

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY BULLETIN



Artwork by the late Fred Widgeley

No. 75

February 1991

Price: 20 Cents

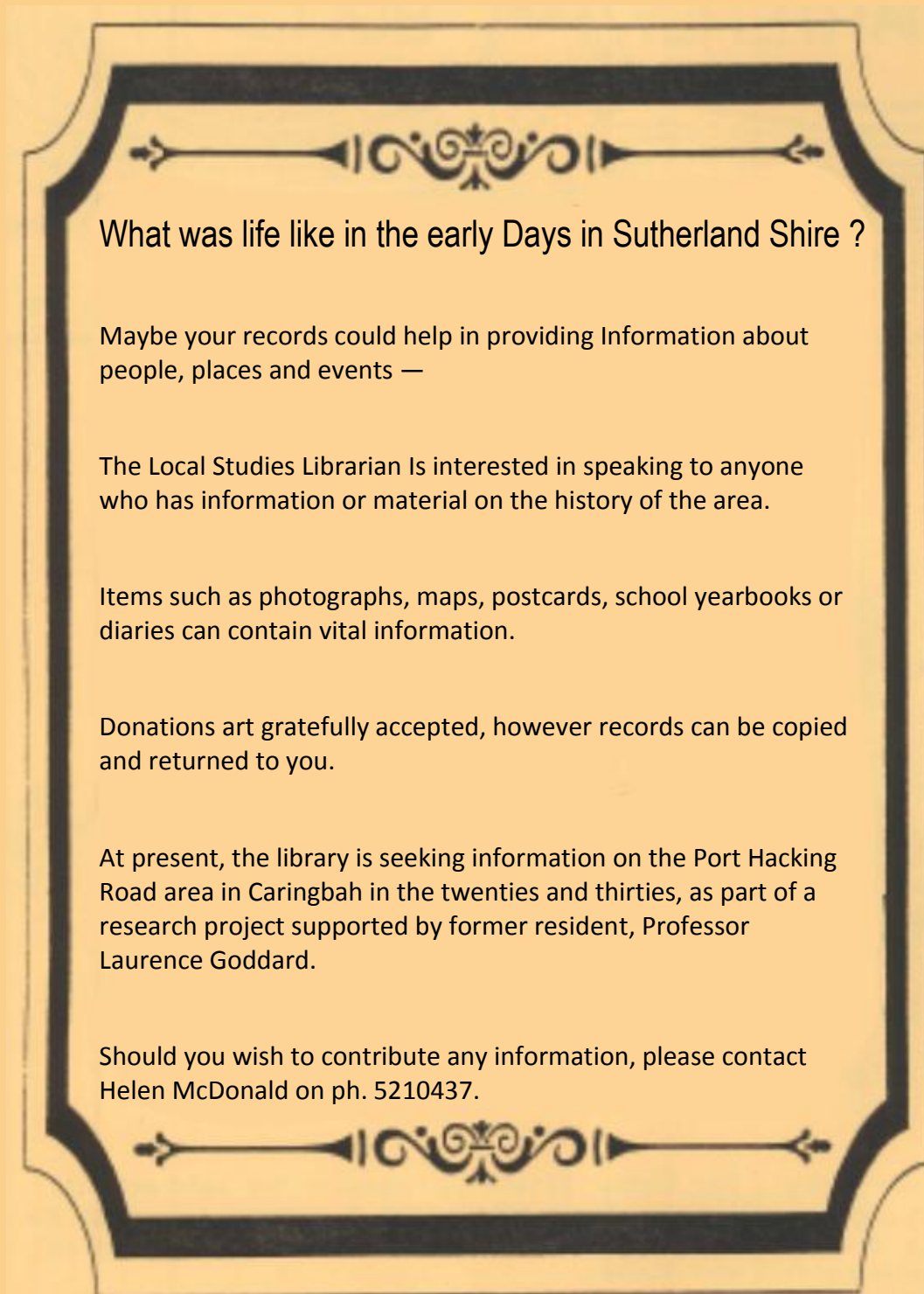


When Surveyor-General, Sir Thomas Mitchell, designed and laid out the road from Sydney to Wollongong there was a rush to purchase land in the little oasis then called 'Bottle Forest' — now HEATHCOTE — and which contained some magnificent timber.

In 1883 prosperous brick-maker Isaac Harber acquired some freehold land in the area and built the Victorian mansion, HEATHCOTE HALL — a building considered by many to be the finest in Sutherland Shire.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION by courtesy of Sutherland Shire Council

HEATHCOTE HALL – one of a set of ten drawings by George Youssef – produced by the Town Planning Department, Design Section, as a Bicentennial Project.

Sets of these fine prints (suitable for framing) are available, at a very modest cost, from the Council's Central Library.

Quarterly Bulletin of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Edition No. 75

February 1991

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- Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Renewal of Subscription for 1991

As from 1 January 1991

If you have not already paid in advance, please fill in this form and hand it to the Hon Treasurer, Mr A .Hamilton, at the monthly general meeting of the Society; or post it to the Hon Treasurer, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, PO Box 389, Sutherland 2232

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - 1991

NAME: (Please print in CAPITALS)

Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/ Ms/

ADDRESS: _____

Post Code _____ Telephone _____

Please find my Subscription for 1991 enclosed herewith.

Annual Adult Subscription — \$6.00

Junior Member/Full-time Student — \$3.00

Signed _____ Date _____

SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES

1. The study of Australian History in general and of Sutherland Shire History in particular.
 2. The collection, acquisition and preservation of all material relevant to the history of the Shire.
 3. To encourage and foster an interest in the development of the Shire with particular regard to the natural beauty, character and the preservation of its historic associations, buildings, Aboriginal relics and the like.
 4. The dissemination of historical information to members and others by way of lectures, exhibitions, discussions, publications and excursions.
-

- ENQUIRIES: President: 523 5801 Honorary Secretary: 521 1343 Honorary Treasurer: 525 4208
- RECEIPTS: Please collect your receipt at a meeting. If you wish the receipt to be posted, please include also a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

With sadness we announce the death of Mrs. A. Stewart, a member of the Society since 1967, at the wonderful age of 93 years.

To her family, Athalie and Harold Ivers, Dr. Colin Ivers, together with Jenesse and Andrew Platfoot and children, we offer the very sincere sympathy of the Society. The Executive Officers were in attendance at the funeral held Tuesday, January 15, also other Society members who had know Mrs. Stewart.

We also offer sympathy to a long time member, Rev. Canon Clive Steele, whose wife passed away last month.

MEETING PLACE: members are reminded that we have made a change of venue for meetings -- they will be held in the Hall of St. John the Baptist Church, Belmont Street, Sutherland. Same time, 8 p.m. and same date – second Friday of the month.

We apologise for omitting the Renewal of Membership form from the November Bulletin, but draw your attention to its inclusion in this issue. Terns of the Constitution require payment to be made "By the Annual Meeting" and your early attention to these fees would be appreciated. Please advise any change of address too;

25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Arrangements have now been made for this to be held on the evening of our April meeting – Friday, April 12, 1991, in Rainbow Room, Sutherland Entertainment Centre, Eton Street, Sutherland. 7 pm. for 7.30 p.m. Cost is \$25.00 each; a three course meal is being provided, Guest Speaker (to be confirmed), and musical interlude.

Only one hundred people can be accommodated, so please make your bookings early - either at a meeting or by contacting Mrs. Cutbush on 523-8147.



All new members receive a copy of the Society's Constitution and the current issue of "The Bulletin".

EDITOR'S DESK ...

The last time around, in November, I was ACTING EDITOR — following the sad demise of Fred Midgley — but my appointment has since been confirmed. So I guess you're stuck with me — at least for the time being. I hope YOU can stand it ... and I'll try not to let you down. People keep reminding me that my predecessor provided A .HARD ACT TO FOLLOW.

CONTRIBUTIONS ...

The response to our ongoing plea for contributions from you, the members, continues overwhelmingly — almost nil (spelled N-I-L). Come on, folks, get those pencils sharpened up — we need input from YOU, reminiscences, funny incidents, stories from your childhood, whatever.

If you are not too sure of your capacity to write — or need some help in putting an article together — please give me a call on 529 9190 at any time (within reason). And remember, two heads are better than one — even if they're only fish-heads.

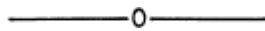
Since becoming more closely involved with the Society, in recent months, I have found the staff at the Council Library to be most helpful — and they are always ready to help you track down elusive bits of local history. Just chatting with the different librarians brought to light lots of interesting snippets of information. (I may even be able to blackmail some of you.)

THE PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY of New South Wales held its January meeting at the home of Dennis Condon — appropriately named AMPICO TOWERS — who has the finest collection of player-piano rolls I have ever seen.

About 25 of us spent a delightful evening listening to and comparing recordings made by some of the world's great pianists — Jan Paderewski, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Josef Hofmann, Artur Rubinstein, Fritz Kreisler (yes, Kreisler was ALSO a very fine pianist). We listened to recordings made by each artist — firstly from an original record and, secondly, on a piano roll (all made many years ago, of course) and the piano roll produced by far the clearest sound every time. See also THE REPRODUCING PIANO article in this issue.

The members of the Phonograph Society include the most knowledgeable I have ever encountered, when it comes to music, musicians, composers, singers and just about every aspect of theatre and concert imaginable. I heard a lot of interesting stories and anecdotes — and many of the people present were excellent speakers. This could be a very good source for Guest Speakers for our own meetings in the future. It would be worth keeping in mind.

— Will Newton



SUTHERLAND RIFLE RANGE

A RIFLE RANGE, home base of the Sutherland Rifle Club, was once located on the site of the present Swimming Centre in Waratah Park.

During target practice, around 1924-25, Wal Yardley and Paddy Grainger at the butts would be in the trench below the target to indicate the result of shots. A white disc, on the end of a long rod, was held up to show exactly where each bullet hit the target — bullseye, inner, outer, whatever.

Wal Yardley recalls that Mr Tom Smith was a first-class shot and, in fact, the best in the Sutherland Club.

- Compiled from information provided by WAL YARDLEY

GEORGE HEAVENS' 16mm COLOUR FILM

I COMMENCED filming around the Sutherland Shire in 1948. In 1950 I made a three-hour documentary titled AROUND SUTHERLAND SHIRE which is still in perfect condition. I also made a 400 foot (120 metre) film of the building of Sutherland Hospital — including the official opening.

Many personalities who have since passed on have been captured on my film. If it was worth recording on film, between 1948 and 1978, that's just what I did - and, what's more, it is all still in my possession and in very good condition. I filmed the new railway bridge at Como during construction --as well as the official opening by the Minister for Transport — along with the closing of the level crossing and the building of the new overpass.

In 1969, on a six-months trip around the world, I shot about 6000 feet of film -- or roughly about 1800 metres. For two years I filmed around New Zealand and my travels also took me to the Pacific Islands and Hong Kong.

Apart from several Melbourne Cup races, I also filmed (illegally) the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. (You are a very naughty boy, George. - Ed.) My film record of a journey I made down the Birdsville Track shows what I regard as the main feature of Birdsville — that is, the PUB.

Filming has taken me to many parts of Australia — from Cape York to Albany, to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory.

The old road from Cronulla to Kurnell forms an interesting part of my collection which includes many, many events and incidents captured on film over the years. Literally hundreds of people have passed in front of my camera -- and that includes many eminent personalities like, for example, Father Dunlea, Joe Monro, Dave Kirkby, Gordon Simpson, Ray Paton, Claude Pollard --and Gough Whitlam, when he was our local Member.

Among the notable buildings, venues and events in the Shire that I recorded are the old Council Chambers, the Dave Kirkby Memorial Buildings, the opening of the Civic Centre, Allambie House, floods at Audley, Stork's Motor Bus at Waterfall, Benn's Store at Waterfall, the old bridge at Woronora, Heathcote Hall, a trip to Bundeena, the Lugarno Ferry, Tom Ugly's Ferry, Taren Point Ferry, Holt's original oyster leases — now Sylvania Waters. Notable events included each of the Queen's visits to Sutherland -- and I also filmed the escort vessel taking Her Majesty from Kurnell on the trip back to Port Jackson.

My filming was done without the facility of sound, but a couple of years ago I acquired a very good video camera and have since transferred my original footage on to video tape. Using a technique of my own to eliminate the sound of the running projector, I have also been able to add some background music and commentary.

-- George Heavens (Dubbo)

NOT FINISHED YET ...

In 1895 Sir Henry Parkes, five times Premier of NSW and leader of the fight for a federated Australia, became a father — again.

Upon being congratulated by a colleague, on the occasion, Parkes retorted: "Don't say my LAST CHILD, you damned fool — say my LATEST."

(Sir Henry was then eighty years of age.)

— Contributed by George Heavens

THE REPRODUCING PIANO

("Don't call it a 'pianola' — that's a brand name.")

By Donald Morgan

THE REPRODUCING PIANO (or player piano) is not a pregnant piano, nor does it provide an interesting method of acquiring a lot of little pianos.

It is a very highly developed, fully-automatic instrument — unique in its ability to reproduce the performance of a pianist in a phenomenally lifelike manner.

From the very early days of player pianos, the more enlightened of the manufacturers strove to build in automatic 'expression' — but with limited success. The first real achievement in this field was by the German firm of Welte & Sons, who developed a sophisticated mechanism, originally housed in a separate cabinet designed to play on the keyboard of an ordinary piano --and later reduced in size to fit inside a piano.

A few years later, in 1913, the Aeolian Company in America produced their Duo-Art reproducing system, closely followed by the American Piano Company's Ampico system. These three systems were subsequently installed in well over a hundred different makes of piano. There were others, but these are so very rarely encountered today as to be only of academic interest.

The three systems named are similar in purpose although differing widely in mechanical design. All produce extremely rapid and precise control of the dynamics, accentuation and various piano functions — and they all receive their 'instructions' from coded perforations in a special reproducing piano roll. Those perforations corresponded to the duration and pitch of the notes in a composition; the openings passed over a cylinder through which the air circulated to press down the keys of the piano as a substitute for human fingers. The three systems are not compatible — and each will only perform from its own particular brand of piano roll.

Virtually every keyboard 'great' of the 'teens and 1920s not only recorded music rolls for one or other of the competing manufacturers, but emphatically endorsed the recordings as being exact reproductions of their performances — perfect in every detail.

The instruments were never cheap — and in the days when an ordinary foot-pumped player could be bought for a few hundred dollars, an electrically driven model cost anything from \$1000 to \$4000. Consequently, competition to sell them to the monied minority was very keen and elaborate advertising methods were devised.

In 1923 the great Sergei Rachmaninoff, on hearing a playback of his first recording (for Ampico) sat back, puffed a cloud of smoke and quietly remarked to the Ampico Directors: "Gentlemen, I have just heard myself play." This comment was publicised to great advantage. Another type of promotion was to stage a public concert, featuring a top-name pianist who would walk off-stage at the peak of his recital, leaving the piano to continue on its own. Some-times, with the pianist hidden from view, critics were challenged to say just where the changeover had taken place.

With the development of other forms of home entertainment in the mid to late 20s, sales of player pianos of all types steadily declined and were abruptly halted by the 1929-30 depression. The complicated mechanisms of reproducing pianos fell victim to the ravages of time and decades of neglect, until they

ceased to work or, worse still, played only so erratically as to become the object of contempt. The important distinction between the foot-pumped player and the artistic reproducing piano was forgotten. Many were stripped of their reproducing mechanisms to 'convert' them to ordinary pianos and, consequently, many of these irreplaceable parts have been lost forever.

On the credit side, a number of intact reproducers have been located and carefully restored — and are now playing perfectly. Doubtless, others still remain to be found by persistent seekers. And one final, but very important point — the piano rolls which became so scarce at one period, are available these days as re-issues from the original masters still extant in the USA.

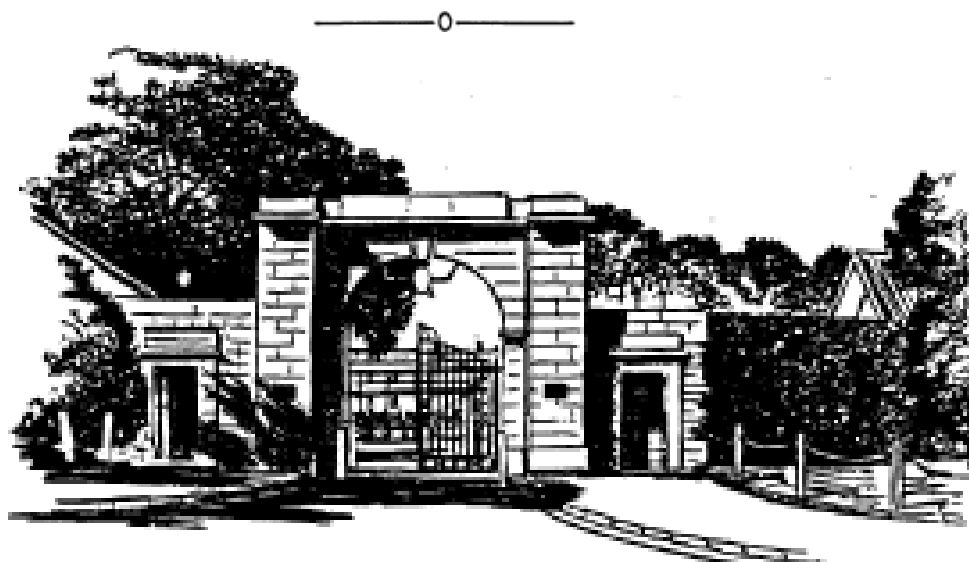
FOOTNOTE

The foregoing is an extract from an article written by a former colleague, the late Don Morgan, who was a renowned restorer of reproducing pianos. His living-room usually contained about three models — all in various stages of repair — much to the chagrin of his wife.

It was generally accepted that the music from the reproducing or player piano — 'pianola' if you like — could not be recorded effectively. (They once said the same of the Wurlitzer organ — "you just can't pick up all of those notes".)

But Don Morgan was an inventive fellow — he simply bent a sheet of laminex around to form a 'sound-tunnel' at the back of the instrument and hung a microphone above it. He then pedalled away merrily — and, as a result, I now have a cassetted selection of the most delightful music ever to come off those old piano rolls.

— Will Newton



MAIN ENTRANCE TO VICTORIA BARRACKS Original drawing by Austin Platt

VICTORIA MILITARY BARRACKS was designed by Lt-Colonel George Barney, Commander of the Royal Engineers. Built, mainly by convict labour, to accommodate a British Regiment of a thousand or so MEN. (Do I hear a protest from Women's Lib?)

An excellent example of late Georgian architecture, the main block -- 225 metres (740 feet) in length — is reputedly the longest stone building in the southern hemisphere. The stone was quarried on the site and in nearby areas including the Showground.

Gothic design

By the 13th century, most of Western Europe had been influenced by the style of architecture and letters in which verticals gradually supplanted

horizontals as the dominant line. The roundness of previous letters had been replaced by a broken style. The distance between lines was reduced as ascenders and descenders were shortened. The weight of the strokes and the white areas between, were of approximate thickness. 15th century Textura (Latin for woven fabric or texture) was the culmination of Gothic lettering design. Gothic minuscules were of standard shape, but majuscules and initials existed in a great variety of designs, rounded and often highly illuminated. This decoration gave contrast to the severe vertical pattern made by the minuscules. The use of all types of Gothic letters, with many derivatives of design, has continued to the present day.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n
 o p q r s t u v w x y z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
 P R S T U V W X Y Z

A SHORT HISTORY OF WRITING

By Guest Writer FRAN McKIRDY

Guild Member - Australian Society of Calligraphers

The word CALLIGRAPHY comes from the Greek language and literally means "beautiful writing". World famous English Calligrapher Donald Jackson defines it as PAINTING WITH WORDS.

It does not mean merely improving our everyday handwriting, although this is an included benefit. It is an extremely comprehensive subject — and with a history going back before 3500 BC. People first wrote by drawing pictures on cave walls; their tools were flint, bones, sticks and stones.

Later, Egyptian hieroglyphics were written on papyrus, made from a plant, and writers progressively developed the stylus, reed pens and quills which they used to write on clay and wax tablets, skins and cloth.

By 100 BC the beautiful Roman alphabet had evolved, which is the basis for most of the classic alphabets which were subsequently developed — uncial, carlovingian, humanistic, italic, gothic and many more, and which were written with a chisel-edged pen.

There are still in existence glorious examples of medieval manuscripts, written usually by monks in religious communities which were the centres of learning. Very few people could read or write — even kings and queens, at one time, could barely sign their names. The manuscripts were written on vellum-calfskin or parchment-sheepskin (which, unlike our modern paper, lasts for centuries) using jewel-like colours and pure gold-leaf to illuminate the pages.

After the printing press was developed, books gradually became widely available, and the use of hand-written manuscripts declined and became a lost art. It was not until the beginning of this century that there was a revival in the study and practice of Calligraphy.

Rudolf Koch, a type designer in Germany, and Edward Johnston, a teacher in England, must be credited with founding this revival and guiding it in the right direction. Johnston studied the old manuscripts and alphabets, and he taught many others who also became teachers and eminent Calligraphers.

Modern scribes are now producing lovely new letter forms, with some basis on the old classical alphabets, but with a greater freedom and variety of ideas, technique and design. It has been said that writing is the lifeline of civilisation. The written and printed word is everywhere around us. Wherever we look there is usually something to read — a street sign, posters, the title of a television program, invitations, cards, menus, theatre programs, books and magazines.

A Calligrapher aims to design and write the myriad of words in attractive and interesting ways. Some of the beautiful modern manuscript books, wall-hangings and pictures created by present-day Calligraphers are truly works of art in every sense of the term

FOOTNOTE

Apart from her private practice, Fran McKirdy teaches Calligraphy at the Woollooware House Arts Centre. We'll bring you a Profile on Fran in the May edition of the Bulletin with some more examples of her beautiful Calligraphy.

- Ed.

CALLIGRAPHY AT THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

AT THE 1983 Royal Easter Show two new categories were introduced in the ARTS & CRAFTS Section — Bookbinding and Calligraphy. One of my assignments was to design a couple of showcases to display these exhibits.

The big question, with any new Section, is just how much space needs to be allocated. Entries in any art show pose an initial problem because-you never know the sizes or final quantity until all entries have come in --and by then there usually isn't much time left for building display oases. For the RAS staff, this is the time when heart attacks and nervous break-downs are always on the cards. You get all of the exhibits hung - with practically no space left — then some bastard discovers a couple more of the exhibits that had been overlooked. Aaaarrhh!

In due course my showcases housed Calligraphy, Bookbinding and some of the Tapestry exhibits. The Calligraphy was particularly well received — and attracted a lot of interest. It has long-since become a regular feature of the ARTS & CRAFTS Section at the Easter Show.

-- Will Newton

VERSAL LETTERS an initial used to start a verse. The letters are pen drawn outlined first, then filled in. Generally pure colour is used, green, blue, red, gold. In the 9th century, they were at first simply drawn, based on Roman capitals.

During the 10th - 12th centuries, versals were rounder and decorative. **A R Q H N E**

After the 12th century, initials became rich and elaborate, developing into the 14th - 16th century ornamental letters. Some were based on filigree work. Gothic letters produced a variety of initials. N.B. There is a difference between capital and initial letters. Capitals and lower case are the two types of letters used in an alphabet. An initial is a design, a featured letter.

Sutherland Shire Council



1991

Heritage Week



Fred Midgley Memorial Essay Competition



The Heritage Week Essay Competition is open to all adults interested in written historical research relating to the Sutherland Shire.

All entries should demonstrate sound research technique, literary style and must be based **ONLY** on a topic relating to the history of the Shire.

CLOSING DATE : Friday, 8th March 1991

Sutherland Shire Council gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Sutherland Shire Arts Council.



CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. All entries will become part of the Local Studies Collection
2. All entries should be no less than 3,000 words and no more than 5,000 words
3. Sutherland Shire Council will retain the right to reproduce part or all of the winning entry submitted, if it so chooses for the purpose of publicity and/or general library use.
4. All work must be based on original research and relate to an aspect of the history of the Shire.
5. Entry is restricted to adults (18 years and over)
6. Audio — visual resources including photographs, maps, oral history recordings etc. may be used as part of your written research.
7. If audio visual resources form a substantial part of your entry a transcript and explanation must be provided
8. Bibliography and footnotes are essential. Footnotes must be consistent throughout the entry. All sources consulted must be acknowledged.
9. All entries must be typed on A4 sheets.
10. The entry form below must be attached to the front page (blank sheet) of your entry.
11. The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
12. Only one entry will be considered for each prize as listed.
13. Merit Certificates will be awarded to selected entries.
14. Sutherland Shire Council, Sutherland Shire Arts Council or their servants, agents contractors or third parties shall not be responsible for the any costs incurred by the entrant.
15. The entry submitted must be written within 12 months prior to Friday, 8th March 1991. Prior research may be included but must be adapted to meet the conditions of Heritage Week Essay Competition.
16. Group entries will NOT be accepted.

HELPFUL HINTS

Consult the library catalogue at the Central Library, Sutherland or any branch library for information on research techniques, setting out and works written by other historians

OR

Consult the Local Studies Librarian, Helen McDonald at the Central Library, Sutherland, 521 0345.

Name of entrant _____	
Title of essay. _____	
Address _____	
_____	Postcode _____
Telephone Home _____	Work _____
<u>DECLARATION</u>	
I, the undersigned acknowledge and agree to the conditions of entry and judging as outlined. I solemnly and sincerely declare that this entry is my original work and has been executed in the 12 months prior to March 15, 1991.	
Signature _____	date _____

Please cut and paste the above information onto a blank A4 sheet of paper and attach to the front of your essay.

Delivery Post or deliver your entry to:

Local Studies Librarian
Central Library, Sutherland
Eton Street,
Sutherland 2232.

Or

Community Arts Manager
Sutherland Entertainment Centre
Eton Street,
Sutherland 2232.

EXCURSION REPORT

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: 1991

Week-end Friday March 1 to Sunday March 3 to Scone and District strict.

Leaving Cronulla 5 p.m., Sutherland 5.30 p.m. on the Friday evening we will make a comfort stop en route, where you may have a "snack" before going on to Scone.

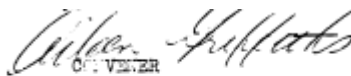
Members \$145.00, Visitors \$150.00 -this includes Bed and Breakfast Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday; tour and inspection fees to Scone & District Society, also Luncheon they are arranging for us, and Dinner at the Motel on Saturday evening. It is fully inclusive until after breakfast on Sunday ! (MOTEL IS "AIRLIE HOUSE MOTOR INN" - New England Highway, Scone. 'Phone 065- 45.1488)0 It is my hope to be able to include a surprise inspection on Sunday morning, as we make our way home, but this is still being investigated.

Bookings to Mrs. Cutbush 523-8147, or at meetings. Full cost must be finalised by February meeting to enable us to meet our commitments for the tour.

Saturday 18: To The Oaks District. By invitation of that Society we will be visiting an area we have not previously included, although it is so close to Camden, Cobbitty, etc.

Leaving Cronulla 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9 a.m. Tickets \$12.00 for members and \$14.00 for visitors. Bookings will be opened at the February meeting.

Further outings will not be considered until after the Annual Meeting, as this will enable the incoming committee to make their choice, in the usual way.


GILMAN GIFFARDS
— 0 —

HISTORIC RECIPE ...

QUEENSLAND PUMPKIN SCONES

1 tablespoon butter (1oz), 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 cup cold mashed pumpkin, 1 cup milk, 3 cups self-raising flour (but not SYDNEY FLOUR), 1 salt-spoon of salt.

Cream butter and sugar, add mashed pumpkin, mix thoroughly, then add milk. Add the flour (not SYDNEY FLOUR) by hand, but do not handle the mixture too much — especially if you have been cleaning out the stables — and stir all together to a rather moist mixture. You can toss in a cane-toad or two for added flavour, but try not to drop too much cigarette ash into it.

Turn on a floured board, flatten out and cut into scones. Cook in a hot bush-oven 250C (450F) for 15-20 minutes.

- "If there is ever a pumpkin famine in Queensland, we'll all be very put out — but don't you worry about that."

-- Joh

THE STRANGEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

Always coming, always going — GIPSIES have scarcely changed in a thousand years. Some ancient stories tell us that the Gypsies are doomed to wander forever "because they are unbelievers" — which seems to mean that they have no religion ... as WE understand religion, that is.

Such tales were made up by simple folk to try and explain these strange people who suddenly appeared in Europe early in the fifteenth century. For several hundred years nobody was quite sure just who these Gypsies were, or where they had come from. They said they came from 'Little Egypt' — just wherever that was supposed to be — and were popularly called 'Egyptians' which shortened down to 'Gypsies'. But they called themselves 'Rom' --which simply means 'men' — and their language is Romany.

The French called them Bohemians, but they are known by other names such as 'Cingari' which may well be the origin of 'tinker' — a roving mender of pots and pans for which the Gypsies were well known. They are also, traditionally, basket-weavers and makers of clothes-pegs.

Gypsies have roamed the world since way, way back and there are some three million of them — mostly in Europe. They have always loved and understood horses and have always been skilled metal workers.

Prior to meeting 'Gypsy Nick' Petali — the Outback Artist, at the Sydney Showground some years ago, my knowledge of Gypsies had been restricted to what I remembered of the Marlene Dietrich movie GOLDEN EARRINGS — which I suppose was a load of Hollywood-style crap. There was also the Michael Balfe opera THE BOHEMIAN GIRL, sentimental mush (I saw the movie version that starred Laurel & Hardy). And then, of course, there is the Strauss operetta THE GYPSY BARON with its delightful music and bloody ridiculous story-line. Come to think of it, with all of that impressive stuff under my belt, I probably know more about Gypsies than most people.

Around 1850 a German scholar learned a lot about Gypsy history by studying their language — it has similarities in no matter which country it is spoken. From this, together with information from people who have studied Gypsy folk-lore, we now know that these people came originally not from any 'Little Egypt' but from INDIA — would you believe? Evidence of the Eastern origin is seen in their dark skins, large black eyes, black kinky hair and pearly white teeth.

Around 1000 AD a great tribe of people set out from north-west India (we don't know why) and headed west. On reaching Persia (Iran) they separated, some going south-west through Syria and Egypt into northern Africa. The others headed north-west into Asia Minor and Greece — and there they stayed for some four hundred years.

Early in the fourteenth century these people started northwards through the Balkans — a wild, thinly-populated region in those days — and from there they moved on to the rich plains of Hungary and, later again, set out for western Europe where many of them have stayed ever since.

The leaders of the first horde that set out from Hungary planned to make a big impression on the countries they visited. They decked themselves out in their finery — gold and silver trinkets, the works — and rode the very best horses ... a few days ahead of the multitudes of ragged followers. They pranced through the cities of southern Germany, in the early 1400s --and made one hell of an impression.

In some countries Gypsies were outlawed — or were made most unwelcome by the harsh treatment meted out to them. But in Turkey they became dealers in precious stones and poisonous drugs; in Spain they became dancers and singers; in Hungary they became musicians; in Russia they became actors and entertainers — even performing before the Czar (big deal, eh?). Gypsies found their way to England early in the 16th century where they have, in more recent years, become dealers in scrap-metal, paper and rags.

In Roumania the Gypsies were actually given grants of land by the government because it seemed they would stay permanently in the one place. But the plan did not work — some strange instinct always lures the Gypsy onwards to no particular place. That is what it is to be a Gypsy.

Gypsies are traditionally fortune-tellers and abductors of babies of noble birth — like in *THE BOHEMIAN GIRL*. They pitch their tents at the side of the road, with the entrance always facing south — but I don't know why. Or maybe the gaily-painted caravans will be clustered around in a circle. The older men and women (and Gypsies are extremely long-lived) smoke their pipes around a camp fire while the younger men may strum guitars and softly croon age-old Gypsy songs. You may also hear the strains of 'Black Eyes' or 'Roumanian Dance' played on a passionate violin as only a Gypsy knows how. (You can serve the goulash now, but go easy with the paprika.)

The *OUTBACK ARTIST*, 'Gypsy Nick' Petali, with his travelling studio — the motorised 'Gypsy caravan' — has been a familiar sight at Sydney Showground since 1954. A most versatile fellow — who, incidentally, speaks seven languages — Nick is the only Gypsy painter I have ever encountered. He seems to satisfy his instinctive wanderlust by travelling around Australia on painting expeditions — but always comes back to Sydney, which has been his home base for nearly forty years.

Born into a showbiz family in Holland, Nick came to Oz via South Africa.

A regular circus performer in his younger days he has done everything under the 'Big Top' from hand-stands to a hypnotism act. Travelling around the countryside over the years Nick has worked with most of the famous Country and Western singers and yodellers.



Original drawing by Austin Platt

The late Tex Morton was a sometime associate of Gypsy Nick — usually at country shows and festivals. On one such occasion Nick's dog, a playful mutt, ran off with Tex's leather coat — which was never recovered. About \$800 in cash was in one of the pockets, according to Tex.

Whenever they met up Tex would take one of Nick's paintings as an instalment on the lost money. That went on for a number of years — but Nick says that he still has lingering doubts about the validity of Tex's claim.

Passers-by have sometimes been shocked to the core to see Gypsy Nick eating from what appears to be a can of *DOG FOOD*. Usually it is apple, or some other stewed fruit — but Nick often changes the label on the can.

— Will Newton

FERRY ACCIDENT - 1927

Around 9.00 p.m. on a sultry Tuesday night, 22 March 1927, Mr and Mrs Edward Talbot, who lived in Taren Point Road, were fishing from the landing stage of the vehicle ferry. Suddenly the headlamps of a touring car, travelling swiftly with the hood raised, blazed along the ramp. Realising that the driver believed the ferry was waiting at the stage, whereas it was still at Sans Souci, they shouted a warning. The vehicle braked and skidded, but too late, sinking, although it was low tide, in about ten feet of water. As it struck the water, the driver managed to jump from his vehicle and cling to the ferry cable; but the Talbots also heard a woman scream.

Because of the sunken vehicle, the Taren Point ferry was unable to operate, so the St George District ambulance was forced to travel to the scene by way of Tom Ugly's Point ferry and through Sylvania. John Lowe, of Penshurst, the driver, was taken to St George Hospital suffering shock and immersion. There he told interviewing police that as he was travelling home from Cronulla, he had offered a lift to the young woman trapped in his car.

When the police arrived, the tide was returning, and it was decided to wait until ebb tide at 5.00 a.m. the next morning to attempt to recover the vehicle. By then his passenger had been identified as one Cora Stockdale.

Cora Stockdale - or more correctly Miss Vera Evelyn Stockdale, a barmaid employed by the now vanished Avenue Hotel, Mortdale - was interred in the Church of England section, Rookwood cemetery, on an unsettled Friday, 25 March. Reportage in newspapers, even the Sydney Morning Herald, was often sloppy in the 'twenties. Her cortege left the Wood Coffill chapel at 810 George Street, Sydney at 1.15 p.m. Friday via Regent Street Mortuary station.

Vehicular ferry services commenced at Taren Point in 1916, following years of delay and bickering on the part of the Sutherland and St George Councils, the issue finally being forced when the Department of Main Roads, who had the ferry constructed at Newcastle, threatened to use it elsewhere unless the landing approaches - responsibilities of the councils - were not completed. Even after the opening of the bridge at Tom Uglys Point in 1929, which eased motor traffic flow into the Shire, the Taren Point ferry was seen as slow and inefficient.

In a fifty year history, the ferry was replaced by larger versions, until the Taren Point bridge opened in 1965.

Miss Stockdale also became a statistic - one of 205 people killed in "street" accidents (this term may include trams) in New South Wales during 1927. By any factor one wishes to employ - population, number of vehicles, number of miles travelled - this represents a far higher ratio than today.

Rhys Pidgeon

Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 12.- 1891-1939

General Editor John Ritchie, Melbourne University Press, 1990, pp 611, \$53.

Reviewed by Edward Duyker.

Volume 12 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography is the last of the projected series excluding the index volume. In all, six volumes have been devoted to the period 1891-1939 - a reflection of the growing size of the Australian population during this period and also of traumatic events in the international arena such as the First World War. The co-operative effort of hundreds of writers, this volume is an impressive work of scholarship and an invaluable reference work. As would be expected, it contains substantial entries on well-known national figures such as Arthur Streeton, John Wren, Charles Ulm, David Syme, Louis Stone, P.R. Stephensen and Arthur Upfield.

Over the years I have reviewed a number of volumes in the ADD and railed against gender bias and anglocentrism. Most of the historians who have contributed to the present volume are well aware of the need to give women better representation in our history. The well-known Australian feminist historian, Heather Radi for example, was one of the section editors. Although women are still under-represented, it is pleasing to find more entries on them and to begin page one with Farley Keily's contribution on women's health reformer and political campaigner Bridgetena Smyth (c1840-1898). There are also useful contributions on the novelist Angela Thirkell (1890-1961), trade unionist Christiane Zadow,

1846-1896) and suffrage campaigner Mary Windeyer (c1837-1839) Volume 10. however contained many more entries on Australian female suffragists and pioneer feminists!

In a nation increasingly sensitive to Aboriginal history, it is indeed pleasing to see entries on the Bunuba freedom fighter Tjangamarra (c1870-1897), the Aboriginal military hero Harry Thorpe (1886-1918) and the Aboriginal leader Thralrum alias Mark Wilson (c1870-1940). And given the greater awareness of our multicultural heritage, I was also glad to encounter a number of entries on immigrants from non-English speaking nations, including: teacher Augustine Soubeiran (1858-1933) rice growing pioneer Jo Takasuka (1865-1940) naturalist and conservationist Gustave Weindorfer (1874-1932); writer Paul Wenz (1869-1939); musician Henri Verbrugghen (1873-1934); violinist Stanislaw Tarczyński (1882-1952); restaurateur Mario Vigano (1888-1966); merchant and philanthropist Gualtiero Vaccari (1894-1978); financier and entrepreneur Eugenio Vanzetti (c1844-c1908); journalist

George Vogt (1848-1937) and merchant Y.S.W. Way Lee (c1853-1909)

The contributors and editors of the Australian Dictionary of Biography are to be congratulated for their efforts to record democratically, the lives of the gentle and the violent, the rich and the poor and the ignorant and the enlightened who have shaped the destiny of our nation.

CAVIES — "GUINEA PIGS" TO YOU

THE HISTORY of cavies starts way, way back in the jungles of South America, where the natives bred them as pets as well as for food. Mummified cavies were even found in ancient tombs of Peruvian Incas of noble birth.

The cavy is a rodent belonging to the same order as the squirrel, muskrat, mouse, hamster, beaver and umpteen other little creatures.



A 'Shelti' (breed of cavy)

The earliest Europeans to discover cavies seem to have been the Spaniards in the mid-sixteenth century when they were rampaging around Peru. Skinned cavy carcasses, hung up in market-places, would have looked like miniature sucking-pigs — and possibly this is how the 'pig' part originated. Another theory is that a frightened cavy emits a squeal not unlike that of a frightened pig.

One theory about the 'guinea' part of the popular name is that Dutch sailors — probably the first to bring the little animals to Europe — picked them up in Guiana, in South America, but this was commonly confused with Guinea (in Africa) where the ships also called. Another contention about this is that British sailors, who took the animals to England in the mid-eighteenth century, were able to sell them for a guinea (twenty-one shillings) each. That sounds to me like one hell of a price for a little pet back in those days — but who knows? It seems unlikely now that we'll ever be certain about any of this.

Although WE have known about cavies for some three hundred years, it was not until last century that the scientific name was bestowed. Lt Cutler, an officer on Darwin's famous exploration ship BEAGLE, apparently drew attention to the animals — and was rewarded by having them dubbed "Cavia Cutleri".

RICHARDS, TOPICAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA gives the following descriptions --

1. The Spotted Cavy lives by lakes and rivers in South America. The natives keep them as pets — just like a cat or dog.
2. The nimble Agouti (an un-spotted variety of cavy) wanders about at night in packs of twenty or more — and is hunted by jaguars, ocelots and other fierce creatures. It is about the size of a rabbit and can jump six feet (1.8 metres) into the air and land on top of an opponent.

About 20 species of cavy are found in South America, even as far south as Patagonia, mostly living in the grasslands. But they have also been found high up in the Andes in Bolivia. They are vegetarians and, in the wild, live on seeds and grass.

The first pair of long-haired cavies to arrive in England were brought in from France by a member of the Royal Zoological Society who was said to be 'enchanted' by their unusual appearance. In 1886 an Englishman by the name of Cumberland published a book with the enigmatical title GUINEA PIGS FOR FOOD, FUR & FANCY. This seems to be the first book written about cavies —

in English, at any rate — and people are still puzzling over the reference to FUR in the title. (Have you ever seen anything manufactured from the 'fur' of the Guinea Pig???)

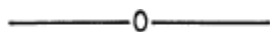
For many years cavies were mainly thought of, in our society, as pets for young children — "Hold a guinea pig up by the tail and its eyes will drop out" — but gradually, by selective breeding, they have become show animals at exhibitions, agricultural shows, etc in various countries throughout the world.

There are some 26 breeds of cavy in Australia and New Zealand, that are officially recognised, including rough-coated and smooth-coated types. Among the recognised colours are the agouti (banded hairs), brindle, cinnamon, tortoise-shell (tricoloured) and Himalayan (white with attractive black points). The long-haired Peruvian and rosette-haired Abyssinian breeds are popular. Despite the popular belief cavies do, in fact, have a small tail — composed of from five to seven caudal vertebrae — but usually so short that it does not project outside the body. There are four toes on each of the fore-feet and three on each hind foot.

There are Cavy Clubs throughout Australia and a National Cavy Show is held at Narrandera, NSW, in October each year. In 1977 a Cavy Section was instituted at the Royal Easter Show. The animals are exhibited and judged on Easter Monday in the Lecture Hall, where the Cats are also exhibited and judged. The Cavy Section had been going for FIVE YEARS before someone made the startling discovery that they had forgotten to appoint a Councillor to represent the Section. (The Society doesn't rush into things.)

The foregoing was compiled largely from information gleaned from my wife who is a breeder and exhibitor of prize-winning cavies. We managed to get through the ordeal with only three shouting-matches and about fourteen heated debates.

— Will Newton



HISTORIC QUOTATIONS ...

- Never agree to perform on stage with animals, children or Colleen Clifford. —
- Jill Perryman
- The son-of-a-bitch is a ballet dancer. He's the best ballet dancer that ever lived — and if I get a good chance I'll strangle him with my bare hands. --W. C. Fields (talking about Charlie Chaplin)
- From the moment I picked up your book, till I put it down again, I was convulsed with laughter --some day I intend reading it. --Groucho Marx
- To err is human, but for a complete stuff-up you need a computer. ---Pythagoras Jones

AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST WOODEN BRIDGE

PRINCE ALFRED BRIDGE, at Gundagai, was opened in October 1867 — was, and still is, the longest wooden bridge in Australia. It was formally opened by Mrs E G Brown, wife of the Member for Tumut, who named it in honour of the then Prince of Wales.

The contract for the bridge itself was awarded to Francis Bell in 1863 for the sum of £19,210. The tender for the Approach was let in 1866 — and was completed in 1869, the total cost being £37,371.

This was a most important event in the history of Gundagai ... and also for the Sydney-Melbourne road. The weak link in the road system was the punt over the river, which was slow and expensive — and could be quite dangerous when the Murrumbidgee was in flood.

Following the opening ceremony a dance was held on the bridge that evening — with a big massed band providing the music. Settlers from the north and south, who were usually at loggerheads, were brought together by the bridge and the occasion — and, helped along by the grog — got stuck into one hell of a 'free-for-all' around midnight.

It took all of the local and visiting police PLUS the military to quell the riot. While they were still going hard at it, a large tribe of Aborigines camped along the river bank added to the entertainment by bunging an a full-scale CORROBOREE.

(We don't have fun like that, these days. —Ed.)

— George Heavens (Dubbo)

DUELLING — A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE

THE TWO MEN turned simultaneously, raised their duelling pistols ... and then fired. Their Seconds rushed forward — only to find that both shots had missed. The pistols were re-loaded — and again the antagonists took aim and fired. And again both shots missed.

Then, for the THIRD time, the duellists exchanged shots ... and this time Sir Thomas Mitchell managed to put a bullet-hole through Stuart Donaldson's hat — and that was IT. The contest was declared a draw ... HONOUR WAS SATISFIED.

It's probably just as well, because duelling was, and is, a punishable offence — and the killing of one opponent would, no doubt, put paid to the career of the other. Mitchell was the Surveyor-General of NSW and, five years later, Donaldson was to become the first Premier of NSW and was subsequently to receive a knighthood.

As one wag put it: "Both fellows were such poor marksmen that neither one could have hit an elephant in the arse with a fry-pan even at TWO paces."

That incident — in 1851 — was significant because, according to official records, it was the LAST DUEL ever to be fought in Australia. It took place in a secluded area of the Lachlan Water Reserve that was, a few years later, to become our CENTENNIAL PARK.

Governor Fitzroy turned a blind-eye — and seems to have regarded the whole business as a bit of a joke.

— Will Newton

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NOTICE OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc will be held on Friday 8 March 1991 in the St John the Baptist Anglican Church Hall, Belmont St Sutherland at 8.00pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting
3. Submission for Adoption of Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1990
4. Honoraria
5. Notice of Motion from Executive Council:
"That Honorary Editor be a position elected to the Executive Council of the Society."
6. Election of Officers for 1991
7. General Business

POSITIONS TO FILL

PRESIDENT

Deputy President

Vice Presidents

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer

Hon Research Officer

Hon Archivist

Hon Auditor

Hon Publicity Officer

Executive Committee Members

1990 COMMITTEE

Mrs A Griffiths

Mr D Archer

Mrs A Cutbush Mr A Platfoot

Mrs M Blackley

Mr A Hamilton

Mr F Midgley (to Aug 1990)

Miss H McDonald (from Nov 1990)

Miss D Oliver (represented
by Miss H McDonald)

Mr K Greentree

Mr H Ivers

Mr J Cutbush

Mr K Knight

Mrs E Melbourne

Mr S Roberts

Mr F Thornley

SUB-COMMITTEES

LISTED below are the 1990 members of sub-committees, representatives on local committees and those with special duties.

PUBLICATIONS	Mr F Midgley (Convener to Aug 1990 Mr H Ivers (Convener from Oct 1990 Mr D Archer Mr J Cutbush Mrs A Ivers Mrs J Platfoot Mr A Platfoot
EXHIBITION	Mr F Midgley (Convener to Aug 1990) Mr D Archer Mrs A Cutbush Mrs A Griffiths Mrs A Ivers Mr H Ivers Mrs J Platfoot
MUSEUM	Mr H Ivers (Convener) Mrs A Ivers Mr D Archer Mrs A Cutbush Mr J Cutbush Mr F Midgley (to Aug 1990) Mrs J Platfoot Mr A Platfoot
EXCURSIONS	Mrs A Griffiths (Convener) Mrs A Cutbush Mr D Archer Mrs E Melbourne Mr K Knight Mr S Roberts Mrs J Barrett
HERITAGE	Mr F Midgley (to Aug 1990) Mrs A Griffiths Mrs J Platfoot Mrs A Cutbush
SCHOOL OF ARTS MANAGEMENT	Mrs J Platfoot Mr A Platfoot
PUBLIC ADDRESS & LIGHTS AT MEETINGS	Mr H Ivers
HOSTS TO GUEST SPEAKERS	Mr S Roberts Mr F Thornley

PRESIDENT'S ADDENDUM 637

My first expression of appreciation must go to the members of the Executive Council for their attention to detail, thereby making for the Society's smooth running. Special reference must go to the Deputy President, Mr. Doug Archer; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Marjory Blackley, Hon. Treasurer Mr. Alwyn Hamilton; for the time they give to carrying out the requirements of their Executive positions; also special thank you to Mr. Ken Greentree, Hon. Auditor and Vice-Presidents, Andrew Platfoot and Ada Cutbush; Hon. Publicity Officer Harold Ivers, together with the "Committee", Jim Cutbush, Keith Knight, Ellen Melbourne, Stewart Roberts, and Frank Thornly.

That Miss Diana Oliver has been our Hon. Archivist for yet another year makes us especially grateful and we have welcomed Miss Helen McDonald to our meetings as her representative.

It was with much sadness we learned our dear friend and wonderful Society worker, Fred Midgley passed away in August. A special Bulletin Edition paid honour to Fred, but I wish to record yet again, our very special appreciation of the work in 1990; of this Foundation Member, Research Officer, Bulletin Editor, Exhibitions Officer and Guest Speaker.

Miss Helen McDonald has accepted the position of Research Officer and we thank her for accepting this very important duty.

We also welcome Mr. Will Newton as Editor of the Bulletin; being very experienced in this field we consider ourselves honoured that Will has offered to carry on after Fred — a very hard working officer to follow.

Special appreciation to Sutherland Shire Council for all the assistance they offer to the Society, especially during Heritage week and with help to publish the Bulletin each quarter.

We thank Council for the time we have been able to hold meetings in the Council building; and let me make it clear to members the facility is still there for our use. But, we cannot comply with a 9 p.m. curfew, hence the need for our change of venue to the Hall of St. John the Baptist Church, Belmont Street, Sutherland.

May I draw your attention to the 25th Anniversary Dinner to commemorate the Society's foundation in March, 1966; 1991 will be a special year for us and it is hoped all members will take part in the activities.

We thank the ladies who attended to our supper requirements, especially Mrs. Athalie Ivers and Mrs. Jenness Platfoot who have been so regular together with the members who offer to assist at each meeting.

This is a very important part of our meeting -- at supper time is when we meet one another and make the friendships, which make our Society such a happy one.

My thanks to the members for electing me as your President for 1990 — it is a privilege to hold this position and hope my duties have been carried out in a manner you would wish. In return I thank all members for being so supportive, which makes the Society well known in the Sutherland Shire, and in other Historical Society areas.

Aileen Griffiths



'PROFESSOR' JIMMY EDWARDS AT THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

HANDS UP all those who still remember the English comedian Professor' Jimmy Edwards.

For those who don't, Jimmy and two expatriate Australians Joy Nichols and Dick Bentley, starred in the long-running BBC radio series TAKE IT FROM HERE — before the advent of the Idiot Box.

Well, during the Easter Show a few years back, I noticed this portly fellow with an Air-Force moustache outside the Council Stand (pictured) and talking to a visiting member of the Victorian Agricultural Society. The guy looked like Jimmy Edwards — but, I thought, it couldn't possibly be ... I was sure he wasn't in Oz at the time.

Later I learned that it WAS Jimmy Edwards — and in the company of the visiting Victorian. The Victorian member was permitted to drink in the Council bar — but he WAS NOT entitled to take his guest into that holy of holies. An exasperated bar steward told me: "That pair of bloody free-loaders spent the whole afternoon in our bar guzzling free Scotch."

— Will Newton

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MUSEUM REPORT 1990

The Museum was attended on the first Saturday each month except January in 1990. In addition, visits on 7 other appointed occasions by groups or the public on specially advertised occasions brought a total of 165 adults and 114 children to the Museum. Donations included \$25 by the Bankstown Historical Society which was touring the area. The total will be found in the Treasurer's Report.

The death of Fred Midgley in August resulted in a number of items being donated to the Museum. His photographs are being re-mounted with re-typed captions by the Shire Council's Library staff. The Real Estate Shop next door in the old SCAM building has loaned an old electric stove and a paper perforating machine once used by the SCAM.

To permit more efficient use of the floor space in the Museum, Mr Roberts has provided two pegboards for wall hanging of small items. These are mounted and await the attachment of exhibits.

PUBLICITY REPORT 1990

Publicity took the same course as in 1989, meeting details being included in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader "What's On" feature. Accuracy was good and no issues were missed in 1990.

Harold Ivers

Harold Ivers

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF SYLVANIA

By Norma Branch

Shortly after World War II the Branch family moved to Sylvania — Harley St, to be exact — and lived in an ex-Army tent while my mother and step-father built a temporary dwelling in the form of a large garage. That garage cost us eighty pounds (\$160) — which was quite expensive for those days.

Our block was bounded by Princes Hwy, Harley St, Sylvania and Holt Rds, and was valued at two hundred pounds (\$400) in those days when Sylvania was said to be 'out in the sticks' Sydneysiders. (I wonder what that land would be worth on today's market

In those post-war years, when building materials were as scarce as skilled labour, temporary dwellings abounded in areas like Sutherland Shire — the local municipal and shire councils would, in effect, turn a blind-eye to the multitude of 'temporary dwellings' within their areas — provided, always, that the residents were in the course of building permanent homes on the land.

My step-father eked out a living by selling firewood and mum supplemented our meagre income by working at Brabham's fruit shop at Hurstville. At week-ends we went to a friend's property down at Engadine to cut wood for the business. We'd saw the logs into blocks and load them into the truck to take back home. Then my brother, Carl, and I would chop the blocks into a size to suit the old fuel stoves and our sisters would bag it ready for sale.

We attended Sylvania Public School and were taught by Miss Mackey (who was a bit ancient) and the headmaster, Mr Woodhouse. That school was really something out of the box — with three rows of desks in each of the two rooms and, wait for it ... each row was a separate class.



Residence of the Branch family
in the early 1950s
(No. 10 Harley Street)

Sylvania in those days was still a long way from having a sewerage service, and the school dunny was a real classic. On the side of the hill stood a row of earth-closets — you know, the ones where you sit on a wooden board with a yukky-looking black can under it. Once or twice a week the dunny-cart used to call around and exchange the full cans for empty ones. This was done via a little door at the back of the cubicle which had another very important use: periodically someone would suddenly spring that little back door and toss a can of cold water on to an exposed bare bottom, thereby bringing squeals of protest from startled occupants.

(We don't have entertainment like that, these days, do we? -Ed.)

Forty-four years ago GUY FAWKES DAY (or rather NIGHT) was still celebrated by kids everywhere. In our area we'd have a huge bonfire at the corner of Harley St and Sylvania Rd. A whole month was spent building that enormous mound of sticks and branches — in readiness for the great event — and it was guarded more zealously than the Crown Jewels.

One year the local 'bad boy' — Tommy Whats-his-name — was caught trying to light the fire a week early. My sister, Pat, broke her wrist landing a haymaker on this 'fiend-from-the-depths' — and Tommy wore a beaut black-eye for about a month

TO BE CONTINUED ...

EXCURSION ANNUAL REPORT

Firstly, in preparing this report we would like to express the appreciation of the Excursion Committee to all members and their friends for supporting our outings. Your continued interest will ensure the success of future tours and we hope what is offered will be of interest for each of you.

Saturday February 17; this was a very different day's outing -- two is ore. At Lake Illawarra Wharf we joined the M.V. "Merinda": our two hour cruise was along the shores of the Lake, with full commentary of its history and usage, during which we enjoyed morning Tea.

Returning to the Coach we then travelled to Cataract Dam, where after luncheon we had a guided tour of the Dan area with one of the Rangers. This is a very early dam, and it is interesting to compare with, say Warragamba, etc.

Week-end March 23-25: It had been planned to spend the week-end at Forbes, but it had to be cancelled at short notice, because so many members pulled out and others preferred not to make a booking.

We accepted that following the horrendous coach accidents just a few months earlier made people prefer not to travel by this method into the night. But, since our first week-end trip in 1976, it being the only occasion we found it necessary to cancel a trip, disappointed us.

After much discussion at meetings, it was decided the Society will continue with week-end trips, but with closer destinations. And, perhaps in the not too distant future, we may be able to undertake three or four day week-day outings, occasionally. This will need a lot of planning

Saturday May 19: Australian Village, Wilberforce; This was a "do it yourself day", but was a very happy occasion. Everyone seemed to enjoy the freedom and meeting up with other members as we saw the various places in the Village.

Saturday July 21: Picton. This was an excellent day and we saw much restoration going on in the town. The Society is making big gains in support in Picton and as it is such a very old township with so much available it is good to have the community behind them.

We also had the opportunity to see the "old" Suspension Bridge at Maldon, which is now a Historic Site, following the closure of the old and opening of new, Picton-Wollongong Road.

Saturday, September 22 : Brush Farm. I regretted being unable to go on this trip, being overseas, but from reports made to me, I understand it was a most enjoyable day due to the interest given by Mr. Buttrey. Once again we record our thanks to Harold and Athalie Ivers for introducing us to their friend.

Week-end November 2-3-4: Goulburn and Braidwood District. Saturday was spent with our friends from Braidwood and District Historical Society, who acted as our guides and provided Morning Tea and Luncheon. There is much to see in that District and it was a most interesting and enjoyable time.

cont'd

The sing-a-long after dinner at the Motel on Saturday evening was lots of fun for those who stayed in the lounge by the Pianola.

The Sunday morning visit to the Old Brewery was very interesting and we stayed much longer than had been expected; also then enjoyed Devonshire Morning Tea, with Damper.

Following this, we went to the Police Academy — by permission from the Officer-in-Charge, although not an "Open Day", we were given a tour of the area with explanations of how the training is done for various functions, and then to the beautiful Chapel. Viewing the two Honour Rolls, some of us saw names of friends or relations who had been "Killed in Line of Duty" or "Killed in Action in War".

On the way home we made a mid-afternoon stop in Bundanoon -- this was a bonus for those who like to visit "Markets"

Saturday. December 1: Berowra Waters and Fagan Park. Another two-in-one day On the M.V. Macquarie Princess we travelled through Berowra Waters and out into the Hawkesbury River for a two hour tour, including Morning Tea. It was a beautiful day and the trip most appreciated.

The launch was previously known as "Nambucca" when built in 1915, later to become "Promote" -- under the latter name it plied between Darling Street Wharf (Balmain) and Erskine Street (City). I travelled on "Promote" quite regularly when visiting, and no doubt many other members have the same recollection. It has been altered considerably before becoming M.V. "Macquarie Princess".

The second part of the outing was to Fagan Park, where, after luncheon, we were addressed by a Ranger on the restoration and setting up of Gardens being undertaken by Hornsby Council. It is a place that should be at its best within two. or three years and will then be a much sought after Tourist Area, especially those with historical interests.

As Excursion Convener, I express my appreciation of the assistance and co.-operation of. members of the Excursion Committee, namely Messrs. - Doug Archer, Keith Knight, Stewart Roberts, Mesdames Joyce Barrett, Ada Cutbush, Ellen Melbourne and Dawn (Mrs. Kevin) Smith.

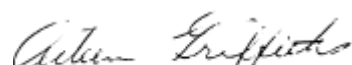
We remind you again, bookings for outings open at a meeting -- those in attendance get first opportunity to go on that trip. After the closure-of the meeting tickets may be purchased by contacting Mrs. Cutbush, who will arrange with you to make payment for tickets.

If you cancel, provided the ticket is resold you will receive a refund -- but until all tickets are sold, returns will not be sold. \$1.00 is retained to assist with the cost of 'phone calls to offer the ticket to someone on the waiting list, they being given first opportunity for returns.

For week-end excursions refunds are made on the basis - if we don't have to make a payment for accommodation, guides, entrance fees, etc. then that amount is refunded. We retain \$5.00, which when it is a late cancellation most often does not cover the cost of telephone call to make this cancellation!

Tell us if things are not to your liking - but please be constructive with your remarks, so that we may assist you. Thank you to those who tell us when they are pleased.

CONVENER.



ANNUAL REPORT

1990 was a year of changes within the society.

A 9 pm curfew was placed on all meetings held in the council chambers and as it did not seem possible for us to keep our meeting within this time limit a new venue was sought. For three months we were able to hold our meetings in the hall of the Uniting church in Flora Street, Sutherland, a hall that was conveniently close to the station but a little too small for our needs. So from January 1991 the hall adjacent to St. John's Anglican church - corner Flora and Belmont Street, Sutherland was decided upon for future meetings.

Our membership increased by 24 members but we were saddened by the loss of Fred Midgley. Fred was our Bulletin and Publications editor, our research officer and exhibition convenor for the society. These positions now became vacant.

We consider ourselves fortunate in acquiring the services of Mr. Will Newton as Bulletin editor and Miss Helen McDonald (Sutherland library) as research officer.

Fred's passing presented a formidable problem in as much as Fred looked after and stored much of the society's historical collection of goods and papers. In his will he left documents to the Sutherland library and goods etc. to the Historical society. Two tractors from this inheritance will have to be accommodated:

Donations received during the year include a paper perforator and an electric stove from the old Scam office, some 78 records, Plaques and a history of the clinic from the Karitane (Sylvania) Baby Health Centre.

The heritage week exhibition was held as usual in April at the Entertainment centre and a very interesting display was prepared by Mr. F. Midgley and other members and manned by various members. The society is grateful for those who gave their time.

We applied for a monetary grant through the Royal Australian Historical Society. If we receive money our aim is to install a computer in the Sutherland library to collate historical material.

A donation of peg boards for exhibition purposes and wood mountings for the Karitane clinic plaques was donated and fitted to suit our needs by Mr. S. Roberts

The museum was opened whenever there was a possibility of visitors. Schools were conducted around the museum on request. Taking advantage of a craft exhibition in the centre the museum was opened and had a good attendance.

There were 11 well attended committee meetings held during the year. These were held on the first Monday of the month in the Cry room of St. John's Anglican church, Sutherland.

This year saw the society with the word 'incorporated' added to its title.

Despite difficulties four issues of the society's publication "The Bulletin" were produced. We are indebted to those who helped with its publication and despatch particularly during the difficult period. We continue to

cont'd

hear from out-of-town members how much they enjoy receiving the publication. Council has continued to assist with the printing and we appreciate the support that is given in so many ways.

In 1991 we celebrate the society's 25th anniversary. We hope to have some of our foundation members at the dinner we are planning. The shire President at the time of the society's inauguration was Mr. Arthur Geitzelt. The guest speaker on that occasion was Justice Else-Mitchell. Both these gentlemen have expressed their interest and willingness to attend the dinner on the 12th April next.

The society is still represented on some local committees viz. The School of Arts Management committee, The Heritage Week committee and the Australia Day Committee.

Regular day tours were arranged throughout the year as usual, as well as two week-end tours and the society is grateful for the efforts of Mrs. A. Griffiths with the help of Mrs. A. Cutbush and others, who so much time and thought into the organisation of these popular outings.

Listed below are the speakers at the general meetings for 1990 showing topics of variety and interest that some excellent speakers brought to us during the year.

January	Members-Night	Mrs. Kavanagh, Messrs Archer Midgley and Knight
February	Mr. C. Powell	Postmaster - Address Australian Post
March	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
April	Mrs. J. Platfoot	English Royalty
May	Mr. Geo. Booth	Personal experiences when lost In Arnham Land while serving with the RAAF.
June	Mrs. Gai Palmer	English history video
July	Mr. E.Utick	Address on Gallipoli and Istanbul.
August	Dr. Andrew Fell	Chiropractor - History of the profession
September	Mr. Wood	Land Titles Office
October	Mrs. Dorothy Nixon	Dolls
November	Quarantine Officer	Plant quarantine
December	Film	Early Asian Roads

HON. SECRETARY

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1990.

<u>1989</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1990</u>
886.00	Members Subscriptions	784. 00
422.00	Bulletin Subscriptions	392. 00
57.50	Sale of Badges - Souvenirs	20. 00
95.80	Sale of Books - Bulletins - Commission Prints	116. 10
21.10	Museum Entrance Donations	36. 10
71.41	Donations	41. 30
159.03	Interest - Commonwealth Bank Savings Account	139. 26
7.00	" " " " " Bonds	--. --
303.81	" - St. George Bldg Soc. Step Up Account	463. 36
386.10	" - " " " " Fixed Term Account	487. 50
12769.00	Excursion Receipts	10376. 00
540.00	" " -Pre Payments for 1991	320. 00
-- --	25th Anniversary Dinner - Pre Payments for 1991	475. 00
-- --	Perfection Plate Credit overpayment	9. 35
-- --	Petty Cash Payment Rebanked (Heritage Week 1990)	23. 90
<u>\$15718.75</u>		<u>\$13683. 87</u>
	<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>	
277.33	Australia Post - Bulletin Postage	339. 01
79.56	" " - Constitution Postage	-- --
42.50	" " - Registration of Bulletin	50. 00
41.00	" " - Post Office Box Fee	50. 00
78.97	Postages and Telephone	104. 22
390.00	Stationery and Envelopes	-- --
205.15	" - Sundry Expenses	109. 96
50.00	Subscriptions - National Trust	50. 00
50.00	" - R.A.H.S.	50. 00
10.00	Sutherland Shire Information & Community Service Affil.	10. 00
229.00	R.A.H.S. (G.I.C. Public Risk Insurance)	218. 00
220.00	Museum - Transport by Removalists	60. 00
268.16	Sundry Expenses - Items of Petty Cash	229. 80
60.00	Out of Pocket Expenses - Hon. Secretary/Treasurer 1988	60. 00
--	" " " " - President/Research Officer	60. 00
19.00	Books Purchased	10. 00
396.46	Badges and Souvenirs	-- --
46.73	Bank Charges - C.S.B. and St. George Bldg Society	36. 13
-- --	Hall Rental	104. 50
-- --	25th Anniversary Dinner Deposit	250. 00
496.22	Incorporation Charges	-- --
4054.00	Excursions -- Transport Costs - Coaches & Cruises	3444. 00
450.00	" -- Deposits paid for 1991 (Motel Scene)	300. 00
6460.00	" -- Motels, Dinners, Lunches	3387. 00
987.50	" -- Admission Charges	521. 00
376.00	" -- Donations and Hall Hire	110. 80
3.51	" -- Postages	13. 97
187.60	" -- Telephone Charges (STD & Local Bookings etc)	157. 23
151.45	" -- Sweets - Coffee/Tea Milk	89. 71
84.90	" -- Stationery	43. 52
455.00	" -- Refunds	2309. 00
<u>\$16184.06</u>		<u>\$12167. 05</u>
	Surplus for the year - Transferred to Accumulated Funds	1516. 82
<u>-(465.31)</u>		
<u>\$15718.75</u>		<u>\$13683. 87</u>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1990

<u>1989</u>		<u>1990</u>
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	
0554.89	Balance at January 1, 1990	10089. 58
<u>-465. 71</u>	Debit/Credit for the year	<u>1516. 82</u>
<u>0089. 58</u>		<u>\$11606. 40</u>
This is represented by:		
	<u>INVESTMENTS AND DEPOSITS</u>	
3000.00	St. George Building Society - Fixed Term	3000. 00
200.00	Commonwealth Treasury Bond	--- --
3761.93	*St. George Building Society - Deposit A/c	5912. 08
<u>7127.65</u>	Commonwealth Saving Bank A/c (Grenulla)	<u>2694. 32</u>
<u>10089.58</u>		<u>\$11606. 40</u>

- * NOTE: Treasury Bond \$200.00 cashed and with \$1000.00 from the Commonwealth Savings A/c transferred to St. George Building Society Deposit Account 6.2.1990.

RECONCILIATION OF BANK STATEMENT AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1990.

1.1.90 - Cash Book Balance	33127. 65
<u>ADD - Total Receipts 1990</u>	<u>\$12933. 01</u>
	\$16060. 66
<u>LESS - Total Expenditure 1990</u>	<u>\$13366. 34</u>
CASH BOOK BALANCE 31.12.90	\$2694. 32
BALANCE BANK STATEMENT No. 87	<u>\$2694. 32</u>

NOTE: As at December 31, 1990 the Society held:

- (A) 19 Society Badges
- (B) 7 Friendship Pins
- (C) Souvenirs: 29



A. Hamilton, Hon. Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the books of the Sutherland Shire Historical

Society for the year ended 31st December 1990 and hereby certify that in my opinion the income and expenditure statement and balance sheet are accurately stated.



K. Greentree

Honorary Auditor

President: Mrs A Griffiths
34 Richmond St Cronulla 2233 Phone:
532 5801

Deputy President: Mr D Archer Hon
Treasurer: Mr A Hamilton

Research: Helen McDonald Phone:
521 0345

Editor: Will Newton Phone: 529 9190

Hon Secretary: Mrs M Blackley Phone:
521 1343

Vice-Presidents: Mr A Platfoot Mrs A
Cutbush

Publicity: Mr H Ivers Phone: 520 6324

Archives: Miss D Oliver (Represented
by Helen McDonald)

Hon Auditor: Mr K Greentree

COMMITTEE

Mr J Cutbush, Mr K Knight, Mrs E Melbourne, Mr S Roberts, Mr F Thornley

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin copies are supplied to all Branches of the Shire Library; to the Shire President, Shire Clerk and all Councillors; the Royal Australian Historical Society; National Trust (NSW); State Library, NSW; National Library, Canberra; Universities of Sydney and NSW; State Rail Authority; Australia Post Archives.

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Contributions: Members are invited to submit material for inclusion in the Bulletin; this need not be confined to local history, although this is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please state the source; care should be taken with material still in copyright — and written permission obtained from the author and the publisher. The date on the article or publication will tell you this.



Meetings of the Society are held monthly, on the second Friday, at 8.00pm at the hall of the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist in Belmont St. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

All correspondence should be addressed to: The Honorary Secretary, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, PO Box 389, Sutherland 2232

One night I had a dream. I dreamt I was walking along the beach with God - and across the sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One set belonged to me, the other to God. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times across the path of life, there was only one set of footprints.

I also noticed that this happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life. This really bothered me - and I questioned God about it:

"God, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way - but I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, in times when I needed you most, you would leave me."

God replied: "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during your trials and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

- Copied by Will Newton

Sutherland Shire Historical Society

FOUNDED
1966

