

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this my first report as President of the Society, may I commence by thanking my nominator and seconder, aid all other members at the Annual General Meeting, for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

On your behalf I would like to once again thank Harold Ivers for the dedicated job he did as President for seventeen years, and also our retiring Secretary, Andrew Platfoot, for his attention to detail such position required, in the past five years.

We are delighted to have them with us this year as Publicity Officer and a Vice-President respectively, thereby still sharing their knowledge and experience with the Executive Council.

On a sad note, we mourn the sudden death of Clyde Snape - a member from very early days of the Society, and so well known for his historical photographic displays. To his wife, Eileen and Family, we offer our deepest sympathy.

As this Bulletin is being prepared we are in Heritage Week:

Many thanks to all those who are helping. A full report will be included in next issue from our hard-working Exhibitions officer, Fred Midgley, who at this time I thank on your behalf.

AILEEN GRIFFITHS

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### FIXTURES FOR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

May 12:	Maj-Gen Sir Ivan Dougherty, CBE, DSO and Bar, E.D
	MILITARY HISTORY
June 9;	A N S T O. (Formerly), Australian Atomic Energy Commission)
July 14:	To be confirmed

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Fred Midgley (Convener), Harold Ivers, Athalie Ivers, Jenesse Flatfoot, Andrew Platfoot, Jim Cutbush, Doug Archer.

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### EARLY SYLVANIA

I was born in Sydney on 23rd June, 1876. In the year 1883 when I was a child of seven years of age I was taken by my parents to live on the estate of Thomas Holt at Sylvania.

My father, Mr. John Sedman was employed on the estate as landscape gardener from the year 1883 to 1893. There were three little cottages on the estate. My parents with a family of five children lived in the first cottage inside the Lodge gate. Some people by the name of Banks lived in the second cottage and a family by the name of Ellis lived in the third cottage.



The people in the other two cottages were also employed as workers on the estate. Mr. William Stewart was coachman and Miss Birch was lady companion to Mrs. Holt, and also governess to the sons Master Thomas and Master Frederick and the daughters, Miss Lucy and Miss Ruth.

There were other servants employed in the mansion of Thomas and Mrs. Holt. All three families on the estate were supplied with milk, butter, eggs and vegetables by Thomas Holt. At Christmas time a lovely gift was given to us all from their

Christmas tree and all families were given a Christmas parcel as well. I still have in my possession a little collar box which I still treasure, which was handed from the Christmas tree by Mrs. Holt, who was a very gracious little lady. Sunday school was held in the Holt mansion, and was conducted by Rev. L. Moore a Congregational minister.



In those days there were only about 10 or twelve other cottages outside the estate, but the children from these homes attended the Sunday school.

There were only two shops in Sylvania. One, a little grocery shop was owned by Mrs. Small.

There was one little school which I attended. There was only one school teacher and about 20 scholars. Her name was Miss Clara Rice.

The punt which used to cross the river was driven by hand and sunk a few times. Later a steam punt was employed. Mr. McLennan and Mr. Dunn used to work the steam punt and both lived nearby. The punt stopped running about midnight and started again in the early morning.

Sometimes horses and cows used to swim in the river. Fishermen used to drag in plenty of fish in their nets and used to give a lot of them away. Anybody could knock as many oysters off the rocks as they pleased. Master Thomas and Master Frederick Holt owned two Shetland ponies and they used to ride along the waters edge. In those days there was a brick wall along the waters edge.

One of my brothers, who was born on the estate was Christened in

the Holt mansion by Rev E. Moore and was called Thomas Frederick after the two sons of Thomas Holt.

Source: This was a letter written to the Editor of the District News in 1955, a local newspaper published in Sutherland. Mrs. Isabella Jane Walters was then residing in Belmont St., Sutherland, when she wrote this interesting letter about early Sylvania.

- - - George Heavens

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### OLD COMO, A POTTED HISTORY

The first manager of Murphy's boat shed was Mr. Lye, then Mr. Sparks, followed by Mr. W.J. Jordon, who was manager of Murphy's Shed and Como Pleasure Grounds for many years. Mr. Murphy died in 1924 and Michael Murphy (a brother) who was Chief Administrator of Norfolk Island and Jim Murphy from England with a stepbrother England



shared the property. When Mr. Jordon left, the Estate of Murphy's was sold to Mr. Ernie Bryant, who had a shed at Lugarno, transferred the boats to Como and took charge of the Como Sheds.

The Federal Shed (which was originally owned by H.C.Press who later had the National Park boats before the Trust took them over) was managed by Mr. Alf. Collins, who was succeeded by Mr. Chris. Larkin, and then by Mr. W. Henderson who lived at the Como Railway gates. There was a dance hall on the top of the Federal Shed which the Secretary's Department condemned after many years as being dangerous.

Wills Shed over the western side of the railway line was managed by Brereton who also had a shed and pleasure grounds at East Hills. This shed held about 50 boats, the Federal about 40 and Murphy's had 70.

Wills and Murphy amalgamated about 1908.

On holidays boats could not be obtained after about 10 a.m. as they would be all taken out. Boats were booked up as long as six months ahead in those days when there were no motor cars to contend with.

Mr. Larkin, senior, was the man who looked after the general running and conduct of the Pleasure Grounds and took the money for admittance which in those days was adults 2 pence and children one penny.

In the early days of Como a ferry boat, after the style of the old North Shore Ferry, driven



by paddle wheels on the side, used to ply between Como and Parkesvale on the George's River. This boat was later wrecked near Salt Pan Creek. A Mr. Davis used to travel the river in those days, taking photographs and selling ice cream from his boat. He did a good business.

The reserve in front of the Como Hotel was once a bay, and one could row right up to the hotel. There was also a number of shops thereabouts.

The original Hotel the Woronora was situated near where the Como s school now stands. It was an old wattlebark and hessian building and between 1905 and 1914 was occupied by Mr. Basil Cooper and his family.

The Como Hotel was once owned by Mr. Bucholtz who was succeeded by Mr. Paton. After that I lost track of the owners. Mr. Scott was the licensee at the time this article was written.

The Station Master in the early days was Mr. Cuneo who was the man who started the Railway and Tramway Hospital Fund, He was succeeded by Mr. Crawford (later Inspector Crawford); then came Mr. Stevens, who at one time prevented a serious railway mishap by his prompt action in diverting a runaway brakevan from going onto the bridge and thereby crashing into a steam passenger train coming in the opposite direction. The brakevan ran into the river under the bridge, where it lay for a week. The Night Officer at the Railway Station was Mr. Kinkade who died whilst at Como. The men worked 12-hour shifts in those days.

Mr. Rowland who came to Como about 1911 or 1912, took a prominent part in the early history of Como at one time. He lived at Coronation Bay. He later leased the Pleasure Grounds' Store which he conducted for quite a time, finally selling out to a Mr. Birks who later built his own shop around the road where there are a few shops today.

Constable (later Sergeant) Worth of Hurstville always did duty on Sundays and holidays at Como and was a well known figure in his big helmet (the kind worn in those days). He and I were together on a number of drowning cases.

Councillor Billy Lawrence came to Como to live around about 1912 if I remember rightly, but he had been a regular week-end visitor or many years before, with a group of men who called themselves the Hummers." They camped every week-end at the Woronora River at the Point now known as Hummers Point which is about a mile down-stream from Cooks' then Schofields' boatshed near the bridge. A good many of these boys served and some paid the supreme sacrifice in World War 1. This was the beginning of these boys disbanding. They

were mostly Newtown footballers.

As far as I can recollect this is a fairly accurate account of Early Como.

Source: This article was published in the District News in 1955 and was written by Mr. Jordon of the Post Office Stores, Woronora.

---- George Heavens

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### SUTHERLAND OLD GIRLS' VIGORO CLUB

If you mention vigoro to some of the younger generations of today the usual reply is "What's that?" "Never heard of it?" or "Is it some kind of sport?" But years ago, particularly in the 1930s the sport was very popular. It is still played today, but women's and girls cricket has escalated in recent years taking its place.

**DECISIONS.**

If a striker runs past the opposite wicket, she cannot be "run out" on the plea that she is out of her crease.

A ball strikes the wicket without disturbing the balls. **NOT OUT.**

A ball passes through the wicket without disturbing it. **NOT OUT.**

The striker when running disturbs the opposite wicket. **NOT OUT.**

May the bowler assume any attitude when delivering the ball (kneeling, etc.)? **YES.**

Must the balls be used? **YES.**

**THE CRICKET RULE OF CROSSING DOES NOT APPLY IN VIGORO.**

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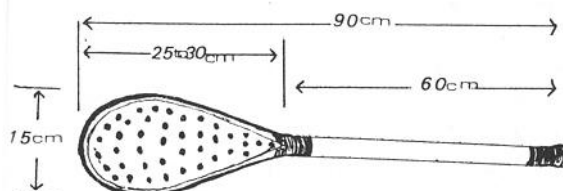
**VIGORO SETS**

The Improved Regulation Vigoro Set, comprising two latest approved Design Cane Handle Patent Bats, fitted with Rubber Grip and Fibre Facing on Blade, One Set Standard Varnished Stumps and Balls; two Genuine Vigoro Balls (one Red, one White), one Mallet for driving Stumps; with Rules and Plan.

**In Strong Box—45/-—Set Complete**

**SPARE VIGORO BATS** all weights, new designs 17/- each  
**VIGORO BALLS** ..... 3/- each  
**PATENT WICKETS**, for use on Hard Pitches 16/6 set  
**WICKETKEEPER'S GAUNTLETS** ..... 8/6, 10/6 pair  
**WICKETKEEPER'S LEG-GUARDS**, TAN 3/6 and 10/6  
**CARRIAGE EXTRA ON ALL ABOVE**

The game is similar to the rules of cricket but is played on a pitch 58 foot long - cricket is 66 foot.- with stumps at either end. There are 12 players to a side. A firm rubber ball is used and is bowled from the one end alternately by a player using a red ball and another a white ball. There are no overs as in cricket but the bowlers can be changed at any time..The ball is either bowled or thrown in an over arm action. The game was fast moving the bats-woman having to



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 "DESTINED TO BE THE GREATEST OF ALL GAMES"

**Latest Amended Laws, Definitions and Rulings of**  
**"VIGORO"** (Regd.)

AS APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY P.S.A.A.A.  
 Frankel Harris, Printer, Crane Place, 21a Pitt St, Sydney.

#### **Latest Amended Laws, Definitions and Rulings of VIGORO**

[Copyright]

The Game "Vigoro" (a combination of Cricket and Baseball) was invented to give the world a game—simple to interpret, interesting and exciting—which would enable all to become efficient players.

The Vigoro Bat should be of the approved design, length not to exceed 31 inches, the blade to measure not more than 12 inches in length and 6 inches at the widest part.

The Vigoro Ball.—Genuine Vigoro Balls are of the approved design, size, and weight, and must be used in all matches.

The wickets shall be pitched opposite and parallel to each other—at either end of the pitch. Each wicket shall be eight inches in width and consist of 3 Stumps with 2 Balls on the top and 27 inches out of the ground. The Stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball passing through. The bowling crease shall be eight feet eight inches in length with a return crease each end.

1. A team for Vigoro shall consist of twelve players.

2. The pitch shall be fifteen yards long, four feet six inches wide. The crease shall be four feet six inches from the wicket.

Note.—The recognised length for a Vigoro pitch, as approved for senior Clubs, is 58 feet.

Draw or Tie—Equal 2 points each.

5. The striker is not out through hitting the ball on to the opposite wicket unless touched by a fieldman.

6. A wicket-keeper may catch the striker out if a ball has hit the bat or the striker's hand.

7. Runs may be made from overthrows.

8. If a ball, hit by the striker, touches one fielder and is caught by another before it touches the ground, Decision OUT.

9. Re Wide Balls. No Penalty.

10. A bye cannot be counted as a run unless the run is actually made except in the case where the ball reaches the boundary, when 4 byes are recorded.

11. The Compulsory First Run.—The strikers must run one or more for all clean hits, touches (or blocks) hit in FRONT of the popping crease, and remains in front. If either fails to run, or goes back, the striker that should have run, or is running for the wicket put down, is OUT—run out. Either striker is "Out," if in running, either wicket is put down before the striker running, or should have run for that wicket, has reached the 4ft. 6in. popping crease, with bat or either foot grounded inside the crease line.

12. Penalty for non bowler stopping or touching the Ball—4 runs shall be awarded to the batting side.

13. If law is not printed in the foregoing rules, the cricket rulings apply.

run no matter where she hit the ball in front of the wicket - and so did her partner at the other end.

A long handle bat, like a canoe paddle was used and had a rubber face. The wicket keeper wore gloves and pads.

The team had its origins at Sutherland school in 1927, when for the first time a shield was awarded to the Shire by the Public Schools A.A., the shield being awarded for vigoro to the girls of Sutherland Intermediate School.

The girls from the team collected donations from Shire business people as they were so proud at winning the first vigoro shield. As a result every girl in the team was presented with a badge sized shield as a memento.

The girls formed a team again and in 1931 entered competition in the N.S.W. Women's Vigoro Association. They named their team the Sutherland Old Girls' Vigoro Club. Meetings were held at Mr. Bill Robinson's home adjoining the back of his grocery shop and produce store in Flora Street ( now Adelong Street), Sutherland. He was President of the club, and had a daughter in the team.

The club had entered the summer competition of 1931 and met with some success. But it was the team entered into the second division A2 winter competition that this article particularly concerns.

Matches were always played on a Saturday during summer and winter, each side batting twice if necessary. They played in districts which were divided into zones and there were eleven teams in the competition including Sutherland. Matches were played alternately on their home ground which was known as Waratah Park (Sutherland Recreation Ground at Linden Street and Grand Parade).

The girls travelled to matches on a truck owned and driven by a Sutherland resident, Mr. Mills, with seats along the sides of the tabletop.



The successful team was photographed at Waratah Park(Sutherland Recreation Ground) with their trophies. Standing left to right; Lucy Beach, Veronica (Vonnice) Robinson, Gladys Gilmore, Harry Woods scorer Elsie Avery, Milda Crispo. Centre row; Eileen Wood,Audrey Avery (capt5, William Robinson (President), May Beach, a little girl about 5 years of age the team "mascot", Betty Scott, Hilda Williamson. Front; Mabel Shanahan, Jean Beach, Ella Austin, Joyce Austin.



Uniform worn by the girls was a white sleeveless blouse, brown pleated skirt, matching brown cap and white sandshoes. As can be seen in the photograph all wore their hair short being the fashion of the time.

Hilda Williamson, Lucy Beach, Betty Scott and Audrey Avery the captain were all good bats while Betty Scott was also a good bowler. Mabel ended up as an opening bat and when the opposing team was batting her position was in the outfield. The Austin sisters were good too, but most of them were outstanding players.

In the final match of the season the Sutherland girls defeated St. Peters by 74 runs on September 5th to win the competition by 4 points.

Hilda Williamson scored 308 runs with the best average for the team, with Lucy Beach not far behind with 284 runs. Next best were Betty Scott, 217, Audrey Avery 193, Eileen Wood 196, Mabel Shanahan 170, Jean Beach 164 and Joyce Austin 162.

Lucy Beach who made the highest score with bi was the wicket keeper. An outstanding player she was awarded 18 fielding points, and took 36 catches. When she was 20 she was selected to represent New South Wales.

Lucy was one of five sisters, one other sister Jean, being in the Sutherland team, and the 'mascot', May. They were the granddaughters of the champion World sculler, William Beach. Considered to be the greatest Australian sculler he defended his title seven times from 1884 to 1887 and was never beaten.

Most of the girls in the team came from well known Shire pioneer families, some of whom came to the Shire before the turn of the century.

Source: Greater part of this article has been supplied by Mrs. Mabel Lawrence (nee Shanahan) of Hurstville, a member of that successful vigoro club. "Champion Australian Scullers, 1926." The S.C.A.M. newspaper. Sutherland Shire Council Local History Library,

-----Fred Midgley

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Edward Duyker, OF THE STAR AND THE KEY: MAURITIUS,  
MAURITIANS and AUSTRALIA.

Australian Mauritian Research Group (P.O. Box 20, Sylvania, 2224), 1988, pp 129, illustrations, bibliography and index, \$19.95 plus \$3.50 postage.

Mauritius has exercised a powerful fascination over artists and writer<sup>4</sup> ever since it was colonised by the French in 1715. Baudelaire spent a short time there; so did Joseph Conrad. In fact, explorers such as Matthew Flinders and La Perouse are only the tip of the ice-berg. The island was an important link in a chain stretching from Europe to the infant colonies in Australia throughout the 19th century.

Duyker has set out to explore the various human links that join Mauritius to Australia over the past two centuries. In doing so he has given us a rich insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes' of important historical events. To imagine that a tiny island in the Indian Ocean would have so many links with a large continent like Australia is a revelation to say the least.

The author's research is meticulous. He has given us a panorama that includes escaped convicts on the streets of Port Louis, pardoned slaves on the streets of Sydney, and a world



of dreamers afflicted with 'gold fever' scurrying down shafts on the goldfields of Victoria in the 1850s. Young Mauritians were as adventurous as any when it came to setting sail into the unknown in pursuit of their fortune, it seems.

To discover the Australian sugar industry owes much to those early Mauritian migrants comes as a surprise also. And to find out that our much loved painter, Lloyd-Rees, attributes his 'impressionism' to his Mauritian mother makes it easier for us to appreciate the unusual delicacy that he brought to his work.

Matthew Flinders spent six years as a prisoner of the French on Mauritius. It is a footnote in the history of our circumnavigator that few would recall. Likewise, Baudin, another French explorer to our shores, died in Mauritius on his way home from Australia.

It is clear from Duyker's painstaking research that the link between these two peoples is important. Present-day Mauritians in Australia are already making their mark in film-making, opera, business and commerce.

'Of the Star and the Key' is fascinating work of social history, Duyker should be congratulated in producing a work that is both informative and entertaining to read. He has drawn this island closer to us by way of the fragile human contacts that make up the fabric on any emerging society such as Australia.

---James Cowan, Author of 'The Painted Shore

### PIONEER- BOWMAN FAMILY- --FROM - 1798

Very little has been written of the Bowman Family and very few know how they helped to build the colony.

In the census taken in 1828 there were 10 families of Bowmans, in all over 40 of them. It was started by John Bowman who arrived in Sydney on the ship "Barwel" in 1798.

I myself am a 5th generation member of the Bowman Family and have put together extracts from the Mitchell Library and information that my mother and grandfather told me during my childhood.

John Bowman came as a free settler with his wife Honora, two sons and one daughter. He was born in Fife, Scotland, in 1751. He received his first land grant of 165 acres at a Richmond farm named "Archerfield" in April, 1799.

John asked Sir Joseph Banks to obtain a free passage for his brother William to come to Australia and he eventually arrived in Sydney in November, 1800. William was granted 100 acres in the heart of Sydney Town in George Street near The Rocks area. In 1802 he married the widow of William Gyles and in 1806 he went to Sutton Forest and kept the Inn at Bong Bong. In fact there were so many William Bowmans in the family it does become very confusing so for the time we will leave the William Bowmans alone and return to John.

John's first job with his wife Honora was in charge of Public Stores at Parramatta from 1798 to 1805. Their children were George, John the eldest, their daughter Mary and William the third son who was born in 1799.

When news arrived of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar in 1805 the Bowman Family designed a flag to commemorate the occasion. The design was based on a shield supported by the emu and kangaroo and has remarkable similarities to the Australian Coat of Arms adopted almost a century later. This flag is in the Mitchell Library.

John became General Muster of the whole of the inhabitants of N.S.W. and welcomed Governor Bligh and asked John Macarthur to act in signing for the free inhabitants in 1806.

In 1809, George Bowman, John's second eldest son entered into partnership with a man named Douglas in a drapers business in the markets in George Street Sydney. Several years later in 1825 his father John Bowman died and therefore George became the head of the family and he built up the farm called "Archerfield" as John the elder had returned to England.

George married Elizabeth Sophia Pearce on 24th May, 1820 and then became the Hunter River Pioneer. He had 9 sons, 2 daughters and 30 grandchildren. He became a M.L.A. and was the first Mayor of Richmond in 1872.

George Bowman sent out four men in 1836 to select a ran for him on the Namoi River. This station was called Terry Hie Hie. Later George took up another station and sent up 500 to 600 cattle to graze on it. His runs later comprised over 200,000 acres and in 1874 carried 11,000 to 12,000 cattle as well as 12,000 sheep.

In 1837 two of George Bowman's men were murdered by blacks when the stockmen had attempted to steal two native women by force. In 1838 many aborigines and whites had lost their lives, also sheep and cattle were slaughtered. The Colonial Secretary complained to Commissioner Mayne about the careless way in which stock were left in charge of men on the stations which emboldened the natives to

commit depredations. A larger distribution of tobacco and rations were given in the hope this would reduce further attacks. If not the Commissioner would withdraw the convicts from the station of George Bowman which was too unprotected. Police would be increased to 15 to assist the Commissioner.

In 1874 it was said wild horses were causing a problem. The previous year 1,200 were shot and in 1875 the matter was worse. A man was employed just to keep shooting them.

George Bowman spent most of his life at Richmond where he built the Presbyterian church, paying for it out of his own pocket and later when the tower and clock was built this also was paid for by him. One of his sons, Robert, became a doctor and practiced in Richmond till his death in 1872.

During his life George was a member of the party to explore the Clarence River in 1839 in the "Ring William". He was a member of the Grand Jury in 1827. He died on 26th August, 1878, aged 83 years and is buried with his wife in the Presbyterian Church grounds at Richmond, N.S.W.

The third son of John Bowman, William, also made his mark on the colony. In 1839 he owned 18,565 acres at Tonabrutta Roxburgh Grunty, N.S.W., and in 1836 had 5,200 acres at Bathurst. In 1837 the Bathurst property was increased to 13,055 acres.

William was also a member of the party to explore the Clarence River in the "King William" from 20th May to 18th June, 1839. He was elected in the first Legislative Council in 1843 when he defeated Robert Fitzgerald by 127 to 126 votes. He built a beautiful home at Richmond named "Texana". He held the most shares in The Bank of Australia, was Justice of the Peace, Member of Parliament and Trustee Warden of St. Peters. In 1840 he was made magistrate of the territory by Sir John Gibbs.

In 1837 William went to England looking for labour - to bring back to Australia. While he was there he met and married his wife Elizabeth bringing her back to Australia with him. William died at his "Texans" home in 1874 aged 74 years. His wife also died at Richmond in 1887 aged 88 years.

The Bowmans married into the Andrew Byrnes and John Blake families, both big land owners in the centre of Sydney and South Coast of N.S.W. Andrew Byrnes owned most of the National Park including Marley Beach, Garie Beach, Era Beach and portion of the Parish of Bulgo.

Andrew Byrnes is another story. He arrived in 1800 and lived for 98 years. He was a patriot of the Irish Rebellion. Many of his cousins followed him here. Therefore between the Bowmans and Byrnes they populated all over Australia, and I am sure many of them would have interesting stories to tell.

----George H. Bowman Gorman

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### SHEEP

Following on my recent article on wool in Australia, to clear up any misunderstanding, the first sheep brought to this country came with the first fleet in 1788 from England and the Cape of Good Hope. They numbered about 100, but before the end of the year fewer than 10 remained. These sheep were kept for mutton; they grew, not wool, but hair, only fit for the bricklayers to mix in the mortar.

Enormous strides have been made over the years as you see the following figures.

Sheep in Australia in 1788 - 100, in 1803 - 11,275, 1842- 6,312,000 in 1954- 126,364,000, and in 1989 more than double that figure. In 1824 exports of wool amounted to a mere 1,100 bales, and in 1954 - 3,846,000 bales.

To bring you right up to date see the Commercial Columns in the Sydney Morning Herald on a Saturday. You will be agreeably surprised.

-----George Heavens

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### THE GOLDEN FLEECE

Out on the rolling plains of Australia's inland in the heat and drought of summer and the cold of winter, graze immense flocks of sheep that bring wealth to this country from all over the world.

From our 200,000,000 sheep comes a quarter of all the wool produced in the world.

The rich merino wool of which Australia grows half the worlds supplies, and earns 40% of our export income. It is of great interest therefore to find out how it started.

The first sheep of the Merino type that came to Australia were sent from Monterey in California, sailing on the "Daedalus" which arrived in N.S.W. on April 20, 1793. These were Spanish "mission" sheep, but as only four survived the voyage, and no thought had been given to the production of wool, they played no part in the story which was soon to unfold itself.

In 1796 Governor Hunter sent the "Reliance" and the "Supply" to the Cape of Good Hope to purchase live stock, principally cattle. While there Captain Waterhouse and Lieutenant bent purchased between them 26 merinos. These sheep originally came from the ESCURIAL stud of the King of Spain and undoubtedly good merinos.

Waterhouse sold the survivors of the voyage to various people amongst them John Macarthur who secured three rams and five ewes.

Macarthur kept them pure, and with eight merinos purchased at a sale of the King's sheep in England in 1894 founded the Camden Stud.

To John Macarthur we owe a vast debt for the foundation and the practical establishment of our flourishing sheep and wool industry, the backbone of our economy.

Our Thomas Holt tried to grow sheep in Sutherland Shire but like all of his Sutherland Shire ventures he failed miserably. Footrot beat him, and at one time as many as 13,000 sheep had to be killed in one day.

Australia is still riding on the sheep's back to rich prosperity. Here for us all to see is a fleece that is truly Golden.

- - -George Heavens

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## THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

NEWCOMBE STREET MAIANBAR Named after G.W.Newcombe who was granted 30 acres at Fisherman's , Bay in 1841.



SIMPSON ROAD, BUNDEENA. William George Simpson was granted 50 acres on November 5th, 1863 in the name of his father. He was one of the pioneers of Port Hacking, and opened the accommodation house more well known as Simpson's Hotel in the 1870s. He died at his residence at Little Tyreel Point on January 4th, 1918 at the age of about 78.

McALISTER AVENUE, CRONULLA. After Charles McAlister, pioneer of Engadine who bought land at Cronulla and erected a brick house, said to be the first in Cronulla. He also had a hall erected for the use of the community.



BARDEN ROAD, MENAI. Named after Frederick Barden of Arncliffe who was granted 111 acres on May 5, 1900. The western boundary of the property being bounded by the Old Illawarra Road. This land was originally taken up as a mineral purchase by J. Bowden and J. Alexander in November, 1881.

CRANBROOK PLACE, ILLAWONG. In 1892 Robert Fowler, Merchant and Pottery Manufacturer purchased portion 147 from Myles McRae who bought land there at Crown land sales in 1887. The house, built by Robert Bignell was named "Cranbrook" by Robert Fowler who lived at Camperdown in Australia Street.

BIGNELL STREET, ILLAWONG. Lucy Bignell, wife of Alfred Bignell, builder and contractor of Camperdown purchased the other portion, 148 of Myles McRae's land In 1893. A two storied house was built shortly afterwards.

FOWLER ROAD , ILLAWONG. After Robert Fowler, Merchant and Pottery Manufacturer who resided at Camperdown. The original Fowler Road ran almost from the Old Illawarra Road to Bignell Street at Bottle and Glass Head opposite Como.

MILNER AVENUE, KIRRAWEE. The Milner brothers, Robert, Fred and Harry were resident in Sutherland before the first World War. Fred was the first clerk to assist Mr. Macfarlane the Shire Clerk in the early days of Sutherland Shire Council. He later became the Shire Clerk when he moved to Wauchope. Harry Milner, a shoe maker opened a store in Sutherland in the late 1920s. He resided in Acacia Road south of President Avenue on a five acre block which could be converted to Torrens Title at 25 times the annual rental, £156. 5.

LEHANE PLAZA, DOLANS BAY. Thomas Lehane was born at the " Old Farm", now Miranda, in 1868. The family owned a large area of land on which the Sutherland hospital now stands, and were amongst the district's pioneers. Thomas Lehane entered Local Government for `A" Riding when the first Sutherland Shire Council was elected on November 24, 1906, He continued to serve until 1925.



Clt. T. Lehane

- - - Fred Midgley

### MENAI'S FIRST FACTORY

Menai was still very much a rural community in 1914 when a factory for the making of gut rope centres, used in the drive of sheep shearing machines was set up, A revolving core in a casing worked the clippers.

The factory was commenced at the rear of carpenter Con Bentley's house off Old Illawarra Road, the gut being stretched out on trees. It was twisted by hand and rubbed down with rasps and sand paper.

The gut was collected from Stone's slaughter yard off Stoney Creek Road, Bexley. The slaughter yard operated from the 1890s to the 1920s. A creek ran nearby but has since been filled in and was near today's golf course. Stone had a chain of butcher shops in the St. George area.

**G. B. STONE, Butcher,**  
Wishes to notify his Customers that during Re-Building operations his business will be carried on as usual in the Premises recently occupied by C. H. Stapleton, near the Overhead Bridge, Forest Road, Hurstville, opposite the new 'Propeller' offices.

All offal from the slaughter yard was boiled down for the fat which was worth a lot of money during the first World War. After all the fat was taken off the meat - or what was left - was transported to Buckle's farm further south on Old Illawarra Road, opposite the school for their poultry.

A youth, Mick Bray of Menai, transported the gut in a horse drawn vehicle.

Although Menai was an isolated community and farm houses could be quarter to half a mile apart there were complaints from the residents. The factory was moved down the bush some distance to one the heads of Still Creek, but complaints continued and operations ceased there. It was moved to Botany and carried on for some years before closing.



Perc, and Bill Woods who had earlier been involved in the earlier business started making machine cores for sheep shearing at Botany. It is not known where they obtained their gut which had already been salted down. Their business went well until plastic came in putting the use of of gut in the sheep shearing industry out "overnight".

Cec. Bentley, a son of Con. Bentley, started making gut for tennis racquets in Penshurst Street, Penshurst, near Stoney Creek Road. Cecil Bentley's brother in law, an industrial chemist helped a lot with the dyeing of colours in the gut. Reg Bentley, a brother of Cecil later came into the business and invented machinery for splitting the gut, papering and splitting down to size. All work in the manufacture of the gut was originally done by hand. Reg altered all that when he introduced the machinery, the patterns for which were done at different places - to avoid copying.

Reg Bentley, a panel beater by trade, studied and rot a health inspectors job with Botany Council. He left this employment with the Council and went into the building trade, but found himself looking for work when the depression commenced in 1928. This was when he went into the gut manufacturing business with his brother. Ill health eventually forced Cecil Bentley to cease activities in

the business and it was taken over by Reg until he sold it to Dunlops.

Cecil Bentley lived in a large two storied house near Tom Uglys.

Source: Interview with Mr. Frank Mayman, Nov. 17, 1987.

- - - Fred Midgley

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### LOST AT THE WORONORA RIVER

New Years Day, 1902, had its sensations when old Mr. Candy of Sutherland who left his home on Monday, 29th December and had not returned as usual on New Year's morning which broke painfully on an aged mother and her family. He had gone to the head of the, Woronora River in search of ferns, and as he was familiar with every acre in the somewhat wild and romantic region of his being lost.

All Tuesday the searchers failed to find him though they came across his trail. On New Year's Day he was discovered by Glen and Tom Dwyer in a very exhausted condition having been disabled by falling on a stump which made an ugly cut in his leg. Through loss of blood he became so weak that he was obliged to camp out that night but on the Tuesday morning he was so weak that he could only manage to keep a fire going in the hope of the smoke attracting attention.

On New Year's morning he found some shellfish which revived him and enabled him to reach the place where he was found.

Source: St. George Advocate, January, 1902.

-----F.A.M.

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### EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS

On Monday, September 14, 1908, President Judd and Cr. Cook escorted Mr. Cale, a photographer from Kerry the well known Sydney photographers on the Woronora River. Many fine views were taken including Cathedral Rock which made a unique picture.

Then followed a vigorous advertising campaign by the Sutherland Shire Council of the fine views of Woronora, Port Hacking, Cronulla, Sylvania, Miranda and other areas.

In all 63 sets of photographs (4 in a set) making 252 photographs if a complete set was purchased. These post cards of the beauty spots of Sutherland Shire were distributed in December over the principal railway stations of N.S.W.

What a valuable record of the early days of Sutherland Shire. Only a few of these early views have so far been found by the writer.

Source: St. George Call

-----Fred Midgley

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LIKE CATTLE. Thousands of people, including hundreds of mothers with young children visited Cronulla on New Year's Day, 1924 and many are not likely to forget it, packed three-deep into grimy, out-of-date steam trams. The Commissioner's New Year Clients were crowded like stock in transit to Homebush.

----St. George Call.



### EXCURSION REPORT

Firstly, let me tell you the Excursion Sub-committee members for 1989 are Messrs. Doug Archer, Keith Knight, Stewart Roberts, with Mesdames Ada Cutbush, Val Humphreys and Dawn Smith. If you have any requests or recommendations to make to the Committee, would you please discuss them with any of the above folk.

The week-end tour to Hill End and Sofala, with Bathurst as our Sunday venue, was most enjoyable and the Excursion Committee is appreciative of those members who made such kind remarks about the arrangements.

We do the very best we can with accommodation etc. for these trips, but you will understand the difficulty in fitting into motels with so many people; many towns do not have large enough accommodation for our numbers and this restricts the places we can use. Also, as it is not possible to make a prior visit to see just what we are getting we must accept what is offered -- we do the best we can, but if it is not to your liking please come and tell us (especially me) about it then. We can't help you a week or so later when it comes to our notice either direct or second-hand.

Last week's Guest Speaker, Jon Little from Green Point Observatory has suggested we make a visit to the Observatory -- at the moment we are trying to arrange a Friday Evening in August, but have been unable to confirm the date in time for this Bulletin. Jon has told us the best viewing time is in winter months, when the nights are "so much darker". Members will be advised at meetings and in tour newsletters as soon as finalised with our hosts.

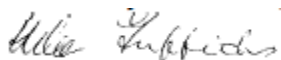
By the time this Bulletin is with you, we will have visited the Parramatta River and also Auburn District -- we are looking forward to fine weather for those outings:

For the July tour on Saturday, July 22 we have to consider a short day's outing because of the mid-winter time. We have therefore decided to make a return trip to Fort Denison and then come home via La Perouse, where Bare Island and the Museum have been fully restored. Cost of the day including Coach and all entry fees is \$12.00 members and \$14.00 visitors. Leaving Cronulla at 8.30 a.m. Sutherland 9 a.m. and expecting to be home by 5 p.m. Bookings open at May Meeting.

Make a note in your Diary that our outing for September, will be on Saturday, September 16, whilst November 18 will be that month's date. In next Bulletin we will advise the places to be visited and give full details.

The October week-end trip will be to Yass - leaving Cronulla 5 p.m., Sutherland 5.30 p.m. and spending Friday and Saturday evenings at Thunderbird Motel. Cost will be about \$110.00 (all inclusive of accommodation and meals)-- any alteration would only be if there are entrance fees which have not as yet been advised to me. By the time bookings are opened at next meeting this will be finalised. The date, Friday October 27, Saturday October 28, Sunday October 29. Details regarding bookings to Mrs. Cutbush on 523-8147 - information regarding details of tours either to Mrs. Cutbush or myself at 523-5801.

Looking forward to another successful year of travel,



Excursion Convener

Fernleigh: The Measure of the Past  
Edward and Susan Duyker

"Fernleigh" (now number 50 Fernleigh Road, Caringbah) on Burraneer Bay, is one of the oldest buildings in the Sutherland Shire, yet much of its history remains unknown. Furthermore, no accurate measurements of the house have ever been recorded. Over several weekends in October 1988 we measured "Fernleigh" with the permission of the present owner, Dr Kevin Alcott. In the course of measuring the house we sought to identify various additions and alterations and record the profiles of some aspects of the internal joinery. We also attempted to identify materials used in the construction of the house and compare our observations with those of previous scholars. Finally, the measurements recorded were used by Susan Duyker to produce scale drawings. These drawings are presented here in reduced (A4) format, together with a brief historical survey.

The actual age of "Fernleigh" has been a source of historical debate for some time. Dates suggested for the construction of the original house range from as early as 1821 to as late as 1875<sup>1</sup>. The evidence for early 19th century construction is limited to the appearance of "1821" on the sundial in the garden and the roman numerals "MDCCCXXI" inscribed on the keystone. As Pattinson<sup>2</sup> rightly points out, the date on the sundial may only pertain to a date of manufacture and the inscription over the door may have been either an erroneous 1861 (MDCCCLXI) or a sentimental gesture. An examination of Lands Department maps and crown land sales records indicates that the land was not offered for sale until 1856 and that the title was not issued to the first known European owner, John Connell Laycock, until May 9, 1859.<sup>3</sup> Both Laycock's father and grandfather had served in the New South Wales Corps. His father Thomas Laycock (c1786-1823) has been described by G.H. Stancombe as "the only casualty in the Rum Rebellion; while searching Government House he fell through a manhole on to his 'principal joint'"<sup>4</sup>.

To finance the construction of his house, John Laycock mortgaged his 40 acres of land to John Thomas Neale. The sandstone used was apparently obtained on the block. Pattinson states that the

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1 Hutton-Neave, M. "'York House', Burraneer Bay", Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, April 1974, pp 20- 22.

2 Pattinson, C. The Australian Homestead...Fernleigh;  
unpublished thesis, 1976.

3 Burns, B. "'Fernleigh 'House'" Sutherland Shire Council, Inter-departmental Memo July 24, 1969.

4 Stancombe, G..H. "Thomas Laycock (17867-1823)" Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, pp 97-98.

roof of the house is slate from Scotland. He also points out that the use of machine-made nails in the building is consistent with a construction date of about 1860.

Laycock only enjoyed the use of his house for about a decade. The mortgage papers for the house and land, in Neale's hands, were acquired by Thomas Holt who foreclosed when he discovered that Laycock had not taken out insurance as stipulated in the contract. In 1873, Holt sold the property to Charles York. It was then that the house became known as 'York House'. For York it was a country retreat, rather than his principal residence. The earliest known photograph (1878) of the house also dates from York's period of ownership. This photograph provides valuable historical insights. It reveals, for example, that the present attic rooms with their dormer windows are later additions. It also indicates that the verandah was originally of corrugated iron and confined to the front of the house.

The original Fernleigh was a colonial Georgian structure, built on symmetrical lines with a central hallway. According to Pattinson, the two rooms on the left were bedrooms, while the two on the right were a parlour and dining room. The sandstone walls are 450mm thick and unrendered externally. (In recent times the stones have been repointed with an excessively strong mortar mix. It is probable that lime for the original mortar was made locally from shells found at Burraneer Bay. In the 20th century, shells which may have come from an Aboriginal midden were employed as aggregate in paths and drives leading to the house.) The internal joinery is of local cedar, which grew plentifully on nearby ridges until about the 1860s. Most of the windows have louvered shutters secured with wrought iron catches. In the main body of the house, the walls have been plastered. (In the converted store, however, the stone has simply been painted).

Both Hutton Heave and Pattinson attributed most of the changes to the original homestead to the period between 1908-1912. Neither undertook a title search to ascertain the owners of the property at the time, but a note in the Sutherland Shire Library's file on "Fernleigh" indicates that resident between about 1909 and 1913 were a Mr and Mrs Edwin Cooke,<sup>5</sup>. Whether the Cookes were responsible for all the alterations is not clear. The existence of gas lighting jets in the attic rooms suggests the conversion of the roof space took place in the late 19th or very early years of the 20th century. Other changes, such as the enclosure of the courtyard and part of the verandah are also obvious to the present-day visitor.<sup>6</sup> The extension of the verandah

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5 Information apparently supplied to the library in March 1988 by a Mrs Platt, grand-daughter of Mr and Mrs Cooke.

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6 The sandstone used in enclosing parts of the verandah and courtyard appears to be from Pyrmont - the last commercial quantities of which were extracted in the early 1950s. Many of the blocks in these inferior additions have been incorrectly laid with their beds vertical. The only compensation in the face of their increased vulnerability to weathering is that they are much harder than the local stone used to build the original house.

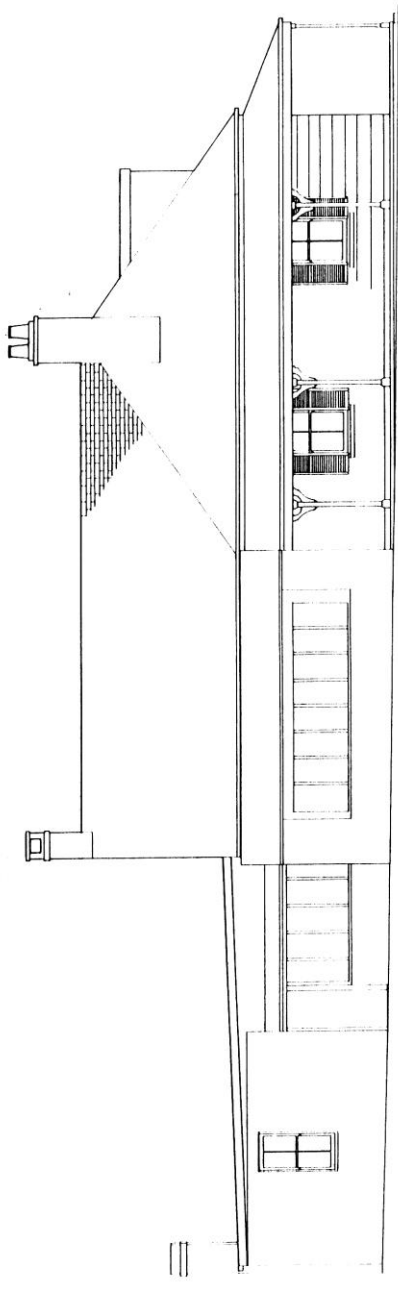
around the house may also have been carried out around this time, but the present corrugated fibro-cement roofing on the verandah is only about 30 to 40 years old at the most - so is the masonite ceiling of the enclosed courtyard (separating the main body of the house from the storerooms and kitchen). Other alterations are visible in the present living room"; these include the replacement of the floor boards with Baltic Pine, the hanging of a new ceiling with a grid of stained oregon mouldings and the construction of a (Pymont) sandstone facade for the fireplace. The front bedroom and parlour ceilings display Victorian mouldings which may also be latter additions. Furthermore, the ceilings in other rooms have been lowered. In the 1950s the bathroom was "modernised" with a new bath, vanity toilet and pink plastic wall tiles. A laundry and another bathroom had been added to the kitchen even before this; they are brick rendered and trowelled to imitate stone.

In the late 1930s, Laycock's house was purchased by Mr Errol Alcock who had established himself as a boat builder on Burraneer Bay. His wife Ivy achieved a measure of local fame as an animal trainer and for the private zoo she established on the property. By this time the house was known as "Mandalay". It remained so until sometime after 1948<sup>7</sup>, when it was renamed "Fernleigh" by the Alcocks. The house was inherited by Dr Kevin Alcott on the death of his mother.

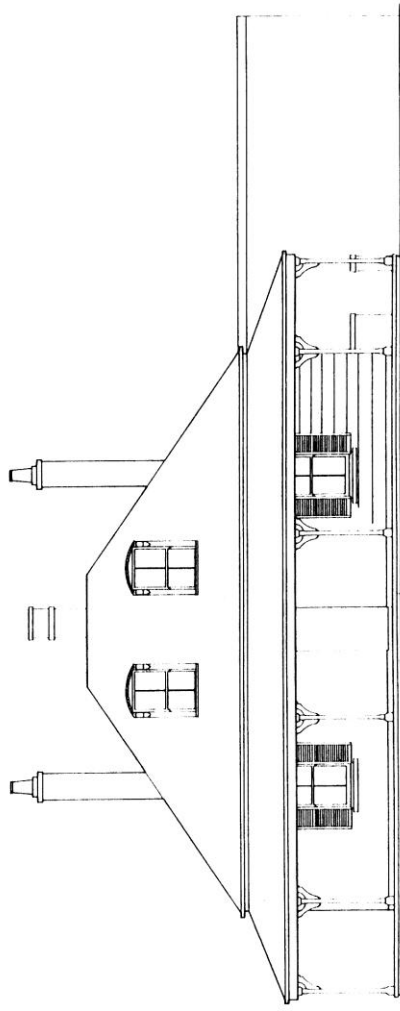
We wish to thank Dr Kevin Alcott, for providing access to 'Fernleigh', and Helen MacDonald, Sutherland Shire Local History Librarian, for drawing our attention to several of the sources referred to in this article.

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7 Australian Home Budget, October 1948.

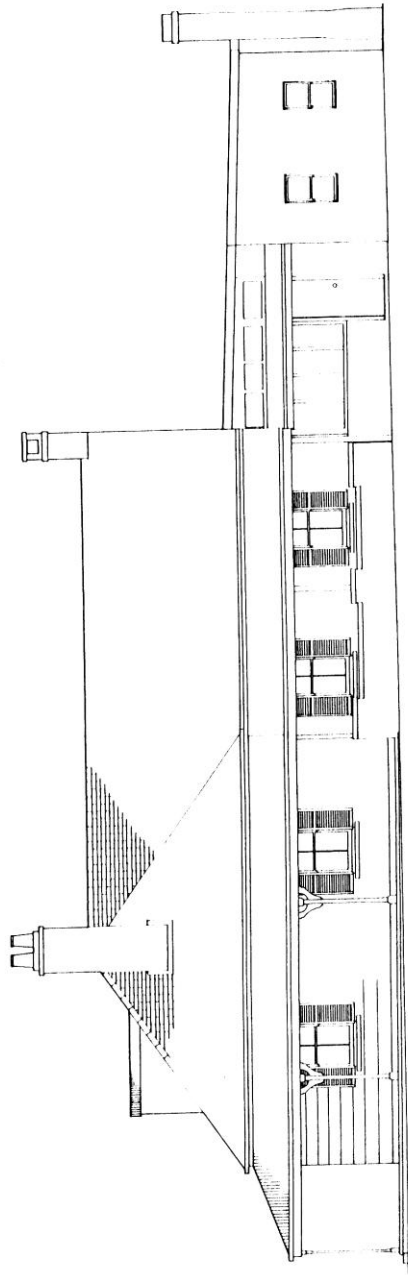


SOUTH ELEVATION

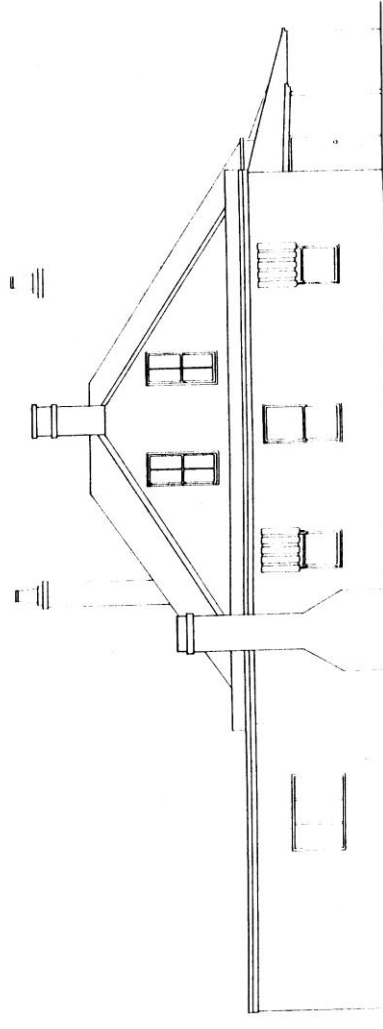


EAST ELEVATION

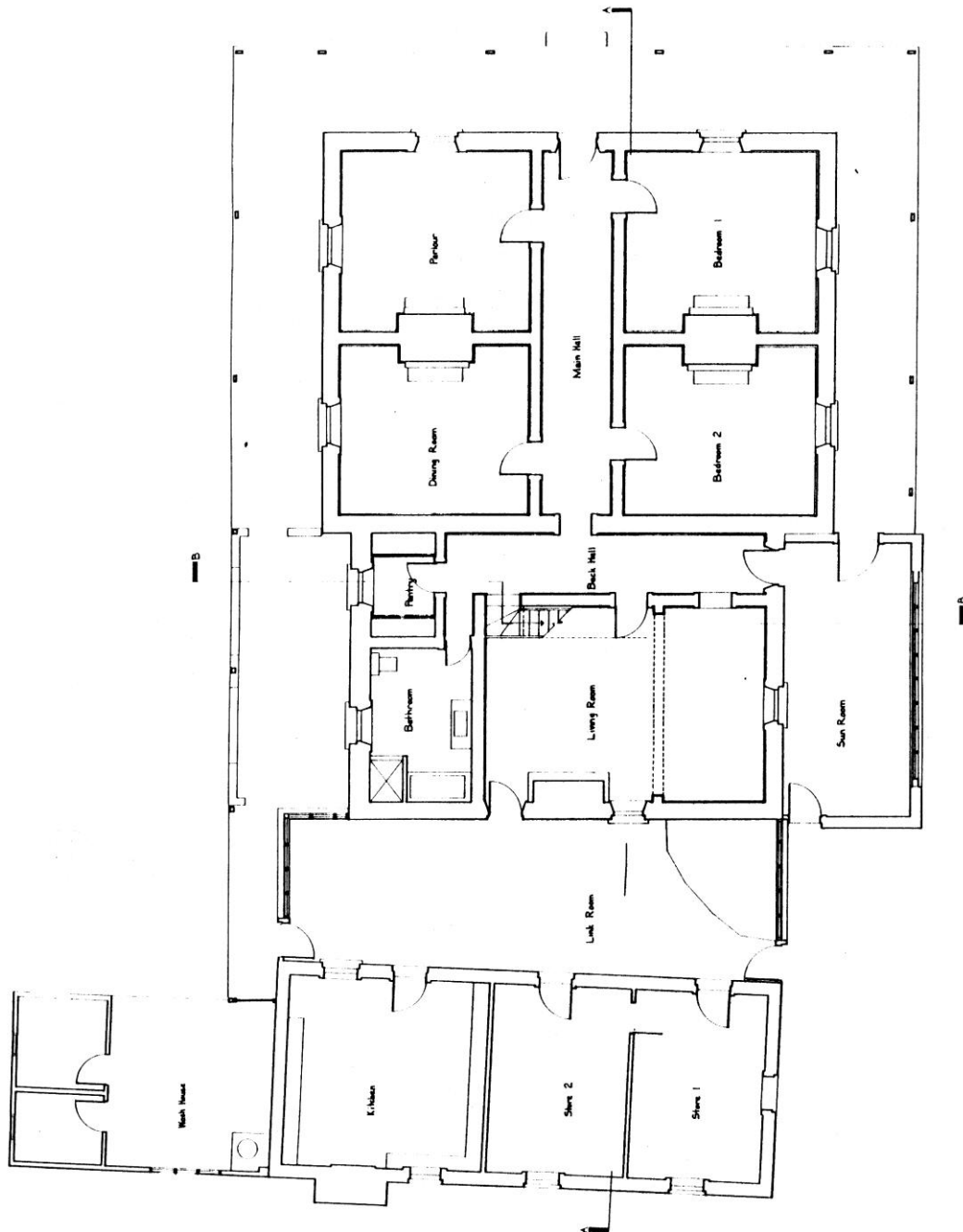
"FERNLEIGH"  
50 Fernleigh Road  
Canterbury, N.S.W.  
Measured by E. and S. Douglas  
October 1966  
Page 4 of 8  
South and East Elevations  
Drawn by Susan Douglas  
12.11.1986



NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



**FERNLEIGH**  
 50 Fernleigh Road  
 Caringbah NSW  
 Measured by E and S Dwyer  
 October 1986  
 Page 2 of 8  
 Ground Floor Plan  
 Drawn by Susan Dwyer  
 10.11.1986



# Historic home to get second chance at life

FERNLEIGH — one of the oldest homes in Sutherland Shire — will soon be given a \$300,000 facelift.

The Burraneer Bay property, once the home of Errol and Ivey Alcock, has fallen into disrepair since the couple died a few years ago.

Now their son, Dr Kevin Alcock, plans to restore the house after subdividing off part of the land on which it stands.

The sub-division will give Dr Alcock two extra blocks, in between what was his own home on Fernleigh Road and the old home.

"I am now quite excited at the prospect of restoring Fernleigh to its original splendour, and have a lot of cleaning up to do in the meantime," he said.

"I estimate that I will have to spend \$300,000 just in clearing the land."

The exact age of the sandstone house is unknown, but the date 1821 was discovered on a sundial in the garden.

The use of machine-made nails in the building is consistent with a construction date of about 1860, according to author C. Pattinson, who wrote about Fernleigh in *The Australian Homestead*.

An examination of Crown Land sales records show that the land was not offered for sale until 1856.

The records also indicate the title was not issued to the first European owner, John Connell Laycock, until May 1859.

Fernleigh was classified by the National Trust in 1974, which records it as having been known as York House.

The Trust describes Fernleigh as a single-storey stone house with five main rooms and attic rooms, a cellar, slate roof and doors that are all four panel.

The ground on which it stands is part of an original grant to John Connell, whose daughter married Thomas Laycock junior.

The "original" house was a colonial Georgian structure, built on symmetrical lines with a central hallway.

The two rooms on the left were bedrooms, the two on the right a parlour and dining room.

The sandstone walls are 450mm thick. The internal joinery at Fernleigh is of

By NERRY STARK

local cedar, which was plentiful on nearby ridges until about 1860.

Most of the windows have louvered shutters, secured with wrought iron catches.

Gas lighting jets in the attic rooms suggests that roof conversion took place in the very early 20th century.

Errol and Ivey Alcock bought Fernleigh in the late 1930s when it was known as Mandalay.

They remained in it in 1948. Ivey Alcock was a colourful identity, an eccentric of the first degree, and always did things "her way".

She died in 1986 from injuries sustained in a local road accident.

She left Fernleigh to her only son, Kevin Alcock, who had changed his name by deed poll some years earlier.

She was a great charity worker for children.

Mrs Alcock achieved a measure of local fame as an animal trainer as well as for the private zoo she established on the property.

Open days were held there quite often to benefit the Red Cross and various other charities.

She drove a little blue van, accompanied by her devoted dogs, Khan, a great dane, and a chihuahua called Emma and sometimes Mitzi the monkey which they had reared from babyhood.

Her husband, Errol — who died in late 1964 — was a quiet, caring man with a passion for the sea.

He owned the Three Pines Boat Service, now a marina, in front of Fernleigh on Burraneer Bay, for 40 years, and had performed many sea rescues in his famous boat, the *George and Ivey*.

He was awarded many police commendations and also the British Empire Medal for these feats.

He also won the Miramar Shield five times for the fastest cruiser in NSW.

As well he took out the BP Open Classic and was made a life member of the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Port Hacking.

He and Ivey were a devoted couple.



LOVELY Fernleigh (above) ... sad and neglected and (below) as most people remember it during its heyday.



**Save**  
FRE  
**BUILT-IN  
WARDROBE**

### METHODISM IN THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE

Apparently there was little interest in any churches beyond Wollongong and its immediate surroundings in early records, the only reference to Waterfall was in an old Schedule Book of the circuit.

Unfortunately there are no records in the Collection Schedule for the year ending 30th September, 1903. Waterfall appears for the quarter ending 31st December, 1902.

As there is no mention of either Sutherland or Heathcote, it is definite that there were services in Waterfall before any other places in the Sutherland Shire.

The beginnings go back to the Wollongong Circuit, in which there were two ministers, Revs. J. Gardiner and W. G. Willard in 1900 and 1901.

In 1901 a tent mission was conducted in this circuit by the Rev. D. O'Connell, organised and financed by the Hon. Ebenezer Vickery.



As a result of the visitations carried out by the Rev. W.G. Willard at this time and the results of the Mission, a new circuit was approved by the Methodist Conference which met in February, 1903, to be called the Helensburgh Circuit, to which the Rev Thomas Jenkin was appointed. The new circuit was to embrace the preaching places at Helensburgh, Darkes Forest, Waterfall, Clifton and Sutherland, the latter being mentioned for the

first time.

Mr. Jenkin was evidently very keen for in the first Quarterly Meeting on July 3rd, 1903, the Minutes record that "reports received from Helensburgh, Heathcote, Sutherland and Waterfall".

Waterfall was the first in the Shire. The preacher was probably the Rev. W.G. Willard, 1902 or earlier. A comment "Waterfall was once very strong".

SUTHERLAND. Services were held at Lobb's Hall, East Parade, on April 26th, 1903, at the request of the Headmaster of the Sutherland public School, Mr. H.H. Small. The services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Jenkin, a week after his arrival in the Helensburgh Circuit.



It is possible that Mr. Small led meetings prior to this date, for the Hon. F. Vickery became very interested in Sutherland.

"Sutherland has steadily improved and the Hon. E. Vickery is building a church for them, to be given, to the people called Methodists as a New Year's gift. The building, 20ft x 30ft, of wood construction was opened on March 4th, 1905. Rev. Dr. Sellers presided,

Rev. T. Jenkin,

minister. But Rev. James Thomson became minister in charge of the Helensburgh Circuit a few weeks later. The land was freehold, and the Certificate of Title was dated, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1907, situated on the corner of Flora and Merton Streets, Sutherland.



The church was later destroyed by fire.

HEATHCOTE. This church was also the result of the O'Connell mission. Land was bought in the "Parish of Heathcote" in 1900. Meetings were evidently a little earlier than those in Sutherland, for some folk recall their fathers and mothers going, when young, to choir practice at Heathcote from Sutherland. Heathcote Sunday School closed down in 1905. There is a Trust called "Engadine and Heathcote Land Grant", dated 22nd November, 1904, and the Trust registered on 21st January, 1906.

There seems to be no definite date for the first church service at Heathcote. A new church building was authorised for Waterfall on the 12th October, 1907, and the name of Mr. Irwin is mentioned as representing that place at the Helensburgh Quarterly Meetings of that date. The church was opened in 1908, with a weekly service on a Sunday. Mrs. Irwin was the Sunday School Superintendent.

MIRANDA. A Sunday School was opened during the June Quarter of 1907, and was held in a rented hall. Church services recorded in the first Quarterly Meeting Minute Book of the Helensburgh Circuit named J.Jesson Snr. and A.S.Fowbray as representatives from the Miranda congregation. However, on 6th January, 1912, it was noted "Miranda services abandoned at present".

Land was bought on the Junction Estate for £60 on 4th July, 1918.

Services were held in Miranda Congregational Church in 1920, and a decision to build was made in November, 1921. The land then used was Lots 9 and 10, D.P.8633, and the Certificated of Title were dated 3rd October, 1922, and the Trust registered on 31st October, 1922.

COMO. Services were begun there in 1907. The Minister, Rev. J. M.cAulay led the services.

CARINGBAH. The erection of a church was sanctioned on 2nd October, 1918. Services had been held in the home of Mr.r.J.H.Tredinnick of Burraneer Bay Road on week nights previously.

The Methodist Church is indebted to Mr. Tredinnick for three ministers came from his men's groups - his sons, Rev, Wesley and Edgar Tredinnick and H.T.Williams.

Certificate of Title was dated 18th January, 1919, and a neighbouring block on 14th June, 1917. The Trust was registered on 12th March, 1919. The original Trust members were Messrs. J.H.Tredinnick, J.T.Austin. Cyril Tredinnick and H.D.Williams. The minister then stationed at Cronulla was Rev. Archibald Collins.

The first building at Caringbah was a sectional one brought by lorry in three sections from Punchbowl (Beverly Hills), to the site in Port Hacking Road.

NORTH CARINGBAH. Deed for the land was dated in 1957, and the Trust on 30th July, 1958. Ministers were in the Cronulla circuit then.

From The Methodist, 9th August, 1919.

The new church will be available for services by Presbyterians, Anglicans and Congregationalists if they wish to take advantage of this building. Colonel Chaplain Green and Rev.J.G.M.Taylor addressed the gathering, and Mr. Tredinnick made an appeal result of which was an amount of £12 was raised. Mr. T. J. Ley, M.L.A., then declared the building open".



CRONULLA. The Trust Minutes of the Helensburgh Circuit of 27th September, 1907, refer to a meeting in the home of Ir. H. Small. "That steps be taken towards the erection of a church building", and in March 1908, "that the building of a church at Cronulla be proceeded with at once", Rev.C.J. McAulay.



REV. J. J. WOOLNOUGH

The foundation stone was laid by Miss Vickery. and the opening service on 8th November, 1908. The President of the Conference, Rev. Benjamin Danks officiated. In 1909 permission was granted for the Congregationalists to use the church for their retreat.



REV. C. J. MAULAY

The original Trustees were;- Rev.J. J. Woolnough, Messrs. . Aaron Walker, Warburton, J.Jesson, H.H.Small, E.Piper, and T. Turnbull. Note how the name of Mr.H.Small figures so largely in the beginnings of the Methodist Church in the Shire.



MR. E. PIPER

The church was enlarged and In January 1917 the preacher at a service to mark the occasion was the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev.P.J. Stephen. The Certificate of Title was dated 17th August, 1906, and the Trust registered on the 19th September, 1906.

The church was located in Surf Road (early minutes record it as Yowie Street), and Cronulla Street. It is now located in Gosport Street. Cronulla was spelt "Kurranulla" and "Carranulla" in the early minutes.

BUNDEENA. the Foundation stone was laid in June, 1952, when the Minister at Cronulla was the Rev. Buxton.

The Land Certificate of Title was on 20th November 1942, with lots 15 and 3, Loftus Street, the date for title of Lot 3 being the 13th December, 1947. The Trust was registered on the 11th January, 1949.



CRONULLA METHODIST CHURCH

There is a Methodist Camp Site behind the church frequently used by Youth Groups.

GYMEA BAY. People first met in a hall. The church was built by voluntary labour under Rev. Alan Walker. Certificates of Title are dated 16th May, 1930, and the Trust registered on the 5th September, 1949. This church has been closed for some time.

JANNALI. Services began in Jannali on land in Wattle Road next to the home of Mr. Fussell who was the person who began the Methodist cause there, in a tent around 1949. The Minister at that time was Rev.R.E.S.Taylor.

Certificate for Title for the land on which a church was built was dated 23rd February, 1928, and the trust registered on the 6th March, 1928

KURNELL. Certificate of Title for the land of this church was dated 9th August, 1926, and the Trust registered on 24th September

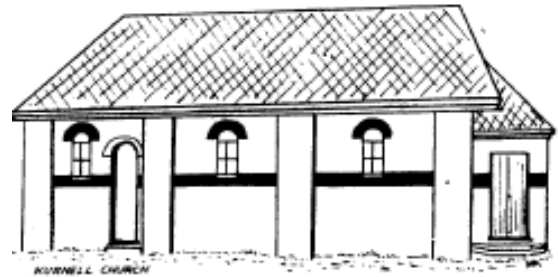


1926. It was named the Harold Wheen Memorial Church and opened on 21st May, 1927, by the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev.F.J.Hynes, and the address was given by Rev.J.G.Wheen.

A concrete building it was constructed with a sloping floor, the church costing £1,300, the Foundation

stone of which was laid by the Rev. Harold Wheen on Australia Day, 1927.

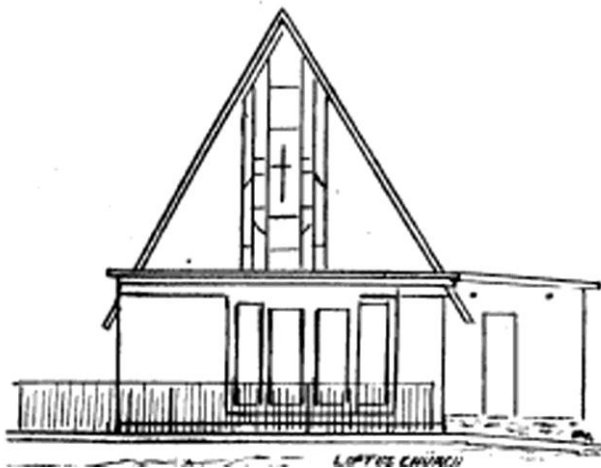
The church had seating for a congregation of 80, but there were never more than 25 or 30 attending worship. It was put up for auction on February 15, 1986.



LOFTUS. Land was bought for a church site in 1962, An shaped building was erected, and called the United Church as it was available for worship by the Presbyterians and Congregationalists. It was officially opened and dedicated on June 26, 1966 , by the Rev. Walter Whitbread, General Superintendent of Methodist Home Missions. The Minister was Rev. W.R. Cowper.

KIRRAWEE. The Certificate of Title for this Church site off President Avenue was dated 31st May, 1957, and the Trust registered on 12th February, 1958. The land was actually transferred to the Trustees on 31st October, 1957. The building was erected in the early 1960s but as the congregation was very small it was closed and sold in the latter 1970s, the

people going to Sutherland.



ENGADINE. On 19th July, 1953 the first Methodist service was held in the local Church of England with a congregation of 18. The service was conducted by retired Minister, Rev.C.A.Lean who volunteered to serve on a part time basis.

On 9th October, 1956, the Methodist Church Hall was opened and Dedicated by the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev. J. Sorrell, on the present site on the corner of Cambrai and Chipilly Avenue.



Source. Most of the information was .supplied by Frs. R.. Short Research Secretary of the Methodist Historical Society, September, 1966. Writers records .

---Fred Midgley

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Monthly Meetings of the Society are held on the second Friday at 7-p;m. In-Recreation Staff Room, 2nd floor 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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