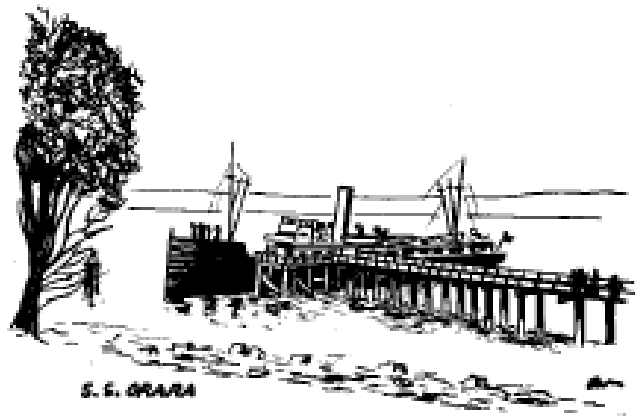
I will continue to maintain a vital interest in the activities of the Society.

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. RAYNER,  
Shire Clerk.

### EARLY CRONULLA.

Early residents in the Shire were the Heyde family, who made their home at South Cronulla facing Port Hacking in 1908.

Their house had been an Exhibition "Ready Cut" Home from the Sydney Showground. It was lined with tongue-and-grooved pine boards, quite common in those days.



The house was dismantled and taken to Cronulla, where it was reassembled by Mr. Hewson, who built a lot of early homes in Cronulla. Builders were not plentiful in the area in those days. Earlier, the Heydes had rented Arnott's cottage.

Another early resident Was Mr. Thom, who had large areas of land but refused to be caught up in the tide of subdivisions. The Giddings were also early settlers, and had cottages built, which they let, and had also a shell museum.

Mrs. Stratford (nee Heyde), who relates this story; her girlhood days when she travelled in Giddings coaches to Sutherland, and how Giddings would sometimes use a five or three-horse team. One of the drivers whose Christian name was Monty, carried pebbles which he threw onto the lead horse in an endeavour to urge the animal on while climbing the steep hill at Miranda. On one occasion Lance Giddings, when asked to take his coach to South Cronulla, laughed, declaring that there was too much bush there.

Mrs. Stratford travelled on the S.S. Orana on pleasure cruises when it ran between Sydney and Port Hacking. She didn't enjoy the trips because of seasickness. Mr. Furleigh who had a cottage off Nicholson Parade, was active in the Cronulla Progress Association. As he was the shipping editor of the "Daily Telegraph" one can see his interest in assisting to organise the pleasure cruises.

When the family went to the pictures at Cronulla their footsteps were guided along the rough roads with the aid of

the kerosene hurricane lamp.. Electricity came --- the first in the Shire -- when Mr. Robinson had a plant set up for generating electricity in 1917. Mrs. Stratford and her husband paid to have the pole put up outside on the foot-path.

In earlier days Mrs. Stratford drove a horse and sulky on Cronulla Beach. On one occasion her pony was stolen. Thieving of livestock in the early days of the Shire was prevalent.

She said there was an early land-developer who came from Parramatta, and gave this name to one of the streets. She also recalled that her brother, C.W. Heyde, set baits with meat to catch sharks from his boat at the entrance to Gunnamatta Bay, and when caught he cut out their jaws. Other recollections of Gunnamatta were the aeroplanes taking off, and the float planes of Frank Bardsley.

The steam tram was a big improvement on Giddings' coaches. Sometimes when the Stratfords missed the last tram they would think nothing of walking to Cronulla. Children were often ordered off the tram for playing-up and giving cheek to the conductor.

Mr. Stratford, who was a captain of the Cronulla Surf Club later became toll master on the Georges River (Tom Ugly's) bridge. He was also a good cricketer in his younger days. Later, Father Dunlea asked him to coach the boys at Boys Town at Engadine.

In the early days mail was delivered by a man on a pony. The first Church of England church in Cronulla was erected of galvanised iron in Laycock Av.. An ice works was started by Mr. Larcombe at North Cronulla, and the ice was delivered.

Newton's fish shop, Hands timberyard and the C.B.A.



*STEAM TRAM AT CARINGBANK IN 1913, DESTINATION CRONULLA.*

bank stood where the railway station now stands. Mr. and Mrs. Stratford rode on the first electric train to Cronulla at the opening of the line in December 1939.

When Mrs. Stratford was a girl her mother would not allow her to go near Shelly Beach when mixed bathing came in. When passing that way she was told to make a detour around the beach. On one occasion well-known identity Joe Monro encountered a girl walking along the street in a neck-to-knee bathing costume; he told her to get off the road and put on a coat.

Joe Monro had a launch which he let out for hire and excursions when he first came to Cronulla; and his wife had a boarding-house in Gerrale Street.

-- Fred Midgley

Source: Interview with Mrs. Stratford in June 1980, then aged 88 and living in Cheselon House Jannali.

\* \* \* \* \*

1983 Subscriptions.; it will be appreciated if members would fill in the coloured form at the back of the Bulletin, and either hand it to our Hon. Treasurer at the December or January meetings; or post direct to the Hon. Secretary. It should be noted that the Subscription as from Jan. 1st is now \$6.

HERITAGE WEEK 1983: April 10 - 17

The National Trust (NSW Branch) has announced that, as this has now become an established part of the NSW Calendar, the Heritage Week Committee plans to, develop this theme on a wider basis than previously,' and is thus seeking the co-operation of all Historical Societies.

By the time this goes to press, Mr. Fred Midgley, as Exhibitions Convener, will have made arrangements for a site at the Civic Centre, and hopes to organise an outstanding display indicating our local heritage in particular

Details will be announced In the February issue.



A Letter to St. Catherine's School Gynea

Having read the April Parents & Friends Report I noticed a reference to "Our Historic Tree", which aroused my memory back to the year 1910. This is a massive Red Gum at least 300 years old, so was growing here before Captain Cook arrived.

I was six years of age at the time, and would often gather wildflowers for my mother, in the bush where the church and your school is today. In those times there was a slaughter yard in Sylvania Road, owned by Mr. Walker, just below the present Pines Nursery.

His bullocks and sheep for killing would come to Sutherland by railway truck and be driven down President Av. by a stockman and his dog. It was on one of my flower-picking days, when I was confronted by four of the wild bullocks, who made straight for me. In those times there was an oak tree, growing very close to the Historical Tree which I climbed.

It must have been a super-human effort on my part to get into the fork of that big tree and sit there while the bullocks tore up the ground with their feet. As a small child I admired that tree; it covered so much ground and resembled a weeping willow.

A week or two after that incident I became very ill with diphtheria and was admitted to the Coast Hospital, now the Prince Henry. While there one night the nurse carried me outside to see Halley's Comet, saying, "You will be over eighty years of age when you see that again". I hope I am spared to see that stationary long red glow in the eastern sky.

(Note: a large amount of money has been spent by the St. Catherine's School on tree surgery in an endeavour to save the now ailing "Historic Tree").

-- Mick Derrey

\* \* \* \* \*

35-hour Week not for Bakers last century: it was claimed that Bakers worked the longest hours in the 1870s. Mr. Harvey Foley, secretary of the Operative Bakers' Society stated that sometimes he would work from 11.0 at night until 2.0 the next afternoon -- with no meal break:

Victorian Chemist Joseph Bosisto began distilling eucalyptus oil in the 1850s, and marketed it throughout the world as "Syrup of Red Gum", and recommended it for "all affections of the mucous membrane, stomach and bowels".

JAMES MURPHY ... "Father of Como"

"Mr. James Murphy, a well-known resident of Como, died at a private hospital at Darlinghurst on Wednesday (June 11, 1924) at the advanced age of 80 years. For many years the deceased conducted a large boatshed and pleasure grounds at the, popular resort, and was looked upon as the father of the place".

-- Hurstville Propellor: 13-6-1924.

That, briefly, more or less summaries the man who "made" Como. Research has failed to discover details of the man himself or of his life in general.

He was born at Campbelltown, the son of Hugh Murphy and his wife nee Mary Scully, his father being a builder. Nothing can be traced of his early life; there is no evidence to support Cridland's claim that Murphy was a mining engineer. (which would have indicated tertiary qualifications). He obviously had invested interests in coal mining, as indicated by his importation from the U.S.A. of a drilling machine which he showed at the Sydney Exhibition in 1879.

He became acquainted with the Hon. Thos. Holt, who was then in the process of developing the vast Holt-Sutherland Estate of some 12,000 acres. While Holt was interested in Murphy's coal mining propositions he was not prepared to finance any venture himself, although several others supported Murphy's schemes. Three unsuccessful bores were sunk in the Cronulla/Woolooware areas, but after going down several thousand feet all proved abortive and further explorations were abandoned.

Murphy is remembered, first, as Holt's "right-hand man"; and secondly, for his prime part in the development of Como. For some forty years he guided the fortunes of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Coy., and its varied activities, as secretary, manager or director.

He seems to have been somewhat of a confirmed misogynist; he never married nor apparently indulged in social contacts. The only reference to his family is the brother (Christian name unknown) who was the "Informant" registering death.

He seemingly spent little on his own desires. Throughout his life he was interested only in investing monies in numerous and diverse developmental companies both within and without the Holt-Sutherland Estate projects. He held large areas of land at Como, realising that the extension of the Illawarra Railway line over Georges River in the

1880s would bring increasing holiday crowds to the area. To this end he developed "Murphy's Pleasure Ground." a well-laid-out picnic area in front of the recently erected Como Hotel (1883). Adjacent to the (then) railway station he built a large boatshed, a small general store and a caretaker's cottage, all of which still exist, although the boatshed has of recent years been renovated. For a few years "Murphy's Pleasure Ground" was extremely popular with the summertime excursionists, but shortly before World War I the increasing popularity of the motorcar --crossing Georges River by vehicular ferry -- and of Cronulla's surfing beaches, where were numerous rental holiday cottages, reduced the once popular appeal of Como and its river-boating facilities.

Whether Murphy ever travelled abroad at any time is unknown; but in naming Como this could be so, as he stated the "broad lake-like expanse of waters where the Georges and Woronora Rivers meet and its idyllic beauty, recalled the Alpine-Italian Lake Como". If he did travel and did visit Italy, this might explain his penchant for the Italian names he chose for part of his Como Estate -- all after Italian towns, viz Cremona (Rd.), Ortona (Pde.), Pavia (Rd.), Tivoli (Esplan.), Verona (Ra.), Novara (Cresc.) and the feminine names of Flora (St.) and Loretta (Av.). Sylvania, a part of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, he named for its "delightful sylvan-like" locality. He would seem to have been well read, for he chose the name of the heroine in one of Shakespeare's plays "The Tempest", for another locality -- Miranda. The late Mr. Chiplin,. principal of Miranda School in 1921, enquired from Murphy as to the meaning and origin of the name, explaining that his children were collecting items of Local History. Murphy replied that he chose the name as being a "soft, euphonious, musical and appropriate name for a beautiful place .... and the name of a good and sweet woman".

(Incidentally, some of these 60-year-old childish notes are in the Council Archives).

As the Holt Estate was developed, Murphy was responsible for the naming of several of the older roads, as Woollooware, Willarong and Cawarra (he liked Aboriginal names); he named Hotham and Manchester Roads as a compliment to Mr. John Want, a prominent trustee of The (Royal) National Park.

After retirement from active business he continued to live at Como. He had built a delightful Swiss.-type chalet on the western side of the railway overlooking Georges and Woronora Rivers. By now he had become a virtual recluse -



not even living in the ornate home, but left it to be occupied by his caretaker. Instead, according to 90-year-old Mrs. Rita Carey of Como (whose husband, still living, established the first butcher's shop there), Murphy lived in a small one-roomed tin shed, dark and smoke-filled. He would never be seen during the daytime, but after dark would wander around his spacious grounds "and talk with the trees which he loved and much admired".

In the last few days of his life he developed pneumonia; he was removed to St. Kilda Private Hospital at Darlinghurst, where he died 11th June 1924 and was interred in the Roman Catholic Section at Rookwood.

He bequeathed the whole of the income from the sale of his Como Estate to provide bursaries, tenable in the Faculty of Agriculture at Sydney University for the needy sons of poor Roman Catholic parents. These bursaries were to be used especially in regard to the hybridization of Australian plants. The Perpetual Trustee Company, as Trustee of the Bursary Fund, state that the invested monies have appreciated over the years. Awards are based strictly on the conditions stipulated in James Murphy's Will. The balance of his considerable estate be bequeathed to the Roman Catholic Church. There was no mention of any bequest to his brother.

The sale of the Como Estate was auctioned by Richardson & Wrench Ltd. on March 2, 1929, under instructions from the joint Executors Perpetual Trustee Co. Ltd. and Michael Maloney (a friend of Murphy's). It was listed in the Sydney Morning Herald as comprising "34 choice sites with frontages to Woronora River, Central Av. and Woronora Crescent". At the same time the Pleasure Grounds, Boatsheds and contents, the Shop and the Cottage (a total of about 6 acres) were offered as a separate parcel. The buildings were sold as a going concern for £4,000; and after some negotiation the Pleasure Grounds were sold a few days later.

Reserve prices for Lots in Central Av. varied from £1 to a top price of £4 per foot; in Woronora Crescent the reserve price varied from £3 to £3-10-0 per foot frontage; all blocks were approximately 50 ft. wide, varying in depths; three lots in Woronora Cresc. were about 1½ acres each.

The total sales for the day's Auction amounted to £5,9180-15-0. Terms were 10% deposit, the balance in 20 equal quarterly payments, interest 6%, with right of pay-off.

N.B.: for some years after Murphy's death the Swiss chalet "Como House" was conducted as a "select boarding

house"; but, after being vacated during reconstruction at Como for the new railway bridge it was burnt down.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: Registrar General's Dept.: David Kirkby MS: {Shire Archives):  
 "Como Pleasure Grounds", unpublished MS by V.Morton, Shire Archives:  
 "The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire" (F. Cridland):  
 Perpetual Trustee Coy..

\* \* \* \* \*

"AUSTRALIA" DAY or ... "FOUNDATION" DAY ???

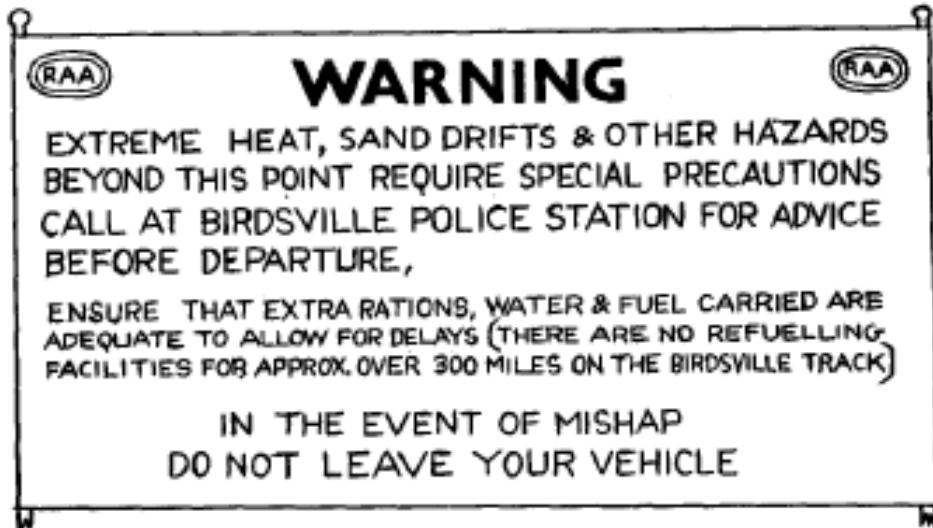
It has always been a puzzle to me as to why January 26 is called "Australian" Day. That, certainly, is the date whereon The First Fleet sailed into Port Jackson. Philip and some of his officers went ashore; and in the next few days a handful of convicts were sent ashore to clear some ground for the erection of tents.



But it was not until Feb. 7, 1788, that all personnel --officers and crew, marines and civilians, and the convicts --were assemble on parade. The official Proclamation was then formally read by the Governor, the Jack (not the Union Jack as so often mistakenly stated) was hoisted, toasts were drunk to King George, and the Colony of New South Wales came Into being. Its western border was the Dutch-acknowledged "New Holland".

If we are to impress upon our children the importance of our Australian heritage, than it must primarily be done i n the schools. It is no good trying to commemorate in December just before the long holidays -- about something to be celebrated six or eight weeks ahead: it will have no meaning whatever.... But, if the date of the official Proclamation of the founding on New South Wales was to be celebrated on the correct date of February 7, after the children have returned to school, it would have historical meaning. The other States all celebrate their official foundation dates --- we are the only State that does not.... What do you think?

-- M. Hutton Neve

THE BIRDSVILLE TRACK

Birdsville is situated about fifty miles north of the Queensland-South Australian border, in the Diamantina Shire, with an area of 38,000 square miles. The town population is well under a hundred, including Aborigines. Adelaide St. -- the only street -- contains the Pub, Police Station,, Garage, General Store and Bank/Post Office (Telegrams are sent from the Mission Hospital). No hotel accommodation is available, but there is a camping area.

The Birdsville Track runs between Marree in South Australia and Birdsville in Queensland, a distance of 320 miles,

Motorists are advised by huge warning signs not to travel this way alone. Death has always stalked this route, and lives have been lost in recent years (two in 1981) when travellers have suffered mechanical breakdowns or run out of petrol. Sometimes no vehicle passes this way for days, and 140F degree temperatures are common. There are no service stations on the Track, and no pub or drink-shop for a 250 mile radius.

The only safe way to see this country is in a properly

organised safari with four-wheel-drive vehicles and equipped with two-way radio, The drive along the Track is not easily forgotten; it skirts some of the driest areas of the Australian continent, with the Simpson Desert to the west and Sturt's Stony Desert to the east -- Charles Sturt discovered this area in 1845.

Both these arid areas encroach on to the road all the way. The land is flat, with dry cracked claypans and seas of glittering red gibbers which stretch to where the horizon merges into the vast open sky.

There are one or two cattle stations along the Track, the largest being "Clifton Hills", 11,000 square miles, on which the stock shares the water-holes with such creatures of the desert as lizards, snakes, wild horses, dingoes, emus, beautiful brolgas and thousands of white screeching cockatoos. Even today, cattle are overlanded along the Birdsville Track and it is still a risky business, as it was when the first stockmen cracked their whips in the 1880s. In the past, hundreds of cattle have perished before they reached the railway siding at Marree.

Drovers still face the menace of heat, dust storms, floods, and drought. The Government bores make it a little easier today, but the cattle still have to plod over 300 miles of sand as the Track is too rough for them to be carried by road trains.

At the town of Birdsville the bore water comes up from a 1219 metres (appx. 3660 ft.) deep artesian bore at boiling point, and has to be cooled off in four separate tanks linked together to get it cool enough to drink. This town also boasts the smallest hydro-electric turbine in the southern hemisphere, driven with the force of the water coming out of the bore. This turbine supplies the town and surrounding areas with all their electricity.

The country here has broken many hearts and defeated many ambitions. The ruins of mission stations and cattle stations stand gaunt and sun-bleached memorials to those who have surrendered.

The foolish or foolhardy can perish in its lonely sands: but the historic name and romance of the "Birdsville Track" with its stark beauty, is something you will remember forever.

Although the town population is below the one hundred mark,

at the Outback Race Meeting held each first Saturday in Sept-ember, they cater for over 3000 people; as many as 200 light aircraft fly in for this big event -- and the usual beer consumption is near enough to 50,000 cans. This year on Sept. 4 over four thousand people gathered, and the hotel sold in excess of 85,000 cans of beer:

-- Geo. Heavens

\* \* \* \* \*

### Freemasonry in Australia

In the August Bulletin (p. 48) I noted that in 1802 the first mention of Freemasonry was made, but this was emphatically refuted by a member.

My detailed research notes indicate that "Our dear Brother Anthony Fenn Kemp Captain of the Regiment stationed at Botany Bay" was issued with a certificate in the "Degree of Master of Masons", signed by "J. Grico St Member of Metropolitan Chapter of Paris", dated Sept. 17, 1802.

The original Certificate is in the MSS Archives Section (NSW) at the Mitchell Library; and the ref. number is ... MS Ak 19.

Kemp was received into the grade of Ancient Masonry at the first Lodge known to have assembled in Sydney, when there was a French scientific expedition, under Captain Nicholas Baudin, in port, one ship being "Le Naturaliste" whereon two of the three officers were Masons, (c. 1800).

Kemp was born c. 1773 in London and died in Tasmania 28-10-1868. After travelling for a time in the United States and France he applied for an ensign's commission in the NSW ("Rum") Corps, arriving in Sydney 1790. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1801. He became Pay-master of the NSW Corps and later Treasurer of the Committee of the Paymastership of the Corps.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: NSW State Archives: Dictionary of Australian Biography (ed. D. Pike).

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Family Costs --- 1909: the weekly expense .of one Broken Hill miner were, eleven pence paid in rates and insurance, and a total expenditure of £3-II-4½, groceries costing slightly over £1-0-0.

## SHIRE VANDALISM

The first Council action was taken in 1945.

Of late months the metropolitan newspapers have given prominence to the spate of juvenile vandalism in the breaking, entering and deliberate burning of school buildings, causing to date damage of several hundred thousand dollars & So far, this has been confined almost entirely to the western suburbs and a few of the inner city areas.

Vandalism in various forms has always been a part of "civilised" life; even Socrates commented on the misbehaviour of uncontrolled youth.

The newly elected Shire Council began its 1945 session by reviewing local improvements, the various Progress Associations being to the fore in proposing suggested actions.

"Vandalism over the years has been a great problem," Council stated,

In February 1945 a conference with the Council was "attended by a senior Police Superintendent, local Sergeants Irwin and Titcumbe, Miss Reilly of the Department of Education and several citizens".

It was realised that teenage offenders included visitors to the Shire. The Police stated that juvenile vandalism, while widespread, was no worse than it had ever been. There had always been broken street lamps, water taps pulled off buildings and windows broken by stone-throwing.

It was generally felt that schools should inculcate in children a respect for property, especially public property, for which the taxpayer paid. The Education Dept. replied that they did their best to impart training in civics and, morals; but pointed out that vandalism was caused mainly by teenagers between school-leaving age and early manhood.

A number of decisions to counteract local vandalism were taken at this Conference. The ideal solution was the formation of a Police Boys' Club -- as in other districts. Other suggestions proposed were:--

A junior sporting association to be formed, with trained coaches engaged for various sports; and playgrounds through-out the Shire to be put in order:

Vigilante committees to be formed, with Special Constables enrolled, with exercising authority:

Publicity regarding the Conference to be given in all local newspapers; and suitably worded leaflets to be

prepared, these to be distributed to householders by meter readers.

However, the Conference achieved little, although the local newspapers co-operated, and the dodgers were duly circularised.

Today, Shire vandalism is more sophisticated. Teenagers are often mobile -- either with their own transport or in stolen vehicles. Boys of all ages -- some quite young children of primary-school age -- roam the streets sometimes until quite late hours.

Before "see-through" street telephone cabinets were built the destruction of instruments was both widespread in the Shire and continuous: electric trains stowed overnight in the Sutherland siding had their carriage windows broken. There were "parties" (and still occasionally are) in the Woronora Cemetery where headstones were demolished and grave ornaments smashed. tires were deliberately started in scrub and bush areas: and of course there are now the juvenile trail bike riders, often with roaring exhausts-- whose irresponsible parents are quite unconcerned about their children's activities -- forcing their bikes through bush-land parks and reserves and using the Cemetery roads as racing tracks.

Of late years juvenile sport has become so well organised that it verges on professional competition: but this type of organised sport does not appeal to vandals -- for it means disciplined control. The Police-Citizens' Boys Club was established in 1965 and the Club buildings opened in 1969.... But as yet no one has mooted the original idea of Vigilante groups; many parents would say they "did not have the time" in the evenings -- "and anyway, it is a Police job".:

-- M. Hutton Neve

Sources: Shire Council Minutes Feb. 1945: Kirkby MS in the Library Archives.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last N.S.W. Convict Transport: the 'Hashomy' arrived in 1949 with a number of male convicts; there was a near riot by Sydney residents, who refused to allow any landing, and the transport was sent to Hobart, where most of the convicts were granted ticket-of--leave -- except for a few of the most vicious and dangerous transportees.

Subscriptions for 1983 are due on January 1st.

Members may recall a general meeting earlier this year in which a number of administrative matters came forward for de-termination following prior discussion by the Executive Council. A matter referred to is the annual subscription, which was raised to \$6.00 per adult, commencing with 1983. Apart from "inflation", reasons given for the increase were new publications and museum-preparation activities. \$6 is not a large subscription, and when coupled with the receipt of the Bulletin and the low-priced excursions organised by our Tours Committee, the sum represents excellent value.

About this time each year I make a call for members to participate in "Members' Night". This night, in January, is set aside for any members to speak to the Society on any subject or to present a number of slides, or both. The period should not exceed fifteen minutes, and assistance is always available. Please give the matter your earnest attention, and help to make this night a little different and an encouragement to all members.

I am pleased to note that Fred Midgley has received an Award from the Shire President for good citizenship. I am not so happy, however, to note that Mick Derrey is in hospital (at the time of writing). Mick is an enthusiastic member of this Society, and I do wish him well.

This Bulletin is the last one for 1982. The year has been a good one and I am grateful to all members for contributing. Energetic Committee members have worked hard to maintain a high standard in all activities. To those many members I will not meet before the end of the year I wish g Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year.

-- Harold Ivers.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Ivers, together with Fred Midgley, was also the recipient of a Shire "Good Citizen" award).

\* \* \* \* \*

??? Municipality of Cronulla: a largely attended public meeting for the purpose of discussing this question was held at the Masonic Hall Cronulla, on Wednesday night, the meeting being addressed by the President of the Shire, Clr. C.O.J.

Monro, MLA, and others. S.C.A.M. 15-7-1939

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Yowie Street: according to a 1908 map of the Shire, this was the name by which Surf Road was then known.





### FERRY MASTERS: Father & Son

A reference dated July 1867m shows that Edward John Dunn, then aged 27, was working as an engine driver on a steamer for six months. With whom he was employed, or the area travelled, is not stated.

Presumably it was a coastal vessel, for two years later he was an engineer at the Albion Steam Saw Mills on the Myall River, Port Stephens, from May 1869 to April 1872. He obtained Certificate No. 1, Engineer, 3rd class, on July 10, 1872,. And in the same year was

awarded Certificate No. 1 of Master for Harbour and River vessels.

Edward John Dunn went to Sylvania in 1881 to take charge of the running of the first steam punt there, and lived in the old stone cottage near the pump ramp at Sylvania.

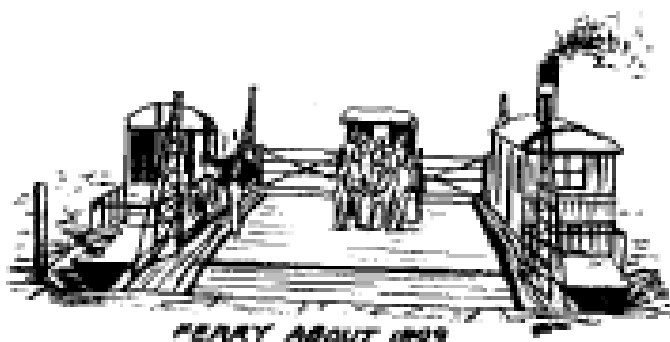
A son, Edward Henry Dunn, was born on September 10, 1877, at Hunters Hill. When he was about four years of age the family moved to Sylvania. Here he attended school where the teacher was Miss Clara Rice. Edward Henry recalled that one of the boys at school was Nob Emmerson.

The hills behind Sylvania were covered with masses of native flowers and -- what today is not so plentiful -- the beautiful native rose.

To get to the City there was a coach to Kogarah where you caught the train. This was long before the advent o f. the steam tram at Kogarah. At other times the Dunn boys would row their sisters and mother to Como to catch the train.

Leaving school at about 12 years of age Edward Henry drove a tip dray on the Holt Estate. One job was to gather seaweed to be used as fertiliser on the cultivation paddocks.

When he was fifteen he



left the job on the Holt Estate and followed in his father's footsteps, and commenced working as an engine driver and fitters assistant at W. Hodkinson in St. Peters, from 1892 to 1894. From that position he became engine driver at Hillgrove Gold Mines from 1895 to 1897.

When Edward Henry's father died in 1898 he took the job of running the punt at Tom Ugly's. His period of service there was about four years. From there he was to be in charge of operating the punt at Taree from 1902 to 1905. Coming back to Sydney about 1907 he took up an appointment as engine driver at John Vicars Woollen Mills at Marrickville, remaining in their employment until his retirement.

On February 26, 1959, Edward Henry Dunn died at the age of 82, having a longer life span than his father, who was born in 1840 and died at the age of 58.

Source: From Notes of a relative of the Dunn family -- per H. Ivers.

-- F. Midgley

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"The Forgotten Valley": the story of the founding pioneers of the Macdonald Valley (north of Wiseman's Ferry). I am pleased to advise that the Publishers, The Library of Australian History, have told me that my Revised 2nd Edition (illustrated) will be on sale at all Australian bookshops by the end of November. I understand that the soft-cover edition will sell for about \$11.00, and the hardback cover for about \$15.00/\$16.00. Some copies of my second book, the story of the Pioneer Women Doctors of Australia are still available from the same publishers, and also Australiana bookshops.

M.H.N.

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Some Australian Dates of Interest:

Nov. 1: Stamped envelopes, the first in the world, were issued at Sydney in 1838.

Nov. 7: 1861: The first Melbourne Cup race.

Dec. 8. 1810: Green Hills settlement renamed Windsor by Governor Macquarie.

Dec. 10: 1869: Queensland proclaimed a separate colony.

Dec. 13. 1642: Abel Tasman discovered and named the islands of New Zealand as "Statenlandt."

### THE PORT HACKING WILD "YAHOO"

You may have read "Gulliver's Travels" by Dean Jonathan Swift (who was considered one of the most powerful prose writers of the 18th C; he died 1745). If so, you will recall it as a fairytale story of giants and Lilliputians. Actually, written with the title of "The Travels of Lemuel Gulliver", it was a witty and biting political satire of the period.

In narrating Gulliver's travel-phantasy, Swift invented the word "yahoo" to describe a beast in human form. The word gradually crept into common usage to describe anyone of a coarse and generally repulsive loutish type.

In the early 1800s the "freedom of the press" created almost continuous argument between editors and publishers and Government, the Colonial Governors strenuously striving to control varied publications. One paper, the "Satirist & Sporting Chronicle" became so vituperative as to compel some action. The editor, Charles James Gogerly, the publisher and the printer were all convicted of libel and gaoled for one year -- and the paper banned.

When released, Gogerly withdrew with his family from the turmoil of Sydney Town to the solitariness of Port Hacking, living in a small stone cottage built by Simeon Lord in the 1830s for one of his timber getters. This cottage still stands, although slightly, altered.

Gogerly did not encourage or welcome the occasional visitor.

Two young men, Collins and Massie, were making a living gathering oyster shells for burning into lime, and reaping a good harvest in the vicinity of today's Gogerly's Point, where they were camping. This did not please Gogerly, who sent two of his boys to warn them off. had just recently seen a Yahoo -- "a wild man of the woods". The "creature" was about 12 feet tall and carried a long heavy sapling as a club. The boys relayed a most circumstantial account of how their father, hearing a loud noise, had trained his telescope around the foreshores and had sighted the monster inspecting the camp while the two young men were fishing.

Massie, a great reader, had obviously read "Gulliver's Travels", and was convinced that Yahoos not only existed but were also very likely to inhabit the deep and dense forest about them. Massie flatly refused to remain at the isolated camp, so Collins moved the tents closer to Gogerly's cottage. Collins was eager to try to trap a Yahoo for such a "trophy" as it were, would be worth its weight in gold.

For the next few days they worked with loaded guns,

even following some large unknown tracks -- they were probably kangaroo, which were plentiful in the surrounding area, Nothing of any Yahoo was seen, so after a few days Collins decided to return to their original and more convenient campsite. Massie, while agreeing, to the return, flatly refused to sleep on shore and spent the nights aboard their ketch anchored nearby. Collins was quite comfortable in his tent, although he kept his loaded gun beside him -- "just in case". The locality was infested with dingos, whose nightly yelping "made enough noise for half-a-dozen Yahoos".

Hoping to find a more peaceful location they moved the on-shore camp to a lonely but idyllic-looking site near a large fig tree with a beautiful limpid waterhole nearby. After spending a couple of miserable and sleepless nights "buzzed and bitten continuously by stinging gnats" they packed up, boarded their ketch and sailed out of the inlet -- leaving the locality to the voracious mosquitoes, the howling dingos -- and perhaps the Yahoos.

The story of Gogerly's Yahoos has been passed down through the years by the early settlers; and it is, now, considered that "Yowie" Bay is the correct name for that inlet. "Yowie" or "yowey" (pronounced to rhyme with "jo-ey") is the Yorkshire shepherd's name for the lamb of the yow, the Scots calling the mother-sheep "ewe" and the lamb "ewie". Hence Yowie or Ewie (Ewey) Bay, for it was around here that the Hon. Thos. Holt kept his lambing ewes, employing both Yorkshire and Lowland Scots as shepherds.

The "Yahoos of Port Hacking" make such a captivating titbit of local history that it seems a pity to tell the truth!

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Source: Life & Adventures of an Essex Man" (Capt. Wm. Collins: published Brisbane 1914

Note: Wm. Collins came to NSW during the early 1850s, intending to go to the goldfields. He landed in Sydney with £3, which was quickly stolen from him. As he had had experience on English coastal fishing smacks and on Thames barges, he returned to a maritime life; and in the course of time he became a master mariner, prominent on the Queensland coast.

--- M. Hutton Neve

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1983 Subscription is due on January 1st next, and a subscription renewal form is attached. Get in early to pay:

## THE OLD SHIRE:

### What I Saw. Heard and Remembered

Before I commence the story of some of my memories I must apologise for not being a "writer" -- or a scholar or a lecturer. There is as much unsaid as written by scholars past and present. I find myself in the position of having to make an attempt to give some idea of the localities and events of the early part of this century.

I remember many things my mother told me. When I was brought into this world in 1904 by Nurse Kate Lobb I was washed in the creek water which flowed down from what is now Kirrawee Station into Dents Creek where the traffic lights are now on the corner of President Avenue and North West Arm Road. The surrounding area was not disturbed, no tanks were necessary, all creeks were unpolluted. She also told me how my birth had to be registered in Bulli, as well as those of my brother and sister who were born before me, as Sutherland Shire was not formed until 1906.



I remember when there were only two roads south of President Av. -- Attunga Road to Yowie Bay off Kia Ora Rd., and the Princes Highway at Sutherland. I also remember before the new Council made any attempt to form President Av.; it was covered with weather-beaten stumps in 1909. Who cleared the early roads I would never know. I can remember when President Av. was impassable between North West Arm Rd. and Gymea Bay Rd..

It was not until 1909 that the primitive Council decided to make a bridge over Dents Creek and to make a cutting over the hill towards Gymea Bay Road. Two attempts at making the bridges over Dents Creek ended in disaster when the decking was washed away in the flood waters which came down from Oak Road and the surrounding area. The decking had to be raised to the height it is today.

I also remember seeing men loading -rail trucks with oakwood at Sutherland Goods yard for bakers' firewood in the city, The wood came from an area between Oak Rd. and from the Gymea shopping centre of today to Sylvania Rd., and from The Boulevard to Gymea Bay. The woodcutting era ceased about 1913.

I remember men ploughing to form Eton Street from President Av. to where the Council Chambers are now, and also Flora Street on the south side to Belmont Street. Two horses were used in a single mulboard plough. The men I can remember were Arthur Lobb, Joe Gilligan, and the boss Arthur Midgley. This was in 1909.

I remember riding in the horse coach which plied between Sutherland and Cronulla, the driver being Clr. Bob Cook. I can remember the tram track being laid, the tram shed at Sutherland being built in 1910, and the first tram in 1911. The horse coaches ran very irregularly.

I remember when Sutherland shopping centre never had kerb-and-gutter and the footpath was gravel. Saturday night was the night of the week, and shops were open until 11 o'clock. Everyone met in their Sunday best and talked in small groups. Kerosene lamps lit the shops,. and a kerosene lamp stood on the Post Office corner in Flora St.; here the "Sallies" would play on a Saturday night.

I remember East Parade when the only business house there was the Royal Hotel. I think that the publican at this time in 1909 was Peters, who was followed about 1911 by the Skene family. Also in East Parade was Dr. Rooke's residence. He was the one and only doctor in the Shire. Then there was Lobbs Hall. Where the United Services Club now stands was covered with large turpentine trees and thick scrub.

Also vivid in my memory is seeing Blondin walk the tight-wire on the area of land between McCubbins Lane and Stapleton's Steak House of today. This event occurred in 1912. The ground was covered with large trees and stumps, and part was a hard earthen paddock. Wood-chopping contests were also held there.

Also what comes to mind was my first picnic. My mother and I were to attend a picnic on Boyle Park (now Prince Edward Park) Woronora River, which was organised by the Woronora Week Enders Association. My mother and I walked from North West Arm Rd. and President Av. to the Royal Hotel, from where we were given a lift in a horse and sulky to the "River" by Charlie Diston and his wife. On arrival at Boyle Park the children were given a small bottle of Stone Gingerbeer with a glass marble for a cork; also some sandwiches, and "conversation" and boiled lollies in a small paper bag.

After lunch the events commenced.... Climbing the greasy pole, catching the greasy pig and the tug-of-war. Then the event of the day began. A boxing ring had been erected approximately 12 ft. by 12 ft.; four bush poles were sunk in the ground, surrounded by three ropes. Six men in swimming costumes were blindfolded and boxing gloves fastened on their hands: then the referee blew a whistle for them to start punching. As one got knocked down he was dragged from the ring by a leg; the last man standing was the winner. Not knowing where they were hitting, some were punched in the back -- and the posts were punched. It was an event I never saw before or since. Today, I think such a contest would be barred.

The Woronora Week Enders Association often held dances and fancy dress balls in Lobbs Hall.

I remember -- before the Sutherland Brick Works were thought of --- walking through the scrub from North West Arm Rd. to the one and only small shop on the corner of Oak Rd. and (the now) Princes Highway, owned by elderly Mr. and Mrs. Pearce. Their verandah was always used as a waiting shed when the tram commenced. Their store was the only one between Sutherland, Miranda and Tom Ugly's Point.

Tim Thornton and "Trip" Harry Horner sank a shaft to test the clay in what was to become the Sutherland Brick Works. Before bricks could be made when the yard opened in 1911, water had to be carried by horse and dray in a 400--gallon ship's tank from Dents Creek. The carter was

Wilfred Richards who lived nearby and later became a brick carter.

Also coming to mind is old Dan Wiggins' market garden at the junction of Princes Highway and the Kingsway. His farm extended along the Princes Highway to Waratah St., an area of approximately 5 acres, on land which is now car sales yards.

-- Mick Derrey

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### WILL YOU HELP RECORD LOCAL HISTORY?

Several years ago the Heritage Council, the R.A.H.S. and the Society of Australian Genealogists joined together with the idea of indexing All cemeteries in the State of N.S.W. before too many had fretted away. There are a certain number that are already lost. All the information gained is recorded in an index file with all relevant information from the headstones, at "Richmond Villa" headquarters for the "Genies" Society.

There are four local people at present doing this work on our Woronora Cemetery: Mrs. Kath Ferguson, her brother and sister Sid and Betty, and myself. We three ladies are all members of the "Genies".

The local information we find is also recorded with Mrs. Pam Garland at Sutherland Central Library for the use of Sutherland Shire and St. George residents.

Our main problem is that the work is very slow as our Cemetery is rather vast. We have to date finished the old Methodist, Congregational, Baptist, Jewish and Salvation Sections.

Help is needed with this project as progress is so slow. The two biggest Sections have not even been started -- Church of England and Roman Catholic; and with the progress we are making might never be done as these will be the last to be tackled.

There is no rush to do the Lawn Cemeteries and the Crematoria as these won't fret away, but I dare say will be done eventually.

We need help. With more members or friends of our Society doing only two hours per week we will progress much quicker. We do not work in rain, wind or very hot weather. We would be very grateful for two hours' help per week. If you think you could give that help please telephone me on 527-2327.

-- Elva Carmichael.



## ACCOMMODATION AT THE NATIONAL PARK

The history of the "Accommodation House" goes back to 1886:

"Only" a track leads into the Park now a dusty road zigzagging down to the gorge .... whereupon a little tongue of land the camp is fixed --a rude shed with some 20 bunks and blankets for the accommodation of travellers".

The "rude shed" was known as "The Pavilion" and is said to have served as general accommodation for Lord Audley's 1864 camp. It was either remodelled or rebuilt in t h e 1880s -- there is a record that the "Old Pavilion" was renovated and extra rooms added

in 1892, when it was named "The Rest". Until this was done the "Pavilion" catered only for sportsmen and male bushwalkers. After reconstruction of the "Audley Road" from the new rail-way station the "Audley Pleasure Ground " became increasingly popular. In 1893 the Trustees had been compelled "to enlarge and improve these premises which today contain a large general dining room, two suites of well-furnished apartments for the use of families,. and sleeping accommodation for twenty-two guests".

The Trustees tried for several years to obtain a Government grant to renovate "The Rest", but without success, so in 1914 they accepted a lessee offer to erect a new Accommodation House "on the existing sites. One presumes that the lease was not completed, for the Trustees recorded later in the year that "the new building at Audley, 'The Rest', has now been leased for 14 years to Mr. R. Hammill". This same Mr. Hammill in later years introduced a motorbus service. The venture was so profitable that five years later Hammill enlarged the



The noisy gold-crested white cockatoos are a feature of the "Audley Pleasure Ground"

building and had his lease increased to 21 years.

With the deepening of the worldwide Depression patronage so much decreased that finally Hammill could provide services only at weekends. In April 1938 the Trustees themselves took over the building, remodelling it, and for a year or two it became an outstanding Guest House . At the same time they renamed it "Allambie House", Aboriginal for "a quiet place to rest".

The advent of World War 2 virtually closed the Park to the general public,. defence posts and anti-tank traps being set up. Allambie House itself was taken over by the Hospital Commission, after the Japanese entered the war, for emergency use. It was not until mid-1945 that Allambie House was returned to the Trustees, together with a post-war grant of £5300 to cover essential renovations. For the next few years Allambie House seemed to recover some of its past glory, but it quickly faded. With motorcar owners daily; increasing, the old "Audley Pleasure Ground, " was but a nice Sunday run for the average family; the once-stately dining room and the pleasant summer afternoon teas on the wide verandah decreased in patronage -- motorists brought family hampers for the day's picnics.

By 1967 it had closed entirely, fast becoming a dilapidated eyesore.... And so, one early morning in February 1972 it was demolished by controlled burning; then bulldozed and the site levelled.

One might say that the "birth" of Allambie House was in 1914, although it was not named formally as such until 1938. Only a handful of elderly residents would now remember it as "The Rest", post-war residents recalling it as the stately and picturesque "Allambie House" set amidst once lovely and fragrant gardens.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Source: Minutes Books of the Trustees Records, The (Royal) National Park.

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Petrol Pumps on Main Roads: the Miranda Motor Garage (1936) sought per-mission to re-install petrol pumps in two of their premises; and H. G. Lunhop of Cronulla at the same time sought approval to install a kerbside double pump. Both were advised that as From 1st August 1936 it had been the policy of the Government Transport Department that all kerbside pumps be removed and replaced with a Drive-in-out service within the petrol station.

### "FULL CIRCLE"-- Caringbah

As I sit at home, on the Cronulla side of the Caringbah Shopping Centre, just down the Kingsway from the new Kings-way Mall, is in process of being built. I can hear the noise of bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, and all the sounds connected with the demolition and rebuilding. My mind goes back thirty-two years, to 1950, to the Caringbah I then knew.

There were no houses on the railway side of the road opposite where I live at No. 272, and no Golden Fleece Garage. On my side, just our house and one on each side of us -- certainly no Church of Christ. We could see right over Botany Bay -- a wonderful sight for an English family new to the country. Everyone in England has heard of Botany Bay:

Every half-hour we would see the trains go by, either to Cronulla or Sydney and knew that we just had time to organise the children and get up to the station for the next train.

Caringbah was almost a sleepy little village in those days. Burns' Timber Yard was where Waltons now stands. The Post Office was a small weatherboard place near the station; then it was moved to where Mr. Chippy's now is, and then moved to the present site, now a smart brick building. There was no hotel, of course -- just a wine bar at the corner of Willarong Road. This, I believe, was one of the major stop-ping places for the steam tram which ran from Sutherland and along the Kingsway, to turn round at Shelly Beach in South Cronulla. Turning our new garden plot over in 1950, we found what we thought were railway sleepers; they would have been from the steam tram of earlier days.

There were very few shops. The Hinty family had a general store near where the Hotel now stands. Mr. Hinty was very active in the Volunteer Fire Brigade -- I expect George Heavens would know him.

One of the oldest families of the Shire, the Nelsons, had a big grocery store where Caringbah Hardware now is. There was a small wooden building on the Ampol site, which you entered by climbing about five steps; this was a green-grocer's. Then Miss Cridland, Frank Cridland's daughter, ran a library for a few years, before we had the Public Lending Library. This latter building was the Church of England's property.... Beberfolds have been and gone, and many other shops have come into being.

The roads have been widened and upgraded, with median strips, President Av. was a small unmade road, and in bad weather we used to wonder if we'd get through.

Over the years we've watched house after house being built and occupied.

There are now a Seventh Day Adventist Church, a Church of Christ, new Church of England, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Catholic Churches. Our view of Botany Bay and the trains went long ago.

Now, I'm listening to the bulldozers, and I'm watching the houses we saw built, be knocked down. We've come "Full Circle". For a brief spell, we can see the Bay and the trains, but not for long. The builders have already moved in to start on the Home Units and Villa homes, which will soon be around us as we move to the end of the century.

-- Dorothy Smith

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"Brumby" Horses: this term, to describe a wild, outlaw horse, is believed to have derived from Major James Brumby, who arrived in Sydney Town in 1795-6 and left a number of horses here, which later ran wild. As settlement in later years pushed into the back country, from time to time horses escaped from grazing properties -- or were turned loose to fend for themselves in times of drought or the abandonment of properties -- so that gradually the term grew to apply to all the thousands of horses now running wild in the outback.

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The Illawarra: when Governor Macquarie called at Jervis Bay in 1811, it was believed that it was inaccessible by land or sea. Macquarie later sent George Evans to survey it, and this led to the opening of the Illawarra district,

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Wool a slump in the 1810s saw sheep being sold for 8 pence,( approx. 7c) with their wool on.

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Tribal Warfare: A Sydney newspaper stated in January 1906 "Although 18 years have passed since the foundation of the Colony, the blacks in the immediate vicinity of Port Jackson still carry on their tribal warfare to the death".

### EARLY TROUBLES WITH STRAYING STOCK

One of the persistent nuisances which the early Councils had to cope with were straying stock -- not only horses but particularly cows. Most of the pioneer settlers kept one or more milking cows, and the wire fences were too often only a few sagging strands.... And, as the grass is always greener on the other side of a fence, the cows regularly pushed their way through to graze at will -- sometimes with dire results.



Ever--roaming dogs were regularly killed by the steam trams, and one or two horses also came to grief.

In 1924 the Council decided to eradicate blackberries with a chemical spray. Mrs. Nathaniel Bull of Burraneer had a cow which died suddenly after eating sprayed vegetation, so she claimed, whilst grazing on the roadside. When she complained to the Shire Clerk he asked her for a veterinarian's report. When this was not forthcoming it was presumed that the cow had died from other causes. The Council decided to carry on with the spraying, and instructed their workmen to warn residents who kept animals, and to advise them of the dangers to straying stock from the use of the weedicide.

Previous to this episode, during 1922 the Council's ranger impounded no less than 100 head of straying cattle, and the following year, by March, 82 were impounded.

Even in 1936 there was still trouble. The Police Department were again complaining to Council about the stock roaming uncontrolled around the streets of Cronulla and Caringbah. They quoted instances of accidents caused, and added that more would occur --- perhaps fatally to pedestrians -- unless Council took firm action. Council again referred the complaint to the Impounding Officer, requesting immediate attention and urgent action.

However, within the next few years, with increased population, more motor vehicles on the roads -- and finally the extension of the electric train to Cronulla the keeping of both horses and cows in residential areas more or less ceased.

-- M. Hutton Neve

Source: Council Minutes 1922/3, 1924, 1936.

Bill "Tarzan" Laws always was a showman. With natural talent, he would sing and tap-dance along the wood verandah of his Grandmother's Yowie Bay home. It was here he spent his early teens.

His 21st birthday gift from Grannie Laws was a waterfront block adjacent to the public wharf at Yowie Bay. During the early 30s he built a small shop and dwelling where he worked and lived until 1970.

In daylight hours Tarzan conducted a riverboat fruit-and-vegetable delivery service along the Port Hacking foreshores, The Port echoed to his Tarzan call, a welcome signal to the isolated waterfront residents. In the hours of darkness Tarzan used his launch for a more delicate service; the collection of nightsoil. Waterfront dwellers were a sturdy breed in those days. They reported no ill effects from Tarzan's activities.

Tarzan was a scrupulously clean man. His rosy face glowed with a polished sheen: or was it the result of his washing-soda baths? Kerosene was the mainstay of his medicine chest; a dose of kero was an instant cure for the common cold, He also believed in its powers as antiseptic. Once he suffered a dreadful injury to his heel when his foot caught in the fly-wheel of his launch. But his visit to the hospital was brief. His heel was stitched back; then he returned home to douse immediately the foot in kerosene at regular intervals. This painful cure miraculously worked:

As his nickname implies, Tarzan possessed a muscular, well built body. He had incredible strength. On more than one occasion he was seen to tie a rope around his waist, dive into the water and tow his broken-down launch back to the wharf.

Tarzan's response to a taxation query that he produce his invoices was, to say the least, unique. First, Tarzan dressed himself in a colourful going-out garb: spotless bright blue drill shirt and trousers, black and white striped jacket and black bowler hat set jauntily to one side of his snowy head. Then, onto his shoulder he hoisted a fruit box, which emitted foul odours as he travelled to the city by bus and train. His theatrical arrival at the Taxation Department stunned the clerk when Tarzan proffered the invoices buried under the mass of moulding rotten fruit. In its wisdom, the Department struck an estimate in preference to the task of sorting.

Tarzan was in constant strife with the law. One bone of contention was his total disregard for road rules. He managed

to terrify the locals as he recklessly manoeuvred his blue hand -painted International truck throughout the Shire. A further contention was his sly-grog activities along the waterfront. Although appreciated by the residents his efforts were not appreciated by the local constabulary. He particularly resented the inconvenience of his forced attendance at the City Licensing Court. And, on one memorable occasion, he approached the Kogarah magistrate at Kogarah Court. "Your Honour, it is my humble opinion that you, Sire, are quite capable of handling my case". Despite such a compliment, the magistrate did his duty. Tarzan was sent to the city.

But his deepest distrust was reserved for the banking system. His personal monetary system entailed hurling his financial gains into a heavy metal box. One sad day it fell over-board and Tarzan paid divers for their many unsuccessful attempts to locate it. Is it still lying at the bottom of the bay?

With Tarzan's retirement to Queensland, Yowie Bay lost a most loveable, amusing character. He died this year, so far from the waterfront he loved.

By Aileen Levy

Reprinted by courtesy of "The Voice" from their issue of Sept. 4, 1982.  
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Editor's Note: in the Bulletin issue of May 1981, I wrote an article "Tarzan of the River", as I remembered him thirty-odd years ago. His "Tarzan" call was really the Aboriginal coo-ee, and would carry for at least 2-3 miles, I would hear his coo-ee long before the small launch came into view.

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1982 Citizenship Awards: two more of our members received Awards this year for "valued services to the community" -- Mr. H. Ivers and Mr. F. Midgley. All Society members will congratulate these two on their well-merited Awards.

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Veno Streets 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.

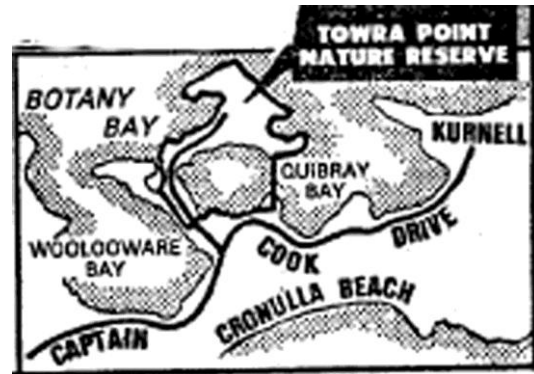
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Dec. 16. 1903: Women voted for the first time at the Federal Elections. The franchise age for adults was then 21 years.

## THREAT TO OUR BOTANY BAY MANGROVES

### Towra Point Now a Nature Reserve

In a recent edition of the Sydney Morning Herald a short report by their Environment Writer Joseph Glascott drew attention to the value of the mangroves within the Shire (as well as elsewhere), And to the threats of their destruction with the resultant gradual loss of our valuable and lucrative oyster farming (in which, over the years, a tremendous amount of capital has been in-vested by local owners), as well as the destruction of local "fish nurseries".



Mangrove swamps are often objected to by nearby residents as "smelly areas which breed insects", or simply "look ugly". Mangroves, however, are important breeding grounds for both fish and oysters, and are valuable habitats for birds and other wildlife.

Because of the concern : about mangrove losses, Dr.Colin Field, head of the School of Life Sciences at the NSW Institute of Technology, and his staff, have been given a \$25,000 National Estate grant to study the problem.

Mangroves along the east coast are threatened by oil pollution, residential and industrial development in river estuaries, and changing water levels from works such as flood mitigation.

Dr. Field observed: "In the Towra Point area of Botany Bay, the mangrove deaths are almost certainly due to pollutions from oil spills."

In 1980 the National Parks & Wildlife Service proclaimed some 300-odd acres (150 hectares) near Tweed Heads in the Ukerebagh Nature Reserve, Earlier this year the NPWS proclaimed some 350 acres (281 hec.) at Towra Point a Nature Reserve to help protect our mangrove stands.

- M. Hutton Neve Condensed from: SMH 21-9-'82.

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Jan. 24. 1788: La Prouse appeared off Botany Bay.



CLR. C. K. PARKHILL

My thanks to the Bulletin Editor for inserting my enquiry for information re Clr. C. K. Parkhill in the August issue of the Bulletin.. It was successful, thanks to replies from both Mick Derrey and George Heavens, and to assistance from Pam Garland.

Mick contacted me a few days after publication to tell me that Clr, Parkhill was one of a family and firm of monumental masons which operated both in Waverley and Sutherland in the early 1920s. Their premises were in Robertson St.. Mick did not know his forenames, but did advise that h e thought the reason for Clr. Parkhill's non-attendance at Council throughout 1922 might have been due to ill-health. Mick recalled that he suffered from a bad cough, which he associated with silicosis.

At the time that Mick gave me this information, I asked Pam Garland about getting access to the State Libraries for copies of electoral rolls, as her file in the Local History Collection had not yet reached the period of the 1920s. Pam informed me she planned a visit to the State Library to get some copies of material, including the electoral rolls I needed, thus saving me a trip to Macquarie Street. Next time I saw her she had the required copies, and "Clarence Kinnaird Parkhill at Robertson Street, Sutherland, monumental mason" is listed in the State Electoral Roll for the District of Cumberland, Sutherland Polling Place, for 1920.

A few days later George Heavens rang me to ask if I had made any progress with my enquiry, and to tell me that he recalled Clr. Parkhill was known as "Clarie". This of course confirmed and augmented what I had already learnt, since the three sources are in complete accord.

My thanks to Mick Derrey, Pam Garland and George Heavens and to the Bulletin, for the solution to this small problem.

-- Bernard Sargeant

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Newly Formed Menai Lions Club: Fred Midgley was the first guest speaker at this new local club on Aug. 25, when he spoke about Menai history.

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Menai Apex are doing good work. They are sponsoring a boy in Sri Lanka; this project helps the whole family and the village.

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ALEXANDER McDONALD.

An Old Sutherland Identity, Now lives in retirement at Bowraville ....

His parents, Ronald and Jessie (nee McLeod) were living at Waterfall when Alexander was born in 1903 in one of the small cottages above the railway station. He went to school in Sutherland when his parents moved to Eton Street.

His father, Ronald, was a timberman, and amongst other Sobs he worked for a time cutting sleepers in Darke's Forest for the laving of the steam tram railway tracks in 1911. For a few years after the advent of the trams Alex was one of the crews.

After some years in Sutherland the family moved to the Hunter River district to work timber; and it was here in 1915 that Ronald McDonald was killed by a falling branch.

Mrs. McDonald returned to Sutherland to live with her mother-in-law, a widow. Grandmother McLeod lived in a small cottage with her son Duncan ("Dunk", who worked for the Park Trustees for forty years}, near the southern causeway. Here there was a single wooden traffic gate across the road leading to the Waterfall Exit, Grandmother being employed by the Trustees as gatekeeper.

Nearby was a picnic ground, with stabling provision for horses, and a yard wherein the visitors' buggies and sulkies could be left in the care of an attendant; either 6d or 1/- was charged for this service-- Mr. McDonald cannot now be sure. The picnic ground also had a boatshed for the hiring of small rowboats, a "rest room", and a large aviary housing various small birds -- canaries, diamond sparrows, redheads and others; and hence the local name of "Aviary Flat".

Towards the end of 1917 his mother moved back to Sutherland. Grandmother remained for a few years as gatekeeper but by 1925 she too had gone to Sutherland: and so, Mr. McDonald thinks, that was probably when the gateway was removed. In 1939, when his brother was at a nearby army camp (probably on the Princes Highway at Sutherland) he visited the site to see if the cottage was still there, but it had gone.

One of Mr. McDonald's childhood memories was the interest created when Charlie James of Helensburgh in 1910 brought his big team of bullocks with a large timber jinker to Sutherland. He unyoked them in a paddock which stretched between President Av. and Flora St..

Ronald McDonald became a famous axeman, competing and wining in all local Show events, and for some years regularly took out the Championship at the Sydney Royal Agricultural Shows, to become Grand Champion Axeman. Alex has the Championship Sash and "Illuminated Certificate" presented to his father. He gave a coloured photograph of this to me, which I have passed on to Fred Midgley to copy and enlarge, and then it will go into our Archives. Alex McDonald himself entered many woodchopping events, but although he won many Championships he never, he said, achieved the status and fame of his father.

-- M. Hutton Neve

From an interview with Mr. Alex. McDonald.

N.B.: In the February 1982 Bulletin Fred Midgley wrote an article re woodchopping, and referred to Ronald McDonald.

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"MEMBERS' NIGHT": Jany. 14. 1983. The Friday meeting in Jan. is always set aside for members to contribute short sessions of from 10 to 15 minutes on any subject of historical interest. Some suggestions:- Aboriginal site, or an old home visited; your favourite hero/heroine; or photographic slides of a trip you have made. We would particularly welcome the attempt by some of our new members.

I would be grateful if you could advise me at the December 10 meeting; or telephone me (524.5095) before Christmas. We would like four or five members to "try a hand" with brief Talks -- these may be read.

M. Taplin,

Hon. Secretary.

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CHRISTMAS SOUVENIR GIFTS.: Our Society-crested spoons for tea, jam and sugar -- are available in presentation boxes from the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. S. Stedman, @ \$1.40 each while present stocks last; there will be a price alteration in the next order: "Friendship" Pins (lapel or tiepins) 50 cents; new Members are advised that the Society's official Membership badge may be obtained @ \$1.40 each, also from the Hon. Treasurer.

Subscriptions for 1983: Adults \$6.00; fulltime school students \$3.

TOWN AND COUNTRY JOURNAL" March 12, 1870.

(To the Editor of the Town and Country Journal.)

Sir,- In your issue of February 26th, your Travelling Reporter describes Mr Campbell's house at Cunningham's Plains to be built of pise or earthwork, and that building in this style can be done for 1s 10d per perch and with a thin stucco front it looks very well.

Now, sir, as I feel much interested in this (to me, new) mode of building, and being ignorant of the manner in which it is done, I shall feel much obliged if you would give me some information on the subject.

I remain, yours respectfully, A SUBSCRIBER.

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The buildings to which our correspondent refers are very common in France and America, and there is really much to be said in their favour, for the walls being non-conductors, are cool in the summer and warm in the winter; while, when stuccoed or lightly cemented, inside and out, they will last for centuries. In point of cost, we believe they are much cheaper than brick buildings, the expense entailed being merely that of erection, for the chief material (clay) is to hand in almost every district. The mode of building varies slightly in different countries; but the following description embraces the main features of every mode:- Clay of suitable quality having been found near the site of the intended building, it is mixed into a stiff mortar, with a suitable quantity of straw, grass, or hair. The foundations - sometimes of rubble stone, but frequently only of mortar itself - may be sunk slightly in the earth or not, and corner posts may be used or dispensed with - we think they are better dispensed with -- the chief thing being to have the mortar of a thoroughly adhesive and hardening nature. To promote the hardening of the material a little lime and gravel would be useful; but where cheapness is the first consideration, these may be dispensed with altogether. The thickness of the intended wall must be according to the height; but

having been decided upon, a frame of strong boards is raised a couple of feet round the foundation, inside and outside, and the mortar is thrown into this frame in as stiff and thoroughly mixed a condition as possible, and well tramped in to the level of the frame. The mortar should then be allowed to harden for some time, while another portion is proceeded with, before a second layer is added. The wooden frame has of course to be shifted and carried up as the work progresses to the height of the destined wall; and care should be exercised in keeping the work "well plumbed". The wood work is placed

as the building proceeds, it being only necessary that the mortar should be thoroughly settled and dried before laying heavy joists, &c, on it. We saw an eight-roomed two-storied house built in this manner in Bathurst, fourteen years ago; and after being plastered inside and out, and "squared" in imitation of stone-work, the walls could not be distinguished from those of any other stuccoed building. In Bathurst all brick buildings generally crack a few months after they are put up, and in some cases the walls have to be rebuilt piece meal after the lapse of seven or eight years; but the building to which we refer is now as sound as the day the house was finished - not a crack or fissure being discernible in the walls.- (ED. Town and Country Journal.)

-- Ken Matthews

(Cunningham's Plains was near Young NSW: Ed.)

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Photographic Exhibitions: during the past few months the Society's name has been before the public in a number of areas, when Fred Midgley has organised various Exhibitions. Aug. 16, a display at the Marton (Engadine) Public School Fete, concentrating on the Engadine area: Sept. 18-19, Sutherland Uniting Church Spring Fair: Sept. 23 & 25: Engadine Public School's 50th anniversary: Sept. 27 to Oct, 9r Myers, Miranda: Oct. 16, Como West Public School Fete: Oct, 30, Save the Children Fund, Sutherland Civic Centre: and yet to come, an Exhibition on Nov. 6 at the Engadine District Show.

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Christmas/New Year Greetings: The Convener and members of the Publications sub-committee wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

As announced in each issue of the Bulletin (usually on the inside back page) "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 it is hand-written, please print names in CAPITAL LETTERS".

The Objects of the Bulletin are (1) to encourage research into Local History (2) to record personal memoirs of our early days (3) to publish historical articles of general or special interest to members.

There are certain "rules" to be followed: handwritten material should be neat and legible; all dates must be correct -always check if you are not sure; proper names (i.e. the surname and the Christian name -- or at least initials )where possible, should be given.

It is of little interest to write: "I remember Mr. Smith's shop in Cronulla 30 or 40 years ago". What was his Christian name? What type of shop had he, and in what street? Be more specific than "About 30 or 40 years ago".

Personal reminiscences of bygone days are always of value - e.g., Mick Derrey's contributions are an excellent example of the personal touch. Research articles should always indicate the chief sources from which the basic information is taken -- Fred Midgley's articles (and mine) always quote our sources.

Settlement in our pre-Shire did not begin until the 1860s, if one excludes the farms of James Birnie 1815) and John Connell jun.. { 1821). In practical terms, there was not any organised settlement until the mid-1870s, and then there were mainly fishermen and timbercutters: but from 1880 scattered settlement began; and thus, there has been a century of pioneer settlement -- enough to provide a wealth of historical record.... But, it needs to be discovered. Some of this would be extremely difficult for the inexperienced; but from about 1910 there is a good deal of information in the combined Council-Society Archives which may be gleaned simply by reading through the various filed material. Mrs. Pam Garland, our Archives Officer, can give valuable guidance: but, quote your sources..

Talk to elderly residents about their childhood days --the patriotic songs sung at school; "saluting the flag"; and celebrations for "Arbor" or "Wattle Day". Ask who were the early shopkeepers; describe family entertainment, and picnics

to the beaches or the National Park.

We are a local historical Society, and therefore o u r main purpose should be to record local history.

Members should appreciate that as a trained professional journalist and experienced magazine editor I have the absolute and inalienable right (as has any other editor) to reject unsuitable material, amend incorrect statements, punctuation and spelling etc. -- this is all part of normal professional editing. The editor alone is responsible for all material published; about the only time a publisher (in the case of the Bulletin, the Society) may be held jointly liable with an editor is when libel is published.

If you would add your telephone number to your contribution, I could then check with you if any glaring error occurs.

I have indirectly heard that one or two members have been disappointed when their contribution has not been published, but no one has ever approached me, the Editor, to ask "What went wrong?"

M. Hutton Neve,

Bulletin Editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

George Bass was born on Jan. 30. 1771, in the small Lincoln-shire village of Aswarby, the only child of a tenant farmer. At 13 years of age he was apprenticed to the local surgeon-apothecary, qualifying at 18 years. He then joined the Royal Navy as a "surgeon's mate". His subsequent voyage to N.S.W. in 1794 and his varied associations (together with Matthew Flinders and the boy William Martin) are too well known t o repeat. What is less known is that Bass also undertook several land excursions; he was one of a party who found the 1st Fleet's lost cattle at the "Cowpastures"; discovered some good grazing land near Prospect Hill; crossed on foot from the Cowpastures to Wattamolla; and attempted to cross t h e Blue Mountains, using scaling irons and ropes to tackle the immense precipices, but his party were defeated by hunger, thirst and exhaustion.

M.H.N.

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Jan. 22. 1901: Queen Victoria died in the 64th year of her reign, aged 83. Until her death, her birthday was celebrated as "Victoria Day", when it became known as "Empire Day"; and after the formation of the "British Commonwealth", on April. 4 1958, May 24th -- the Queen's birthday -- became "Commonwealth Day".

M.H.N.

Royal Australian Historical Society Annual Conference Oct. 8-9. 1982

Mr. Basil Griffin: and I were the two Delegates elected to attend this year's Conference. There were approximately 100 Delegates present, representing about sixty Societies -- some sent just the one Delegate.

After an informal "Get to know each other" social gathering on the Friday evening, the Conference itself got down to hard work at 9.0 on the Saturday morning.

The overall subject was somewhat more "technical" than in previous years, discussion centring around the various types of Archives and Archival locations, both in Sydney and Canberra.

Mr. Russell Doust, State Librarian of N.S.W., dealt with the different Archives of the State Library and their detailed values to the researcher.

Mr. Michael Saclier, Archivist of the Australian National University of Canberra, went into some detail relating to the Records of Companies & Pastoral Stations held by the Archives of Business & Labour at the A.N.U.. This was of particular interest to several of the country Delegates interested in specific history in their own localities. Mr. John Cross, Principal Archivist of the Archives Office of N.S.W., explained the workings of his Department and the types of material held there. (This was the dinnertime Address).

A morning lecture of much interest was that given by Mrs. Margaret Betteridge, Curator of the Mint & Barracks Museum, this being illustrated by a number of slides showing the varied restoration work. On Sunday morning we were privileged to inspect the excellent restoration work being carried out in the old Mint Building -- part of the original "Rum" Hospital -- and to admire some of the lovely pieces of varied antique furnishings now being prepared for later exhibition. We were all the more privileged to visit this building, because it will not be ready for public inspection for some weeks yet. The old Macquarie Barracks will take longer

In the early afternoon Delegates were taken on another private tour, this time of the State Library, the Dixon and Mitchell Libraries and Galleries, together with the famous "Shakespeare Room" which, unfortunately, it, not open to the general public. Here are large and varied collections of Shakespeare's works, in varied languages, many of the collection being both valuable and unique. This was arranged by Mrs. Betty Goodyear (Bankstown Historical Society) of the Mitchell staff.

-- M. Hutton Neve



## EXCURSION REPORT

MURWILLUMBAH TOUR was a very successful one and the party of sixteen members was very well received everywhere. The Shire President, Clr. Yvonne Rowse met' us and we were given V.I.P. treatment. The President and Hon. Secretary of Murwillumbah & District Historical Society came to dinner on the Tuesday evening and gave us an enormous amount of facts about the District.

SPRINGWOOD & DISTRICTS Tour on September 25 was most enjoyable and the lion. Secretary Mr. J.A. Maddock was a very informed guide for us. With all the times most of our party have "travelled on the mountains", I don't think anyone had seen all the places to which we were taken.

KANGAROO VALLEY - November 27,; only a waiting list now, but if you haven't yet made a booking, please add your name to the list. If we receive cancellations, they are offered strictly in the order placed on the list -- and we have almost always been able to accommodate everyone waiting.

Tickets will be \$7.50 for members, \$8.50 for visitors -- coach leaving Cronulla 8a.m., Sutherland 8.30 a.m., and returning about 6 p.m.

WEEK-END TOUR 1983: March 4, 5, 6: Leaving Cronulla Friday evening March 4, 6 p.m., Sutherland 6.30 p.m, returning Sunday approximately 8pm to 8.30 p.m. \$85.00 each, which includes Accommodation, Meals and Coach Travel -- fully inclusive.

A member of Clyde River and Bateman's Bay Historical Society will be our guide on Saturday -- and we are planning to Make a stop on the way home on Sunday for another tour then.

An early indication that you may travel with us would be very much appreciated to assist us with arrangements.

For Excursion BOOKINGS please contact Mrs. A. Cutbush 523-8147; for any other information about tours, Mrs. Cutbush, Mrs. Gumbleton (524-1660) or myself at 523-5801.

-- Aileen Griffiths,

Convener.

ADDRESSES

November 12: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Michael Lorimer:

MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA (illus.)

December 10: Christmas Meeting: HISTORICAL FILMS

January 7, 1983: ",MEMBERS' NIGHT";'

Informal Addresses (10 to 15 mins.) (with or without slides)

Please advise the Hon. Sec., Mrs. M. Taplin (524.5095), if you would be willing to contribute to this evening. Please notify Mrs. Taplin in Dec. -- but not later than Dec. 17.

February 11: Mr. Bernard Sargeant:

INDEXING OF NEWSPAPERS AND COUNCIL RECORDS

March 11: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members must be financial for 1983 before the commencement of the A.G.M.

Please bring your 1983 Membership Card with you.

No Visitors.

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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. Copy for the February 1983 issue must be in the hands of the Editor by Dec. 10 (Friday, owing to the Christmas/New Year holidays).

Bulletin copies are supplied to, all Branches of the Shire Library, the Shire President, Shire Clerk, and 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 Canberra in accordance with the International Standard Serial Numbering; this automatically includes copyright. the Society's registered no. appears on all our publications -- ISSN 0586-0261

Publications of Local History are usually on sale at the monthly meetings, 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 c.

History of Woronora Cemetery & Pioneers: M.H. Neve: \$2.50

To be published in the New Year: The Early History of Kurnell to Cronulla: (illus.): M. Hutton Neve.

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 St. Sutherland (2nd floor). Members' visitors and intending members are welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

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