

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY BULLETIN



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PRESIDENT'S NOTES 1989

As we go to print once again we approach the end of the 1988 activity and prepare for re-election of officers for the forthcoming year. As part of this Bulletin, details of the year's activity are provided for study and are found elsewhere, in a much more detailed statement. I do not propose, therefore, to add significantly to the remarks made in my annual report other than to thank those people who have contributed to the Bulletin, especially Fred Midgley who has made many visits to elderly residents recording new material, in addition to his own contributions.

I look forward to continued contributions in the future, and accordingly invite new members to participate in the Society in other ways - a typical avenue is becoming a member of the Executive Committee; or to a lesser degree, a member of one of the working sub-committees. The word "working" may cause uneasiness among some. This Society has now been in existence for 22 years, and changes have taken place in membership; there is always room for interested people who can help. "Work" is shared around, more helpers means less effort individually.

Harold Ivers

FIXTURES FOR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

February 10 : Dr. Edward Duyker. Address on:-MAURITIUS
 March 10: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
 April 14: Address by representative of SUTHERLAND ASTRONOMICAL
 SOCIETY

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

The financial year of the Society is from January 1st to December 31st.

Jacqueline Bonnemains, Elliott Forsyth and Bernard Smith (eds) *Baudin in Australian Waters: The Artwork of the French Voyage of Discovery to the Southern Lands 1800-1804*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1988, pp 347, \$250

Reviewed by Edward Duyker

Only recently have the very great scientific contributions of Nicolas Baudin's expedition begun to be recognized in this country. To a large degree, the pervasive ignorance of Baudin's achievements has been rooted in the anglocentrism of Australian historians. Non-British exploration of our coast has rarely been a favoured field. Even the "major Dutch voyages" section of the recent "First Impressions" exhibition at the Australian Museum in Sydney, made no mention of the charting of our southern coast (almost as far as Ceduna) by Nuyts and Thiessen in 1627! And the worship of Cook has surfaced once more in the form of a holographic icon on the Bicentennial \$ 10 note. Baudin's expedition may have brought back a scientific treasure trove which far outshone Cook's, but his name seems destined to be known by only a handful of Australians for many years to come.

Bonnemains, Forsyth and Smith's magnificent work will certainly become an enduring reference source. Aside from Canberra historian Frank Horner's summary of his fine scholarship in *The French Reconnaissance* and Rhys Jones' astute examination of the anthropology of Baudin's expedition, this book is noteworthy for the biographical chapters on the artists Charles -Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846) and Nicolas-Martin Petit (1777-1804) and, most importantly, for its richly illustrated catalogue of the drawings and paintings of the Australian subjects of these two artists.

Lesueur and Petit were not the original official artists of the expedition. Baudin turned to them in desperation when Milbert, Lebrun and Gamier deserted him in Mauritius. Fortunately they proved more than competent. Both men eagerly recorded the Australian coast, its inhabitants, and its flora and fauna. In the case of their portraits of Aborigines and the settlement of Port Jackson, they produced priceless historical documents. Although not the first to encounter the indigenous Tasmanians, they were to provide the most detailed contemporary pictorial account. To their great credit, Baudin and his men were not responsible for the death of a single Aborigine. This was in marked contrast to the first British settlers.

Charles-Alexandre Lesueur's life was one long adventure. Born at Le Havre, he was the son of an admiralty administrator. He appears to have gained his artistic grounding while educated at the College du Havre until its closure in 1793. In that year he enrolled in a local cadet battalion and was soon elected corporal. Between 1797 and

1799 he served as a non-commissioned officer in the Garde Nationale. Because of an "umbilical fistula" he was exempted from further military service in 1799, but, attracted to the prospect of adventure in southern waters, Lesueur enlisted as an assistant gunner with Baudin's expedition the following year. Aside from the artistic record he eventually provided, Lesueur assisted Francois Peron with important natural history observations and helped him collect more than 180,000 specimens. When the expedition returned to France, he assisted Peron in publishing an account of the voyage and was granted an Imperial pension. Threatened with the loss of this pension, after Napoleon's fall, he signed a contract to accompany William Maclure (1763-1840) on a scientific expedition to the United States. He was to remain there for over twenty years and even participated in the foundation of Robert Owen's utopian settlement at New Harmony, Indiana. Lesueur continued his zoological and geological observations in Missouri, Illinois and Tennessee and then in France after his return in 1837. He died suddenly in Le Havre in December 1846.

Nicolas-Martin Petit was born in June 1777, the fourth child of a Paris fan maker. It seems likely that his father's craft gave him his initial artistic training. But it was as a student of the great Jacques Louis David that he volunteered for service as an assistant gunner with Baudin. His artistic talents were quickly recognized and he was also entrusted with the task of illustrating Baudin's log from the beginning of the voyage. Despite recurrent attacks of scurvy, Petit made an enormous contribution to the artistic record of the expedition. He returned to France on the *Geographe* on March 25, 1804 and again settled near his family in Paris. He married four months later, but after a fall avoiding a carriage, his bruised knee became gangrenous and he died on October 21, 1804.

Baudin in Australian Waters is quite simply a dazzling contribution to our printed heritage. Those familiar with the actual colours of the plant and animal species represented by Lesueur and Petit, will appreciate the full grandeur of their work and of the printer's craft. In producing this book, the authors and Oxford University Press have helped define one extreme of the Bicentenary: that of scholarly and publishing excellence in the face of an abundance of kitsch.

BOOK REVIEWS

A book entitled "The Swagmen, Survivors of the Great Depression", by Allen M. Nixon is a large hard multi-colour book of 128 pages on good quality paper with 120 illustrations of the 1920s - 1930s period.



It is about those unfortunate men caught up in the Great Depression, and their struggle to survive, moving from one town to another and their efforts to find sufficient food

Although the book is by Allan Nixon, nine chapters have been contributed by those who tell of their experiences in those hard times.

Of particular interest is the chapter contributed by George Heavens, Life Member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society and former Deputy President. In addition to his participation in this book, a series of contributions of his experiences have appeared in the Society's Bulletin.

The book was released in 1987, and retails at \$29.95. Some book shops still have copies (A&R, Sydney), but it is available at some Sutherland Shire Council libraries and at the Shire Council Local History Library, Sutherland.

-----F.M

SUTHERLAND SAGA

An interesting 60 page book, "Sutherland Saga" has been recently published by St. Patricks, Sutherland, on the history of the Parish.

Some six years ago Sister Casimer who has had a long association with St. Patricks Parish, set about the somewhat daunting task of researching and presenting a history from the early days.

Sister Casimer had no archives to draw upon, but by diligent research and drawing on the memories of old parishioners she has contributed a worthy addition to the history of Sutherland Shire in the latter part of the Bi-Centennial year.

The book is printed on good quality paper and is very well illustrated, so important in this type of work.

It describes the early years of the Sutherland Shire, the early Catholic life in the community and the first building in Robertson Street, Sutherland. The priests are well portrayed and their different human attributes are delightfully described.

All other aspects of the church are well described, such as the schools, Boy's Town, the work of the Sisters, and the beginning of other churches such as Sylvania and Miranda.

The book is available at \$7.00.

----- F.M.

In the days when Menai Congregational Church had a tank for the catchment of drinking water it was the custom to provide a glass of drinking water for the preacher, especially during the after-noon services in the summer time. Before placing the glass under the pulpit it was necessary to look at the contents very carefully to see if there were any wrigglers swimming about.

-----F. M.

THE 1770 CLOCK CRONULLA PLAZA CRONULLA

The Clock Tower in Cronulla Plaza is a gift to the people of Sutherland Shire from Caltex Refining Co. Pty. Limited. The Tower houses the oldest public clock in Australia, built by John Jullion of England in 1770, the year Captain Cook landed at Kurnell. The Clock's original home was Stanwell Place, near Heathrow, England.

The project was conceived and developed by two Australians: Norman Davis, a Director of Readymix Concrete, U.K., who acquired the Clock; and Harry Babbage, a Director of Caltex Australia Limited who transported it to Australia where it was restored by Douglas Minty, horologist. The project has been granted endorsement as a Bicentennial Activity.

Stanwell Place, which housed the Clock in England, was a country house near the present London Airport at the west end of a notorious heath which was a rich collecting ground for Dick Turpin the infamous highwayman of the 18th century.

Stanwell Place or the earlier manor house built on the same plot, has a long history dating back to at least the Norman conquest when it belonged to a countryman of William the Conqueror called William Fitz-othor. His son, another William, became Warden of Windsor Castle and took the name of Windsor. The Lords Windsor held the house until 1543 when King Henry VIII decided to have it for himself and made Lord Windsor an offer he was unable to refuse. The story goes that the King sent a message to Lord Windsor informing him that he would be coming to dine with him at Stanwell.

“He accordingly came, when he was magnificently entertained. Whereupon the king told him that he liked that place so well that he was resolved to have it; yet not without a more beneficial exchange. And the Lord Windsor answering, he hoped his highness was not in earnest; it having been the seat of his ancestors for many ages, and humbly begging he would not take it from him. The king with a stern countenance replied 'It must be' commanding him on his allegiance, to go speedily to his Attorney General, who would more fully acquaint him with his reasons for it ... He repaired accordingly to the Attorney General, who showed him a draught readymade, of an exchange of his lordship of Stanwell ... in lieu of Bordesley Abbey. Whereof being constrained to accept of this exchange, he was commanded to quit Stanwell, though he had then laid in his Christmas provisions for the keeping of his wonted hospitality. All which he left in the house, saying, 'They should not find it bare Stanwell'".

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF
STANWELL PLACE AND THE CLOCK TOWER



The estate stayed in Royal hands through Edward VI, Elizabeth and James I who presented it in 1603 to Lord Knyvet whose main claim to fame was as the officer who arrested Guy Fawkes in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament. A contemporary account reads:

"Sir Thomas Knyvet was sent to make a search in the vaults underneath the House of Lords and coming about midnight with some of his company, found a man standing without doors in boots, and fuming

over some billets and faggots there laid, discovered thirty-six barrels of gunpowder; the person in boots being one Guido Faux, who should have put fire to the train upon the first day of Parliament'.

In 1752, the estate came into the hands of Sir John Gibbons in whose family it stayed until the present century. The main building dated back to the late 18th or early 19th century and is described by one authority simply as

"having two storeys and is cement rendered with a low-pitched slate roof behind a parapet'.

Another authority described it more excitingly as

'a spacious modern mansion ... commodious and richly fitted within. It stands in a park of moderate size, rich in timber, especially elms and chestnuts, with a branch of the (river) Colne flowing through it and forming a lake, with swans and all desirable amenities, and approached through stately gates'

Some of the outbuildings, including presumably the stables with the turret above to house the Clock, are older than the house itself. The clock dating from 1770 was constructed by John Jullion or his son who were in business in the nearby Thameside village of Brentford from 1730 to 1792. Similar clocks by those makers are in a church tower at Middleton Stoney, a village in Oxfordshire 60 miles away, in the market hall in Brentford and another at Gunnersbury on the outskirts of London.

In 1948, Stanwell Place again came into Royal ownership, that of King Feisal of Iraq, until 1959. Eventually in the 1960s it became necessary for the house to be demolished. The stable block and entrance gates remain today as monuments to a long and interesting history.

In 1968, Mr. Norman Davis was visiting the Museum at Captain Cook's landing place in Kurnell in the company of Mr. Harry Babbage. He mentioned then that his company had acquired a site in England on which a building contained a clock, which he thought had been built in 1770, the year Captain Cook discovered New South Wales and entered

Botany Bay. Mr. Davis commented that such a clock would be most suitably located near the Museum, and offered it to Mr. Babbage for that purpose, who had it shipped back to Australia.

The Clock is a turret clock with large time and starter weight mechanisms. The weights require re-winding weekly, which in the Cronulla Clock Tower will be achieved automatically by electric power. The Clock was fully restored and installed in the Tower by Mr. Douglas Minty, who has been contracted to maintain it by the Sutherland Shire Council. The Lions Club of Cronulla are contributing to the cost of the maintenance.

While it was originally conceived that the Clock Tower would be built in sandstone to a high standard of early Australian colonial architecture, and located at Kurnell in Captain Cook's Landing Place, this did not prove possible. After considerable discussion with the Sutherland Shire Council, it was agreed that the Clock Tower would be the main feature at the northern end of the Cronulla Bicentennial Plaza.

The Tower's architecture is in keeping with the design of the Plaza itself. This can be considered consistent with the intent of the project to provide a link between modern Australia during her Bicentenary and the technology of 1770 in England, the home of Captain Cook, whose discovery of New South Wales in that year, led to the arrival of the First Fleet on January 18th 1788 in Botany Bay, and the Founding of the first British settlement at Sydney Cove one week later.

-----Malcolm Kerr, M.L.A.

A DISASTROUS FIRE

About one o'clock on Thursday night May 14, 1902, a weatherboard cottage together with its contents at Sutherland occupied by Mr. Ted Dwyer was totally destroyed by fire.

Mr. Dwyer lost everything except a side-beard which he managed to drag out.

One of the children accidentally brought a lighted candle into contact with the bedroom curtains and soon the whole building was a mass of flames. Mr. Dwyer in his efforts to extinguish the flames was badly burned about the hands and arms. Subscriptions to the assistance of the family amounted to lots of material donations. About July Mr. Dwyer and his family moved to Ashfield.

A month earlier in April, also on a Thursday night the dwelling of Mr. Fraza was burned to ashes, he was known and respected as Secretary of the Progress Association. The house was partly covered by insurance. Mrs. Fraza had been ironing and left to go up to the local store.

The 'St. George Call' newspaper.

--- F.M.

Mr. Robert Bingham who was for many years a Councillor of the Sutherland Shire Council and an estate agent in Fast Parade , Sutherland, before entering these fields was a green-grocer conveying his wares about the Shire in a horse drawn cart.

From the notes of the late Mick Derrey

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 11 1891-1939

General Editor Geoffrey Serle, Melbourne University Press, 1988, pp 677, \$48,

Reviewed by Edward Duyker.

Volume 11 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography p2 is the second last of the projected set. In all six volumes will be devoted to the period 1691-1939 - a reflection of the growing size of the Australian population during this period and the growing significance of Australia in the world arena. The co-operative effort of 488 writers, this volume is an impressive work of scholarship and an invaluable reference source. As expected, it contains substantial entries on major figures such as King O'Malley, Vance and Nettie Palmer, Ethel (Henry Handel) Richardson, Keith and Ross Smith, Katharine Susannah Prichard and Margaret Preston. Although many other significant political and cultural figures have been ignored, the volume contains a total of 691 entries. There is a sweeping democratic range - from jockeys to writers and painters, and from woodcarvers to generals and premiers.

Unfortunately, like most of the other volumes of the ADB, volume 11 is strikingly anglocentric. However, it is satisfying to see more biographical information drawn from the growing body of Australian ethno-history. Aside from three entries on Aborigines (including one on John Patten who lived for a time at La Perouse), there are interesting entries on the French mystic Marie Therese Noblet; the Polish journalist Ladislav Noskowski; Greek Orthodox priest Seraphim Phocas; Italian anti-fascist activist Omero Schiassi; the Japanese pearl diver Sato Torajiro; German metallurgist Walter Rosenhaim; Russian journalist and activist Fedor Sergeyev; Chinese storekeeper Tom See Poy; and a number of other European immigrants who made their mark in Australia. There is a need for many more such entries.

Sadly, the latest volume of the ADB is very gender biased. Although female authors are heavily represented among the contributors, not even 10 per cent of the entries are about women! The vast majority deal with those in the medical and paramedical fields or those in religious life. But there are also useful contributions on lesser known women writers (Marguerite Power, Rosa Praed, Wilhelmina Rawson, Marie Pitt and Helen de Guerry Simpson), artists (Althea Proctor, Grace Cossington Smith, Florence Rodway and Marian Rowan) and educators (Jane Reid, Mary Ellen Roberts, Ivy Smith and Rose Scott). All too short is Beverley Kingston's interesting entry on Marion Phillips: "the first Australian woman to win a seat in a national parliament, and the only one to have been elected to the House of Commons"

Like all the previous volumes of the ADB. this one is a marvellous biographical smorgasbord which can be savoured and enjoyed by both the professional historian and the casual reader alike Few will be bored by the fascinating details on the people behind familiar brand names such as Frederick Peters (ice cream) William Proud (jewellery), Helena Rubinstein (cosmetics) and the brothers Resell (beer). While this valuable reference work provokes the emotions, it. also stimulates us to questioning Did the remarkable engineer Charles O'Connor (grandfather of the present Federal Minister for Education. John Dawkins) really commit suicide as contributor Merab Tauman writes, or was he murdered as many now believe? Why doesn't Helga Griffin, in her entry on anthropologist Henry Ling Roth, mention her subject's important translation of the French explorer Crozet's journal (Truelove & Shirley. London 1891)? And shouldn't Celestine McDermott's entry ,n comedian Rey Rene ('Mo's' alter ego) have been published as an entry en Harry van der Sluys, since this was the comedian's real name? Biography is never a static discipline; no one can have the final word,

SUTHERLAND RIFLE CLUB

The first general meeting of the Club was held early in April, 1915, when the following office bearers were elected: President, Cr. Hyndman; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. Cook, A. Cooper, E.Boyle, J.Warburton, F.Matson, senr., E.L. Piper, W.J. Chiplin, A. McAlister, Burns, M.H.R., and Capt, Toombs, M.L.A; Captain, R. Wickham; secretary, W.J. Powe; assistant secretary, O. Matson; treasurer, Mr. Birrell; committee, Messrs. J. Monro, Webber, Skellwin and T. Smith.

The first drill was held in the Sutherland Public School grounds, on Tuesday evening, April 13, at 8p.m., when Mr. A. Shaw, of Dalley, acted as instructor.

Negotiations for a range at National Park, near Sutherland Station, were held up pending the return to Sydney of Mr. Frank Farnell, chairman of the National Park Trust, Once permission was granted the military authorities would proceed immediately to build a range.

"St. George Call", April 10, 1915. -----F.M.

In November, 1908, a petition was received at a meeting of Sutherland Shire Council from 45 residents asking for the establishment of a Postal Receiving Office at Blade's Grocery Store on the road to Cronulla about a mile from Sutherland. The Council agreed to the request which was sent to the Postal Authorities.

---- St. George Call"

WORONORA WEEK-ENDERS ASSOCIATION

To the Inspector General,
Police Department,
Sydney.

March 7 , 1912

Dear Sir,

I have been requested by the committee of the above Association to inform you of the necessity for a police patrol on the Woronora River.

Every week-end there are hundreds of people who find pleasure on the river, journeying both from Como by boat and from Sutherland by road, and on holidays they number thousands.

When people gather in these quantities there is always a certain amount of hooliganism, and the Woronora River certainly has its share.

Numbers of fellows come about in boats and on the banks clad very indecently, some whose wearing apparel consists only of a pair of swimming trunks, and the use of obscene language. is very prevalent.

With this state of affairs it makes it impossible for a respectable lady to enjoy herself for one never knows when they are going to come across these larrikins.

Of course this does not occur every week-end, but the frequency of it warrants our appeal.

There are many week-end cottages scattered about on the shores of the river, and there are some people who make it their permanent address, and on behalf of the members of the Woronora Week-enders' Association and in the interests of the residents on the Woronora River, I sincerely trust that you will see your way clear to grant this request.

Thanking you in anticipation, Believe me,

Yours truly,

A.J. Morgan

A.J. Morgan

Hon. Secretary.

No. 12/1444

Police Department,
Inspector General's Office .
Sydney, March 25. 1912.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, wherein you Suggest the necessity for a police patrol on the Woronora River. I beg to inform you that additional Police will be provided for this locality as soon as they can be obtained. In the meantime the best possible arrangements are being made in the matter of Police protection.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant.

Brent J. ...

Inspector General of Police.

Mr.T.Morgan,

Hon. Secretary, Woronora Week-Enders Association Sutherland,
-----F.A.M.

EXCURSION REPORT

For the week-end Excursion November 4-5-6, the Cowra President, retiring Hon. Secretary and newly appointed "Hon. Sec" did everything possible so that we would see all the historical places in their District, and I must pay tribute to the Motel Management for the assistance they gave planning the bookings. (And especially for their tolerance when in the final week we added two names of folk wishing to go, and then had to hurriedly cancel, as they were unable to accompany us.

Each telephone call to a country area is costly and when late starters decide not to go, the cancellation calls add to cost.)

The tour of Carcoar on Sunday morning with such a knowledgeable guide "made" the morning. Thank you too, for introducing us to the friendly Wombat

The Newcastle Tour by train and coach was very successful --what a pity so few places are within bounds of doing this more often. The comfort of the train reminded many of us of the extended tours some time ago to Murwillumbah and Broken Hill, when the carriages were almost a lounge room to our party!

The President of Newcastle Society covered very many details of the District and the Coach Captain from S. Fogg & Co. co-operated so very well.

As this report is being prepared in early January, those outings in the pipeline at present could be completed before we are able to have the Bulletin delivered; therefore I have prepared a "special" newsletter for January meeting.

Forward outings are: SUNDAY, January 22 - Tramway Museum at Loftus. We were invited to make an official visit only in December and could only pass on the invitation at December and January meetings. BUT we do recommend the Museum to members.

SATURDAY, February 18 we visit North Shore -- leaving Cronulla

8 a.m. and Sutherland 8.30 a.m. Members \$9.00, Visitors \$11.10.

The week-end tour to Hill End and Sofala Will be Friday March 3 to Sunday March 5: leaving Cronulla 5 p.m., Sutherland 5.30.p.m. Friday evening and travelling to Bathurst for two nights' accommodation at the Bathurst Motor Inn.

Because of the nature of the trip the recommendation of the Excursion Committee for a Bed and Breakfast costing only was confirmed by the December general meeting - the B. & B. cost will be \$105.00.

Take-a-way food will be available in Sofala and Hill End for the Saturday lunches -- and for Dinner Saturday evening you will be free to choose between one of the Clubs, the Motel, a restaurant in the City - or again take-a-way. We can talk about this meal again on the Saturday as we return from Hill End.

I'm delighted to tell you Dot and Tom Cosgrove will be joining the Coach at Lime Kiln Road, just prior to arriving in Sofala; We haven't seen them since they moved to Wattle Flat, but when in the Shire they were regular travellers with our Society, they are Foundation Members and Life Subscribers to the Society.

The outing for May will be Saturday 20; leaving Cronulla 8.30 am and Sutherland 9 a.m., travelling to Auburn for a tour of their district. Although plans are not complete, it is expected you will be having luncheon at the Japanese Gardens

Bookings with Mrs. Cutbush 523-8417 -- enquiries either with Mrs. Cutbush or the writer on 523--58 1.



Convener

Notes on Aboriginal Midden Debris

"Marlow " Foreshore, Sylvania

Edward Duyker

On June 25, 1988 I went walking along the Georges River foreshore in Sylvania at low tide. In front of the recent redevelopment of the 'Marlowe' estate, I was surprised to see large numbers of shells in the sand and on the mud flat. Aside from their number, what was striking was the variety of species, their size, the manner that some had been broken and the evidence of scorching. It appeared that an aboriginal midden had been disturbed in the course of the foreshore landscaping. (A retaining wall had been built along the waterfront and backfilled; and a marina had been constructed.) The shell debris was not visible below the high water mark in early 1987.

The material in question provides some useful insights into the prehistory of Sylvania. The midden was north of the "Blackhand" cave and west of the large rock shelter on the northern edge of Pinnacle Rock at "Glenn Robin" - both of which were known to have been inhabited by Aborigines until about 1861. The "Blackhand" cave takes its name from a stencilled hand rock painting which has long since been obliterated by vandals.

The shell remains are a silent reminder of the diet of Sylvania's earliest inhabitants and of the ecological changes that have occurred since the arrival of Europeans. Not only did these Aborigines eat species that are no longer found along this part of the Georges River - such as Laticed Platter Shells (*Codakia rugifera*) and Botany Bubbles (*Quibulla botanica*) - they also enjoyed examples that were almost the optimum size for their species. For example, one of the oyster shells found on the mud flat was 16 cms long and 10.5 cms wide! Many others were at least 10 cms long. All had been blackened by fire. The Pink Frilled Murex shells that litter the "Marlowe" foreshore have their opercula broken in the same manner as those found at the "Glenn Robin" site. This was obviously to remove the flesh from the shell of the gastropod. Other scorched shells found on the site were Southern Cockles (*Cardium racketti*) and Black neritas (*Melanerita atramentosa*).

A cursory survey of the surface of midden debris which seems to have been scooped up by earthmoving equipment and dumped at the western end of the "Marlowe" retaining wall is mixed with 20th century material but also contains charcoal and the bleached bones of small mammals and birds.

The disturbance of the "Marlowe" midden is regrettable, but it provides a fascinating archaeological window. Needless to say, a systematic scientific excavation would have yielded a far greater trove

of information than a bulldozer! Whether those who carried out, supervised, or inspected the landscaping were aware that an Aboriginal midden had been disturbed or that legislation protecting such sites may have been breached, is beyond the scope of this article.

CAPTAIN COOK CAME, SAW AND MOVED ON

Captain Cook sighted the Illawarra coastline in 1770.

His first attempt at landing just north of Red Point and close to the Five Islands, was thwarted by heavy surf, so he continued up the coastline to make his first landing in Australia at what is to-day known as Botany Bay.

In January, 1788, a thousand souls, 750 of them convicts, stepped onto that alien shore. All they had to sustain them - prisoners, guards and administrators alike - were their own efforts and the meagre supplies they had brought on their 11 ships the largest of which was of less tonnage than one of today's Manly ferries.

In 1796 George Bass, Matthew Flinders and a boy called Martin landed on the coast.

A year later a party of shipwrecked sailors struggled around the coast in an attempt to reach Port Jackson. Found near Wattamolla, William Clarke, one of the three survivors, reported the finding of loose coal.

Then in 1797 George Bass and two of the survivors discovered a coal seam at Coalcliff. It was not for another 60 years that any serious attempt would be made to work these faces.

With the Colony stricken by drought in 1815, Dr. Charles Throsby set out from Appin to investigate the stories of lush grass and plentiful water. Hacking a track to the escarpment, Throsby worked his way down the mountainside to find the stories were indeed true. And so the settlement arrived.

Around this time the timber industry began to flourish. The eastern slopes of the Illawarra Range were then covered with magnificent red cedar. From Wal-Lun-Yuh (the sound of the sea), sprang the name Wollongong; with the appointment of a civil and military commandant in 1826.

Before the turn of the century the first school was established, James Shoobert opened the first coal mine at Keira, the first news-paper was published and the railway line from Wollongong to Sydney was completed.

Source: Illawarra - The Leisure Coast from the Australian Senior Citizen, October, 1988.

----Submitted by Mrs. A. Griffiths

The Governor, Sir John Northcott, officially opened North Cronulla Surf Clubhouse on November 18th, 1950. The resuscitation room was named in honour of the late Jim Perryman, who died in a surf rescue attempt.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PRESIDENT:	Mr H. Ivers
DEPUTY PRESIDENT:	Mrs A. Griffiths
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HONORARY SECRETARY:	Mr A. Platfoot
HONORARY TREASURER:	Mr A. Hamilton
HONORARY RESEARCH OFFICER:	Mr F. Midgley
HONORARY ARCHIVIST:	Miss D. Oliver (represented on the Executive Committee by Miss H. MacDonald)
HONORARY AUDITOR:	Mr K. Greentree
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Mrs A. Cutbush, Mr K Smith Mr J. Cutbush, Mr K. Knight

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society will be held on Friday, 10th March, 1989 in the Social Hall, 2nd floor of the Sutherland Shire Council's Administration Building, Eton Street, Sutherland at 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
3. Submission for adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1988
4. Honoraria
5. Life Membership
6. General Business
7. Election of Officers for 1988

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1988 has become history, like the event that it celebrated. Australia day will return to its previous place in the calendar as a cause for a long weekend and a farewell to the summer school holidays. The celebrations will, however, be long remembered on record by the technology of the day and make good viewing in 50 years from now. Meanwhile, the quiet event that remembers the landing of Captain Cook shows evidence of continuing its annual activity.

The Society continues to meet in the upper floor of the Sutherland Shire's Administration Building, for which many thanks are due to the Council. We are indeed grateful for the use of the building, together with the courteous attention of the night watchman. Thanks are also due to the Council for the occasional use of its equipment- 16 mm film projector and videotape display unit. In addition we are grateful to Pam Garland, Helen MacDonald and Dianne Oliver for library assistance and help during Heritage Week. In many ways, help from the Council staff has been excellent. Mrs Thompson and her group are always happy to provide these additional services.

Committee meetings have returned to St John the Baptist Anglican Church, Sutherland, and we are grateful to the Parish Council for accepting us back.

It is pleasing to note that membership and attendance at meetings are being maintained at such satisfactory levels. The numbers become very evident when arranging the posting of the Bulletin. Once again, in this connection our gratitude is directed to the Council for its printing assistance. Assembly of the Bulletin pages at the printing stage plus standardisation of page and envelope sizes have vastly simplified the process of distribution of the Bulletin.

A small group of members once again presented themselves on the Council float in November at Engadine. This was a bright, breezy November day. The event at Kurnell was cancelled this year due to wet weather; we would have indeed actually required a floating float that day!

I personally thank all committee members for their support during the year, especially those who continue the usual extra duties : -

Mrs Griffiths and her group - tours with Mrs Cutbush providing efficient secretarial assistance,

Fred Midgley and his group - Bulletin and exhibitions, Mrs Ivers and Mrs Platfoot - supper management.

I miss the presence of members who no longer can attend committee meetings - Ken Mathews, Ken Kirkby, Aileen Becker and Eileen Sheppard and thank them for their past services. Helen MacDonald from the Shire Library is welcome, as she now takes the place of Pam Garland, who has served on the committee for so long.

Finally the Society remembers those who have themselves become history during the past year - Kate Johnstone, Mrs Raleigh, Elvey Gumbleton, Vic Thorson and Val Killick. The Society has been richer through their membership.

Best Wishes for 1989.

2. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

This past year of 1988 has been a great success for the Society. Members of the Society continued to enjoy the wealth of history Australia has acquired over the last 200 years. Because 1988 was Australia's Bicentennial Year, along with the pomp and ceremony, much interest was aroused in Australia's heritage. Many new facts were brought to light which will interest both professional and amateur historians alike for years to come. As the memory of the Bicentennial fades into a distant rosy glow, I trust members will continue to support the Society and continue to enjoy the activities and the topics presented each month by our guest speakers.

Membership during 1988 rose slightly with 18 people joining the Society. Currently membership stands at 224 people. On average 43 people attended each meeting. Again we remember with sadness, the passing of several of our members and we extend our sympathy to their families.

The museum again had a very quiet year. While this may be partly due to the vast number of other displays and activities throughout the community, lack of volunteers to supervise the displays meant that it could not be opened as often as we had liked. Members who are interested in supporting the museum will have to be prepared to give up about two Saturdays a year if the museum is to survive.

Society members provided "passengers" for the Sutherland Shire Council's float known as the "Good Ship Sutherland Shire". It was pleasing to have two new faces as part of group. The float now enjoys the reputation of being a regular at the Engadine show and people are pleased to see it "sailing along" each year.

The Society also continued its involvement with the Botany Bay National Park and Foreshore Advisory Committee, the School of Arts Management Committee and the Heritage Week Committee. The Society also staged a number of exhibitions throughout the Shire particularly at schools. The Society also mounted a display at the Bicentennial Surf Life Saving Championship held at Cronulla in April as contribution to Bicentennial Activities. Special thanks go to Coates Hire who provided a portable shed free of charge for the display.

This year a variety of speakers were guests at the Society and presented an interesting range of topics. The following list details speakers and their subjects.

January		Members Night
February	Ald Rathbone	Mr Ley - Minister for Murder
March		A.G.M.
April	A. Platfoot	Thailand
May	R. Cutmore	Cronulla Westpac
June	A. Platfoot	Nepal
July	W. Campbell	Royal Volunteer Coastal
August	F. Midgley	Sutherland or Southerland
September	CPO Dent RAN	RAN Bicentennial Salute
October		D.M.R. Films
November	F. Midgley	Miranda
December	G. Palmer	Video of England

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1988

Balance brought forward 1.1.88			\$2490.41
ADD RECEIPTS:			
Members Subscriptions	792.00		
Members Bulletin Subscriptions	<u>395.00</u>	1187.00	
Sale of Badges		60.75	
Sale of Souvenir Items		84.00	
Sale of Books		6.20	
Heritage Week - Sale of Books		137.40	
Museum Entrance Fees		6.00	
Donations: Westpac Banking Group	1000.00		
Sundry	<u>57.10</u>	1057.10	
Interest - Commonwealth Bank A/c	121.88		
- Commonwealth Bond	<u>14.00</u>	135.88	
Excursions - Receipts	7472.00		
- Pre paid for 1989	<u>721.00</u>	<u>8193.00</u>	<u>310867.33</u>
TOTAL:			313357.74
LESS Payments:			
Bulletin Expenses- (Postage etc.)	267.46		
Registration Fees	40.00		
Annual Report	80.66		
Post Office Box Fee	39.00		
Bulletin Labels	<u>15.95</u>	443.07	
Subscriptions - National Trust	50.00		
- R.A.H.S.	40.00		
- Suth. Shire Info. Service	<u>10.00</u>	100.00	
Petty Cash - Postages and Stationery		67.48	
Museum - G.I.O. Insurance Pub. Liability	215.00		
- Transport of Refrigerator	<u>55.00</u>	270.00	
Costume Hire and Cleaning	205.00		
Stationery	295.98		
Padlock	9.50		
Souvenirs	141.38		
Paper Cups	43.34		
Books	9.00		
Incorporation Fees	78.00		
Bank Charges	<u>27.86</u>	810.06	
Excursions - Transport	2274.40		
- Entrance Fees	434.60		
- Refunds to members	711.00		
- Hotels & Lunches	3559.00		
- Telephone calls	123.34		
- Stationery	17.06		
- Postages	2.91		
- Sweets	87.14		
- Donations	<u>125.00</u>	<u>7384.45</u>	<u>39075.06</u>
CASH IN BANK - Commonwealth Savings Bank			
Cronulla - A/c No. 2150 0090 4260			<u>34282.68</u>

NOTE: At 31st December, 1988 the Society Held:

- (a) 14 Society Badges
- (b) 8 Friendship Pins
- (c) Souvenirs: 32 spoons and 23 letter openers

Handwritten signature

434 RECONCILIATION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - 1988

Balance brought forward:	2490.41
<u>ADD</u> Receipts for 1988	<u>10867.33</u>
TOTAL:	13357.74
<u>LESS</u> Expenditure for 1988	<u>9075.06</u>
<u>CASH IN BANK</u>	<u>\$4282.68</u>

RECONCILIATION OF BANK STATEMENT AS AT 28th DECEMBER, 1988

Bank Statement No. 55 \$4409.68

Less - Outstanding cheques:

No. 142602 -	9.00	
142604 -	40.00	
142605 -	<u>78.00</u>	
		<u>\$127.00</u>
		<u>\$4282.68</u>

St. George Building Society Ltd. - Step-Up Account No. 031 133 594.

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
Balance brought forward	\$2454.07	P.I.D.	0.18
Interest	242.13	Balance C/F	3072.21
Fixed Term Interest			
Transferred to A/c	<u>376.19</u>		
	<u>\$3072.39</u>		<u>\$3072.39</u>

St. George Building Society Ltd. - Fixed Term Invest A/c No. 015152672

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
Balance brought forward	\$3000.00	Transfer of Interest	
Interest	376.19	to Step-Up A/c	376.19
	<u>\$3376.19</u>	Balance CPwd.	<u>3000.00</u>
			<u>\$3376.19</u>

SUMMARY OF ASSETS OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Commonwealth Savings Bank - Cheque A/c	4282.68
St. George Bldg. Society - Step-Up A/c	3072.21
St. George Bldg. Society - Fixed Term A/c	3000.00
Commonwealth Bank Bond	200.00
	<u>10554.89</u>
Less amount paid for Excursions in advance by members (Commonwealth Saving Cheque A/c)	<u>721.00</u>
CASH ASSETS	<u>\$9833.89.</u>


A. Hamilton
Hon. Treasurer

Auditors Report

I have audited the books of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society for the year ended 31:12:88 and hereby certify that in my opinion the income & expenditure statement & balance sheet are accurately stated

K. Greentree Hon Auditor.



EXCURSION REPORT

In preparing this Annual Report your Committee would like to thank the members who attended the outings and in particular those who expressed their appreciation of a special feature which appealed to them. We know it is not possible to please everyone "all of the time", but in the interests of the group all decisions made are those considered to be most suitable for the majority. We welcome your criticism, but we hope it would be constructive and enable us to rectify our faults.

Because of the Bi-Centenary Year in 1988 our outings were less than, usual in the earlier part of the year but we hope this will be rectified for 1989.

To remind you of the places visited we list them hereunder;

JANUARY 16: "BUSH RIVER BOAT CRUISE; From Roseville Bridge to the upper reaches of Middle Harbour, also East to The Spit and all the bays on the way. This trip is recommended to everyone for a very pleasant day out.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25: HAWKESBURY RIVER BOAT POSTMAN; This launch service is the only communication with the outside world for those living on the River's foreshores and it provides an interesting as well as pleasant trip as their food, mail, etc. is delivered to so many residents. It is only a Monday to Friday service.

SATURDAY, MAY 21: OLD SYDNEY TOWN; a much smaller than usual group attended this outing, but it was appropriate to visit again in 1988! It is strange, but true, outings we plan because of a number of requests seem to draw less numbers than those which are selected by the Excursion Committee. We do try to please the members by following up their suggestions, when they are kind enough to make recommendations.

SATURDAY, JULY 22; ST. MARYS AREA; This is the first time the Society has made a visit to that part of outer Sydney and it was surprising just how much history was contained in a small area. It was most interesting to see the restoration work going on at "Mamre", the home of Rev. Samuel Marsden.

Let me again refer to Dot and Tom Cosgrove, as I did in the February Bulletin -- Dot is a direct descendant of the Reverend Gentleman. and I sent her copies of the papers we were given at the house. Dot, I know you won't mind me saying, "The resemblance was still there last time we saw you, after so many generations."

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17: GEORGES RIVER. Regretfully this had to be cancelled as numbers were too small: It was the first occasion in the Society's 22 years this had happened, but we were able to tell everyone in plenty of time.

I guess I must take the blame -- perhaps September is not the right time to plan river trips, when the weather could be inclement.

WEEK-END OCTOBER 4-5-6 COWRA/CARCOAR. This was a most informative week-end and we were treated royally by our guides from the local Historical Society and Motel management, in Cowra, And the Carcoar people repeated the kindness in showing their area. Cowra and Carcoar have loads of history in their boundaries and many more hours could be spent in their surroundings.

EXCURSION REPORT.

The Carcoar people were most anxious that we have morning tea and those who did accept their hospitality were very pleased. It is one of the ways this "Classified Town" can raise funds for its support of the historical sites. Thank you to those members who 'supported them.

This report would not be complete without thanking the Coach Captain Terry McCosker for his help to us all -- with his fund of historical knowledge it adds greatly to the success of the trips when he is with us. (Terry and his wife, Val, have become members of the Society too!)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26: was a day with a difference - NEWCASTLE by rail, with a coach booked from S. Fogg and Co. to meet us at the Railway Station at Mid-day.

This enabled the members to take advantage of the new \$3.00 ticket available to retired folk: those who paid full fare said the outing was well worth the cost.

The President of Newcastle Society was our guide and she left no stone unturned in order to show us the historic sites.

As mentioned briefly in the February Bulletin, it is very hard to find suitable venues that will lend themselves to a rail and coach opting because of timetables and distances, but in the not too distant future we would like to find another place to enable us to have another similar outing. In this past week I have been studying Metropolitan - Inter Urban- and closer Country times of arrival but most would prevent reasonable time at a venue before needing to make our way home. Here's hoping?

In thanking those who have assisted us during the year, special mention to Caringbah Bus and Coach Co. (Tiger Tours) for their ready help and thoughtfulness both on the telephone and at the Depot; also for their selection of drivers, and to the Coach Captains themselves. (The Company, also Mrs. Wood, have now become members of our Society.)

My personal thanks to the members of the Excursion Committee for their assistance and consideration at all times; namely Messrs: Doug Archer, Keith Knight, Stewart Roberts, Mesdames Ada Cutbush, Val Humphreys and Dawn Smith. Thank you to Hon. Treasurer Alwyn Hamilton for paying our accounts on our outings, one less worry for other members of the Committee.



EXCURSION CONVENER

RESEARCH REPORT

During the year I addressed several different organisations on local history. On each occasion I used slides as I find this is most effective in addressing an audience.

The organisations and subjects presented were; Menai Cubs, address on History of Menai. Como Learning Centre, address on History of Como. Sutherland Shire Historical Society, address on Southerland-Sutherland. Miranda Salvation Army Ladies Group, address on History of Miranda. Sutherland Shire Historical Society, address on the History of Miranda.

I had eight interviews with residents who had lived most or all their lives in the Sutherland Shire. I obtained a considerable amount of information about the Shire and from some I copied over 40 photographs mostly taken in the 1920s and 1930s. In addition there were photo copies of early maps.

There were 17 enquiries from people seeking information about the history of the Shire or a particular photograph.



Research Officer

EXHIBITIONS REPORT

The main exhibition by the Society was that of Heritage Week held in the Sutherland Entertainment Centre in conjunction with the Sutherland Shire Council. The numbers of people attending were considerably higher than the previous year.

Due to the Bi-Centennial Year there were considerably more requests for the Society's involvement in placing exhibitions, mostly photographic at a particular function, in all there were 21 as compared with 4 the previous year.

They were; Commonwealth Bank, Cronulla; Heritage Week Display; Illawong Public School; Westpac Bank, Caringbah; Australian Surf Carnival, Cronulla; Jacaranda Nursing Home, Caringbah; Sutherland Uniting Church; Greg. Ball Holden, Miranda; Our Lady of Fatima School, Caringbah; Menai Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship; Loftus Uniting Church Bete; Thomas Holt Homes, Sutherland (twice); Menai Apex Art and Craft Show; Colonial Day at Woronora; Sylvania Heights Public School; Caringbah Public School; Tharawal Public School, Menai; Commonwealth Bank, Sutherland; Commonwealth Bank, Engadine; Engadine Home Gardener's Club (twice); Como Public School.

Throughout the year a number of articles large, and small were given to the Society for the Museum and for display at exhibitions. Thank you to those kind people for their interest.

During the year several Committee meetings were held at the Sutherland Shire Council to discuss Heritage Week and the display held in the Entertainment Centre. The Society was represented by our President Mr. Ivers, Mrs. Platfoot and myself.

A sincere thanks to members of the Society who assisted in arranging or looking after displays during the year, and at the Society's Exhibition room in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts.



Convener

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Publications by the Society have been confined during the year to the Society's Bulletin, 300 copies being available each quarter to members, all branches of the Shire Library, the Shire President, Shire Clerk, Public Relations and all Councillors.

Copies are also forwarded to the National Library, Canberra; State Library, Sydney; Royal Australian Historical Society; The National Trust; Department of Main Roads; State Rail Authority; Australia Post Archives; Dept. of Education; St. George, Ku Ring Gai, Hurstville, Kogarah and Picton Historical Societies; The Engadine District News and The Leader newspapers.

Thank you to members of the Publications Committee for proof reading of the Bulletin and the preparation before posting. This is all done at the home of Mrs. Stewart except for one occasion when it done at the home of the President Mr. Ivers and Mrs. Ivers.

While Postal charges continue to rise, bulk postage helps to alleviate some of the cost to the Society, but the assistance from the Shire Council in the production is most gratifying.

A letter of appreciation of the Society's Quarterly Bulletin from the Shire President Cr. Michael Tynan was very encouraging.

Contributions from the Society members are encouraged and I thank those who contributed during the year to the Bulletin. Material need not be confined to the local area but this is especially welcome in recording the history of Sutherland Shire.



Convener