

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTES	H. IVERS
MATSON PIONEERS	F. MIDGLEY
MAKING A MEAL	G. HEAVENS
SUTHERLAND IN 1886	P. THOMAS
IN MEMORIUM	F. M
LAND GRANTS & SHACKEL'S ESTATE	F. MIDGLEY
COUNCIL DOINGS	F.A.M.
EXCURSION REPORT	A. GRIFFITHS
SUTHERLAND SCHOOL HEADMASTER	F.A.M.
THE SCENT OF COMPLAINT	F. MIDGLEY
VOYAGE ON GEORGE'S RIVER	F.A.M.
A FINE RECORD	F. MIDGLEY
MIRANDA CO-OP TRADING SOCIETY	F.MIDGLEY
REV. R. B. POCOCK	F. MIDGLEY

ILLUSTRATIONS -----F. Midgley

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Foremost in our thoughts at this time in the loss, due to a motor accident, of Duncan McLachlan, long standing member and strong supporter of the Society. It was this year that Duncan accepted nomination, and was elected to Committee of the Society, an event which was welcomed with much pleasure by all members of the Society's Executive.

I express the feelings of all members of the Society as I pay tribute for the contribution Duncan has made to this Society, and extend to Aimie, his wife, my deepest sympathy.

This has not been a happy Quarter, because the memory is still fresh with the loss of Austin Goldberg, who recently passed away after an illness. Austin, long time friend of John Antill, has always strongly supported this Society and provided the assistance and companionship that enabled John to attend Society's meetings as time and health permitted. His frequent complimentary remarks about the Society's work were appreciated.

Then there was the loss of Mr, Quantrell, who died suddenly after Heritage Week in April this year. My last contact with him was when he was helping members of the Exhibition Group clear up on the last day of the display. His help was very welcome, and he will always be remembered for his effort.

On a happier note, I refer to the "museum". The Shire Council, with the aid of Government funds, has renovated the old School Of Arts and prepared the old Library and Billiards Room for use by this Society as a museum.

This Society is grateful to Council for its work on the project, which comes to fruition by an opening ceremony on August 9 at 2 p.m..

I look forward to an interesting future in co-operation with the Shire Council, and to participation by members in the related activities. --Harold Ivers

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FIXTURES FOR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

June 13:	Mr. W. Newton; Address on - MAP OF SHIRE AND HISTORICAL SITES
July 11:	Mr. P. Orlovitch; Address on - CAPT. COOK, SIR JOSEPH CARRUTHERS & KURNELL
August 8:	FILMS, DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS
September 12:	Mr. W. McEwan; Address on - AUSTRALIAN BI-CENTENARY
October 10:	Mr.N. Thorp: Address on - HISTORY OF SYDNEY'S WATER SUPPLY
November 14:	Mrs. B. Goodyer of - BANKSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
December 12:	FILMS

In preparation for the Memoriums on page 224 of this issue acknowledgements and thanks are extended to the St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Mrs.A. Griffiths, Rev. Neil Ericksson.  
-----F.M.

### MATSON PIONEERS

It was in 1848 when Mr. Matson, then aged 21, arrived in Sussex Street, Sydney, as a member of a ship's crew. Like so many ships in those days, especially during the times of the gold rush, they were unable to sail because many of the crew "jumped ship". Matson was one of them. He was a Finn, and when he was 24 he married and a son, Fred, was born in the about 1870.

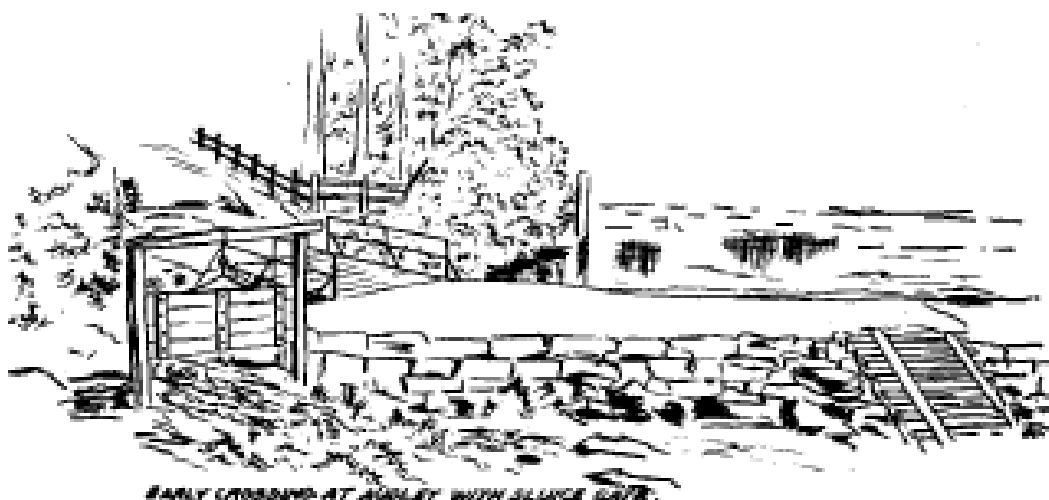
Mr. Matson came to the National Park in 1879, and began hiring row boats. Not having a shed they were tied to the river bank. Mr. Matson and his wife and son lived in a small hut where the boats were tied up below the weir on the western bank.

In 1893 a larger boatshed was built (where to-days shed stands) in which 24 boats were housed. In the back of the shed boats were built. Two of the employees in the boat building were Finns. They were paid ten shillings a week each, with board and lodging found. On a Friday night they would go to Sutherland and get drunk. The police constable, Lewis, would hold them and their release was paid by Matson.

Matson's son, Fred, continued on in the boat building business. He married Rota, the daughter of Richard Kidd who had been a ganger on the construction of the Illawarra Railway in the 1880s. In July, 1899, twin eons were born, Fred and Oscar. When they were three months old they were held by the Duchess of York - later Queen Mary when she and her husband, later King George V - visited the National Park in 1899,

Two of the boats, "Duke" and 'Duchess", named after the Royal couple were built by Matsons at Audley. The ""Duke" was a powered boat as were the larger boats built by Matson, the "Phyllis", "Simplex" and "Sphinx" The larger boats were built in a dockyard below the weir on the western bank. A man named Fisher helped in their construction. The "Simplex" was brought to Matson's Pleasure Grounds at Yowie Bay, from Audley, in 1903, by Fred Matson.

One of the jobs the twin boys, Fred and Oscar had to do when they were about 14 was to open and close the floodgate on the eastern side of the causeway. They used block and tackle and it was easier to raise the gate than to lower it. Sometimes they would have to raise the flood gate if the necessity arose at 2 o'clock at night. In 1914 part of the wall of the weir broke away.



*EARLY DOCKING AT AUDLEY WITH SLUCE GATE.*

The First rangers were appointed in 1879 at the rate of ten shillings a week. Three rangers were at first employed and their job was to prevent the removal or destruction of plants, Christmas bush and palms, as well as preventing the destruction or injury of game.

It was in 1879 that the first fatality occurred at Audley when a Finnish boy was drowned near the site of the weir.

Fred Matson, father of the twins decided to commence a business of his own in 1894 with a little boatshed and twelve boats. The business grew and in its hey-day a large dance hall in the grounds held as many as 150 couples at dances on a Sunday. The dance hall was built by Mr. Brinsley of Sutherland and could seat 300 people when used as a restaurant. In 1905 a number of Japanese sailors visited Matson's Pleasure Grounds where they sat down to a meal in the restaurant.

The hall was pulled down in 1915 for a timber mill. It had been built in 1904.

Machinery for the timber mill and the breakdown saw for the timber cutting was carried into Port Hacking by the "Rebecca" owned by Fred Matson. The "Rebecca" was a two mast vessel and carried the timber for the first wood blocks used in Sussex Street, Sydney. The "Rebecca" which first entered Port Hacking in 1901 was eventually wrecked.

Matson eventually owned 120 acres and it was known as Matson's City Estate when it was put up for sale in January, 1916. The last of the boatshed at Yowie Bay was demolished by Fred Matson (one of the twins) about 1974.

Fred and his twin brother Oscar set up a factory for the building of clinker row-boats (opposite the Sutherland Hospital) on the Kingsway and Kareena Road. They built 400 row-boats, turning out 5 a week in the 1950s at £25 each. During the second World War the boats were sabotaged. The popularity of aluminium and fibre-glass boats eventually forced them to sell out to a big firm.

Source: Interview with Mr. Fred Matson, Jnr., July 5, 1979.

--- Fred Midgley



Matson's Pleasure Grounds, Yowie Bay.

### MAKING A MEAL

We were heading for Queensland. We were always heading for the State in which direction we were going, just in case a lift was offering, you never quoted a town. It was always Queensland, Victoria or South Australia, so today it was Queensland.

We wandered into a town called Gloucester. Here we had work to do . First a trip to the butchers, "Sorry I'm out of free outs". We then picked up a few Turnip tops and Beetroot leaves; (these cook very well); some Carrots and Spuds all partly decayed, as well as some specked fruit. Now all that was left was the bread, so off to the baker I went, but lo, the baker did'nt have any, not either stale or fresh. He told me he must have had six hundred blokes in that day. We were late I must admit, for the truck we had hoped for did'nt come along. I thanked him and was leaving when he called, "What about cake". I nearly collapsed. Was I hearing right? Cake. Naturally I turned saying, "Yes, please". The baker said; "It's in the pig tin", it should be O.K. though, take as much as much as you like", as he threw me a shoe box,

After due thanks we moved on eventually arriving at a place called Krambach. Here we decided to camp on the top of a big hill. One of the blokes had the call to retreat behind a large rock, and on his return displayed a couple of the largest Mushrooms I have ever seen, up to 9" in diameter. When we had finished yelling with delight, he told us there were thousands of them over there. We then went and picked the choicest, kicking the others, the size we now buy in the Supermarket. We boiled these by the bucketful and drank the liquid instead of tea. They were delicious. This was followed by cake and a large helping of stewed apple and rhubarb , completing a really beautiful meal. Had Mother been with us she could'nt have done better.

Source: Personal experiences of the Depression days by the writer.

----George Heavens

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### CHANGE OF NAME.

On the instigation of the Woronora Progress Association, Sutherland Shire Council has decided to change the name of Boyle Park to Prince Edward Park. The name of the sporting Prince would soon be as cheap as ice-cream wafers and like that combination of ANZAC will have to be protected by an Act of Parliament, Clr. Monro stated.

Clr. Monro struck the nail on the head when he told Council that personal names to such places lent themselves to the vagaries of individuals who at times felt that they could' get even!

"In future if Sutherland be comprised of Bolsheviks and anti-Imperialists the name of Prince Edward Park would be obliterated from the sign board at the entrance to the Park", said Clr. Monro.



----The Propeller", June, 1920.

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### SUTHERLAND IN 1886

One hundred years ago the settlers of the Sutherland district were uniting to gain benefits for their community. The newly opened railway had given them easier access to Sydney, and three of their four permanent buildings: the station master's house, and level crossing keepers house ( the other was Mr. Bramley's new store. Sixteen families who lived in the district wanted a public school established at Sutherland to provide education for their children. The nearest schools were at Hurstville and Heathcote, about five miles away north or south.

Under Mr. Bramley's leadership, they petitioned the Superintendent of Public Schools (sic), " we the Residents of Sutherland and Surroundings do most earnestly Intreat and Solicit your attention to our great want of a Publick School for our Children, knowing that be-fore long this will be a largely populated place. We have the confidence to solicit your aide And trust that you will be pleased to give us has soon has possible A School if it be but a tent... "

In contrast to their optimism about the future of Sutherland, the feeling of the District Inspector, Mr. W. McIntyre was that of caution, based on the fact that apart from the four buildings, the families lived in huts and tents in the bush and in his estimation might move at any time because the fathers were "chiefly poor labouring men who had little or no permanent interest in the locality..."



Mr. McIntyre's investigations included visiting the locality, ascertaining the locations of the families and obtaining prices of land in the town ship.

His sketch map of Sutherland gives us a picture which contrasts with the official maps neatly surveyed in town lots, streets drawn geometrically. We see the four buildings and the scattered huts and tents. He estimated the population of Sutherland and district in 1886 as 75.

We are fortunate that he pinpointed the dwellings of these early settlers. He also noted on the list of petitioning parents the occupations of some of the fathers so we have quite a bit of in-formation about the people of Sutherland a century ago. In table form the facts are as follows:

Parent	Children	Age	Religion	Occupation	Residence
William Bramley	Elizabeth H. Mirran M.A. William C.	8 6 4	Wesleyan	Storekeeper	Near station 10 chains from school
John Attwill	William Avesse John Charles Annie May	14 12 10 8 6	Church of England	Station- Master	Official res- idence 10 chains from school
Timothy Bursill	Nartha William Ernest	8 6 4	Protest- ant	Sawyer employed at mills	15 chains from school near level- crossing
John Kelly	Katherine M. Archie Thomas J. Emma	14 12 11 7	Roman Catholic	Roadwork	20 chains from school west of rail- way line
A. Dwyer	Ethel	4	Roman Catholic	Land- owner	10 chains from school
William Solomon	John Chas. Elizabeth William	8 5 4	Church of England		15 chains from school west of rail- way line
Robert Fylocreest	Tom C. Ada A. John C. Margt M	9 7 5 4	Church of England	Carpenter	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile from school
? Goddard	Annie	11	Church of England		at Heathcote
Thomas Cook	Ellen David	8 6	Nil		at Diamond drill $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, coal
William Hillier	Charles Albert Ernest	13 8 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Protestant	Landowner and partner with Bursill in sawmill	20 chains from school, south of rail- way station
Dan Lobb	Daniel Arthur (?) Ada	13 10 8	Church of England	Butcher	At National Park Gate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from school
John Dwyer	Nabel Glendevour Thomas John Elizabeth	12 10 8 6 4			At National National Park, 3 miles away
John Mullins	Mullins	6	R.C.		Near Lobbs, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile further

Parent	Children	Age	Religion	Occupation	Residence
Emmanuel Pratus	Earnest	9	Church of England		1/4 mile on Illawarra Road in township
John Allen	John Hayward Lener Allen	11 5	Roman Cath.	Gate-Keeper	Railway crossing
Andrew Erwin	Mary	14	Catholic		In township

There are 74 people mentioned here, of whom two lived at Heathcote. If we consider the wives, any children over fourteen or under four years of age, and any couples without children, it is obvious Mr. McIntyre's estimate of population is extremely conservative; the true population may well have been over one hundred.

Mr. McIntyre's investigations into the price of land revealed that allotments owned by the Intercolonial Investment Land and Building

Co. between the Railway Station and Eton Street were priced at £750-0-0 and £600-0-0 per acre, which he considered too high. His preference was for a site from the Holt-Sutherland Estate on the eastern side of Eton Street.

In Mr. McIntyre's judgement there was justification for the establishment of a small public school with a likely enrolment of 35 children (fourteen year olds were ineligible)

Acting on his advice the Department resumed a two acre site bounded by Eton, Flora and Merton Streets, occupying approximately the northern half of the present grounds of the Sutherland Public School. This was notified in the Sydney Morning Herald of December 4, 1886.

Although the land was unoccupied, it had been leased for 99 years from the Holt-Sutherland Estate by three lessees: Henry Evans, iron-monger of 79 Oxford St. Sydney; Arthur Garner of the Theatre Royal, Melbourne; and the Fagan Brothers, timber merchants of Sussex St., Sydney. Compensation for the lessees was negotiated with the Department. Mr. Thomas Holt on behalf of the Estate "made a free gift of his right, title and interest "in the land, as was his policy.

The plans and specifications for the one roomed school were submitted by the builder James Booth in September, 1886, and the school was opened on March 6, 1887.

It is interesting that Mr. McIntyre's assessment of the education-needs of the community of Sutherland proved to be an underestimate. Already by 1888 there was a deputation to the Minister for more accommodation, since the school held 50 but average attendance was 69. Also, at least two of the families attending the school in the beginning, the Lobbs and the Mylchreests, are still living in the district.

The optimism of the parents and the prudent investigations of the Department through Mr. McIntyre were rewarded by the success of the Sutherland Public School which will celebrate in 1887 a century of continuous service to the education of Sutherland and surrounding districts.

Source: Documents, Archives Office of N.S.W. 5/17721.2.

-----Pam Thomas



### IN MEMORIUM

In recent months the Society has lost two distinguished and long standing members, Mr. Austin Goldberg and Mr. Duncan McLachlan, both of whom were well known in the community and the Sutherland Shire.

The death of Austin Goldberg, L.G.S.M. (London), A.Mus. A.,L.L.C.M (T.D) occurred on May 23, at Concord Hospital, at the age of 68.

He was one of the Shire's best known music teachers, and during a career which spanned 40 years he taught at his Cronulla studio, and as a master at St. Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney from 1947 to 1976. During the World War 11, he enlisted and served with the R.A.A.F.

In the 1950s and 1960s he was very active in many of the artistic endeavours in Sutherland Shire as a lecturer, critic and writer including a weekly feature in the Shire Pictorial. He also played a leading part in the forming of the open air theatre at Gunnamatta.

Mr. Goldberg had a keen interest in the music of other countries, and as he travelled widely was able to gain a more intimate under-standing of different cultures.

On his retirement he was researching a biography of his close friend, the Australian composer John Antill on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Goldberg was also associated with St. Andrew's Anglican Church at Cronulla where the service was held before proceeding to Woronora. A Thanksgiving Service was held in St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney, on Thursday, June 19, conducted by the Dean of Sydney, Rev. Lance Shilton.

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Duncan Kennedy McLachlan was born on August 25, 1908, and his early years were lived around the Clarence River.

Moving to Sydney after leaving school he was able to pursue his ' love of sport, especially cricket. Playing for St. George Colts one of his team mates was the great Don Bradman. It was at a tennis match that he met Aimie. They were married for 54 years, raising three sons and a daughter, and there are now 12 grandchildren and one great-grand child.

The war came and Duncan enlisted in the R.A.A.F. where he served as a navigator and flew in the New Guinea campaign with 54 squadron.

Mr. McLachlan was an accountant by profession and for 27 years worked with his sons in the family business at Caringbah. For the past 36 years he was an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, serving in the Cronulla Church.

He was aware of his heritage and of the past - but only to learn from it, never to live in it. Consequently he was very active in the William Cox Society (of whom he was a direct descendant), the clan McLachlan of whom he was very proud, and the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, being elected to the Executive Council' of the Society in March this year.

Duncan was a kind, gentle and humble man who loved the simple things in life and he was happy on the farm at Gunnedah, quietly working away from the hustle and bustle of city life. He died as a result of a motor accident on Saturday, July 5, at Woollooware. Services were firstly held in the Presbyterian church, Cronulla, led by Rev. Neil Ericksson on Friday July 11, and at Woronora.

### EARLY LAND GRANTS AND SHACKEL'S ESTATES

On November 18, 1825, the Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane issued an order or "promise" of 150 acres of land to John Lucas of Liverpool. It was the intention of Lucas to establish a water mill for the purpose of grinding grain into flour, at the head of the tidal waters near a natural ford or dam, beyond which was fresh water. Assistant Surveyor Dixon was instructed by the Surveyor General John Oxley to carry out surveys in the vicinity of Botany and Port Hacking in 1827. At the same time Dixon was requested to proceed up the then unnamed river and define the boundaries of the acres of John Lucas. Dixon named the river "Wooloonora", the aboriginal word for "black rock." It was later changed to Woronora.



the  
Bay  
150

The actual date of the granting or registering of this 150 acres, portion 15, was on October 19, 1831.

The Mill did operate, vessels of light burden discharging grain at the site, returning with flour. The "Australian", a boat carrying 12 tons with Mr. Wain as captain took maize to the Mill and returned to Sydney with corn meal in May, 1831.

The Mill was destroyed by fire in 1838. In the "Sydney Morning Herald" of Tuesday, March 14, 1843, the sale by public auction of the "Woronora Mill Estate" was advertised. It stated the new road to the Illawarra would pass near the property. Actually this road surveyed by the Surveyor General (later Sir) Thomas Mitchell was with-in the western boundaries of the 150 acres.

Soon after the advertisement appeared, Roderick Mitchell, son of the Surveyor General, was proceeding up the Woronora with a party and equipment to establish a camp above the reach of the tidal waters. Construction of the road commenced in earnest when on July 3, 1843, a party of 20 convicts under Overseer O'Hara proceeded to where the camp site had been established. From there construction commenced towards the Georges River, through what is now Menai.

The name of John Lucas is well known, together with his land grant. In fact his name is perpetuated in the proposed new suburb of Lucas Heights. But there others who soon followed Lucas with large grants in the area, but their names have disappeared into obscurity to be found only in the Lands Department or the Land Titles of the Registrar General.

At this stage it might be appropriate to introduce three later land speculators, David Shackel, Walter Frederick Shackel and Alf-red Shackel, all merchants of Sydney. In all they held close on 900 acres, but the name is best known in Shackel's Estate, Woronora, a subdivision of 314 water frontages.

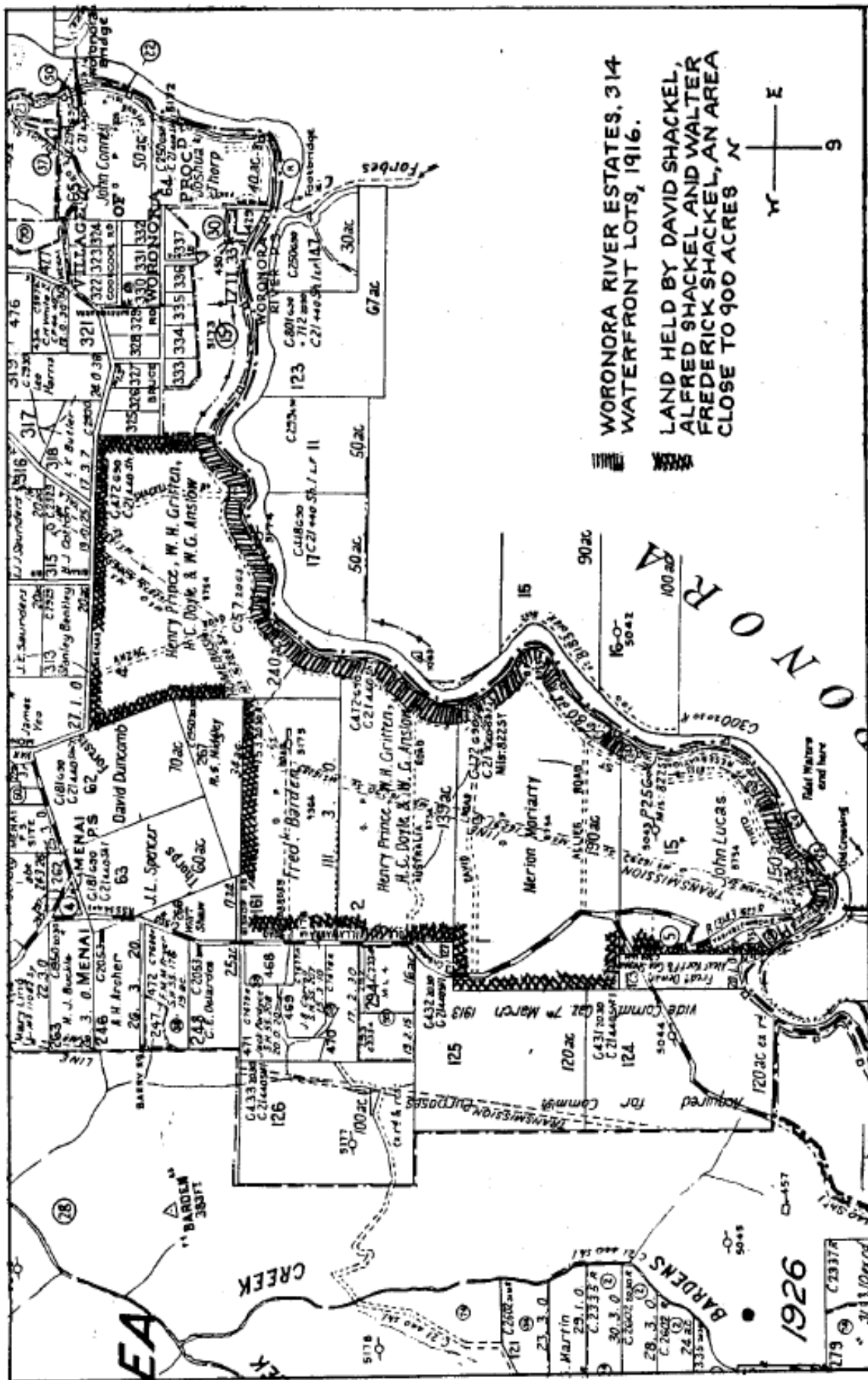


SIR THOMAS MITCHELL

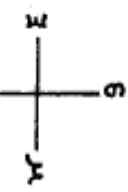
Other portions of land later obtained by David Shackel was first applied for by Merlon Moriarty on September 11, 1843. This was Portion 1, an area of 190 acres, the western end of the grant being cut through Mitchell's Great South Road (Old Illawarra Road).

Largest of the grants of land were held by a consortium of Henry Prince, Gritten, Doyle and Anslow, all described as gentlemen of Sydney.

There were two grants, one of 139 acres, portion 2, and the other portion 4 of 240 acres, both acquired on the same date, December 12, 1888.



WORONORA RIVER ESTATES, 314 WATERFRONT LOTS, 1916.  
 LAND HELD BY DAVID SHACKEL, ALFRED SHACKEL AND WALTER FREDERICK SHACKEL, AN AREA CLOSE TO 900 ACRES



The two grants totalled 379 acres and cost the partners £758/10 at £2/0/0 an acre, This was transferred to Walter Frederick Elrington on August 19, 1914, then to John Purvis and then to Walter Frederick Shackel on June 6, 1916.

It is of interest to note that Prince, Gritten, Doyle and Anslow had been granted further portions of land totalling 240 acres on the same date as the other grants but they were out of the land interests of the Shackels.



On May 5, 1900, Frederick Barden of Arncliffe was granted 111 acres 3rds for £223/10. The land was bounded in the east and south by the grants of Prince, Doyle, Gritten and Anslow. In the west it was bounded by the Old Illawarra Road, and in the north partly by Richard Midgley's Homestead Selection of 34 acres taken up in December, 1896.

This land was originally taken up by J.Bowden. and J.Alexander as a mineral purchase in November 1881. When Barden died the land was transferred to his widow Emma, Harriett Guille and Stanley Barden in November 1917. They quickly changed their minds commonsense overriding sentiment for barely a month later the land was transferred to David Shackel on December 4. However on December 13, 1924, Alfred Shackel merchant, and Henry Davis, Solicitor, both of Sydney, became the registered owners as joint tenants. After the proof of the death of Alfred Shackel, Henry Davis became the sole owner on April 9, 1929. Davis did not hold on for long and transferred to Edward Fripp, described as a "gentleman of the land" on August 21, 1929.

The Woronora River Estates were put up for public auction on the 8th of March, 1916, in the rooms of Batt, Rodd and Purves, Ltd., 26 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, in conjunction with C.O.J. Monro of Cronulla, but this of course did not include the Estate formerly owned by Barden.

David Shackel Esq., of Challis House, Martin Place, Sydney, was the Vendor. Solicitors to the Estate were Metcalf and Dangar of 10 Bligh Street, Sydney. Subdivisions had been carried out by Howard and Co., Licensed Surveyors of 129 Pitt Street, Sydney. Three maps to cover the vast Estates were released, all land being Torrens Title.

In allotments for example of the subdivision for example on Plan 3, Lots 359, 360 and 361, an area of 13 acres and facing Anzac Road, could be obtained on a deposit of £1/0/0 per Lot the required balance being at the rate of £1/0/0 per month together with interest at the rate of 5% per cent per annum. The three lots were sold for £79/16/4. Large tracts of land were taken by the Government of Estate facing Menai Road for Soldier Settlement purposes.

David Shackel had a dwelling erected on the Estate facing Woronora, River. All owners of land known as Shackel's Estate, Woronora, must now move if they wish to sell and the houses removed or made so as to be condemned by the Sutherland Shire Council who have the authority to do so. The plan is to return the whole of the waterfront to its natural state as a reserve. Some have gone but it will be some years before the plan is affected.

Residents on these water frontages have as their address, with lot number, Shackel's Estate, Woronora. When all the homes are gone the name of Shackel in this sphere will pass into oblivion. But the name

of Shackel has for many years been perpetuated in a road which ran through part of the Estate. It is now in the new suburb of Bangor, and is now only about half the original length, the Bangor Public School occupying the remainder.

David Road off Old Illawarra Road, the name origin seemingly to be lost, would surely have been named for David Shackel, the road being surveyed to the Woronora River.

Source: Sutherland Shire Local History Library, The Lands Department, Sydney; Registrar General's Office, Sydney; writer's records.

-----Fred Midgley

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#### COUNCIL DOINGS - 1911

JULY, 1911. Sutherland Shire Council sought control from the Department of Lands of the Trigonometrical Reserve, in the Parish of Heathcote. Permission was granted provided that no buildings be erected or trees planted. that would obscure or interfere with the use of the "Bottle" Trigonometrical station for observation.

The Council decided to raise the Shire Clerk's salary by ten shillings per week, All rates owing to Sutherland Council by August 28, would be the subject of summonses.

Council decided to invite applications for a young man or woman to act as book-keeper at a salary of £90 (\$180) a year. It was felt that girls would be more reliable.

The Government Botanist informed Council of his willingness to supply Port Jackson Fig Trees for street planting. Council decided to take fifty.

The Council entered into a party line with Messrs. Boyle, Carrick and Cole but would shortly be connected direct with telephone.

NOVEMBER, 1911. A large signed petition was presented to Council signed by ratepayers pretesting against the nuisance of straying cattle. Council Inspector Roberts suggested the establishment of a pound.

DECEMBER, 1911. The overhead bridge at Sutherland would be erected as soon as possible, according to the Railway Commissioners:

Council decided to give their workmen Christmas week off, paying for one day's pay outside the regular holidays. Workmen had to return to work on January 2nd, 1912.

Council received two offers for a pound and pound keeper, but have deferred their decision until Council obtained a suitable site of their own.

Request for Council's co-operation for a new. water supply by , damming the Woronora met with hearty support .

The Railway Commissioners informed Council that in future, indication boards at Sydney Station would state, "Sutherland - change here for Cronulla".

Clr. Judd objected to Councillors being called out of Council meetings by ladies. "How can the business go on", he stated.

From "St.George Call" newspaper.

### EXCURSION REPORT

The Bankstown Day proved to be very interesting and enjoyable for all the travellers. As I was recovering from my hospitalisation I was unable to attend - but I am told Mrs. Helen Thorley was a most informative guide and thanks must also go to Mrs. Ada Cutbush for finalising all arrangements for the outing.

As this report must be prepared before we have the Sutherland Shire tour, I can only detail our plans for the day, It is proposed to travel along Kingsway from Sutherland to Caringbah with a commentary on various historic points. Then to Lilli Pilli --'Fernleigh" on Burraneer Bay by courtesy of Mrs. Ivey Alcott -- the Castlewood Estate and sites nearby.

Then an inspection of North Cronulla Surf Club, where lunch will be taken before travelling around the peninsula of South Cronulla. There are some sites chosen for the return trip to Sutherland if time permits, if not they will be included in the next Sutherland Shire Excursion.

Sincere thanks go to the members who have kindly offered to act as guides of their special areas.

September 20: Old Sydney Town -Leaving Cronulla 8am, to Sutherland 8.30 a.m. Prices will be \$15.00 full price and \$12.00 with concession pass. Those claiming the concession rate will be required to show the pass as they go through the gateway. Mrs. Cutbush will be asking which rate you will be paying as you make the booking -- please bear with us as this is a requirement of the Old Sydney Town people and now of our making. On this occasion you may take you luncheon as usual, or buy your needs at "The Town". We will try to make a comfort stop on the way, but would prefer not to delay for Morning Tea; we hope you will be agreeable, but perhaps if you regularly have morning tea you could do so as soon as we enter,-there there are tables and chairs for your convenience. Waiting list only at present.

October 25-26: Jenolan Caves Week-end; Pull price \$95.00. Plans are well in hand and bookings are already opened, because it was suggested that August would be too late for us to know our numbers by the date required by Caves House. Leaving Cronulla 6.30 a.m., Sutherland 7 a.m., we will have a comfort stop about Katoomba and then drive direct to the Caves. This is an expensive weekend as the charges are very high, but we hope we will give you good value as always.

November 22: to Berrima. Society has not been there since our Southern Highlands week-end in 1976. Leaving Cronulla 7,30 a.m. Sutherland 8 a.m. Bookings will open at August Meeting - cost will be \$ 11.00 members \$12.00 Visitors, excluding entrance fees which may be applicable; some members may not wish to see all the places - some may have recently been in the district --- and others may have a particular preference to see or not to see. Our aim is to drive you around Berrima with commentary and then allow you "free" time to wander at will. Being daylight saving time we will probably be very late returning to the Shire as it is a long journey, but certainly possible as a "one day tour".

Bookings to Mrs, Cutbush 523-8147 --- enquiries to either Mrs. Cutbush or myself on 523801.

Aileen Griffiths Convener.

### A SUTHERLAND SCHOOL HEADMASTER

Mr. Herbert H. Small came to Sutherland Public School in 1896, where he stayed for a period of 15 years, leaving at the end of Dec-ember, 1911, this being the second longest service by a headmaster since the school opened on March 6, 1887.



Mr. Small, physically, was not as his name might suggest. He was about 6ft. 2ins. in height and well built. According to some old residents, who as children, attended the school, Mr. Small was very strict and believed in the old Proverb, "Spare the rod and spoil the child". He made no exception in class for misdemeanours and caned his own children.

One pupil, Billy, who later became a well known butcher in the Shire was brought out in front of the class, but as Mr, Small was in the act, of "swinging a cut", Billy raced from the room with the headmaster after him.

Billy took refuge behind the police station fence across Flora Street from the school, but Mr. Small soon detected him, and, picking him up in his arms carried him back to the classroom, placing him in his seat. Mr. Small said not a word.

Mr. Small worked hard for the school, and in March, 1899, secured a large number of books for the beginning of a school library. At the commencement of the school term in February, 1901, Mr. Small stated that 140 pupils were enrolled, and that 70 of them were in upper grades.

In 1904, Mr. Small began an evening school at the request of some local young men who had little education, but wanted to improve themselves. Unfortunately interest waned after twelve months and the classes closed.

Mr. Small was an ardent Methodist and on his request services of worship commenced in Lobb's Hall in East Parade, Sutherland, on Sunday, April 26, 1903, led by Rev. Jenkin. This was the beginning of the Methodist cause in Sutherland.

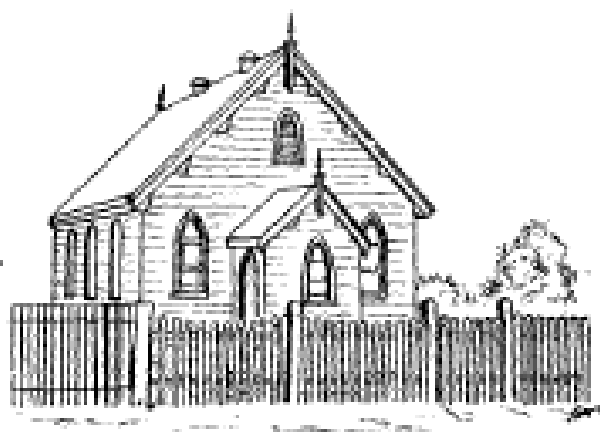
A member of the Sutherland Methodist Church Trust, Mr. Small was also a lay representative at the Methodist Conference held in Sydney in 1905.

Source: "St. George Advocate", Mr. M. Derrey,  
writers records. -----F.A.M.

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On the right is the Sutherland Methodist church, seen here about 1909, in Flora Street.

The church was destroyed by fire in 1935,



### THE SCENT OF COMPLAINT

There were many dead animals in Menai in the early days. Some died of natural causes while others, particularly the horses of one owner, died from malnutrition. Good horses to start with they wasted away and died in the bush, Some fell in wells, head first, causing satirical remarks that the water had plenty of body in it. A horse died in the then swamp land at Woronora not far from the eastern side of Menai road and a few hundred yards from the traffic bridge. Joe thought he'd done a good burial job for it was easy digging. But when the tide rose the carcass floated to the surface. Dick Beers was sorry people switched to motor vehicles, for as the number of horses lessened so did his supply of old bones which he collected and sold,

About 1912 a horse died on the selection of three brothers on Old Illawarra Road, opposite the public school. They buried it not a great distance from the road, and later as the carcass rotted they proceeded to use it for fertilizer on the garden. The stench kept driving them away, while the abominable odour drifted over the road to the noses of the school children.

A hill on Old Illawarra Road was called "Dead Horse Hill". Several settlers horses expired while in the shafts of a cart, and in early times a cavalry officer had a quick dismount when his horse collapsed and died on the same hill.

One horse took fright and bolted when pulling a plough with its owner, Jacobs on the handles.. The horse thundered off and became entangled in the wire fence of Brays, next door, and broke its neck.

In June, 1908, Mr.W.E.Nicolson of Menai had a complaint about a dead cow which had been deceased about three days had a voluble argument all its own, as though the scent of Council employees might be weak, a plan was attached to mark where the cow lay. (The animal was burned by Mr. Candy from the Council). The event had a curious sequence. Mr. Owen Jones of Menai had a plan of a dead cow and a further one on a lifeless horse for Council's benefit. There was no complaint about the equine - apparently it was too dumb. It was noted that a Sutherland man had burned the cow and it was pointed out in a local newspaper that if this was Sutherland territory, then Hurstville Council was illegally collecting rates from Mr. Shute, a property owner there.



Source: St.George Call newspaper; writers records. ----Fred Midgley

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### DISGRACEFUL ROAD

In July, 1908, Mr.W.E. Nicolson of Menai requested Sutherland Shire Council to do something to alleviate the disgraceful condition of the track "which should be a road past his property", and stated he would withhold his rates until, something was done. It was pointed out withholding of rates could not be considered. The Council were doing everything in their power to have the communication made between Menai and Sutherland and in that case would be having the road made.

In August of the same year President Judd said, "People have to earn their bread and butter", as he ordered some repairs to be done to the road to Menai which had been brought under his notice by Clr. Cook. The road in question had stuck up several settlers carts.

"St. George Call"



### VOYAGE ON THE GEORGES RIVER

This is the third part of a story about a boating and camping trip on the Georges and Woronora Rivers by a man, his three sons, and a schoolboy in April, 1869, entitled, "the Days When We Went Gypsying". The author is unknown. The story continues after leaving the Woronora.

After leaving the Woronora, we sailed easily down the Georges River for a short distance, making for the Bay, where we had halted for our first meal, after entering that river. We soon arrived there and were not long in selecting a place for our tent, in putting it up, and in getting our traps ashore. The day was still young, but we desired a much needed, good rest, ere we started our homeward journey across Botany Bay. The scene around us was a very beautiful one. A fine Bay in front, with the broad river beyond it, and the beautiful forest glades in the background. Some magpies were screaming around. One of these was immediately brought down and the rest soon took the hint and made off. But this one magpie, with various other little odds and ends, made us an excellent pot of soup. Some folks I have heard have a prejudice against magpies, but such people don't know what is good for themselves. This fellow was delicious. He had just been gorging on wild figs, with which his stomach was fairly distended when he was brought to the ground.

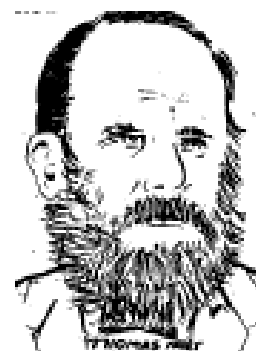
After this there was some fishing in the Bay, a good supper on the result of that fishing (with a few things from our still ample stores), a pleasant evening, and a good night's rest. In the morning after a bath and a substantial breakfast, we reloaded our boat. The loading this time was conducted with greater care than usual, as the boat was not to be again unloaded until we reached Cook's River dam, and brought our excursion to a close. Some extra care, too, was rendered necessary, because there were sundry spoils and specimens which we had gathered together, and which had to be stowed as to guard against their being wetted by salt water. All was done at last, however, and off we started, but without little wind to help us.

Our first halt was a brief one. It was the landing place opposite Koggerah or Tom Ugly's Point. I have already mentioned that we called there on the first day to receive a message from a friend, and we now called to send a message to that friend in return. I should have liked to have walked a little inland, and seen something more of Mr. Holt's Estate; but time would not permit it. A large portion of the five days already taken up by our gypsying excursion had been passed in skirting some of the shores of that estate.

Few, perhaps, are aware of the nature and extent of Sutherland - the property of the Hon. Thomas Holt M.L.C. although it lies so near to the metropolis. It is of truly princely dimensions, containing about 12,000 acres of purchased land. It has a water frontage following the curvatures of the coast and streams of nearly one hundred miles. This includes the whole of the south side of Botany Bay, and of George's River to the Woronora River. Also the shores of the Pacific Ocean from Botany Bay to Port Hacking. There are likewise extensive frontages to the Port Hacking and Woronora Rivers, and Port Hacking. Two Bays - Gwawley and Weeny -- have been wholly purchased from the Government by Mr. Holt, with a view to the breeding and the fattening of oysters. A man is constantly employed in collecting the oysterlings, of which millions have been laid down in Gwawley Bay. Of the 12,000 acres, it is estimated that 8,000 are of first class soil, 3,000 middling quality and 1,000 very poor. The mountain of sand on this Estate, which fronts Cronulla beach (and can be seen from Newtown and many other parts of the suburbs of Sidney) contains

a large portion (nearly 70%, it is thought) of pulverised shells. Strenuous efforts are being made under Mr. Holt's direction, to get it covered with grasses of various kinds. About one thousand acres of rich alluvial soil, hitherto covered at spring tides, are being embanked with a view to their being planted with grasses and white clover, and must ultimately form a very valuable part of the Estate. The whole property is subdivided into paddocks, and abundantly watered. Full grown sheep fatten in these paddocks but after they have been there for about six months have been observed to fall off. Cattle on the contrary, not only become very fat but keep up their condition so long as they are suffered to remain. They even cut up better than they look -- a fact which had been frequently remarked. Mr. Holt has therefore determined to make Sutherland chiefly a fattening station for cattle. But it must be of great value in many other ways, the shortest road to Illawarra is directly through it. From the ferry at George's River to Wollongong it is but thirty one miles, and by a picturesque road. From Sydney to the ferry is about twelve miles. Some first rate stock yards for the collection and classification of cattle were, at the time of our visit, being erected near the landing place from the ferry. The scenery on many portions of this Estate such as Cronulla Beach, Port Hacking, Kurnell, George and Woronora Rivers, is exquisite and could hardly be surpassed. On the banks of the Woronora are some very fine caves, one of which that wherein we camped for two nights. Ironstone of good quality abounds on the Estate. Mr. Holt has managed, in the interest of his sheep, to poison off all the native dogs; and kangaroos both large and small, have consequently become pretty numerous. Sutherland possesses many other attractions to the sportsman. I do not know whether Mr. Holt has moved any rabbits there from his park at the Warren (his private residence) but if not, he will probably do so, and they will continue to thrive well. Fish abounds on the coast of this Estate, especially on the Port Hacking side. At Kurnell, close to the spot where Captain Cook first landed on these shores, Mr. Holt is about, at his own cost, to erect a monument, in the form of an obelisk of considerable size, and with a suitable subscription. He intends to inaugurate it on the 29th April, 1870 - the centenary of the landing.

After leaving the ferry wharf we made leisurely towards Sans Souci (Rocky Point), which we were not long in reaching. The state of the tide rendered a short halt, and at no more beautiful and convenient spot could a halt be made than at Mr. Rust's Hotel. I have been several times at this place, and the more I see of it the more I admire it. From our previous knocking about, afloat and on shore, we were rather a rough looking lot, no doubt; but we were as civilly received as if we had come there in our best toggery. -----  
Our stay was short, but we had time for a little conversation with Mr. Rust who added some valuable information on the "water question" to that which we had already obtained. While we were there the bus which now runs daily, arrived. When I heard of this regular mode of conveyance, I saw plainly that we should have saved ourselves a deal of hard work if, instead of starting from the dam and working our way with great labour down Cook's River and across the Bay, we could have made Sans Souci our point of departure and return.



The bus would have brought us and all our luggage, and have taken all back again, at a comparatively trifling cost. By following this course a great deal may be seen and done in two or three days, or even a single day.

After leaving Sans Souci and making our way into Botany Bay, we observed signs of a change of wind, which made us a little anxious. The entrance to Cook's River is a very dangerous place in a southerly gale; and the Bay itself is anything but safe in weather of that kind. With the apprehension that some such change of weather might be impending, two of the party went to the oars with a will, while a third steered. Such good speed was made that the Bay was crossed and the river entered in an unusually short space of time. But it was hard work, and when fairly inside of all the buoys, we were glad to anchor, to take a small snack and to indulge by way of a rest, and for the benefit of the "home department", in a little fishing. There was no change of wind on that day, as it happened, but the apprehension of it, while we were still far out in the Bay, had been anything but pleasing, and had served to impress on me still more strongly the wisdom of making Sans Souci the point of departure and return, in any such expedition as ours.

Our fishing in the river produced tolerably large returns, and kept us rather later than we had intended, so that darkness set in upon us while we were yet at a considerable distance from the dam, and the tide being high we were puzzled to find our way. but we inquired it of another fishing party, and when they started soon after on their return to the dam, we followed close in their wake. Thus we reached the end of our journey speedily and. safely. Joe Hilton was in attendance. The boat was unloaded, a dog cart, which was also awaiting our arrival, was made, by a little careful packing to hold our general luggage, and the spoils and specimens afore said, This done, we all started for a walk home.

Thus closed the fifth and last of "the days when we went gipsying". We were all very tired when we reached home. But a couple of days' rest set us right in this respect, and we have since felt very much the better, both bodily and mentally, for having spent our holidays in this way.

Source: "The Sydney Mail", May 1869. -----F.A.M.



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The two story building which became the Sans Souci Hotel had originally been built in the 1830s for Robert Cooper Junior who called it "Rocky Point House".

Thomas Holt liked it and intended using it as a residence, but Mrs. Holt is said to have considered the place too quiet, and refused to live there.

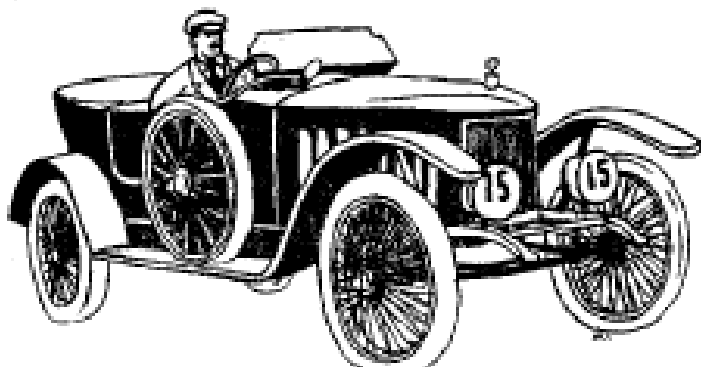
Thomas holt had renamed the house "Sans Souci (meaning without care) after an Estate of the King of Prussia whom he had visited, Thomas Holt sold the house to W.E.Rust who had run the Prince of Wales Hotel at Botany, and Rust set up a hotel,

Source: "An Energetic Colonist", by H.E.Holt.

### A FIRE RECORD

The well known identity in the Sutherland Shire, Mr.C.O.J. Monro was involved in business, community and civic affairs, as well as a Parliamentary Representative in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly. But little is probably known of his enthusiasm for motor sport in hill climbing and reliability trials, in which he competed with considerable success.

The following is from the issue of the Sunday Times, Sydney, September 25,1921, and is the record of Mr. Monro and his Prince Henry Vauxhall. .



Illustrated is the 1912 Vauxhall which filled third place in a recent interstate reliability trial. The car has a great record, including 10 firsts, 7 seconds, and 2 thirds in competition as follows:-

- 1913.- April 18: 4th, A.C.A. hillclimb, National Park.  
           August 9: 7th, petrol test to Medlow Bath.  
           Sept, 1: 1st, hill. climb, private section, National Park.  
           Oct, 23: 1st, hill climb. National Park.  
           Nov. 15: 1st, hill climb, National Park.
  - 1914.- March 8: 1st, hill climb ,National Park.  
           July 5; 5th, half gallon petrol test.
  - 1915.- April: 1 at Royal A.G.A. of Queensland' s Clubs hill climb at Brisbane, and 2nd and fastest time in a second climb.
  - 1919.- March 1: 1st , hill climb, National Park, for private owners, 2nd and fastest time, and 3rd in open class.  
           April 26: 1st, A.C.A. reliability trial, 103 miles including 1st in hill climb on Bulli Pass, and 1st in the petrol consumption test.  
           August 9: 2nd in petrol consumption test. Sept. 6: 2nd, hill climb, National Park.
  - 1920.- April 26: 2nd in reliability trial to Wiseman's Ferry, 1st in hill climb, and 4th in petrol test.  
           May 20: 2nd , hill climb, National Park.
  - 1921.- May 20: 2nd in hill climb, National Park.  
           August: 3rd in Brisbane to Sydney reliability trial, and .2nd in petrol test, averaging 32.94 m.p.g. for the whole trip.
- Source; Sunday Times,15/9/1921, from Mr.F.Hilder of Cronulla.

----Fred Midgley

In 1910 the Prince Henry Vauxhall with a 3-litre engine could get to 75 m.p.h. The cars were made by Vauxhall Motors Ltd., Luton, Bedfordshire, England. The company was taken over by General Motors who produced their first Vauxhall in 1926.

### MIRANDA TRADING CO-OP SOCIETY

The Miranda Agricultural Bureau was formed as a result of a meeting in a galvanised building on the corner of Wandella road and the Kingsway (then Malvern Road), on July 6, 1918.

Decision to form a co-operative resulted from a group of poultry farmers buying and selling as a unit, and an endeavour to cut the cost of supplies of stock feed and expensive freights above which the farmers made little profit on their eggs and poultry when sent to market.



The Congregational Church

When the group made their first purchase of a truckload of wheat the saving was so great that other poultry farmers in the district decided to do likewise.

The corrugated iron building was lined with tongue and grooved boards on the walls inside. It had been occupied by the Salvationists on a few occasions and then in 1897 by the Congregational Church which had been formed at the home of Mr. The Congregational Church Stevens in Miranda, on February 27, 1895.

While the church was in occupancy, underneath at the rear of the building, because of the slope of the ground, Miranda's first library was held which remained there until a School of Arts was built in 1904. Progress Association Meetings were also held there.

When the Congregationalists moved out to their now church on the corner of Kiora Road and Urunga Parade, in 1918, the Miranda Agricultural Bureau moved in, a small sign on the entrance porch indicating who the new occupants were.

Edward Thacker one of the districts community minded pioneers was elected president of the Bureau. Other directors were: Elijah Phillips vice-president, William Whiteman, Sydney Ogden and C.E.Paine. Arthur Moxey was the secretary.



MR. THACKER

Edward Thacker gave enough money to begin the operations as he did with the School of Arts, as well as his labour, and making sure that he gave a part of each day to Community projects".

The site for the Bureau building was purchased in November, 1918, on the corner of the Kingsway and Jackson Avenue. A deposit of \$15 was paid for the site on the original purchase price of the land of \$300. The structure of corrugated galvanised iron was completed in 1920, The bureau then had a capital of £250.

Mr. W. Luxton, who commenced his employment at the "Co-Op" in January, 1919, bought the first shares (numbers 1 and 2). Mr. Luxton in those early days delivered stock feed to the farmers on a horse drawn flat top waggon, until the motor lorry took over.



ELIJAH PHILLIPS

But a horse drawn flat top waggon again made an appearance for a period during the second World War in an effort to conserve petrol. The Horse waggon was used on shorter deliveries and was driven by Mr. "Chips" Hunter of Gynea Bay.

In 1924 the Bureau changed its name to the Miranda Co-operative Society, Ltd., and a Trading Co-operative, as it sounded better.

improvements and extensions were financed by the Co-op's own money. In 1960, there were 1350 shareholders and the directors hoped that the following year the gross turnover would exceed £250,000.



The store in 1922, Mr. Luxton on waggon.

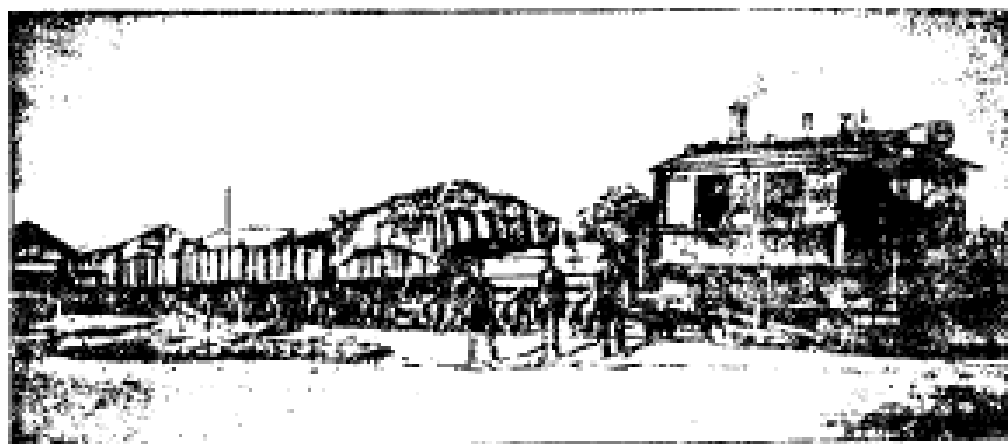
In earlier days the steam tram motor would hook onto a line of trucks at the Sutherland railway goods yard and haul them to a spur line off The Sutherland - Cronulla tramway. The trucks then had to be unloaded and the goods transported across Jackson Avenue to the "Co-Op".

During the last World War goods and stock feed were brought down by steam train for the Co-operative to a siding east of the Miranda station.

I remember if there was some produce such as bags of lucerne that I required and it had not been brought down from the siding the manager, Mr. Partridge, would get on the Ford truck and we would go and get it off the railway truck.

Mr. W.E.G. Partridge was manager there for many years, and had a worrying time keeping supplies of stock feed up to the farmers. Sometimes one had to take sacks of broken or faulty manufactured breakfast cereal - such as Weet Bix to augment supplies.

Mr. Partridge was an early resident of Sylvania where for



Steam tram on spur line with Miranda Co-Op Society on left.

several years he had a successful market garden of Port Hacking Road. Later he moved to Sutherland and came to work each day in a horse and sulky. In the latter days of his life he learnt to drive a Ford Prefect sedan with some difficulty.

Miss Pink succeeded Mr. Partridge as manager, having been secretary at the Co-operative for some time. Different approaches were now made to attract customers with the changing times, and fewer farms as they sold to developers. A large tool section was introduced and even groceries appeared for the first time.

A well known director of the "Co-Op" was Mr. Andy Marsh of Engadine. A poultry farmer himself, he was elected to the board of directors in 1945 and successfully assisted in the difficult transition period after the war, Mr. R.S. Carter who had a large poultry farm at Menai, was also a well known director.

A development application for a seven storey complex to include a theatre, restaurant, 400 unit motel and retail outlets was lodged with Sutherland Shire Council on November 27, 1972.

Demolition work began on the old Miranda Co-operative building in January, 1973. While the new premises were under construction business was carried on in a former residence in Urunga Parade.

Work on the one million dollar complex started in August, 1973, and was to be called the Kingsway Forum. The whole project was to be owned by the present and future shareholders. It was built by Caringbah builders, Lapler, Pty. Ltd.

It was planned to open the complex in May, 1975, but troubles were ahead for the Miranda Co-operative Society and its 3000 share-holders. Originally estimated to cost \$1,000 the cost near completion was \$3.5 million dollars. It was placed in the hands of a receiver who decided that the Co-operative should cease operations because of the lack of funds,

Source: St. George Sutherland Shire Leader; Miranda Congregational Church 1895 - 1945; W.A..Nelson ; writers records.

-----Fred Midgley

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### PRESENTATIONS

In March, 1914, presentations were made at a public meeting in Lobb's Hall, Sutherland, to pay public recognition to Councillors W.G.Judd and R.W.Cook during the past four years.

Entertainers were the Sutherland Choral Society: Misses Powe and Candy, Messrs. Smith and Walker, and Master Henderson. Misses Best, Stapleton and Small gave efficient assistance at the piano.



Mr. Judd read a special address in response. An illuminated address - in John Sands best style presented to Mr. Judd was a neat water colour of his residence, "Athelstane", at Arncliffe.



Mr. Cook received a gold 'Albert and Pendant'. The presentations were made on the public's behalf by Mr. Downes, M.L.A. Mr. H. Small, schoolmaster at Sutherland was chairman of the evening.

St. George Call".

### REV. R. B. POCOCK

The colony of N.S.W. had as its Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy when in far away England John Poke married Jane Bacon at the Church of England, at Willington, in Staffordshire, on June 4, 1847. At that stage the couple gave little thought that they would go to N.S.W., but after two children, Sarah Jane and Clara were born, the family came to Sydney where John was posted to Fort Denison in the Sydney Harbour when it became operational after its completion in 1857.

Here a son John arrived, his birth certificate showing he was born on Fort Denison on February 2, 1858. Another son was born in Sydney on March 13, 1860, but lived only 14 months.

The births were entered in the family bible under the surname Poke, but later an attempt had been made to erase the name and Pocock was written over, but the sharp eyes of a female descendent detected Poke written underneath. Why the name was changed is not known. On a blank back page of the bible there appears an entry "John Pocock - September 10, 1870."

The family moved to Bathurst and in due course son John married Selina Page (originally spelt Paige) on September 10, 1879, at the Baptist Church, the officiating minister being Henry Phillips.

They had seven children, all born at Bathurst, three girls and four boys, two of whom died in infancy. The eldest of these children was Robert Bacon Pocock who was born on November 15, 1880.

He eventually entered the Congregational denomination for training in the Rev, and Mrs. R.B.Pocock and ministry. This was at Camden College at Newtown, given to the Congregational Union by Thomas Holt for the training of ministers. Camden Villa been a residence of Thomas Holt.

Robert Bacon Pocock was inducted in the Sutherland Church on April 20, 1907. Other churches in his charge included Sylvania, Miranda and Menai. On February 5, 1908 he married Alice Maude Harkness.

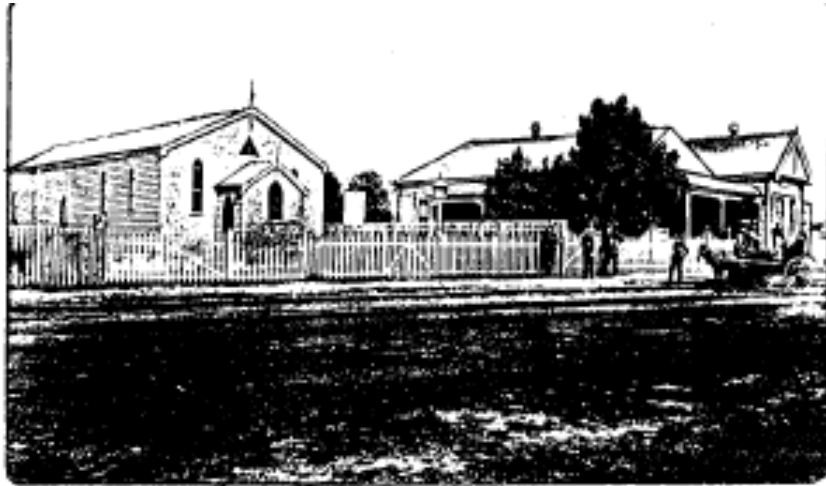
On Thursday, February 13, 1908 a social evening in honour of Rev. Pocock and his wife was held in St. John's Sutherland under the chairman of "the district minister" for twenty years, Mr. Perry. The Church of England Rector, Rev. Hillhouse Taylor, referred to Rev.Pocock "as his old and dear friend". Congregational churches represented were Miranda, Sylvania and. Menai. Rev. Pocock was presented with a purse of £12/8/0 from parishioners and friends, and remarked in his thanks that he appreciated the gift very much, and more so because of hard and difficult times the residents were going through.

A little more than three years before the coning of Rev. Pocock the Congregational Church at Sutherland was transported from Oxford Street on special axles attached to wagon wheels an drawn by a company of horses owned by the removalist, Mr A.J. Faren to a site



Rev. and Mrs. R.B.Pocock and  
son Maynard, at Sutherland.





Sutherland Congregational Church and Post office in 1908,

adjoining the Post Office on Railway Parade, now the Princes High-way. The re-opening of the church was held on Saturday, June 25, 1904.

The Pococks settled into the Manse which at that time was situated in Flora Street, near Merton Street, and it was whilst there that their first child Maynard Robert was born on June 27, 1909.

It was a large parish for one man, but nevertheless Rev. Pocock found time to visit. One day on a mid-week visit to Menai in 1908 he christened four of the children of Owen and Julia Jones whose ages ranged from 10 years to 2 months, and four children of Robert and Ellen Barnsley, the eldest child being 6 years and the youngest 9 months,

Rev. Pocock stayed only a short time in Sutherland parish later moving in 1909 to Ecclestone. It was here another son and two daughters were born, despite the fact that it was said he could not support the family on his low salary.

Perhaps it was the poor salary that prompted the family to move from Ecclestone to South Australia. It was then that he resigned from the church and joined the South Australian Education Department. He became headmaster of several schools, but he always assisted as a preacher going especially to the far out of town small churches. The schools he taught at were Edithburgh, Bligh, Pinaroo, Renmark and Murray Bridge.

On retiring from the Education Department he entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, and broadcast regularly on the radio.

Source; Mrs. E. Botefuhr of Sefton a niece of Rev. Pocock; writers records; "St. George Call" newspaper.

-----Fred Midgley

In December, 1911, Sutherland Shire Council increased the salary of their courteous and painstaking Shire Clerk Mr. J. W. Macfarlane to £200 per annum, and the book-keeper, Mr. Fred Milner, to £125.

-"St. George Call",

43 Churchill Ave  
Clarence Park S.A.  
11.7.86

Dear Daphne,

I was interested to see your info. in the "LENS" about the Sutherland Shire. Maynard was born there and he was pleased to see your interest.

His father was ordained Congregational Minister inducted at Sutherland on April 7th 1907. Maynard was born there on 21.1.1909 He went to Eccleston on Dec 12th 1909. (died in Adelaide 2.5.1949) We have two parts of sermons, on the back of which is written Sylvania 20.10.07 & Sutherland 20.10.07- (suggests he preached at those churches on that day) He came to S.A. in 1913, changed to teaching and local preaching where he was stationed. His name Rev Robert Bacon Pocock. He was also interested in photography and Maynard started the Australian Photographic Portfolio Society to which you also belong.

Maynard had a stroke 72 years ago and that is why I handle his letters etc. He is OK, walks a lot and does my shopping. Yours sincerely

Jean and Maynard Pocock

Re. Rev. R. B. Pocock  
43 Churchill Ave  
Clarence Park  
S.A. 5036

Dear Daphne  
The dates we gave you, taken from his personal bible can be accepted as facts. There are other mistakes in that article as Maynard knows from first hand.  
The reason his father turned to teaching was because the church (SA) wanted him to open a Congregational church in a very small country town (SA) with only half a dozen families; he considered it unnecessary as they were very well served with the existing church there. He never taught at Edithburgh but there were other towns including Mt Gambier. (etc.)  
The two daughters were born in S.A.  
The sermon I told you about has parts missing, so decided not to send it.  
Thank you for the copy of that article.  
Sincerely  
Jean & Maynard Pocock

D.F SALT  
13 Prospect Place  
COMO WEST NSW 2226  
528 6939

Dear Fred,

In the August issue of the SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN I read with interest your article about the Rev R.B. POCOCK.

I belong to the A.P.P.S. a photographic portfolio camera club which operates entirely by the postage of folios and correspondence rather than regular meetings. The club is Australia wide, and has Australia/England print and slide Circles: It was the first photographic portfolio society in Australia, commencing in 1947 by Maynard Pocock, the son of Rev R.B. Pocock.

Maynard wrote to me when he read in the monthly LENS BULLETIN that I was writing the history of Sylvania.' shall quote his letter:-

“My father was ordained Congregational Minister, inducted at Sutherland on April 7th 1907. I was born there on 23.1.1909. We moved to Eccleston on Dec 12th 1909-Father died in Adelaide 2.5.1949. We have two parts of sermons, on the back of which is written Sylvania 20.10.07 & Sutherland 20.10.07 - suggests he preached at those Churches on that day. He came to S.A. in 1913, changed to teaching and local preaching where he was stationed-He was also interested in photography.

“I wrote back to Maynard and sent him a copy of the article from the Bulletin of the Historical Society, as I suspected that some of the information and dates were a little inaccurate. He wrote back to me by return mail, thanking me for the article and said ^The dates I gave you were taken from Robert Bacon Pocock's personal Bible and can be accepted as FACTS. There were are other mistakes in that article as I know from first hand.

“The reason father turned to teaching was because the S.A. Church wanted him to open a Congregational Church in a very small country town in S.A. with only half a dozen families, he considered it unnecessary as they were very well served with the existing Church there. He NEVER taught at EDITHBURGH but there were other towns including Mt Gambia and the ones mentioned and others. The two daughters were born in S.A.

I hope that you find this of interest Fred, as Maynard is a very alert man despite having suffered a stroke about 7 years ago, he is still an active man in the Camera club and is very interested in history. He was a little concerned that the article was not completely accurate and would like to set the record straight.

yours sincerely

Daphne.

COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE "HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 N.S.W.

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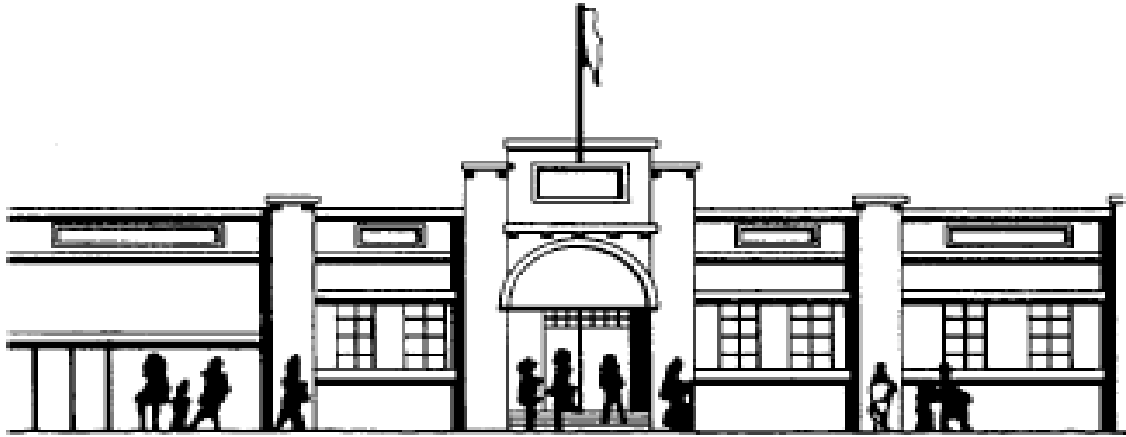
Contributions: members are invited to submit material for the Bulletin need not necessarily be confined to local history, but this is especially welcome., If material is extracted or re-written, please state the source; material still in copyright, (the date will indicate this) can not be re-written without the author's consent. If hand-written: Please print names in CAPITAL LETTERS. Contributions for the November Issue must be in the hands of the Convener no later than October 10, if 1986.

Monthly Meetings of the Society are held on the second Friday at 7-p;m. In-Recreation Staff Room of the Council's Administrative Centre, Eton Street, Sutherland (2nd floor). Visitors are welcome.

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

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All correspondence should be addressed to:- The Secretary, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, P.C. Box 389, Sutherland, 2232.



AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE  
SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF ARTS  
by Niall Pettit-Young.

Although the School of Arts movement in Sutherland dates from the late 1890s, it was the First World War that renewed interest in a School of Arts for Sutherland. It was thought that a memorial to the men of "C Riding" who volunteered for the War would be best served in a School of Arts. There is evidence that at least one meeting was held, but because of the aftermath of the War, and the peace celebrations, nothing was really done until late January, 1920. A meeting was held in Lobb's Hall, Sutherland, where it was decided to "secure a larger allotment (of ground) in East Parade. ,

It appears from the scant evidence available, that interest in the Memorial School of Arts idea waned after August, 1920. It was not until eight months later, in April 1921, that a substantial move was made. At a meeting on the 18th April, 1921, the members of the School of Arts carried recommendations aimed at raising money, by way of a loan, for a building.

#### THE BUILDING

The building was designed by Esmond B. Wilshire, to be built at an estimated cost of \$1700. It eventually cost £2500, of which £1500 was still owing at the time of opening. (This debt was to cause problems in the future). The land was bought with money raised by Charles Diston, and the builder was Ralph Brinsley of Sutherland.

On Saturday, May 28th, 1921, the Foundation Stone was laid by the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. On this occasion, as on previous ones, (the later to be notorious) Thomas J. Ley, M.L.A., was prominent. (It is interesting to note that, with all the pomp of the ceremony, the actual cost of the ceremony to the School of Arts was £3.)

The building was completed by late February - early March 1922. We know that on the 18th March, a two day carnival was held "in the School of Arts new building" and that the last building payment (to the plumber) was made the previous day. Later in the month, officers were elected. At this stage, the building was not officially opened to members. The latter happened on 10th April, 1922.

#### THE OFFICIAL OPENING

A large audience attended the building's official opening on

5th August, 1922, by the Minister for Education, A. Bruntnell, assisted by the Minister for Justice, Thomas J. Ley. The speeches emphasised the memorial aspect of the hall and an honour roll, made of panelled Queensland white maple, bearing the names of 97 (93?) men (seven of whom were killed) from "C Riding" who had volunteered for the War.

Mr Ley's speech dealt with the activities he hoped the hall would be put to over the years. He stated that "In the past the young people had no place where they could gather, but now they had a place for social evenings, and where they could play billiards. They would also be able to avail themselves of the library, where much knowledge could be gained."

#### SOCIAL LIFE

The social life of the School of Arts is portrayed in the various records remaining (a) Accounts book 1920 - 1942; (b) Letter book 1939 - January 1941; (c) Minutes books 1936 - October 1944; (d) Diaries and Cash books 1939 - 1950; (e) Letters, receipts, book marks, notices, newspaper cuttings (in bad condition) 1939 - 1950

##### 1922 - 1936

The social life of the School was centred around billiards. In fact, the School declined when the popularity of billiards waned. The game was played every week. There were regular tournaments in which no expense was spared. It is evident from the letters of the 1930s that local politicians, especially C. J. Monro, donated prizes for these tournaments.

A librarian was paid from December 1922 (£5 per month) to look after the 400 plus books, but apart from the occasional mention of a lost book payment, nothing more is evident. The Accounts book shows that rooms were also rented out during this time, but there is no mention as to who rented them or for what purpose.

One interesting matter gleaned from the Accounts book was the popularity of Euchre. From 1926 to late-1928 there were Euchre tournaments held in the hall, first once a month, then twice a month. Billiards was still very popular, so a month would consist of billiards tournaments and Euchre tournaments. However, Euchre disappears in 1929.

The only aspect of life the Depression did not touch was the use of the hall for billiards. The hire of the hall declined, the bank balance dropped, and more importantly, the Council subsidy was reduced. From late 1933, the social life began to improve, but the same cannot be said for the political scene, which was anything but smooth over the next ten years or so of the School of Arts.

#### 1936 - 1949

The activities of the School of Arts during this time is well documented and appears to be the apex in the life of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts.

The library finally gained a prominent place. During 1936 "240 new books have been put into circulation, and there is yet a growing demand for popular authors..." Books were regularly bought, or swapped with other schools of arts. Later, the State Library sent regular bulk loans of books.

A "Ping Pong" table was bought in 1936 and this, as well as tennis and cricket, were popular games.

Billiards was still popular, and regular championships were organized with games almost every night. A member of the School of Arts, Les. Manglesdorf of Cronulla, was the State Champion for both billiards and snooker during the mid-1940s. The World Champion, Horace Lindrum, played an exhibition in the School of Arts hall in January 1944.

(Undoubtedly, Horace Lindrum, along with his uncle, the unstoppable Walter Lindrum, was responsible for the decline in the popularity of playing billiards ... the rules of billiards were changed to counteract the brilliance of the Lindrums, thus making the game less attractive).

Diverse groups in the Sutherland area hired the hall for various reasons. Many organizations had their monthly meetings in the hall..e.g. the Sutherland Ex-Services Men's Club; Sutherland Red Cross; Sutherland Baptist Church; Masonic Lodge; Woronora Progress Association; 2GB Happiness Club; the Australian Labor Party - are but a few of the groups. Regular dances were also held. In fact, 1st Jannali-Como Boy Scouts had dances every Friday night and various other groups had dances on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Weddings and 21st Birthdays were also catered for. It appears that something was going on every night at the School of Arts.

The hall was also used for public meetings, for example, on the 26th June, 1939, a protest meeting was held on the subject of re-location of Sutherland Railway Station. There were also various patriotic meetings held during the war, and meetings to press for community improvements, such as a hospital. Finally, the hall was used for various health programmes such as diphtheria immunisation.

#### 1950 - 1970

Unfortunately, coupled with the decline of the School of Arts is the associated lack of information. ( The only source is David Kirkby's history of Sutherland Council 1906 - 1956, which only mentions the School of Arts in passing). It can be assumed that the decline was gradual till the mid-50s, at which stage three causes for such decline can be deduced.

Firstly: the post-war population was a young expanding family-oriented group with no time to participate . The population was also mobile - not fixed to one location, therefore people could go else-where for t heir entertainment. Secondly: education was taken over by increasing State education, and the library came under the auspices of the local council. Lastly: the extension of radio and (later) television, provided an alternative entertainment source. And the popularity of billiards declined.

The School of Arts continued in a subdued manner, having various public meetings, celebrations, and even markets. In the end, the School survived on "housie games " . The building at this stage, 1970, was falling into disrepair. Moves were made to have the Sutherland Shire Council move in and take over the School of Arts.

#### COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

The Shire Council had been involved with the Memorial School of Arts from the beginning. It was at times a tempestuous relationship. The Council started by subsidizing the School of Arts with the sum of £50, which was later increased to £250 per annum. This subsidy was to help the debt payments. The subsidy seemed to have dwindled to approx. £100 in the early 1930s. Funding finally stopped in 1938-39 due to extraordinary circumstances,

The February 1939 elections in the School of Arts seems to have split the School into factions, with one faction gaining the support of the Council, because of alleged improper election procedures. The Council promptly stopped the subsidy. A "stand-off" ensued with neither party conceding.

By mid-year (1939) the subsidy did come from Council, but the School of Arts Committee told the Council that "...owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the subsidy has been paid, our Committee refuses to recognize your representative (to the Committee) any longer, and desire that another representative be elected." It appears from the Minutes of the School of Arts that meetings between the representatives of the School and the Council managed to somehow patch matters up. Though the School still had, in the future, to prompt the Council for the £100 subsidy.

The following year (1940) the Council used the matter of the £1500 building debt incurred in 1922, against the Committee. Again letters were sent, but by June the problem was solved. The Council then confined itself to using the hall only for matters of public concern, for example War Bond drives, immunization, and public meetings.

In late 1969, a move was made to dissolve the School of Arts and give the assets to the Council. This was stopped by a general meeting, and the Council responded by stopping the subsidy (which covered the Rates).

The School then took as tenants a drama group, hoping to raise revenue. This state of affairs continued spasmodically until 1973, when the Nandi capped Children Centre applied for use of the premises as a temporary shelter whilst awaiting a new building. Finally, by 20th January 1975, the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts was "declared dormant and the assets to be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Dormant Funds Act, 1942."

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(Here ends the outline history as taken from records of the Memorial School of Arts.)



(NOTE: in fact, the Handicapped Children Centre was led to believe that it was to be the recipient of the whole building when it could no longer function any longer as a School of Arts. Though this could not have been substantiated had it been pursued through the Commissioner for Dormant Funds, Council resolved, after many many meetings and discussions with the parties involved, to pay to the Handicapped Children's Centre a sum of some \$35,000 to assist it with the cost of its new building, since it had been its intention to sell the Memorial School of Arts to raise funds for that purpose. This, with the permission of the Commissioner for Dormant Funds, Left the Council as the owner of the thoroughly run down building.)

At one point in these latter stages, it was intended that the whole building become a museum for the Sutherland Historical Society, but such was the state of disrepair that no authority would pass it for use.

Then, in 1984, Sutherland Shire Council resolved to bring the building back into use. Working in stages, it was expected that the renovation might take three to four years. However, with the use of \$63,000 as a CEP (Community Employment Programme) Grant, and \$341 ,000 Council funds --the whole project was brought to fruition in eighteen months.

At the time of the official opening of the renovated Memorial School of Arts by Shire President Councillor Kevin Skinner, on Saturday, 9th August, 1986, the building houses a theatre for 200 people, with a display foyer and kiosk, and an exhibition room which will be maintained by the Sutherland Shire Historical Society as a museum, as well as a meeting room for the latter. As well there is a number of other ancillary rooms and equipment.

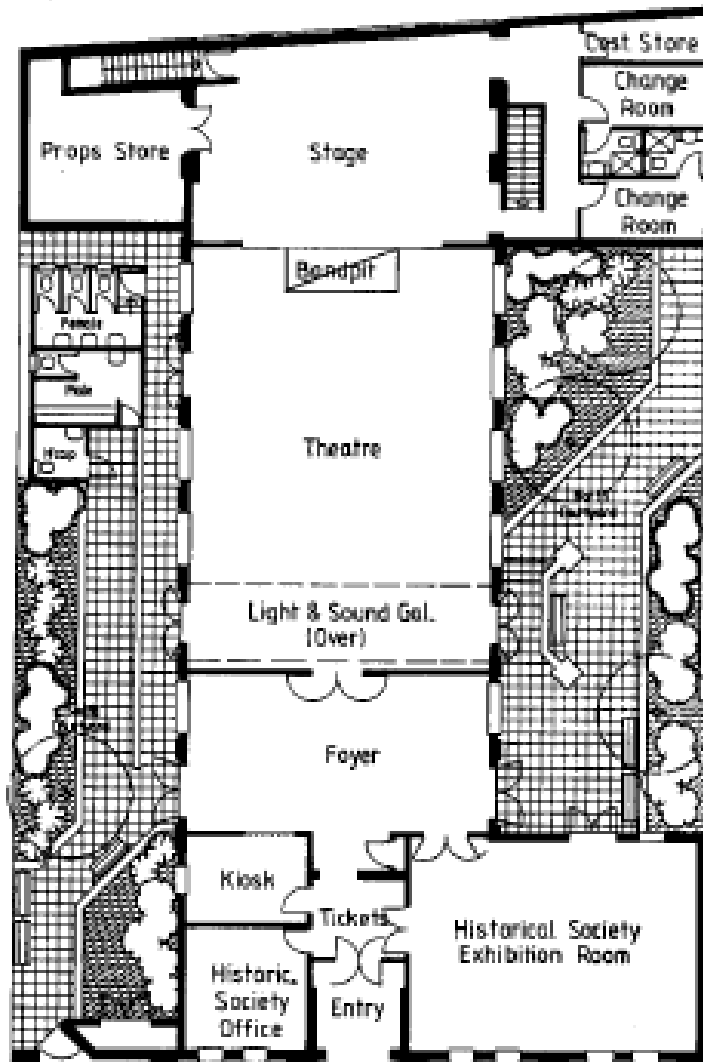
The Memorial School of Arts was originally brought into being by the people for the people. Through the good auspices of the Sutherland Shire Council, the building is being returned to the people, in a very handsome state of repair and equipped to fulfil a community purpose well into the next century.

By Council resolution of 4th August, 1986, a Management Committee has been appointed under Section 527 of the Local Government Act, 1919, comprised of local citizens nominated by the following groups: Sutherland Shire Arts Council; the Cultural Advisory Committee; Sutherland Theatre Company; Sutherland Shire Historical Society; Georgian Singers; Australian Theatre for Young People; St. George & Sutherland Youth Orchestra; the Miranda Musical Society, and two Sutherland Shire Council officers.

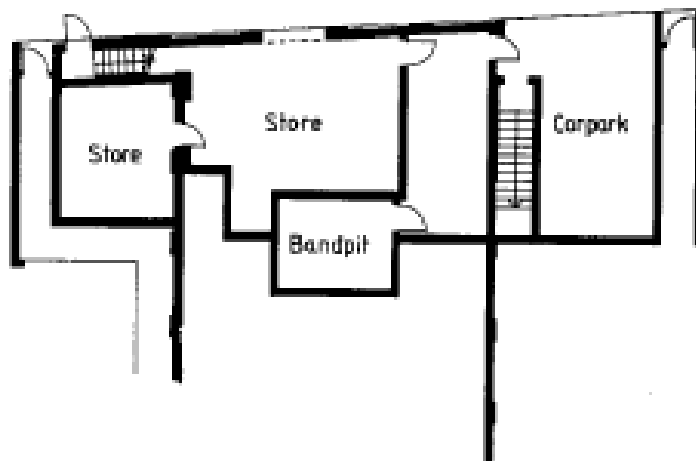
J.E.T.

9th August, 1986

# SUTHERLAND MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF ARTS



Floor Plan



Lower Level Plan