

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



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## PRESIDENTS NOTES

The March General Meeting and Election of Officers was well attended as usual. Owing to the absence of a Treasurer, members were not provided with a financial statement until the night of the meeting. I am personally grateful to Mrs. Griffiths, and the Hon. Auditor, Mrs. Becker, for their efforts in preparing the desired statement in time for the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a presentation of slides on Nepal by Mr. Andrew Platfoot.

Congratulations and welcome are due to newly elected members of the executive - Mrs. E. Shepherd and Mr. A. Platfoot. Mrs. Neve and

Mrs. Taplin did not stand for election, and owing to his unpredictable absences on business, Mr. Graham Brown declined re-election. I am grateful for the work done for the Society by these members, and hope they will continue their support of the Society. Ken Mathews was absent for the meeting. A vacancy on the committee exists and he will be invited to become a member, having been nominated by the members.

As I write these notes some enthusiastic members are providing supervision at the display of historical artefacts, photographs, and furniture at the Civic Centre, Sutherland, organised by Fred Midgley in co-operation with the Sutherland Shire Council. The display past forms of the Heritage Week activities. There has been enthusiastic response from the public, numerous elderly residents offering information.

Councillor Michael Addison presided over the Election of Officers and I am grateful to him for carrying out the task. As on previous occasions he provided us with up-to-date news on heritage matters in the Shire. The Shire now has made available as storage space, rooms 'at the front of the old Sutherland School of Arts.

In conclusion, I invite members to contribute to the Quarterly Bulletin. Although the emphasis is on local history, there is always welcome material having historical content or reference on almost any subject, local or remote.

Harold Ivers

### FORANS NURSERY

In the Pictorial of the 13th. of December, 1983, I read with interest the history of Forans Nursery, and of Ralph Hancock, the founder, whom I knew very well from 1918, not as a nursery man, but as a store keeper.

Ralph has no claim of being the first nursery man in the Shire, but he can claim the distinction of being the first orchid grower in the Shire in 1921 on Gwawley Creek long be-fore Sylvania Waters was thought of.

Ralph Hancock can also claim to be the first store keeper in 1918 in what is now the Gymea and Gymea Bay areas, beating Mrs. Rosetta Jarvis by four years. The area at that time was all in the locality of Sutherland to Sylvania road. Ralph

Hancock's store was on the western corner of the Kingsway and Gymea Bay road, and was built in 1918. Mrs. Jarvis' store was built by voluntary labour about 1921 on a block of land which is to-day No. 142, Gymea Bay road. In 1923 she had a small store built at the Bay.

The first nursery in the Shire was Hills and Watts-where there is now Seymour Shaw Park - commenced very early at the turn of the century. The nursery was not as we know them to-day for they specialised mostly in fruit trees, bulbs and flowers. The house and nursery was on an area of five or six acres bounded by Wandella road, The Boulevard and what is now Central Avenue.

The second nursery in the Shire was Tom Milner's in what is now Kirrawee. The area of fifteen acres was cleared by bullocks in 1912. In 1918 he had his home built there, and to-day is 'The Palms' nursing home.

Milner specialised in Palms and fruit trees, especially Cherry trees which he imported from Japan by the thousands.

Orders came from Young and Goulburn. As a fourteen year old I was working there in 1918. My job was to pack the young trees and despatch them to Mr. Goodhew at Young. He is the only customer I can remember.

Mick Derrey

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Sutherland Shire Council received letters from the secretaries of Sutherland Congregational and Methodist churches requesting that the churches be exempt from rates as the buildings were being used only for public worship. Council said the matter would go before the Appeals Court.

St. George Call, 14-9-1907

BY CAR TO KURNELL IN 1927

The love of adventure and spirit of daring has been a tradition of the Australian. The restless desire to accomplish new deeds and the attainment of the seemingly impossible is attempted with little regard for safety and comfort.

The wheels of the motor car had penetrated into areas entirely devoid of roads through areas that seemed impassable, such as sand and swamps. Such natural barriers as this had isolated Kurnell except perhaps to a person on foot, or a horse drawn conveyance.

The distance to Kurnell from Cronulla was not great, but it had a formidable barrier between. A group of local men saw the challenge and decided to drive a car through, for fun. It was driven by Bert Saint, and is said to be the first motor car to succeed, the historic event occurring on July 21st, 1927.

With Bert was Clr. Arthur Hand who had a timber yard in Cronulla, and as a Sutherland Shire Councillor thought it a good idea to get to Kurnell and would no doubt impress the constituents there. Others were L.J. Spinks, a Cronulla newsagent, Bert's father Harry, Charlie Morgan, and E. (Ted) Wells a local signwriter

They had planned to leave the old Cronulla Golf Club house at 8,30, but Arthur Hand had arranged for a reporter from the Sydney Daily Telegraph to accompany the party. After waiting for almost an hour they set out on the journey that was to take all day - without the reporter.

Charlie Morgan drove his Jewett car about a mile with the Ford to Bill Judd's oyster shed (near the vicinity of to-days Cronulla High School) where it was left. Judd had an oyster lease at the head of Woollooware Bay. Beards or planks ten foot long carried on the side of the Jewett were transferred to the Ford. Rope was also carried.



Most of the body work of the Ford had been stripped, the mudguards had been removed, the windscreen, and even the headlights. A spare tyre was carried.

Immediately behind the oyster shed the sand hills commenced. As no one else wanted to drive Bert had the advantage in that his companions walked there and back most of the way. Their job was to assist in the progress of the car.

As the Ford progressed across the sand members of the crew put planks under the wheels. Bert would then rev up the Ford and the momentum sometimes carried him 20 feet over the sand before traction became impossible and the procedure would be repeated. The narrow 30x3½ inch tyres were not inductive to travelling in the sand for just after they started the ropes were tied around the rear wheels and between the wooden spokes. This added greatly to the traction.

So the hard work of putting planks under the wheels continued until they came to a swampy area, near the vicinity of to-days Caltex Refinery. It meant a drive through the tidal waters of Quibray Bay. Here the ropes around the rear wheels served just as well as in the sand. With Spinks on board and three others watching, Bert plunged into the swamp, the other member of the party having proceeded the Ford to take a photograph with the Brownie as the car ploughed towards him. Spinks covered his head and shoulders with a Goat to protect himself from the spray of water and mud thrown up by the churning wheels. Just after clearing the swamp Bert was driving through sand and bracken fern when he hit a stump and bent the front axle.

They arrived at Kurnell about mid-day and were welcomed by Messrs. Coats, Butterworth, Cox the postmaster and James headmaster of the Kurnell school. Mr. James brought the children of the school along to see the adventurers. This was something to be remembered to see the men and the first car to be driven on an epic journey to Kurnell. One small boy wasn't impressed however, and re-marked, "It's only a Ford". For that type of quip the teacher boxed his ears.



Photographs were taken at the Cook memorial, and under the famous Norfolk pines with the group and car near the caretakers cottage.

The same ordeal began all over again on the return journey. On one occasion Bert charged the car at a sand hill, but rather than ascend the car ploughed into it and buried its nose.

Sources: Interview with Mr, Bert Saint, January, 1984. ---Fred Midgley

## CORNISH COLONIALS

During the eighteenth century migration from different countries occurred. Many of these brought about a great change in our style of life and cuisine, adding spice and variation to our diet. In the next issues I will attempt to give you a little of the life style and recipes of these early settlers. Of course we must remember that a lot of food was short here, so some had to be changed or forgotten. Fortunately some stayed with us. Let's look at the Cornish people.

In 1845 and 1846 the Cornish potato crop was destroyed by blight, consequently the poverty was very bad and this promoted migration. From the picturesque Celtic land called Cornwall in the 1840's and 1850's the Cornish miners and their families emigrated to Australia, bringing with them not only their knowledge of mining, also unique customs, music, dialect and even a smattering of Kernewek the Cornish language.

A lot of them came to the dry undulating country of Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. Copper was just mined there in 1860. Others came to the gold fields of New South Wales to seek their fortune. My own Great Grandparents being some of these on the Sofala gold fields. Most Australians whose heritage goes back to the last century will find they have a Cornish background, somewhere in the family tree. Cornish customs, sayings, and superstitions were maintained.

'Jack O Lanterns' were said to move across the paddocks at night indicating the positions of ore bodies. Naughty children in the mining towns of Moonta, Wallaroo and Kadina in South Australia (many of whom had never set foot on Cornish soil) would be chastised with the threat that they would be sent to Bodmin. (Bodmin Gaol in Cornwall). New born babies' gums would be rubbed with brandy, supposedly a legacy of Cornwall's smuggling days to ensure it would never die of hanging. Their sport was wrestling and entertainment was provided by wrestling bouts, staged in Adelaide. Even as late as the turn of the last century in Broken Hill they staged bouts. "Cousin Jacks" went to the Barrier silver and lead fields in search of work. After the discovery of Wallaroo and Moonta mines in South Australia, the population was so great it was destined to be known as "Little Cornwall". They were a very religious people being mainly "The Bible Christians" (a denomination with its roots firmly embedded in Cornwall) the Primitive Methodist and the Wesleyans were all in "Little Cornwall".

Housewives who came here continued to prepare the traditional Cornish foods. Of course we all know our famous Cornish Pasties. Other foods were Saffron Cake, Heavy Cake, Cream Splits, Potato Pudding, and many others. Raw Fry is a dish that has been handed down to me by my Cornish ancestors. It's a mixture of sliced onions and Potatoes (sliced too) and lightly fried in a large pan. Bacon is added (meat if you have any).

Salt and Pepper to taste, add flour and a little stock to make a gravy. Allow to stew slowly with a lid on till tender. Cornish housewives left it on the hob while they went to church on Sundays.

A Split is a yeast bun which is split open and served with jam and cream.

### Cornish Pasties

12oz chuck or blade steak  
4oz raw potato, peeled and diced  
1 small onion, chopped  
Salt and pepper  
12oz shortcrust pastry made with 12oz flour etc.

Method: Cut the steak into small pieces, add potato and onion and season well. Divide pastry into four and roll each piece into a round 8 inches. Divide meat mixture between rounds, dampen edges and draw together to form a seam over the top and flute edges with finger. Bake in a hot oven 425F 15 mins. to brown then reduce heat to moderate 325F and cook for further hour.

### Sweet Potato Pudding

cup butter or margarine 3/4 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/2 teas. Pumpkin Pie spice 1/4 teas. salt  
1 1/2 cups milk (use some cream for flavour)  
2½ cups raw sweet potatoes

Method: Cream butter and sugar, add eggs, pumpkin pie spice, salt and milk. Fold in grated sweet potatoes. Pour into a shallow 2 quart baking dish, bake 400F for 1 hour. Take straight from oven to table. Serve with roast port, ham or chicken.

Method:

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add saffron which has been finely crushed. Add eggs and vanilla stir well. Sift flour, salt and baking powder and add alternatively with milk. Pour batter into two greased and floured 8 inch pans. Bake at 375F over 25 minutes. Remove from pans and when cool frost with lemon frosting.

### Saffron Cake

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
1 cup sugar  
8 pieces saffron  
2 eggs  
1 teas. vanilla  
2 1/2 cups sifted cake flour 1/4 teas. salt  
1 tabsp. baking powder (Level) 1 cup milk

Source: Pictorial History of Australia's Little Cornwall Spices of the World  
Cooking Mrs. Beetons Cookery

## MIRANDA SCHOOL OF ARTS 1904

On Saturday afternoon, December 3rd the foundation-stone of the Miranda School of Arts was laid by the State Premier at a point where five roads junction midway between Sutherland and Cronulla. The locality is picturesque." The residents, who have displayed commendable interest in the institution, quietly but enthusiastically celebrated the event. A line of flags were raised at the junction of the roads. The thoroughfares, which are largely used by tourists, lead to Cronulla, Yowie and Kogarah bays, the National Park, Como, and other favourite resorts. At Miranda there are dairy and poultry farms and orchards. For over six years a room at the Congregational Church, a corrugated iron structure, has been used for the purposes of an institute, from which since it was opened in 1898, books have been lent and the membership is 80. The society has Mr. E. Thacker for its president, Mr. T. B. Mowle secretary, Mr. E. J. Corbett treasurer, Mr. H. Luxton librarian. Now the self-reliant supporters of the institute are constructing a building some 14ft in length. The stone blocks for the foundation and other material have been carted free to the site, which also had to be cleared. A ground lease has been secured, and the building will be used for concerts and meetings. A stage will be erected, and with the future in view the plans prepared by Mr. E. Daniells will allow for extensions. So much help has been given that the premises will cost only £80. Half that sum will be given by the Government, and the remainder has been raised, £20 having been placed on the corner-stone.

The ladies have given much resistance, and in addition to giving money a committee hospitably entertained their friends and visitors after the stone had been declared well and truly laid by the Premier, who referred to the benefits of the institute, aid speeches were also delivered by Mr. Johnson, M.P., and Mr. Downes, M.L.A., (members of the district). Among the others present were the Rev. H. Dunlop (Anglican.) and the Rev. W. Marsh (Congregational) the only denominations which have places of worship at Miranda.

A dais was erected over the site of the institute. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thacker, and there was a large attendance, a number of residents of various surrounding localities being present. Mr. Mowle presented an address of welcome to the Premier. Reference was made in the address to the services rendered by Mr. Carruthers to education.



The Premier, eschewing politics referred to his old associations with the district. He said the grant for which the first road over which he had travelled that day had been obtained by him before he became a member of Parliament.



His first journey to the district had been a hazardous one, and after the vehicle had capsized several times on returning he came to the conclusion that a road was needed, and they got it shortly afterwards.

There were very few inhabitants in those days. Close by was what was known as the "Old Farm" or "Lucerne Paddock", the lessees of which used to order off trespassers, who also has a vision of a gun. Mr. F. S. Ellis Holt, Mr. William Simpson (whom he was glad to see present), and Mr. Murphy, the then manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate, were in the early days associated with the district.

Among the lady workers were Mesdames Thacker, Mowle, Roberts, Elliott, Clark, Carr, Mortlock, Wilkinson, Wilkinson, and the Misses Howe and Hammond.

Sources Sydney Morning Herald, December 5, 1904.

George Heavens

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Dr. Rooke, the first resident doctor in Sutherland commenced his practice in East Parade, in September 1906. An elderly well built man, he was favourably recommended with a lifetime of experience.. He employed a man whose duties included harnessing up the horse and sulky and driving the doctor to visit his patients. A woman was employed "in service" in the home duties being to clean the house and cook in addition to assist the doctor when required One of these women was Miss Lily Dawson (Mrs Midgley) who lived in for six months prior to her marriage ix October 1909. She had only one day off a month.

Dr. Rooke after complained of patients not paying their bills which eventually led to his departure. He had a son, also a Doctor.

The house still stands in East Parade and was occupied by Sutherland's second chemist, Mr. Marsden.

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May 27/1917

The North Coast Steam Navigation Company announced an ocean excursion to Cronulla on. Saturday May 27, 1917, with their steamer "Orara". The excursion would embrace on the round trip over 30 miles of coastal views, coastal scenery views ex route of Bondi, Coogee, Long Bay and other water-side resorts. At the southern end of the Cronulla Peninsular opportunity will be afforded to view the proposed site for the ocean wharf which when constructed would open up many beautiful pleasure spots in Port Hacking and National Park, The Orara would leave from the company's wharf at Sussex Street at 2 p.m. sharp and return at 6.30 p.m.

### JOHN ANTILL AND HIS CORROBOREE

On Sunday April, 10-1984 John Antill was 80.

But we must not forget it was through John Antill, almost 40 years ago, that Australian composers received a vicarious share of international recognition, and though the glory that came with it remained, as far as Antill was concerned, an isolated phenomenon, it must be accorded that status of a cultural landmark in two fields - the maturity of Australian composition, and the recognition of Aboriginal artistic expression. For the first time, a major work of serious music brought these two together.

We are referring of course, to Corroboree, the ballet score which first came to notice when Sir Eugene Goossens performed an orchestral suite from it in 1946, to be eventually followed by the complete ballet, spectacularly staged in 1950.

Here was Australia's answer, delayed by nearly four decades of isolation from what was going on in contemporary music, to Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. This was a Rite Of Aboriginal Dreamtime, translated into Western musical methods but still finding prominent roles for the didgeridoo and the bull-roarer in the orchestra as the stage teemed with the Thippa Thippa and Bellbird People, with the Frog, Kangaroo, Lace Lizard, Cockatoo, Honey Ant, Wild Cat and Fly Totems, Boomerangs, spears and fire-sticks abounded.



Nothing which John Antill wrote afterwards made quite the same impact.

Yet some of it belongs to what you might call the late sunset of Australian romanticism, seen as some corner of a foreign field that is forever England. It deserves protection and occasional hearing. For instance, there is the Overture for A Momentous Occasion (1957) a suite for strings The Unknown Land (1968), a Harmonica Concerto (1967), Five Songs of Happiness From The Psalms for high voice, oboe and piano, the opera Endymion, and the oratorio Song Of Hager.

Not all of John Antill's music is readily accessible. Not enough of it has been recorded. Anyone needing an impetus towards rectifying this situation should find it in the 80th birthday of an honoured Australian who was, in turn, a chorister at St Andrew's Cathedral, a Conservatorium student under Alfred Hill, a pillar of the ABC's music staff, and ultimately one of our most respected composers.

Fortunately we will hear some of his music later this year. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra plays a suite from Corroboree on July 31, and other works will appear at the Conservatorium and in St Andrew's Cathedral.

Sydney Morning Herald, April 6, 1984

Aileen Griffiths

### EARLY GYMEA LAND SPECULATORS

The first one that comes to mind is Tom Hutcherson. He took up a selection of two and a half acres of Holt Sutherland land on what was to become the corner of Gymea Bay road and Forest road, in 1914. Tom Hutcherson cleared the scrub and built a two roomed weatherboard shack, mostly of second hand timber. His off-sider was Jack Macey. Tom also built a few bag fowl houses on the land, bought some fowls from the market, then put the place up for sale.

The purchasers were Mr. and Mrs. George Freeman and their seven year old daughter, Connie, on July 16th, 1914. I married Connie in 1929, and she has been my wife for fifty four years.

The second man to speculate in land for subdivision in the Gymea - Gymea Bay area was Mr. Warburton who was the second station master appointed to Sutherland.

The area selected was the eastern side of Talara road from the Kingsway to President Avenue, and the area of land from Gymea Post Office to Talara road. Hence you have Warburton street.

When Mr. Warburton retired from the Railway about 1915, he formed a partnership with Mr. Arthur Cooper, a Sutherland Shire Councillor from January, 1914, to December, 1916. They took up an area of land at Gymea Bay for subdivision in 1916. This was the first subdivision in Gymea Bay.



A part combination of the partners names resulted in War-coo Avenue. Hence Coopernook Avenue and Vernon Avenue, Vernon being the name of Mr. Cooper's son.

Coopers lived in a large brick home on the corner of Belmont street and the Princes Highway on the opposite corner to the now Uniting Church, Sutherland.

---Mick Derrey

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SAMUEL WILLIAM GRAY

Samuel William Gray owned 572 acres around the time Thomas Holt was adding to his already extensive land holdings in the pre-Sutherland Shire.

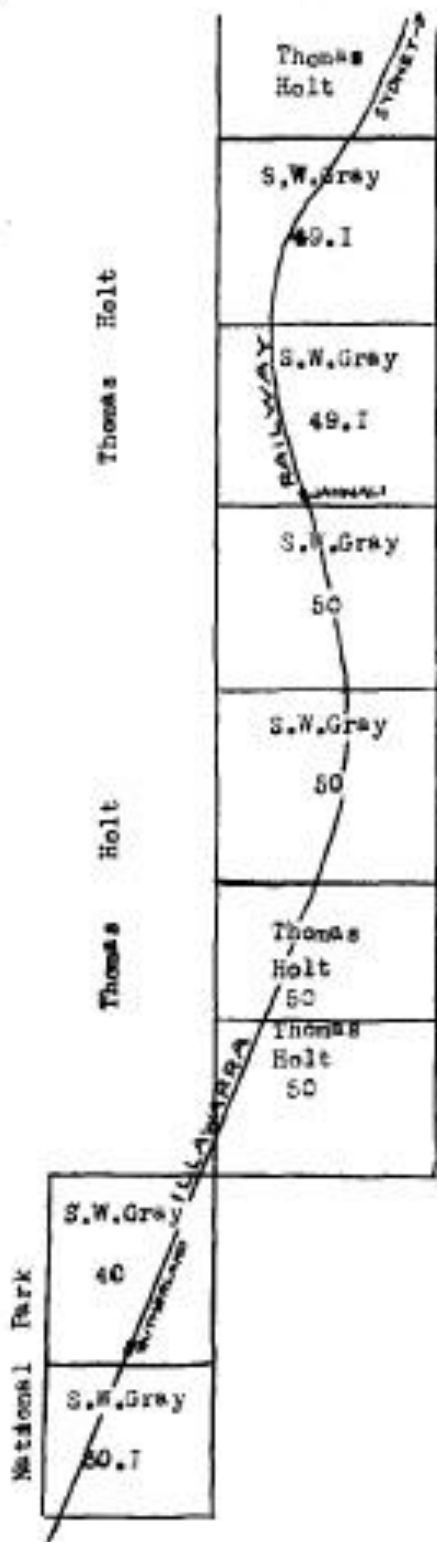
When the Illawarra railway was surveyed and the line put through in 1884 it divided Gray's land as it traversed two grants of 49 acres and two of 50 acres. From the Georges River to Gray's land the line passed through Thomas Holt's land and on nearing Sutherland through another 96 acres. The line then bisected another 70 acres of Gray's which would soon be laid out as the town-ship of Sutherland.

On April 29th, 1864, the 70 acres of Crown lands was advertised for sale in lots of 30 and 40 acres by auction at Parramatta on May 31st.

But the land failed to attract sufficient bidders. However, shortly after that date Samuel William Gray a of Kiama applied to purchase 30 acres, one road, this being granted on a payment of 30 pounds and five shillings. On the same day Gray purchased the 40 acres at one pound an acre.

In 1886 the Intercolonial Investment and Land Company bought the 70 acres and laid out the township. It was bordered on the western side by the National Park, and on the eastern side by Thomas Holt's grants. It was a giant step for a company to subdivide into 286 building blocks and lay out the streets.

Gray's purpose in taking up the land seems to be as a speculator, and it is interesting to note that documents dealing with Gray's transactions Sutherland is spelt Southerland, and in one document the 'o' has been struck out.



Samuel William Gray applied for the 67 acres at Woronora River (east bank), between E.P.Laycock's 30 acres and Joshua Thorpe's 30 acres which had as one boundary Heathcote Creek, now Forbes Creek. A strip of Gray's land ran along the back of Thorpe's grant, it having the creek also as a boundary. Gray paid one pound an acre for the land. John Connell had 50 acres joining that of E.P.Laycock.

By 1887 Samuel Gray's wife Mary, was a widow and was residing in Sydney. Mary, with Joshua Bray a police magistrate of Kynumloon, and Edward Bowyer-Smyth of Albury, an engineer then became the registered owners of the land which was entered at the Registrar General's Department, on December 12, 1889. On December 8th, 1909, the land was transferred to Henry Ferdinand Halloran, a Sydney surveyor who divided it into lots for sale.

Gray also had another three grants of 44, 45 and 43 acres, the National Park forming the western and three - part of the southern boundary, Saville creek running through each of the grants. There was also another grant of 55 acres on the eastern side of Dent's Creek. which acted as a boundary. Here Saville creek joined Dent's creek. This land was surrounded by Thomas Holt's grants.

Another 50 acres was granted to Samuel Gray running on to the point in Port Hacking. This is now Gray's Point.

The 50 acres and the other grants were all purchased on -May 31st, 1864 for a pound an acre.

Source; Lands Department maps, Registrar General.

Fred Midgley

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Sutherland Shire President E.W.Hyndman was born at Brighton, New Zealand, in 1871. He came to Australia and secured large interests in mining, securing these in gold mining dredges in New Zealand and Victoria. In -1903 he took up an attractive homestead at Miranda. In 1912 he was Chairman of the Poultry Farmers Co-Operative Society, the President of the Miranda School of Arts, and was active in the Progress Association.

St. George Call,16-3-1912

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ESTATE OF JOHN ATKINSON, DECD. June 5th, 1917.

34 Richmount St, Cronulla 2233

I beg to advise having inspected the following properties for the purpose of Valuation.

1. All that parcel of land with a frontage to Nicholson Parade, Cronulla Parish of Sutherland, County of Cumberland, of 470 links and a depth on the one side bounded by Richmount Street of 194 and on the other side of 294 links with a back line of 426 links, being all that land comprised in Certificate of Title dated 12th June 1907, Reg. Vol. 1783, Folio 222, Order No. 16743. Residue after Transfer No. 345858. The property is fenced and cleared. Built thereon is a weatherboard house with iron roof, containing 10 rooms with detached room built of bricks with iron roof. The property is favourably situated and buildings are in fair order.

I estimate the present market value of the property to be £949.

2. All that parcel of land having a frontage to Illawarra Road, Heathcote containing 2 ac. 3 rds. 2p. being Portion 439, Parish of Heathcote, County of Cumberland. The land is elevated and has good frontage to Main South Coast Road. It is unimproved.

I estimate the present market value to be £35.

3. All that parcel of Land with a frontage to Parraweena Road, Parish of Sutherland, County of Cumberland, having an area of 10 acres, a little more or less, being portion 20 of the Holt Sutherland Estate contained in Deposit Plan 6359. The land is level and partly cleared of timber, and is fenced. It is held as a Leasehold from the Holt Sutherland Estate Company Ltd. The purchase price being £30 per acre.

I estimate the present market value of the Leasehold right to be £10 per acre = £100.

4. All that parcel of land having a frontage to Parraweena Road, Parish of Sutherland, County of Cumberland, having an area of one acre, more or less, being Portion 24 of the Holt Sutherland Estate, contained in Deposited Plan 6359. The land is level and under cultivation and is fenced.

*Head Office: Cronulla. Branch: Miranda.*  
 Estate of John Atkinson, decd.  
 Cronulla, June 5th, 1917.  
*Valuation by Lince Giddings,*  
*Real Estate Agent and Valuer*

Estate of John Atkinson, decd. June 5th, 1917. (Contd.)

4. I estimate the present market value of the property to be £30.

The above was prepared in connection with the Estate of my grandfather, John Atkinson -- No. 1 was his home on the corner of Richmond Street and Nicholson Parade, being lots 1 and 2 of "Atkinson Estate" in Richmond Street.

No. 2 was land he had purchased at Heathcote, but left unimproved; No. 3 and No. 4 were the areas on which was the Shell Point Dairy, and later acquired from Kreisler and Park Davis factories, etc. in that industrial area of Cawarra Road, Parraweena Road, Atkinson Road etc.

--.Aileen Griffiths.

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### HEATHCOTE

Bottle Forest proper embraced an area of about 200 acres. The earliest record of how Bottle Forest got its peculiar appellation is found on Roderick Mitchell's map and plan of the Old Illawarra Road, compiled in 1843. On his plan of the route of the Old Illawarra Road he names the area Bottle Forest and charts it in the shape of the soldier's mater-bottle in use in those days.

Thomas Holt secured portions of Bottle Forest in the 1860's and left it entailed to his heirs in perpetuity.

From other owners in 1883 Mr. Isaac Harber acquired the freehold of the 50 acres of ground now known as Heathcote Hall Estate. On it he erected the mansion he named Heathcote Hall, and laid it in the form of an English Manor. The South-western corner of his land connected with the newly constructed Heathcote railway station.

Harbor, a Sydney brickmaster got into a financial disaster caused by heavy losses in the building of the Imperial Arcade in Sydney.

Heathcote Hall was put up for a lottery prize by Tattersall's at a value of £7,000, and was won by a Sydney builder Mr. S. Gillett. It was soon passed from his possession early in 1901 to Mr. E. R. Brown, and he lived there for a quarter of a century confounding Sydney's leading physicians who gave Mr. Brown a few short months to live when he retiree there.

Heathcote Station is 626 feet above sea level and about 22 miles from Sydney.

### HERITAGE WEEK DISPLAY

"A week of Discovery" was the theme adopted for Heritage Week 1984. For many of the older members of the community who came to the Display in the Sutherland Entertainment Centre it was a time to relive old memories, and for the school children it was truly a time of discovery.

The Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Sutherland Shire Council from April 8 to April 15. There was a large display of Shire photographs; a special feature on Engadine; a display by the Shire Council Library; numerous items once seen in every-day use in the kitchen, dairy, laundry, and in times of leisure. There was tools and clothing, and an arrangement of fine Victorian furniture from the Antique Shop at Kogarah.

Project sheets with drawings explained fifteen objects displayed on the tables, adding interest to the children. Talks to the classes were not planned, but there were several Question and Answer times prior to a class leaving the Exhibition.

A special feature of the Exhibition was centred on Sir Thomas Mitchell Surveyor General of the Colony from 1827-1854

A booklet written by a member of the Historical Society and produced by the Sutherland Shire Council to mark Heritage week was well received, and sold for 50 cents. Posters of the Como Hotel also sold readily for 30 cents.

Attendances were not as high as last year, due possibly to wet weather and the Royal Easter Show. Records show that 1075 children from Year 3 to Year, 9 from 15 schools attended the Exhibition over the five week days. Largest number of pupils, 290, attended on Monday, 9th. Total attendances were! School children - 1075, Adults including teachers = 868 . Children with parents = 160. Total number of visitors 2103.

I express my appreciation to Clr. Michael Addison and the Departments of the Shire Council and the staff for their co-operation in making the event such a success in so many ways, including the management and staff of the Entertainment Centre.

I also thank the members of the Historical Society who assisted in either arranging or manning the Exhibition, and those who loaned items for display.

The Society is grateful for publicity in the local press which was very good, and Council's Public Relations Dept. for promoting it.

This year the Sutherland Shire Council offered group and individual awards to schools on local history. Laguna street public school at Caringbah almost made a clean sweep of the competition. They won first prizes in the groups as well as individual prizes. Two other individual winners were from the Star of the Sea Convent school at Miranda. The awards were presented at the Exhibition by Clr. Michael Addison.

Fred Midgley,  
Exhibitions Convenor



### A GRADE TEAM, 1913

Having received a copy of our local Pictorial I noticed a photo of a football team with the heading "What was their record". My reason in writing is to say they never had a record.

The team was the first and only team in the Shire, an A grade team that never played one match south of the Georges River.



The reason was not having an area cleared large enough to play on, so all their games were played from Mortdale to Arncliffe.

The team had problems. All matches were played on Saturday afternoons, and after playing Mortdale there was not enough to fill the injured list to play the following Saturday.

I was 9 years of age in 1913, and I knew the majority of the players in the team which was form-in the billiard room and hairdressing salon in the Royal Hotel, Sutherland. The proprietors at that time were the Skene family.

I noticed in the photo' Wally Skehan was one of the team. The treasurer, Jim Brady, a three quarter cast was the barber and operated the billiard room. Fred "Nigger" Lawton worked on Sutherland Shire Council. Doug Woodward worked on the first Woronora bridge, Frank Bran came from Audley, Harry "Nulls" Bray, Chris Dube a flower grower from opposite the Palms Nursing Home, now in Kirrawee. Jack Hallett a blacksmith in what is now McCubbin's Lane, Les Ewers from Oak road, Wally Lewis elder son of the first policeman in the Shire was secretary, Jack, Tom and Charlie Cadet, "Jinner" Bray, George Beach son of world champion sculler Bill Beach and E. Lloyd was known as Bill Lloyd from Woronora. I think the trainer's name was Bill Henderson,

Thinking back 71 years tests your memory. In conclusion I don't think the team would have their names inscribed in the Hall of Fame for their achievements as footballers.

Mick Derrey

## EXCURSION REPORT

Since the last report we have visited Hunter's Hill on a Day Tour. Being such an old area, and with so many restored homes it was certainly an historian's dream to see.

Also, we were able to travel to Lime Cove to inspect "Carisbrook", that graceful old home, so wonderfully preserved, and giving us a very effective view of early living.

Then came the week-end tour to Dubbo: firstly, our thanks to George and Eileen Heavens for all the assistance they gave us preparing for the trip, and whilst we were in Dubbo, and then to Mrs Rita Cullen for being our guide throughout Saturday. The History in Dubbo has to be seen to fully understand what an historic area it is.

It was our pleasure to have George and Eileen, also Rita and her husband, Arthur, as our dinner guests at Dubbo R.S.L. Club, on Saturday evening.

The next outing is Dangar Island, on Saturday, May 19: if your name is on the waiting list, if a vacancy occurs, you will be advised strictly in order.

At the time of writing enquiries are being made for the July outing, which will be Saturday 21st. tickets will be available at May meeting, with bookings opened on that night. We will visit Burwood - tickets \$4.00 members, \$5.00 visitors - leaving Cronulla 9 a.m. and Sutherland 9.30 a.m. (Payment with booking).

Since the Annual General Meeting, there has been a new Sub-Committee formed. For this year the members are Messrs. D. Archer, A. Hamilton, S. Roberts, Mesdames A. Cutbush and V. Humphries, with myself as Convenor. As previously Mrs. Cutbush will take bookings for the outings, and may be contacted on 523-8147.

The Committee would welcome suggestions of places you may like to be considered for a visit.

Aileen Griffiths,

Convenor

How real does the tiger on "Tiger Tours" coach look? When we were visiting Dubbo and called at one of the selected places of interest a beautiful Dalmatian dog came to greet us with wagging tail and "happy look" - imagine our surprise when the dog suddenly stopped - looked at the coach and began barking. Yes, it was at the tiger and with a little bit of egging on from one of our Committeemen, the dog was convinced it was another dog (out) but it didn't move. It was necessary to see the dog keep having another look to see if it had gone, to really believe this could happen - when the coach moved to the parking area the dog left it:

COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Deputy President:	Mrs. A. Griffiths
Vice Presidents:	Mr. F. Midgley, Mr. D. Archer
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<u>President:</u>	<u>Hon. Secretary:</u>	<u>Publications:</u>
Mr. H. Ivers, 6 Raymond Place, Engadine. 2233 "Ph. 520 6324 (After 4.30 pm)	Mr. A. Platfoot 38 Moira Street, Sutherland 2232 Ph. 542 3386	Mr. F. Midgley 6 Koorong Place Bangor 2234 Ph. 543 1724

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Publications Committee: Mr. F. Midgley, Convenor; Mr .H. Ivers, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. A. Ivers, Mrs. A. Cutbush, Mrs. A. Griffiths.

Exhibitions Convenor: F. Midgley. Committee to be formed.

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A booklet about Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of the Colony from 1827 to 1855, has been produced by Sutherland Shire Council and written by F. Midgley. It deals mostly with the construction of the Old Illawarra Road through what is now Menai, the Pass of Sabugal, and on to Engadine. It is available at the monthly general meetings of the Society for 50 cents.

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin Copies are supplied to all Branches of the Shire Library; to the Shire President, Shire Clerk and all Councillors; also to the Royal Australian Historical Society and the National Trust (NSW).

The Society, is affiliated with the R.A.H.S., the National Trust (NSW) and the Genealogical Society.

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Bulletin Extracts: editorial material may be reprinted in

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Contributions: members are invited to submit material for the Bulletin; this need not necessarily be confined to local history, but this is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please state source: material still in copyright (the date will indicate this) can not be re-written without the author's consent. If hand-written, Please print names in CAPITAL LETTERS, Contributions for the August issue must be in the hands of the Convenor no later than July 14.

Publications of Local History are usually on sale at each monthly meeting; proceeds are paid to the Society.

Monthly Meetings of the Society are held on the 2nd Friday

at 8.0 p.m. in the Recreation Staff Room of the Council's Administrative Centre, Eton St. Sutherland (2nd floor).

Visitors are welcome.

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

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