

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN

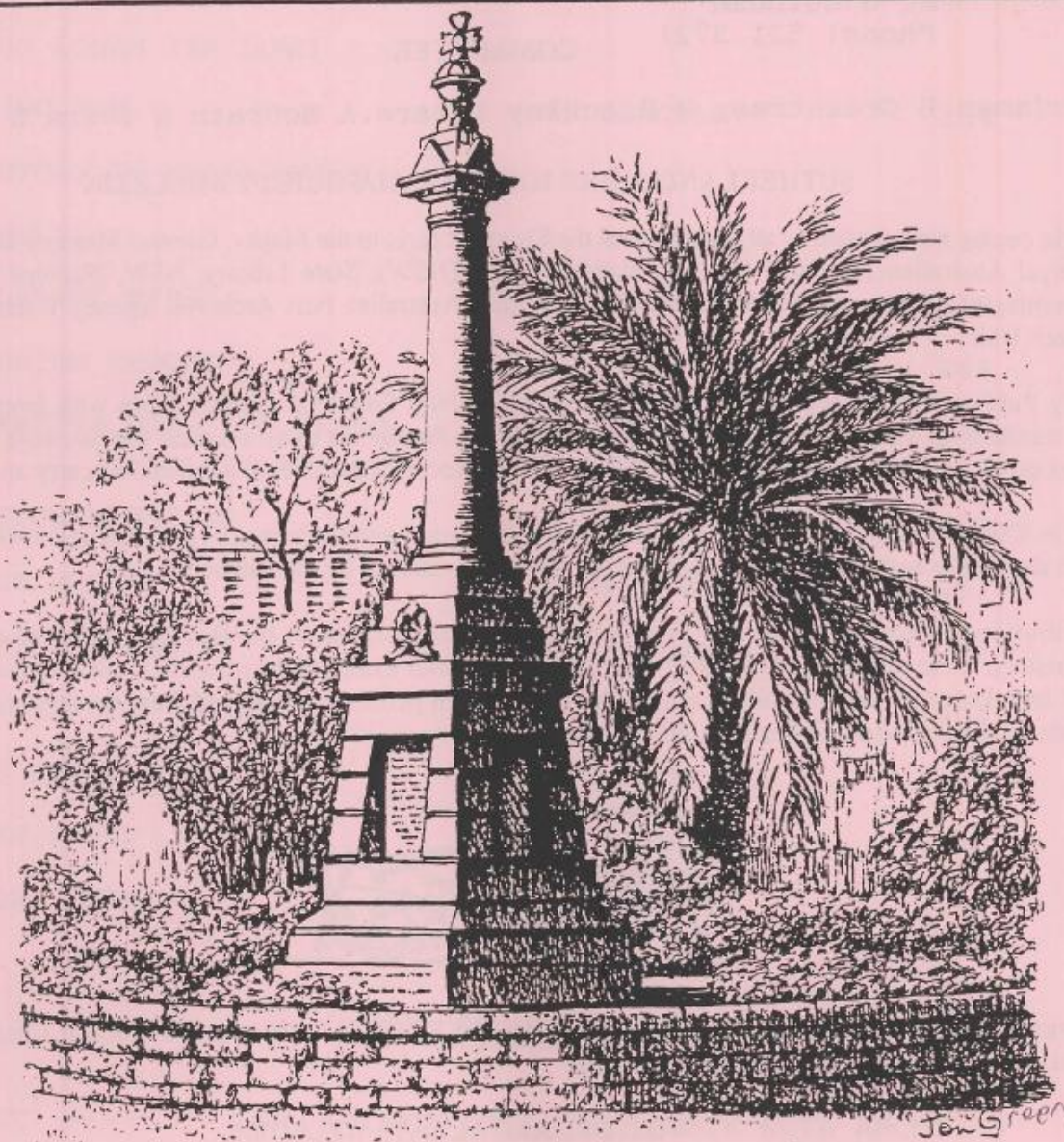
Design by (the late) Fred Wiggley



VOL. 2 No. 11

Aug 1995

PRICE: \$1.00



R.S.L. War Memorial - Monro Park

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA CARD No. & ISSN 0536-0261

REGISTERED AT THE GPO FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE POST
AS A PERIODICAL (CATEGORY B) NBH 2071

COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

PRESIDENT:	Mrs A Griffiths	HON.	Mr R Moore.
	34 Richmount St; Cronulla	SECRETARY:	P . O. Box 389-,Sutherland
	2230		2232
	Phone: 523 5801		Phone: 542 1660
DEPUTY		VICE	
PRESIDENT:	Mr D Archer	PRESIDENTS:	Mr J Cutbush
			Mr K Knight
HON.	Mr A Platfoot	RESEARCH:	Ms H McDonald
TREASURER:	Phone: 542 3386		Phone: 710 0225
ARCHIVIST:	Miss D Oliver	PUBLICITY	
	(represented by	OFFICER:	Mrs Phyllis Rugless
	Ms H McDonald)		
EDITOR:		HON. AUDITOR:	Mr R H Lavers
	Mr J Cutbush		
	Phone: 521 3721		

COMMITTEE

Mesdames. B Greentree, M Blackley Messrs. A McGrath H Ivers S Roberts

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin copies are supplied to all Branches of the Shire Library; to the Mayor, General Manager 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; Australian Post Archives; Sydney Water Board Historical Research Unit.

Society Publications are registered with the National Library, Canberra, in accordance with International Standard Serial numbering. This automatically includes copyright to the authors of all articles. The Society's registered number appears on all of the Bulletins, vis ISSN 0586-0261; The Society's occasional publications carry an ISBN number.

Bulletin Extracts: Editorial material may be reprinted in other publications provided that acknowledgement is made both to the author and the Society's magazine. Copyright is retained by the author.

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 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 7.45pm at the Council Chambers (2nd Floor, Administration 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 NSW 2232

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Vol. 2 No. 11

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	A. GRIFFITHS	230
AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS		231
LOSS OF THE RIPPLE	R. PIDGEON	233
PROGRESSIVE AUSTRALIA		233
LOFTUS LOSES ITS LONG SERVING G.P.	M. BLACKLEY	234
THE STORY OF ELIZA SARAH TUCKWELL	A. McLACHLAN	235
HAZELHURST FIRE	G. HEAVENS	243
EXCURSION REPORT	A. GRIFFITHS	245
GUNNAMATTA PARK 100 YEARS	A. GRIFFITHS	246
	P. SCOTT	249
LANSDOWNE BRIDGE	K. KNIGHT	
MUSEUM REPORT	A. McGRATH	252
THE WILSON FAMILY	A. McGRATH	253
EARLY LAUNDRY RULES		254
HILLS HOIST	GOOD WEEKEND	255
DAMIEN PARER	G. HEAVENS	256
EDITORS DESK	J. CUTBUSH	257

GUEST SPEAKERS.

AUGUST	----	MR. VICTOR POLJINSKI-STATE RAIL ARCHIVES
SEPTEMBER	----	MR. IVAN JENKINS-GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT 201 NSW. LIONS INTERNATIONAL.
OCTOBER	----	M/S CHERYL SZAP-SHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY.
NOVEMBER	--	TO BE ARRANGED.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Firstly, I must express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. John Green for the excellent Cover Sketch he has prepared for the August Bulletin, being our wish for a subject that covers the "AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS" theme. We are most fortunate that this was prepared as a donation to the Society, by a professional artist. Thank you again, John, for your co-operation.

Allan McGrath, the Museum Curator, has prepared an outstanding display in the Museum as part of the Sutherland Shire-Hughes Electorate Australia Remembers Committee, and as this Society's tribute to the men and women who served, especially from the Sutherland Shire.

The Museum will be open all day on Tuesday, August 15, and also on Saturday August 19, as well as the first Saturday each month, as usual. Do try to visit the Museum on one of the very special dates.

We are hoping the November Meeting will be a very special one, put the date, Friday, November 10, in your diary - or on the "fridge" if that is your notice board - but make every effort to keep it free. We are awaiting more details but as soon as we receive confirmation, if we have been successful you will be advised, and given full details.

So many people appear to be suffering viral complaints since the winter days set in; I trust any members who become indisposed will find it short-lived and that you will return to good health quickly.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allan H. Griffiths".

PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS
1945 - 1995
COMMEMORATING THE
50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
END OF WORLD WAR II

Australia Remembers will be looked on by future generations as a moment in history. The program aimed at involving the entire Australian community is a way to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

The focus of the program will be on Australia and Australians, the veterans of battles like those in the Middle East and Greece and Crete, and in the air war over Europe, and those who fought in the Pacific War, the war to save Australia from invasion. We will remember those who served at home in factories and on farms, that generation of Australians who stoically endured the dislocation of their lives and the hardships which the War necessitated. The program will reach its climax with a national event in Brisbane on the 50th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day on the 15th August, 1995.



THE LOGO.

The Australia Remembers logo was carefully selected to reflect the Australia Remembers theme. It represents the sacrifice of veterans who served in the War and the Australian's who kept the home front running. Centrepiece of the logo is a returning soldier being embraced by his wife, son and daughter joyful at his return. The soldier represents all veterans. The wife reflects those who stayed at home, and the children are indicative of the young Australians who benefited from sacrifices of the veterans and the efforts of those who remained at home. The family depicted on the logo has a Sutherland Shire connection having lived at Gynea and Sylvania from 1930 to 1949. The image is from a photograph taken at Victoria Barracks by a Ern McQuillan on July 28th, 1945. The logo features Ray and Valarie Walsh with two of their six children Barry and Jeanette.

LOSS OF THE "RIPPLE"

Storms swept Sydney on Friday 2 February 1934, dropping two inches of rain within an hour and whipping up heavy seas. The "Sydney Morning Herald" of the following day listed numerous reports of damage. At Cronulla...

One man drowned and another was rescued exhausted after they abandoned the auxiliary ketch "Ripple" and swam through surf to Cronulla beach. As seas were too high for swimming, members of Cronulla Surf Lifesaving Club, together with local residents attracted to the beach by the sight of a vessel in distress, risked their lives in an attempt to drag two fishermen to safety along a rocky ledge. Life savers ran to the northern end of the beach in high winds and driving rain, where they knew the men would be carried by currents. Although buffeted by heavy waves, they were able to seize one man by his clothing and drag him ashore. His companion was washed onto the beach, but dragged back out to sea before he could be rescued, and disappeared. Subsequently the ketch drifted ashore undamaged, with the ship's dog unhurt and dry, a clock still ticking in the cabin.

Survivor, Andrew Burke of Shellharbour related later a voyage of continual misfortune. Together with John Notts, 39, who was part owner of the ketch, he left Shellharbour early that morning in threatening weather. Notts had no sailing experience, and Burke little. Although the weather continued to deteriorate as they made their way north along the coast, Notts laughed off a suggestion that they shelter in Wollongong Harbour. North of Wollongong, Notts was then struck on the head by a swinging boom and Burke bandaged his wound. Then the main sail rope parted as fuel was running low. When Burke attempted to refuel, his funnel was swept overboard. He then attempted to pour petrol directly from a can, but a wave sloshed over the open tank, and their motor stopped a short time later. In constantly worsening conditions they attempted to run before the storm. Eyelets in the sails began ripping, and Burke attempted to cut rigging with a tomahawk, but failed. As they approached Cronulla, they attempted to beach their ketch under sail. About two hundred yards offshore they were struck by a heavy wave that turned "Ripple" broadside, and, fearing they would be swamped, attempted to swim ashore.

John Notts, perhaps disoriented in heavy waves and driving rain, began to swim back out to sea, exhausting himself before he was thrown ashore, then pulled out again. His body was not recovered for some days. Andrew Burke was badly bruised and exhausted, but recovered. Ironically, if they had remained aboard, they would have been safe.

Sydney Morning Herald published photographs of the beached ketch, ship's dog Peter, and some of the rescuers. Local residents who took part included Frank Greenwood, Ronald Bowden and Michael Peuther.

Rhys Pidgeon

Progressive Cronulla.

Cronulla received its name in 1827, the official naming being carried out by Mr. Surveyor Robert Dixon. "Kurranulla" is the Aboriginal word meaning small pink shells - at one time abounding on the shore, and the early settlers soon adapted themselves to a change more easily pronounced. Cronulla is rapidly assuming a position as one of the more important holiday and seaside resorts in the whole of Australia, The township holds a decided distinction. It has the second longest railway station in the State, ranking near in this connection after Albury.

The S.C.A.M. Saturday, April 5th, 1941.

LOFTUS LOSES ITS LONG SERVING G.P.

A milestone will be missing in Loftus when our local G.P. - Dr. Douglas Ash - leaves his practice in to go into semi-retirement.

Many of his patients wish to pay tribute to the Dr. and to his wife for their part in improving the facilities in the district and of him giving of his services and great skills in a selfless manner over many years.

Patients have felt confident that they were receiving the very best of medical attention - he was tenacious in his efforts to see that every medical help was given to those in his care.

A tremendous supporter of Sutherland hospital from its inception he was deeply involved in community help - some may remember his successful efforts in having the sanitary dump planned for this area moved to a more receptive place. He strove for a better crossing over the railway line and that effort resulted in the overhead bridge being built. Local fire brigade people were ever grateful for the full attention he gave to the workers when fighting bush fires. Members of his family were part of the working brigade people. After the deaths of several men caught in working to quell fires he investigated and promoted a tent to go on all tenders which offered a temporary protection from the ravishing fires. The tent was tested and retested and found to be successful but unfortunately the installation of this equipment has been forgotten.

All these years Dr. Ash has served this community and we residents will miss the security of knowing that he was always there to help in personal emergencies and community needs.

On behalf of many people.

Margaret Blackley

The story of Eliza Sarah Tuckwell - nee Hemmings.

To Mr. W.C. Bell, Darwin, Northern Territory.

You want to know a little of my life, I hardly know how to explain it as I am not very highly educated, however, I will tell you what I can.

In the year 1836 I was born in the city of London within the sound of Bow Bells, so you see I am a real cockney. My father was a soldier and he died, and my mother was left a widow, so my aunt took me and brought me up. When I was old enough I had to work and get a living for myself as a domestic servant. So I saw in the paper that the Government was going to charter a vessel to Australia, and they wanted young women to go as servants, it was an Emigrant ship, so I applied for a berth and was accepted. The name of the ship was the "Norman" bound for Adelaide, had a very good voyage and enjoyed it very much until we arrived at Port Adelaide.

When we crossed the Bay of Biscay one poor fellow, an apprentice, had to be shaved with tar, poor fellow it was great fun for us all. He was a poor simple fellow.

I was looking down the hatch when they were serving out rations and I fell down the hold. We had a very good doctor. It was great fun when we reached Port Adelaide, there were crowds of ladies waiting to come on board to choose a servant to please them, so we were all sent to different places. Of course they did not engage all of us, some of us had to go to the depot in Adelaide until they got places and I was one of them, The coach took several of us there as there were no trains We were at the depot for 3 days when three of us were engaged to go to St. Peter's college. Two laundry maids and one housemaid, our wages were 10/- a week. We thought it was great wages but it didn't last long. We all left and the next place I only got 5/- a week. There were so many emigrants coming out. I was not out of work for long, the next place I got was at a coach builders in Franklin Street. I was there for a while at 7/- a week.

Then I got engaged to go and live in Hindmarsh at Mr. Nageary's flour mills at 7/- a week. I stayed there until I got married. My husband was Foreman and the Government Workshops in the Railway Bowden sheds.

I must tell you I seen the first train run in Adelaide.

There was a free train for the workmen that day for families and sweethearts so you see we had a nice day. I was not married then and a very good job if I had not, as I had no end of trouble. But thank God that it's over, I was married at Christ Church, North Adelaide. I had 5 children in Adelaide and I brought 4 children to Port Darwin in the year 1870, and I have had 3 children in Darwin, and all are dead with the exception of one son and one daughter, so you see I have had my share of trouble. Thank God for giving me strength to bear the cross.

The boat I came to Darwin in was the "Kohinor" . Mr Milner came up as Acting Government Resident, and Mr. Faelsche as Inspector of Police and Mr. and Mrs. Pachard, Mrs. Edwards and three children, Mrs. Abal and 2 children, Mrs. Tuckwell and four children, Mr. & Mrs. Devine and 1 child and the place we had to live in was very bad, only fit for cattle. The morning we arrived in Darwin was very nice, and we dressed our children to meet their fathers in the afternoon, but on coming into the Harbour we ran into a sand bank, so that delayed us for some hours to get her off, and when she got off the first sight was to see the "Gulnare" in the harbour, so you may be sure we were pleased. Crowds came on board and no women were expected so there were several log huts built for the men, so they turned out and let the women have them, which was very kind of them, they had to put up tents for themselves. Next day our luggage had to be landed, there was no jetties, only the beach. So we had to settle down in the huts, we had very little room you may guess, there were 5 huts built on the piece of land opposite to the Doctors house at the camp where Mrs. Linton lives at present. We got on alright we had to make our fires under the hill and all the women of the working class took in washing for the men who were going away and we made a good bit of money. The Surveyors then went away in the "Kohinor" the boat we came in, it was a bit quiet for a time.

Mr. Bennett was speared by the niggers a short time before I arrived. We had to wait until we got news, we very often

had to go short of rations, we got a real surprise we saw a boat coming round the point, it turned out to be the "Bengal" and soon after the "Gulnare" arrived with Captain Douglas and family. You may be sure the-men-were all tight that night, of course they hadn't got a place to go to. The next day he gave the men to understand what their duties were to be also what he was going to have done. Of course his residence was the first consideration, he had all the niggers lined up and hobbles put on their legs and sent on the "Gulnare" for punishment for the murder of Mr. Bennett, that is the man who is buried on Fort Hill. But it was no good for they jumped overboard and got away, that was one of Captain Douglas' great deeds.

So after that the men began to build huts to live in. Shortly after Mr. Little arrived and brought his staff, so your Port Darwin began to look lively and the men's wives began to arrive. Mr and Mrs. Bayle arrived and held his services in one of the huts. There were several boats arrived after that with passengers and cattle and you may be sure they brought plenty of bottle stuff. They got a good sale for this, as this was a dreadful place at the time, the foolish men drank themselves blind, I have seen them have to walk on crutches. One also went blind and I am sorry to say some of the so called ladies were as bad as the men, I could mention their names but it would not do.

At one time we had 7 public houses, the Court House and the Exchange Hotel were in Smith Street, The Royal, The Telegraph, The Club and The Commercial was on the allotment where I am living now and also plenty of sly grog shops round about.

We had several fires here, the Royal Hotel was burnt down and another place near Adcocks store, and one Sunday China Town was burnt both sides, they were all huts, my daughters place was burnt down. I had a narrow escape from being burnt, I had gone to bed and a man and women were passing and saw the fire and came to the window and asked where the tank was, then some more came and managed to put the fire out. I shall never forget that night and I could not thank God and the people enough.

Mrs. Tuckwell's story continues.

About 21 years ago we had a cyclone, it came on about 9 o'clock

I was stopping at Mrs. Carbery's and a big blow came on and put out all lights so we go on our clothes and went outside. Mr. Carbery went over to Mrs. Browns place. We sat under the verandah and all the iron blew off over our heads. We went over to Browns and stayed the night, we were watching for morning light through a hole in the corner of the roof. So you may be sure we were glad to see daylight, it was a dreadful sight to see. Every home more or less damaged. My house was a flat as a pancake, but thank God no one was killed. It was indeed a great shock as Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Daniels died from shock of the cyclone. The Chinese carpenter: rose the wages to £1 a day as soon as the cyclone happened, several carpenters arrived from the south. The people south were very kind, they raised subscriptions for those that needed help, I am thankful to say I was one of the lucky ones. They gave me enough to build a nice two roomed house. Thank God that time has gone and I hope we shall never have another cyclone like it although the weather looks much like it lately. I read in the papers about the Old Age pension, so I applied for it, so I go the order to get it signed by several people and I got that done but made a slight error in the valuation of my property so I had to go up to the Government Resident and explain everything to him. He seemed to think I wasn't entitled to it on account of having a small house to live in. So some time later I got a notice that I was not entitled to the pension so I kept the notice and thought no more, but I feel sure he didn't want me to get it, but I am in receipt of the pension now and much thanks to the Rev. Mr. Bennett, the late minister of Darwin.

Some time after there were people taking a trip South so my grandson Claude Arnold said to me "Would you like to go down," and I said I would like to see my son and Claude said I will see Mr. Gilruth and see if the Government will grant you a return passage south. But Mr. Gilruth said he could not, but he said better get up a subscription and he would help. The passage was paid south but Sir Josiah Thomas granted me a return passage after an interview. In the interview with

Sir Josiah Thomas I told him that I was quite entitled to this return passage having been the oldest female resident in the-Territory; have been! here over 40 years, and had great hardships to go through. So he asked me to have my photo taken to be sent to Adelaide for a picture show, so he paid for a car to take to the place to be photographed. The next night my photo was shown to the public in Adelaide by picture show and a great many people from Darwin recognised me. I then returned to Sydney and spent 8 more weeks with my son and family.

I could perhaps tell you a lot more but can't remember. If you care to ask me any questions I shall be only too pleased to give you information.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Mrs. E. Tuckwell

Resident of 51 years.

COPY FROM DARWIN PAPER

6/8/21

DEATH OF AN OLD PIONEER

The death occurred at 4.30pm on Saturday last at her residence in Mitchell St. of Mrs. Tuckwell who has gradually been failing for some time past. She was the last survivor of those who arrived here in the early seventies in connection with the construction of the overland telegraph line. She was, we understand 86 years of age, and had resided certainly in the Territory, with the exception of one brief holiday south a few years ago on a visit to her eldest son for over half a century.

Her husband died many years ago, and Mrs. Tuckwell was left to face the world with a family of young children, of whom we believe Mrs. V.V.Brown is the only surviving member still resident in the Territory. But there are several grand children and great grandchildren many of them born in this tropical land. Deceased lady was born in London January 8th 1836 and arrived in Australia March 3rd 1855.

ELIZA SARAH HEMMINGS.

Eliza Sarah Hemmings, age 18 years, was selected from the County of Middlesex for emigration to South Australia. Her occupation was Servant. Under authority from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, she embarked on the ship 'Norman' which sailed from Southampton and arrived

Adelaide on 7th March, 1855. -

The passenger list comprised 225 emigrants, made up of -

	married -couples (49)	-98
	Single men	_18
	—Single women	55
—	Boys - (ages 1 to 14 years)	_23
	Girls (ages 1 to 14 years)	27
	Infants	4.
		<u>225</u>

included males in occupations of bricklayer, carpenter, labourer, gardener, smith, 2 errand boys (14 & 15 years). The 55 single women were made up of 3 laundry maids; 2 cooks, 2 nursemaids; 40 servants, 5 housemaids, 1 weaver, and 2 others. Age spans for the 55 were -

14 to 20 years	20
21 to 30 years	30
31 to 40 years	2
41 to 48 years	<u>3</u>
	<u>55</u>

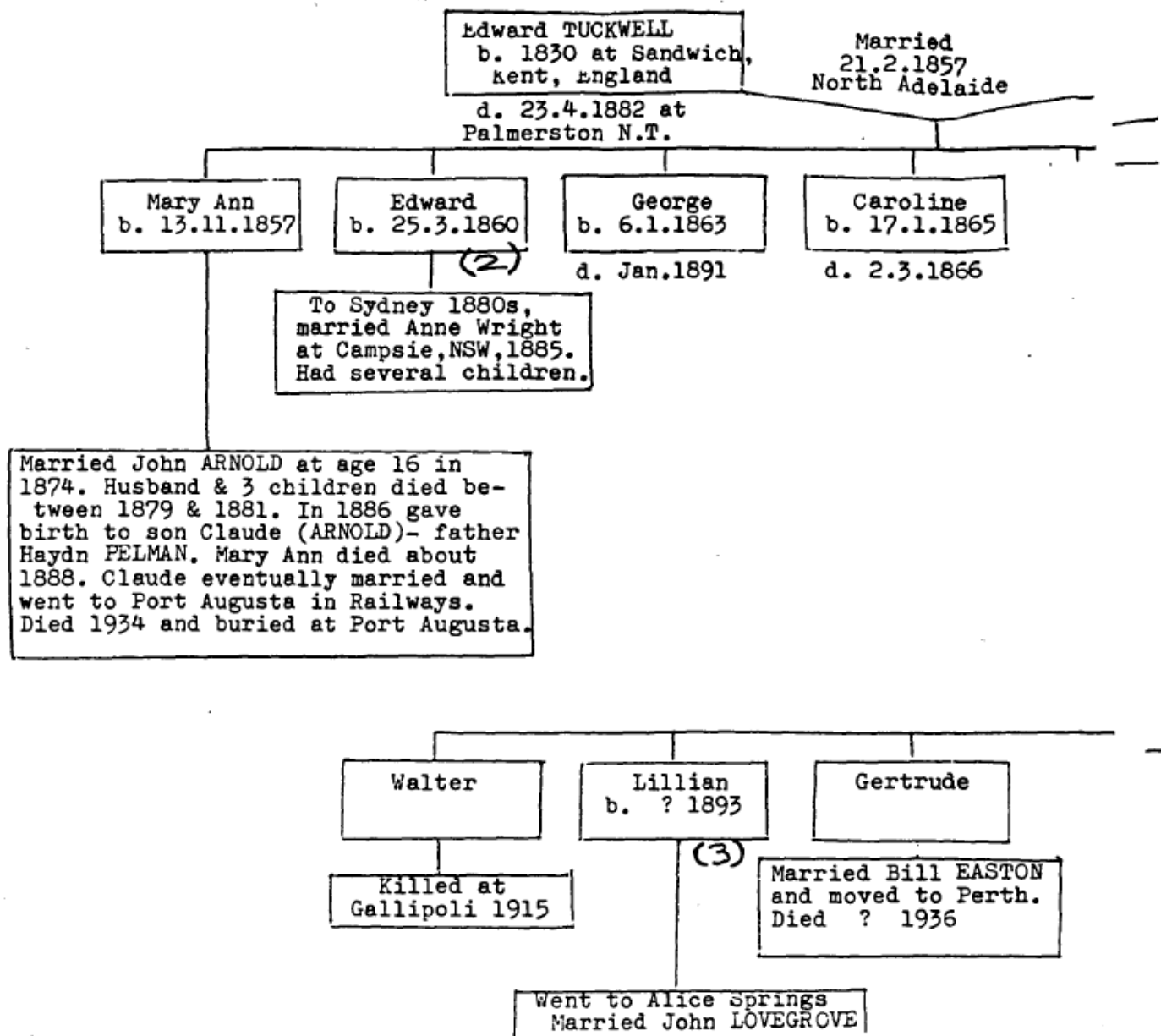
Eliza Sarah Hemmings married Edward Tuckwell at Christ Church, North Adelaide, on 21st February, 1857

---ooo0ooo--

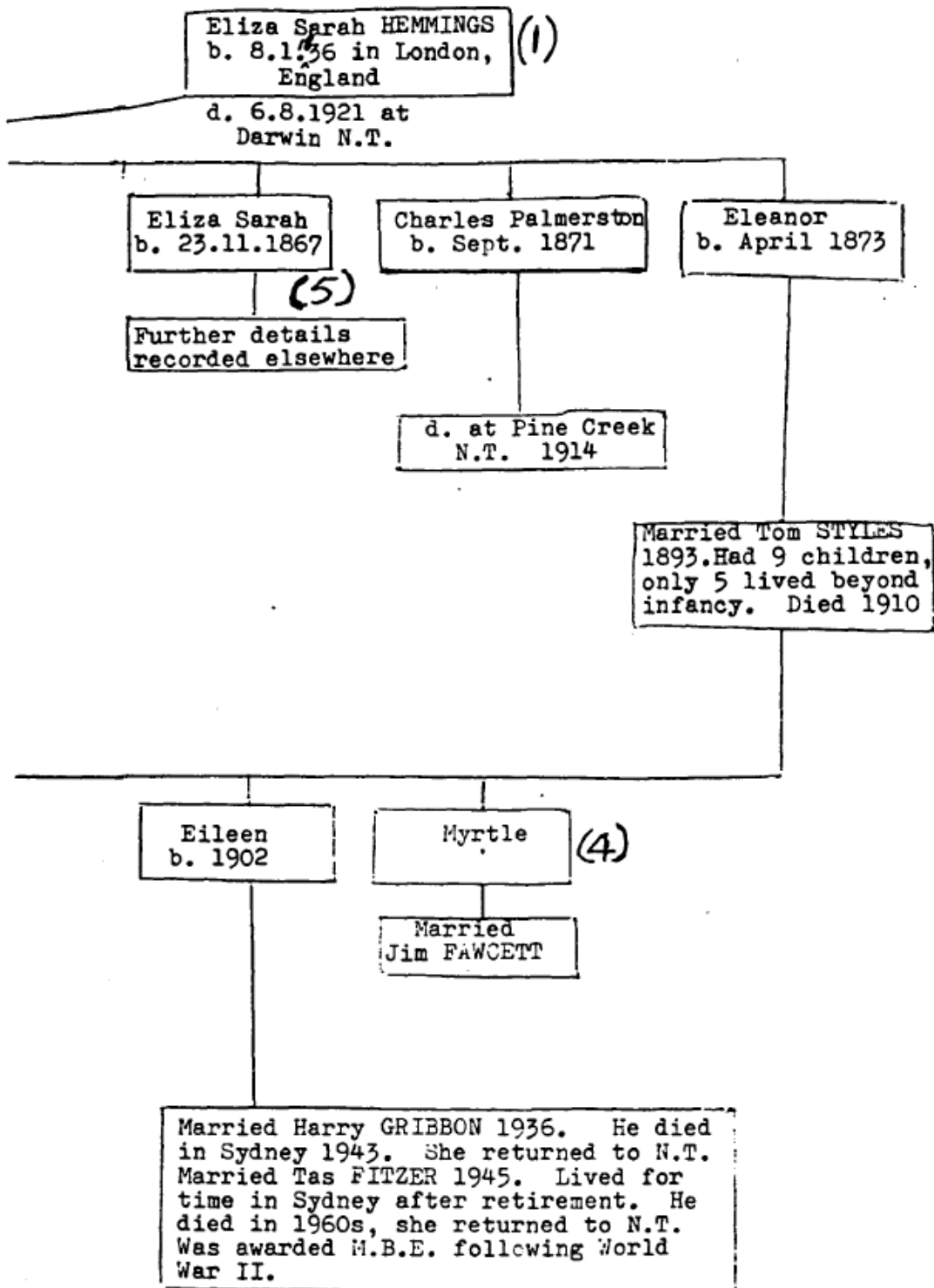
This article was presented by our member Mrs A McLachlan with the following notation:

Ron Tuckwell of Port Hacking Road, Caringbah is a descendent of this lady and my grandson, David McLachlan is married to his daughter.

(signed) Ami McLachlan



- (1) Left Adelaide for Palmerston (Darwin) with her 4 children (Mary Ann, Edward, George and Eliza Sarah) in Dec. 1869 by ship 'Kohinor' to join husband who was working in N.T. Arrived Palmerston Jan.1870.
- (2) Most probable number of descendants still living in N.S.W.
- (3) Alice Springs telephone directory includes two people named LOVEGROVE. Likely descendants.
- (4) Alice Springs telephone directory includes two people named FAWCETT. Likely descendants. A daughter - Pam RIXON - lives in N.T.
- (5) Refer to 'Gum Leaf and Cow Hide'.



6 January 1990.

HAZELHURST FIRE.

Early in the 1940s, a Mr. Tycehurst had a beautiful home built on a quarter acre block facing the Kingsway at Gympie, it was the envy of everyone, Tycehurst had a shirt factory in the city, and it was the general opinion of everyone the home was the result of a large army contract. The house was finished, furnished, landscaped, and occupied, it was indeed a lovely home.

One Wednesday the Captain of the Sutherland Fire Brigade, Ray Paton rang me and said he had to go to the dentist in Rockdale and would I be available to take charge of the station in the event of any fires occurring in his absence, this was quite common practice with us, I was his right hand man, so I said O.K. I knew I was quite capable of handling anything that might come up. I had been in the Brigade for some years, I was a good driver and understood the appliance and its functions, and I had a key to get in. However, I wasn't prepared for what was to follow, for a couple of hours later a rather concerned and excited Mrs Paton put the fire bells on from her home where she had received a call, I dashed over to the Fire Station where she met me, and said George it's the Tycehursts new house, you know down the Kingsway, I said O.K., but no men had turned up. I put my gear on but not a single man had turned up, so I climbed aboard very concerned this could be bad, but as I drove out of the station the motor didn't respond to my wishes, so I stopped and had a look at a flat tyre on a front wheel, what was I to do? which was the most urgent, the tyre or the burning house, I chose the house, so I climbed aboard and drove a zig zag course all the way to the house about a mile. I was alone but I felt I would get some civilian help in a case of emergency, and Cronulla station should be on their way to back up. Flat tyre or not I still arrived first, when I arrived I could see no smoke, no excitement, not a sign of trouble. I ran to the front door and rang the bell, no answer, no one home, I ran all around the house, no sign of any fire, the whole area seemed deserted, I felt a bloody fool, Cronulla still not in attendance, they must be out on another job. We had no radio contact in those days, what a mess a false alarm, a tyre

ruined. I thought I'll get no medal for this day's work. Eventually with great screaming of the siren Kogarah arrived, complete with the District Officer, who in not too nice a tone told me I should have phoned them and not proceeded, did I realise that I had ruined an expensive tyre, where were my crew, did I think I could cope with a fire of that magnitude on my own. I replied, I had no crew, no one had responded, and I could but try until assistance arrived, but Cronulla were out on another job. And without offering me any help, Driver, D.O. and six able bodied men turned their motor around and returned to Kogarah. Forlornly I jacked the motor up, changed that ten ton wheel and drove back to the Fire Station, to be met by a disgruntled Captain, who had just returned from the Dentist, on hearing my story, only commented, that's right, I leave the station for five minutes and everything goes wrong. My thought was, it wouldn't have been a bad idea to have checked the motor before leaving it to me in case of an emergency, as I thought I got no medals for that day's work. But what if I had arrived to find a fire in the front bedroom and had time to pull the lady out of the house that had been smoking in bed and then with the use of the garden hose extinguished the small fire, this I would have had time to do before the Kogarah Crew had arrived. Then the newspapers would have read, Heroic Fireman drives fire engine two miles with a flat tyre to save lady in burning bedroom and alone he extinguished fire in house before help arrived. I would have been a Hero, but instead I was only a fool to have used my head the way I did. But it was a false alarm, so no praise, and of course no medal, only criticism. George Heavens remembers.

The above story relates to Hazelhurst Retreat bequeathed by Mr. Broadhurst to Sutherland Shire Council. The Sutherland Council are currently running an advertisement to have the property rezoned from Residential to public open space. The draft plan also provides provisions which allow Council to allow development of an Arts and Crafts centre on the site. Editor.

EXCURSION REPORT

July tour of the Shire -- it has become necessary to cancel the outing; everyone who booked, has been advised by letter and the ticket money paid will be returned at the July Meeting. Members not in attendance that evening will have a cheque mailed to them. After the enthusiasm shown when this trip was suggested at a General Meeting, that the response was so few disappoints the Excursion Committee and is an embarrassment when cancelling plans.

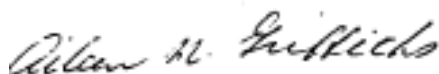
September 16 -- we shall be visiting "North Fort", which is the Army establishment at North Head, Sydney Harbour. Bookings have been very satisfactory and there are only a few seats left to fill the Coach.

Tickets \$14.00 members and \$17.00 visitors -- leaving Cronulla at 8 a.m. and Sutherland 8.30 a.m. Take your morning tea and Lunch needs, as usual -- we hope to have a surprise venue for luncheon.

Bookings for the week-end to Dungog area are coming in very well and the support is appreciated. If you are thinking of joining us and haven't made a booking as yet, please speak to Betty McGrath as soon as possible. A deposit of \$25.00 is required and the full payment of \$148.00 members and \$153.00 visitors must be finalised by October meeting night at latest so we can meet our commitments to our hosts at the Historical Society in Dungog and the motel in Rutherford.

Looking ahead to the beginning of 1996, we have booked a trip for Saturday, February 17, 1996 to the Naval Air Base and Museum at Nowra-- it's a long trip, but with day-light saving and long summer days it should be a pleasant outing on the South Coast. We will leave Cronulla at 8 a.m., Sutherland at 8.30 a.m. -- cost of trip including Coach, cost of tour and Museum entrance will be \$20.00 members and \$25.00 visitors (note new visiting price).

Bookings for all outings to Mrs. Betty McGrath, 521-2227 -- for enquiries regarding the trips, either Betty or myself (523-5801).



EXCURSION CONVENER

GUNNAMATTA PARK
CRONULLA

Celebrates

One Hundred Years

6th September, 1995.

Due to the foresight of three early pioneer settlers, Messrs. Atkinson, Wilshire and Windsor, who received grants of land in the nearby area we now have this wonderful park for recreation, instead of it being included in the land sales of the Cronulla Peninsular.

Following the approach made by this Society to Sutherland Shire Council this special event in the Shire's history is being acknowledged by the placing of a plaque in an appropriate setting near the pavilion and under a gum tree. The official ceremony will be at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, September 9, 1995, when the Shire Mayor, Clr. Genevieve Rankin will unveil the plaque.

All Shire residents are invited to attend.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER

During 1992 the History Project for Year 8 at De La Salle. College, Caringbah was "A Senior Citizen"; Patrick Scott, aged 14 years, asked for information on John Atkinson and the following essay is what he prepared for his project.

Since Patrick wrote his story we have confirmed that John. Atkinson arrived in Moreton Bay, June, 1856, the family meeting his Sister Jane, who had emigrated twelve months earlier. Later on we will be able to give the Society more precise details.

There were a number of photographs submitted with this essay but, unfortunately they would not reproduce sufficiently to be included in the Bulletin.

Adam K. Smith

INFORMATION

My Great Great Grandfather, John Atkinson, was born on the 18th of June, 1843, in the Manor of Richmount, Armagh, Northern Ireland.

He died on the 14th of April, 1917 at his home "Richmount House" Richmount Street, Cronulla, and was buried in the Methodist Section of Woronora Cemetery on the 17th of April, 1917.

Research shows that John Atkinson arrived in Australia circa 1857 on the SS "Persia" with his mother Elizabeth (nee Taggert) who was 42 years old, and his sister Margaret who was 18 years old. John was 14 years old.

His father's name was Thomas Atkinson but his year of death is still unknown. The family lived in Balmain.

John's first wife was Mary Falconer Stewart. They were married on the 28th of July 1870. Their children's names were: Thomas William (my Great Grand-father) Johanna and George Stewart.

Mary died in 1885. The following year John married Lydia Moore, a nurse from Gladesville. She was originally from Portsmouth, England (the name given to the street where my home is located).

John and Lydia came to Cronulla to live in 1895. The land they built their home on was a Crown Grant by Sale at Auction on the 11th of September 1895. Details from the Registrar General's Office :

"Crown Grant Volume 1351 - folio 238 for portion 175,
Parish of Sutherland, County of Cumberland containing
2 acres, 2 roods, 7 perches was purchased for £16.0.0
by John Atkinson of Balmain, Carpenter...."

John also had 11 acres leasehold land on Parraweena Road Caringbah where he established a dairy run by his daughter Olive (from his second marriage) and her family.

Today Parke Davis and other factories are built on a portion of this land.

John was very interested in Cronulla and helped in the early development of the area with Messrs Windsor and Wilshire (who are remembered by streets named after them adjacent and near my street in South Cronulla). My street (Portsmouth) and Richmount Street were named by my Great Great Grandfather for his 2nd wife's English home town and the manor of Richmount where he was born.

These three early Cronulla pioneers (Atkinson, Windsor and Wilshire) pressed for land to be set aside for a park on the western side of Nicholson Parade and not be sold for the building of houses. This land is now Gunnamatta Park and was proclaimed a Park on the 6th of September 1895.

My Great Great Grandfather was President of the South Cronulla Progress Association and was chairman at a meeting held on the 21st of March 1903 which established the Cronulla School of Arts.

John was a long-time friend of the Hon.

E.W. O'Sullivan, the NSW Secretary for Works in the early 1900's. (Ewos Parade Cronulla is named after him). Through John's efforts Cronulla Esplanade was given to the public and houses could not be built to the water line.

John became a member of the Nominated Sutherland Council, who later arranged the elections for the first Sutherland Shire Council on the 6th of December 1906.

My family now only retains two blocks of land from the original Cronulla acreages. My grandmother lives on the Richmount Street block and my family live on the Portsmouth Street one - the blocks adjoin one another.

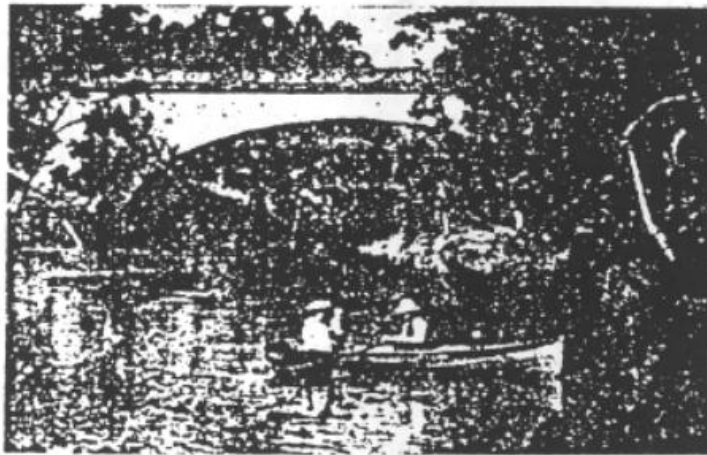
On 11th of September, 1995 (next year) my family will celebrate 100 years of continuously living on the same land.

My Great Great Grandfather must have been an interesting and go ahead man.

Park Your Cars and Camp or Picnic on the Spot

REFRESHMENTS :: HOT OR COLD
GIVE US A TRIAL :: BY ROAD OR RIVER

F. C. HOWARD, LANSDOWNE BRIDGE
Tel.: UB 1228 CARRAMAR P.O.



LANSDOWNE BRIDGE, HUME HIGHWAY, N.S.W.

The front portion of this photocopied card advertised the Pleasure Grounds at Lansdowne Bridge, run by Mr. F.C. Howard c.1900 to c.1940. The history of the Bridge was printed on the reverse side and is reproduced, exactly as written, in the accompanying article.

The small child in the front of the rowing boat was their then two year old daughter Theresa, who became Mrs. Knight, Mother of Vice-President, Keith who submitted the article for the Bulletin.

LANSDOWNE BRIDGE

Historic Lansdowne Bridge, on Main Southern Road (16 miles from Sydney), spanning Prospect Creek at Fairfield, Bankstown and Cabra-Vale, is the second stone bridge built in Australia. It has one single elliptic archway of 110 feet, and length of bridge 190 feet; height, 30 feet above low water; roadway 30 feet; and was designed from Westgate bridge, Gloucester. In 1832, £1083/5/3 was voted for the bridge. David Lennox lived in the old toll house, on the Sydney side of bridge. The stone was got about eight miles down the river, on right bank, by a number of convicts, out of irons to work at quarry. Stone was punted up as tide served, day and night. Some of the convicts broke camp, plundered a private still nearby of its contents, came back and threatened to kill overseer and burn camp. Some were put to chain gang again, others got 25 to 50 lashes. David Lennox was designer, engineer, contractor, inspector, overseer and sub-inspector of all roads and received \$120 a year and no allowances. He designed his own machinery, and, with only four mechanics, with convict labour, the old bridge was built with a well at side.

On 1st January, 1834, at 10 a.m. the Governor laid the corner stone with engraved brass plate and coins beneath, and named the bridge after Lord Lansdowne. Thieves stole the plate and coins, but the plate was recovered and again placed under. In June the same year everything was ready to erect centring for support of archway, though delayed for lime, which was bought for 7d. per bushel. 971 Tuesday, 26th January, 1836, the 48th anniversary of the colony, the Governor (Sir Richard Bourke), opened Lansdowne Bridge at 1.30 pm in the presence of 1000 spectators.

The Governor was attended by all principal officers, civil and military. After the opening ceremony, a procession passed over the bridge with the 4th and 5th Regiments' bands playing. There were wool teams, fat oxen, and horses of colonial breed, some Saxon Sheep, Angora goats, casks of wine, cases of ham on trucks, a cart with two emus and a donkey-cart laden with produce. The festivities finished up at night with a vice-regal ball at Government House, Parramatta. David Lennox received a grant of £200 and a rise in salary; but the bridge was not open to traffic till end of the year, through toll house and gate not being finished by separate contractor. The revenue at the bridge in 1843 was £634/4/3, and in 1844 £685/1/4.

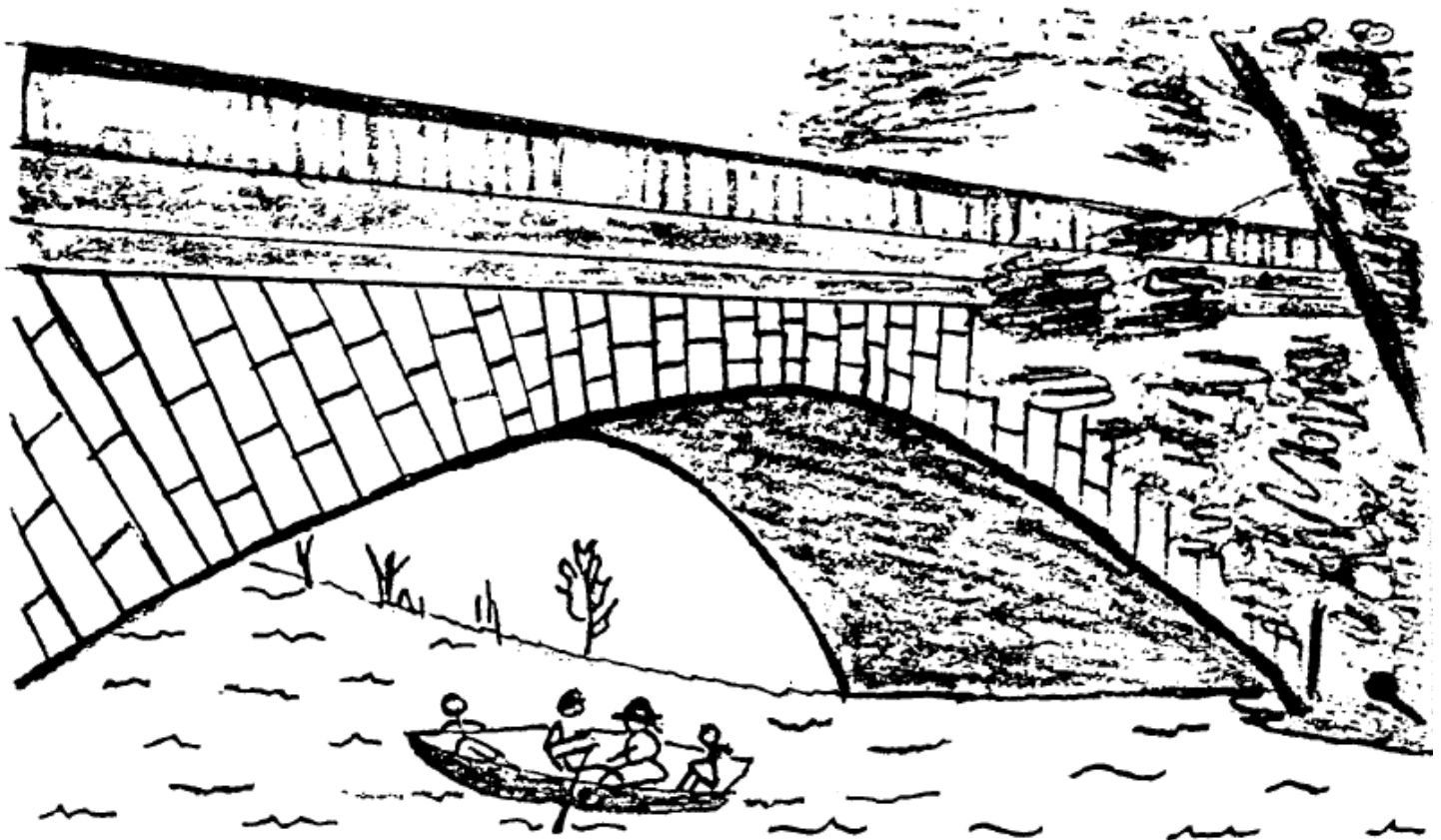
LANSDOWNE BRIDGE -- (Contd)

Three large stones remain where the toll gate stood. The Garden. of Eden picnic ground adjoining Lansdowne Bridge is a very pretty nook containing 10 acres of nature's beautiful shade trees, on the bank of deep tidal water, which flows into George's River. A good parking and camping ground for motorists, with an up-to-date refreshment room, which provides at reasonable rates established 26th January, 1912, where the old toll house stood, and is only five minutes' walk from Carramar Railway Station. 'Phone, which can be used by the public, on the premises. On 5th January, 1916 at 5.30 p.m., the Mayor and Aldermen of Bankstown gave 200 recruits, "The Kangaroos", on their war recruiting route march Wagga and Yass to Sydney, a welcome to their municipality on Lansdowne Bridge, and gave them light refreshments on the spot.

(SIGNED)

F.C. HOWARD. (Tel. UB 1223)

(Thanks were expressed by Mr. Howard to R.A.H.S. for the information



Museum Report

We were requested to add to the festivities of the "Mayfest" exhibition at Menai High School by displaying photographs from the Historical collection.

Over 370 people visited the stand and showed great interest in the photographs of earlier days.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS. This display is still prominent at the museum and will be there until the end of the year apart from the navy items - these are to be returned to Spectacle Island in September.

We are always open to requests to open the museum but in addition to our Saturday openings the museum will be specially opened on the 15th and 19th August.

I would like to thank all those people that helped both in assembling the display and acting as minders.

Allan McGrath.

~~~~~

Smile awhile  
for while you smile  
another smiles  
and there are miles of smiles  
while you smile.

The Wilson Family.

This is a tribute to a family who were residents of this shire.

Mr. & Mrs. Wilson and their three sons all served in the services.

This testimonial taken from the "Pix" magazine in October, 1943 tells of the Wilson family of Cronulla. The father Pte F.E. Wilson was still at a northern battle station. He served right through the 1914-18 war with the Canadian army.

The mother, Mrs. D.L. Wilson was a green cross (equivalent to our Red Cross) ambulance driver throughout W.W.I. In WW2 she has been a NES recruiting superintendent and again an ambulance driver. When not driving she divided her week between first-aid work and all-night air post watching.

Their eldest son, Fred served in the RAN. He was formerly attached to HMAS Canberra but was sick in shore hospital when his ship sailed on its last ill-fated voyage. (The Canberra was sunk in action against Japanese off the Solomon Islands in August, 1942.

Second son Jim served in the RAAF and the third son Jack served in the RAN.

The family came to Australia from Hampshire in England in 1928 to visit Mrs. Wilson's brother. They liked Australia so much that they decided to stay.

"Australia Remembers" the "Fighting Wilson's" with affection and with thanks for a great contribution to our fighting forces.

Allen McGrath.

~~~~~

Sutherland Theatre.

Talkie Success.

It is the general opinion that the new Talkie installation at the above Theatre is a great success. Comments around are endorsed by all, that the voice production is perfect at that "tin music" has absolutely disappeared. The Theatre was reopened on Wednesday last (sometime in 1931) and will continue showing on the usual days (Wednesdays and Saturdays). The management has excellent programmes booked up.

Hang this above your sparkling white automatic washer and feel grateful for some progress.

- * Build a fire in back yard to heat kettle of rain water.
- * Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is sharp.
- * Shave one whole cake of lye soap in boiling water.
- * Sort things. Make three piles: one pile white, one pile coloured, one pile work britches and rags.
- * Stir flour in cold water 'til smooth, then thin down with boiling water for starching.
- * Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, boil. Rub coloureds but don't boil, just rinse and starch.
- * Spread tea towels on grass.
- * Hang old rags on fence.
- * Pour rinse water on flower beds.
- * Scrub porch with hot soapy water.
- * Go put on a clean dress, smooth hair with side-combs, brew cup of tea, sit and rest and rock a spell, and count blessings.

Anon.



LANCE HILL KEPT HIS WIFE HAPPY AND MADE A FORTUNE.

It is hard to imagine Australia without the Hills Hoist. The shining symbol of suburbia that sprouted in the 1950s has whirled a multitude of sheets, towels, frocks, nappies, shirts and socks to dryness. Generations of children, risking permanently dislocated shoulders and thrashings, have swung off them.

Lance Hill, the inventor of the Hills Rotary Clothes Hoist, was an engineer and motor mechanic. Shortly before the start of World War II Lance planted a lemon tree in the backyard of his Adelaide home. Soon afterwards, he joined the army. Cynthia, his wife, was left with a burgeoning lemon tree which added to her wash-day battles with the wire and prop. Wire and prop clothes lines were strung between two L-shaped poles. The lines were supported in the middle by Y shaped wooden props. usually of mallee. As well as gouging holes in the lawn, props were always breaking. They were supplied by a man who came round in a horse and cart. Women spent infuriating, lineless days waiting for the prop man to appear again. When Lance was pondering post-war job possibilities in 1945, Cynthia pleaded for a better clothes line. Lance turned the laundry into a workroom. Weeks later, the first Hill Hoist - made of tubular and galvanised steel - was produced. Large enough for double sheets, the hoist rotated freely and the wind caught the washing like a sail.

It wasn't the first Australian rotary clothes line. A hoist, with wooden arms, had been made in Melbourne back in 1924 but never took off. Lance's hoist was a winner from the start. Despite the "belly-buster" lever, Lance was rushed with orders. The laundry became the first Hill Hoist factory. In 1946 Lance signed a partnership agreement with his brother-in-law, Harold Ling, who before the war had been a clerk with Goldsbrough Mort. The following year, Lance and Harold, with Brian O'Leary and Harold's 17 year old son, Bob, drove an ex-army truck loaded with hoists to Sydney and sold them at the Easter Show. A Hills Hoist cost eleven pounds in 1948, about two weeks wages.

-- Good Weekend April 1986.

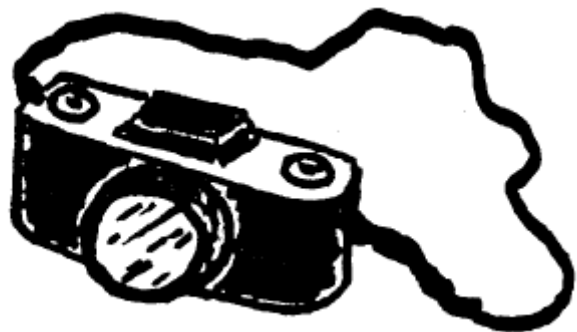
DAMIEN PARER - ACE PHOTOGRAPHER.

Somewhere on an island in the Pacific, there is a simple grave marked with a white cross, just one of the many in an American War Cemetery. As the slanting rays of the sun fall upon the inscription, one may read these simple lines, Damien Parer, War Photographer, Killed in Action, September 17th, 1944. His brilliant photographic epic as filmed in the Middle East and New Guinea, filmed under fire, and under the most adverse of climatic conditions, will remain forever treasures in the archives of the Australian Film Industry. Australia has almost forgotten, but he is still fervently remembered in the hearts and minds of his friends. His mildness of voice and politeness of manner, remains fresh in memory. Until the outbreak of war he was practically unheard of. He was sent to the Middle East as Australian Official "Still" Photographer with the Department of Information. It was not long before he switched to his first love, "Motion Pictures". He remained with the Department until 1943, when owing to unforeseen circumstances, he resigned. Paramount News, realising that here was an Australian of unusual ability, promptly signed him up. He was first and foremost an Australian, and loved his country. He died a genius in his field, but an outcast to the country he loved so well. At the time of his death he had started negotiations with his employers to permit him to return to the Australian Theatre of the Pacific War. At Salamauer he left his camera and equipment to help carry out the wounded. His films, "The Assault on the Salamauer," "Guerillas of Timor," "Bismarck Sea Battle," and "The Kokoda Front Line," will live long in the minds of people. He has passed on, but he has left a grand record of achievements and to his son, a heritage.

E. Edwards.

Contributed by George Heavens.

(paper and date unknown.)



EDITOR'S DESK.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that has helped with, and contributed stories for the bulletin, for without this input my job would be most difficult.

1995 should bring back some memories of World War II for those who served this country both overseas and at home. I hope everyone has been enjoying the wonderful exhibitions that have been on display during this year for Australia Remembers. One thing that I feel is just taken for granted or sometimes forgotten about is the war photographers both amateur and professional that have left us a rich heritage of still and movie images of this period, that provide the visual impact to go with the written history. Many of these photographers payed the ultimate price for these images of war.

Please do take some time out to write down some of your memories and experiences of the past, so that they can be shared by us and future generations, by being a part of our bulletin.

Jim Cutbush.

~~~~~

In 1879 Parliament dedicated National Park to the public forever. Trustees were appointed. Audley was named after Lord Audley who, as far back as 1864 made the first accurate survey of the stream.



Largest  
Net Daily  
Sale In  
Australia  
334,614

# The Sun

NEWS — PICTORIAL

No. 7142 Melbourne: Wednesday, August 15, 1945 (24 Pages) 2d.

# V-P

## Attlee Announces Victory In Pacific

# JAPAN AGREES TO SURRENDER

## MacArthur To Accept Capitulation

**LONDON, Wednesday.**—Japan has decided to surrender, and peace has come to the Pacific.

THE GOOD NEWS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER (MR ATTLEE IN A BROADCAST FROM NO. 10 DOWNING STREET AT MIDNIGHT.

He declared: "Japan has surrendered, and the last of our enemies has been laid low.

Mr Attlee stated that the Japanese agreement to the Allied terms had just been received in a Note from the Japanese Government.

It declared that the Japanese Emperor was prepared to make arrangements for the necessary signatures by his representatives to the surrender terms, and to issue a command to all his forces, wherever they were to cease fire and surrender their arms.

The Note was signed by the Japanese Foreign Minister (Togo)

The Japanese acceptance of the surrender terms was announced by President Truman in Washington at 7 p.m. (Washington time).

He said that General MacArthur would accept the surrender as soon as arrangements could be completed and added that Emperor Hirohito was pledged to surrender on the terms laid down by the Big Three at Potsdam.

Moscow radio has also announced that the Japanese have surrendered unconditionally.

It is announced in Washington that arrangements have been made for formal signing of the surrender terms at the earliest possible moment. President Truman disclosed that the Japanese Emperor was prepared to issue a command to all military, naval and air authorities and the Japanese forces, wherever located, to cease operations and surrender arms.

Britain, America, Russia and China will be represented by high-ranking officers at the signing. The Allied armed forces have been ordered to suspend offensive operations.

## MR CHIFLEY DECLARES V-P DAY

**CANBERRA, Wednesday.**—Broadcasting early this morning a formal announcement of the Japanese surrender, the Prime Minister (Mr Chifley) formally gave the signal for the celebration of V-P Day in Australia.

The remainder of today and tomorrow will be a public holiday.

Mr Chifley in his broadcast said: Fellow Citizens.—

The war is over. The Japanese Government has accepted the terms of surrender imposed by the Allied nations and hostilities will now cease.

After quoting the terms of the note sent by the Japanese Government to the Allies, Mr Chifley continued.

At this moment let us offer thanks to God.

Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and look forward to the peace which they have won for us.

"Let us remember those whose thoughts with proud sorrow turn towards gallant loved ones who will not come back."

"On behalf of the people and the Government of Australia, I offer humble thanks to the fighting men of the United Nations whose gallantry, sacrifice and devotion to duty have brought us the victory."

"Nothing can fully repay the debt we owe them, nor can history record in adequate terms their deeds from the black days that followed September, 1939 and December, 1941, until this moment."

"We owe a great debt to those men and women who performed miracles of production in secondary and primary industries so that the battle of supply could be won and a mammoth effort achieved."

"Materials, money and resources have been poured out so that the fighting men would not go short."

Australia's part comparatively in terms of fighting men and supplies ranks high and the Australian people may be justly proud of everything they have done."

I am sure that you would like me to convey to the commanders of the fighting forces the warmest thanks for their skill, efficiency and great devotion."

"Especially do I mention General Wouglas MacArthur, with whom we had so much in common and with whom we share the dangers when Australia was threatened with invasion."

**LEST WE FORGET**



# Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

FOUNDED  
1966



VISITORS AND  
INTENDING MEMBERS WELCOME