

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN

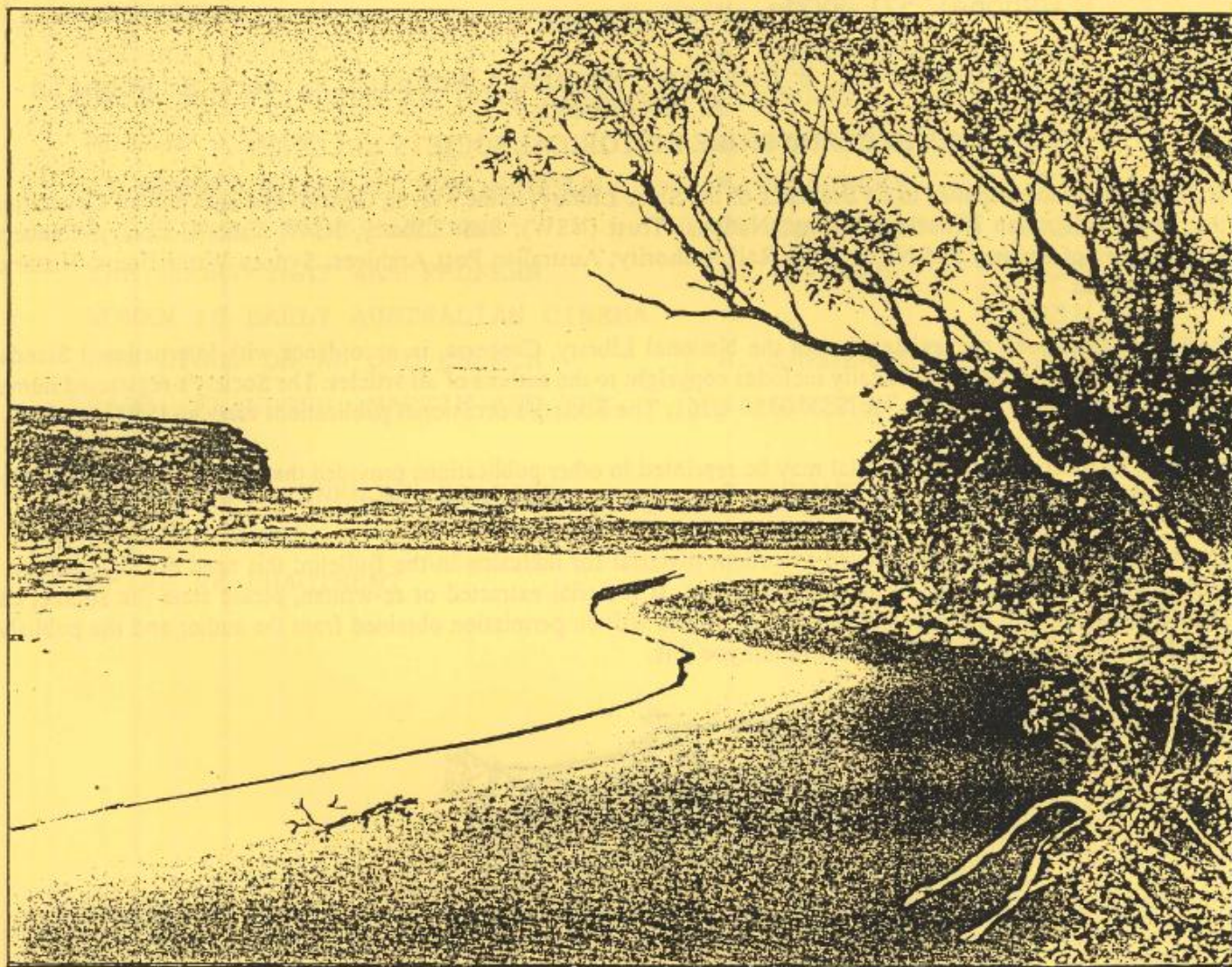
Design by (the late) Fred Wiggley



VOL. 2 No. 14

May, 1996.

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- Wattamolla - Providential Cove -
The Royal National Park.

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COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

PRESIDENT: Mrs A Griffiths.OAM
34 Richmond St. Cronulla : 2230
Phone: 523 5801

HON.SECRETARY Mr R Moore
P.O.Box 389, Sutherland 2232
Phone: 542 1660

DEPUTY Mr D Archer
PRESIDENT:

VICE Mr J Cutbush
PRESIDENTS Mr A Platfoot

EDITOR Mr J Cutbush Phone: 521 3721

RESEARCH: Ms H McDonald
Phone: 710 0225

HON. TREASURER: Mr M Beaven
Phone: 528 7826

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Mrs Phyllis Rugless

ARCHIVIST: Miss D Oliver (represented by Ms H McDonald)

HON. AUDITOR: Mr R H Lavers

COMMITTEE

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society are held monthly, on the third Friday, at 7.45pm at the Multi-Purpose Building, Flora Street. Sutherland (next to Council Car Park.)

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. 14

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Cover.

Wattamolla - The Royal National Park, gave the crew of Tom Thumb II sanctuary from a storm and heavy seas the night before entering Port Hacking on the 29th March, 1796. Matthew Flinders named this Cove - Providential - and the Point - Boy Martin - This same location was used again by George Bass in 1797 as a pick up point after exploration of the Camden area.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Sadly, Mrs. Eileen Sheppard, an Honorary Life Member and former Hon. Treasurer passed away last month: as I only learned of this late the evening before I was unable to contact any members to accompany me, but I did attend on a personal note and representing the Society, at the funeral.

A special dinner is being arranged for the evening of September 20, (that month's meeting night, to mark the thirtieth birthday of the Society's formation in March 1966. March being Annual General Meeting month caused difficulties, hence the forward date.

The dinner will be in the Rainbow Room at the Entertainment Centre (where we entertained Mrs. Sinclair in November 1995.) At the present time the Menu is being considered and we expect details will be confirmed by May meeting. We anticipate the cost will be approximately \$30.00 per head and the timing will be 7.50 p.m. for 0 p.m. dinner.

welcome two new members to the Executive Council of the Society, Mr. Maurie Beavan as Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Alf Humphreys as a Committeeman. Thank you for joining the group. Mr. Andrew Platfoot retired as Hon. Treasurer and we welcome him as a new Vice-President.

Congratulations to Mr. Allan McGrath on his Life-Membership of the Society, and also he becomes the first holder of the official title, "Museum Curator" instead of this position being a Committee member appointed to act in this capacity. Thank you to the other members who returned to their previous positions.

Allan M. Griffiths
C.A.M.

PRESIDENT

GUEST SPEAKERS

May	--- Mr. Peter Paterson The Mounted Police.
June	--- Mr. Wayne Johnson Findings of the Sydney Cove Authority.
July	--- Mr. Paul Smith Tom Thumb II
August	Mr. Stewart Roberts The 30th Battalion-The Black Watch.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF GYMEA BAY

Until a friend loaned me her copy of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin Vol.2, No.10, May 1995, I didn't realize the Society produced such an interesting publication.

One article on page 226 of that issue drew my attention; "Down Memory Lane" by Phyllis Rugless. I recall those days vividly, The Worswicks, Clarkes, Freemans, Morans, Shorters, Hornes and Hazes. When

my Dad, Ernest Warman, started the coach mail and schoolchildren service, my sister, Jean and I were regular passengers to school at Sutherland. Prior to this, Jean and I (Lenora), used to walk a distance of 1 ½ miles to the tram stop in the morning, repeating the return walk from tram stop to our home at the Gymea Bay Boatshed in the afternoon. The present Baths site at 'Little Gymea Bay' was offered by my Dad to the Council for nothing, providing the Council constructed the Baths, but his offer was refused, his boatshed being adjacent to the Baths site. We left the Bay in about 1921-22. Those were particularly happy days for us children, but a lot of hard work for our parents. The Grays ("Bobby" and "Bully"), from Gray's Point often used to row from their house early in the mornings to our place and breakfast with us on fish-cakes cooked by my Mum from freshly caught fish, before proceeding to school. Bobby Gray was in later years to become proprietor of the "Cheapa Glass" company, operating first at Parramatta Road then Taren Point Road into the late 'sixties.

I might add that the horse-drawn coach sketch inside the front cover of the Quarterly Bulletin appears to be an exact depiction of the coach my father used to run from Little Gymea Bay. Owing to the steepness of the terrain, Dad's coach had to be left at a shed he built at the top of the ridge above the boatshed. He had two pairs of horses and during busy times such as holidays, one pair, when unhitched would make their own way down from the coach terminus to our stables near the boatshed, whilst the other pair, keen to work, would make their own way up from the stables and be ready waiting to be put in the shafts when the coach arrived. My Dad had a great rapport with animals and lavished the best of care on his horses and they co-operated accordingly ! Much to the

...entertainment of the coach passengers, one of the mares (Kitty), had a foal (Mickey), which, when big enough accompanied it's mother, running alongside the coach right to Sutherland and back. Between coach trips and looking after the horses my Dad had to maintain and clean the boatshed ,boats and fisherman's cabins built atop the boatshed whilst Mum operated the Post Office-Store attached to the boatshed, earning a reputation as a pastry-cook for her meat, apple and fruit pies provided for the holidaymakers. Mum, in addition to fulfilling the duties of storekeeper, telephonist, cook and provider of first-aid for minor injuries, had to look after we children and this she did with me as a baby by placing me in a half-hamper on the shop counter, whereupon customers would invariably ask if I was for sale ! This experience must have 'gotten into my blood' for I was later destined to myself become a storekeeper in the Sutherland Shire during the 'fifties and 'sixties !

LENORA GEAR

(nee Warman).

NOSTALGIA

*When we are straying dreaming
 Along the lanes of memory
 It is the thought of home that starts
 'The deepest yearnings of the heart
 For home is where our hearts belong
 A word, a picture, or a song
 Can strike a chord that brings to mind
 The things that we have left behind
 A strange power binds us to our own
 And when we're excited and alone
 'There comes that feeling sharp as pain
 The longing to be home again*

Hilary Moore

EXCURSION REPORT

By the time this Bulletin is in your hands our trip to Pittwater District will be over; a report will be included in the August edition.

For the next outing, Saturday July 13, 1996, arrangements are being made to visit Wollongong -- it is many years since we were

at that Society's large and interesting Museum and on this occasion we shall be looking at the historic sites and buildings dating back to the convict era around Wollongong Harbour.

We are still waiting on costs, but bookings will be opened at the May meeting and full details will have been included in the News-letter distributed on the Pittwater tour.

The date for the September outing will be Saturday September 14, but arrangements have not been made at this time.

Then, the week-end to Orange will be from Friday evening, . November 29, Saturday November 30, and Sunday December 1; leaving Cronulla at 5.30 p.m. and Sutherland at 6 p.m. the fully inclusive cost of

accommodation, meals and entrances will be \$155.00 members and \$160.00 visitors.


As always take a "snack" with you, which we will have a comfort stop on the way to Orange.

We ask that you pay a deposit when making the booking to co firm your intention of travelling with us; then, please make a payment each month, finalising by the October meeting; this allows us to meet our commitments with tour money, instead of the need to draw on the general fund.

All bookings to Mrs. Betty McGrath on 521-2227, 141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus, 2232; or Me enquiries about details of the trip to either Betty or myself (523-5801). I cannot tell you if seating is avail-able as Betty has the only list.

The Excursion Committee for 1966 is Mesdames M. Evans, V. Humphreys, B. McGrath, and Messrs. D. Archer T McCosker and S. Roberts, with myself as Convener.

On receipt of your requests and suggestions of places you would like to visit, the Committee will give every consideration to same.



Convener

Bass and Flinders in Port Hacking

It was 200 years ago, on 30 March 1796, that two young men and a boy in his early teens sailed into Port Hacking. This 'discovery' is marked by a monument that overlooks the entrance to what the Dharawal people had, for an unknown number of years, called Deeban. Frank Cridland, the grandfather of local history in Sutherland Shire, a benefactor of the Royal Australian Historical Society and successful businessman, instigated this tribute to Bass and Flinders whom he described as 'the honoured men who first placed the district on any map'.

The monument at Bass and Flinders Point, Cronulla was erected in 1949, at Cridland's expense, and has recently been refurbished by Sutherland Shire Council. Most people know how Bass and Flinders, with their companion known as the 'boy Martin', sailed from Port Jackson to the Illawarra district in a tiny boat in early 1796. Few people are aware, however, of how, on the return voyage, they spent their time at Port Hacking. This is because Flinders, the only one of the three to leave a written account of the trip, thought so little of their 'discovery' that he gave it barely a page in the official account of his career.

Although Flinders was not impressed with this beautiful waterway the brief sojourn at Deeban, or Port Hacking as the explorers named it, was a relaxing time for them. It was an opportunity to rest their weary bodies and exhausted minds. After a gruelling five days at sea, they had two good night's sleep, relaxed, did some fishing, explored a little and were visited by some friendly local people. One hundred years later, in the 1890s, when the area first became popular with Sydneysiders, there were many who came to Port Hacking and spent their time just as Bass and Flinders had.

The explorers spent less than two days in Port Hacking and on only one day did they devote any time to exploration. Frank Cridland would not have entertained the idea that this historic event in 1796 was in reality a low key episode and a well-earned rest for his heroes. To Cridland the self-made middle aged man who, in 1924, described Bass and Flinders' discovery of Port Hacking (in

The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire) their lives must have seemed touched with romance. What could be further from Cridland's comfortable home, Sunnyside, at Caringbah and his successful carrying business at Waterloo than the lives of George Bass and Matthew Flinders? They did not survive into contented and comfortable old age as Frank Cridland did. Bass, after leaving his mark on the history of Australian exploration disappeared without trace on a trading expedition to South America. Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia and his mapping of a large portion of the coastline were achievements that rivalled those of James Cook. He spent many years separated from his young wife and died at the age of 40 just before the publication of his book, A Voyage to Terra Australis.

When 22 year old Matthew Flinders and his friend George Bass left Sydney on 25 March 1796 they aimed to find the river that was said to be south of Botany Bay. This was their second expedition in a frighteningly tiny boat that they named the Tom Thumb. They were carried past

the entrance to Port Hacking by currents, however, and unexpectedly spent a few days exploring the Illawarra district.

The voyage lurched from one near disaster to another. Their drinking water was foul, the Tom Thumb was swamped and most of their supplies were drenched. Bass was so badly sunburnt that Flinders reported that his body was covered with 'almost one continuous blister'. On the fifth night they were caught in a storm and probably would not have survived except that they were able to take shelter at Wattamolla (now in the Royal National Park). The first five nights of their trip were spent attempting to sleep cramped in the tiny Tom Thumb. This was uncomfortable for Flinders and Martin but Bass must have had several truly wretched nights attempting to rest his 183 cm (6 ft) sunburnt body. Their first night sleeping on dry land was a relief. Flinders wrote that 'the liberty of lying in any position and stretching out our limbs was an indulgence'. His journal account of the voyage leaves the reader in no doubt about how he and his companions felt. He relates that on the first night they were 'making a miserable supper'. Later he comments on 'our uncomfortable situation' and 'our miserable plight'.

On this voyage Bass and Flinders were exploring waters that no Englishman had thoroughly investigated. Cook had only sailed past 26 years earlier. As they moved further away from the security of the closest white settlement at Port Jackson they acutely felt the insecurity of their position. The fear and tension they experienced when attempting to deal diplomatically with the Aborigines they met is apparent in Flinders' account. The explorers were very conscious that they were on someone else's territory; that they were outnumbered and defenceless.

After the boat was swamped Flinders described the guns as 'rusty and full of sand and salt water: the rods incapable of being drawn'. They were sure their safety relied partly on the fact that the Aborigines did not know that their weapons were inoperative. In addition Bass' red waistcoat gave the Aborigines the false impression that they were soldiers. The Illawarra Aborigines had obviously learnt from the Sydney tribes that such men were to be treated with respect. When the three young strangers did no harm the Aborigines became more curious. They wanted to find out more about these exotic strangers. Bass and Flinders, however, were eager to get away as quickly and as unobtrusively as possible. After all they had been told that these people were cannibals. Although they were unlikely to have believed such stories they still felt vulnerable. Despite the tension and uncertainty of their position there were some light-hearted moments. For example when Flinders gave some of the Aborigines a haircut he wrote that he 'was almost tempted to try the effect of a snip on the nose; but our situation was too critical to admit of such experiments'.

After all this it must have been a relief when, on the morning of 30 March 1796, they sailed into Port Hacking, the entrance to the river that they had set out to find. Flinders wrote that they 'landed in a small cove on the north side, where we observed a number of cabbage trees growing'. They did not set out immediately to explore their new discovery, but did what any sensible person would do after such a trip. Flinders explained that after 'making a comfortable meal and getting everything dry and in order, we amused ourselves in the evening with fishing'. Not very successfully it seems, because he continued

the sharks were so numerous that no other fish dare make its appearance. These sea monsters appeared to have a great inclination for us: and were sufficiently daring to come to the surface of the water eyeing us at the same time with voracious keenness. The size of our vessel did not place us at a great distance from them.

Presumably there was no fish for tea that night.

Now that they were almost back in Sydney the tension of the early part of the voyage seems to have dissipated as they prepared for the night. Flinders wrote:

Night drawing on we returned to our cove. where we had prepared a place and pulled grass to sleep on. Two natives had paid us a visit in the afternoon. and behaved very civilly. We understood them tolerably well and were not under the least apprehension considering ourselves as almost home: and had it not been for the numberless mosquitoes that inhabit here. should have passed a comfortable night. On the following day our time was employed in examining Port Hacking and in fishing. occasionally: but finding the port very shoal and but few places in it fit for shipping. we did not think it worthwhile expending much time about. We slept some distance up the port. but did not see ducks or anything to shoot anywhere.

The next day, he relates, they 'examined and sounded in going down; and about seven o'clock passed between the points of the entrance'. By that afternoon they were back in Port Jackson. Although Port Hacking had been a pleasant diversion for the two friends and their 'crew', their feelings about it were mixed. It seemed an ideal place for relaxation with friendly local people. There were, however, too many mosquitoes, countless sharks, fish that refused to bite and nothing to shoot. Bass, the swimmer of the party, does not seem to have even had a dip. No doubt he was content to remain fully covered and not risk any more sunburn. The presence of sharks was probably an even greater deterrent to swimming.

Flinders' attitude to Port Hacking was primarily determined by its unsuitability for shipping. This characteristic, making it so different from the magnificent Port Jackson, is one of the reasons that 100 years after Bass and Flinders' brief visit there was very little white settlement in the area. This was a time when the coastal shipping trade was a vital link in the colony. Port Hacking with its shallow waters and shifting sand bars was largely bypassed by the steam ship companies. It was not until the opening of the railway to Sutherland in 1885 that there was improved access to the district. In the years that followed visiting Sydneysiders began to appreciate Port Hacking as a recreational waterway and it became a place for rest and relaxation. People, such as Frank Cridland, then in his early twenties, found respite in the area just as three stressed young adventurers had a hundred years earlier.

Pauline Curby

This article was first published in the February edition of *History*, the magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society

MUSEUM REPORT

The museum received a boost by the number of visitors and the genuine interest shown in local history when it opened its doors for Heritage week.

There was a special display of the tiny craft "Tom Thumb" - a replica loaned to us by the Bankstown City Council. Made at the Sydney Tech. College it came complete with sail and oars. Accompanied also by its history and pictures of its navigators Bass and Flinders and the boy Martin.

Sutherland Shire Council presented us with the Ceremonial Robes worn by Shire Clerks on ceremonial occasions. These are now of historical value being no longer appropriate for the newer position of general manager.

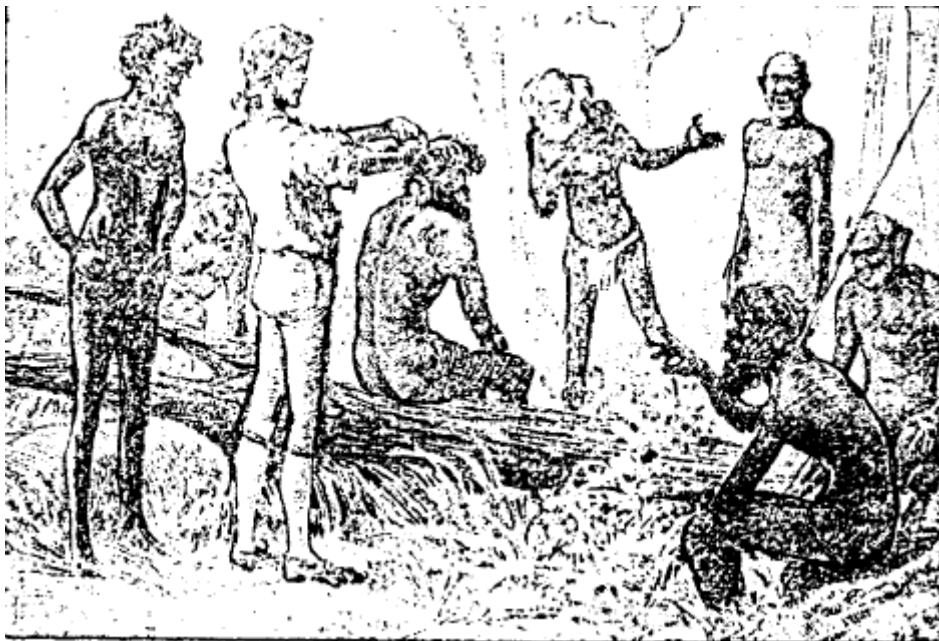
The photographic area of the museum had many new photos that were clearly captioned and made easy viewing. Many of our visitors found photos of early family members and friends that they didn't know existed. Of particular photographic interest was the panoramic view of early 1925 Sutherland and a picture of the same area taken this year.

Approximately 700 people attended the museum in Heritage week and it was encouraging to see interesting articles relating to early Sutherland being given helping to boost the display.

I was encouraged by the help received in mounting the display and in manning the exhibition when it was open to the public. Thanks to Bankstown City Council for their help in arranging the transport of the Tom Thumb and their kindness in lending it to us for display. To those who contributed in any way please know I was appreciative.

A. McGrath

Curator of Museum.



■ Flinders amused himself by clipping the hair and beards of the savages. They were all eager to have their locks trimmed, but it was very laughable to see the wry faces they made when the scissors came close to their noses.

It seemed to me it was

"SPECIAL!" - FOR HERITAGE WEEK.

We had every reason to be proud of our Museum presentation in Heritage week.

There in the middle of the floor stood "Tom Thumb" complete with oars and sail. A replica of that tiny craft which housed Surgeon George Bass and Midshipman Matthew Flinders and Bass' manservant, the boy Martin on their voyage of discovery in 1795 from Sydney Cove to Garrison Point on the Georges River.

The full size replica was made at the Sydney Technical College. It is usually housed at the Maritime museum and is owned by the Bankstown council

A very readable short history of the voyage and accompanying log book were of interest. No doubt this small crew expected to supplement their uninteresting dry biscuit diet with fresh fish but apparently the sharks rising in the water and threatening the craft discouraged them from trying.

In room two of the museum there was a most interesting contrast in times photo. Taken from a gantry near Sutherland railway in 1925 was a panoramic view of early Sutherland showing dwellings on both sides of the railway line and the early station.

Immediately above this 10 foot expansive view of early Sutherland the same area is photographed in colour. Taken in sections very recently by Allan McGrath the picture is quite remarkable. The changes are great and it was a big help to have Allan there to show you just 'what was then' and 'what is now.' It was fascinating.

I felt pride in the progress the museum has made - someday we may even be able to compete with some of the country museums that have so much space and are able to store great memories of their forebears, their homes and their way of life.

Seeing the care that is taken to preserve what articles of history we have I am sure people would be persuaded to trust their valued pieces to the care of our museum caretakers.

Congratulations to those involved in setting such a high standard of care and presentation and in particular to our Curator Allen McGrath.

Observations of
M. Blackley.

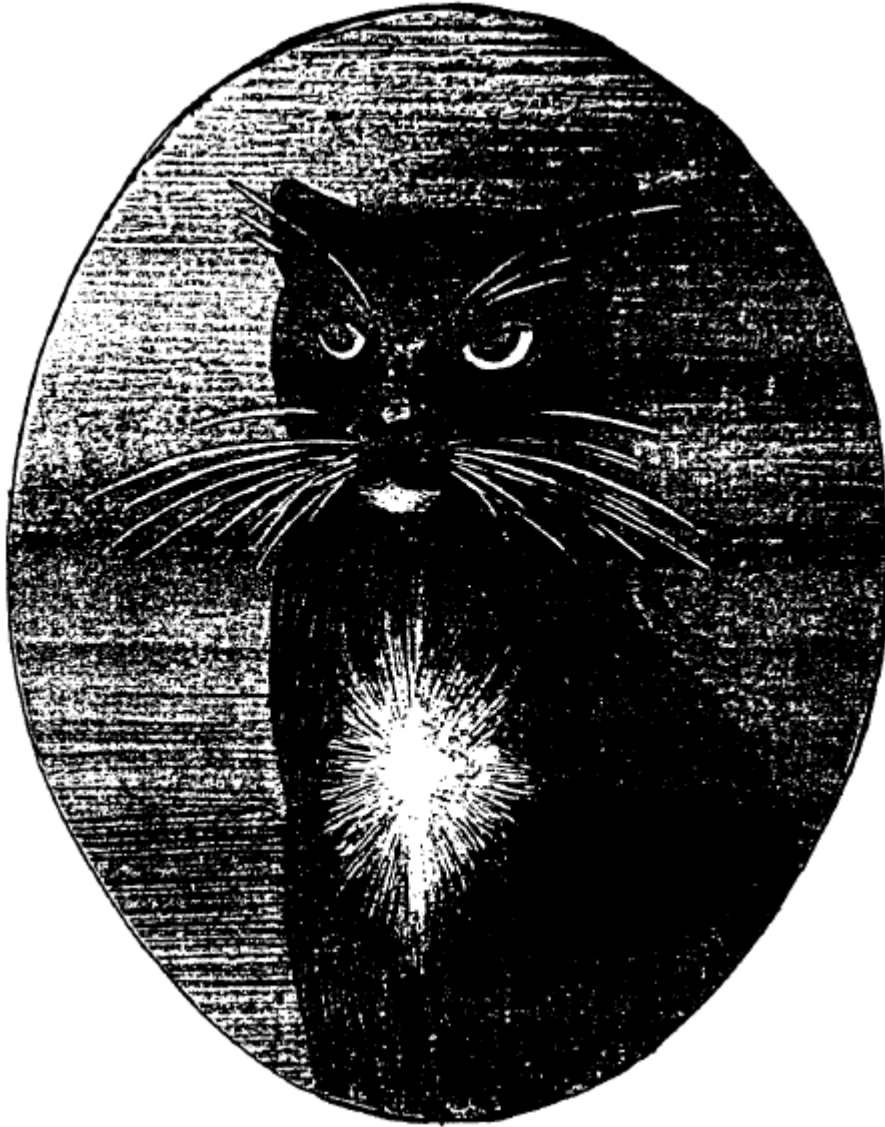
PLEASE NOTE.

The meeting night of the 30th September, 1996 is the 30th Anniversary Dinner of the Society.

FULL DETAILS IN THE AUGUST ISSUE.

A CAT THAT MADE HISTORY.

TRIM



"Trim" - the sole survivor of a litter of kittens was befriended by Matthew Flinders and accompanied him on many of his voyages.

So well known was this attachment that there is a statue of Trim at the back of Flinders statue which faces Macquarie Street. If you are visiting notice the footprints of the cat on the footpath as it seemingly leaped to its resting position.

On one occasion Trim fell overboard and the sailors threw him a rope which he grasped and climbed back onboard amid hearty cheers from his sailor friends. Quote: *"He swam like a man and climbed like a cat."*

A CAT THAT MADE HISTORY.

TRIM

The best and most illustrious of his line
 the most affectionate of friends
 faithful of servants
 and best of creatures
 He made the Tour of the Globe, and a voyage to Australia
 which he circumnavigated, and was ever the
 delight and pleasure of his fellow voyagers
 Returning to Europe in 1803, he was shipwrecked
 in the Great Equinoxial Ocean

This danger escaped he sought refuge and assistance
 at the Isle of France, where
 he was made prisoner, contrary to the laws of
 Justice of Humanity, and of
 French National Faith,
 and where alas! he terminated his useful
 career by untimely death
 being devoured by the Calophagi of
 that island

Many a time have I beheld his little merriments of delight,
 and his superior intelligence with surprise
 Never will his like be seen again!

Trim was born in the Southern Indian Ocean in the Year 1799, and
 Perished, as above, at the Isle of France. in 1804

Peace be to his shade
 and honour to his memory.

.....

Matthew Flinders is credited with writing the above poem.

Contributed by Val Humphreys.

THE GLORY THAT WAS REDFERN

by Edith Grainger

(contributed by Ada Cutbush)

On a windless day the smells of garlic and boiled cabbage permeate the air of Redfern, seeping from its terrace houses and back lanes and even penetrating the Police Barracks (opened in 1908) fronting Bourke Street.

Yet look at some of the street names - Boronia, Kepos (garden), Telopea (waratah), Zamia (native palm). If your imagination is not atrophied you may be aware of vague other worldly perfumes drifting like dreams just beyond the edge of recognition.

Your imagination is not fooling you, because for 60 years (1830-1890) the part of Redfern including and surrounding the Police Barracks was not only the market garden of Sydney but was world renowned for its rare exotic plants.

Only two reminders (besides the streets already mentioned) of its Former glory remain - Baptist Street and a pair of charming semi-detached cottages, at one time called "Boronia" and "Epacris", but referred to for many years simply as Baptist Cottage.

GARDEN GRANT

Thomas Shepherd (Shepherd Street, Darlington is named after him) was probably the first commercial nurseryman in New South Wales. His grant from Governor Darling was stocked mainly from the glorious gardens of the Macarthurs (noted for camellias) at Parramatta and Camden, and of Alexander Macleay, Elizabeth Bay House.

Shepherd lectured on horticulture at the Sydney School of Arts in 1834, claiming that in four years he has sold 30,000 fruit trees and 10,000 exotic ornamental trees, shrubs and flower roots. He died the following year and part of his garden subsequently formed part of the 40 acres acquired by John Baptist, a Portuguese.

Portuguese ... surprising that, when you consider that before the gold rushes it would be unusual to find anyone in the colony not of British descent. Turn up the shipping notices of 1329. On May 8, the barque Swiftsure brought out a new civil engineer, Charles Wilson. Listed among the steerage passengers are John Baptist (servant to Wilson), Mrs Baptist and one child.

Storms in the Bay of Biscay seriously damaged the Swiftsure and extensive repairs kept Wilson and his entourage in Lisbon for three months during which time no doubt the Baptists joined him. However, by the time the party arrived in Sydney Wilson's finances were gravely reduced, so Baptist set up business by himself as a butcher.

From the beginning he prospered financially but in October, only six months after arrival, fate gave the ominous thumbs down signal. Baptist's young wife and newborn child died -- "snatched from my circling arms to grace the tomb", the distraught husband had inscribed on their tombstone in the old Devonshire Street cemetery.

The whole inscription suggests that the flower garden established three years later, not far from the cemetery, was in a sense a memorial to his lost wife and baby. He never remarried, nor did his surviving son, John Thomas Baptist, ever marry. Their lives were dedicated to "Baptist Gardens, Surry Hills".

VESTIGES

Some time during the 1830s, Baptist built. The Cottage (now nos. 762-4 Bourke Street), but in 1841 transferred to the New House north of The Cottage which now became occupied by the parents of James Martin (later Sir James) and their five children. Young James Martin was 21 years old, a rising young journalist and lawyer.

Even today, behind its high picket and narrow front garden it is not difficult to imagine the charm of this delightful house surrounded by acres of fruit trees and imported plants. An ancient wisteria vine still twines along one fence and on each side rears the mighty column of a venerable cabbage tree palm.

Many of Baptist's prize-winning plants, cut flowers, bouquets and seeds (two pence for 4 oz) were sold at stalls 15 and 17 at the old markets at the southern end of the present Hyde Park, but just as many were ordered from well-to-do Sydney citizens or dispatched to country clients. Orders from overseas nurseries for seeds of native Australian plants would have delighted that intrepid botanist, Sir Joseph Banks.

EMBOWERED

Coming and going in this blossomy retreat the young Martin acquired an expert knowledge of horticulture and landscape gardening which he put to good use in his own garden after his marriage in 1853.

Clarens, 20 Wylde Street, Potts Point, was one of the most beautiful of the many gardens that made of the area, now roughly covered by King's Cross, a vast bower of exotic trees and perfumed flowers.

The area of present day Redfern not included in Baptist Gardens consisted of sandhills and swamps, cattle and goat dairies, Chandler's watercress farm and Hayes wool washing mills.

John Baptist died in 1873. His son, John Thomas (who lived till 1920) had flower-named walks put through the gardens and opened them to the public. Sir James Martin's mother and sisters occupied Baptist Cottage until Mrs Martin's death in the 1830s.

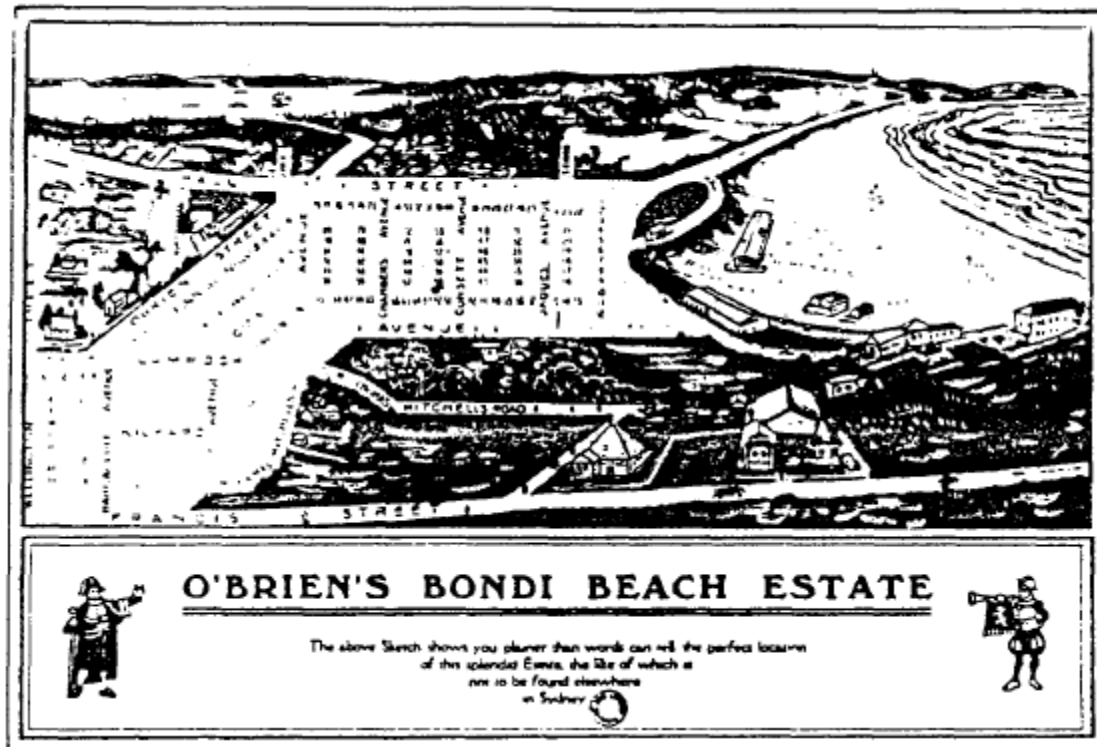
Soon afterwards Mr Baptist. presented the most valuable plants - a large and almost priceless collection - to the Sydney Botanic Gardens which owe much of their present day loveliness to his gift. The once-beautiful Baptist Gardens withered before advancing suburbia, rapidly degenerated into a wilderness of sand, weeds and rubbish dumps and was sold by auction in the 1890s.

By a miracle Baptist. Cottage with its snippet of old world garden has survived the Great Australian Ugliness. Today it peeps timidly at Bourke Street over its high fence, huddling for protection against, a bewildering world in the shadow of the Police Barracks.

A NOTE FROM ADA CUTBUSH

Ay great-grandfather was brought out from Ireland to work in the Baptist Gardens. My grandmother was born at Surry Hills. Her name was Catherine Ellen Polley and she married a John Beacom. Later in life, they became caretakers of O'Briens Estate, which included Bondi Beach.





O'BRIEN ESTATE BONDI BEACH

The first land grant in the Bondi area was made during the term of Governor Bligh to William Roberts on 22nd December, 1809. Governor Macquarie who succeeded Bligh revoked all land grants made but re-granted the land to Roberts in 1810.

The land was surveyed by James Meehan, Macquarie's surveyor and is recorded in his field book as "Bundi Bay, December 11th, 1809".

The land and its estate known as the "Bondi Estate" eventually passed on to Edward Smith Hall whose daughter married Francis O'Brien = hence the transition to the "O'Brien Estate" around the 1840's.

In 1852 Francis O'Brien decided to subdivide the Bondi Estate which was advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald of 3rd July of that year as being:

within three miles of the city and comprised of Point Piper Estate: a mile from .to a Government Road to Bell View to the ocean and a seaboard as 3/4 of a mile which takes in the Bay and Bight of Bondi.

A large portion of the Beach area was privately owned by the O'Brien's who, between 1855-1877, made the beach and adjacent land available to the public as a picnic ground and amusement resort.

As the area became extremely popular "excessive rowdism" increased, and Francis O'Brien threatened to close the beach

and grounds to the public. His approach for approval of Council to this suggestion encouraged Waverley Council to seek Government intervention to make the area once and for all a public recreation space.

As of 9th June, 1882 public access to Bondi Beach became free. This resumption was upheld by Supreme Court action and Council was eventually appointed as Trustees of Bondi Park.

WOMEN IN EARLY AUSTRALIAN CINEMA

WOMEN'S outstanding contribution to early Australian cinema makes a notable legacy to our film heritage. During Australia's silent film era, from 1896-1930, women were

prominent in all major aspects of Australian filmmaking. These included screenwriting, directing, producing, editing, and of course, as on-screen actresses. Their activities paralleled those of other women in Europe and especially the United States.

Women in Australian cinema were pioneers in a fledgling film industry that saw independent productions shot on location, frequently in the Australian bush. Production crews were small and leading players in these silent photoplays were often recruited from existing stage companies. Women were therefore able to participate openly in a range of filmmaking activities, working as the equal of their male colleagues. Australian theatres also employed women as projectionists and pianists.

The themes explored in our early silent cinema began to interpret and define our national identity and notions of our bush and urban life. The bushranger films were immensely popular until they were banned on grounds of morality, and law and order in 1912. With the demise of the bushranger as a leading character, the 'girl of the bush' featured in many Australian outdoor adventure romances, such as the 1913 now lost silent feature film 'Neath Austral Skies starring Lottie Lyell. Actresses playing these roles were also applauded for doing all their own often dangerous stunts.

Sadly most of the silent filmmaking efforts of women in Australian cinema are now lost. The ravages of time and chemical

decomposition have robbed us of nearly ninety percent of our silent film heritage, along with the opportunity to enjoy and admire the screen work of so many talented women.

As Australian talkies arrived in the 1930s, so did the studio system, with a more defined role for women, principally in front of the camera rather than behind it. Women still contributed to productions as publicists and wardrobe mistresses, but with the coming of sound and the male dominated studios, women no longer undertook the same range of creative production activities.

Society's conventions also shifted, and although the girl of the bush continued to appear on screen, she was much more the glamour contract star of the studio than the independent actress of previous decades.

The range of films made by women in early Australian cinema embraced all genres: melodramas such as Isobel McDonagh's *The Cheaters* (1929/30);



Vera James - early Australian screen actress. Photo: From the Documentation Collection.

outdoor adventures, romances and the exploits of bush pioneers such as Louise Lovely's *Jewelled Nights* (1925) and Billie Sim's *Tall Timber* (1926); and 'problem' plays exposing social issues of morality and religion such as Lottie Lyell's *The Woman Suffers* (1918) were controversial but box-office successes.

While the themes of these films often reflected an overseas influence, the settings, characters and lifestyle were Australian.

The National Film and Sound Archive News.

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD CHURCH

by Bernard Sargeant

No one, who has affection for and a sense of belonging to the Township of Sutherland, can fail to have been delighted by the re-use of the former Sutherland Congregational Church as the Sutherland Bible Church in the last 12 months. These feelings of pleasure can be experienced by the sight of the restored building from the Old Princes Highway as one now speeds over the railway line on the way to the Woronora River and to points west, or as one slows down to turn into Sutherland itself. Even greater satisfaction can be gained by walking around the church from Belmont Street into Acton Street, so as to be able to see at close hand the total effect of the restoration, down to the such details as the fence, which surrounds the church. If one were to ascribe human emotions to inanimate structures, then one could say that the building itself is reflecting its enjoyment of being returned to its original function.

The last regular service at the Sutherland Congregational Church was held on Sunday 22 December 1974, prior to "the special service held in the Forby Sutherland Gardens¹ on Christmas Day 1974 at which the Sutherland Congregationalists and the Sutherland Methodists came together. It was not until 22 June 1977 that the Sutherland congregations became part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The history of the Sutherland Congregation Church is fairly well documented The original church was built by the efforts of and for the Rev. W.J. Anderson in 1887 on the south west corner of Robertson and Oxford Streets, Sutherland. This church, named the Evangelical Jubilee Church, was taken over by arrangement with the Rev. Anderson by the Congregational Union of New South Wales in the first half of 1888.

In 1904, as a result of the growth of Sutherland to the east of the railway line the church was moved to a new site on The Railway Parade, (now Old Princes Highway). Mrs Torn Smith in 1951 (described "as one of Sutherland's oldest residents") told how she "vividly remembered the scene when the church, on a trolley, was being drawn by horses over the railway bridge. It was a narrow, wooden bridge at that time and the church, jammed on it. They could not move it fun-wards or hack and traffic on the bridge was blocked for the hest part of two days. Eventually they solved the difficulty by sawing the church in half and then it was an awful job to get it together again on the new site. "²

A contemporary account of the results of moving the church states that "The building has just been removed from the old out-of-the-way site to a new one in the main street, adjoining the Post Office, and alterations and improvements, made largely by

¹Sutherland Uniting Church. 90th anniversary' of Christian Worship on the present site. Sutherland, Uniting Church, 1995.

² Vital News, No. 8, October 1951. Sutherland, Congregational Press, 1950-195?

the pastor himself made almost a new church of the old one."³ In the same source it was reported that "The Congregationalists have made Sutherland en fete with the church re-opening and Church and pastorate anniversaries. The former took place on Saturday afternoon, June 25 [1904] when the Rev. David Morgan, president of the Illawarra District Association, performed the ceremony and delivered a fine address..."⁴

That "new-in-1904" site was described in 1952 by Bruce McCubben, Secretary of the Sutherland Congregational Church, as being "at the spot next to the Post Office, now occupied by Valiance's Store."⁵ That location can be identified today as being next to the "present" Post Office and on approximately the site of the card shop, the Civic Arcade and Don Brierley's Menswear Shop. By the early 1920's this position was too busy for a church, with noise from the railway causing problems, and the church members began to look for a new location on which to place their church.

After considering several sites the members were advised by the Superintendent of the Home Mission, Congregational Union of N.S.W., "that the Sites Committee had inspected the Brinsley property & reported favourably upon it, & recommending the Union purchase, as soon as the [Sutherland] church resolves to do so. ... [As a result the following resolution was agreed upon] That the Deacons be authorised, in conjunction with the Congregational Union, to purchase the Brinsley property. Carried"⁶ This Brinsley property was on the corner of Belmont Street and The Grand Parade (now Acton Street).

Before the end of 1923 it was realised that it would be necessary to build a new church on the new church property. At first it was thought that the "Old Church Building" could not be moved, but at the Church Meeting of 27 February 1924 it was agreed, among other items "1) that the offer of Mr. Valiance of 16 pounds per foot. for the [old] church site be accepted; 2) that the present building be removed to the new site subject to the estimate for removal being satisfactory ... " By mid-April 1924 the Deacons had accepted the tender of Mr. A.J. Faran to move the old church for 45 pounds and 10 shillings. This was done at some time between May and August 1924 and the old building would have continued to be used as the church temporarily.

Meanwhile throughout 1924 and the first half of 1925 the church members were taking the necessary steps for the building of a brick church on the new site. The foundation stone of the church was laid by W.G. Judd (first President of Sutherland

³Australasian Independent, V.7, New Series, No.7, 1 July 1904, p 8, The Sutherland Mission.

⁴Ibid , p 14, Church News, Sutherland Congregational Church.

⁵ 65th Annual Report [1951-52] of the Secretary of the Sutherland Congregational Church. Sutherland, Congregational Church , 1952.

⁶Sutherland Congregational Church. Minutes of Church Meeting of 12 February 1923.

Shire Council) on 11 July 1925.⁷ The new church was opened on 23 October 1925.⁸ However the old building continued to play an important role in Sutherland Congregational Church affairs for another 25 years, being used as a church hall and Sunday school building. It was demolished in 1951 to make way for "War Memorial Hall and Youth Centre", which included material taken from the old church building. After the completion of the new Memorial Hall and Youth Centre, Bruce McCubben reminded the congregation in 1952 that:-

"This quite .spacious hall represents the work of a number of volunteers, who have worked consistently for almost a year ... though the old building as we knew it has ceased to exist - due largely to Mr. [Bill (for Wilbur)] Fenton :s ingenuity, parts of it are all around us. I refer to salvaged material which has .saved many pounds in this structure."

At the same time Bruce McCubben recorded that "Beneath the foundation stone of the old building a metal box was found, which I understand was placed originally in this position on the first site ... and replaced when the building was removed ... and again it was removed and replaced at this site in 1925. Much to the disappointment of all concerned the box collapsed when handled and the contents, a Bible, a newspaper and other oddments of historical interest powdered when handled. " ⁹

Little is known about the Rev. Anderson, who built the Evangelical Jubilee Church at Sutherland. Most information comes down through the Sutherland Congregational Church and once again Bruce McCubben encapsulates all that is recorded, as follows:

- "... with the residential influx of new settlers came one Mr. Anderson, a native of Mauritius. This man conducted what we believe to be the first religious services and it was out of these gatherings that a Church was established and named Evangelical Jubilee Church... " ¹⁰; and,
- "... The man who inspired the people to erect this building [the original church] was a native of Mauritius, ... " ¹¹

In the last few years I have been researching the life of Charles Edward Wigzell (1848-1900), a Sydney businessman from 1868 to 1900 and a Sutherland resident from 1884. Some of his family were foundation members of the Sutherland Congregational Church, hence my interest in that church. Charles Wigzell was a leading figure in the Congregational Union of New South Wales and also in the Bourke Street Congregational Church. In researching these aspects of his life I am using the resources of the Church Records & Historical Society of the Uniting Church at North Parramatta.

⁷The Congregationalist, 10 September 1925 11 a-b.

⁸The Congregationalist, 10 December 1925 11 b-c; and Australian Christian World, 30 October 1925.

⁹Ibib

¹⁰ 68th Annual Report /1954-55/ of the Secretary of the Sutherland Congregational Church. Sutherland, Congregational Church, 1955.

¹¹ 70th Annual Report /1956-57/ of the Secretary of the Sutherland Congregational Church. Sutherland, Congregational Church, 1957.

A most useful resource is the Society's file of a Congregational journal, *The N.S.W. Independent*, 1875 to 1907. The monthly journal was variously named throughout its existence, and in 1908 was incorporated into *The Congregationalist*. The Society's file is a broken one, but all of the missing issues are contained in a shorter file at the Mitchell Library. More important is the fact that the Society's copies had been meticulously and thoroughly indexed by the Society's Indexer, Pauline Patterson. (The current task of indexing the file of *The Congregationalist* is being conducted by other volunteers, Mrs Patterson is now engaged in other Society indexing projects.)

This index led me, in 1995, to the earliest reference in *The Independent* to Sutherland and to the Evangelical Jubilee Church in the form of an advertisement, as follows:-

"Evangelical Jubilee Church

FIRST TEA - MEETING and ENTERTAINMENT at
SUTHERLAND, SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, at 5 p.m.
Admission: is. 6d. Adult, and 9d. child under 12 years. Train leaves
Sydney 2.25, and Sutherland 7 p.m. RETURN TICKETS is. 5d.
Public INAUGURAL-SERVICE, SUNDAY, 20th November at
11.30 a.m. Special Collection for BUILDING FUNDS,-
Rev. W.J. Anderson, M.F.A."¹²

As so often happens with research a breakthrough creates new problems. What, for example, is the meaning of the acronym "M.F.A." After consulting every dictionary of acronyms I could find, the only possible, but not promising meaning was "Master of Fine Arts."!! Having also found references in the papers of the Congregational

Union of N.S.W. in 1888 to the acquisition of the Rev. Anderson's Sutherland Church in May of that year, I was interested to learn more about him, his work in Sutherland, and his objectives in that regard. However pressure of other work forced me to leave aside this by-path for over 12 months.

Late last year, while researching a range of matters pertaining to Hurstville City Council, I was scanning the *Sydney Morning Herald* in the late 1880's. During that exercise my eye was caught by the word "Hurstville", so I stopped to read. Imagine my feelings when I understood exactly what I was reading and its implications for my search for more information on the Rev. W.J. Anderson, M.F.A., and his Evangelical Jubilee Church of Sutherland. The article in question reads as follows:-

"The foundation-stone of the Evangelical Jubilee Church, which is to be erected at Sutherland, under the auspices of the Franco-Australian Mission, was laid by Mr. W. Neill, on Saturday [20 August 1887] afternoon. There was a fair attendance, and the visitors included a number of ladies and gentlemen from the metropolis. The proceedings were conducted by the Rev. W.J. Anderson (pastor of the church) and among those present were the Rev. D. Mackay, the Rev. Mr. Eller, Messrs. C.E. Ardill, F. Freeland, W. Powe, and Dr. Eichler. The proceedings were commenced with devotional exercises. The Rev. W.J. Anderson read a portion of Scriptures and delivered

¹²New South Wales Independent, Friday 11 November 1887, p.220.

a short address, basing his remarks upon the 35th verse of the 9th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, the words being.- "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, this is My beloved Son, hear him." In the course of his remarks, the rev. gentleman stated that he was induced to carry on his mission at Sutherland owing to the fact that there was no place of worship beyond Hurstville on the Illawarra Line. For some time he had conducted services at the railway-station, and having by this means gathered around him a congregation, he had at last decided to build a church, and he hoped that by the end of November the building, the foundation-stone of which they had met that afternoon to lay, would be opened for worship. The church would be completely unsectarian, purely evangelical, and would be freely open to all, no matter to what denomination they might belong. Mr. Neill, who was then presented with a trowel, briefly addressed the spectators. He expressed the pleasure he felt in being called upon to discharge such a duty, but said he regretted very much that the Mayoress, who would have laid the foundation-stone on the previous Saturday had the weather been favourable, was not able to do so on the present occasion. She was, however, prevented from attending in consequences of having to keep another engagement that afternoon which had been previously arranged for. He hoped before very long to see the completion of their new edifice. There would be no sectarian differences in connection with the truth taught in it, and he was sure their pastor would, in teaching the young minds around him, proclaim those doctrines which were calculated to raise them up to be good men and women. A box containing a copy of the English and French Bible, a paper bearing the signatures of many present, and also copies of the daily newspapers, was placed under the stone, which was then laid in the usual manner. The offerings placed upon the stone amounted between 17 and 18 pounds. The proceedings terminated with the benediction. The building will be somewhat novel in character, inasmuch as it will comprise, in addition to a place for public worship, a dwelling for Mr. Anderson and his family. It will be supported by voluntary subscriptions, but as far as can be ascertained, it is not vested in trustees. The site is situated opposite the level crossing, and about five minutes' walk from the Sutherland railway station. The structure, which will be of weatherboard upon brick foundations, will be 49ft. by 20 ft., and it is expected that it will be completed in November."¹³

Besides giving so much new information, this article confirms existing details, viz., the use of the railway station as a location for church services, and an itemised list of the contents of the box under the foundation stone. It also tells us the meaning of "M.F.A.", but now tantalises with questions about the Franco-Australian Mission, - how big was it, were there more M.F.A. missionaries in other parts of Australia, by whom was it funded, etc.

¹³*Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 22 August 1887, 7a-b.

The Rev. Anderson or his supporters certainly had contacts in the Sydney community of 1887 so as to be able to have this article printed in the Herald. Among the visitors present was George Edward Ardill, (1857-1945), evangelist and social worker.¹⁴ It is pleasing to know that the expectations of the meeting were fulfilled and the church was completed well before the end of November 1887. By using the collection of early Shire land sale maps in the Local Studies Collection one can actually find documentary evidence of the location of the two sites of the church between 1887 and 1925 on two different plans.

The earlier one is the Garrard and Hamilton's (auctioneers) plan¹⁵ of the Intercolonial Investment Land & Building Co. Ltd. (the vendors) sale of 17 September 1887 of land located in "Sutherland Township", an area bounded by Eton Street, The Grand Parade, The Boulevard (now the extension of Linden Street), and Park Street. The second plan¹⁶ which is undated, is of the "Sutherland Township Estate" (of the same area as the 1887 one referred to above) sale by the Intercolonial Investment Land & Building Co. Ltd. Since the Congregational Church is shown in its new location the plan is after 1904, and as the Tramline is NOT shown it is prior to 1911. It is interesting to note that on the first plan "The Church" is clearly marked on the two blocks of land on the S.W. corner of Robertson and Oxford Streets, in such a way as to imply that it was completed. This less than a month after the laying of the foundation stone!! An example of "truth in advertising".

(Photocopies of the articles on the laying of the foundation stone and of the opening of the Sutherland Congregational Church in 1925 quoted above have been left with Helen McDonald for inclusion in the Council's Local Studies Collection. I would like to acknowledge the assistance given in the preparation of this piece by Mrs M. McCubben, Mr S. Naughton and Mr F. Smith.)



¹⁴ Australian Dictionary of Biography, 7, 1891-1939, A-CH. pp.90-91.

¹⁵ Mitchell Library Aperture Card No. SI 8/1.

¹⁶ Mitchell Library Aperture Card No. S 18/90.

BASS, FLINDERS, MARTIN AND THE TOM THUMBS.TOM THUMB.

The Tom Thumb which was used to explore Botany Bay and over 20 miles up the Georges River was George Bass's own craft brought out from England with him on board The Reliance, arriving in Port Jackson on the 7th September, 1795. It was 8 feet long at keel by 5 feet beam, a tiny cockleshell sailing craft with a lowering centre board to aid stability, jokingly called Tom Thumb. (The craft exhibited in our Museum during Heritage Week was a replica of this boat.)

TOM THUMB II

Tom Thumb II built in The Colony on the orders of Governor Hunter was slightly larger than the first Tom Thumb, also having sail and lowering centre board, being given the name Tom Thumb II. This craft entered Port Hacking on the 30th March, 1796 on its return from the Wollongong area after first missing its original destination of Port Hacking due to weather conditions and a strong southerly current.

A replica of the above craft, built in 1988 as a bicentennial project was used recently to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the naming and exploration of Port Hacking.

FLINDERS AS A BARBER.

This amusing incident took place on the 25th March, 1796 near what has become known as Tom Thumb Lagoon, between Wollongong and Port Kembla when he trimmed the beards of some natives while Bass and William Martin dried gun powder and supplies.

WILLIAM MARTIN.

William Martin known as The Boy was a name given to a Surgeons Assistant/Servant in those times. Flinders named The Five Islands near Port Kembla Martin's Isles in honour of one of Australia's youngest explorers, another naming in his honour is Boy Martin Point, Wattamolla, in the Royal National Park.

RESTING PLACES OF THE THREE EXPLORERS.

George Bass, it is assumed is buried in Chile, rumoured with The Boy William Martin.

Matthew Flinders is known to be buried in the Churchyard of St. James's Hampstead Road, London, but no trace remains of his grave. He died at 40 years 4 months the day after his classic work A Voyage To Terra Australis, was published.

SUTHERLAND'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER

It could come as a surprise to some people to know, that for a short period of time, Sutherland Shire had its own unknown soldier or at least a war memorial with a soldier standing on it. Many of the older people will remember the controversy and bitterness it created.

The monument was a large base of local stone and standing on top was the soldier, in total it stood about 12ft high. displayed on the four sides on marble slabs were engraved the names of the

local men who had volunteered and went to the Great War. 1914--1919. The monument looked very impressive, but the soldier was standing in a position of "At Ease" whereas the majority of people contended he should have been made in a position of Vigilance. The hate was continually stirred up by the Miranda P&C, Assn. and was supported by the R.S.L. of that time. I'm afraid the soldier had a very rough period of existence, even when standing up, although most of his time was spent laying down, or not on his stand. The Memorial was erected in front of the School on the corner of the Kingsway and Kiora road in Miranda.

The Soldier was thought of and made by a Mr George Evans, a Builder and Bricklayer of the Kingsway Miranda, just opposite to Brewer Ford. (please do not confuse with George Heavens) The Monument was dedicated with great pomp and ceremony, large crowds attending (see photo.) but after a short life he was pulled down and buried down among the stringy bark trees. Only to be resurrected and moved to Seymour Shaw park where he proudly stood for another period of time, then he was defaced and pulled down, standing for a long time against the fence, and one day when no one was looking, he was loaded onto a council dray and dumped unceremoniously into the tram cutting at Malvern road when it was being filled in , by someone who was not in favour of his existence

Miranda School-facing The Kingsway on the corner of Kiora Road.



School front before the Memorial.



On the day of the Soldiers Dedication.

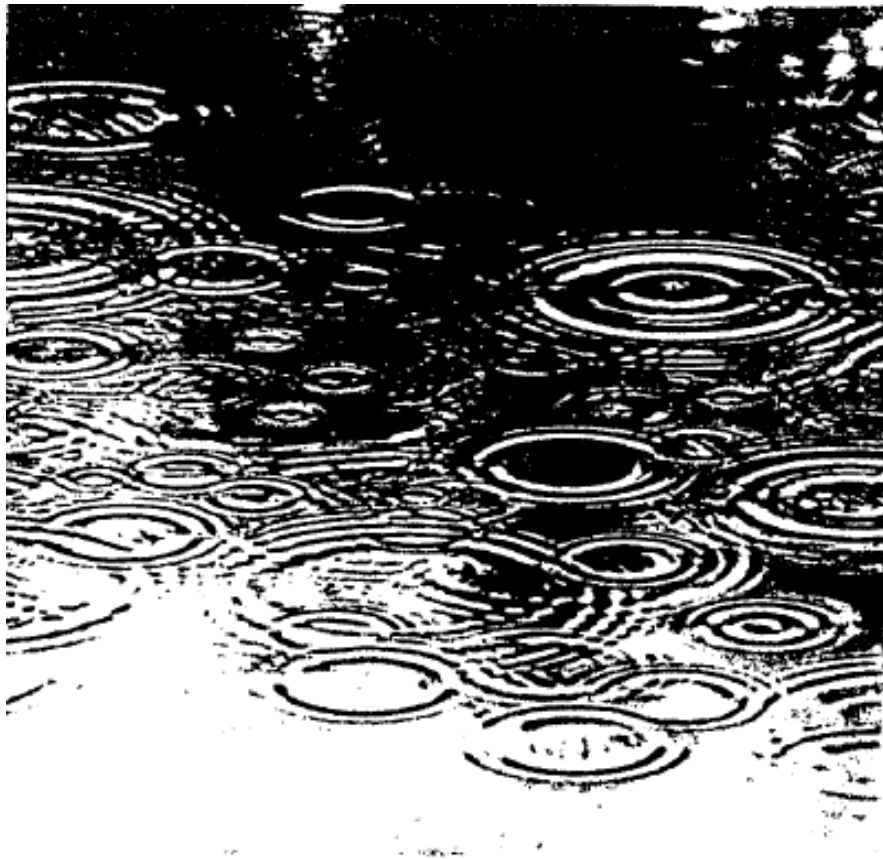
Photos - Elsie Heavens.

It must have been a bitter blow to Mr Evans who had constructed the Soldier at his own expense, The Soldier stood 6 ft. high and had a lot of steel reinforcement in him and was very heavy I understand he was struck several times with a 4lb. hammer with the intent to smash him but he resisted the punishment and went to his rest in one piece, He was most indecently interred. and now lays under truck loads of filling. The burial took place about 1933 when the trams no longer ran and the construction of Malvern Road was taking place, Mick Derrey wrote about the Soldier in Bulletin No 33 August 1980. Page 359. his story is worth reading again

Fred Midgley and myself often joked about the Soldier Fred naming him Sutherland's Unknown Soldier.

George H.Heavens from memory.

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RAINDROPS - A TRANQUIL MOMENT.

It has been a very busy time for all the Society's Committee and Members since the last Bulletin in February. Congratulations to all who participated to make our Heritage Week Exhibition such a success.

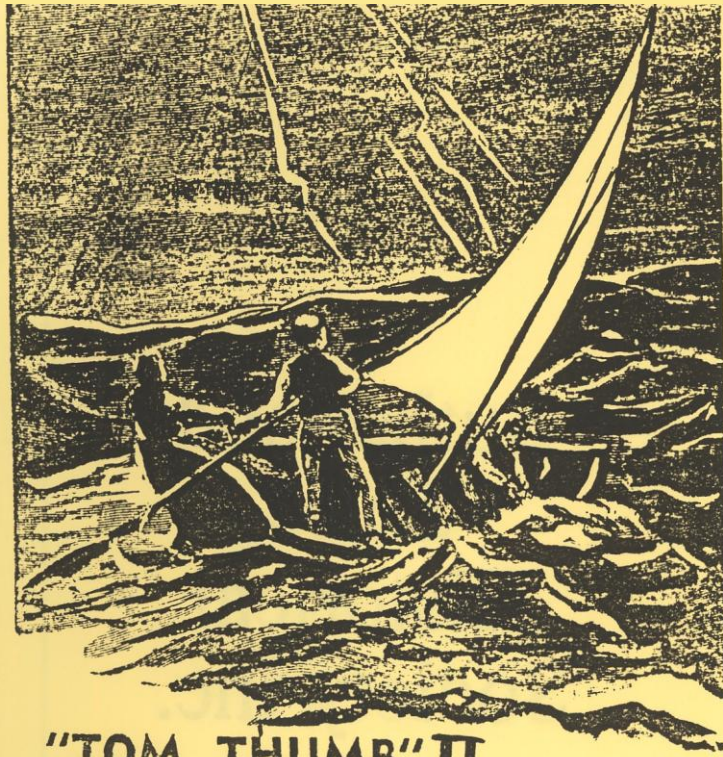
I hope you all took the time to see the beautifully built replica of Bass, Flinders and William Martins Tom Thumb which was kindly loaned to us by the Bankstown Council for the occasion. Another highlight was Sutherland Shire Councils celebration of 200 Years since Bass, Flinders and The Boy Martin entered and named Port Hacking. This was celebrated by the modification and landscaping of the Memorial and general area west toward Salmon Haul Beach. A crew sailed into Port Hacking past this point in another beautifully built replica of Tom Thumb II which though only small, gave us all present even more admiration for the voyage undertaken by them.

Thank You to all who have contributed items of interest for this bulletin which has a large local content, but however the cupboard is nearly bare again, so please send me more great stories, small or large so I can keep up the quality expected for such a beautiful and interesting area as ours.

I would like to give a big cheerio to one of the bulletins regular contributors (and Publicity Officer) Mrs. Phyllis Rugless and hope she once again is feeling her happy healthy self again after her recent set back.

Congratulations go to our Deputy President Mr. Doug Archer on winning "A Day in The Life of The Shire" section of The Ampol-Sutherland Shire Councils Heritage Week Photographic Competition. Well done Doug.

Jim Cutbush.



"TOM THUMB" II

Shire trio re-enacting Tom Thumb journey

ON March 24, 1796, two men and a boy set off from Sydney Harbour in a tiny, wooden boat called the Tom Thumb in search of a river said to flow into the ocean just south of Botany Bay.

Near the end of the six-day voyage, Matthew Hinders, George Bass and the boy Martin found the tidal estuary of the Hacking River.

Last Sunday, exactly 200 years after the original voyage of the Tom Thumb, three Sutherland Shire residents set off in their wake in an 11-foot replica boat.

Built by Kurnell resident Ken Jervins from native cedars and melaleucas, the boat was a showpiece during the 1988 Bicentenary before being donated to the Sydney Maritime Museum.

Rod Smith, who will play Hinders, Paul Lawson (Bass) and Chris Worchurst (Martin) will sail the same course as the original Tom Thumb, travelling south of Wollongong to Canoe Rivulet near the entrance to Lake Illawarra before heading north to the Clacking River.

Sutherland Shire Council has organised a special ceremony to coincide with the return of the Tom Thumb to Bass and Hinders Point on Saturday.

The boat is expected at Salmon Haul Beach at approximately 2.15pm.

The re-enactment has been organised by the Wooden Boat Association of NSW and is sponsored by the council.

This article refers to the re-enactment that took place on the 30th March, 1996.

Extract from The St. George and Sutherland Shire Leader.

Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

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VISITORS AND
INTENDING MEMBERS WELCOME