

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN



Design by (the late) Fred Wiggley

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# COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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## SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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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  
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QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Vol. 2 No. 12

CONTENTS

PRESIDENTS REMARKS	A. GRIFFITHS	258
SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL	A. GRIFFITHS	259
EXCURSION REPORT	A. GRIFFITHS	260
THE FORTRESS SHIRE	A. GRIFFITHS	261
WORONORA CEMETERY	M. KAVANAGH	262
LIFE'S PLAN	H. MOORE	273
THINGS I REMEMBER	C. DUNN	274
STINSON CRASH AND RESCUE	A. HAMILTON	275
WHAT IT WAS LIKE	C. DUNN	277
MUSEUM REPORT	A. McGRATH	278
SEPTEMBER 1ST. 1942	M. BLACKLEY	279
FLIPPENCE AND GINGER	G. V. TIDD	280
THE VENO PARK PLAQUE	J. RISEBROW	281
GUNNAMATTA PARK	J. CUTBUSH	283
LEGACY OF BRICKS FOR THE BIRDS	KIRRAWEE BULLETIN	284
BUNDEENA	N. WITIN	285
EDITORS DESK	J. CUTBUSH	287

GUEST SPEAKERS.

NOVEMBER	MRS. SHIRLEY SINCLAIR 'MRS. ELIZABETH COOK.'
DECEMBER	MRS. JACKI IRLAN B.A. M.A. 'ST. JOHN AMBULANCE IN N.S.W.'
JANUARY	MEMBERS NIGHT TO BE ADVISED
FEBRUARY MARCH	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Renewal of Subscription for 1996

As from 1st December 1995

As approved at 1994 Annual Meeting. Society Financial Year will be 1st Dec to 30th Nov in the following year.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - 1996

NAME: (Please print in CAPITALS) Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/ Ms/

.....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

Post Code: ..... Telephone: .....

Please find my Subscription for 1996 enclosed herewith.

Annual Adult Subscription - \$8.00

Junior Member / Full-time Student - \$4.00

Signed ..... Date .....

\*\*\*\*\*

### SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES -

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

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



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It is with much pride and pleasure I am now able to advise the Guest Speaker for November meeting will be Mrs. Shirley Sinclair wife of Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, Governor of New South Wales.

Mrs. Sinclair's subject will be Elizabeth Cook, wife of Captain James Cook. Be assured her address is most inspiring.

Due to Vice-Regal duties there was some difficulty for our Guest to fit the Society meeting into her programme; and we are much indebted to Mrs. Sinclair, following an alteration in dates when His Excellency is required as Administrator on behalf of the Governor-General, that we have been chosen in the new programme.

Members are asked to be seated in the Auditorium on this evening, Friday, November 10, 1995, by 7.30 p.m., allowing Mrs. Sinclair to be officially welcomed at 7.45 p.m., the usual commencement time of our meetings.

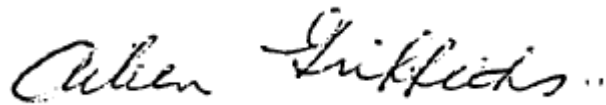
As you will understand on this evening there is certain protocol and we ask that you assist the Executive Committee in seeing that our part is correctly carried out.

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This being the last Bulletin for 1995, may I remind members of the renewal form included for fees which become due on December. 1 for 1996 - cost being \$8.00 per member. Members who have joined after October 1, 1995 will remain financial to December 1996.

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On behalf of the Executive Council of the Society we thank all members for their support during 1995 - and wish you good health and happiness in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allen Griffiths".

PRESIDENT

### SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

With Local Government Elections just over, it is interesting to read a feature in "The Voice", dated Thursday August 4, 1983, in -reference to the Nominated Council Members who in 1906 were chosen to prepare for the first official election and appointment of Councillors to the Sutherland Shire.

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"The first Council meeting in the Sutherland Shire was planned in 1906. Councillors Atkinson, Best, Judd, McAlister and Thacker were appointed members of the temporary Shire Council.

Cir. Best acted as Secretary, Cr. William G. Judd was elected Chairman. The provisional Council had been established to do the groundwork - to find office premises, prepare a roll of electors and arrange other details for the first ballot and to appoint a Shire Clerk on the princely salary of 30/- a week. Thirty shillings, though would buy a lot. (Now \$3.00)

Sutherland, generally accepted as having been named after one of Captain Cook's crew; Forby Sutherland, the first British citizen to die in Australia, was selected as the most suitable and central township for the Council Chambers.

The beginnings were humble. The Councillors rented from Mrs. Lehane for 15/- a week a shop with residence at rear. The original Council chambers stood on a site adjoining the present Commonwealth Bank on the Princes Highway.

The Shire Clerk was required to pay 5/- from his 30/- a week wage for rent of the residence behind the shop.

The Council did not have the resources to gather all names of residences for the voters rolls. The Department of Public Works supplied some, and the Holt Company - founded by Thomas Holt, the first Colonial Treasurer of New South Wales and owning large tracts of land in the Shire - obliged with more names for the sum of two pounds ten shillings . Senior Constable Lewis and Constable Duncan the local policemen furnished most of the remainder.

First Returning Officer was W.J. Powe. He supervised the election for 4 pounds. Fees for substitute Return Officer and Returning Officer were even more modest at 1 pound 1/- and 1 pound 10/- respectively. Mr. A.J. Lobb contracted to supply 20 ballot boxes at 4/6. The project was a little too large for the limited equipment so ballot boxes were eventually borrowed from the Public Works Department.

Before the electors had come to the improvised booths in their Sunday best, the provisional Sutherland Shire Council pressed a policy issue that was to be before people and Council for many years to come - and excites agitation of the foreshores of Botany Bay, Port Hacking and their arms and the Pacific Ocean beachfronts, so that the people would always enjoy access and Nature would not be despoiled.

They objected to alienation of foreshores and beaches by the Minister for Lands for private use.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL (CONTD)

Their campaign was worthy and precedent setting for future generations.

But that testimony of today, in this age of pollution and alteration is that the policy of our civic forbears met only partial success. The provisional council also called for dedication of a road from Kurnell to Cronulla.

The eligible among the 1500 population strolled to the booths or drove in buggies, gigs carts or the first few chugging automobiles, to cast-votes in the first historic election to Sutherland Shire Council,

The ballot was taken on November 24, 1906. Elected were Councillors William George Judd (President), Robert W. Cook, John Hill, Edward W. Hyndman, Thomas Lehane and Charles McAlister. So, Sutherland's Shire Council moved on the stage of a local government system that had deep roots in British democratic tradition.

*Allen Griffiths..*

EXCURSION REPORT

The weather on our visit to North Fort, at North Head, was very in-clement but it did not prevent our inspection arrangements. Sorry circumstances negated our morning tea arrangements! We understand some of the ladies did not appreciate this type of inspection, and

we will remember that for the future, but the gentlemen certainly appreciated the tour, together with many of the ladies. It is very difficult to please everyone all of the time - this was the first direct complaint, and we can only hope we please the majority of our party most of the time. But please let us know of any concerns.

The next outing is the week-end tour to Dungog: as I write bookings are full, but if the Bulletin is in your hands in time, please get in touch with Betty McGrath on 521-2227 if you wish to go, as there may be an unexpected cancellation. Members \$148.00 Visitors \$153.00 Leaving Cronulla Friday November 17, at 6. p.m., Sutherland 6.30 pm and returning Sunday November 19. Full details Betty or myself.

Then, on February 17, 1996, our outing is to the Naval Air Station at Nowra; this is a most interesting place, with its Naval Base and Museum to be seen and I'm sure all the ladies as well as the gentlemen will appreciate this trip. Members \$20.00, Visitors \$25.00 inclusive of coach trip and entrance fees. Leaving Cronulla 8 am, Sutherland 8.30 am. Take your morning tea and lunch requirements as usual, please. Bookings are open and tickets will be available at meetings.

Although no plans have been considered as yet, for the May outing next year, it is expected that the date will be Saturday, May 18, 1996 - you may like to note it in your diary.

*Allen Griffiths..*

EXCURSION CONVENER

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS

With the year "Australia Remembers" coming to a close, it is interesting to read an article published in "The Voice" (which circulated in the Sutherland Shire for some years,) issue of Thursday, August 4, 1983; this reminds us of the concern of the government of the day, so far as Cronulla and Bate Bay were viewed.

*Aileen Griffiths*

"THE FORTRESS SHIRE"

Sutherland quickly became the "Fortress Shire" as Japan forces spread rapidly south, creating a danger of invasion for the first time in Australia's history.

The army authorities considered that if a landing was to be attempted by Japanese forces a frontal attack would not be made through Sydney Heads. They estimated that it would be easier for an enemy force to land on one of the beaches either north or south of Sydney Harbour.

Cronulla and Bate Bay were rated as ideal for Japanese landing forces. And so the Sutherland Shire had to be fortified against the danger.

The Japanese gave an ominous turn to the war when they treacherously bombed Pearl Harbour on December 17, 1941, sinking many American ships of war and destroying installations. Australian forces fighting in the Middle East were hurriedly transported towards areas in the path of the Japanese advance, some to the East Indies, which soon fell to the Japanese invaders and then to Australia.

Singapore fell to the Japanese and several penetrations of new Guinea were made. Japanese Naval superiority was demonstrated by the sinking of HMAS Perth and USS Houston, unable to survive the overwhelming odds against them in the Sunda Strait on the night of February 28 and on March 1.

General Sir Archibald Wavell in charge of the allied forces in regions to Australia's North reported to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill that it was absolutely vital to success in the war against Japan to hold Burma and Australia.

The Australian Government was fully aware of Australia's O grave position, and could foresee the possibility of Japanese invasion and air attacks. Urgent steps were taken to enlist the aid of all local government bodies throughout Australia to prepare the safety of residents within their areas, and to set up organisations for protection of the civil population against air raids and for their evacuation in event of invasion.

As the Cronulla area was rated a potential invasion site, the State War Effort Co-ordination Committee at the Department of the Army's request:, sent an order to Sutherland Shire Council to remove sand from the seaward side of the Cronulla sea walls.

An anti-tank ditch with a vertical face ten feet high was to be constructed. Old tram rails were placed upright in the concrete path immediately behind the Cronulla sea wall. Barbed wire on steel posts was strung along the whole beach front, from Oak Park to Boat Harbour.

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## WORONORA CEMETERY

### A Century of History

By Merle Kavanagh

Hidden in the rows of headstones, on plaques in walls and gardens are many stories of tears and tragedy, courage and caring - real life dramas experienced by ordinary people.

But there are other things we can learn from the monuments and their surroundings - mortality rates for the various age groups, places of origin, monumental masons who serviced the cemetery and fashions in headstones and verses to mention a few. As part of a university course, during 1994 I explored the history of the cemetery and conducted a random survey of the Anglican monumental section and here are some of the results.

### General History

The land on which the cemetery operates was originally part of the National Park but in 1892 the Trustees agreed under the Public Purposes Act to the transfer of a parcel of 102 acres (41.28 hectares) for a cemetery site for suburbs along the Illawarra Railway Line.(1) The first Superintendent was Mr. Charles Fripp who commenced duties with the newly dedicated Woronora Cemetery on 2 April 1895(2) though the first interment, when Miss Helen Willows aged 19 of Kogarah was buried, took place on 1 April 1895.(3)

In 1900 the Woronora mortuary train came into service from Redfern, branching off into the cemetery just past Sutherland Station.(4)

The railway had crossed the Georges River from Sydney in 1885.(5) A special wheeled stretcher conveyance was used to take the bodies from the train for burial and this is still held by the Cemetery Trust. The mortuary train service continued until just after the building of the Tom Ugly's Bridge over the Georges River when motor funerals were able to operate from all areas and consequently the mortuary line closed.(6) The Cemetery station was demolished and the bricks used to build the first United Services Club at Sutherland.(7)

The vacant land of the cemetery was often used by walkers to the Woronora River below and stories are related of pedestrians falling into open graves dug across the worn tracks to Prince Edward Park and the Woronora River.(8)

With the general acceptance of cremation, the Crematorium was erected in 1934(9) and the practise of placing ashes in walls and gardens allowed the trust to beautify the grounds and slow the pace of usage.

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M. Hutton Neve, "The Woronora Cemetery" Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin No. 18, January 1977, p.4

1. F. Midgley, "Death of Member of Sutherland Pioneer Family", Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin No. 25, August 1978, p.201
2. M. Hutton Neve, The Stow of Woronora Cemetery. Taren Point, Suth. Shire Hist. Soc., 1981, p.4.
3. op. cit. p.9
4. David R. Kirkby, From Sails to Atoms, First Fifty years of Sutherland Shire, 1906 to 1956. Sydney, Publicity Aid for Sutherland Shire Council, 1970, p.11
5. M. Hutton Neve, "The Woronora Cemetery", loc. cit.
6. Jim Allen, "Sutherland United Services Club Ltd.", Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin No. 27, February 1979, p.239.
8. Related to writer after a taped interview at Kirrawee with Walter Yardley, former employee at cemetery, 22 August 1991.
9. Plaque on Crematorium, Woronora Cemetery.

Over the years Woronora Cemetery was threatened by bushfires,(10) damaged by straying stock(11) and lack of drainage (12) and

saw fights between flower sellers.(13) It also experienced some regular Anzac Services, Mothers Day Services and night cremations.(14)

When plans were made to build Central Station in Sydney it was necessary to acquire the land occupied by the Devonshire Street Cemetery known as the Sandhills Cemetery. It had then been closed for more than twelve years and the N.S.W. Government invited descendants and relatives of the interred to relocate the monuments and remains.(15) As a consequence a number were transferred to Woronora Cemetery and these include Thomas Dent died 22 January 1829 aged 3 years (Angl.G.94) and Julianna Luscombe Dale, died 14 February 1864 Aged 50 years (Meth.) both sandstone monuments, the latter marked as removed from Devonshire Street on 22 March 1901.

In the days when burials were the only option there were five monumental masons situated in Sutherland - A. Allen, Apex, F. Arnold, Ellis' and Scott's. Ray Allen of F.H. Downes Memorials, the only monumental masons with works in Sutherland at this time, is the grandson of A. Allen and the trade has been handed down from his great grandfather who followed it in England.(16)

Buried in the cemetery are a number of local mayors from the neighbouring St. George area and presidents of the Sutherland Shire. There are local headmasters, a Superintendent of the National Park, Ministers and much loved Nurse Kate Lobb who travelled the shire in her sulky, tending the sick and delivering babies. Some early settlers and their descendants also lie there - William Burns, first timber merchant; William Simpson, a pioneer on the south side of Pt. Hacking; the Rice family of Sylvania, who had a Post Office store and conducted a small private school in the 1880s; Owen Jones and Richard Midgley of the Woronora River and Edward Thacker of Miranda, early settlers who left their marks.(17) A wealth of local history is contained within the cemetery boundaries.

The cemetery, now with its new motto "Where beauty softens grief", is a very pleasant place with gardens, shady trees and gazebos. The camphor laurel trees planted in its early days have grown tall and shade the earlier graves with their angels and large columns of the Victorian era. The 1920s saw the emergence of simpler headstones as economic conditions and fashion dictated customs and during this period the brick drains were dug as part of initiatives to provide work for the unemployed. Lawn cemeteries and cremation altered the face of the land and the postwar growth of the multi-cultural migrants gave the cemetery a new type of headstone.

As it celebrates its centenary in 1995 the Trust which runs the Cemetery looks ahead to more years of servicing the community with its 43 staff members and offering alternatives in the placement of ashes and burials.

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10. St. George Call, 30 October 1909, p.5. Also Hurstville Propellor, 21 December 1923, p.1.

11. Hurstville Propellor, 7 October 1921, p.5

12. op. cit. 8 April 1921, p.5.

13. op. cit 4 March 1932, p.1.

14. op. cit. 20 December 1934, p.5.

15. Johnson and Sainty, Gravestone Inscriptions N.S.W. Vol. 1, Sydney Burial Ground, Sydney, Wentworth Press for Genealogical Publications of Australia, 1973. p.iv.

16. Interview with Mr. Ray Allen at Sutherland on 3 June 1994.

17. M. Hutton Neve, The Story of Woronora Cemetery, loc. cit

## WORONORA CEMETERY

### Symbolism on monuments

By Merle Kavanagh

Apart from the cross in its various forms, probably the most common symbol used throughout the Anglican section was the crossed tools of the Masonic Lodge and this would be closely followed by the linked hands, a symbol of farewell. Crosses stood alone, on the rock, or adorned with symbols of life, death and eternity such as the dove and the ivy leaf. An occasional eastern cross was found amongst the more common Latin variety and a number of Celtic crosses.

The earlier monuments featured figures in many guises and attitudes. The contemplative angel, often with her arm on a broken pedestal, or scattering flowers, seemingly triumphant and calling upon the dead to arise or with hands together as a prayerful guardian. Marble female figures sometimes mourned at the grave and a child's monument often carried a marble child figure perhaps clutching the cross or drawing attention to the inscription.

The column appeared often, sometimes broken and there were numerous torches and open books. The Ivy, an occasional Scotch thistle, rose, shamrock or fleur de is also told their stories. Below is a list giving meanings for symbols used on monuments -

Anchor	Early Christian Symbol meaning hope, rest or security.
Book	The symbol of faith - The Bible. Broken Chain Grief.
Broken Column	A life cut short.
Butterfly	The Resurrection.
Cross	Faith.
Crown	Of the Christian martyr whose reward awaits him.
Dove	The Holy Spirit, peace.
Eye	Eye of God
Fish	Symbol of the Christian Church. Hand of God Knowledge of the Bible.
Hands	Shown clasped, they symbolize farewell.
Heart	Charity or Sacred Heart of Christ. Two hearts, love in marriage.
I.H.S.	First three letters of Jesus in Greek.
Ivy	Immortality or undying friendship.
Lamb	Innocence, found most often on children's graves.
Lamp	Immortality, undying flame, knowledge of God.
Laurel	Fame, found on the graves of writers, artists, musicians, etc.
Lily	Purity.
Palm	Victory.
Phoenix	Rising again.
Rock or rocks	The Christian Church.
Scroll	Record of life with future and past hidden in roll.
Scythe/sickle.	Death. Cut down like ripe corn.
Shell	A pilgrimage to God or Heaven. The shell was the badge of the pilgrims who went to Compostella in Spain.
Ship	The Christian Church, carrying faithful on life's journey.
Snake	Usually shown with its tail in its mouth meaning eternity.
Torch	If shown upright it means immortality, but if on its side or inverted, the light of life which has been put out.
Trumpet	Resurrection.
Urn	If it has flames coming from it, it signifies new life. If it is empty and draped, it means death.

WORONORA CEMETERYEvidence of Occupation.

By Merle Kavanagh

Undoubtedly the most common occupation stated or implied was that of serviceman, whether soldier, sailor or airman. One died in camp and the monument displayed the gun, the crossed flags and cap. (Angl. XX-36/37) Others died from the affects of gas, as a prisoner of war at Ambon and from wounds received at Gallipoli. "He died under the dear old flag".

On the monuments of men of the R.A.A.F. the wings symbol was often shown and particularly poignant were such entries as -

Rich, Alwyn C. (eldest son) died 26 September 1942 aged 28 Missing over Kiel Bay

Rich, Geoffrey A., RAAF died 4 November 1942 aged 25

Killed on active service

(Angl. 6-130/131)

Another monument gave many details of Flt. Sgt. Bruce Milton Trowbridge's death and interment overseas (Angl. 2Y-13) while that of Norman H. Rogers (R.A.A.F.) who died at the age of 21 in 1941 bore an appropriate Latin phrase "Per Ardua Ad Astra" - Through adversity to the stars (Angl. 6-39/40)

Other occupations included that of Solicitor, Minister, very often identified by the title Reverend, Headmaster, Policeman, Railway Officer ("From his fellow Railway officers of the North"), Rigger, Boxer (with a drawing of boxing gloves and the name he fought under), Bandmaster, Servant ("for 27 years faithful servant and friend of Judge Armstrong"), Architect, Ambulance Officer, Fireman (with the drawing of a helmet), Foreman Carpenter, Detective and Politician (not just a politician but "a truth seeking political economist who put principle before party").

This latter headstone was for Alfred Horatio Sampson (died 13 May 1912 aged 70) who met his death accidentally. He had hired a horse-driven van to take a load of furniture to Cronulla, having decided to move there. At Nicholson Parade Cronulla when the van met the steam tram, the horse shied and Mr. Sampson was pinned underneath. After they removed him with much difficulty he was attended by Dr. Martell who was on the tram but with a fractured skull and other injuries the poor man died on removal to his home. He had been closely allied with the Freetrade League.

=====000=====

An assortment of verses and sentiments from the headstones

Boast not today or call tomorrow thine  
 For thou mightst be called away by a sudden death like mine.  
 At the end of the road there is a door  
 Through which each must pass alone  
 And there is a light we cannot see  
 God claims his own.

She was -

But words are wanting to say what,

Think what a wife should be,

And she was that!

Lonely the house

Sad are the hours

Since my dear baby is gone.



WORONORA CEMETERYPlaces of Origin

By Merle Kavanagh.

Some headstones showed the birth place of the interred and the vast majority of these were in England, Scotland and Ireland, with here and there a Frenchman or German. It was not until after World War II that places such as Macedonia, Sweden, Greece, South Africa, Estonia, Budapest and Canada appeared on the headstones.

This shed a great deal of light on the population of the areas of St. George and Sutherland Shire who have been the major users of the cemetery in the past. The image of the average resident was Anglo-Saxon until the post-war influx of migrants, particularly into the St. George District where middle eastern groups and more recently Asians have settled.

There was a tendency in the early days to include in the inscription where the deceased lived, e.g. McLean, Mary, Late of Eagle View, Milton N.S.W. (Angl. 1-472)

Foster, Elizabeth of Shellharbour N.S.W.

(Angl. 1-434)

Fry, William of Erskineville

(Angl. 1-430)

Robertson, Rebecca, Late of Queanbeyan N.S.W.

(Angl. AD-705)

On the familiar ex-serviceman's headstone appeared another indication of origin -

Crotty, Pt. G.H.J., Husband of Margaret Crotty,

Riley Street, Kogarah.

(Angl. 6-173)

Other headstones contributed positively to history with -

A death in 1970

Christian, Alice, Our dear Aunt of Norfolk Island. (Angl. AG-412)

A death in 1923

Nichols, Mary, first British Subject born at Lord Howe

31 December 1847

(Angl. R.)

=====000=====

A verse based on Henry Lawson's "The Last Review"

Now I think there is a likeness

Twixt St. Peter's life and mine

For he did a lot of trampin'

Long ago in Palestine

He was union when the workers

First began to organise

And I'm glad that old St. Peter

Keeps the gate of Paradise

Tell the people to Australia

And each other to be true

Tell them all to stick together

I have held my last review.

A son lost

Do not ask us do we miss him

There is such a vacant place,

Yes we miss his little footsteps

And his darling little face

Years will roam and time will fly

Every leaf shall fade and die

Every rising sun shall set

But you, dear R- we shall never forget.

# WORONORA CEMETERY

## MORTALITY SURVEY

Age at death	Males	Females	Both sexes
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
100+ years		.65	.3
91-100	1.50	5.40	3.25
81-90	9.40	19.05	13.70
71-80	16.25	17.80	17.00
61-70	17.25	14.90	16.25
51-60	12.45	14.30	13.25
41-50	6.60	4.75	5.75
31-40	7.40	5.70	6.60
21-30	14.45	5.40	10.40
11-20	7.35	2.55	5.20
6-10	1.00	2.20	1.55
0-5	6.35	7.30	6.75

This survey covered 709 deaths, 394 of them male and 315 female.

You will notice the incidence of females living longer than males, only 11% of males compared to 25% of females over 80 years of age. Yet males are less likely than females to die between the ages of 0-10.

Note the heavier incidence of male deaths between the ages of 11 and 30, due to the large number of males dying in wars and accidents.

## WORONORA CEMETERY

### Some curious and interesting finds.

#### An assortment of information was given by the headstones -

Adopted daughter	(Edwards, Angl. 4)
Arrived N.Z. by ship "Ben Nevis" 1882	(Acland, Angl. 2)
Erected by staff, employees and friends of S.T. Leigh & Co. Ltd.	
Stillborn	(Rose, Angl. 6)
From friends at R.A.G.H.	(Tabone, Angl. 6) (Bulloch,
Cremated	Angl. AB) (White, Angl. AD)
Nee Shoobridge	(Towells, Angl. AE 248)
Nicknames - Tich, Dinty and Ginger	(Douglas, Angl. AE 683/4)
Bobby, a suitable nickname for	(Constable, Angl. 8 854)
Granddaughter of late Capt. Thos Watson, first licensed pilot and Harbour master of Port Jackson.	(White, Angl. AD 705)

#### Some monuments were unusual but helpful by -

Using music in the inscription	(Molloy Angl. 6-589)
Displaying appropriate signs e.g. Scout	(Pennell Angl. 2) Edging the
concrete border with a chain design. (Marshall Angl. 3-205)	(For a navy tutor)
Using the language of the deceased e.g. French (Castelletti Angl. AH 742)	Miss KEEP
married a Mr. PEEK (name reversed) (Keep, Angl. WW)	

=====o0o=====

WORONORA CEMETERYStories behind the Stones

By Merle Kavanagh

Each decade seemed to bring its quota of tragedies, accidents to the young, disasters that overcame those in their prime and victims of war. The following tales have unfolded from a few words on each monument -

1902 David Hastings Favell, accidentally killed at Sans Souci.

23rd November 1902 aged 31 & 4 months. Erected by his comrades. (Sandstone with draped urn, hand of God, lilies. Angl. F 1/2)

A Cricketer's Death This heading in the St. George Advocate of 29 November 1902 told it all. David, a brickmaker, who lived in Lackey Street, St. Peters, was playing in the position of wicket-keeper. The ball was hit to a fieldsman about eight or nine yards away (8 metres) and the batsmen were running. In the feverish haste of the moment the fieldsman threw at the wicket behind which David was standing, but the ball flew high, striking David on the left side of the neck. Surprisingly he remained standing for ten or fifteen seconds and then fell into the arms of one of the players. Dr. O'Keefe was summoned hurriedly, pronounced him dead on arrival. Following an enquiry at which Dr. O'Keefe declared that death was the result of injury to the jugular vein, the City Coroner gave a finding of Accidental Death.

Had we but seen him still in life  
And watched his dying bed:  
Caught the last flickering of his breath  
Pillowed his drooping head:  
Our hearts we think would not have felt  
This bitterness of grief,  
But God has willed it otherwise  
And now he rests in peace.

1911 Captain William Knight of the s.s. Yongala. Aged 58.

23 March 1911. Lost at sea off the Queensland coast.

(Granite column topped with urn. Angl. D.67)

Yongala Missing. Grave Anxiety. Two days overdue in the North.

The Sydney Morning Herald of 27th march 1911 gave half a column to the missing Yongala, an steamer of the Adelaide Steamship Co. There were a few ships searching for the steamer on her usual trip north, heading for Townsville, where she should have arrived on Friday 24th or Saturday 25th at the latest. She had been seen to pass Dent Island by the lighthouse keeper on Thursday about 6 p.m. and ships searched both through the Whitsunday Passage and outside without finding a trace. There were fears that the vessel with 140 people aboard had been caught by "cyclonic storms of exceptional violence" and had been unable to weather the terrible conditions.

On 29th March 1911 wreckage from the Yongala was washed up on the coast and before long all hope was abandoned for the 141 souls on board. The extra person had hastily boarded the ship in Brisbane after receiving a telegram from Charters Towers advising that his daughter was dying. The disaster was big news for several days, the Sydney Morning Herald reporting on the passengers and crew aboard the ship, and especially on Captain William Knight who had a fine record of service on the Australian coast. In nearly 40 years he had but one previous serious misfortune in the loss of a vessel, caused by the lighthouse being wrongly charted. In mid-1976 the wreck of the Yongala was found and explored by divers.

1922 William Richard Ainsworth, Aged 60.  
Died 12 January 1922. Angl.  
2-749. (Marble tablet on sandstone, decorated with ivy leaves and "At Rest".)

Sutherland's Ex-President. Death Yesterday. The Hurstville Propeller of Friday 13th January 1922 bore the sad news of the passing of William Ainsworth, who, until a few weeks previous, had been President of Sutherland Shire Council. W.R. Ainsworth was still a member of Council when he died after an long illness, three of his years of service being as President (1919-1921). He had been at the Council Chambers on 21st December 1921 to take part in the election of his successor and at this gathering he was presented with a framed group picture of the councillors and staff to mark the completion of his fifth year of office as a councillor and his time as President. He was first elected in January 1917.

William Ainsworth was an alderman and Mayor of Leichhardt for many years before moving to the shire. He was a popular man and if he could not do a good turn to a fellow man he would not do a bad one. At the final gathering with council he said he had done his best, which he considered a duty, for the ratepayers but there was much more to be done. He left a wife and family.

1930 J.W. Armstrong, Pilot. Accidentally killed at Brighton-le-Sands. 8th August 1930. Aged 25.

(Low open book and cord in marble on sandstone block with an ornament missing from the top. Also a marble urn. AF  
588/9)

Aeroplane Accident. Pilot Falls from Machine. The Hurstville Propellor reported on the day of this shocking accident, 8th August 1930, that Mr. Armstrong had been flying a plane over Brighton about 10 a.m. when the petrol tank burst into flames. He was thrown out of the plane and fell about 2000 feet to the ground, dying instantly. The plane continued on for about two miles (3 1/2 kilometres) without a pilot and then crashed to the ground at Brighton, smashing to pieces. He had been a pupil at Mascot Aerodrome.

1935 Knowles, Lillian Margaret (27), George (8), Jean (7), Norma (9). 30th December 1935. Accidentally drowned at Lake Illawarra.

(Two red granite tablets on sandstone on a double site. White dove ornaments [one missing] and a broken white angel. Marble fence surround and a cross of ceramic flowers. Also marble urn with ceramic roses as a tribute from Lil and Clive. Tiled top. AG 310/11)

Four Persons Drowned. \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic Party's boat overturned. Desperate struggle. The Sydney Morning Herald of 31 December 1935 carried the shocking news of this holiday tragedy. When a party of seven set off in a small flat-bottomed punt 8 ft. long on the exceptionally calm waters of Lake Illawarra there was no forewarning of the tragedy to the come. Mrs. Lillian Knowles was with her three children, all of Tempe, a cousin, Clive Knowles aged 22 and his sister, Myra, 15, of Blakehurst and Ernest Hutchinson aged 6 of Kelly's Bay where the drama began.

As the boat approached Gooseberry Island, an oar fell out of the boat and while retrieving it, the boat overturned and they were all thrown into the lake. In the struggle to stay afloat and to help the children, Mrs. Knowles and



her three children disappeared from view. The children's screams were heard by Walter Massey about a mile away on shore and with Mr. Thompson, he set out in a rowing boat. When they could see some dark objects floating a great distance out, they returned to shore, secured a launch and sped to the scene. They first met Clive Knowles swimming to shore, and almost exhausted, but he sent them on to the others, being assured they would pick him up on the way back. When they reached the partly submerged punt Myra Knowles was clinging to the side, supporting Jean Knowles and the boy Hutchinson in an endeavour to keep their heads above water. Her efforts saved the life of the boy, but Jean Knowles died just after she was brought ashore, despite strenuous efforts to revive her. Over the next days the four missing members of the picnic party were found by searchers, a shocking end to a day's outing.

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1939 Nurse Kate Lobb. A tribute from the Mothers of Sutherland.

11 July 1939. Aged 73.

(A low red granite block with gold ivy leaves.

Angl. 6-243/44.)

Kate Lobb was born Kate Coombs at Kiama in 1866, a child of Joseph and Sarah A. Coombs. When Kate was about 22 she married Alfred J. Meredith at Wollongong and after his death with pneumonic influenza, she moved to Sutherland and in 1903 married Arthur Lobb, a blacksmith there.

Kate Lobb became a legend in the shire as a nurse, being called out night and day to births and other emergencies, travelling in a horse and sulky and later by car, driven by her daughter Lillian. She was a jolly person who loved children. People needing attention visited the home and were attended in a small room off the main dining room by the caring Nurse Lobb. She worked a lot with Dr. Cooley, probably from Hurstville and she also co-operated with local doctors, Miles, Sanbrook and Latham. The Lobb home in Merton Street was called "Bristol" from where Kate's parents came.

Nurse Lobb died with a heart attack in 1939, working until the end and her footstone shows the feelings of the people for her years of dedication.

(Refs. Birth, death & marriage records N.S.W. on microfiche. Interview with granddaughter, Amy Keats 3 April 1995.

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1944 John Harold Clutterbuck. "Buck". Accidentally killed at Como.

1 September 1944. Aged 16.

Angl. AE

595 (Low red granite tablet on sandstone and red granite vase. Tiled top.)

Youth killed by Train Hurstville Propellor of 7 September 1944 recorded this death. As railway gatekeeper at the Warraba Street level crossing between Como and Jannali, John Clutterbuck had a hazardous job. When he stepped behind a train going south to cross the tracks, he was knocked down by a train travelling to Sydney. John, of Victoria Avenue Penshurst died instantly and his death was no doubt a consideration in the agitation for the abolition of railway level crossings.

1944 Walter Richard Bostock. Believed to have lost his life while a Prisoner of War on Rokyū Maru. 12 September 1944. Aged 28.  
(Low red granite slab with a red granite urn. Tiled top. AE 846)

Torpedoed In Hugh V. Clarke's "Twilight Liberation" the story of the attack on the Rokyū Maru and the death of many Australian prisoners of war is told. When the ship left Singapore for Japan on 6 September 1944 it carried part of Brigadier Varley's force of 2300 soldiers already suffering from their time on the Burma-Thailand railway.

On 13 September 1944 about 5 a.m. the ship was holed by a torpedo and not long afterwards the next torpedo hit. Many of the prisoners scrambled out of the hold in which they were jammed to see utter chaos. Other ships were sinking and two tankers had set the water alight and as the ship began to list, Major Chalmers told some of them to jump. The Rokyū Maru was a Japanese cargo ship transporting prisoners to Japan but the Americans who launched the attack were not aware it was carrying prisoners of war as it had no Red Cross signs.

Some survivors amongst the prisoners swam about, avoiding the flames and coping with depth charges dropped by Japanese ships who ploughed through the swimmers. A group returned to the Ryūkyū Maru, tried unsuccessfully to make a raft and collected some odd provisions. As the ship sank they moved away and were later picked up by a lifeboat and joined a group of survivors in boats. They were picked up two days later by a Japanese ship and eventually arrived in Japan, surviving more attacks on the way.

1945 Frederick Beake. On H.M.A.S. Australia at Lingayen Gulf, the Philippines. 6 January 1945. Killed in action aged 24.  
(Low marble open book and cord on sandstone block. AF 661.)

Royal Australian Navy 1942-1945. In his book of this title G.H. Gill records the circumstances when 2 officers and 41 ratings paid the supreme sacrifice to help the Allies recapture the Philippines. The attack was mainly an American one with troops ready to land after a naval bombardment in the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, 110 miles (176 km.) north of Manila. H.M.A.S. Australia together with H.M.A.S. Shropshire was part of the San Fabian Fire Support Unit which commenced its bombardment runs just before 11 a.m. on 6th January 1945. Throughout the day there were suicide attacks when a number of ships were damaged by Kamikaze aircraft. H.M.A.S. Australia had received a direct hit the previous day and suffered severe casualties in an concerted attack on the division by 6 aircraft. There were further attacks of this kind resulting in fires and damage to a number of the ships.

At 5.15 p.m. the bombardment group commenced to retire from the Gulf by reversing course, and H.M.A.S. Australia was again a victim of a suicide aircraft at 5.34 p.m. "This plane also carried a bomb which, from fragments found, appeared to have been converted from a large calibre shell. The resulting fire was quickly subdued, though 'A' boiler room had to be shut down temporarily." Two gun crews were wiped out in this attack when A.B. Beake gave his life.

The action was the initial onslaught by the U.S. Sixth Army to recapture The Philippines which had been lost in December 1941 and the fulfilment of General MacArthur's undertaking to return.

1963 Cyril Elgar Howe. 20 December 1963. Aged 31.  
 Erected by N.S.W. Government in memory of Sgt. 3rd Class C.E.Howe N.S.W. Police who gave his life in the execution of his duty near Oaklands N.S.W. Posthumously awarded Queens Medal for Gallantry. (Red granite block with a gold cross. AJ 126.)

Second Shotgun Victim dies: Air search for man today. On 21 December 1963 the police hunt for a killer of two made front page news in the Sydney Morning Herald. Cyril Howe in the course of his duty, went to the property of Martin Smith because of complaints concerning a stolen shotgun and some cheques. He told a man in a car with several children to drive to Oaklands ahead of him but when the leading car turned off the right road, there was a chase. The driver crashed through a closed gate into a paddock with Howe's car pulling up behind. Howe was shot in the stomach and fell critically injured.

He lay unconscious for several hours and then managed to climb into his car, pressing the horn and switching on the revolving amber police light which was seen. He was transported quickly to hospital and was able to report on the night's events before his operation, but he died that evening. He left a wife and three children.

On Friday 27 December 1963 the Sydney Morning Herald reported the end of the hunt for the killer. "William Stanley Little ... yesterday shot dead his 14 year old foster-daughter Susan Lyon, then committed suicide in a fowlhouse near Oaklands." He had shared the house there with his de facto and children for 9 weeks prior to the grim events of the previous days.

1986 Ray William Thorburn. Former Sutherland Shire President & M.H.R.  
 30 January 1986. Aged 55 years.  
 (Low red granite block. Angl. 7-134/35.)

Ray Thorburn served the community with great dedication throughout his life. Born on 15 November 1930 at Sutherland, he lost both parents before he was twelve. He attended Kogarah Intermediate High and did an electrical trade course at Sydney Technical College then worked in jobs with the N.S.W. Dept. of Railways and the St. George County Council. He joined the Australian Labor Party and in January 1966 he was first elected to Sutherland Shire Council. He worked for the community in this way until 20 September 1974 and during this period, served as President for the 1971/72 term and the 1972/3 term. Ray resigned due to his election as the Federal M.P. for Cook in 1972 as he found the pressure of catching the last plane to Canberra after Monday night council meetings too much. As a Federal M.P. he served two terms, being elected in the Whitlam landslide of 1972.

During his life he served as an executive member of the N.S.W. Local Government Association (1971-1974), on the board of Sutherland Hospital for five years and as president for nine years of Cronulla Labor and Workingmen's Club. He was Patron of many clubs and associations and served on the 1972 Bicentenary Citizens' Committee which organised Sutherland Shire's 200th anniversary celebrations of Captain Cook's landing at Kurnell. He was a man with an overwhelming desire to help others and it was not uncommon for him to devote 20 to 30 hours a week to community work during his term on council. The funeral service was held at St. Andrews, Cronulla.

(Ref. St. Geo. & Suth. Shire Leader 4 Feb. 1986, p.12.)

## *Life's Plan*

*I believe that life is planned for each and everyone,  
That hour by hour and day by day the web is being spun.  
But human webs are fragile things the mildest breeze  
can tear.*

*Or twist into a tangle of frustration and despair.  
Like spiders we can work away with patient dedication  
When suddenly disaster hits and causes devastation.  
Then I believe we must go on to finish what is planned.  
We must hold tight, albeit to a single fraying strand.  
And when the storm is over though little may remain.  
We must climb back and patiently begin the task again.  
For with each new beginning our fingers are more sure,  
The web we spin is finer yet stronger than before.  
As so we help complete the plan and when the web is  
spun.  
We're able to stand back from life and view a job well  
done.*

*Hilary Moore.*



### THINGS I REMEMBER

Looking for a block of land 47 years ago an area in Caringbah known as Beauty Point at the end of Willarong Road with beautiful water views of the Port Hacking River, seeing the distant vista of the Royal National Park, hearing the different calls of the bird life soon made up my mind where I was going to put down my roots. These have all stayed with us and now include the white cockatoos who scream their heads off rounding up their mates for the flight home across the Port Hacking River as night draws near.

About midway down Yowie Bay is an inlet named "Neale's Inlet." I was told by an inspector from the fisheries department many years ago that Turtle Road at the head of Neale's inlet was named after the many turtles who thrived in that area.

I often wonder how many people can remember when you could look over the wall above Caringbah railway station seeing the trains come and go - a real child's delight. That was soon taken away and replaced by shops on either side of the road. Progress had come to the shire. Traffic lights calling cars

to a halt, young and old rushing to get across the road, little remains of a peaceful village scene.

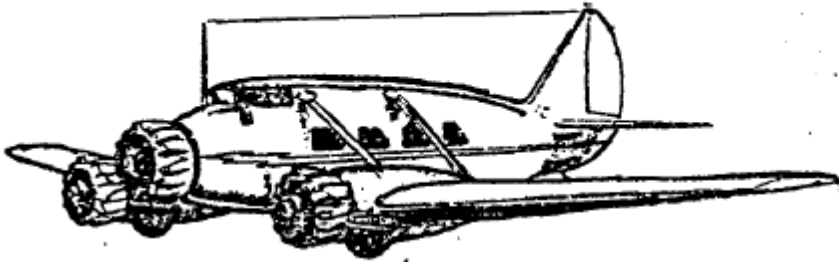
After W.W. 2 there was a shortage of builders, permission was granted for the people to build their own homes. It was the start of land owners becoming "Home builders". First a garage was built in which the owner would live, going to work and building his home in every spare minute he had. Generally it took about three years to complete.

Burns timber yard situated on the corner of the Kingsway and President Ave., gave great service to the home builders. When the timber yard moved to North Caringbah such a huge vacant spot was soon taken over as a parking spot until McDowell's great shop was built.

I recall the wooden building in Willarong Road near the Kingsway known as the "Wine Bar" which gave good service to the folk who would take a little cheer on their way to catch a punt to cross the Georges river returning from a fishing trip to Lilli Pilli.

One night as I passed the wine bar I saw smoke billowing to the sky. I rang the fire station and gave the alarm and then watched in dismay as that land mark made its demise.

Christine Dunn



## *Stinson Commemorative Committee*

### A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE STINSON CRASH AND RESCUE

At 1.00pm on Friday, 19th February, 1937, the Stinson airliner VH-UHH "City of Brisbane", took off from Archifield for Sydney with five passengers and two pilots. Because of severe cyclonic weather just off the northern coast of New South Wales, flying conditions that day were extremely hazardous and, when the Stinson failed to arrive at Lismore, the authorities concluded that the pilots had taken the coastal route. When the plane had become overdue in Sydney, Airlines of Australia Limited started contacting towns along the New South Wales central coast. Reports were received of the Stinson being seen and heard at a great number of places as far south as the Hawkesbury and from then on reports from points north of Newcastle were regarded as being immaterial to the search. One of the greatest air searches in Australia's history was carried out as planes of the commercial airlines; aero clubs and the R.A.A.F. combined to search the whole of the Brisbane - Sydney route. A week went by, and hopes of finding an survivors began to fade. Then, "wreckage" was sighted beyond the breakers off Palm Beach, just north of Sydney, and the air search was abandoned as it was now certain that the Stinson had crashed into the sea.

But Bernard O'Reilly, studying reports at his home in Lamington National Park, gradually evolved his own theory. The cyclone had cut off O'Reilly's Guest House from all but radio news and the reports all indicated that the Stinson had crashed somewhere just north of Sydney. A week after the disappearance, Bernard rode down to the Kerry Valley to visit his brother, Herb, and from him and from members of the Stephens family, Bernard heard that the Stinson had definitely flown into thick cloud over Mount Widgee heading towards the high peaks of the Macpherson Range on a direct line to Lismore. As the plane had failed to arrive at Lismore, and as the area around the Macpherson Range was the west dangerous flying country between these two points, Bernard reasoned that the Stinson might have come down there and not four hundred miles to the south as all the official reports claimed.

This is what in fact had happened, for soon after disappearing into the clouds over Mount Widgee, the plane had been caught in terrific down-draughts and smashed into the steep, jungled slopes just short of the crest of the range. After crashing through the trees, the tri-motored plane burst into flames. One of the passengers, John Proud, smashed a window and crawled onto the wing and then helped Joe Binstead and Jim Westray after him. Proud's leg was broken and Westray's hands and back were badly burned by the roaring flames from the ruptured fuel tanks. The survivors expected that search planes would soon locate the wreckage but, when morning came and help had still not arrived, young Jim Westray decided to climb down the gorge to a farm he had sighted from the air just before the plane had entered the cloudbanks.

Returning to his mountain home on the evening of Friday, 26th February, Bernard O'Reilly became more and more convinced that he should search the ranges. On the following day he set off on horseback along a riding track through the Park to Mount Bithongabel, and from there started out on foot along the range.

After spending a sleepless night in the dripping rainforest Bernard climbed Mt Throakban and, at about eight o'clock, the racing clouds split and in the vast green panorama of ranges and gorges, a brownish treetop stood out - just where Lamington Plateau swelled up to join the border range. Bernard headed down into the gorge and then across the intervening ridges. Never before had he set foot in this wild and virtually unexplored part of the National Park, yet his bush-bred instinct led him almost directly to the crash site after eight hours of blind navigation.

In deciding to search for the wreck, Bernard never expected to find any survivors but merely to clear up the mystery of the plane's disappearance. Now, nine days after the crash, he, was faced with the need to get urgent medical assistance for Proud and Binstead in this rugged and inaccessible area. After making the men tea and leaving what little food he had, Bernard set off down the treacherous Christmas Creek gorge. Where the creek broke away down a cliff, he discovered signs of where Jim Westray had attempted to climb down and had fallen when plants he was using for a hand-hold had given way. Further on was Westray's body — his head had injuries and he had been bathing his smashed ankle in the creek.

Bernard went on — leaping from boulder to boulder in his race to bring rescue --and, at about 7.30pm, he emerged from the jungle. After reaching the first farm, he was driven to Hillview where with the help of local postmistress, Gracie Silcock, Bernard arranged for a doctor and a number of helpers to return with him to the wreck. At 3.00am they began the trek back up the gorge — eight hours of hard climbing to retrace the distance that O'Reilly had come down in three. Meanwhile, other groups of men began cutting a track for the stretchers to be carried out. The only practical route lay along the rim of Lamington Plateau — twelve miles of lawyer-vine entangled jungle with trees growing so close together that visibility was limited to a few yards -- but they kept going and cut that track in less than fourteen hours!

On the morning of Tuesday, 2nd March, the stretcher parties set off to return to civilisation. Always the stretchers were kept perfectly level to protect the injured from any strain. At one point, where the mountainside broke away sharply, a strong rope was tied around an entire stretcher party and anchored to another group of men who steadied them down the declivity. Eleven hours after the start the end of the track was in sight, but it was thanks to the stubborn belief of Bernard O'Reilly alone that the survivors were at last placed gently into the waiting ambulances on the final stage of their long journey to safety.

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The full story of this epic jungle rescue can be found in Bernard O'Reilly's book,  
"GREEN MOUNTAINS".

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NOTE: This article was submitted by Mr. Alwyn Hamilton for inclusion in this Bulletin.

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From the Scrapbook of George Heavens:

"The largest tree fern in the world is found on  
Norfolk Island -- it grows to a height of  
twenty-eight feet."

### WHAT IT WAS LIKE

A chance remark by a young friend asking was it true you could leave your doors unlocked and windows open when you went out, being assured such was the case, which allowed friends who called make themselves a cuppa whilst they waited your return.

Also from Roma Furrer we learnt that in 1948 President Avenue only went as far as Lagoon Street, then continued on as a rough bullock track to Miranda Road. Storm water rushing down the hill on the north side of President Ave., would soon flood the creek which flowed across President Ave., cutting huge gullies on its way to Yowie Bay. Nowadays, that creek is one of the highlights of the beautiful "Waterhouse Camellia gardens" and the blackberries from the bushes which were plentiful made many a delicious pie but these have long gone

Inflation has certainly made itself felt when Roma recalled catching a taxi from the ranks which was opposite the Caringbah railway station where the Ladies rest room now stands. The fare to Lagoon Street Caringbah was one shilling and sixpence. Nowadays it is four dollars.

Jean Turnbull recalled those days when a trip to Cronulla was a real treat. Catching a train from Central to Sutherland then a steam tram ride to the beach at Cronulla. On the return journey it was a 'must' to visit 'Al Newton's shack' which was situated in the main street of Cronulla opposite the railway station and buy his beautiful fresh fish.

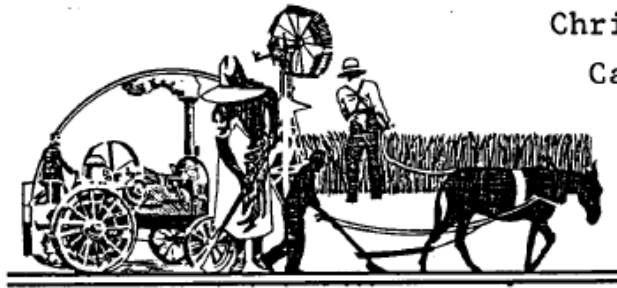
Remember when you had to pay a toll to cross Tom Ugley's bridge? Its passing allowed one and all to come and go, thus the huge toll of two shillings was saved. When the bridge was first built the toll was sixpence.

Before Tom Ugley's and the Captain Cook bridge was built Punts would ferry the cars across the Georges river. Only a limited number of cars could be carried each trip so to while away the time many a sing song was held by the folks waiting their turn. Another outlet was via ferry from Kurnell across Botany Bay to La Parouse.

Flo Woodcock can remember when Caringbah was a bushland area. Flo's mother brought her family to reside and manage a huge farm in Willarong Road, North Caringbah about 1918

On their farm they had 500 Peach trees, 2000 chicken as well as the general farm yard stock.

Miranda was known for the piggeries and between Pt. Hacking Road and Willarong Road, South Caringbah there were large fruit orchards as well as poultry farms. In 1948 we were buying eggs from a poultry farm in Willarong Road opposite Lindsay Street. New streets and houses now cover those farm lands. Like a plague of locusts devouring everything in their way nothing remains of those long ago days.



Christina Dunn  
Caringbah.

#### MUSEUM REPORT.

I was requested to open the Museum on the 20th September for 25 pupils and 3 teachers from St. Francis De Sales School, Woollooware for them to view our Australia Remembers exhibition, which they enjoyed very much.

Thanking everyone for their help during the year.

Happy Christmas to all.

Alan McGrath.



September 1st 1942.

One of the saddest happenings of the past month was the death of H. Thring Phipson, who was one of Australia's finest writers of verse. We would like, in acknowledgement of his genius

to quote one of his most famous contributions to the Australiana. It concerns a church parade at the Australian Field Artillery camp at Liverpool, NSW in 1917, during which the Padre is alleged to have uttered the line, "Oh, God, guide and protect all our chaps, mom especially the A.F.A. This sentiment appealed to Phipson, who was lieutenant in the Pioneer Corps. He wrote this verse, which has since been chanted from thousands of throats.

*Not for the infantry, O Lord, those blighters  
with packs and puttees, shorts and hairy knees.  
Those ribald and unconscionable fighters -  
We do not crave thy grace for such as these  
Who pass their sordid days thigh deep in water,  
Walled and embogged in avenues of mud,  
Their garments foetid with the breath o, slaughter  
Ribbioned by wire and smeared with German blood.*

*Not these, O Lord, we do not requisition  
Thy special providence for such as they  
But rather shouldst thou make it thy ambition  
To guard the gunners of the AFA.  
They are a corps more worthy thine attentions,  
Selected from a higher 'social plane;  
Distinguished for their physical dimension's,  
Or - possibly - for qualities of brain.*

*Their uniforms are wrought by private vendors,  
And sterling 'silver gleams upon their boots,  
Their greaves are mirrored into vandyke 'splendours,  
Their 'souls: too proud to grovel in 'salute's;  
For 'such the 'stars 'stand idle in their courses,  
And that is why O Lord, I humbly pray,  
Assist if possible our other forces,  
But make a feature of the A.F.A*

*From my 1942 'scrapbook. M. Blackley*



FLIPPENCE AND GINGER.

Old Flippence with his nag called Ginger  
Crossed many a weary mile,  
Along the sandhills of Cronulla  
After receding tides withdrew.

Ginger pulled the old worn cart  
With rubber wheels and all,  
Taking stores along the beach  
To his many friends in need.

The waves washed across his path  
And wind swept through his hair,  
Tanned salt crusted skin, like the briny he loved,  
The old man plodded along.

The years swept by  
He never failed,  
To reach the store in time  
Boat Harbour was his home,  
He lived in happiness there.

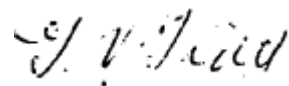
When time caught his active years  
He could not sell old Ginger,  
For the cart he charged a price  
But Old Ginger went for free.

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A true character of a period gone in the history of Cronulla.

1973.

G.Vincent Tidd.





## *The Veno Park Plaque*

*"Even Marconi applauded when — SYDNEY INVENTOR MADE RADIO HISTORY " Proclaimed the historical feature in the Daily Mirror of Monday June 3rd 1968 on George Augustine Taylor, it went on to contradict the adage that all men are equal, by listing some of his achievements; author, architect, astronomer, cartoonist, and engineer. He was also aviator, artist, political activist, editor, soldier, conservationist, and founder-member of the Aerial League , and the Wireless Institute: the latter interest led to the event giving rise to the above headline. Taylor and his associates had used their own resources to make the first transmission over land for military purposes by wireless telegraphy — and at Heathcote — right in my own backyard !*

*I had to find out more, where in " The rugged bush country around Heathcote " did this happen ? I was going to find the " Bush cave " from which this message was sent. So off to the Mitchell Library, which had two references to the event, short articles, one by G.A. Taylor himself ( BY WIRELESS - How we got the signals through), the other a supplement to "Building: Lighting: Engineering" of 24-11-57 the three accounts gave me; station "A " headquarters at Heathcote, station "B" a rough cave on the side of a hill about 2 miles south from "A" commanding a broad view of the country southwards; the forward post "B" was to observe the great South Coast Road along which the enemy was pictured to be advancing. Heliographs and signal lamps were used from both stations as a means of checking if the wireless signals were being received; and a signaller rushes through the scrub to report that station "A" is receiving signal; between 9pm on Sunday and the small hours of Monday morning; also some heavily touched-up photographs of both installations.*

*The obvious place for a signal lamp was Heathcote Hall's tower, so on the Royal National Park map I stuck my dividers point in the end of Tecoma St. described an arc 2 miles south, and on Kangaroo Ridge, a likely looking hill of 212 metres. Now for the footwork.*

*Kangaroo Ridge starts from the Princes Highway almost a kilometre north of Waterfall and the hill is about a kilometre east, so I mounted my imaginary horse and looked for a site suitable for a forward observation post, rejected a couple, then found an overhang projecting about 4 metres with 1.8 metres headroom, consulted the photos and exclaimed " eureka" or " eubeaut" or words to that effect. Looking south there was "the great South Coast Road" both at Waterfall station, and Garrawarra Hospital, from the hill behind looking north, the tall tower of Heathcote Hall — This was it ! I was sure, but to convince others more confirmation was needed, this was where the hard part started.*

*Back to the Mitchell and State Libraries .....*

Contemporary newspapers from April 14th to 24th 1911 shed no light on the subject, except that April 20th was a Thursday ! Not Sunday night or Monday morning as Taylor himself had written. Someone had the date wrong ! Several further lines of enquiry drew blanks. Reveille of April 1st, David R. Kirkby in his book " From Sails to Atoms " of Sutherland Shire history , the Daily Mirror and the Veno Park memorial plaque all quoted April 20th 1911. However "Hemisphere " of December 1972 and " Building, Lighting, Engineering 24-11-57 " simply 1910 and Taylor no date at all. Other trails ran into brick walls.

And there the matter may have lain but for my Grandson Dean, whose elder Grandpa is Alan McGrath, Dean suggested that I pop into this Society's Museum at Sutherland where the 50th V.E. anniversary was on. I followed his suggestion, and there met Aileen Griffiths, told her my story and she referred me to Gordon Geering, with the help of his colleagues at Victoria Barracks we found that the date of this event was Monday March 28th 1910 AND that Taylor was Lieutenant at the time. Although he passed the course in 1915, never gained the substantive rank of Major.

As you know I attended the June meeting of this Society, and among Les. Bursill's photo's were some rock engravings near to the cave, which he not only knew but he had found an army cap badge under the soil beneath the rock shelf, sadly it dates from post 1948 when the Australian Army Ordnance Corps was granted the prefix Royal. Another archaeological find there was a 1928 beer bottle.

I have no doubts at all that this is the cave; the puzzle which remains is how did four "reliable" sources get the dates so wrong. The Sydney Morning Herald and the Daily Telegraph of Easter Tuesday 29th March 1910 page 8 reported on the whole military exercise highlighting the wireless signalling experiment.

John Risebrow.

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### I'M GLAD

I'm glad the sky is painted blue,  
And the earth is painted green,  
With such a lot of nice fresh air  
All sandwiched in between.

GUNNAMATTA PARK.  
100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND PLEASURE.  
SEPTEMBER 1895 - 1995.

Thanks to the foresight of Messrs. Atkinson, Wilshire, and Windsor who recommended this area be reserved for the use of the community as a public park, we and future generations can continue to enjoy its beauty and position in such a handy to get to location in the Shire.

This park must bring back many fond memories to both residents and visitors alike, family picnics, company Christmas functions, fishing, swimming or just relaxing watching the beautiful water reflections at sunset. In its earlier use it was the sight of the original public wharf where all boating activities departed from and returned to, not to forget the vital supplies from Sydney for the then fishing village of Kurranulla were landed on. This wharfs location then being just south of the present swimming baths.

It continues to be the most used public park under the control of the Sutherland Shire Council, with an estimated 500,000 plus persons visiting in the past year alone. It would be interesting to know how many people learned to swim or gained lifesaving certificates in the baths of the park over this time? One of the people that taught and coached swimming for many years in the baths is well known resident Mr Harry Gibbons, a founder of Wanda S.L.S.C. and life member of both Wanda and North Cronulla S.L.S.C.

One of the more unusual rolls this park has played was in the year of 1926, when the Shire was faced with drought and emergency water supplies were required for Cronulla, as all tanks had run dry. This was when Council had to utilise the creek that runs through the northern end of the park an exits just north of the swimming baths. The Council had a well dug into the creek bed about a third of the way down from Nicholson Parade to hold a greater amount of water for the use of the residents. This creek is fed by a natural spring with its source starting on the eastern side of Nicholson Parade. A wooden bridge was built across Nicholson Parade for pedestrians and vehicles to cross it, another two smaller wooden bridges

for the public crossed over the creek in the park, one halfway to the Bay and the other near the Bay's edge. This creek has now been piped and covered over for safety and health reasons, another spring in Oak Park, South Cronulla was utilised in the same manner.

The Council still continues to improve the facilities of the park, which are well used, such as the Amphitheatre and the children's safety playground.

Gunnamatta Park is a playground for residents and visitors alike and will continue to be with its natural beauty of trees, open space and water activities for generations to come, as it has been for our past generations, including our indigenous people who left us their native names given to this park and surrounding areas.

Jim Cutbush.

## 'WEE BIT OF THE PAST

CLIFF HOBDEN

# Legacy of bricks for the birds

**H**ave you ever noticed the sight of air-borne waterfowl winging their way over Kirrawee shopping centre?

These happy birds are returning to the haven of one of the biggest water-filled holes in Sutherland Shire. Peer through the wire mesh fence along Flora Street and you can just make out the contented ducks and ibis.

This peaceful hole, and the entire block it is located in, is the site of the old Sutherland Brick Works.

The site was selected because the ground bore suitable brick-making clay and was close enough to the then new steam tram line to allow a siding to be laid up to the kilns.

By 1916, the Sutherland Brick Company Ltd had erected a galvanised iron building to house their first brick-making machines and kilns and had started production.

These kilns and their successors were to supply bricks to the Shire for the next 60 years.

Despite its competitive advantages, things did not run smoothly for the new company.

It went into liquidation after 5 years but the site was kept open by a succession of takeovers ending with the Punchbowl Brick Company which

was still operating the works when it closed in 1975.

This company also ran another brick-making operation at Heathcote until the early 1980s and its successor still trades under the name of Austral at Punchbowl.

For the first few decades, the services of the steam trams was supplemented by horse drawn drays.

The use of motor delivery trucks was a gradual process but, by 1931, it had progressed to such a point that, when the steam tram line closed, the works were not adversely affected.

**T**he operating site prospered into the post-war years assisted by the production of drainage pipes.

In the 20s, another pipe making operation, a family business called Mashmans, had taken advantage of the presence of suitable clay to open up next door to the site.

Together, the two sites supplied most of the materials to put the sewer through Kirrawee in the early 70s.

As this demand for sewer pipes declined, however, the cost of removing a dwindling supply of clay rose.

This, and the increasing pressure of closer settlement, marked the end of brick making in Kirrawee.

**B**y the time of the closure, the land had been sold off to the then Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board, now Sydney Water (which initially earmarked the site for a reservoir to improve water pressure to Kurnell: Ed.).

In February, 1975, the two huge brick chimneys, which had marked the area for so long, were demolished and the site began a 20 year hibernation which continues to this day.

Today, it is hard to imagine the hustle and bustle that must have been associated with Kirrawee's brick-making works.

In the early days, the huffing and puffing of the steam trams must have been audible for miles as they hauled their heavy loads of coal up to the kilns.

Perhaps today's busy shopping centre would then have rung to the sound of hooves as sweating horses pulled heavy drays, loaded with freshly baked bricks, to a new building site in Kirrawee.



December 18, 1952

## BUNDEENA

By A. R. C. PHILLIPS

ON a low cliff at Cronulla there is erected a small granite column with an inscription which reads :

Memorial  
to  
Matthew Flinders  
George Bass  
and the  
"Boy Martin"  
who sailed past this headland  
in Tom Thumb II.  
on 30th March, 1796  
and  
Discovered and named  
Port Hacking

Port Hacking lies some 15 miles south of Sydney, and Cronulla has water-frontages to the estuary of the Port, to Gunnamatta Bay and to the wide sweep of the ocean.

A few miles west is Audley, the popular picnic ground and boating place for so many thousands of Sydney's populace.

The National Park. — Sydney's great National Park fringes the southern shores of Port Hacking, and runs many miles southward, thence along the Pacific coast. It embraces cliffs and beaches, heath-lands and wooded slopes, and in Spring is a veritable garden wherein roam wallabies and wild deer. With Kuringai Chase, its counterpart to the north of the City, it forms part of a green belt of which Melbourne might well be envious.

When this great bushland tract was declared to be the National Park, certain small portions of it were already privately owned and were not resumed. Whether this were wise or not, only the future can reveal and until recent years, little at-tempt was made at developing settlement therein.

If you go to the jetty at Cronulla, you may catch a little launch that will run the length of Gunnamatta Bay, and cross to the south shore of the Port. In about twenty minutes you should be at Bundeena, one of the above-mentioned areas.

This idyllic little township is as yet quite unspoiled. When I saw it last year there was but one made road, one motor car, and not more than two motor trucks. There is a post office which is also a general store and

cafe, a butcher's shop, an iron-monger's where fishing gear is prominently displayed, and, of all things, a frock shop!

The secret, of course, is that it is entirely within the National Park, and that, with no road connection with outside civilisation, all passengers and stores must come across the water by the launches. All heavy building materials, however, have had to be hauled by trucks over a rough and uncertain track from Audley.

There is now a demand for a proper made road to be constructed; but, as this must traverse mainly parklands, the Trustees do not look kindly on the proposal. They may 'consider only the financial aspect of it, but I like to think that they feel they are privileged to be the guardians of a Great Heritage that they should hold undamaged for the generations yet unborn. A road through this area might have unforeseen ill-effects.

Let us not trouble too much about such problems, though. Bundeena and its surroundings are there to be enjoyed by all who love to get away from the hurly-burly of city life.

From its many vantage points are lovely views. In the misty distance where Audley lies, hill and river merge in purple or grey or green. Nearer is the little feather of surf that beats surprisingly on a hidden sandbar near Simpson's, and through which you occasionally see the launch tossing. Across the water is Cronulla, backed by its three-mile surf beach that curves with its sandhills away to Boat Harbour, near Botany Bay.

At hand are rugged cliffs to be negotiated if you wish to swim at little Gunyah beach, or the long crescent of Gibbon, further round, may tempt you.

In numerous sheltered gullies there are tall and some obviously very old trees, such as the beautifully-coloured coastal red gums and even a huge Moreton Bay fig or two; but further out, on the



Sandstone at Bundeena

December 18, 1952

## Savings Weekly

higher parts, the soil is poor and usually shallow with sandstone outcropping frequently.

These higher levels have a strange fascination of their own, and sweep for miles along the ocean coast. There are no habitations there, and the compact native shrubs are low and windswept. The scene is strongly reminiscent of the moors and fens of the Old Country, but an occasional higher clump of tea-tree or eucalypt, with groups of the tall flower spikes of our weird grass trees, is a typical Australian touch.

The shore-line consists mainly of weathered sand-stone cliffs. They are frequently undercut by the sea, tumbled and worn, and occasionally split in straight clefts where faults occur.

The unceasing winds have carved fantastic shapes from the comparatively soft stone, and likenesses of living things are to be seen at many points. Sand-stone is striated with layers of different hardnesses, and is sometimes impregnated with iron, giving colour as well as shape to the queer designs. Whilst some cliff tops look like the sea itself, others are gouged into intricate honeycomb patterns.

Perched on some small ledge on the cliffs is an occasional "humpy" where an old pensioner "with salt in his veins" has made his home. It is probably but a niche carved in the sandstone—its low-pitched roof and the door being the only portions visible from a short distance.

These old hermits do a bit of fishing, and on pension days must walk the several miles over narrow paths to the township. So long as they keep well. I suppose they are happy.

### ABORIGINAL ART

On Port Hacking Pt., at the southern entrance to the Port, is a large, flat rock, almost obscured by scrub, and a little difficult to find. Here the aboriginal artists of past centuries have tried in their simple way to portray the things they saw. The outlines of fish, wallabies, and their fellow men, are roughly carved in grotesque shapes and great size.

Nature, however, is a jealous guardian of such secrets, and mosses and lichens have almost obliterated some



Aboriginal Rock Drawing of Wallaby

of the tedious efforts of our black brethren.

By way of contrast, there is, on a prominent position near Bundeena, a derelict concrete structure, and nearby portions of a rusty cable, visible here and there in the loose sand, tell of one of the many lonely outposts where a constant vigil was kept by our defence forces during the war.

Hiker's tracks lead to many lovely places on the coast. If you feel energetic, a stroll of three or four miles over the rolling downs, where, even in summer, innumerable wildflowers adorn the path, will bring you to Little Marley beach.

True, you have to wade a shallow creek to get there, and quicksands add to the perils (and fun) of the walk. Just to see the breakers come leaping and crashing on to the sand there is well worth the trouble.

Further away is Wattamolla and Garie, and for more seasoned hikers, Burning Palms, and so on to Stanwell Park, where the railway is joined. On a commanding point on the cliffs at Stanwell Park is another memorial, this time to Lawrence Hargreaves, our pioneer in aviation, who carried out many of his experiments nearby. It is in bronze, and much more pretentious than the little pile at Cronulla.

Hargreaves, Bass and Flinders are thus linked in the history of National Park, as is also Forby Sutherland, who came with Cook and died at Botany Bay. His name has been given to the nearby Shire.

But who was "the Boy Martin," who sailed with Bass and Flinders in Tom Thumb? His name is thus briefly mentioned in, the records of at least two of their voyages from Sydney, and it is pleasing to note that he has been given some measure of fame, by having his name carved in the granite with those of the Great Ones.

Contributed by  
Mr. Neville Witin.

## EDITOR'S DESK.

Once again we have reached the last issue of the bulletin for another year, and what a year 1995 has been, with a number of special anniversaries, such as the 50th since the end of The Second World War, 75 years for Qantas, 100 years for both Gunnamatta Park and Woronora Cemetery, to name but a few.

I have been delighted with the number of stories that have been contributed which have a large local content that I hope will continue. I am sure there are a lot more stories that you could all tell if you could spare sometime to put pen to paper, please keep up the good work.

It was with great pleasure to be present at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque on the 9th September marking the 100th Anniversary of Gunnamatta Park and to hear the well presented speeches of both our President Mrs. Aileen Griffiths and Mayor Genevieve Rankin, after which the plaque was unveiled under an old gum tree at the northern end of the large shelter shed that held the celebrating descendants of the three founders Messrs. Atkinson, Wilshire and Windsor. Thank You to all that have helped with and contributed to the bulletin. A special thanks to my wife Marjorie who has always been there when needed and also thank you to Alan McGrath who has been a big help with the printed bulletin getting them posted to our members.

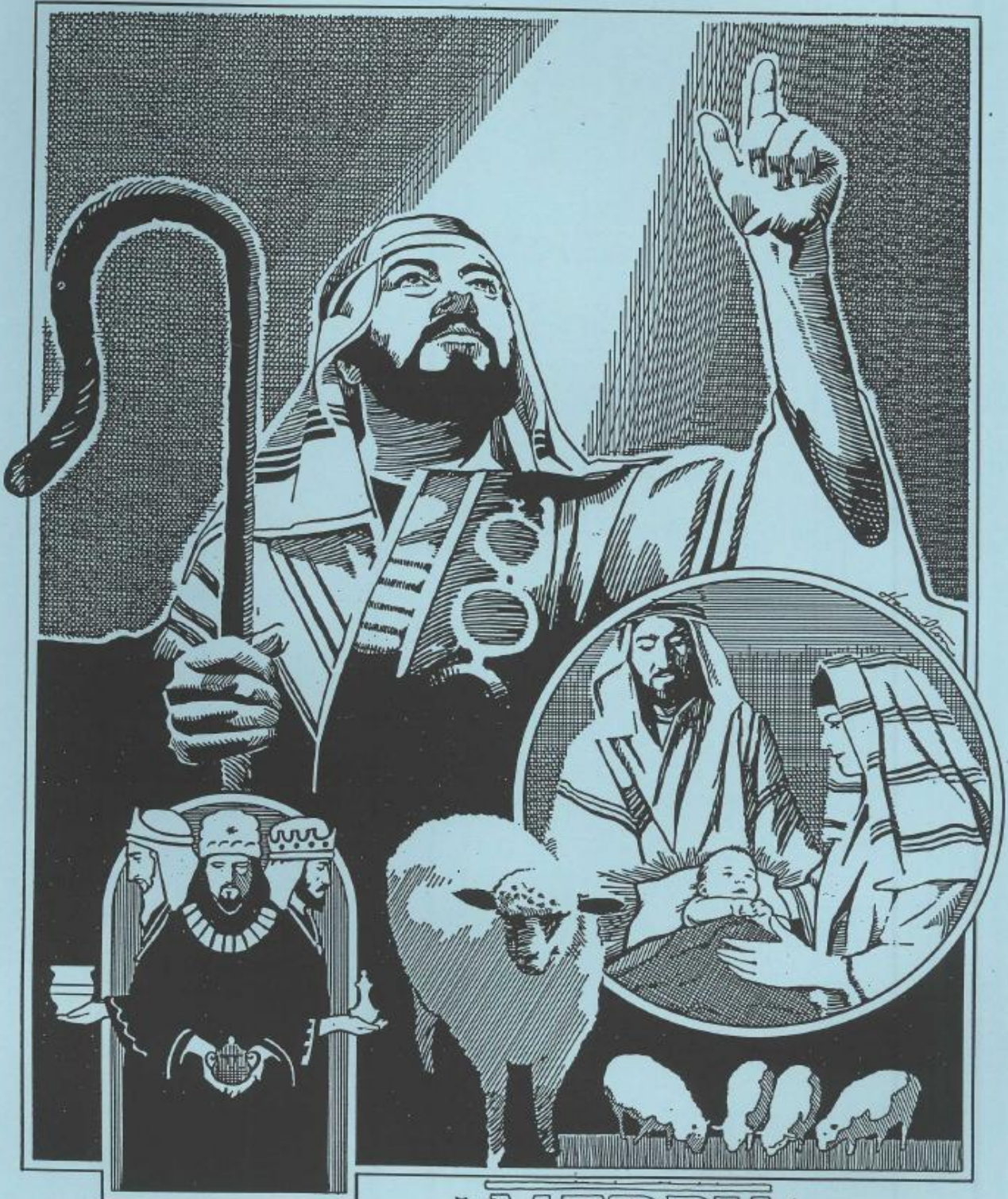
Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy 1996.

Jim Cutbush.





# Peace



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



# Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

FOUNDED  
1966



VISITORS AND  
INTENDING MEMBERS WELCOME