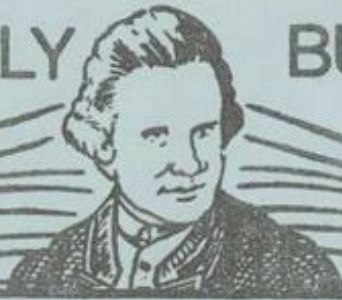


# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



No. 55

February 1986

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### CONTENTS

THE PRESIDENT WRITES	H.Ivers
STREET NAMES IN EARLY SUTHERLAND	F.Midgley
TWO PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT	F.M.
DAYS IN THE DEPRESSION	G.Heavens
SIR FRANK BEAUREPAIRE	F.M.
SUTHERLAND BAPTIST CHURCH	F.M.
"TWO-PENCE"	F.Midgley
FIRST MIRANDA SCHOOL OF ARTS	F.A.M.
PETTY'S HOTEL	F.Midgley
REPORT OF R.A.H.S. CONFERENCE	G.Heavens
CRONULLA'S FIRE BRIGADE	F.Midgley
AEROPLANES AND BUSES	F.Midgley
INSPECTOR W. HINSON	F.Midgley
CONSTITUTION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
A BAD TOOTH	G. Heavens
FLYING ALONG WORONORA VALLEY	F.Midgley
EXCURSION REPORT	A. Griffiths
A LOCAL DENTIST	F.Midgley
ILLUSTRATIONS	F. Midgley

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THE PRESIDENT WRITES

This Bulletin brings us once again to the end of an administrative year, which ends in March with the election of officers for 1986. 1935 has been full of interest, and I am happy to note that applications for membership still come in.

Members are reminded that contributions to the Bulletin are always welcome, as are suggestions for day and week-end tours and speakers for evening meetings.

Members should also remember to be careful when emptying out old cabinets and boxes or when they hear of someone who is. Every now and then we are lucky, and receive a call from someone who has found photographs, cards, or newspapers which are made available to the Society for copying or for permanent possession. These old records are priceless, and particularly when a private collection cannot be replaced. The Society is always delighted to receive records of this kind, and due recognition is made of any-thing given.

In the meantime, the Sutherland Shire Council is pressing on with the portion of the School of Arts which will become a storage and display area for some of the Society's relics. This is a long job, which engages a portion of the Council's labour resources. We are advised that all is going well, and of course, we will be looking for eager hands in the time to come when our turn comes to occupy the space provided. Forthcoming Heritage Week will give members an opportunity to support the Society in this way.

---Harold Ivers

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MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

November 8: Fred Midgley; Address on - SUTHERLAND

December 13: Dr. John Antill O.B.E. C.M.G. and Mr. Austin Goldberg; Address on - MUSIC and COMPOSING

January 10: Members night: Addresses by - Mt. H.Ivers, VISIT TO EPESUS;  
Mr. J.Cutbush, PHOTOGRAPHY;  
Mr.D.Archer, WEDGEWOOD.

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COMO

Sutherland Council advised that it had been in touch with the Kogarah Council with a view to recommending a route for a main road - Como to Hurstville, and also Como to Sutherland - the ultimate object being to have a main road proclaimed from Hurstville to Como, thence to Sutherland linking up with the Prince, Highway. It was hoped the Main Roads Board would see its way clear to declare such a main road, and it was the intention to take steps with Kogarah Council to have some form of crossing such as a ferry service between Oatley and Como sides of the Georges River.

\_\_\_ "St. George Call", 6/9/29

STREET NAMES IN EARLY SUTHERLAND

Sutherland Shire Council is proceeding with the re-naming of a number of thoroughfares beginning with those in Sutherland. Streets and roads broken by the railway, main highway or geographical barrier are being re-named.

Changing names is not new, several in Sutherland have been re-named down the years from those when the township was planned back in 1886. The township originally consisted of 70 acres originally granted to Samuel William Gray of Kiama in 1864. I have a very old map of Sutherland and it is interesting to note the name changes, although the roads have not.

The western boundary of the township was then part of the National Park. The Trust Road soon became The Boulevarde and later was a continuation of Linden Street. Want Street was named after Mr. J.H.Want,Q.C.,M.P., one of the original Trustees of the National Park. Next is William Street which was changed to Moore St. after Mr. Charles Moore, F.L.S.,J.P., also one of the first Trustees of the National Park. Then we have Railway Street, soon changed to Illawarra Street, and then to Flora Street. Robertson Street is named after Sir John Robertson, K.C.M.G., a member of the Government who conceived the idea of a National Park. In the beginning it ran East to West, but to-day it runs North to South where in the beginning was Clovelly Street. The old Robertson Street became Oxford Street. Then came The Grand Parade, having on its northern entrances to Linden Street, Vermont Street and Kurrajong Street. Como Street was the first name for East Parade until it reached The Grand Parade when it became Waterford Parade, now Jannali Ave.

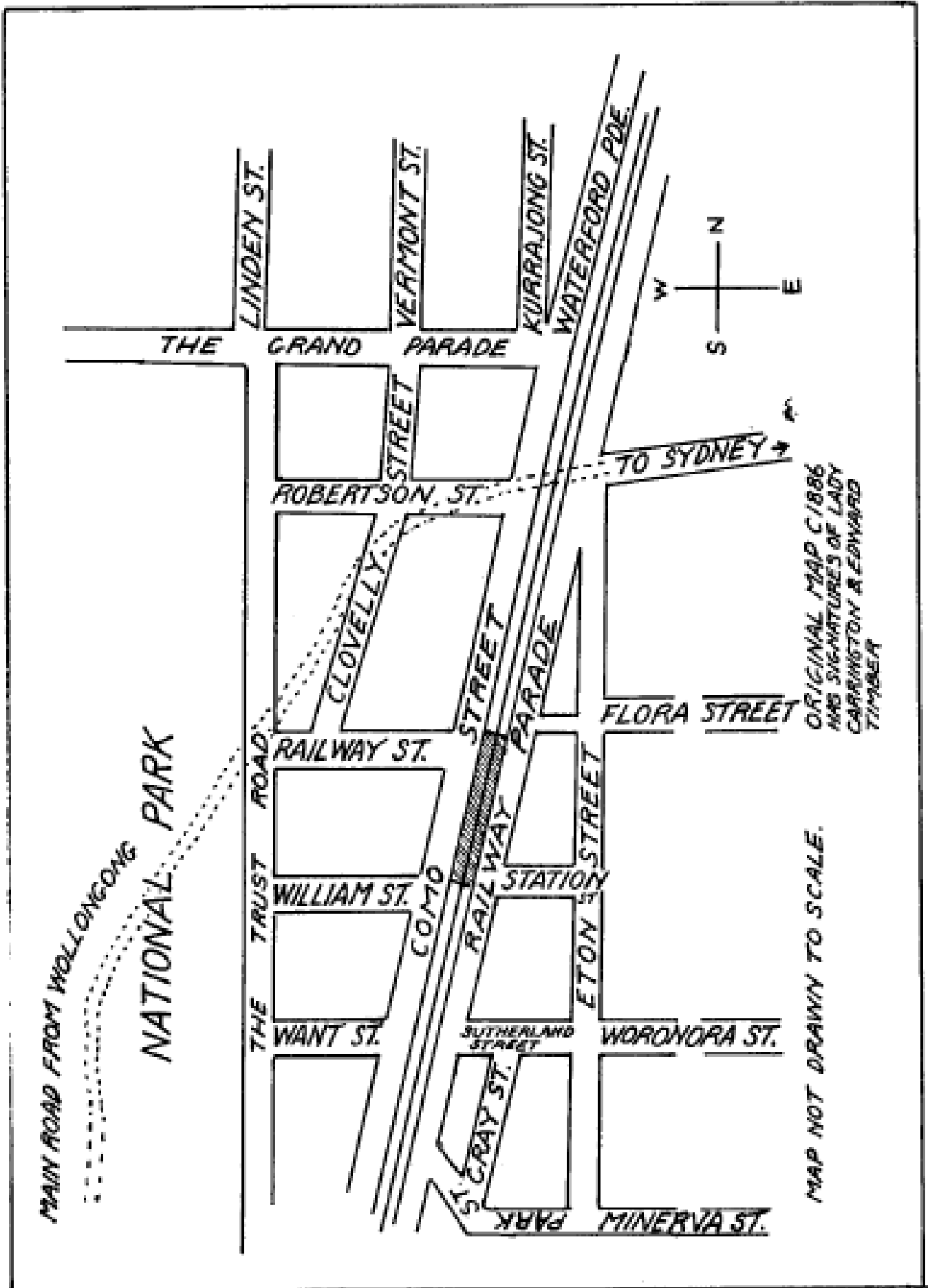
On the Eastern side of the railway line was Railway Parade which became Princes Highway in 1920. Gray Street was named after Samuel William Gray; Park Street because of its proximity to the National Park. Eton Street has remained unchanged.

Minerva Street is still with us, but Sutherland Street in the beginning ran between Eton Street and the Railway Parade, but Want Street was awn to disappear when Sutherland Street continued on over the railway. Woronora Street became President Avenue in 1912, after the first Sutherland Shire Council President William Judd. Originally Woronora Street terminated at Eton Street, but continued on to Railway' Parade, Sutherland. Street then being left on the Western side of the railway. Station Street, appropriately named because of its vicinity to the railway station had its name changed to Boyle Street after Clr. E.W. Boyle in 1941. The early map shows Flora Street terminated at Eton Street from where a lane ran to Railway Parade. Land was acquired to extend the street in 1916. On the right is the Princes Highway, but in those early days it was simply marked 'road to Sydney and Illawarra'. It is interesting to note that this map shows the route taken to the Illawarra by the settlers and horse coaches. It was bisected with the coming of the railway in 1885.

It may be followed on the map along the dotted lines as it meandered through the National Park where to-day is the Woronora Cemetery. From there it veered gradually in a southerly direction.

Source: Map of 1886; writers records.

-----Fred Midgley



## TWO EARLY PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Firstly I refer to Lobbs Hall in East Parade, opposite the road bridge which crosses the railway at Sutherland station. It was here dances were held every Saturday night, and occasionally fancy dress balls were held there. It was also the 'sending off' place for the lads in the 1914-18 war. A great number of the names of the men who said good-bye from that hall during the war are on the Honour Roll on the Memorial in Eton Street, Sutherland.

I was only ten years of age in 1914, and as I was my mother's constant escort I saw many parting tears as they said good-bye to mothers, sisters and girl friends. The Hall is now gone, but the memories are still there. I knew a lot of those departing soldiers, and at some of the send-offs there were up to thirty of them.

One couple stood out vivid in my memory as they said good-bye, I heard them planning marriage on his return from the war. It was Cec. McPherson and Annie Cook. But it was not to be. Cec. never returned and Annie married one of the Bullock family. Annie passed away in 1979, about 90 years of age.

The other hall is Boyle's Hall which in those days stood in Station Street, now Boyle Street. I refer to it as the Variety Hall as there were so many different types of entertainment that were held there in those early days.

In my childhood days in 1909 it was used by travelling picture shows of the magic lantern type. When they were being shown, and being silent there were two old ladies who always sat in the front seat near the screen so as to be able to read, as their eyes were probably failing. It was there they would give a running commentary, especially if it was a sad picture. Their reading out aloud annoyed the other patrons so much they brought gags of peanuts and lollies to use as ammunition while the pictures were being shown. In most cases it was hopeless, they still talked.

I often thought if the hall was here to-day and could only speak of the events that took place there from the turn of the century.

Some that come to mind is the school children's concert in 1910 when May Lewis, the daughter of Sergeant Lewis, the local police officer, was my partner on stage in a play.

Boyle's Hall also catered for Ballroom dancing championships, roller skating fancy dress and speed skating champion-ships, which were usually won by Mr. Fred Matson, senior. He was also a trick skater. On trick as jumping six chairs placed in the centre of the floor.

Around 1912-13 Bazaars were also held in the hall. Local talent often performed there in singing comic songs. Two who came to mind were Max Foldner and Oscar Matson, son of the trick skater.

It was also the training hall for boxers Sam Langford, Jerry Jerome, Dave



Dupena and Pal Brown, around 1911. Jerry Jerome, from Queensland was the first aboriginal to win a national title in 1913.



Sam Langford was a American Negro, and was known as the Boston Tar Baby. It was said when Langford was working out on the punching bag in the hall, the blows from his hammering gloved fists could be heard at the public school in Flora Street. Langford and his wife and daughter, Chariot, rented Boyle's cottage at the rear of the hotel.

Boxing bouts continued in the hall until about 1931, in the Depression. It was then that Bobby Delaney, the well known boxer, fought an exhibition against local resident 'Grandfather' Joe Gilligan, a fighter of some repute.

In July, 1921, Mrs. Emily Russack, with the assistance of her son, Marshall opened a theatre in the hall, ushering in the popular entertainment of the silent movies. Called Marshall's Pictures , it continued there until the new theatre was opened and managed by Mrs. Russack a little further up the street, in 1928.



Source: From the notes of Mick Derrey written in 1983 -----F.M.

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### DAYS IN THE DEPRESSION

I would have a siesta until the heat got out of the sun. By then it was time to have a cup of tea and be away again. We would walk on until a camping spot was found, just before dark, then it was time for the big meal of the day, quite often a rabbit stew with vegetables, plenty of turnip tops and beetroot tops, perhaps out-side leaves off a cabbage or a cauliflower.

If you could'nt get onions, which were vital to all stewed meats they could be bought for a penny a pound, Pumpkin was easily cadged, but carrots and parsnips were always hard, the same as all salad things like tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce. Peas and beans were also very hard to come by, but what is nicer than a piece of caulie stalk. We always carried a bottle of PMU sauce in case the food tasted too bad.

We often used to get a good supply of half rotten spuds and onions; sometimes after a hot day a lot of slimy peas in town. Rhubarb did'nt sell well and would go all limp so we would score that; apples and pears called 'specks'. These would all stew.

It's amazing what a sharp knife and a bucket of water will do to a lot of rotten food. Over ripe tomatoes are very tasty. You know many a station cook has often loaded me up when I've said that it doesn't matter if its half rotten. One mutton chop, an onion, a spud and a lot of vegetables all in together will make an excel-lent meal. And God bless the Pick Me Up Sauce.

Source: Depression time experiences of the writer, ----- George Heavens.

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TOLL REPORT, 3rd September, 1937. The Toll Master of the George's River bridge, reported to Sutherland Council that for the fourteen days to August, 14, traffic over the bridge numbered 41,891.

SIR FRANK BEAUREPAIRE

During the early months of 1984 the name of Beaurepaire figured prominently in our local papers in conjunction with the surf board championships.

Frank swam against 'Boy' Andrew Charlton and Arne Borg in the Domain Baths, after which he came to Cronulla, about 1922 to compete against our local champions in the Gunnamatta Baths.

Our local champions at that time were Jack McTeague and "Fatty" Gates whom Frank had no trouble in beating in both the 100 yards and 220 yards. It was a big day for Cronulla. Ladies events were also held. Spectators were perched on the roof of the dressing shed and other vantage points. Frank Beaurepaire was not a board rider.

Edward Frank Beaurepaire (1891 - 1956) was an Australian swimming champion, industrialist and philanthropist. He became a world champion swimmer, holding eight official world records for various distances. Beaurepaire represented Australia in at the Olympic Games in 1908, 1920 and 1924. In 1922 he was decorated for bravery when he helped rescue the victim of a shark attack at Coojee Beach. With money from the public subscribed reward, he started a tyre service bearing his name, which was to grow into a multi-million dollar business.

In 1940 he became the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, where he was born, and in 1942 he was knighted.

Source: Written by Mick Derrey from personal reminiscences with a reference to the Australian Encyclopaedia, in 1984. -----F.M

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SUTHERLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

The President of the New South Wales Baptist Union, Mr. R.E. Walker, officially opened the Sutherland Baptist Church on Saturday, March 8 , 1938, at a service which commenced at 3.30 p.m.

The new building, a weatherboard and fibro structure, would serve as a Church and Sunday School, possessed a vestry and porch, with a tile roof.

The Baptist work in Sutherland had been carried on by Pastor E. Gibson. Before the church was built services were held in the Sutherland School of Arts, Sunday School meetings being held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Hearne. Land was purchased at the corner of Flora and Auburn Streets, where the building was constructed.

The first services held on the Sunday were led by Pastor Gibson and Rev. W. H. Wingfield (Home Mission Superintendent). Services held during the week were led by Pastor Leghorn of Hurstville and Pastors Gibson and Ridley.

Source: Adapted from the "S.C.A.M.:" ----- F.M.

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CHRISTMAS CHEER. At the conclusion of the Council meeting on Monday, the Councillors and Shire Clerk adjourned themselves to Boyle's Hotel where in a pleasant and mild way a few healths were drunk, and good fellowship of the past year and that expected in the year to come were expressed.

Source: "St.George Call", Dec. 21, 1912.

### "TWO PENCE"

When I was a boy and a teenager in Menai I remember the many hawkers and those who preferred to be called 'door to door sales-men', particularly in the 1930s. There seemed to be lots of them, and some of them were results of the Depression. Some of them were regular in their rounds, while others were itinerant.

There were "fruitos", "rabbitos" and "fishos". Two of the "fishos" about 1934, came around in a 1926 Hudson tourer with most of the body taken off. They urged their Hudson on by flaying a whip across the bonnet, at the same time yelling loudly but not like bullockies.



There were those who sold drapery like Mrs. Manly who lived somewhere near Linden street and Grand Parade, Sutherland. She sold her wares from the rear of her 1928 Chevrolet. Some of the others came in a variety of motor cars, trucks, motor bike with box side car, horse and cart, and some came on foot. Then there those who came seeking to buy - like the "bottleo" appraising old batteries and non-ferrous metals. One "bottleo" led our old and now feeble horse away to his premises at Mortdale. Dad didn't get anything for old Doll, he was glad of the opportunity to get rid of her as he faced the prospect of a burial or cremation. He had burnt many a horse as part of his job when employed by Sutherland Shire Council.

Then there were the Dudley's Products, which consisted of such food items as jellies, custards and dessert mix. One big portly man peddling these products in a 1927 Chrysler roadster had the habit of walking into houses without announcing his presence, startling the occupant. After a lapse Dudley's products were taken over about 1939 by Bill Bedford, a single man about 40 who lived in Belmont Street, Sutherland. I can remember him lugging a large and heavy suitcase, and it must have been hard work especially when walking up the hill from the Woronora River.

I was always interested in hawkers, I liked to see what their cases contained. Maybe my mother thought differently. Usually it meant buying something she didn't need anyway, as I think she felt sorry for them.

The roads in Menai and were hard on shoes in those early days. But there were not many motor cars on the roads then, and it was reasonably safe to walk near the middle of the road. You could hear a vehicle coming a fair way off as it bounced in the pot holes and corrugates. In the summer time it wasn't a pleasant experience to be passed by a speeding car and then become enveloped in dust.

Houses in Menai were scattered in those days, being a rural community. There would have been only about 24 houses on the Old Illawarra Road between the Lugarno ferry and Menai Public School in the early 1930s. In addition there were a few on side roads - like Alford's Point and Gerald Roads - where the vehicles weaved their way from one side to the other in an endeavour to pick out the best spots.



Having set the background I will introduce the 'character' who impressed me, for some unknown reason, as the most unusual 'hawker'. He was a tall thin man who sometimes wore a long dark over-coat, and always a hat shielding his thin features from the sun. Memory does fade. but I'm sure he was in his fifty's and wore thin rimmed spectacles.

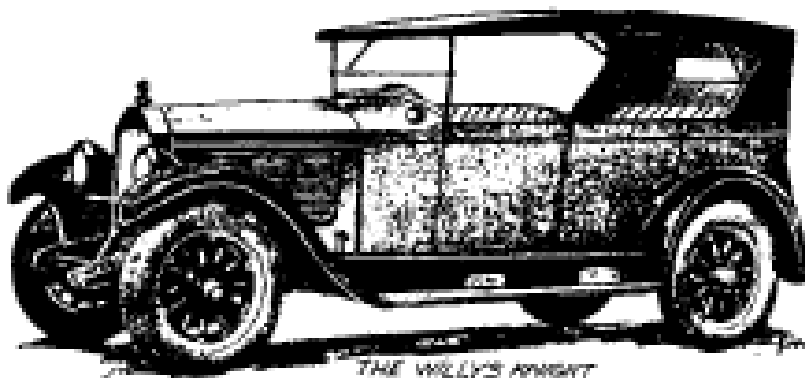
He called at home - when he got that far - for we lived at the top of the hill before the descent to the Woronora River. It is called Bangor now, but it was Menai then. It was usually late in the afternoon when he called with his fairly large case containing haberdashery, which he opened on the floor of the back verandah, while standing on the ground near the step.

There were packets of needles, reels of cotton and thread, ribbons and soap, to mention a few items. We never knew his name, but mum always referred to him as "Two-pence", for most articles in his case when he was asked how much, he would reply in a soft voice, twopence. Never the common usage like tuppence or thrippence. On one occasion just after Christmas I remember him telling mum what a good woman his 'land-leddy' was, for he gave her a cake of soap for Christmas.



There were occasions when he arrived at Menai school just before we came out at 3.30. so as to get a lift to Sutherland with Mr. C.R. "Pop" Davis, the teacher. I don't think "Pop" liked it very much, for on one occasion he told "Twopence" the back of the car was full of firewood thinking it might discourage him. But it didn't for he climbed on top of the wood with his case and saved the weary trek to Sutherland, where

I think he caught the train to Mortdale. Of course there was my brother Alf and I and other children who usually got a lift home with "Pop" in his Willys Knight tourer. That is over 50 years ago, but I can still see him plodding a-long the dusty and sometimes boggy roads of Menai, carrying his haberdashery, with head down and a slight stoop in his back,



Source: Writers memoirs. ---Fred Midgley.

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### MIRANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL

When Mr. W.J. Chiplin took charge of Miranda Central School as headmaster in May, 1905, the enrolment was 63. Two patrols of boy scouts were formed at the school as well as tennis, football and cricket clubs, and a gymnasium. Children were conveyed by subsidised coaches from Burraneer Bay, Port Hacking, Lilli Pilli and Sylvania, the number carried being one hundred. In June, 1906, the school was made a central one. The enrolment in December, 1908, was 182.

"St. George Call", 1908

### THE FIRST MIRANDA SCHOOL OF ARTS

The first Miranda School of Arts stood on about an acre of ground on the corner of Kiaora road, the Boulevard, and today's Kumbardang Avenue. A row of pine trees faced Kiaora road where there was a large gate for vehicular entrance to the grounds and the barn like building. Horses were driven to the south side of the building and tethered to the fence. Some were taken out of the sulkies and nose bags put on others while social functions were on. A number of residents played cards until midnight, with supper at 11 o'clock.

The stage was erected three feet above the dance floor which could take 50 dancers. There were change rooms either side of the stage.

Probably because the School of Arts was out of the town centre and considered to be inadequate, a site for a new one was chosen and the old one put up for sale.

Ned Richards came from south of Bega with his two daughters, Molly and Bertha, about 1920. He was then a widower. George Henry Freeman (my father in law) also came from the south of Bega and settled in Gymea in 1914.

Richard's first house in Miranda was on the corner of Box and Port Hacking roads. When the School of Arts was put up for sale in 1921 he purchased it, converting it to a residence. The change rooms on either side of the stage became bedrooms for Ned and the girls. Molly was then about 35, and her sister, Bertha, about 40. Later Bertha married Jack Hanley.

Ned who had a horse and sulky, was a large jovial man with a beard. In 1928 he got hit by a car outside his home, directly opposite the big entrance gate, and died as a result of his injuries.

Over the years I learnt Ned's brother, Al, was the policeman who was locked up by Ned Kelly who stripped him of his uniform.

The School of Arts building was an 'L' shape, elevated on piers. An access was gained by steps with wooden hand rails.

The Miranda School of Arts was opened in 1904, and at that time had a working capital of £6/0/0. In 1909 the accumulated assets had reached £600 (\$1200).

Source: From notes written by Mick Derrey in 1983

----- F.A.M.



### PETTY' S HOTEL

Petty' a Hotel was built on the site of the manse of the Rev. Dr. Dunmore Lang of the Presbyterian Church in 1832. Lang needed more money to finance his ambitious scheme for the Sydney College, and sold to William Cummings a hotel keeper.

On July 12, 1836, Thomas Petty advertised that he had opened the hotel lately occupied by William Cummings. Petty enlarged it, and painted Petty's Hotel over the door. Though Petty died in 1847 the name remained for a century of successive owners, until the building was acquired by the Red Cross and Blood transfusion Centre. It stood in York Street, and in its heyday Petty's was the queen of Sydney's fashionable hotels.

The Hotel was noted for its stylishness, smart service and the snobbishness of the staff. There were many exclusive and noted guests one of whom was the author, Robert Louis Stevenson, who made a number of visits to Sydney in the 1890s. Stevenson was once refused admission by a snobbish porter because he was dressed in old tropical clothes, having just arrived from Samoa.

One of the licensees - or as a newspaper referred was the proprietress, Mrs. Gannon. Besides all the comforts of Petty's itself, Mrs. Gannon provided cottages at Port Hacking to which residents of the Hotel could retreat temporarily from the summer heat.

Source: Serenade to Sydney, Frank Clune; "St. George Call" newspaper.

-----Fred Midgley



### CRONULLA MEMORIES

November 6, 1909. Mr. Wiltshire informed Sutherland Shire Council that between 15 and 20 head of cattle were straying in Cronulla. There were no "grazing rites" over Cronulla, he told Council.

January 14, 1911. Miss Wiltshire offered Sutherland Shire Council portion of 203 at Cronulla for a gravel pit for £300. "Too big an item for a dying Council to attempt", said Clr. Judd.

July 24, 1911. Senr. Constable Lewis reported two cases of persons removing shellgrit from Gunnamatta and crossing the reserve with carts. Council decided to erect notices.

August 12, 1911. Sutherland Council decided to charge all grit carters 6 pence per ton for all material carted across Gunnamatta Bay reserve.

REPORT OF THE 1985 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CONFERENCE WITH IT'S AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND  
N.S.W. FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

THE THEME: "WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE"

Friday 18th October, 1985 at 7.30 p.m. a Cocktail Party was held in the "Andy Graham" Memorial Room at the Dubbo Museum. This was hosted by the Dubbo Historical and Museum Society. The Mayor of Dubbo, Alderman Tom Slattery, welcomed Delegates and officially opened the Conference.

Saturday 19th October, at 9.30 a.m. the opening session began with a welcoming address by the President of the R.A.H.S. Mr. J.M. Bennett. In his remarks Mr. Bennett referred to Affiliated Societies as jewels in the crown as they work so closely together. Mr. Bennett said he would like to visit any Affiliated Society during 1986 if he were invited.

(I suggest we contact Mr. Bennett and invite him to be our Guest at Sutherland on whatever of our Meeting nights he has free in 1986 ... allowing him to chose the night and we fit in our own speakers accordingly.)

Keynote address: "Working together for the future" was given by Dr. Carol Liston, Executive Officer of the R.A.H.S. Her first words .. "We haven't worked together in the past but we will in the future" It was an extremely interesting lecture on the beginnings of the local History Societies, usually a group of interested local residents delving for information of the by-gone days and rummaging at the local tip for a museum piece. Combining family groups attracts younger people and establishes a formal relationship between young and old. It was suggested by Dr. Liston to combine all groups in your area such as History Society, Family History Society, Librarian, and Museum Societies and have at least three combined meetings a year to consider joint

submissions for funding from Government Authorities as well as fraternisation and goodwill. Dr. Liston went on to say more emphasis should be placed on keeping paper records, documents and old ledgers as these were found to divulge more information than could be gleaned from an old chest of drawers.

Family History Societies used in conjunction with Local History Societies were found to be important when recording Pioneers of your District.

Please note: Heritage studies are being carried out over the next year or two working through local Societies, searching for information on buildings, Streets etc.... will you please help by giving them access to your records and files.

Bi-Centennial Committees in your area will also need help on gaining authentic information on the wearing apparel, furnishings etc. of that era, 1788.

Mr. Richard Gore spoke at length on Local History and Genealogy Research Kits. Some pamphlets are enclosed, if you should require more information write to Mr. R. Gore, Supervisor of the Archives Technical Services Office. He suggested, "Why not research the early Pioneers and Settlers of your area". The Government Archives Office can supply any information on Land Grants, records, convicts, free citizens, agriculture, Churches and education.

Note: There is to be a Local History Exhibition and Seminar at Mudgee in 1986 (no exact date as yet fixed) this will be a first ever for the Archives. (I suggest this to be of interest to the Research Officer, we should be represented). Further information will be mailed to you in the New Year. Also in 1986 there will be Sydney Archives Seminars for

Research officers... SUBJECT ..."HOW TO USE THE ARCHIVES." Jan Worthington, a Computer Consultant and Professional Genealogist gave a very interesting talk on the use of Computers in Research. Although Computers can be quite expensive, she assures us that in time every Society will have one and it will be most beneficial in Research. Miss Kimberley Webber, Senior Tutor in Museum Studies at Sydney University, gave a detailed talk on Researching and Exhibitions (see typed sheet marked "Kimberley Webber" for details).

At 3 p.m. on Saturday the Local History and the Family History groups divided and went to two separate rooms. I stayed with the Local History Group. Results of discussions with the Family History Group can be obtained by contacting Paulette Parkes of Botany Bay Family History Group who is also a Member of our Society. M/s Parkes was representing B.B.F.H. at this Conference.

After the division the Sessions were Chaired by Mr. R. Cox, Councillor of the R.A.H.S. A Report from the Affiliated Societies Committee was given by the Convenor, Dr. Carol Liston, followed by the introduction of the candidates in the election of the Affiliated Societies Committee and instructions for voting.

The candidates were:-

Mr. B. Madden of Hurstville Society; Olive Ulof of the Baptist Church Society; Betty Goodger of Bankstown Society; Ray Cooper of Royal Society;

Mr. Littlejohn of Royal 8 Harden;

C. Schofield, Librarian;

R. Cox, Mudgee Society

(FOUR TO BE VOTED FOR)

The result of the Ballot was:-

Madden, Goodger, Littlejohn and Cox

The Ballot was followed by a Report from Mary Smith, late Research and Field Officer of the R.A.H.S. The Report covered the workings of the whole of the State as requested. The R.A.H.S. is still working On Kits, also studying on Computers. Mary Smith reported she now has a new job with the A.B.A. (Australian Bi-Centennial Authority) and has retired from the R.A.H.S. She also reported on the discovery of the remains of the wreck of the "Sirius" at Norfolk Island. The R.A.H.S. is carrying out a Historical Project with the national Library Canberra, and will be in touch with all Societies regarding this, The aim is to identify heritage records in private hands where possible. She also advises all Societies to watch for announcements from A.B.A.

A short talk by Dr. Liston pointed out many items to be observed in running a good Museum. Firstly, manning the door and the explanation of each item exhibited. A good Museum should have a Guide to accompany each party and to explain each item of main interest. A book on these matters is to be published for each Society in 1988. We will receive one from the A.B.A. Also there are some "How to" books coming out soon, We must acquire one of these. This was the end of the Saturday Session.

Saturday evening a Conference Dinner was enjoyed by all who attended. The after Dinner speaker's subject was "How the West was won". This was ably delivered by Mr. Bill Hornadge, well known Writer and a Life Member of Dubbo Historical and Museum Society.

Sunday Session commenced at 9.30 a.m. Chaired by Mr. J.M. Bennett, President of the R.A.H.S. Notices of Motion are clearly defined on a separate sheet. General discussion created an opportunity for each Society to report on their own activities.

Casino Society reported they had Recipe Books printed for resale. Students at the High School were given the task of collecting recipes from elderly people in the District and thus produced a quick selling Old Fashion Recipe Book. Narrabri Society Members on a bush walk recently found some old saddles in a cave, presumably bush rangers saddles; they are having them restored and investigated.

Canterbury Society want to do a display on the 1930 Depression. I was able to help here and have arranged to send them some of my personal writings on behalf of our Society.

Gulgong Society re-enacted the Depression in their Museum lately using flourbag clothing and cornsack waggas and handed out bread and dripping.

North Sydney Society need any old photos for reproduction and stories about Henry Lawson, while he lived there. This was the end of the Conference and after morning tea there was a guided tour through Dubbo known as the Heritage Walk. It took in all the old buildings, the Museum, the Goal, the old Courthouse and all points of historic interest to the visitor. The walk concluded with a picnic lunch at the Dubbo Museum, where all Delegates and observers said their good-byes, dispersed and made their own way home.

Thank you,



GEORGE H. HEAVENS (DELEGATE)



### CRONULLA' S FIRE BRIGADE

On Friday, 30th October, 1931, at 3 p.m., Cronulla was gazetted a fire district, and at 5 o'clock a fire fighting plant was installed consisting of a Dennis fire engine capable of pumping 250 gallons of water per minute; carrying a 1000 feet of hose; four chemical fire extinguishers consisting of Phister (electrical fires), one foam (for petrol and oil), and two ordinary soda acid type.

The fire station was situated in Gerrale Street, in Norwin Flats, right opposite the surf beach. and in charge of Sub- station Officer Creeke. Eight or ten local men were to be trained and used as partially paid firemen, and as some of them would sleep on the premises at night the brigade would instantly turn out.

Divisional Inspector Meeve was also at the station for the purpose of making a survey of the Shire in regard to available water from wells, tanks, etc. Residents were asked to co-operate and to give him any information regarding the availability of water.

The first fire was attended on a Sunday afternoon in November at 4.40, when a motor car in Surf Road caught alight. The Brigade turned out in quick time, and using a chemical extinguisher soon had the fire out.

The station was equipped with a powerful electric siren and in case of emergency the number to ring was Cronulla 60.

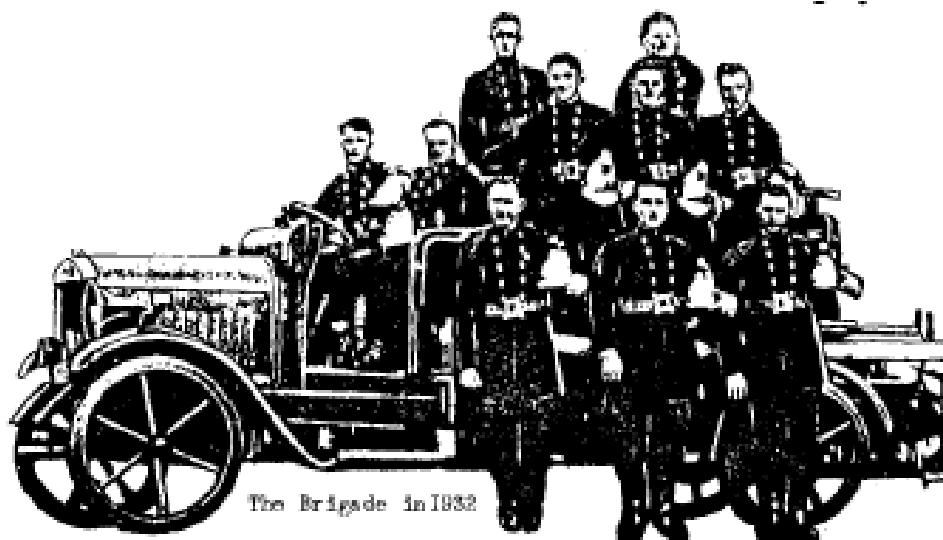
To-day the N.S.W. Fire Brigade has permanently manned stations at Cronulla, Miranda, Sutherland and Menai, thus spreading a chain of protection across the Shire,

The Menai station became operational on Monday, October 21, 1985. It has the latest equipment, including a four wheel drive vehicle, and has a roster of 16 men and 4 officers.

An amount of \$250.000, close to half the construction costs of the station was donated by the Atomic Energy Commission of Lucas Heights.

Source: "The S.C.A.M." newspaper. "The Voice" newspaper".

-----Fred Midgley



### AEROPLANES AND BUSES

A prominent citizen of the Sutherland Shire for some years before the second World War was Mr. Frank Bardsley. He had been a sergeant in the infantry in World War 1, and later entered the transport business with bus services in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

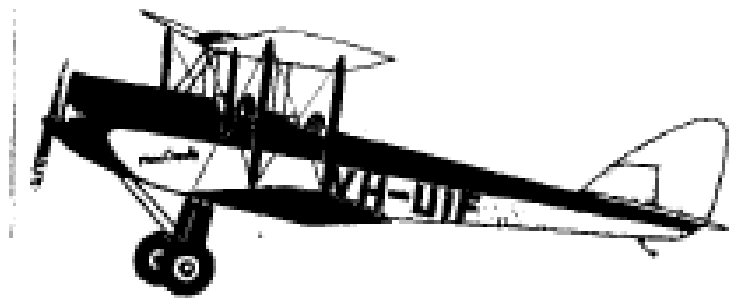
But Frank Bardsley also had a keen interest in another form of transport, and that was aviation, for it was about 1928 that he earned to fly. He bought a new DH60 Gipsy Moth, and flew it in the Sydney to Perth air race in 1929, This type of flight apparently encouraged him to take on another long distance flight, this time around Australia.

With a mechanic, Norman Lennon, and two other Gipsy Moth biplanes each with a crew of two, Bardsley left Mascot aerodrome at ten o'clock on April 3, 1930. The airmen's route was by way of Bourke, Camooweal, Wyndham, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne.

The group of Club flyers arrived back in Sydney 24 days later and had spent 18 days flying. Frank Bardsley had been the leader all the way in his Gipsy Moth, VH-UIF which he had named "Miss Cronulla!"

They encountered stormy weather at times, and to beat the heat in the Australian north they commenced flying in the early morning as there would have been some difficulty in getting off the ground as the planes were heavily loaded. They had intended diverting to Tasmania, but it didn't eventuate.

In the final stage of the flight they spent an hour at Goulburn before leaving for Sydney where they arrived a few minutes before 4 o'clock on the Sunday afternoon before a large crowd which swarmed out to greet them.



*"MISS CRONULLA" TAKES OFF FROM MASCOT*

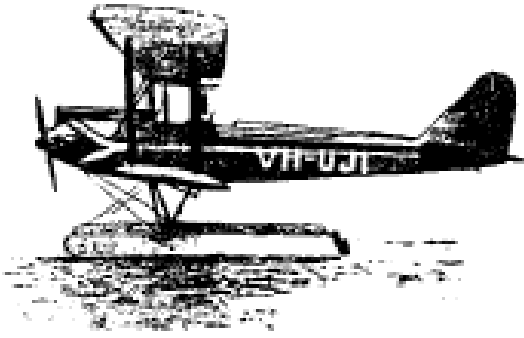
Pilot of one of the other Moths was Reg. Annabel a resident of Rockdale whose plane was named "Miss Australia". He was killed in a crash in July, 1934, at Mascot while demonstrating his plane. The family were well known in St. George where they had an extensive Ice Works business.



*FRANK BARDSLEY IN 1930*

Frank Bardsley started a small flying school but after a period he sold it. For some time he had a Gipsy Moth with floats, which was a popular attraction on Gunnamatta Bay in the 1930s. It was housed in a shed at Gunnamatta and was lifted in and out of the water with a crane. The extensive sand flats at Gunnamatta along the eastern foreshore of the Bay which when uncovered at low tide provided a good landing ground for the small planes of the Sydney Club, who carried out joy flights.

This venture was no doubt influenced by Frank Bardsley due to his knowledge of the Shire, on the ground and in the air.



Privately owned bus services operating into Sydney from the suburbs came under threat from the Lang Government, and eventually Bardsley lost some of his bus runs to be replaced by those operated by the Government who were determined to move all the private buses out of the inner City. A Transport Act of 1930 separated the Department of Road Transport and Tramways from the Railways.

One of the routes Bardsley lost was the Cronulla to Sydney in 1931, and was not re-opened until February 24, 1935. This route, 61, was now by Government buses from Cronulla to York Street, City.

In September, 1924, Bardsley was operating three Whites on the Cronulla-Sydney run. They were M.O.675, M.O.676, and M.O.677. The buses were of the charabanc type, and curtains could be let down as dictated by the weather. These were the first buses, the later ones being closed in with windows, and of the corridor type. The engines developed 40 h.p. The buses were painted blue, and were known as the De Luxe Blue Line Bus Service.

In 1929 he imported a Leyland TD1 double-decker from England, and in 1930 he imported three more of the same vehicles for the Cronulla - Sydney run, but as mentioned previously their service was short on that route. Fare was 10 shillings for a weekly ticket. Destination point for the setting down and picking up of passengers was at the Capitol Theatre in Campbell Street, Sydney.

When the steam tram passenger service between Sutherland and Cronulla ceased in August 1931 Frank Bardsley switched some of the double deckers to that route, and also introduced single deck Leyland Tigers. This service also ran school specials to the Sutherland High School, this being the first High School to be opened in the Shire. Double and single deck buses were both used.

A student of the High School who lived at Miranda travelled on a single deck Leyland Tiger which left three minutes after a Leyland double-decker from Miranda. When nearing Sutherland the Tiger would catch up to the double-decker on the Princes Highway near Glencoe Street. From there on it was a race to see who would get to their destination in Sutherland first.

Some-times they drove two abreast around the Council Chambers corner.

Bardsley also operated a Cronulla to Hurstville service where the fare was 7 cents. This route had commenced about 1922.



The Sutherland - Cronulla and Hurstville - Cronulla bus services ceased on December 16, 1939, with the opening of the railway to Cronulla.

In the beginning Bardsley had a bus depot at Arncliffe. The first depot he had in the Shire was near the Ocean wharf, Cronulla, then Pioneer Street. Another depot was near Prior's produce store and

then another was located at the rear of Mrs. Marks boarding house off Windsor Road. A depot near Nicholson Parade was burnt down. There were several fires on depot premises.

Frank Bardsley also operated Parlour cars. They were Studebakers with extended chassis. Some of these were open sided of charabanc type. They were Cronulla - Sydney express, and had to start and finish on private property, and were not allowed to pick up between these points. They ran from Bardsley's Cronulla depot to premises in Barlow Street, Sydney. Drivers wore caps and dust coats.

Frank Bardsley gave up flying and concentrated on business activities, extending his interests in picture theatres. He was elected a Councillor in A Riding of the Sutherland Shire Council in 1935 where he served a term of three years.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, April 4 and 28, 1930, in the Shire Council Local History Library; Interviews with Messrs A.Small, H. Atkinson, L.Green, F.Hilder; writers records.

-----Fred Midgley

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### INSPECTOR W. HINSON

In 1905 two single deck Clarkson steam omnibus chassis arrived in Sydney from England, having been ordered for the expansion of the N.S.W. Government Omnibus Services. Two of the double-decker type chassis arrived early the next year. All four bodies for the vehicles were built at Newtown, in Sydney. They were chain driven, and as was the practice with early commercial vehicles they were fitted with solid rubber tyres.



INSPECTOR HINSON IN 1905

Tramway drivers were under the instruction of Inspector W. Hinson on the driving and operation of the steam bus. Temporary seating was arranged on the chassis during the trials and crew training.

Hinson became the Engineering Inspector of the Sutherland - Cronulla steam trams, and was also the boss of the tram sheds at Sutherland. He resided at Yowie Bay and in later years drove around in an Erskine sedan. These cars were made in the U.S.A. by the Studebaker Co-Operation between 1926 and 1930.

Mr. Hinson rode on the first tram to Cronulla on June 12, 1911, and stood on the front of the last steam motor of the passenger tram on August 3, 1931.

Source: Mr.J.Midgley; Encyclopedia of motor cars; writers notes.

-----Fred Midgley

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EIGHT BOB A DAY. The question of the unskilled labour award arose at the Sutherland Shire Council meeting, the Council being unaware of their position under the award. The position was explained by the Registrar to whom the Shire Clerk applied for advice. "I know it's affecting the tramway contract", said Clr. R. Cook, referring to the Sutherland - Cronulla tramway under construction. "the contractors are weeding out and putting off men not considered worth eight shillings", .....St George Call", 1910

CONSTITUTION FOR THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Revised 6th February, 1984

1. The name of the Society shall be "THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY".

2.OBJECTS:

- (a) The collection, acquisition & preservation of all material relevant to the history of the Sutherland Shire.
- (b) The study of Australian History in general & of Shire History in particular.
- (c) To encourage & foster an interest in the Shire & the preservation of its historic associations, buildings, & aboriginal carvings & artefacts.
- (d) The dissemination of historical information to members and others by way of lectures, exhibitions, discussions, publications and excursions.

3. HEADQUARTERS: ... of the Society shall be the Council Chambers, Sutherland'

4. INTERPRETATION: In all sections of this Constitution the use of the masculine gender shall be taken to include the feminine.

5. PATRON: shall be the President of the Sutherland Shire.

6. MEMBERSHIP:

- a) ORDINARY MEMBER: shall be all persons other than the following:-
- (b) JUNIOR: A Bona-Tide full-time student.
- (c) LIFE SUBSCRIBER: shall be a person paying a Life Membership fee as set down by the Society from time to time.
- (d) CORPORATE: shall be such Commercial, Industrial or other organisation
- (e) HONORARY MEMBER: Any person may be elected an Honorary Member, where circumstances justify same.
- (f) HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: Any member of the Society may be elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of outstanding services, provided such recommendation is approved by a general meeting.
- (g) PAST PRESIDENT: An honour badge to be presented to a member who has served one (1) year as President.

The Executive Council shall have the right to refuse membership to any person or to request the resignation of any member or to expel any member provided that person shall have the right to state his case before a Special General Meeting of Members.

7.FINANCIAL YEAR: shall commence on the First day of January in each year and end of the last day of December in that year.

8.SUBSCRIPTIONS: Each member shall pay such Annual Subscriptions as shall be determined by the Society from time to time.

UNFINANCIAL: A member shall be deemed to be unfinancial if his current subscription is unpaid by the Annual General Meeting.

9.OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

- (a) The Officers & Governing Body of the Society shall be elected from Adult Financial Members.
- (b) The Executive Council of the Society shall consist of:-
  1. PRESIDENT
  2. DEPUTY PRESIDENT
  3. VICE-PRESIDENTS (2)
  4. HON. SECRETARY
  5. HON. TREASURER
  6. HON RESEARCH OFFICER
  7. HON. PUBLICITY OFFICER
  8. HON ARCHIVIST, HON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Five (5) positions.

- (c) A member shall not be nominated in his absence unless he has signified in writing that he is willing to stand for nomination. Such authority to be in the hands of Hon. Secretary before the opening of the meeting.
- (d) It shall not be mandatory for all positions of Officers & Members of Council to be filled at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING but nominations shall be called for all such positions.
- (e) The Officers & Committee Members elected as above shall constitute the Executive Council of the Society, with power to conduct the business of the Society.

Any vacancy in any office during the year shall be filled by the Executive Council subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting of Members.

#### 10. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: He shall act as the Society's representative at all times. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He shall deputise for the President in his absence & assume such duties as may be requested or directed by the Council. VICE-PRESIDENTS (2): They shall assume such duties as may be requested or directed by the Council.

HON. SECRETARY: He is the Society's Executive Clerical Officer, acting under the direction of the Executive Council.' He shall:-

- (a) Keep a record of all Executive Council Meetings in the Minute Book together with reports & other material.
- (b) Attend to all correspondence.
- (c) Send out notices of meeting according, to the Constitution.
- (d) Provide Executive Council Members with a copy of Minutes of meetings.
- (e) Keep' a roll of all members of the Society showing their names & addresses and supply copies to the following: PRESIDENT/TREASURER/ PUBLICATION & EXCURSION COMMITTEES.

HON. TREASURER: He shall:-

- (a) Receive all monies & issue receipts.
- (b) Keep Account Books & deposit monies at bank acceptable to the Executive Council.
- (c) Present a Financial Statement at each monthly meeting of the Executive Council.
- (f) Arrange with Hon. Auditor to have Account Books audited prior to Annual General Meeting & a Financial Statement & Balance Sheet compiled. ARCHIVES OFFICER: He shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of all historical material donated or otherwise acquired by the Society and shall keep up-to-date records of same. Such material may be available to members on receipt of a signature and under the directions of the Archives Officer. In the case of written material copyright shall be observed.

RESEARCH OFFICER: He shall carry out Research on behalf of the Society.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: He shall publicise the activities of the Society & have special regard to the local press.

11: ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY The affairs of the Society shall be administered by the Executive Council.

SUB-COMMITTEES: The Executive Council shall have the power to appoint sub-committees which it may deem necessary to carry out specific duties. All such sub-committees shall present written reports of their activities at each monthly meeting of the Executive Council. Reports shall also be presented at each General Meeting.

A Convenor shall be appointed by the Executive Council for each sub-committee, such Convenor to be a member of the Executive Council and shall select members for that sub-committee.

#### 12. FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

- (a) All income & property shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects & Management of the Society.

- (b) TRUSTEES: The Executive Council may appoint not more than three (3) Trustees to control the assets of the Society. The property in the custody of the Archives Officer is exempt from this provision.
- (c) ACCOUNTS: , Signatories to cheques shall be any two (2) of the following officers: President, (2) Vice Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
13. HONORARIUM: An Honorarium shall be paid annually- to both the Hon., Secretary & Hon. Treasurer such amount to be recommended each year by the Executive Council & confirmed by the members of the General Meeting.
14. MEETINGS:
- (a) General Meetings shall be held each month. .
- (b) Special General Meetings may be convened by the President at any time and shall be convened upon receipt of a requisition signed by at least 10% of Ordinary members or at the instruction of the Executive Council. The business for such meetings shall be. only that set out in the Notice of Meeting. -
- (c)' Annual General Meeting: shall beheld at such time & place as the Executive Council shall determine, but not later than May 31st in each year.
- (i) Fourteen (14) clear days notice in writing shall be given. Notice shall include Agenda of the Meeting & no other business shall be conducted unless at the discretion of the Chairman, or by vote of 2/3 of Ordinary members present.
- (ii) Notice of Annual General Meeting shall include the Society's Annual Report & Financial Statement & audited Balance Sheet.
15. QUORUM: ... at all General Business meetings shall be 10% of members & 7 at all meetings of the Executive Council.
15. VOTING:
- (a) All Ordinary Financial Members, Life Subscribers and Hon. Life Members shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Society.
- (b) Corporate Members & Secondary Schools shall be entitled to one (1) vote by an authorised person.
- (c) All voting for the Election of Officers & Executive Council SHALL BE BY SECRET BALLOT.
- (d) If requested by any member, a secret ballot is to be held on any other matter.
17. HON. AUDITOR: He shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting or failing this shall be appointed at the FIRST meeting of the incoming Executive Council & members advised of the appointment at the next General Meeting.
18. HON. SOLICITOR: To be appointed by Executive Council. 19i HON. ARCHITECT: To be appointed by Executive Council.
20. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS: Shall be only in accordance with the objects of the Society Written-reports from all such representatives shall be presented to the Executive Council.
21. USE OF SOCIETY'S NAME: The name of the Society shall not be used for personal gain or without the written authority of the Executive Council. Sponsorship by the Society without written authority of the Executive Council will not be given. No member may speak on behalf of the Society unless authorised to do so.
22. STANDING ORDERS: The usual Standing Orders of Debate & Procedure shall prevail at all times.

23. BENEFACTOR:. Any person approved by the Executive Council shall upon payment of \$500 be accepted. as a Benefactor of the Society.
24. AFFILIATION: The Society. shall affiliate with the Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) Branch and the Society of Australian Genealogists.
25. DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY: A meeting to dissolve the Society shall be called with the consent of 75% of the. Ordinary members. At this meeting at least 75% of those present shall agree to the dissolution & disposal of Assets. The assets of the Society shall not be distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be transferred to any other Shire Organisation having similar "Historical Objects" or failing this, shall be donated to the Royal, Australian Historical Society.
26. ALTERATION & AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION: Any member wishing to alter, add to amend or repeal any part of the Constitution of the Society, shall give notice in writing of his intention to a General Meeting of the Society & the proposal shall be dealt with in the ordinary course of business at a General Meeting, or Special General Meeting, notice of which is to be given in writing to all members, at least fourteen {14} clear days before such meeting.
27. COPY OF CONSTITUTION: Every person upon joining the Society shall be given, a copy of the Constitution.

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### A BAD TOOTH

Les had had a bad tooth for two days when we were in the Newcastle area. At breakfast he bit on it, and rose to a great height. The tooth had to be attended to. so we headed for the closest town which was Scone.

On arriving we asked where the dentist was, and we were directed down a narrow lane to the bike shop and told to enquire there. This we did, and found a young man cleaning out the gearbox of a car. He said "Yes, I'm the dentist, have you some trouble!". Les said, "Lots of it", and the dentist replied, "I'll be with you in five minutes". He then proceeded to wash in kerosene, then went to the bathroom and returned all washed up with a white coat on over his dirty overalls.

We then proceeded to another room which was set up nicely as a surgery.. The extraction was a success; the tooth had a hole in it like the Jenolan Caves, and although Les said it hurt more after than it did before, I felt at least we could take to the road again.

Personal experiences of Depression days. ----George Heavens.

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### LOST

By some unaccountable means the Sutherland Shire Council lost the set of plans for the Woronora bridge which were completed by Engineer Griffin. They were posted to the Public Works Department by the Clerk and have not been heard of since. Value of the plans was £12 and the unfortunate part was that there was no copy in existence. However new ones would be prepared as the Council intended to leave no stone unturned to get a bridge. Clr. Judd strongly criticised the Post Office "as being a farce".

---From 'St. George Call', 18/1/1908.



### FLYING ALONG THE WORONORA VALLEY

It would be 43 years ago now, during those dark days of the Second World War after the fall of Singapore, when large numbers of American servicemen entered our country under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

I can remember flights of Kittyhawks and various other American aircraft including bombers passing over Menai. I had bought several booklets on aircraft identification and was able to tell what they were as well as our own.

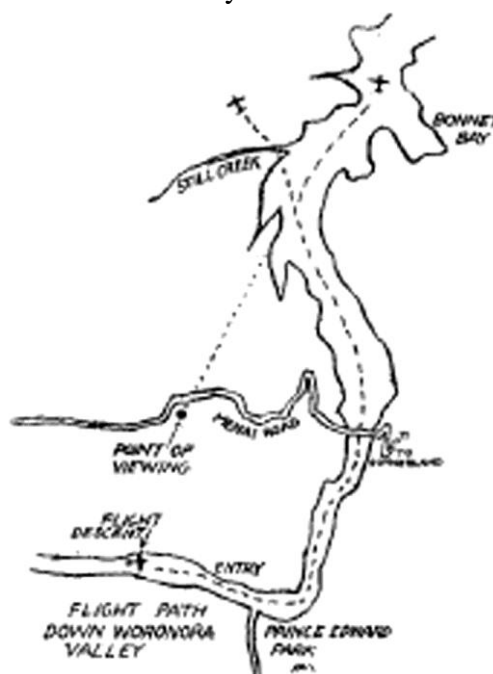
One day in 1942 when I was working on the farm I was surprised to hear a plane flying very low. I looked around but could'nt see it. Then quickly I realised it was flying down in the valley and following the Woronora River. It just seemed seconds as it thundered down the valley and I had barely time to see it as it rose up in a steep climb above the mouth of Still Creek and fly west over Menai, then bank over the western suburbs,

I expected to a plane with the roundel of the R.A.A.F. but one could easily see the American star on the fuselage. I was surprised to see that it was'nt a Kitty-hawk or Aircobra, but it had a radial air cooled engine, a closed cockpit, and was painted a brown colour - and reminded me of Australia's Wirraway.

The plane entered a little west of Prince Edward Park, as beyond that the valley narrowed, but the valley broadened ahead and gave the pilot time to manoeuvre. On occasions over a period of several months the procedure was repeated, the pilot choosing to fly up over Still Creek or bank away over The Bonnet.

I often wondered if the pilot was practicing low level flying in preparation for the valleys of New Guinea, rather than dare-devil flying down the Woronora valley.

In those days there were no electric cables or stanchions for low flying planes to avoid in the region. It was'nt until 1948 that large power cables were extended across the valley just west of Prince Edward Park supported on large wooden poles to carry the first electricity supply to Menai, which became a reality to the residents in 1949.



-----Fred Midgley

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### MIRANDA SCHOOL OF ARTS

JULY, 10,1915. Mr. Henry Luxton handed in his resignation as the librarian of Miranda School of Arts on account of ill health.

Mr. Luxton had held the position since the foundation of the institution 15 years before. The new officers elected Vice-President; W.G.Roberts, Vice-President; W.J.Chiplin, Secretary; W.H.Paine, Librarian and Treasurer; Joseph Mondel..

-----"St.George Call"

### EXCURSION REPORT

Since last bulletin report was prepared we have been on two Excursions -- a week-end to Port Stephens District (October 25/27) and a day trip to Wiseman's Ferry (November 30). We were very well cared for by members of each Local Society and thank them for the time and patience given to us.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1986: we are having a "Colonial Tour" of Sydney Harbour, both Main and Middle Harbours, with full commentary. Our host is a descendant of a family which reached Sydney in 1797 and has made a very detailed study of "our Harbour".

We must have 75 people (or pay for that number), but we can take up to 100 people -- so we ask members to please make their bookings as soon as possible so we will have some idea of the number wishing to attend, and visitors are welcome. Please invite your friends too -- given fine weather a "February day on Sydney Harbour could be very pleasant.

Bus will leave Cronulla at 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9 a.m. --- fares \$13.00 for members and \$14.00 Visitors, all inclusive. There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits available, but please take your luncheon as usual. As we will be on the launch until about 1 O'clock we may have lunch on board, but that will be decided later on dependent on our afternoon plans.

WEEK-END TO GULGONG/MUDGEES. FRIDAY MARCH 8 to SUNDAY MARCH 10:  
We will leave Cronulla 5.30 p.m., Sutherland 6 p.m. and travel to Gulgong Friday evening. Saturday will be spent in Gulgong and on Sunday we will visit Mudgee. Members of the local Societies in both towns will be our guides during our visit to their towns. Cost, all inclusive, will be \$100.00 each.

SATURDAY MAY 17: BANKSTOWN. by that month days are getting shorter so we have selected a nearby venue. This Society has not previously visited Bankstown on Excursion.

Leaving Cronulla at 9 a.m., Sutherland 9.30 a.m. Cost \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 visitors.

WAITING LIST: I have been asked to request members who have their names on the waiting list, and find they are unable to go to that particular outing to please let us know so that your name may be removed from our list -- often it is necessary to make a number of 'phone calls before anyone can fill the vacancy. It would be very much appreciated if you could help the Committee in this way; the telephone calls become expensive and it is time consuming too. From a list of seventeen names for Wiseman's "Ferry, not one was able to go one week before the tour, so I'm sure you will understand our appeal to you.

For bookings please contact Mrs. Ada Cutbush on 523-3147; for enquiries regarding tours either Mrs. Cutbush or myself on 523-5801

The Excursion Committee looks forward to continued support in 1986 and trusts the outings offered will meet with your approval.



EXCURSION CONVENER

### A LOCAL DENTIST

Mr. G. Vern Barnett came to Sutherland about the beginning of the first World War, and commenced a dental practice. A tall, thin man with a moustache, he was always immaculately dressed, and looked quite distinguished in his navy blue suit and "hard hitter" or bowler type hat. In later years his hair turned white.

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**G. VERN BARNETT,**  
**DENTIST.**  
FLORA STREET, SUTHERLAND.  

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CRONULLA, over Bway's Store, Opp-  
School of Arts, Weds. and Saturdays.

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In 1917 he was living at The Junction, Loftus, near the station. according to Sand's Directory. His practice was in Flora Street, Sutherland, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays he was at Cronulla where he had rooms over Byways Store, opposite the School of Arts.

Vern Barnett had a horse and sulky for his private transport, but one would assume he travelled on the steam tram to Cronulla especially during inclement weather.

Later he moved his practice to the Princes Highway, several doors down from the northern, side of to-days Eton Arcade. It was an old wooden building, and was owned by Mrs.A. Clarke who had a shop adjoining where she sold confectionery, soft drinks, fruit and vegetables.

Barnett employed a Miss Cadet in the capacity of nurse-receptionist. The Cadet family had come from South Africa about 1901-1903. They lived on the corner of Flora and linden streets, Sutherland, near the cemetery gates. When Vern Barnett's wife died, he married Miss Cadet.

Several cases of the attention received when a visit to the dentist was required, have been recalled showing Vern Barnett to be a trusting and considerate man.

One afternoon after school in 1923 Jack Midgley who had been suffering from an aching tooth decided he could'nt stand it any longer so he went to see Vern Barnett in the old wooden building. He explained he did'nt have any money, but the understanding dentist removed the offending tooth, and Jack brought him the 2/6 next day. On another occasion suffering from a bad tooth one Sunday morning, Jack's father harnessed up the horse and sulky at Menai and drove him to Loftus to Vern Barnett's home. The dentist boarded the sulky, and was driven down to Sutherland to his surgery and the offending tooth removed.

Mick Derrey recalled a time when he visited Vern Barnett to have a tooth removed in the weatherboard room. After Vern Barnett re-moved the tooth, his nurse gave him a glass of water to wash his mouth out, and he found it was full of wigglers. Of course Sutherland in those days depended on tank water and it was'nt until Dec-ember 1930 that residents were assured reticulated water would be available. In the mid 1920s water was carried in dry times to the residents by the steam tram and A.E.C. lorries. Kerosene put into a tank of water was a sure cure for wigglers as it floated on the surface.

Knight, a son of Vern Barnett was born in 1904. He became a well known theatre organist enthralling audiences with his presentations at major theatres including the Victory at Kogarah , Prince Edward theatre, Sydney, and The Savoy theatre at Hurstville. He later moved to Adelaide where he died early in 1985.

Source: Mr..J.Midgley, Mr.M.Derrey, Sutherland Shire Council Local  
History Library, "St,George Call".

--Fred Midgley

COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Mr. H. Ivers,  
6 Raymond place, Engadine, 2233,  
Phone 520 6324

Deputy-President: Mrs.A.Griffiths,

Hon.-Treasurer: Mrs.E.Sheppard

Research: Mr.F.Midgley,  
6 Koorong Pl. Bangor, 2234  
543 1724 (after 4.30pm)

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