

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN

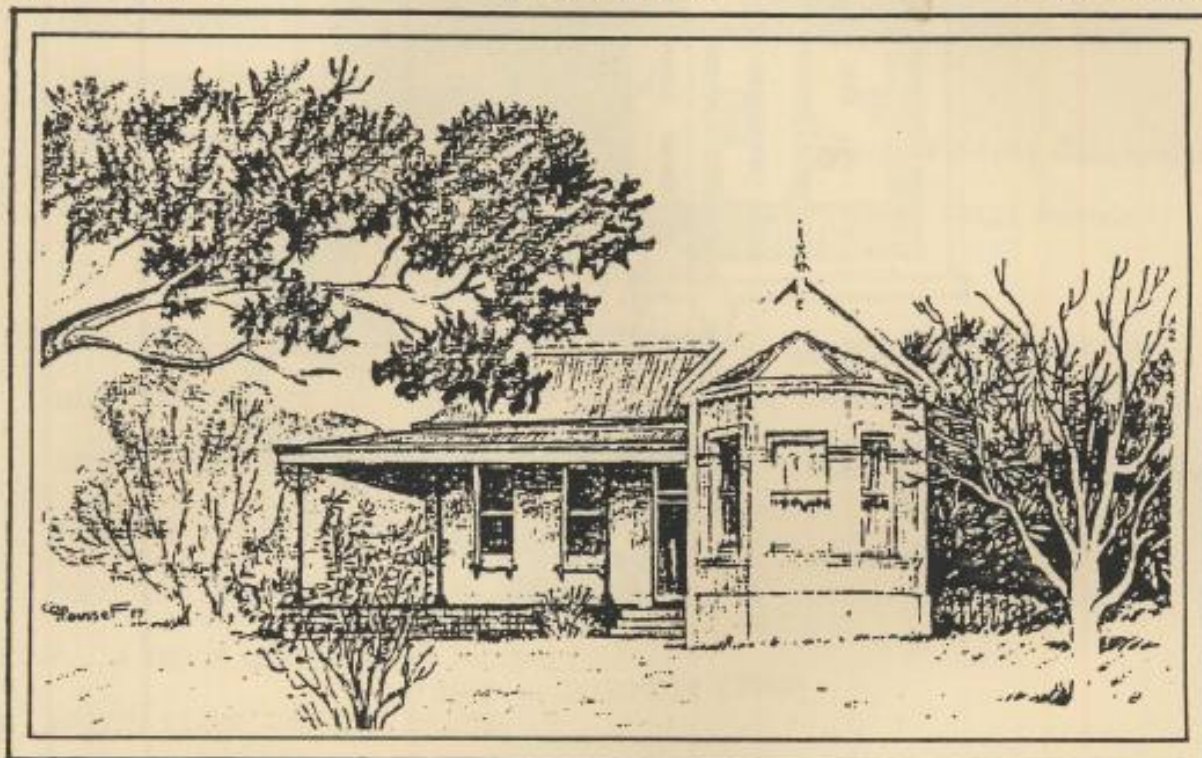
Design by (the late) Fred Midgley



Vol. 2 No. 1

February 1993

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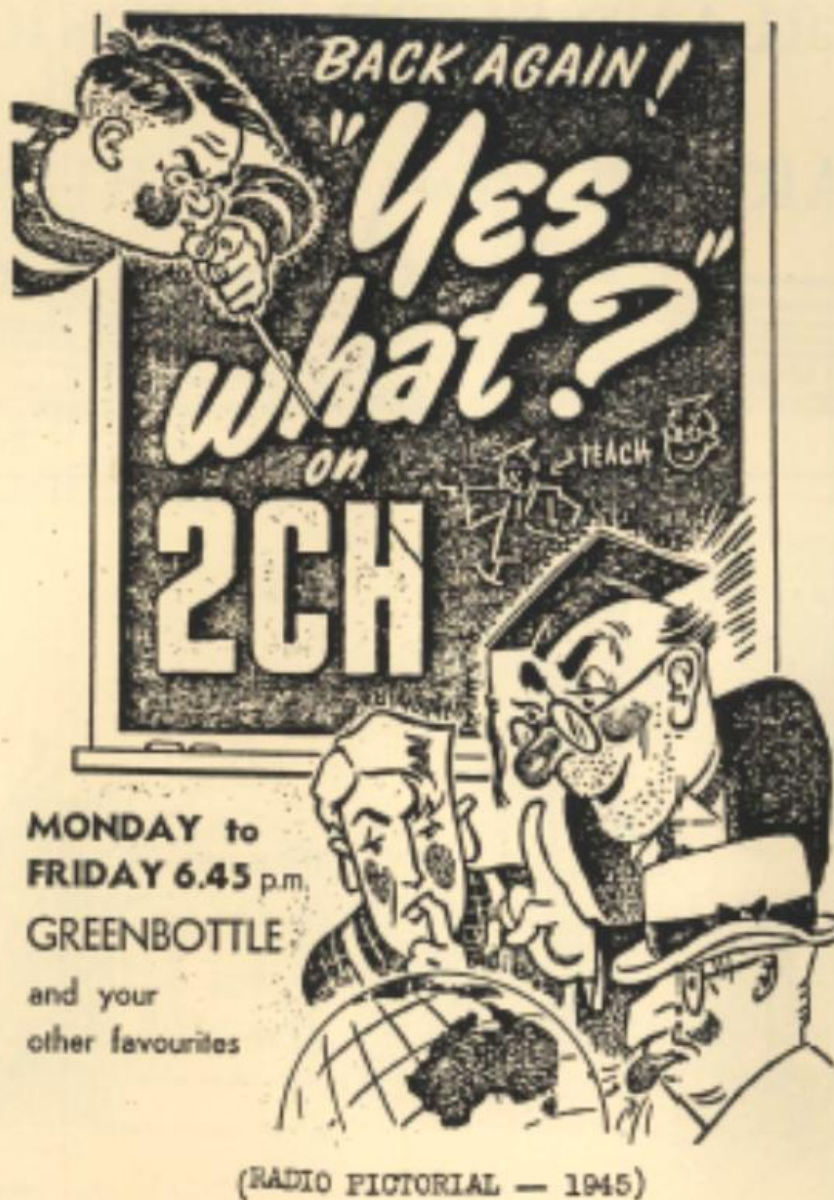
"COTTAGE AT ILLAWONG" is the title of this pencil drawing by George Youssef one of a set of ten produced by Sutherland Shire Council as a Bicentennial Project in 1988. Not much is known of the history of the Italianate-style building which was once a guest cottage for the prestigious "Cranbrook" in Fowler Road near Bignell Street. The area was once known as East-Menai, but in the 1960s was re-named ILLAWONG, meaning "Land between two rivers" (the Georges and the Woronora).

The CRANBROOK property, which runs through to the Georges River, was once owned by Robert Fowler of 'Fowlerware' pottery fame. It was also owned, at a later stage, by Sir James Joynton-Smith, former Lord Mayor of Sydney and founder of the newspaper SMITH'S WEEKLY.

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YES, WHAT? started in the Adelaide studios of 5AD and the first episode went to air about the middle of 1936. Most of the episodes were written by the late Rex 'Whacka' Dawe who starred as Dr Percival Pym. The script was based on the English comedy series, Will Hay's THE FOURTH FORM AT ST MICHAEL'S — and it was originally called THE FOURTH FORM AT ST PERCY'S. And then AWA in Sydney bought the national rights and re-named it YES, WHAT?

The first 50 episodes were not recorded, but went to air live — and, sadly, have been lost forever. Of the 520 episodes recorded between 1937 and 1940 only about 300 have survived. For nearly 60 years YES, WHAT? has been aired continuously in either Australia, New Zealand, South Africa or the United Kingdom via Radio Luxembourg — and that must surely be a world record.

Last November Sony Music Australia released a souvenir recording of YES, WHAT? (CD and Cassette) — edited and produced by Mel Mayer in conjunction with the Reg James Radio organisation. It features ten selected episodes plus inter-views with four of the characters — Greenbottle, Bottomly, Standforth and Mr Snootles — and, I can tell you, it's a bloody ripper.

— Will Newton

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GENERAL INFORMATION - Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc

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• Write injuries in dust, but kindness in marble  
- Plato

# Heritage Week 1993



*Limited Places !*

BOOK EARLY !



## WRITING LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Wednesday, 31st March 1993**

**6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.**

**Are you interested in researching and/or writing local history ?**

An estimated quarter of a million Australians with diverse interests are currently engaged in some sort of historical activity.

As part of Sutherland Shire Council's Heritage Week Activities, a workshop led by Louella McCarthy of the Community History Program of the University of NSW has been organised.

The aim of this workshop is to enable participants to develop skills in researching and writing history.

Through discussions and practical examples, the workshop will:

- \* Examine the historian's role in researching and interpreting historical evidence
- \* Explore techniques for writing history
- \* Discuss museum display and issues
- \* Provide course notes

Tea  
&  
Coffee  
available

**Venue:** Rainbow Room, Sutherland Entertainment Centre  
Eton Street, Sutherland, 2232.

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person Pre-registration is essential.

**Contact:** Helen McDonald for enquiries (ph. 710 0225)

Bookings are essential as places are limited and must be made no later than 17th March, 1993.

**BOOKING  
FORM**

Booking is essential and payment may be made on the night of the workshop.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The new year is upon us -- may I, belatedly; extend a wish that you will have a happy and healthy 1993.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet is included in this Bulletin, and giving notice of Annual General Meeting to be held at March Meeting, Friday, March 12, 1993.

MEETING PLACE,: we are delighted to tell you we have been invited to return to the Council Chambers for our meetings: This will commence at the Annual General Meeting, March 12, 1993, which will give time for members to become acquainted with the change of venue. We again thank the Anglican Church for allowing us to meet there - we are appreciative of the difficulty it was causing them to have a permanent booking for their Hall on a Friday night, monthly.

PLEASE NOTE: MEETINGS WILL COMMENCE AT 7.45 p.m. FROM MARCH.

And, we again remind you that due to the Easter Season, it is necessary to re-arrange April-Meetings; Executive Council will meet on Monday, March 29, whilst the April General Meeting will be the first Friday, April 2, 1993.

Sadly, we extend deepest sympathy to Mr. Will Newton, whose Mother passed away on January 17; the late Mrs. Newton was ninety-three years old, and was laid to rest with her late husband at Botany Cemetery.

Members of the Royal Australian Historical Society will be visiting Sylvania area on Saturday, April 24, 1993, to be guided by Mrs. Daphne Salt. They have requested to visit our Museum and also meet some of our members. We will serve them Afternoon Tea on arrival, at approximately 3 p.m, and we ask that members come along too. We will give you more details nearer to the date.

As there will not be another Bulletin before Heritage Week, may I ask that all members assist where possible; we need help to "set up", to assist at the table with saleable items and to answer questions generally, and to keep an eye on displays. More details at February and March meetings.

\* World's worst forgery → *Aileen Griffiths*  
Ed.

## **COMMENTO !** (See Footnote)

As announced in the PRESIDENT'S REMARKS we have been invited to return to the Council Chambers for our meetings — commencing in MARCH at (NB) 7:45pm for the General Meeting. The 'curfew' problem has been resolved and it's nice to be 'going home' again. Thank you, from all of us, Sutherland Shire Council — we certainly do enjoy an excellent relationship.

Footnote.

In a recent edition of the BULLETIN we used the term 'Achtung' to draw your attention to a special announcement. Some ANONYMOUS (or gutless) correspondent suggested that I may be a NEO-NAZI on the strength of that. Can anyone believe it? I wonder if 'Commento' will suggest to that ANONYMOUS person that I may also be a Fascist. What next, do you suppose?

-- Will Newton

## EDITOR'S DESK...

As 1993 marks the 70th anniversary of public broadcasting in Australia, our HERITAGE WEEK exhibition is being designed to incorporate a display of radio ('wireless') memorabilia. This edition of the BULLETIN is, I suppose, a kind of souvenir of that wonderful era of radio that we refer to as the 'golden years' — namely the 40s and 50s. In this limited space we can



give only a very brief coverage of the subject but, hopefully, it will bring back some happy memories for older radio fans. There is only a passing reference to several former top radio personalities — Joy Nichols, Hal Lashwood, Johnny Wade, Harry 'Cop this' Griffiths, Patti Crocker — as they were all given more detailed coverage in fairly recent editions of this journal.

If our coming exhibition at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre — 28 March to 4 April — is a big success, it will give our Society plenty of promotion — so let's all pitch in and do all we can to support it. Quite a collection of appropriate exhibits has already been rounded up for the big event — and some of the details are given in various parts of this edition.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At our General Meeting on 12 March all official positions will again be up for grabs, from the President down — and that includes the Bulletin Editor. "New blood" is, presumably, ALWAYS WELCOME and here is the opportunity to help improve YOUR Society ... so, STAKE YOUR CLAIM.

Since the last Election of Officers, yours truly has been filling in as the 'Acting Editor' on a one-by-one basis. As such as I have enjoyed producing the BULLETIN the difficulty, for me, is that it very time-consuming indeed. Possibly my successor will be able to streamline the system and produce a better publication to boot.

### YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE

Our Guest Speaker last December, JIM 'The Potts' RUSSELL OAM MBE, the famous cartoonist, charmed his audience with highlights of his distinguished career. Although I have long taken a keen interest in Jim Russell's long and varied professional career, I learned something quite new from his talk (this bloke is full of surprises). As a young boy-soprano Jim toured the country with the YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE. Some of those lads went on to become top-line show-biz personalities — Bill Kerr, George Nichols, Colin Croft ...

PLEASE TAKE NOTE — all youse gentlefolk out there.

The staff at Sutherland Shire Council are a beaut bunch. The co-operation and help from people like Diana Oliver, Tim Fong, Maxine Meier, Helen McDonald --to mention but a few with whom I have had regular contact — has been first-class, to say the very least.

### COMING GUEST SPEAKERS .

FEBRUARY	Gordon Geering	"Victoria Barracks"
MARCH	(Annual Meeting — slides, if time permits)	
APRIL	(To be advised)	"Merchant Navy"
		MAY Ron Rathbone "Lord Sydney" (Mayor of Rockdale)

— Will (Lohengrin) Newton

# WONDERFUL WORLD OF WIRELESS

— . GOLDEN YEARS OF RADIO —

Will Newton



THE VERY FIRST demonstration of voice transmission by wireless ('wireless telegraphy') in Australia was conducted in 1919 by Mr (later Sir) Ernest Fisk. The transmission was from the York Street offices of Amalgamated Wireless Australasia Limited (AWA) and was received by the Royal Society at the. Elizabeth Street premises. Ernest Fisk had come to Australia some years earlier as the representative of the Marconi organisation and founded AWA which became the leading Australian manufacturer of radio receivers and transmitters.

THE FIRST public demonstration was also conducted by Mr Fisk — this time at the Aircraft Exhibition in Melbourne during June-July of 1920. Meanwhile, in far away London on 15 June of that year, Dame Nellie Melba stepped up to an early microphone — it looked more like a funnel — and sang 'Addio Mimi' from Puccini's LA BOHEME. Melba described the occasion as "My hello to the world" — and the broadcast was picked up from as far away as Paris. People were astounded and could scarcely believe they were really hearing the golden voice of the legendary Melba transmitted across land and sea by airwaves.



By this time broadcasting had also started in America — the first radio station had been established in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The great Danish tenor, Lauritz Melchior — who made his home in America — was among the first to take advantage of the new medium. Melchior, who is credited with having done more to popularise Wagner's operas than any other singer, launched into a studio rendition so powerful that the microphone had to be re-located out in the corridor in order to cope with the volume. The 'great Dane' seemed to be under the impression that the louder he sang, the further his voice would be transmitted. Experiments with electro-magnetic waves of radiation commenced after a Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell, expounded his theory in 1864. Heinrich Hertz actually transmitted radio waves experimentally in 1888. The Italian physicist, Guglielmo Marconi, had used these waves to transmit messages in morse code across his garden in 1894. And then, in December 1901, he transmitted the first wireless message across the Atlantic.



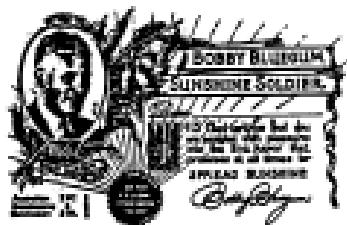
As far back as 1897 experimental transmissions had been carried out in Australia on many occasions before the first official broadcast of radio as we know it today. In 1922 several commercial organisations, including .AWA, were to approach the Commonwealth Government for permission to establish systematic broadcasting as a public service. A conference was called in May 1923 by the Postmaster-General in Melbourne — and this saw the genesis of commercial radio in this country. Four broadcasting licences were issued, under certain conditions, and call-signs were established:



- 2SB - Sydney, owned by Broadcasters Sydney Limited  
(which subsequently became 2BL)
- 2FC - Sydney, owned by Farmer & Company (now Radio National)
- 3AR - Melbourne, owned by Associated Radio Company
- 6WF - Perth, owned by Westralian Farmers Limited



Broadcasting in Australia commenced officially on 23 November cont'd



1923 (not 13 November - the original target date) when 2SB transmitted a concert performance from a studio in the Smith's Weekly Building in Phillip Street, Sydney. On 5 December 2FC started broad-casting — and then in January 1924 3AR went to air, followed by 6WF in June of that year.

Under the original licensing system, there were 'A' Class and 'B' Class stations — the former being funded from licensing revenue and the latter from advertising or other commercial resources. On 26 January 1925 (Australia Day) C V Stevenson, owner of a company called Electrical Utilities, started broadcasting from his home at Maroubra using 2EU as his call-sign --but it didn't sound quite right so he reversed it to 2UE. Likewise, because 2SB was easily confused with 2FC it was changed to the present 2BL.

At the end of 1922 young Otto Sandel built a transmitter and started broad-casting little concerts held in the sitting-room of a boarding-house in Manly. He had an experimental licence and used 2UW as his call-sign. Nobody seems to know if the UW bit stood for anything in particular, or was chosen simply because Otto liked the sound of it. He was subsequently granted a commercial licence and officially started broadcasting on 2 February 1925.

Otto was more interested in manufacturing wireless sets than in broadcasting and in 1933 the station was taken over by a business consortium leaving Otto free to concentrate on running his factory at Kings Cross.

On 31 October 1925, 2KY — owned and operated by the Trades & Labour Council — went to air for the first time. Like UW, the KY bit does not seem to have any special significance. Some stations took their call-signs from their geographical locations — like 2AW Albury, 2KA Katoomba, 2BS Bathurst.



The Australian Theosophical Society founded 2(B, which went to air for the first time on 23 August 1926. Many people still think that the GB stands for Grace Bros, the Sydney department store, no doubt because of the many broad-casts over 2GB from the Grace Bros Auditorium. The initials, however, stand for Giordano Bruno, an Italian philosopher who was burned at the stake in 1600 for expounding the theory of reincarnation (the bloody idiot).

AWA, who had started it all, did not go into actual broadcasting until 1930 — with 2AY Albury. Then, on behalf of the Catholic Broadcasting Company, they began operating 2SM which went to air on 24 December 1931. The initials do not stand for St Mary's — as many people think — but for ST MARK'S (at Drummoyne) where the licence was granted to Father Mealy, the parish priest. AWA also operated 2CH, which was owned by the Council of Churches, and began broadcasting on 15 February 1932.

In July 1928 the Government had introduced a new scheme which provided for the establishment of a National Broadcasting Service. Then, by 1932 the 'A' Class stations had been taken over by the newly-established Australian Broadcasting Commission --the Sydney stations under its control being 2BL and 2FC (now Radio National).



In 1924 there were some 1400 licensed listeners in Australia, with Sydneysiders having the choice of two broadcasting stations. By 1930 the number of licensed listeners had grown to about 330 000. In 1937 there were 21 national stations, 80 commercial stations throughout the country and 940 068 licensed listeners.

cont'd





Probably our first politician to have his voice transmitted over the airwaves was WM (Billy) Hughes — 'the little digger' as he was called by many. In 1918 he had participated in a test to send a message from the Marconi Experimental Station in Carnarvon, Wales, and was picked up by Ernest Fisk in the Sydney suburb of Wahroonga.

Early in the century eminent engineers had declared that it would never be possible for a direct transmission from England to be received in Australia. The reason given was that the curve of the globe set up an avial of 100 miles (160 km) of sea which could not be penetrated by wireless. At a ceremony in 1935, to mark the first direct communication

from the UK, Billy Hughes commented that wireless was "the achievement of man most likely to influence his life and future". That took place at Mr Fisk's Wahroonga property where a monument was unveiled — which, I suppose, must have been one in the eye for the knockers who had said that it could not be done.

In case you hadn't noticed, this year (1993) marks the 70th anniversary of commercial broadcasting in Oz — and it all started, rather nervously, with that concert in the 2SB Phillip Street studio. The performers were Miss Deering, soprano; Mr Pick, bass; Miss Druitt, contralto; Mr Saunders, baritone (one later became radio's 'Uncle George'); Mr Thorp, cellist; the St Andrews Quartet.



My first recollections of radio stem from the early 30s when we had a Telefunken 'wireless set' which gave out lots and lots of community singing — and INSPECTOR SCOTT OF SCOTLAND YARD used to solve a mystery and catch the 'baddie' each week. The good Inspector was played by George Edwards ('the man of 1000 voices') who usually played umpteen other roles in each production. And I have vague memories of shows like AIR ADVENTURES OF JIMMY ALLEN CHANDU THE MAGICIAN, CHARLIE CHAN, AMATEUR NIGHT, THE LAUGHING CAVALIER, BOBBY BLUEGUM (with Frank and Betty Hatherley), DARBY & JOAN, AMOS and ANDY, FRED & MAGGIE EVERYBODY.... many of them quite forgettable, but they all had intriguing titles.

The mid-30s saw much diversification in radio programs. Plays were becoming increasingly popular, as were quiz shows, talent quests and, of course those radio serials — most of them transcribed American productions. Apart from opening up an entirely new range of entertainment — as well as news, sporting and educational broadcasts — it opened up a whole new range of employment for actors, playwrights, producers, technicians, sound-effects people, etc. Actors with good radio voices were especially welcome as announcers, commentators and to present the snowballing range of 'commercials' from an evergrowing number of advertisers.

Radio advertising really came into its own with the outbreak of World War II

which was to herald in the 'golden era' of the 40s and 50s. With the war came a shortage of



newsprint which meant an acute shortage of advertising space — so many commercial organisations turned to radio as the medium to sell their products. Agencies like George Patterson's and also J Walter Thompson's were quick to capitalise on the enormous potential — and were instrumental in making radio a major entertainment medium in Australia.

J WALTER THOMPSON's big drawcards included the Lux Radio Theatre, Australia's Amateur Hour (for Lever Bros) and the serial Mrs 'Obbs (for Bonnington's Irish Moss).

GEORGE PATTERSON's agency secured the patronage of Colgate-Palmolive in the early years of World War II and, following the formation of the Colgate-Palmolive Radio Unit, became the biggest ever buyers of Australian radio time.

Following their earlier successes with productions such as John Dease's QUIZ KIDS and the war-adventure thriller FIRST LIGHT FRASER, Pattersons spared no expense to provide the very best in radio entertainment — which, in my opinion, was far superior to anything overseas producers could offer. And the proof is that many of these Australian shows are still being aired in various countries around the world — and some of them more than 50 years old.



KITTY BLUETT



JACK DAVEY was engaged as the Producer and a lad fresh out of school named HARRY 'Cop this' GRIFFITHS was hired as Assistant Producer. A glittering array of top entertainers came together to star in such wonderful productions as YOUTH SHOW, STAR PARADE, RISE AND SHINE, LADIES FIRST, PROTEX SHOW, CALLING THE STARS, PICK-A-BOX, CAN YOU TAKE IT?, COP THE LOT, STRIKE IT RICH... the list goes on and on. For four or five nights a week Colgate-Palmolive shows dominated the airwaves in what we now regard as the 'golden age' of Australian radio.

The ever-increasing list of performers --actors, singers, comedians, musicians (but not jugglers or dancers or conjurors, of course) goes on forever — Robin Ordell, Joy Nichols, Hal Lashwood, Dinah Shearing, Johnny Wade, Margo Lee, Dick Bentley, Strella Wilson, Colin Croft, Lester Sisters, Roy Rene ('Mo'), Bettie Dickson, Al Thomas, Kitty Bluett, Willie Fennell, Kathy Lloyd, Alan Coad, Patricia (Patti) Crocker, Jack Burgess, Gloria Dawn, Ron Randell, Gladys Moncrieff, Peter Dawson, Peggy Brooks, George Foster, Betty Bryant, Bill Kerr, Amber-Mae Cecil, George Blackshaw, Joan Sutherland, Michael Pate, Queenie Ashton, Harold Williams, Lyndall Barbour ...' this list might go on forever — but I can't, can I? And it's worth mentioning that these only the ones who were mostly with 2GB around that particular time.

Australian radio drama — plays, serials, etc — was well established by this time and local writers had long-since proved they were amongst the fastest and most professional in the world. GEORGE EDWARDS had been the first big name in the business and, with his wife and co-star Nell Stirling, he had an incredible output. Five mornings a week at the EMI studios at Homebush, the George Edwards Players recorded episodes of DAD AND DAVE, MARTIN'S CORNER, SEARCH FOR THE GOLDEN BOOMERANG and many more. 'Cutting' 12-15 episodes was an average day's recording.

The Grace Gibson studios were turning out 66 quarter-hour serial episodes each week for Sydney alone — as well as. umpteen playlets, docos and sundry other productions. At one stage, around this time, some 200 serials alone were being heard on Australian radio.

Local playwrights included names like Eric Scott, Hal Saunders, Richard Lane, Morris West, Eleanor Witcombe, Peter Yeldham, Kay Keavney, Gordon Grimdsdale, Gwen Meredith, Sumner Locke Elliott, Coral Lansbury, Maurice Francis, Lorna Bingham, James Workman,



Kathleen Carroll ... this list could also go on forever, by the look of it. I have always thought that Australian radio drama came into its own thanks, largely, to Hal Saunders. Hal had come into radio

cont'd





by writing advertising copy and 'singing commercials' for various advertisers. Then 2KY engaged him to do scripts for John Harper. One thing led to another and Hal subsequently became a leading writer, composer and producer.



George Edwards had been doing the FAMOUS TRIALS series and Hal Saunders was commissioned to script SYDNEY CRIME SHEET — the highly successful series based on the authentic background material from the local police files:

Local scripting received an enormous boost when Hal's serial THE BLACK SPIDER was accepted by the sponsor, WY( Campbell, in preference to several slick American productions. Sponsors had traditionally favoured American shows --preferably set in either New York, Paris or London — and which were quite often uninspired, production-line stuff. So Hal rounded up a group of actors from the Percy Lodge agency at 'Poverty Point' (hangout for unemployed local thespians, at the corner of Pitt and Park Streets) and produced a couple of episodes of THE BLACK SPIDER which, incidentally, was set in Sydney. It was to be later published as a very successful novel.

Hal Saunders departed this world, at the age of 88, on 19 April 1991 — and he was still doing a bit of writing, almost to the end.

#### REFLECTIONS IN A MICROPHONE ...

In 1936 Sydney's ten favourite radio personalities were George Edwards (way ahead of the others), Jack Davey, John Dunne, John Harper ('Old Gravel Voice'), Gladys Moncrieff, Jack Lumsdaine-- then came Captain Stevens (Who? - the storyteller), Si Meredith ('Uncle Si' - see note below), Frank Hatherley ('Bobby Bluegum') and Charlie Lawrence (remember his beautiful commentaries on Ken Hall's Cinesound Newsreel Reviews?).



NOTE: Uncle Si and Auntie Maud Meredith were an extremely well-loved husband-and-wife team in early radio. They conducted many children's sessions and community singing shows that were broad-cast from various local stations. A very popular 'crazy' show in the 40s was 'Friday Frivolities' — aired on 2KY — and where Auntie Maud was a regular guest.

Older listeners — or should I say readers? — may recall the 'Community Show' every Friday at Kogarah's Victory Theatre (now Mecca) when Si and Maud would entertain a live audience with community singing and slapstick comedy. Comedian Eddie Williams, who loved throwing custard tarts at people (years before Bob Dyer did it) would chase Maud down into the screaming audience with his soda-siphon blazing away at everybody.

Si Meredith passed away about 25 years ago, but Maud is alive and well (and very alert) in a local Nursing Home. She is aged either 98 or 99 (there is some doubt) and is hoping to reach 100 and receive a letter from the Queen. (She is also hoping the Queen will still be on the throne — Auntie Maud is still a keen observer and closely monitors current events.) Her son, Freddy Meredith (who hates radio work) is still compering and playing in pantomime at the age of 80. He visits his mother regularly and sometimes greets her with comments like: "Christ, are you still here?" — but Maud knows that he thinks the world of her. Incidentally, Jenny Howard — 'Darling Jenny' who played the Tivoli circuit for many years — is also in a Nursing Home, but up at Coolangatta, Queensland. Jenny is 90 and loves to hear from old fans. I do digress a hell of a lot, don't I?



FEARLESS! OUTSPOKEN! CHALLENGING!  
Eric Baume says.... **'This I Believe'**

cont'd

## Macquarie Award

A SURVEY in 1944 showed that the ten most popular Macquarie Award programs were AUSTRALIA'S AMATEUR HOUR, MRS 'OBBS, FIRST LIGHT FRASER, CALLING THE STARS, HIT TUNES OF THE HOUR, LUX RADIO THEATRE, RISE AND SHINE, MARTIN'S CORNER, DIGGER HALE'S DAUGHTERS and the MACQUARIE RADIO THEATRE. It is interesting to note that all but three of them were 2GB programs.

THE MACQUARIE AWARD was instituted in 1946 to acknowledge and encourage performances by actors participating in Macquarie productions. The annual event soon became a tradition in Australian radio and the listening public took a keen interest. There were Awards for the best starring roles, male and female, the best supporting roles and the best comedy role

The panel of judges (for 1948) were Frank Clewlow (ABC), Frank Harvey (Actors Equity, Yvonne 'Fifi' Banvard (Theatre), May Hollingworth (Little theatre groups), Lindsay Browne (Drama Critic). Awards for the best starring roles for the first few years went to names like Catherine Duncan, Peter Finch (see note below), Thelma Scott, John Cazabon, Sheila Sewell, Sidney Wheeler, Alan White, Lyndall Barbour, Dinah Shearing, Allan Trevor, Neva Carr Glynn, Lloyd Berrell, Margaret Christensen. Best comedy roles went to Moray Powell, Gwen Plumb, Kevin Brennan, Gordon Chater ...

NOTE. Peter Finch, a 'bohemian' if ever there was one, was a brilliant actor who lived for the stage. He never did take radio acting seriously — it was a means of earning enough money quickly to pay the rent each week. Finchie took out the Macquarie Award, for the best starring role, in the first two years (1946 and 1947) and then went overseas to join Sir Laurence Olivier's group. There are conflicting accounts as to how his Award, a statuette, came to be used as a counterweight for the valve in his toilet cistern — I have heard four different versions of how it was discovered.

In RADIO DAYS Patti Crocker recounts a delightful anecdote from the Caltex Theatre production THE MAN BORN TO BE KING. James Condon (now married to Anne Haddy) played Christ, and his script notes stated that he was "not on until page 11 — can help with crowd voices". So James shouted 'Crucify him' and 'Release unto us Barabbas' until page.11 ... then he picked up his cross and entered as Christ — in dinner jacket and black bow tie.

And if I don't stop writing soon there'll be no room left in this BULLETIN for the other articles. Maybe we'll continue on in the next edition.



THE FIRST public broadcast in Australia - described earlier in this piece - took place on 23 November 1923. A concert in the studio of 2SB (now 2BL) on top of the SMITH'S WEEKLY (Guardian) building in Phillip Street, Sydney, was transmitted over the airwaves. Our recent Guest Speaker, famous cartoonist JIM 'The Potts' RUSSELL remembers the occasion quite well — at the time he was a 14-year-old cadet with the redoubtable SMITH'S WEEKLY.

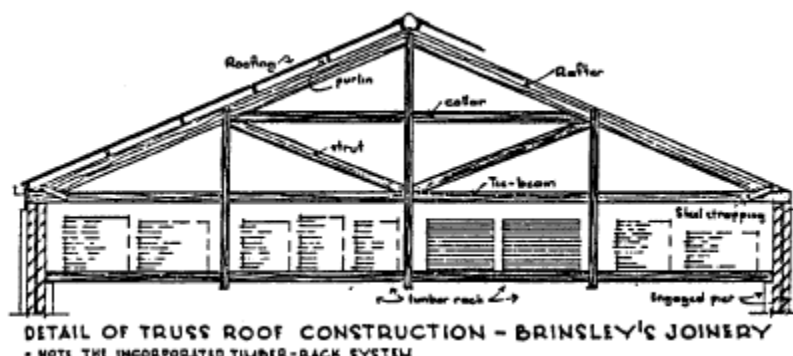
## BRINSLEY'S JOINERY WORKS

A FAMILIAR SIGHT of the central district of Sutherland shopping area is the BRINSLEY JOINERY WORKS in Toronto Parade. Established by one of the pioneering families, the Joinery was started by Ralph Brinsley Snr about 1914.

The Brinsley family arrived in the Shire, from Balmain, before the turn of the century — primarily because they liked the area. They had spent much of their leisure time on fishing trips and picnics in this part of the world. The block of land on which the Joinery is sited was purchased by Ralph Brinsley Senior, along with two other allotments, about 1910.

Brinsley Snr had started his working life in the employ of Frank Cole who had a timber-yard and sawmill on the corner of President Avenue and Princes High-way at Sutherland. Mr Brinsley was to set up his own workshop in a smallish building at the rear of a cottage he had built on one of his allotments about 1914. That cottage, incidentally, is still standing. He started off by doing joinery work for local Builders — and his business grew steadily.

Ralph Brinsley Snr married Lizzie Avery in 1915. The Avery family had also moved into the Sutherland Shire before the turn of the century. Ralph and his Lizzie were to produce two sons and a daughter — and fine children they were. Subsequently, a larger workshop was built on the adjoining allotment — this being a timber-framed building on brick piers.



BRINSLEY'S JOINERY WORKS was involved in much cottage work and two or three shops in the Sutherland area, for example Vallance's grocery and McCubbin's store as well as Marshall Russack's garage. The Sutherland School of Arts was also built by the Brinsleys.

In January 1929, fire destroyed the timber-framed joinery. Society member, Ralph Brinsley Jnr, recalls the incident in an oral history recording of 1988. Apparently Ralph Brinsley Snr opened up the building which was already on fire. There was no laid on water supply and no Fire Brigade — so the Police summoned the Shire Council's water tanker which was help extinguish the blaze. Much stock and machinery were lost — and the business was set back by at least six months. The present (brick) Joinery was built within a few months.

The machinery in the timber-framed building was powered by a kerosene engine housed at the front of the building. Only the lights were powered by electricity. After the fire the new building became fully electric. Ralph Snr had his two sons working in the business. The Joinery is an important reminder of how the Sutherland area developed in the early days.

— Helen McDonald

Source: From an interview with Ralph Brinsley by Pam Thomas for Sutherland Shire Council (13 July 1988).



## Harold Carter and the Banks Archive Project

by  
Edward Duyker

Harold Carter is the son of the Australian painter Norman Carter (1875-1963) who lectured in architecture and art history at the University of Sydney between 1903 and 1931. A graduate of the University of Sydney, he was a research scientist with the CSIRO before accepting a position with the Agricultural Research Council in the United Kingdom in 1959. He now lives in Congresbury in Avon.

Since his retirement as a research scientist, Harold Carter has achieved an international reputation as an authority on the life and work of Sir Joseph Banks. His interest in Banks developed from his work in the field of animal production and the publication of *His Majesty's Spanish Flock: Sir Joseph Banks and the Merinos of George III of England* (1964). Carter later edited Banks' sheep and wool correspondence and was commissioned by the British Museum (Natural History) to write a comprehensive account of Bank's life. With more than a quarter of a century of intensive study behind him, Carter set out to prove that Banks was no mere dilettante and that he was the central figure in British science from 1778 until his death in 1820. So great was the demand for his massive biography, published in 1988, that it is now being reprinted. He has also published the fruits of his library and archival research in the form of a companion volume *Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820): A Guide to Bibliographical Sources*.

Banks' accumulated correspondence of some 15,000 letters was dispersed by his heirs after his death and is now held in British, American, New Zealand and Australian collections. As Director of the Banks Archive Project, Carter has set himself the task of "recreating" Banks' correspondence as a coherent whole by collating transcriptions from repositories world-wide. He intends to publish them as a series of some 20 thematic volumes which he believes will be comparable in scope to the Walpole Papers. To achieve this, he is creating a "machine-readable database of texts" using computer hardware provided by the Britain-Australia Bicentenary Trust and software acquired through grants from the Royal Society of London. The project is based at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. Carter hopes the first volume to be published will be the Banks' Indo-Pacific correspondence 1768-1820 which includes letters dealing with British exploration and settlement of Australia and the Pacific.

In recent years the publication of correspondence by scholars has been criticised by librarians and archivists who would prefer to see digital storage and access of original documents in their collections through on-line facilities. Although such access is to be applauded, there is a continuing need for specialised research by historians familiar with

the handwriting, milieu, concerns and correspondents of a particular writer. When documents are dispersed, the historian has an even more crucial integrative role to play. Despite advances in electronic information retrieval and storage, printed transcriptions of correspondence, with scholarly introductions, annotations, and indexes, seem destined to have an enduring place in the reference collections of the world's great libraries.

Edward Duyker is currently working on a biography of Daniel Solander (1733-1782), Joseph Banks' companion on the Endeavour. He is also co-editing Solander's correspondence.



Edward Duyker (ed.) *The Discovery of Tasmania: Journal Extracts From the Expeditions of Abel Janszoon Tasman and Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne 1642 & 1772*, Translated by Edward, Herman & Maryse Duyker, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, pp. 106, 15 illustrations and maps, index, bibliography, ISBN 0 7246 2241 1, \$12.50 Hardback.

Over the years I have reviewed many books for the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin*. I hope my readers will forgive a little personal indulgence if I offer a short note on one of my own. The book is the fruit of a very special family project published to coincide with the 350th anniversary of Abel Tasman's historic voyage of 1642. For the first time journal extracts from the first two European voyages to Tasmania have been brought together in one volume and published by St David's Park Publishing - the imprint of the Tasmanian Government Printing Office. Some of these accounts have never before been comprehensively translated and published. This was achieved by utilising the linguistic resources of one family - my own.

From the original Dutch, my father, who was born in the Netherlands, completed a fresh translation of Abel Tasman's journal and that of the barber-surgeon Henrik Haelbos. My mother who is Mauritian-born, co-translated the journals from the 1772 French expedition of Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne with me. My parents and I also visited Tasmania together; armed with copies of original maps, we re-located the landfalls of the French and Dutch. Unlike Tasman, who never saw the Aborigines, the French brought back the first descriptions of the indigenous inhabitants of Tasmania. Sadly, they were also responsible for the first European killings of the native Tasmanians. Their journals contain very precious ethnographic information. All the original transcriptions, in Dutch and French, are also included in the volume.

Having written the first histories of the Dutch and the Mauritians in Australia, together with Marion Dufresne's biography, I felt well-placed to write the introduction, annotations and biographical notes for *The Discovery of Tasmania*. I was particularly pleased to uncover information about the lives of the earliest writers on Tasmania in archives in France, the Netherlands and Mauritius. Almost nothing was known of these men before I began work on them. Many people are unaware that Marion Dufresne's expedition reached Tasmania before the British. He was a very colourful character. Earlier in his career he had been a privateer and helped rescue Bonnie Prince Charlie after Culloden. He also served in the French East India Company and in the French Navy and made many voyages to the Indian Ocean and the Orient. He died tragically in New Zealand's Bay of Islands in 1772.

Edward Duyker

The *Discovery of Tasmania* can be ordered by ringing the Tasmanian Government Printing Office toll free on (008) 030940.

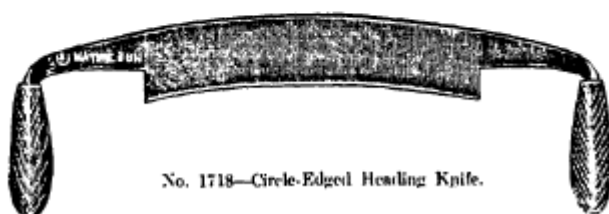
## COOPERS' TOOLS



No. R 1693—Head Plucker or Swift.



No. 1722—One-Hand Iron Shave.



No. 1718—Circle-Edged Heading Knife.



No. R 1708A—Croze Iron and Board, Strong, Plated, Liverpool Pattern.

## BREWING IN NEW SOUTH WALES - PART VI

(Stewart Roberts Collection)

### The Published Official Records

#### (a) Historical Records of New South Wales

It is rather astonishing to find from a careful examination of the official records that the name of James Squire, or Squires, does not seem to have been mentioned.

In Volume 5 of the Historical Records of New South Wales, page 196, appears a despatch of Governor King to Lord Hobart, dated August 7, 1803, advising the commencement of the construction of the Government Brewery at Parramatta and containing the following passage:-

"I have allowed a man who has always brewed on his own account to purchase a part of the hops which arrived by the "Glatton"."

This is confirmed in a further despatch to Lord Hobart, dated March 1, 1804 (page 317), but while this reference may be to Squire, the date is fourteen years after the time he is alleged to have commenced brewing.

The only early brewer mentioned in these Records is Andrew Thompson of Windsor, to whom the Government gave a plant and permit, in May 1803, to brew beer for the Hawkesbury District.

#### (b) Historical Records of Australia

Squire's name appears more frequently in these records, but, here again, there is nothing to establish definitely the date on which he commenced brewing operations. There is a reference (Volume VII, Series 1, page 113) to his purchasing four head of Government cattle in 1809, and further mention of him on pages 82, 83 and 296 of Volume 10 as applying and being recommended for a shipment of hops, freight free from England in 1819. He received it.

"The Historical Records of Australia" also refer to the sale of hops ex the "Glatton". A despatch from Governor King to Lord Hobart here is quoted as saying that 142 lbs. of hops "were bartered with a settler who has long brewed in small quantities". But, once more there is no name mentioned.

The earliest date, therefore, on which the name of Squire appeared in either of the public records of the Colony is 1809, more than twenty years after his arrival in Australia, and seventeen or eighteen years after the time when it has been claimed that he commenced brewing at Kissing Point.

#### The Official Press Records

Earlier records exist here of Squire's activities as a brewer than are vouchsafed by either of the two Governmental sources just discussed. The Sydney Gazette of July 1, 1804 contains a mention of this early settler: he intimates that he is desirous of purchasing any quantity of barley from 10 to 1,000 bushels, and asks for samples with a note of the quantity that can be delivered.

But it is the next reference that constitutes the first definite and authentic proof of James Squire's emergence as a brewer. It is an advertisement which appeared in the Sydney Gazette of December 23, 1804.

#### "NOTICE"

"James Squire of Kissing Point hereby requests particularly that all persons who have kegs, barrels and other vessels at his house may remove the same with the quantities of beer ordered when such kegs, etc. were left, during the course of tomorrow, as no business will be attended to on Christmas Day, nor will any keg or vessel coincident with the tenor hereof be after-wards accounted for, should the same by any accident whatever be mislaid or become lost".

The year 1806 saw three references in the Sydney Gazette to Squire as a grower and user of hops. The first is in the issue of January 13.

#### "HOPS AT KISSING POINT"

"A report was made to His Excellency last Monday (January 7, 1806) on the progress of the HOP at Kissing Point by J. Squire who produced an excellent specimen consisting of very fine bunches.

He has now about 200 plants polled, most of which are well in blossom and he supposes will be fit for gathering in another fortnight".

Two months later, Mr Squire was the recipient of a little more publicity. The Sydney Gazette of March 16, 1806, published the following:-

#### "FIRST HOPS GROWN IN AUSTRALIA"

"On Friday, Mr James Squire, Settler and Brewer, waited on His Excellency at Government House with two vines of hops from his own grounds.

"On a vine from last year's cutting were numbers of very fine bunches and upon a two years old cutting the clusters, mostly ripe, were innumerable, in weight supposed to yield at least a pound and a half of most exquisite flavour".

The last of the mentions for that year came a week afterwards, on March 23:-

#### "FIRST BREW OF BEER MADE FROM AUSTRALIAN HOPS"

"We understand from Mr Squire that he has made actual experiment of his hops in brewing and that their excellence far exceeds his most flattering expectations, their flavour and quality being in no single degree inferior to the best imported examples".

Further mention, during 1807 was made of this settler's activities as a grower but without shedding any additional light on the question of the actual date on which he commenced brewing.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

### A PEEK AT GWENNIE



"In a world that is full of violence and sickness and sadness and Satanism and God knows what else the best thing you can do for people is to give them a good laugh." — Gwen Plumb

GWEN PLUMB BEM — one of Australia's best-loved actresses and comediennes — has just finished the (handwritten) draft of her autobiography and I'll bet I'm not the only one who hopes it will be on the bookshelves VERY soon. To attempt any more than a few brief segments from Gwen's long and varied career — more than 60 years, in fact -- Would not be practical in this limited space, so I'll just recount a few of my favourite bits.

I love the accounts such as how Gwen and playwright and former actor, Sumner Locke Elliott would 'muck up' in Sargeant's restaurant. "You could get a pie and peas with mashed potatoes, a pot of tea and a plate of bread and butter for one and sixpence (150)," recalled Gwen. She would get Sumner to pretend he was blind — and the waitress would cut up his pie for him. These sort of incidents are legend — as are the hilarious doings with her old pal Gordon Chater, especially the 'Pussy & Charlie' stuff they did on radio during Gwen's 26 years at 2GB on her *A WOMAN'S WORLD*.

When Ruth Park's classic *HARP IN THE SOUTH* was re-screened on telly last December, it was a delight to again see Gwen Plumb's portrayal of that old harridan, Grandma Kilker -- a cantankerous Irish woman whose family stuck by her. And I think Gwen thoroughly enjoyed featuring in the story written by her friend of more than 40 years -- a story of how a family coped with poverty, and hung together with dignity in the Great Depression days in Surry Hills. Gwen commented: "You know, Granny, old as she was and pissed as she was, she was taken in because she was part of the family."

Another incidental in *HARP* was the character 'Delie Stock' -- based on Sydney's sly-grog queen KATE LEIGH — as tough a lady as you could ever meet. But when-ever Gwen made an appeal on behalf of some charity, on her radio program, the first person to respond would be Kate Leigh. "Whaddya want, Gwen?" — she would ask. Then she'd collect 'five quid' (\$10) from each of her wide circle of old friends on the local underworld scene.

Gwen's professional career started in small theatre in 1939. I first saw her on stage as 'Ida' in *SEE HOW THEY RUN* — a scream of a show with Grant Taylor, Aileen Britton, Lou Vernon ('Dr Mac'), Daphne Winslow... Her link with radio began around the same time — acting, writing, producing, announcing — serials, games shows, plays, quiz programs, etc. And I seem to recall Gwen Plumb working with playwright Gwen Meredith on the script of that long-running *BLUE HILLS* --in which she also played the romantic role of Emmy.

In 1973 Gwen was awarded the BEM for services to the community and charity; she is a life member of the Guide Dog Association, the RSPCA and the Royal New South Wales Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. Her Whale Beach home has long been an unofficial showbiz Embassy — from about the time Sir Laurence Olivier paid a visit. And the walls are adorned with paintings by Peter Finch.

The most interesting interview with Gwen that I ever heard was conducted by Margaret Throsby on 2BL a few years ago. It was published, along with 20 others in *THE THROSBY TAPES* which I am presently producing as a 'Talking Book' (for print-handicapped people) for the AUSTRALIAN LISTENING LIBRARY. And, the next time I'm surfing at Whale Beach, I'm going to challenge Gwen Plumb to a race to New Zealand and back — knowing all the time that she'd probably win.

— Will Newton



## LEADING ACTRESS — A SUTHERLAND HIGH GIRL

DINAH SHEARING started out with the intention of making a dual career as both singer and painter -- and became a LEADING ACTRESS, a star of stage, screen, television and radio. Sydney born Dinah spent several of her early years in England — and then returned to complete her schooling at Sutherland High.



Dinah studied singing at the NSW Conservatorium of Music where her vocal talents greatly impressed the Director, Dr Edgar Bainton, and the eminent conductor, Sir Eugene Goossens who put the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on the world map. This versatile lady, with the beautiful speaking voice, also studied painting at East Sydney Tech, Sydney's National Art School. Her husband, incidently, is artist Professor Rodney Milgate — these days the head of Studio Art at the University of New South Wales.

Quite early in her professional career Dinah took a small part in an amateur play at the 'Con' — and that got her hooked on theatre. Soon afterwards she was appearing in May Hollingworth's productions at the Metropolitan Theatre in Sydney — WINTERSET, TWELFTH NIGHT, HOTEL UNIVERSE, COUNTRY WIFE, THE FIRST JOANNA and then, the female lead in INVITATION TO A VOYAGE. The role of Viola in TWELFTH NIGHT Dinah was to repeat ten years later on an Australian tour with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust.

Dinah Shearing came into broadcasting in a radio play called THE MARINER with Peter Finch and Thelma Scott. I first saw Dinah, the radio personality, at the Macquarie Auditorium — a very attractive dark-haired young lady with a beautifully modulated voice, doing the Cashmere Bouquet commercials. Shortly after-wards Dinah had a role in the radio play ONE-WAY STREET ... and took out the Macquarie Award for the best female performance of the year. And I might mention also that she won the British Drama League Award not long after that

Dinah Shearing's radio credits are far too numerous to list here — serials, plays, poetry readings, documentaries — on, I think, every station in Oz. I particularly listened to DOSSIER ON DUMETRIUS just to hear Dinah in the role of Hedy Bergner. I'm not sure whether Hedy was supposed to be a goodie or a baddie, but I didn't worry about that — I was simply a devoted fan. Dinah's co-starring role in DR PAUL lasted for ten years — up till the time she and Rod decided to start their family.

### A GHOSTLY EXPERIENCE

Do you recall that incident last year when an elderly lady accidentally drove her car down the steps to Bondi Junction Railway Station? Well...a 'Police Rescue' doco is currently being made — with Dinah Shearing playing the part of the hapless lady.

During that hellishly hot first week of February, a stunt-girl (made up to look like Dinah) was filmed driving a car down the same set of steps. The rest of the filming was done at St James Station — a fairly quiet stretch of railway track these days. Dinah, with hair dyed grey and in a flowing chiffon dress, was standing in an elevated position as the Tangara sped through the station.

Dinah's dress began wafting on the breeze caused by the train, and a fellow peering out of the carriage window looked as though he had suddenly been scared out of his bloody wits by this ghostly apparition 'floating' high above the platform. He'll get another helluva shock if he sees the same 'ghost' when the doco comes to television.

Incidentally, we'll also be seeing Dinah in A COUNTRY PRACTICE — in March.

— Will Newton

## ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION OF THE GEORGES RIVER AREA

Notes compiled by Alan Fairley and Susan Duyker

### Time of occupation

Aborigines probably arrived in Australia around 50 000 B.P. (Before Present) across "land bridges" from Asia. Aboriginal people are known to have been in the Sydney area around 20 000 B.P.<sup>1</sup> We know of base camps set up in rock caves along the river dated to around 2 000 B.P.<sup>2</sup>

### Local clans and language groups

We know of two language groups which occupied the area. The Eora or coastal Dharug lived north of the river while the Dharawal lived to the south and on both sides of the upper reaches of the river. The Dharawal were a much smaller linguistic group. Within these language groups the clans we know about are:

- Bidjigal (or Bediagal) were centred on Salt Pan Creek at Bankstown. Their range extended from Georges River, Revesby, Georges Hall, Chester Hill, Chullora, Beverley Hills to Oatley.
- Kameygal were centred at Kyeemagh on the mouth of Cook's River. Their range extended along the Georges River to Oatley, Kingsgrove, Canterbury, Marrickville and Mascot.
- Norongerragal were centred at Sandy Point and Mill Creek. Their range included land south of the Georges River and west of the Woronora River.
- Gweagal were centred around a kilometre north of North Cronulla near fresh water lakes and close to Woollooware, Quibray and Weeney Bays and Cronulla Beach. Their range extended north of Port Hacking and west to Sutherland.

### Numbers

Estimates of the number of Aboriginal people in the Sydney Region in 1788 vary considerably between 600 and 8 000.<sup>3</sup> These people represented three language groups and at least 11 clans. Estimates for the number of members in a clan range from 50<sup>4</sup> to 200<sup>5</sup> members.

A year after European settlement, smallpox killed around half of that population. The Aboriginal groups which survived were systematically moved from their lands to reserves such as the one at La Perouse. Within 30 years of European settlement the clans in the Sydney area had been reduced to only three: Kissing Point; Botany Bay; and Broken Bay.

The soil of the sandstone country surrounding the lower Georges River is low in nutrients and in its ability to hold water. It is limited in terms of the quantity of flora and fauna that it can support and therefore only a small population of Aborigines could live from the land alone. The density of population has been estimated as two persons per square kilometre. In the upper reaches the land was able to support a larger

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<sup>1</sup>Turbet (1989), p9.

<sup>2</sup>Wade (1967),p35.

<sup>3</sup>Turbet (1989), p27; Hume (1989), p2.

<sup>4</sup>Turbet (1989), p19.

<sup>5</sup>Hume (1989), p2.

population but the Aborigines of the lower reaches were also able to exploit the resources of the river and coast.

### Food and Other Resources

Archaeological evidence shows that by 2 000 B.P. Georges River people were fishing with hooks and lines and with barbed fishing spears. Seafood (oysters, fish, eels) formed part of their staple diet. Meat from platypus, kangaroos, wallabies, reptiles, possums and birds; honey and birds' eggs; and plants (wild fig, yam, fern roots, heart of the cabbage tree palm, bulbs of various lilies) were eaten as well. The resources from the land were used more by the clans further inland.

By 900 B.P. Georges River people were making canoes; completely utilising the resources of the Georges River for food, shelter, tools and medicines (for example, the Xanthorrhoea); trading and meeting with other Aboriginal groups; hunting possums and sewing possum cloaks to wear in the winter months; and using the latest technology in stone tool design.

By the time Europeans came, Georges River people were part of large trade networks stretching from the Georges River, over the Blue Mountains and up and down the eastern coast of Australia as far as Victoria in the south and past Newcastle in the north. They traded baskets, spears, boomerangs, axes and special stone that was used to make knives, spear points and chisels. Songs were also traded with other peoples.

### Caves and Middens

Aboriginal people chose rock shelters in the bays and inlets of the river to live in. The shelters were usually at least 8 metres from the shore. At night the caves or overhangs were closed off from the elements by boughs and bark. The remains of shellfish and other animals eaten were discarded nearby creating large heaps called middens.

Such sites along the river have been examined by archaeologists. They typically contain the remains of stone tools, hearths, oyster and other shells, fish bones, fishing hooks, animal bones and stone axes. Tools for grinding plant foods have been found at some sites. The large numbers of oyster shells found in middens suggests that the Aborigines used this resource extensively. Middens are usually found at the edges of rock shelters or along the shores. As they are sometimes up to 2 metres deep, Aboriginal people must have relied on this resource for a long time. Larger oyster shells are found in the older layers while in more recent layers smaller shells are found. Archaeologists think that the larger species may have died out due to over exploitation.

In the lower reaches, middens can be found under overhangs in Little Moon and Great Moon Bays in Alfords Point and Illawong; in north facing sites in Sylvania; Oatley Point; on Connell's Bay, off Connell's Point Road, Connells Point; and Lime Kiln Bay, Lugarno. One of the largest middens is in Jewfish Bay, just inside Oatley Park, off Douglas Haig Street, near the water. (N.B. These sites are protected by law and must not be disturbed)

### Engravings and drawings

Examples of engravings and drawings on the lower reaches of the river have been described but are no longer visible.

The upper catchment of the Georges River is especially rich in Aboriginal rock paintings and engravings. O'Hares, Stokes and Deadmans Creeks have remained relatively undisturbed; public access is restricted because the area is either Military

cont' d

Reserve or Water Board Catchment. Therefore cave and flat rock sites have been protected.

Paintings include outlines of hands, yellow ochre kangaroos and other figures. There are numerous charcoal sketches of emus, kangaroos and amorphous figures. Rubbing grooves are common beside the water holes where tools were sharpened using the water as lubricant. Scattered throughout the upper catchment are extensive areas of flat sandstone rock which were the focus of Aboriginal ceremonies and contain engravings, usually of animals or spirit-figures.

By 1790, Georges River people were drawing strange new animals like sheep and bulls in their paintings and engravings.

#### Present day Aborigines

Local Aboriginal organisations such as the La Perouse Land Council now represent the modern Aboriginal population of the area for whom Aboriginal culture is still a significant part of their lives.

Kirinari Aboriginal Hostel, Sylvania, opened in the 1960s.

Growing awareness of Aboriginal presence is evidenced by, for example, the mural at Chipping Norton Public School representing an eel and Gynea lilies. (see photo).

#### Further Material

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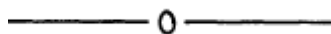
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#### FINCHIE AND CHARLIE

The office of ABC boss, Sir Charles Moses, had two entrances. Often the 'big chief' would go in through the front door and then go out again via the back entrance — and half the time nobody was sure whether he was in or out.

PETER FINCH, that wonderfully versatile actor, had a decidedly mad streak in him. Taking his life in his hands, Finchie would sometimes play a type of 'Russian roulette' by flinging open one of the great man's doors, seemingly on impulse, and yelling: "Moses is a bastard."

### EXCURSION REPORT

On Saturday February 20, 1993 we shall be having an excursion with a difference to our usual days out; and by co-incidence the guide will be Captain S.J. "Mick" Costello whom we were pleased to welcome as a guest speaker some years ago.

By the time this Bulletin arrives it may be too late for the tour, but in case not and you have not already booked with Mrs. McGrath details are: leaving Cronulla 8:30 am, Sutherland 9 a.m., Cost, including two course luncheon, \$22.00 members and \$25.00 visitors. Take your morning tea as usual.

We meet the guide at Circular Quay at 10 a.m. If you wish to travel there direct instead of any of our Coach Stops; please let Mrs. McGrath or myself know. Then, be at No. 2 Wharf Circular Quay by 9.45 a.m.

On May 29, 1993 we will be visiting the Mittagong/Bowral Area; At this time I cannot confirm the price, but will have full details ready for opening of bookings at the February Meeting.

Information regarding Tours from Mrs. Betty McGrath, 521-2227, 141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus, or myself at 523-5801.

A -request has come from the Booking-Officer and Hon. Treasurer that as far as possible arrangements for the tours be made prior to the commencement of the meeting ; this allows them

to check their monies and prepare the lists during the meeting: otherwise they need to re-open their records and almost begin over again, whilst you are mingling with friends and having that "Cuppa". Any excursion business will be attended to from 7.15 p.m.

*Allen Lippich*



**Laugh with  
"MRS. 'OBBS'"**

Brought to you every  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday by the makers of  
**BONNINGTON'S IRISH MOSS.**



### BBC PROTOCOL

Most radio stations throughout the world are bound by strict guidelines. When Frank Muir and Denis Norden (of TAKE IT FROM HERE fame) joined the BBC they were required to read 'the little green book' which, among other things, specifically banned reference to the Deity, the Royal Family, physical infirmities, colour or race and homosexuality.

After pondering it, Muir said to his partner: "You know, when we LEAVE the BBC we should write a script beginning with 'My Cod'." cried the Queen, 'that one-legged nigger is a poof!"



## GEORGE HEAVENS TURNS BACK THE CLOCK...

EXTRACTS FROM OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER, THE S.C.A.M.

### UNEMPLOYED RELIEF WORKS

(24 February, 1934)

Councillor C.O.J. Monro, M.L.A., whose activities in connection with general relief are well known, arranged with the Officer in Charge from the Labour and Industry Department to meet the Shire President and Clerk last Wednesday to inspect all the proposals put forward by the Council. There is every possibility of relief works commencing shortly.

NOTE: The 'Great Depression' started in June 1929. The "powers" are thinking of some work for the unemployed FIVE YEARS LATER. - G.H.

### AMAZING NEW FIDELITY IN "TALKIE" REPRODUCTION

(24 February, 1934)

During the last year and as the result of extensive patient research and experiment, it has been found that sound films can be recorded so that they will reproduce in an incredibly life-like manner, and now manufacturers of theatre sound equipment are announcing their new equipment which are capable of accurately reproducing the new extended frequency range films. We are advised by the management of the new Miranda Talkies that within two weeks their entire plant will be replaced by this, the newest sound and projection equipment. Miranda folk are supporting this new enterprise generously, and in return the management are leaving nothing undone that will provide for first-class presentation.

### BOXING AND WRESTLING

(10 November, 1934)

On Wednesday evening, 14th November, there will be another boxing and wrestling night at Boyle's Hall. Matchmaker Perc. O'Brien has promised us a special treat for the night, and when this gentleman gets on the job, there are sure to be plenty of thrills. The main boxing attractions will be between that popular lad Reg Gillham, and Jack Eason, for the Heavyweight Championship of Sutherland Shire. And a special bout between that great little fighting machine, Tom Dawson, and R. Clifton. There will be six more supporting bouts for four rounds each, and last, but not least, a challenge wrestling match between Cave Man Ron Brown and an unknown boy that Mr O'Brien engaged as a special treat. He informs us that this lad is just as much a cave man as Brown is, so we are in for something good. All boxers and wrestlers are requested to report to the matchmaker for examination at 7.30, as this will be a big night, and no time can be wasted. The prices are 2/- ringside and 1/- other seats. See advt. this issue, and don't forget the date, Wednesday, 14th November.

### PORT HACKING POWER BOAT CLUB

(19 September, 1942)

Some interesting events have been arranged to take place over the Lilli Pilli course on the following dates:-

Saturday, February 24th, Monro Trophy; Saturday, 10th March, Boore Cup; and on Saturday, 17th March, the Outboard Championship of N.S.W. will be held. This important event includes "B" Class Outboard Championship of N.S.W., "C" Class Outboard Championship of N.S.W., and the Unlimited Championship of N.S.W. (Macfarlane Cup).

GEORGE HEAVENS TURNS BACK THE CLOCK...(cont'd)

DEATH OF GUNNER J.S. SHOVELLER

(19 September, 1942)

The official news of the death of Gunner (Jack) Shoveller, of Sutherland, was a sad surprise, although he was previously posted missing. Jack died of wounds whilst on "Active Service" in the Middle East. I feel sure his many friends throughout the Shire will join with me in extending their sincere sympathy to his dear Mother, Father and Family, also his fiancée, Miss A. Hughes. May these words of comfort be remembered by his family, as Jack will always be \*remembered by me: "No greater love hath a man than this, that he layeth down his life for his country".—  
Gunner KEN FINLAYSON

NOTE: The Shoveller boys were tough guys - fight was their second nature, but they were loved in Sutherland for all that. Jack was a top bloke - full of life. They lived in Cook Street, Sutherland.  
- G.H.

RAZZLE DAZZLE NIGHT AT CARINGBAH

(19 September, 1942)

On Monday last, Caringbah Hall was a scene of great gaiety. The hall was beautifully decorated, and the stage effects were very unusual, and the remarks overheard were the nicest yet. The modern dances proved very popular, and from week to week a new dance will be demonstrated. Lucky numbers and mystery dances all helped to make the night a razzle dazzle. Although such a bad night quite a good number turned out and I don't think they regretted it. Now roll up on Monday next and learn the new dances.

"BOOMERANG" SOCIAL CLUB

(19 September, 1942)

A Select Dance (Modern, Old Time, Jazz) will be held in Caringbah Hall on Thursday, March 1st, at 8 p.m. Reg. Rein's Palais Strand Orchestra. Good prizes. Roll up and have a good time.



TESTIMONIAL

For years I suffered from chronic constipation, but since Bill Collins returned to television I no longer have that problem.

— (Lady) Alicia Piddlecombe

## FIRES IN THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE

ANDREW HANLEY'S REMINISCENCES of watching, as a child, a fire at the tile works (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin No. 81) recalls a number of fires in the Sutherland Shire during the 'twenties. I suspect Mr Hanley refers to Delaney's Tile Works on the Princes Highway, towards Kirrawee, which were largely destroyed on Friday night, 24 March, 1928. As the fire originated in a disused shed, there was some suspicion of arson at the time. Stocks of tiles were destroyed, and several employees temporarily thrown out of work.

In 1929, Brinsley's Joinery in Toronto Parade, Sutherland was destroyed by fire. A number of photographs of the ruins have been reproduced.

About dawn, on a cool Thursday, 5 March 1929, fire destroyed Mrs Whitfield's boarding house in Curranulla Street, Cronulla. The large weatherboard building caught fire while the occupants, including Mrs Gertrude Whitfield, were asleep, and several narrowly escaped being trapped. Personal possessions were saved, but the building was reduced to rubble.

Earlier, on 21 February 1927, a fine cool Monday, a fire at Bardsley's Motor Garage in Ewos Parade, Cronulla, destroyed five buses, a quantity of tools and the building. Flames were noticed by a mechanic working under one of the buses, and the staff of four, with foreman Mr L.A. Stebbing, used chemical extinguishers before the fire reached a petrol tank. As Cronulla had no fire brigade, and water was not reticulated to Ewos Parade in 1927, little then could be done. Loss of the large brick building, owned by Albert Russell, licensee of the Caledonian Hotel at Tamworth, was only partly covered by insurance.

- Rhys Pidgeon

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### "OLD GRAVEL-VOICE"

When one thinks of 2KY one automatically thinks of JOHN HARPER — and vice-versa. For 28 years 'Old Gravel-voice' dominated the airwaves from 2KY and was sacked (and reinstated) at least 20 times. One of the legends of radio, JOHN HARPER was probably the most unconventional announcer of all time. He was clearly 'under the weather' for much of his time on air — but his legion of fans adored him.

He was also known as 'Uncle John' -- which is why John Dunne, then the big name on 2SM, became 'Uncle Tom' for his popular show UNCLE TOM'S GANG. JOHN HARPER absolutely detested the American singing group, the Andrews Sisters, and reputedly broke every one of their recordings that came within his reach. I don't know how the station management copped that. He also hated the 'blue-rinse set' from Bellevue Hill and Vaucluse — and frequently stated that he was on the side of the battler.

Although his voice in later years was likened to 'a shovelful of gravel being rolled around a kerosene tin' John, in his younger days, was a fine baritone. He had an early career in vaudeville and in straight theatre but always claimed to have been the worst actor ever to set foot on stage. He came into radio when Goodie Reeve offered him a part in a sketch on 2GB with herself and Eric Colman (brother of Ronald). He later recalled: "My acting was as crook as ever, but somehow my voice came over all right."

A E Bennett promptly offered John Harper a permanent job with 2GB — he was eventually to be on air mornings, afternoons and evenings for seven days a week. After a year he went over to 2KY where he became the longest serving announcer on any Australian radio station. For most listeners you either loved JOHN HARPER or you hated him — there was no In-between.

Will Newton

## "...A GRACE GIBSON RADIO PRODUCTION"

Following the early successes of actor-producer GEORGE EDWARDS' broadcasts in the 30s -- Ghost Train, Inspector Scott of Scotland Yard, Dad & Dave, etc -- a girl from El Paso, Texas, arrived in Sydney (on loan to 2GB) and quickly established her credentials. GRACE GIBSON was destined to become one of the most influential people in Australian radio.

Gracie had learned her craft in Hollywood working for one of the first companies to transcribe plays, serials and talks for broadcasting. She soon became a leading authority on radio production and, after a short stint in Oz, went back to the US where she became Managing Director of the company she had originally worked for.

Among the early shows Grace brought to Australia were The Honourable Archie (more about that below), Chandu The Magician, The Air Adventures Of Jimmy Allen, Pinto Pete & His Ranch Boys. The latter went to air on 3KZ on Tuesday nights and was eventually replaced by Smoky Dawson's Pepsodent Rangers — the first Australian country and western group to replace a transcribed overseas show on commercial radio. Norman Banks, who introduced it, assured listeners that it was NOT an American production. It was interesting to note that the 'Honourable Archie' had a Japanese manservant who, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, conveniently became either a Filipino or an Hawaiian — I've forgotten which.

In 1944 Grace Gibson returned to Oz and, after her marriage to Ron Parr, set up GRACE GIBSON RADIO PRODUCTIONS. The company operated from a small office in Bligh Street, Sydney, initially. Gracie liked her shows to open with a BANG — and word soon got around that the way to get your script accepted was to make sure that it started off with lots of lively dialogue. Possibly that's why her productions were so successful. Reg Johnston (of YOUTH SHOW fame) and John Saul ('The Dark Stranger') were both Producers for GRACE GIBSON, another reason for their success. Grace's role was strictly managerial.

REG JAMES joined Grace's staff as a sixteen-year-old and learned the business well — because he worked his way up to become General Manager. And today he is still one of the most respected people in the industry. These days the REG JAMES RADIO organisation operates from its Brookvale premises ... and, thanks to Reg James, we have (on loan) for our Heritage Week exhibition: (a) three transcription recordings (a 10-inch, a 12-inch and a 16-inch); (b) vintage radio promotional brochures; (c) a selection of excerpts from serials, plays, etc (for our Vintage Radio Documentary).

— Will Newton



I never judge at Baby Shows — you pick one baby and seventy-nine mothers hate you.

— Gwen Plumb



### AUSTIN PLATT - MASTER ETCHER

If AUSTIN PLATT invites a lady to "come and see etchings" he does not have the proverbial ulterior motive (as far as I am aware, that is). The home of Austin and his wife Nancy is like an Art Gallery — most of the walls are covered with the most wonderful collection of etchings, pen drawings, water-colours, etc that I have ever seen. And I have seen plenty.

Austin Platt was born in Perth and is a long-time friend and protégé of the eminent Cedric Emanuel. He studied art at East Sydney Technical College, the Royal Art Society and Sydney Art School in company with such distinguished artists as Sydney Long and Dattilo Rubbo.

For many years a leading commercial illustrator, Austin has also produced a huge collection of beautiful etchings of buildings all around Australia. There is also a magnificent collection of studies to commemorate the histories of our Centennial Park and Botanic Gardens. The Centennial Park series has a special significance for me — the lakes, the wildlife, the shrubbery, the trees and especially those beautiful sandstone entrances to the park. I used to play in 'Centenn' as a kid — and Austin was working on this series when I first met him in 1978.

During my first years at school — Bellevue Hill Public — in the early 30s I had a special friend named MYRA Platt, a nice little girl with a warm and friendly smile. I suppose you could say she was my first girl-friend. Half a century later I learned that Myra was Austin Platt's kid sister. What an incredibly small world we live in.

### WAL HUNT — assistant to 2SM's John Dunne

Whenever I need to find out something about radio — in fact, ANYTHING about radio — I can always rely on no long-standing friend WAL HUNT to provide the answer. Wal has the most extensive knowledge of just about every aspect imaginable — and how he manages to keep up with all I guess I'll never know.

Wal, who now lives on the Central Coast with his wife Val, worked for 2SM in that station's heyday and had the distinction of being John Dunne's assistant. One of radio's immortals, John took a special interest in young Wal and would often get him to read some of the 'commercials' — much to the encouragement of the studio audiences.



Whenever singer/yodeller Lily Connors was on the scene — for productions like BONNINGTON'S BUNKHOUSE -- amorous blokes would materialise out of no-where. Wal was often assigned the guardian role of "keeping an eye" on the delectable Lily. I seem to recall some unsuccessful candidate for the job saying: "Yeah, but who's going to keep an eye on Wal?"

The portrait of John Dunne on this page is from an etching made in 1945 by AUSTIN PLATT as part of a fund-raising campaign to send ballerina Kathleen Gorham overseas to further her studies. Prints from the etching were sold for 'five bob' (500) per copy — and John Dunne was delighted with both the portrait and the results of the fund-raising. It was, incidentally, the one-and-only John Dunne who put 2SM on the map right at the outset — he did the opening broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1931. And it was he who described to the world at large the shenanigans of that prize buffoon 'Captain' De Groot when he galloped up and tried to steal the limelight from Premier Jack Lang at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932.

— Will Newton



## Reflections on the Flag by

Edward Duyker

In the November 1992 issue of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, Will Newton quoted several Australians passionately attached to the present Australian flag and opposed to any suggestion that it should be changed. A common theme in these quotations, and in Will's own summation, was a belief in homogeneous ethnic origins. Maj.-Gen. Eather tells us "It signifies where we sprang from and why we exist today". Will tells us he is "not ashamed of the fact that we came here originally from Britain." Like Will, I have British ancestors. Some arrived in South Australia from Cornwall in 1849 and now lie buried near Bendigo. But I also have Dutch and French ancestors. Like most Australians I do not have homogeneous ethnic origins.

Every nation has its historical myths. One of the most persistent in Australia is that prior to post-war immigration this country was British. In 1954 the Australian Encyclopaedia declared that only 6% of the Australian population was non-British-born. Aside from the hundreds of thousands of Irish under the dubious title of "British" and the hundreds of indigenous Aboriginal tribes, such statistics conveniently ignore the waves (and the small groups) of immigrants who came here from all over the world and were absorbed into the population during decades of colonisation. Most Australians are unaware that in the First Fleet of 1788 there were a dozen different ethnic groups represented among the convicts, sailors and soldiers who established the first European colony in Australia. The convicts even included black West Indians. My own research has shown that between 1817 and 1851 some 200 convicts (many of whom were slaves) were transported from Mauritius to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. When I researched the history of the Dutch in Australia, I also found Dutch convicts and even a Dutchman who was brought to trial after the heroic (flag-changing!) Eureka rebellion. It is a sobering thought that at Federation, of a population of just over 4 million peoples, 174,000 did not come from Britain or Ireland. Aborigines, of course, were not even counted in the census!

I have no doubt of Will's commitment to Australia or the emotional attachment that he, Maj.-Gen. Eather or John Vaughan have for the present flag. I love the Southern Cross too. Much is made of the notion of fighting for or under a flag. In my years in military intelligence I did not feel I was serving a flag rather than a nation. The present flag does contain a symbolic representation of the ethnic origins of part of our population, but the disquiet which surrounds it is indicative of its failure as a symbol of national unity and identity. The period it has flown in this great continent is a mere bleep on the radar screen of time. It does nothing to address the alienation of the indigenous inhabitants whose land was stolen by those who first raised the precursor of the Union Jack here. It is time to make a new beginning as we approach the centenary of Federation and celebrate the birth of a nation which for 66 years denied citizenship to the first Australians. The call to change the flag is not a new one. Few would challenge the patriotism of Henry Lawson, Lloyd Rees or Sir James Hardy. Regardless of Australia's inevitable march to national maturity with its own resident head of state, we will continue to have a special relationship with Britain because of language and shared heritage. Those who doubt this should reflect on the strong ties which continue to exist between the United States and Britain. At the same time they should reflect on the changes in Britain itself. I have visited Britain six times in the past fifteen years and need no convincing that the British are building a new future with the European Community, on their own terms, and have radically altered the way they perceive Australian citizenship and their obligations to Australian passport holders. Australians are not antipodean Britons.

### **EDITOR'S COMMENT.**

Dr Duyker raises some interesting points in respect of our flag — but he may have misinterpreted the sentiments of a lot of people including ME. I don't see it as serving a mere piece of cloth — to me that flag SYMBOLISES the country I love. And that is my simple philosophy.

I don't imagine too many Australians would agree with the view that OUR flag has been a 'failure as a symbol' (of national unity and identity). I think Ed and I will have to agree to disagree on this one.

-- Will Newton

## THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN — PART III

A Story of Sydney Airport

(Ada Cutbush Collection)

FROM "ADA'S DIARY" —

(Extract from letter) EARLY AUSTRALIAN AVIATION: During the 1920s several pioneer aviators presented their logs, letters and papers to the National Library. They included Australians: Bert Hinkler, Arthur Afflick, Guy Menzies, Gordon Taylor — and Englishmen: Alan Cobham and Francis Chichester.

In later years the Library was fortunate in acquiring the extensive Aviation Collection assembled by E A Crone and Norman Ellison.

Of special interest is the log kept by Bert Hinkler on his solo flight from England to Australia in February 1928. The journey from Landon to Darwin took 15½ days, lowering the existing record of 28 days.

As a personal friend and great admirer, I feel that it is a tragedy that the great Smithy had not lived to witness the amazing development aviation had undergone since his earlier pioneering flights, which he as leader had to courageously undertake, and by doing so has brought Australia into such prominence. It was my privilege to welcome him at the aerodrome now bearing his name. I made the first flight in a 504 K Avro in 1920 at which was, in fact, our own aerodrome for three years until 1923.

— Nigel Love

NOTE. The 'Southern Cross' was a Fokker monoplane — FV 113-3 M

SPECIAL NOTE.

BERT 'Lone Eagle' HINKLER was awarded the Britannia Trophy, by the Royal Aero Club, following his record breaking flight in 1928 which, incidentally, was the solo flight from Britain to Oz. In 1931 the 'boy from Bundaberg' crossed the Atlantic from west to east in extremely bad weather. In 1933 he attempted to set a new record from Britain to Australia — but was killed when his plane crashed into a fog-shrouded mountain in Italy.

A new book THE LAST FLIGHT OF BERT HINKLER by Brisbane aviation historian, Ted Wixted (released last December) makes the claim that Bert Hinkler died because his plane was sabotaged in a plot involving a woman with whom he had had a liaison. The author claims a London lawyer and another aviator had earlier tried to kill Hinkler by sabotaging his plane. According to the book the cause of the crash was the loss of one propeller blade which had been tampered with.

That story broke only days before the centenary of Hinkler's birth on 8 December 1892 and almost 60 years after his death. The flyer was just 40 years old when he took off from the Great West Aerodrome in London, where Heathrow Airport now stands, on that ill-fated flight. Mr Wixted said that he tried for 15 years to get Scotland Yard and the Queensland Government to hold an Inquiry into the matter -- but without success. The three plotters are now dead, but it was while they were still living that the author had urged the authorities to take some action.



TO BE CONTINUED...

The following was written by my father, Reg. N. Dallimore for the "Shire Pictorial" - issues of 20th and 27th August, 1959. I am pleased and proud to contribute this to the Bulletin in my father's name. He was, as mentioned by George Heavens in a recent issue of the Bulletin, one of the original men in 1965 who discussed an Historical Society. Unfortunately that was the year he passed away. I became a Foundation Member, because I always said I wanted to join for Dad. He taught me to love history.

Elva Carmichael.

### ALBERT NAMITJIRA.

Some little know facts about the man.

The passing of Albert Namitjira has left a gap not only in the world of art but also in the hearts of the many who knew him personally. He was a wonderful man.

When in 1952 I was in Alice Springs, partly to make the journey to Ayer's Rock, I took the opportunity of going out to the Lutheran Mission at Hermannsburg, 83 miles west of "The Alice" and the birthplace of Albert, and meeting him.

I wanted to know first hand, more of the man whose life had been confused by the Daily Newspapers' glamorising of him as well as the conferring of 'full citizenship' upon him.

At the Mission I was received by Pastor Grose with all the kindness one would expect from such people and he entertained me for five hours by showing me all that I desired to see and telling me the story of Albert's life up to that time.

I met Albert's wife, Rubina, of whom we hear so little, as well as his father, Johathan.

Albert's background was severely affected by the newspapers that treated him like a movie celebrity. Their magical illusion eventually revealed itself as a harmful element in his life.

His father, Namitjira and mother, Jukuta, connected with the Aranda tribe, received their schooling at the Mission and eventually, of their own free will, became baptised into the Christian Faith.

They then became known as Johathan and Emily. Their union produced two sons, Albert and Herman, the latter dying in early manhood.

Albert was mainly educated in the Aranda language but was not brilliant yet he acquired a knowledge of English sufficient to do things such as running a banking account and the like.

He recognised responsibility and persevered longer with the work in hand than other natives would do.

It was his knowledge of his ability to do better than the average that caused him to join the dissatisfaction of other natives and demand wages for the work done at the Mission.

At nineteen he married Elkalita, the only daughter of Wappiti and Membata of the Loritja tribe. He did this in the native fashion and went bush for the marriage and honeymoon.

The Mission people say that marriage developed within him new phase of life that was very noticeable.

The custom of the natives at the Mission of working for a time and then going 'Walkabout' did not attract Albert at that time, he preferring continuous work.

He went to Oodnadatta as camel man to an Afghan to earn money which he found helpful in rearing his six children.

Albert responded to the teaching of the Mission to do the right thing at all times and certainly this moulded his life basically, until his death. Nevertheless, he was still the loud advocate for a larger remuneration for this work.

The Mission people saw an opportunity of meeting this demand by training the natives in making articles in Mulga wood decorated with poker work. Compared with the work of his fellows, Albert's was outstanding and in keeping with his usual approach to performing tasks thoroughly.

He lost no opportunity to express himself through this work in an artistic way and it was when he became well established in this work that his industry attracted Rex Battarbee, the man who nurtured him in his art.

The poker work had showed Albert the way to economic independence, but he did not intend to stop there.

Battarbee truly led him along the way of his art and his response made it difficult to understand how a full-blooded Aboriginal could so successfully apply himself to creative work that had as its main purpose, economic independence. One explanation of this may have been the man's confidence in his own ability.

An important thing to know is that Albert's industry and success became a headache to the Mission authorities for his economic freedom was not only recognised by his Aboriginal brothers, but they developed a strong desire for the same advantages.

The Mission people met this difficulty fairly well, but the influence of Albert's wealth and his readiness to spend every penny he earned kept their heads aching.

Notwithstanding his large income (and I was informed that for 1950 his was more than, 5,000) it often happened that he was insolvent until rehabilitated by another exhibition.

Until given the White man's 'Citizen's Right's, Albert was neither drinker nor gambler.

A special Committee was set up at the Mission, not only to advise him but to more or less control his monetary outgoings and an arrangement was reached, with his acquiescence, by which he was paid liberal amounts weekly for all purposes. As a safeguard, his cheques required to be counter-signed.

Yet although Albert was a man of foresight and industry, like all Aboriginals he was unable to appreciate the safeguards being taken on his behalf. Doubtless this sprung from the inherent nomadic life of the

Australian Aboriginal, and we must not overlook the fact that he was but one generation removed from the real bushlike where his ancestors roomed without and worldly possessions whatsoever.

He remained essentially and intentionally an Aboriginal and was a proud man. And this contrasts sharply with the fact that contact with Whites for 150 years has not developed any pride in being an Aboriginal - shame on us who abused them and shot them down like animals.

Yet his pride was not for 'show' for he seldom shaved, washed when he felt like it and his clothes were anything but what one would expect on a famous and wealthy artist.

In the late 40's he attempted to become a Station-owner but his selection of land that proved to be almost waterless, brought failure to the project. His money was refunded by the Government and the title cancelled. His plan here, he said, was to make provision for his family's future, but those better able to judge say that Albert wanted to be in line with other landowners.

The tribal law of share and share alike would often reveal itself in his taking his truck loaded with men from the Mission to Alice Springs where they would enjoy his lavish hospitality. This disrupted the work at the Mission where the natives were required to work for their living as well as having a bad effect on the men in their meeting with undesirables in Alice Springs.

And I might point out here that the Mission has 2,700 square miles of country for grazing cattle as its sustenance. Associated with this is a tannery and an industry of making leather goods of all kinds - such as saddles, boots etc.

At the Mission there are about twelve natives who make a living from art, including two women, and often these showed dissatisfaction in not receiving the same prices for their work as Albert did. The City newspapers had not glamorised them. I was assured that at least one man and one woman produced work equal to that of Albert's.

Christianity certainly moulded the man in his best character. I was told that he had a good knowledge of Christian Truth gleaned from his Bible and was guided by it. And although his own men have at times ridiculed his prayers, he always reminded them that that was the way of his upbringing. He always demonstrated how Christian Faith was the background for his life and work.

Albert Namitjira, largely through his skill and determination became a great talent rare in the Aboriginal. Nevertheless he remained a restless nomad and 'walkabout' was an essential part of his life.

Someone's patronage conceived the idea of conferring upon his 'full citizenship' - it proved the tragedy of his life.

I believe that inherent in any Aboriginal is his tribal obligations to share and share alike and what more could we expect than the tragedy of 'enforced confinement, tantamount to goal, when we gave the right to buy and imbibe strong drink without considering the possibility of his sharing it with his Fellows with the resultant disgrace that must truly have hastened his death.

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

## NOTICE OF THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1993

NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc will be held on Friday 12 March 1993 in the Council Chambers (2nd floor) Eton Street, Sutherland at 7:45pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting
3. Submission for Adoption of Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1992
4. Honoraria
5. Election of Officers for 1993
6. General Business

## POSITIONS TO FILL

## 1992 COMMITTEE

## PRESIDENT

Mrs A Griffiths

Deputy President

Mr D Archer

Vice Presidents

Mr A Platfoot

Hon Secretary

Mr J Cutbush

Hon Treasurer

Mrs M Blackley

Hon Research Officer

Mr A .Hamilton

Hon Archivist

Miss H McDonald

Hon Editor

Miss D Oliver (represented  
by Miss H McDonald)

Hon Publicity Officer

Mr W Newton (Acting)

Executive Committee Members

Mr H Ivers

Mr R Clark (to February '92)

Mrs A Cutbush

Mr K Knight

Mr A. McGrath

Mrs E Melbourne (to September '92)

Mr S Roberta

Mr W Newton

Hon Auditor

Mr K Greentree

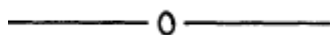
Hon Solicitor

Mr M Solari

### SUB-COMMITTEES

Listed below are the 1992 members of sub-committees, representatives on local committees and those with special duties.

PUBLICATIONS	Mr W Newton (Convener) Mr H Ivers Mr D Archer Mr J Cutbush Mrs A Ivers Mrs J Platfoot Mr A Platfoot
EXHIBITIONS	Mr D Archer (Convener) Mrs A Cutbush Mrs A Griffiths Mrs A Ivers Mr H Ivers Mrs E McGrath Mr A McGrath Mrs J Platfoot
MUSEUM	Mr H Ivers (Convener) Mrs A Ivers Mr D Archer Mrs A Cutbush Mr J Cutbush Mrs J Platfoot Mr A Platfoot
EXCURSIONS	Mrs A Griffiths (Convener) Mrs J Barrett Mr D Archer Mrs E McGrath Mr K Knight Mr S Roberts
HERITAGE REGISTER (Steering C'tee)	Mrs A Griffiths ) To Council Mr B Watt       ) Mrs A Cutbush Mr J Cutbush Mrs M Blackley Mr W Newton Mr A Platfoot
SCHOOL OF ARTS MANAGEMENT	Mr A Platfoot Mrs J Platfoot
PUBLIC ADDRESS, LIGHTS (at meetings)	Mr K Knight



### EXPERT FIDDLING...

The great scientist ALBERT EINSTEIN loved to play his violin — but he was not a very good violinist. His friend FRITZ KREISLER — arguably the world's greatest violinist — told Einstein that he didn't play well because he couldn't count properly.

## SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Historically, 1992 started well. Celebrations at Cronulla included a 'free breakfast on the beach' a sand modelling competition and entertainment by musical artists. A photographic exhibition was arranged by this society at the North Cronulla Surf Club. Interest shown in this historical display was keen and we have been asked to do a similar exhibition this year.

The Holt family, early residents of Sutherland were remembered this year when the society was given relics from very early days. These included a prayer book and bible which were faithfully restored by Mr. Bickenstaff. We were also offered an organ brought to Australia for the first Mrs. Holt. We had high hopes that this instrument could be returned to its original state and put on display. However, despite the society's willingness to have this work done it finally proved impractical as it was made clear to us the organ would have to have permanent housing and be played regularly. This we could not guarantee so we settled for having the organ polished and put on show at the museum.

With a 'one off' cultural grant from council we were able to have very important photographs restored, purchase a daylight screen for showing slides at daytime meetings and a banner to advertise displays.

Hurstville Historical society celebrated their 25th anniversary with a luncheon at Hurstville and our society was represented by the secretary and president.

Many items of historical interest were presented to the society this year. They included a fireplace and Aga stove, a block and tackle and a very ancient hand-made patchwork quilt.

A clock was discovered which graced the walls of the first Sutherland council. Our auditor Mr. K. Greentree restored and polished the woodwork and got it back on 'striking' terms. It is on display in the museum.

We were invited to take part in the Royal National Park's celebration of "25 Years of the park coming under the National Park and Wild Life Services" Mr. A. McGrath and Mrs. Griffiths showed slides of the area. These were taken from very old photographs and proved very interesting to visitors and park rangers who made interesting contributions and expanded the history of this area.

It was a good year, meetings were well attended and members listened to some excellent speakers including:

January	Members night . R. Tickner's address Mr. D. Archer and Mr. K. Knight
February	Councillor Ian Swords - Napoleonic Wars
March	Annual meeting - election of officers
April	Miss Helen Zerefos
May	Mr. Noel Thorpe - Historian Sydney Waterboard
June	Mrs. Sandra Fenton - History of Dolls.
July	Mr. Bollins - Claud Marquet, Kurnell artist
August	Mr. Doug Perry - Antarctica
September	Mr. Williams - Theatre organs
October	Johnnie Wade OAM - Entertainer
November	Mr. R. Booth - Trains
December	Mr. J. Russell - Cartoonist.

*Margaret Blackley.*

Hon. Secretary.



## PUBLICATIONS ANNUAL REPORT

THE SOCIETY has had some promotion in a number of additional areas where the BULLETIN has circulated in the past year. Bankstown Historical Society has approached us re exchanging journals each quarter and two other historical societies are likely to make a similar approach.

A number of well-known professionals have made pleasing comments about our journal — John Tingle, Leo Schofield, Gwen Plumb, Brian Bury, Dinah Shearing, Smoky Dawson, Helen Zerefos, Johnny Wade, John West, Colleen Clifford ... These are all people whom, I've no doubt, would give us a good plug in the media -- particularly for our Heritage Week exhibition. Others, not so such in the public eye these days, include Betty Goodger (former Field Librarian for the Mitchell Library), Jane Glad (Norman Lindsay's daughter), Nancy Wake (war heroine), Ken G Hall (veteran film maker) and a few others.

Organisations which have indicated an interest in what we are doing include National Film & Sound Archives (Sydney branch), College of AVL (Uni of NSW), Reg James Radio (formerly Grace Gibson Radio Productions), A/asian Sound Recording Association, Sony Music Australia, Phonograph Society of NSW, Australian Music & Record Review... and I'm sure there are a couple more.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Bulletin from members have been excellent. We've had a lot of fine articles from people like Ralph Clark, George Heavens, Edward and Susan Duyker, Merle Kavanagh, Rhys Pidgeon, Elva Carmichael, Helen McDonald, Ian Swords, Joan Hatton, Andrew Hanley, Betty McGrath ... and I know that I have missed a few. It is most gratifying to know that contributions are now coming in regularly — and the quality and variety make for a such better publication, no doubt why we are attracting the wider interest.

The year also saw the (for me) sad passing of several Australian showbiz personalities: Joy Nichols, Hal Lashwood, Patti Crocker, Willie Fennell --all personal friends or acquaintances — and Wilfrid Thomas, whom I'd never met (his widow, Bettie Dickson, is alive and well I'm told).

— Will Newton

## RADIO GAFF BECAME BAR-ROOM LEGEND...



PETER FINCH, early in his radio career did a stint as newsreader on the ABC Rural Program. Very nervous, he got through the main news without a single fluff — and was then handed a regional bulletin. What listeners in the Riverina area heard was: "This afternoon a farmer's wife was rushed to the District Hospital after being bitten on the funnel by a finger-web spider."

## REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 1992

1991	INCOME	1992
1110.00	Members Subscriptions	1000.00
484.00	Bulletin	334.00
85.00	Sales - Badges - Souvenirs	58.00
332.60	" - Books-Bulletins-Heritage Prints	183.50
183.89	Donations - Heritage Week	166.33
261.98	Museum Society	62.68
97.96	Interest - Commonwealth Bank Savings Acc.	61.99
390.28	" St. George Bldg. Society "Step Up A/c"	256.09
386.65	If " " " Fixed Term A/c	263.46
7330.00	Excursion Receipts	2757.00
278.00	" Prepayment for Tours 1993	493.00
1850.00	25th Anniversary Dinner	
600.00	Sutherland Shire Council Grant	1000.00
13390.36		6636.05
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
435.38	Australia Post - Bulletin Postage	443.04
75.00	" it Registration of Bulletin	80.00
60.00	" " Post Office Box Fee	65.00
284.25	Society Postages 67.55 - Society Phone 157.53	225.08
484.40	Stationery - Envelopes - Membership forms	310.46
129.12	It Sundry items (filing cabinet)	91.00
50.40	Subscriptions - National Trust	50.00
	R.A.H.S.	60.00
12.00	Sutherland Shire Info. & Comm. Service	12.00
	Sutherland Shire Radio Assoc.	25.00
195.00	R.A.H.S. - G.I.O. Public Risk	205.00
90.00	Transport - Removalist	60.00
583.04	Sundry items - Petty Cash Items	118.65
90.00	Out of Pocket Expenses, President, Secretary, Treasurer	90.00
	It " " Bulletin Editor	100.00
211.00	Book Purchases - D. Salt, Sylvania.	75.00
198.00	Souvenirs - spoons	
47.28	Bank Charges C.S.B. & ST. GEORGE BUILDING Soc.	36.67
244.00	Hall Rental - Committee & General Meetings	370.00
53.80	Tractor Maintenance	
2333.75	25th Anniversary Dinner	
	Photo Graphics	148.90
	Organ - quote for repairs	75.00
	Suppers - general meetings	55.79
3530.00	Excursions - transport - coaches	1980.00
2785.00	Motel - Dinners - Lunches	
584.00	Admission charges	209.00
70.00	Donations	80.00
.43	Postage	4.80
130.48	Phone calls - STD - local	94.97
114.47	Sweets	66.21
14.22	Stationery	22.24
13.00	Refunds	
12817.62	Totals	5153.81
572.74	Surplus for the Year Transferred to Accumulated Fund	1482.24
13390.36		6636.05

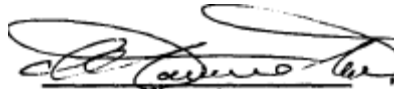
• The most important thing in campaigning is SINCERITY --- whether you mean it or not.

- George Bush

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 1992

1991		1992
<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
11606.40	Balance at January 1, 1992	12179.14
<u>572.74</u>	Credit Balance for the Year	<u>1482.24</u>
12179.14		13661.38
This is represented by <u>INVESTMENTS AND DEPOSITS</u>		
3000.00	St. George Building Society — Fixed Term	3000.00
7288.20	St. George Building Society — Deposit Account	8684.02
<u>1890.94</u>	Commonwealth Savings A/c Cronulla	<u>1977.36</u>
<u>12179.14</u>		<u>13661.38</u>
<p><u>NOTE:</u> \$877.16 transferred from the Commonwealth Savings A/c Cronulla to St. George Building Society Deposit A/c 14th August 1992.</p> <p>Reconciliation of C'wealth Savings A/c as at <u>December 31st 1992</u></p>		
2694.32	1.1.91 Cash Book Balance	1890.94
<u>12013.43</u>	Add Total Receipts	<u>6116.50</u>
<u>14707.75</u>		8007.44
<u>12816.81</u>	Less — Total Expenditure	<u>6030.08</u>
1890.94	Balance as per Cash Book	1977.36
Balance as per Bank Statement No. 113		1977.36

<u>NOTE:</u>	As at December 31.12.92 the Society held
(a)	Society Badges 15
(b)	Friendship Pins 7
(c)	Souvenir Spoons 54



A. Hamilton  
Hon. Treasurer

I HAVE AUDITED THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNT OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1991 AND HEREBY CERTIFY THAT IN MY OPINION THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS AND BALANCE SHEET ARE ACCURATELY STATED.



K. Greentree  
HON. AUDITOR

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

## EXCURSION ANNUAL REPORT

During 1992 we had five day tours and for your interest they are detailed hereunder.

February 29: MIDDLE HEAD AND GEORGE'S HEAD: This then newly available tour with the National Parks and Wildlife Service folk enabled us to see the Harbour fortifications that were in place during the war years and also see the wonderful views of Sydney Harbour from a site not previously available to the general public.

May 16,: KU-RING-GAI CHASE AREA: Again under control of National Parks and Wildlife Guides; they showed us a Video of the region; on a comfortable walk saw trees, plants etc. of the area; after luncheon we visited West Head and seeing the Aboriginal Carvings too, made a very full day.

July 18: we visited our near neighbours, HURSTVILLE SOCIETY; Although so near, we had not previously visited as a Society. The tour included interesting buildings, churches, sites, and a visit to the historic Oatley Park.

Hurstville, we wish you well with the plans for the Bakery and look forward to seeing you settled there ere long.

September 11: GERRINGONG: It is always a pleasure to make a trip to the South Coast and although we have visited many places between Sutherland and way past Bega, Gerringong had not been included. Our hosts were delighted when asked if we would visit them, as Sutherland became the first Society in a Coach to spend time with them. There are many historic sites in the town, and nearby, and naturally the Dairying Industry plays a large part of their history.

November 28,: BLUE MOUNTAINS AREA: as usual during daylight saving time we had a long day's outing; being many years since we toured that region and we saw places not visited' on the previous occasion, it made it a very enjoyable day.

(Let us say hello to Rev. Clive Steele, formerly of Sutherland and then of Katoomba, and still a member of this Society, who was our guide previously. And we are delighted when we receive that occasional letter from you too.)

It was decided not to go ahead with plans for a trip to TAMWORTH in May, 1992 -- however it may be possible at a later date in 1993, when the weather is warmer.

The Society extends thanks to our hosts at the places visited and assures each Society of our appreciation for the time they gave to ensure the success of our visit. We look forward to' you paying a visit to Sutherland Shire on one of your outings.

As always, I must pay special thanks to Mr. Ron Wood of "Tiger Tours" and members of his family too for the assistance given to me when arranging our tours; and a special appreciation to the Coach Captains who drive us so carefully and assist in every way possible whilst we are "on tour".

That the Wood family, Coach Company, and Coach Captains too, have become members of the Society surely is an expression of the happy relations between us:


cont'd

### EXCURSION ANNUAL REPORT

I pay special tribute to the Excursion Committee Members: the late Ellen Melbourne, Joyce Barrett, Betty McGrath, Doug Archer, Keith Knight and Stewart Roberts, without whose help I could not arrange your outings. Ellen, Joyce and Betty were booking officers, whilst the other members always had "chores" to assist us during the outing or at meetings. We hope that this happy co-operation, together with the support of the members attending the outings, allowed us to present the trips you wanted.

To quote a cliché - "It is not possible to please everybody all of the time", but it is our aim to please the majority of our members and their friends "almost all of the time". Please tell the Committee of any ideas you have that could be implemented to improve the outings.

And finally -- a big thank you to the members who have supported the trips. This is encouragement to the Committee.

*• Another long day! You can't trust anybody these days, can you? - Ed.   
Helen Crockett*

### EXCURSION CONVENER



ADVERTISEMENT FROM S.C.A.M. (6 October 1934)  
(George Heavens' Collection)

### COMMENT

The Fausts were German-born and very nice people. Mr Faust was the Sutherland newsagent at one time.

— George Heavens

**Sutherland Shire**

Captain James Cook

**Historical Society INC.**

P.O. BOX 389, SUTHERLAND 2232

President: M A Griffiths ..... Hon. Secretary: Mrs M Blackley  
 523 5801 521 1343

1/7/1992

**HERITAGE WEEK 1992**

Heritage Week 1992 was an experience similar to previous occasions, the absence of Fred Midgley and Ralph Clark always being felt.

Choice of a particular aspect of early living was a challenge, however the decision on an enlarged kitchen spread plus a collection of farming and outdoor workshop items proved to be successful, aided by items loaned by friends. The kitchen display included a section devoted to the Vacola Preserving System, still practised by some members of the Society.

As on the 1991 occasion, the Museum was open on several days of the Week. Kitchen items plus some other pieces were used at the Entertainment Centre display, consequently the spaces vacated in the Museum had to be hastily filled by moving other items about (notably the chaff-cutter).

Records indicate attendance as follows:

<u>Entertainment Centre</u>		<u>Museum</u>	
Adults	750	Adults	55
School Children	920	School Children	970
Other Children	80	Other Children	—

Entertainment at the School of Arts concert hall attracted large crowds of school children, a large proportion of which went through the Museum. Some proceeded to the Entertainment Centre and some did not.

Crowds of the size experienced in the Museum were too large for any real satisfaction to be gained by the individual children who could only walk without being able to stop and look for more than a few seconds. Even at the Entertainment Centre, management of these numbers was a challenge, especially at the Camera Display, which was on an open table.

The attendance of school children was lower than last year.

Heritage Week planners have to think up something different for 1993. The choice and the means both shrink together.

Success of the occasion is due to energetic work by committee members, Daphne Salt, and staff of the Library and the Entertainment Centre.

*Harold Burns*  
 1/7/92

PUBLICITY

The St George and Sutherland Shire Leader has given reasonable satisfaction in its "WHAT'S ON" section. Notices have been sufficiently accurate to enable a correct interpretation to be made. There was one instance when a notice was printed incorrectly one week after the correct notice was printed, due to an internal mishap. This caused some excitement.

Notices have also been placed in "Community Contact" and "Community Arts News"

EXHIBITIONS

Photograph exhibition at North Cronulla Surf Club, Australia Day Celebration 1992, arranged by Society President.

Heritage Week in April. See separate report.

MUSEUM

A steady flow of domestic items continues to fill the museum, a point being reached where only one third of the items are viewable, the remainder being stored.

A notable arrival in early 1992 was a harmonium, commonly called an "organ", of the Thomas Holt estate, donated by the Uniting Church Sylvania. Other items are a German wine dispenser and a remote controlled KRIESLER TV receiver (BURGE estate), A BEGA kitchen stove and tiled fireplace (MARTINIQUE estate), and Photographic equipment (Daphne Salt).

Visitors during 1992, excluding Heritage Week, were - -

Adults 53                      Children 67

"Adults" includes 13 from Sylvania Uniting Church who made a special visit to see the Holt Organ in its new location. "Children" includes 54 children from the Star of the Sea School Miranda.

The Museum opens on the first Saturday each month and by arrangement at other times.  
Hours 9 am, to 1 p.m..

Harold Ivers  
6/1/1993.

NOTE.

Other acquisitions included the Thomas Holt family bible — beautifully restored (gratis) by Mr Frank Bickerstaff of KEW BOOKBINDING CO, Caringbah — plus Frederick Holt's hymn book (Congregational Church Hymnal). These were also donated by the Sylvania Uniting Church.

-- Editor



## • HOW TO SUCCEED IN RADIO --

Dynamic JACK DAVEY — the biggest single drawcard in radio history — had a special formula for success: "Always bite off more than you can chew --and then chew like buggery."

— Maurice Ponk

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AUSTRALIA'S  
FAVOURITES!**

For 5 straight years No. 1 in  
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*Jack Davey's*

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GEORGE FOSTER  
with  
KEITH SMITH  
**SHOW**



Comptre Terry Dear

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every Tuesday night at 7.30 on  
2GB 3AW 4BH 5DN 6IX 7HO

2MX	2NM	2CA	2WL	2LF
2PK	2MG	2LT	2MW	2CV
2GT	2WB	2MD	2BT	2LA

[illegible]

g. Termination at 1 p.m. on 20/9.

excellent feature, most in the

**macquarie**

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Defence requirements having been fulfilled increasing numbers of valves are now becoming available for civilian use.

Don't let worn out valves spoil your reception. Replace now with Radiotrons and bring back the old sparkle to your receiver.

**FIRST IN PEACE—FIRST IN WAR—  
FIRST IN THE FUTURE**

 FIRST IN PEACE—FIRST IN WAR—  
FIRST IN THE FUTURE  
**INSIST ON**  
**RADIOTRONS**

\* ULTIMATUM TO IRAQ —

The Wallumburrawang Housewives Association demands that Saddam Hussein stop the shenanigans and comply fully with the directions of the United Nations Security Council forthwith ... OR ELSE !

— Godetia Gooch (Hon Sec)



### PRESIDENT'S ADDENDUM

Reference has been made by members of the various Sub-Committees in their reports for 1992, which are contained in this Bulletin.

Members of these Sub-Committees spend many hours Carrying out the duties required of their positions and I thank them for supporting me, and on your behalf for their dedication.

To Deputy President Doug Archer; Vice-President's Andrew Platfoot and Jim Cutbush; Hon. Secretary Marjory Blackley; Hon. Treasurer Alwyn Hamilton; Hon. Research Officer Helen McDonald; Hon. Archivist Diana Oliver; Hon. Publicity Officer Harold Ivers; Bulletin Editor Will Newton; and Committee -- Ada Cutbush; Keith Knight; Allan McGrath; Stewart Roberts; (Also the late Ralph Clarke to February 1992 and the late Ellen Melbourne to September 1992), grateful thanks.

Special thank you to our Hon. Auditor, Ken Greentree - and to our Hon. Solicitor Michael Solari, whose services, fortunately we have not needed this year.

We specially thank Mrs. Betty Greentree and her helpers for making our supper each month -- this is such an important part of our evening as it allows members, friends and .guest-speakers to mix informally.

We are again indebted to Sutherland Shire Council and Staff, for the wonderful assistance given to the Society's needs and for the co-operation between our groups.

Special reference must be paid to our Patron, Shire President, Clr. Ian Swords. As well as honouring us with his Patronage Clr. Swords was Guest Speaker at the February, 1992 meeting when he told us of letters which had been found, from one of his ancestors whilst serving in Napoleon's army.

And then, Clr. Swords translated the letters from German into English for publication in the Society's Bulletin. This was certainly a treasure for our Bulletin -- thanks again, Cir. Swords.

We also thank Council for inviting representatives of the Society to become members of the Heritage Register Steering' Committee; Heritage Week Committee and Australia Day Committee, and hope that our participation has been helpful to Council.

Members: all positions become vacant at the Annual Meeting -- do consider standing for one of the positions. it is very rewarding being involved in the history of the District and our forebears.

*Allen Ziffichs*

#### • THE POWER OF ADVERTISING

Do you remember that old radio ad that started off with a blast of icy wind followed by some bloke announcing: "Up in blizzardly-cold Canada where lives depend on stopping coughs quickly, they take BUCKLEY'S CANADIOL mixture ..."

It all sounded so convincing that we thought this marvellous stuff must have been Canada's national drink. A Canadian architect joined our staff and we asked him about Buckley's Canadiol — but he said he'd never heard of it.

— Will Newton

## COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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Phone: 523 5801

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

Research: Helen McDonald  
Phone: 521 0345

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529 9190

Hon Secretary: Mrs M Blackley  
Phone : 521 1343

Vice-Presidents: Mr A Platfoot  
Mr J Cutbush

Publicity: Mr H Ivers  
Phone: 520 6324

Archives: Miss D Oliver (Represented  
by Helen McDonald)

Hon Auditor: Mr K Greentree

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Mrs A Cutbush Mr K Knight Mr A McGrath' Mr S Roberts Mr W Newton

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin copies are supplied to all Branches of the Shire-Library; to the Shire President, Shire Clerk and all Councillors; 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; Sydney Water Board Historical Research Unit.

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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 7:45 pm' at the Council Chambers (2nd floor Admin Building) Eton Street, Sutherland

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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

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**RETURNS-on 2GB!**  
 MONDAY TO THURSDAY at 6 PM.  
*Followed by*  
 THE AIR ADVENTURES OF  
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 MONDAY TO THURSDAY at 6:15 PM.  
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