

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Design by (the late) Fred Widgeley



VOL. 2 No. 20

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POINEER FAMILY CELEBRATE A WARM CHRISTMAS ON THE FRONT VERANDAH 1889.

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# Christmas Cards and Presents

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*It has created quite a new trade, and has opened 'up a new field of labour for artists, lithographers, engravers, printers, ink and pasteboard makers . . . All the year round brains are at work devising new designs and inventing novelties.*

THE TIMES (1883)

This 'new trade' was the Christmas card. In 1843 the first Christmas cards appeared in a London art shop, designed and produced by the shop's owner, Henry Cole. These first cards were rather expensive, and since there was no established custom for sending Christmas greetings, they remained largely unsold. But gradually the idea took hold, thanks to cheaper card production and the half-penny postal rate.



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**SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN**

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Meetings of the society are held monthly on the third Friday at 8.00pm at the multi purpose building, Flora Street Sutherland. ( Next to Council Car Park )

VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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PO Box 389  
SUTHERLAND NSW 2232

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Renewal of Subscription for 1998 As from 1st December 1997

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 Beaven, 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 - 1998

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

.....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

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

Please find my Subscription for 1998 enclosed herewith.

Annual Adult Subscription - \$. 10.00

Junior Member / Full-time Student - \$ 5.00

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: Ph: 9543 1060 Honorary Secretary: 9542 1660
- RECEIPTS: Please collect your receipt at a meeting. If you wish the receipt to be posted, please include also a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Members joining from 1st Oct in any year will be financial till Nov in the following year.



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INC.

Vol. 2 No. 20

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### President's Remarks

As we approach the festive season we look forward to meeting family and friends we have not seen for some time. For our December 19 meeting, we are asking members to bring a plate and we might even have a glass of cheer, so this would be a great opportunity, if you haven't been along for a while to come and catch up with us. We would love to see you!

Our guest speaker for November is Lex McGowan, and at the last meeting Aileen Griffiths "let the cat out of the bag" that when I rang Lex to arrange his talk, I realised we had been penpals over 40 years ago, as teenagers! As I have never met him, I am as excited as you at hearing our guest speaker this month, and being able to meet him at last! Isn't it a small world.

MEMBER FRAMED! Have you mislaid some window frames? Brinsley's Heritage Joinery rang me to say a member of the Historical Society had brought in some window frames for repair, left a phone number that never answered, and no name. They are ready for collection! (I mentioned at the last meeting that Brinsley's had recently won an award for the Joinery, and what excellent work they had done on a beautiful oak table that had been made by my husband's uncle in the 1930's, and they were now repairing antique pieces and taking work if members were interested, so obviously a forgetful member responded.)

I have just returned from Port Macquarie where I attended the Local Government Conference, where Mr. Barry Unsworth, and later at the Tourism Conference in Wollongong, Mr. Neville Wran spoke on the forthcoming events for Sydney: the Olympics 2000, and the celebrations for the centenary of Federation in 2001. As the Historical Society will be vitally involved in the latter, we must start preparing soon. We would be looking for memorable events which occurred in our Shire in 1901, so we can have suitable centennial celebrations of these events. If you have knowledge of any particular 1901 event, and you have a suggestion of how we could best organise a commemoration, then please contact me as soon as possible so I can commence organising it with Council. I have asked our archivist, Ms. Helen McDonald at Sutherland Shire Library to search out photos and information, but we would appreciate members' help. I know that Menai District Progress Association commenced meetings in that year, as our sadly missed member, Fred Midgley gave me the minutes of that first meeting. It would be great if we could have almost every suburb in the shire having a centennial celebration of some event, so that all residents could feel involved, apart from all celebrating our nation's federation. Start researching!

An essay competition, "I Remember When" is to be judged by our committee members for Heritage Week 1998, April 26-May 3 and the best entries will be published in our bulletin, so get out your pen and paper and start writing! Competition rules will be in the next bulletin.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, and if perchance you cannot attend the next two, I wish you a very merry Christmas and the brightest and most prosperous New Year ever!



President

### Guest Speakers

November: Mr. Lex McGowan: Connie- -the Constellation aircraft- how it has been lovingly repaired and refurbished and still being flown today!

December: Christmas Cheer Get-together (bring a plate)

January: Members' night : Speakers are being nominated, would you like to contribute? If so, please contact Doug Archer, 95207264

February: Change of Venue: We have been invited by the Tram Museum, Loftus for a tour followed by our meeting.

March: Our Annual General Meeting- and election of office bearers for 1998-1999

April: Muriel Wills--topic to be advised

## VALE HAROLD SYDNEY IVERS

It was with much sadness we report the passing away of our friend and third President of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, Inc., on Wednesday 8th October, 1997.

Harold was elected President at the Annual General Meeting in 1972 and served in that position until 1989, a period of seventeen years.

During that time Harold served in many ways and gladly undertook any "job" asked of him; he was the first Museum Curator and set it up on our behalf. When the Bulletin Editor retired suddenly, he associated himself with that. Most importantly for the Committee he was a man of many talents and whether it be electrical, mechanical, or just requiring "Mr. Fix-it", Harold was the member we could turn to for advice or to have the job carried out.

Early in his Presidency Harold arranged the excursions, but finding this too time consuming whilst he was at the office it was my pleasure to once again accept the role, Sutherland Shire Historical Society was honoured by the support given by Harold Ivers and we place on record our deep appreciation for all he did.

Many members, former members and friends attended the funeral service in St. Paul's Anglican Church on Monday October 13, and again the committal service at Woronora Cemetery to pay tribute to our friend.

Aileen M. Griffiths, O.A.M.

Immediate Past President.



CHARLES EDWARD WIGZELL, 1848-1901  
OF OXFORD STREET, SYDNEY  
AND OF OXFORD RETREAT, SUTHERLAND

by BERNARD SARGEANT

## INTRODUCTION

One hundred years ago the surname of Wigzell would have been well known among the people living in and around Sutherland Township. This was because the family was well established in the community and its members were involved in many local activities. In Metropolitan Sydney the name of Wigzell was probably even better known and it was associated with a wide range of topics. As far as Sutherland Shire is concerned, for most of this century, the surname continued to have a meaning, to raise memories, and to evoke sentiments of better times long past. In addition the name may well be recognised even today by some who would be able to add more to our knowledge of this family. There is one member of the family with the surname living in the Shire, and there are also married female descendants still resident here. One of the reasons for writing this account of the Wigzell family was to ensure that the "Wigzell Connection" with Sutherland and the Shire does not get forgotten, as happened to *The Magnificent Ambersons* in Booth Tarkington's novel..

The surname Wigzell is of English origin and there are a great number of variations in the spelling of the name, which was most frequently found in Kent and on the Kent/Sussex border. In the churchyard of the village of Kemsing, Kent, north east of Sevenoaks, there are nineteen Wigzell tombstones dating from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. In the Kemsing church registers there are recorded some sixty Wigzell baptisms, seventeen marriages, and forty-five burials, all of which took place between 1561 and 1899. The origin of the surname Wigzell is less easy to establish. P.H. Reaney, one of the recognised authorities on English surnames, linked the name with Salehurst - a village in East Sussex on the main London to Hastings road (A21). In the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Salehurst, is the Wigzell Chapel. There are other minor topographical uses of the name. Not far from Salehurst and some two to three kilometres to the north west of the village of Bodiam on the western side of the B2244 road is located "Great Wigsell", a house which dates from 1641. Although no Wigzells ever lived in the house, the present building stands on the site of a much earlier habitation, from which the name "Great Wigsell" originated. The earliest reference to this site with this name was in 1100. "High Wigsell" is a farm - a kilometre to the south of "Great Wigsell" - which has been described as "being attached" to the latter. It is a relatively modern structure.

The member of the Wigzell family, who was first connected with Sutherland, was Charles Edward Wigzell (1848-1901). In view of the number and similarity of names borne by members of the Wigzell family mentioned in this account, a list of those family members, showing their relationship to Charles Edward Wigzell, is to be found at the end of the article.

## BIRTH AND FAMILY BACKGROUND

The parents of Charles Edward Wigzell were Charles Samuel Wigzell and his wife Hannah (nee Lee), who were married on 13 September 1846 at St. Paul's Church of England, Canterbury, Kent. This Wigzell family could be described as provincial urban poor and had been living in Canterbury for the previous sixty odd years. The records of the church of St. Mary Bredin, Canterbury list on 24 May 1789 the baptism of George Wigzell (1789-1869),



who was the grandfather of Charles Edward Wigzell. This particular Wigzell family has been traced back through another four generations to William Wigzell (1643-1724), yeoman of Kemsing. Charles Edward Wigzell was born on 31 May 1848 at Canterbury. He was the first born child of Charles Samuel and Hannah Wigzell.

On 21 March 1850 a second son, Walter George, was born. In the same year, on 24 October, the family sailed on the *Isabella Hercus* (described as a "full -rigged ship") from Plymouth to Christchurch, New Zealand. This was one of the voyages organised by the Canterbury Association to fulfil its objective "of founding a Church of England settlement in New Zealand". The *Isabella Hercus* arrived in Lyttleton on 1 March 1851. Between 1852 and 1864 another six children were born to Charles Samuel and Hannah Wigzell in Christchurch. Of relevance to this historical account are Caroline Hannah, born 2 March 1852, and William Henry, born 26 February 1857. All eight of the Wigzell children were alive at the time of the deaths of their mother (1894) and their father (1898).

Little has been established about the family in general during the early years in Christchurch, or about the childhood and education of Charles Edward Wigzell, and of his brothers and sisters. Enough to say that his adult life in Sydney indicates that his education was thorough and his personal attributes were sufficient to lead to his predominantly successful life in business and in the community.

#### THE MOVE TO SYDNEY

At some time between 1864 and 1866 Charles Edward Wigzell left New Zealand and came to Sydney. The actual date of his arrival is unknown. However sources based upon his own statements indicate that he made the move in 1864, when aged 16. Certainly in October 1866 he was recorded as first becoming associated with the Bourke Street Congregational Church. In Sands Sydney Directory for 1868 there is the listing of his being a hairdresser at 143 South Head Road (later re-named Oxford Street in 1875). He himself stated that he began the business in March 1867. In the edition of Sand's... for 1867 (based on information supplied in September 1866) the same shop was listed as a hairdresser's under the name of John Rice.

Thus when less than twenty years of age Charles Edward Wigzell was running his own business, which can be regarded as an achievement - given his background, lack of (known) financial resources, and his recent arrival in the Colony of New South Wales. He may have acquired some skills in his trade in New Zealand after leaving school, and more in Sydney after arrival in New South Wales, or alternatively he may have learnt all his skills in Sydney.

#### PERSONAL LIFE

On 11 February 1869 Charles Edward married Fanny Evans, the second youngest daughter of William Evans (1806?-1882) and his wife Harriet, nee Hyde (1812?-1895). William Evans has been described as a plumber, as a builder and as a mechanic. The Evans family (consisting of Mr and Mrs Evans and eight children - another two children being born in Sydney) arrived in Sydney on 22 January 1854 from London on board the ship *Euphrates*. Fanny Evans was born on 1 August 1849 at 1 Bray's Buildings, Lower Street, Islington. So both Charles Edward and Fanny Wigzell were under 21 years of age when they were married at the Evans Family home at 289 Riley Street, Surry Hills.

In the next seven years four Wigzell children were born at 143 South Head Road/Oxford Street - Alfred Charles on 10 November 1870, Henry William on 29 July 1872, Fanny Louise on 10 May 1874, and Ernest Walter on 5 March 1876. Tragedy was to strike when the only daughter died just after her second birthday on 21 May 1876. Prior to that Henry William, the second son, was crippled as a baby after he fell off a table on which he had been placed by a servant. All three of the Wigzell sons spent considerable lengths of time in Sutherland Shire, particularly as adults and all were either buried or cremated at Woronora Cemetery.

During the 1870's (as far as has been ascertained) and possibly at different times, the next three eldest children of the Christchurch Wigzell family, viz. Walter George, Caroline Hannah and William Henry, came to live with Charles Edward and Fanny Wigzell. All three worked in the business and Caroline Hannah did so for the rest of her life, living with the family until her death in 1906. The two younger brothers also trained as hairdressers during that time and, by 1881 at the latest, both had opened hairdressing businesses in Sydney. Walter George's hairdressing premises were also in Oxford Street, (firstly at 205, later he moved to 195 in 1884/5, and finally at 95 from 1910) and William Henry's business was in William Street. On at least one occasion Hannah Wigzell visited her children in Sydney before her death in 1894. A death notice for Charles Samuel Wigzell, referring to him as the father of "C.E., W.H. and Carrie Wigzell.", appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 29 August 1898.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The formal association of Charles Edward Wigzell with Bourke Street Congregational Church (now the Greek Orthodox Church) began in October 1866 when he was accepted as a Sunday School teacher with the church. His interest in work with children was to be strong throughout his life. He continued to be a Sunday School teacher until October 1891, and he was a committee member of the Congregational Sunday School Union from February 1880 to October 1894, being Treasurer on numerous occasions. However his contributions to the local, Bourke Street, church were also in other areas - for example he was a deacon from January 1879, being Senior Deacon from February 1896 up to and until a few weeks before his death in February 1901. For many consecutive years he was one of the representatives of the Bourke Street Church at the Annual Sessions of the Congregational Union. He was elected as a member of the [Executive] Committee of the Congregational Union of New South Wales at the Annual Session 1887 on 2 November (with the enlargement of the Committee by an increase in laymen representatives) and remained so up to the time of his death.

Throughout his adult life Charles Edward Wigzell was constantly engaged in a range of philanthropic activities. Most noteworthy of those was an involvement with the Sydney City Mission over many years at the level of committee work. Similarly he took part in the organisation of G.E. Ardill's Blue Ribbon Gospel Army, the main recipients of assistance being prostitutes of all ages and circumstances. He was also active at varying times and in varying capacities in the Band of Hope (a non-denominational body working in the dissemination of temperance principles among young people), in the New South Wales Congregational Total Abstinence Association, and in the Aborigines Protection Association.

#### BUSINESS SUCCESSES

During the 1870's and 1880's the business affairs of Charles Edward Wigzell went from strength to strength. By 1879 he had expanded his premises by taking over the shop next door to No. 143 at No. 145. In 1879 "all city houses were re-numbered" (Preface to Sands Directory ...1880) and as a result of these changes the address of C.E. Wigzell, Hairdresser became 139/141 Oxford Street, the numbers that they are today.

By 1882 the premises had been extended to include No. 137 Oxford Street and Charles Edward Wigzell was listing his business operations in the edition of Sands ... for 1883 as "human hair worker, hairdresser, Turkish and plunge baths, importer of hairdressers' sundries." The phrase "human hair worker" was a Victorian euphemism for wigmaker and later, by 1887, that latter term must have become more acceptable, for he was advertising the wig-making side of his business as such. In 1879 he made a short business trip to London and to Paris, during which he established contacts with wholesalers in "hairdressers' sundries" and brought back many samples on his return to Sydney.

In 1888 he vacated the two shops at Nos. 137 and 141 Oxford Street, but retained possession of the remainder of all three premises. He improved the bathing facilities in 139 Oxford Street. The following is an account from the Sydney Morning Herald of 31 December 1888 on those improvements:-

"The premises in Oxford-street which have been occupied for the last 22 years by Mr. Charles Edward Wigzell, who has carried on the business of a hairdresser and also kept a bathing establishment, have just undergone complete alterations and renovation. A new window has been built and the shop floor laid with fancy tiles. Increased accommodation has been afforded to the carrying on of the different branches, better means of access have been made to various rooms, and the comforts and conveniences of customers have been studied."

These business successes were a reflection of the buoyant economy of the Australian colonies of the 1880's. During the same period Charles Edward was investing in land at Bexley. As a result of these Bexley investments he was not only a signatory to the petition (published in the Government Gazette of 22 September 1886) for the creation of the original Hurstville Municipality in 1887, but also to the petition (published in the Government Gazette of 20 November 1899) for the separation of the Bexley Ward from Hurstville and its incorporation as the new Municipality of Bexley in 1900. With the approach of the Illawarra Railway Line towards Sutherland he began, as early as 1884, to look at the leasehold opportunities in the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

#### SUTHERLAND AS A "RETREAT"

In 1884 Charles Edward Wigzell and his wife Fanny took up the leases of five acres of land bounded by the present locations of Linden Street, The Grand Parade, and Oakwood Street (D.P. 802, Section 33). The remaining four blocks in this area fronting onto Waratah Street (now Leonay Street) were taken up by the Arthur family, who were associated with the National Park. The lease of Lots 1 to 4 (fronting onto The Grand Parade) was in the name of Fanny Wigzell, while the leases of Lots 5 to 11 (fronting on Oakwood Street), and of Lots 16 to 22 (fronting onto Linden Street) were in the name of Charles Edward Wigzell. A small weekender was built on the south east corner of the land - that leased in the name of Fanny Wigzell. That building became the nucleus of the house that was added to over the next one hundred years and which was demolished in 1989, when the land was sold to the New South Wales Government for redevelopment as housing for the aged.

After the opening of the railway line to Sutherland on 16 December 1885 the family were able to easily and regularly travel to Sutherland to spend time in the house which was named "Oxford Retreat", although this name was also used by the family (and other sources) when referring to the whole of the leased five acres. Family traditions indicate that in the 1890's Fanny and Charles Edward Wigzell spent more and more time at Sutherland. Certainly he would have been in touch with affairs at Sutherland to have been aware of the opportunity to

negotiate for the acquisition of the Jubilee Evangelical Church. It is possible that his membership of the [Executive] Committee of the Congregational Union of New South Wales was in a large way responsible for the transfer of that Church from its founder and builder, the Rev. William Anderson, M.F.A., to the Congregational Union in the early months of 1888.

#### THE EFFECTS OF THE 1890'S DEPRESSION

Like so many of his contemporaries, Charles Edward Wigzell was adversely affected by the consequences of the Victorian bank failures and associated economic downturn. In 1895 he sold all three premises in Oxford Street, Sydney, but remained as a tenant. Thus the upgraded facilities, which were so highly commended in the Sydney Morning Herald, passed to the new owner, whereas Charles Edward thought that he retained those assets. Throughout the later 1890's things continued as before, but by 1900 Charles Edward Wigzell made application for bankruptcy. The amounts for which he was made bankrupt was approximately [1,280 in concurrent proofs, and [119 in preferred proofs.

His bankruptcy case was heard in June and July 1900 and was finalised on 10 October 1900. Prior to 1895 the leases of the land in the name of Charles Edward Wigzell at Sutherland had been transferred into the name of his wife, Fanny Wigzell, so that none of the Sutherland land figured in the bankruptcy proceedings. After the case was over Charles Edward continued to play his usual active role in the Bourke Street Church, in the Congregational Union, in Oxford Street traders affairs, and in the community aspirations of Sutherland Township. But he was a sick man for all of that.

#### THE DEATH OF CHARLES EDWARD WIGZELL

On the 29 January 1901 there was a meeting of the Deacons of Bourke Street Congregational Church and among the business was the election of four Deacons, one position being that of Charles Edward Wigzell. His name was not submitted for re-election, probably because it was well known that he was too sick to take up the position. On 5 February 1901 the Congregational Union [Executive] Committee met and during the meeting it was resolved that a letter be sent to Mrs Wigzell regarding the serious illness of Charles Edward Wigzell.

Two days later, on 7 February 1901, Charles Edward Wigzell died at his home at Sutherland. The funeral service was held at the Bourke Street Congregational Church and he was buried at the Independent Cemetery at Rookwood in the same grave as his daughter Fanny Louise. There is a substantial account of Charles Edward Wigzell's funeral service and of the later burial service in the Sydney Morning Herald of 11 February 1901. The length and prominence of that article can be regarded as a measure of his standing in the wider Sydney community, in church and philanthropic circles and even his standing with the press, since it is obvious that he was well aware of the importance of newspapers as a means of publicising any or all of his activities, whether they were business, religious or philanthropic.

#### CHANGES IN THE WIGZELL ESTABLISHMENTS

As a result of the bankruptcy in 1900 and death in 1901 of Charles Edward Wigzell, a number of changes in various areas took place. His eldest son, Alfred Charles Wigzell, took over the running of the business and it was re-named as "C.E. Wigzell and Son" in the existing premises at 139 Oxford Street. The stock of the business had been purchased at the time of the bankruptcy by Edward Arnold, draper, of 111-113 Oxford Street, and a close personal friend of Charles Edward Wigzell. He in turn sold or leased this stock back to Alfred Charles

Wigzell, which meant that the latter could continue to operate the business on behalf of his parents, of his mother after his father died, and of his own family. At some time in 1904 the firm moved from the shop at 139 Oxford Street to the next door shop premises at No. 141. The advertising of "baths services" continued up to 1912.

Fanny Wigzell, after the death of her husband, initiated changes on her own account, both in the business sense and in the personal direction of her own life and of her sons' lives. In the first instance she began to operate a wig-making business from premises in the Imperial Arcade under the new name of the family business. This endeavour was designed to satisfy longstanding customers, who - given the delicacy of the situation - preferred to deal with wigmakers readily accustomed to seeing them (the customers) without their wigs. The business in this location appears to have lasted from 1903 to 1907. Fanny Wigzell's other initiatives lay in the arrangements that she made on the land at Sutherland. In June 1901 a second house was being built for her on the Oakwood Street frontage, some 125 yards down the road towards the hill leading to the Woronora River. This may have been meant for herself and her son, Henry William, as the St. George Advocate reported on 2 June 1901 that "Mrs. C.E. Wigzell is building a cottage on the west bank of the creek and intends to let the 'Oxford Retreat'." However by September 1901 this new house was the home of her youngest son, Ernest Walter Wigzell and his family.

#### THE WIGZELL SONS

Alfred Charles Wigzell had married Alice Best Parish on 26 March 1896. Their only child, Tasmein Ella Wigzell, was born at the Oxford Street premises on 2 January 1897. The parents of Alice Best Parish were Robert James Parish, a builder who had been born in Devon, and his wife, Annie Minta Cragg. The latter had been born in Muston, Leicestershire, and she (in her 14th year) had come to New South Wales with her family on board the barque Ascendant, which had sailed from Liverpool on 8 June 1852 - arriving in Sydney on 30 September of the same year. For many years the Parish family lived in Botany Street, (now Flinders Street), Sydney. Later they moved to Forest Road, Arncliffe. Robert Parish was a deacon of the Bourke Street Congregational Church during part of the time that Charles Edward Wigzell was a deacon of that church.

When Alfred Charles and Alice Wigzell were first married they lived over the Oxford Street premises, while his parents spent more time at the house at Sutherland. The residence of the former family in Oxford Street continued until November 1906, when they moved into "Oxford Retreat" mainly on account of the health of Alfred Charles. This move was to have been for six months, but they enjoyed the isolation and healthy environment so much that they stayed permanently at Sutherland. As a result he travelled to work each day between Sutherland and the City. During the occupancy of the house by Alfred Charles Wigzell and his family the name of the house was first changed to "The Pines" and later to "Knoc-an-doo".

Henry William Wigzell, on account of the 19th and early 20th century attitudes to physical disability, suffered all the associated misfortunes. He spent his whole life in the family home, and his outside contacts were mainly in the church and in the local community. In 1906 Fanny Wigzell had a third house built on the Wigzell property. This house was called "Oxford Cottage" and was on the Linden Street frontage about half way between The Grand Parade and Waratah/Leonay Street. It was to provide a permanent home for herself and for her crippled son, Henry William, and the house was designed to take account of his disabilities. Thus "Oxford Retreat" became available for Alfred Charles Wigzell and his family. Henry William lived with his mother in "Oxford Cottage" until her death in 1935. From then until his own

death in 1938, Henry William Wigzell continued to live in that house, which he shared with his nephew, Charles Thomas Wigzell, eldest son of Ernest Walter Wigzell. "Oxford Cottage" was demolished after Henry William Wigzell's death.

Ernest Walter Wigzell, third son of Charles Edward and Fanny Wigzell married Margaret Hibberd on 11 August 1898 in the Wigzell family home over the shop in Oxford Street. She was the daughter of Thomas and Marion (nee Penman) Hibberd, who in the 1890's lived at Heathcote. By the turn of the century the Hibberd family had "removed ... to Balmain". At the time of his marriage Ernest Walter gave his occupation as hairdresser. Charles Thomas, the eldest child of Ernest Walter and Margaret Wigzell, was born at 52 Wilton Street, Surry Hills. The next child was born at Sutherland in 1899, as were the other children of this marriage after the move into the "new, 1901 house", where the family of Ernest Walter Wigzell lived until the end of the 1920's. This house was demolished in the early 1930's after Ernest Walter Wigzell had built a new home for his family - "Roslyn", Oakwood Street (west side), Sutherland.

Margaret Wigzell, wife of Ernest Walter Wigzell died in 1917. In 1919 he married Elizabeth Tongue and they had two daughters. At some time after he came to live at Sutherland Ernest Walter Wigzell commenced employment with the Sydney Water Board, which continued until he retired. While he lived on "Oxford Retreat" he spent much of his leisure time in working on improvements. These were measures to provide for his large and growing family. (The creek that runs from the Woronora Cemetery, across Sutherland Park, and under The Grand Parade, then flowed - and still flows in a storm water channel - across the Wigzell land continuing in a northerly direction to the top of the hill, where the creek becomes a minor water-fall descending alongside the road to empty into the Woronora River.) Ernest Walter built three weirs across this creek, extensively gardening an area of about two acres, dug and constructed wells to provide irrigation for the gardens, and extended the house when his family needed additional accommodation.

#### THE END OF THE BUSINESS "C.E. WIGZELL & SONS, HAIRDRESSERS"

By 1917 Alfred Charles Wigzell had closed down the Oxford Street business and No. 141 became a fancy goods store operated by Abraham Abeshouse. The reasons for this decision were probably based on the changes taking place in Metropolitan Sydney. These would have included the increasing shift of residential populations from the inner City areas to suburbs served by railway lines and tramway systems; the consequent growth of local suburban shopping centres around railway stations and tramway junctions; changing needs and fashions, such as cropped hair for women influenced by the war-time conditions; and, even personal considerations, as Alfred Charles Wigzell had been unfortunate enough to partly lose the use of his right hand.

So at the age of 47 Alfred Charles Wigzell had to find new employment. Probably through his Sutherland connections he joined the staff of the Shire Council in a temporary capacity, which status continued to 1929. Thus began a family association with the Council, which was to continue almost unbroken until 1982. He became a "general clerk", working in many areas of administration, where his and his peers' personal knowledge of the Sutherland Shire community and its members aided them in their daily routines. In common with such local identifies as Oscar Matson, Alfred Charles Wigzell shared duties on the "front counter" - providing, individually, a one-stop service point, such as has been returned to practice in local government in recent years.

In 1929 a number of key events in the history of Sutherland Shire took place - in January David R. Kirkby was appointed and took up duties as Shire Clerk, and in May the Georges River Bridge at Tom Ugly's (built by the Council) was opened. At that time John Macfarlane,

the first Shire Clerk, accepted the appointment of Toll-master on the new bridge. Alfred Charles Wigzell went to new duties with John Macfarlane, as one of the staff of the original toll-booths. It was at this point that he became a permanent member of Council staff. He retired from the Shire Council in 1937.

#### THE WIGZELL HAVEN

During the first four decades of the 20th century the Wigzell family were integral to the community centred around the Sutherland Township. Alfred Charles was on the Council staff, and was active in the local Masonic scene. For example he was a foundation member of Lodge Cronulla, and was also Secretary of that Lodge. In addition he was Secretary of the Miranda Agricultural Bureau, from September 1922 until February 1924. At that time the Bureau became the Miranda Trading Co-operative. On 31 December 1923 the "Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Act, 1923" came into force. That Act replaced "highly defective [legislation] in regard to the encouragement of co-operative enterprises and the safeguarding of co-operative interests." Honorary positions, such as that of Secretary held by Alfred Charles Wigzell, were replaced by paid staff.

Fanny Wigzell was a stalwart of the Sutherland Congregational Church. Her son, Henry William, was equally well known in the local community, and was likewise a member of the Congregational Church, although later in life he ceased to be actively involved, following instead the tenets of the Salvation Army. With the coming of radio he built himself a "wireless" and on Sunday mornings he would listen to whatever church service was being broadcast. However to the last he always put his offering into an envelope every Sunday, and that would be placed for him in the offering plate at the Sutherland Congregational Church by some other member of the family, or by a visiting member of the local church.

The Ernest Walter Wigzell family, the seven children born between 1898 and 1911, were growing up in Sutherland. The early death of their mother, Margaret Wigzell in 1917 affected them all. For example, Enid Margaret Lang (nee Wigzell) born 1907, lived to a large extent after 1917 with the family of Alfred Charles Wigzell, and can still recall her close association with the family and all that was done for her in that household. (Enid Lang, at the age of 90, not only has her memories of her youth in Sutherland, but she also still drives a car, and plays an expert game of bridge twice a week.) The older Wigzell children, together with the two daughters of Ernest Walter and Elizabeth Wigzell, were all part of the "Wigzell Presence" in Sutherland.

If one lived to the north of The Grand Parade, anywhere down to the Woronora River, and up to the farm lands and orchards of Menai, the Wigzells would have been well known. For in those days the City departments stores, when delivering at Sutherland, would not go beyond the Wigzell House on the corner of The Grand Parade and Linden Street. So it, the Wigzell House, became the delivery point for all and sundry - parcels would be left on the front verandah, for collection when convenient to the family concerned.

In 1913 Annie Minta Parish, the mother of Alice Best Wigzell, and the widow of Robert James Parish, moved out of her home, "Mintaville", Forest Road, Arncliffe, to live with her daughter Alice and her family at "Oxford Retreat" (or "The Pines" as it was then known), Sutherland - which she did until her death on 21 August 1930. She too became an active member of the Sutherland Congregational Church. Tasmein Ella Wigzell, the daughter and only child of Alfred Charles and Alice Best Wigzell, married Ernest Charles Naughton on 30 March 1921. He worked on the Goods Tram on the Sutherland-Cronulla Steam Tramway, as well as carrying out conductor duties on relief at week-ends. Thus another local link was forged with this marriage.

## THE LEASE OF THE WIGZELL LAND

In 1928 Fanny Wigzell made a gift of the combined lease of the Wigzell land to Alice Best Wigzell, her daughter-in-law, in an official Deed of Gift. In return, Alice Wigzell and her husband undertook the payment of all the maintenance expenses of the land, including rates, together with on-going living expenses for Fanny Wigzell's household. However Alice Best Wigzell died on 18 May 1933, just over two years before her mother-in-law, Fanny Wigzell, who died on 19 August 1935. At this point in 1933 the lease of the land was left to Tasmein Ella Naughton, daughter of Alice Best Wigzell and grand-daughter of Fanny Wigzell. At the same time in 1933, after the death of Alice Wigzell, Fanny placed a covenant on the lease, which related to the 1928 Deed of Gift to Alice Wigzell. From 1928, when the lease was given to her daughter-in-law, Fanny Wigzell was endeavouring as best she could to protect her own interests in her life-time, and those of her son, Henry William, until his death. This covenant had the effect of preventing the sale, the breaking up, or the mortgaging of the family property. Tasmein Ella Naughton abided with the terms of the covenant in line with her grandmother's intentions until the death of her uncle, Henry William Wigzell, in 1938.

By the mid-1940's the original leases of the Holt-Sutherland Estate were reaching expiry dates, and the time was fast approaching for the leaseholders to take advantage of the generous terms for outright purchase, which were available to them. In 1946, before Tasmein Ella Naughton could make the purchase of the Wigzell land covered by the lease in her name, most of the land was resumed for housing by the State Government with the exception of one lot on which part of the original house stood. That remaining portion of the land covered by the original lease, and which was not resumed, was converted to freehold through purchase by Tasmein Ella Naughton under the terms of the Holt-Sutherland Act, 1933. However it took the Crown until 1957 to complete the resumption. An error in this process occurred on paper when the rear section of the house, and the associated land on which it stood, were incorrectly resumed. An Act of Parliament was necessary to return that part of the house and the land to Tasmein Ella Naughton as the owner.

In 1989 the N.S.W. Government acquired by purchase from the heirs of Tasmein Naughton, her family, the sole remaining part of the Wigzell land - again for public housing. The original and only remaining house of the three Wigzell homes on the land was then demolished. It had grown (with the family) from a small weekender built in the mid-1880's through various stages, to become a home and a house of character - in keeping with the times during which it had been built and during which additions had made to it.

The members of the Naughton family, when leaving the house, disposed of the contents by public auction. It was estimated that, on the day before the auction, and on the auction day itself, some 900 people inspected the house and the contents.

## THE WIGZELL CONNECTION WITH THE SHIRE COUNCIL

Alfred Charles Wigzell retired from the Shire Council in 1937, following a severe stroke. He lived in retirement in the old family home in Sutherland until 12 months before his death in 1945. He died on 24 June in that year in a nursing home in Marrickville, and he was buried with his wife in the Congregational Section of the Woronora Cemetery. His brother, Ernest Walter, died at Sutherland on 18 September 1947, so ending his generations' and (through him) his parents' association with Sutherland Township and with Sutherland Shire.

Three years after Alfred Wigzell retired from the Sutherland Shire Council, his grandson Sidney Naughton, son of Ernest and Tasmein Naughton, started work with the Council. Apart from his five years war service, Sid Naughton spent the whole of his working life at the



Council, being Deputy Shire Clerk from 1965 to 1982. The breadth of his knowledge of the Shire, of local government in the Shire, of local government in general, and of the history of the area was such as to be of incalculable benefit to the Council and to the community. This wide range of knowledge arose out of his having been born in the Shire, out of his having spent all his working life here, and out of his membership of a family with living and vital contacts in Sutherland and in the Shire - all from the mid-1880's.

## CONCLUSION

In Sydney for the last three decades of the 19th century the name of Wigzell was synonymous with hairdressing and also with wig-making. Even after the death of Charles Edward Wigzell this continued into the 20th century. In 1906 Caroline Hannah Wigzell, his sister, who spent almost all her life with the family at Oxford Street and later at Sutherland, died at Sutherland on 26 June 1906. She also was buried in the Independent Cemetery at Rookwood with her brother and his daughter. The two brothers of Charles Edward in Sydney continued their individual business until 1919 (Walter George) and 1918 (William Henry). Walter George Wigzell (1850-1919) and his wife Virginia Fitzgerald (1855-1939) had two children, neither of whom married or had children. Close personal contacts were maintained between the families of the two eldest Wigzell brothers until 1953 with the death of the sole remaining child of Walter George and Virginia Wigzell. Contacts between these two elder brothers and their younger brother, William Henry Wigzell (1857-1921), were from an early stage less frequent or close. It would appear that sibling rivalry in business terms between the eldest and the younger was pronounced. William Henry Wigzell married Anne Elizabeth Griffith in 1883, and their family had few contacts with their Wigzell cousins until recent years.

Charles Edward Wigzell, born in Castle Row, Canterbury, Kent, would have seemed destined for a very mundane existence in that provincial city had his parents not followed the example of other Wigzell relations and emigrated from England in the middle of the 19th century. Had he stayed in Christchurch, South Island of New Zealand, his existence might have been just as ordinary as if he had never left England. However his move to Sydney took him to a new and exciting world, where he grasped all the opportunities that were offered to him, and made a name for himself, for his brothers, and for his children.

The many sources studied for information about Charles Edward Wigzell indicate that he was a many faceted man. He was hard working, with strong religious principles. He communicated well, and was obviously a good chairman and an equally good committee member. He was articulate and wrote well - his journal descriptions of the passage of the steamship sailing up to Australia from the South of the Bight in August 1879 are outstanding. He loved children, and took pleasure in his Sunday School responsibilities. He understood the power of the press, and used it to advantage whenever he could. He enjoyed company, parties, singing, games, etc. - all in the nineteenth century sense of entertainment in the home. There are many references to his talents as a host, and to the pleasures that others took in his company, and to the pleasure that he in turn took from theirs. In fact he could have been described in true Australian fashion as "a gentleman and a scholar".

The place of Charles Edward Wigzell in the history of Sutherland Township is best exemplified in the following quotations. The first is from the local Progress Association at Sutherland, which - after the announcement of his death in February 1901 - passed the following motion unanimously at its meeting on Saturday 9 February 1901:-

"That this association wishes to place on record its extreme regret at the death of Mr. C.E. Wigzell, J.P., who by his residence and activity in district matters proved himself a valued adviser and help in all matters relating to the promotion of the district, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the relations of the deceased."

The second is from the local newspaper, the St. George Advocate, which after his death reported as follows:-

#### "DEATH OF MR. C. WIGZELL.

After our Sutherland correspondence had been put into the metal, we received the very sad intelligence on Friday morning that Mr. C.E. Wigzell took a turn for the worse on Thursday, and died at ten o'clock at night. The deceased gentleman belonged to that type whose habit it invariably is to readily impress those with whom they might be brought into contact, with his sterling qualities as a man. Particularly in Sutherland he was highly esteemed. However, he had gone to enjoy that well-deserved rest beyond the grave, free from this life's cares and turmoil."

His early (in late 20th Century terms) death may be said to have denied Sutherland Township and Sutherland Shire the services of a devoted leader in the early years of this century.

#### THE WIGZELL FAMILY

FORENAMES	SURNAME	DATES	RELATIONSHI
Alfred Charles	Wigzell	1870-1945	Son
Alice Best	Parish	1870-1933	Daughter-in-law
Anne Elizabeth	Griffith	1859-1946	Sister-in-law
Caroline Hannah	Wigzell	1852-1906	Sister
Charles Samuel	Wigzell	c.1823-1898	Father
Charles Thomas	Wigzell	1898-1942	Grandson
Enid Margaret	Wigzell	1907-	Grand-daughter
Elizabeth	Tongue	1887-1983	Daughter-in-law
Ernest Walter	Wigzell	1876-1947	Son
Fanny	Evans	1849-1935	Wife
Fanny Louise	Wigzell	1874-1876	Daughter
George	Wigzell	1789-1869	Grandfather
Hannah	Lee	c.1825-1894	Mother
Harriet	Hyde	c.1812-1895	Mother-in-law
Henry William	Wigzell	1872-1938	Son
Margaret	Hibberd	1878-1917	Daughter-in-law
Tasmein Ella	Wigzell	1896-1979	Grand-daughter
Virginia	Fitzgerald	1855-1939	Sister-in-law
Walter George	Wigzell	1850-1919	Brother
William	Evans	c.1806-1882	Father-in-law
William	Wigzell	1643-1724	Ancestor
William Henry	Wigzell	1857-1921	Brother

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Individuals

Betty Naughton, N.S.W. Sid Naughton, N.S.W. Marilyn Brazier, N.S.W. Ray Wigzell, Kent, England Maryanne Larkin, N.S.W. Coral Birch, Masterton, New Zealand. Betty Blacker, N.S.W. Helen McDonald, N.S.W.

### Libraries & Institutions

Mitchell Library, State Library of N.S.W. Uniting Church Archive, North Parramatta Sutherland Shire Library & Information Service Society of Australian Genealogists Library Christchurch Museum, New Zealand State Archives of N.S.W. Hurstville Library & Information Service City of Sydney Library

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St. George Call  
St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader

Sutherland

October 1997



## MEMORIES OF CARINA BAY

My family moved to Como in 1964. We had been captivated by the wonderful view from our new house in Ortona Parade.

From the back of the house our land ran down to the banks of Carina Bay and we had an uninterrupted view to the Georges River.

Through the windows there were almost no houses in sight. The banks of the river were heavily covered in mangroves and native bush. Birdlife was amazing and at times, just on dusk and early morning the bird calls were deafening.

At low tide the frames of the oyster leases were clearly seen and the oyster farmers, in their flat bottomed boats could be seen regularly attending them. Oysters were cheap to buy and wonderful to eat. No fear of poisoning then. We used to sit on the rocks near the water and chip the oysters from the rocks and eat them on the spot.

Running across the bay was the white wooden Carina Bay Footbridge, which stood out prettily against the blue of the water and the green of the trees. Boats could be seen passing down the Georges River and men and women regularly sat for hours in their small dinghies fishing peacefully.

With a young family the river was a great source of pleasure. School holidays were the time for making rafts out of old oil drums and wood. Many a canoe of galvanized iron was constructed to promptly sink on launching. However these pastimes never seemed to pall and the school holidays would disappear in a flash.

Between building boats and rafts the children would spend time catching turtles as pets, (these always escaped back to the river). Eels, fish, frogs, and other aquatic life abounded in the tidal bay and at the Oyster Bay end of Carina Bay there was a lovely area known as Flat Rock where there was a deep pool with sandy banks. Many a family picnic was enjoyed there.

In the early 1970s a new bridge was started over the Georges River. The authorities were desperate to find a close area to dump the large amount of rock and soil which was being dug out of the cutting that was being created to re-locate the railway station where the old level crossing had been.

As had happened in the past with Scylla Bay in front of the Como Hotel it was decided that Carina Bay would be used as a tip and eventually turned into a park. Tidal bays and inlets were very convenient in those days as potential rubbish dumps. The leaching of toxins and other pollutants into the rivers didn't seem to be of concern. Without any fanfare and to my memory there were no objections, a tip was established.

Lovely Flat Rock disappeared to become a large concrete pipe and the little white Carina Bay footbridge was dismantled. A new road was established behind my house and an extra row of houses. The bay became Carina Bay Reserve with horse riding at one end and a dog walking park at the other. Where the footbridge was is the end of the reserve.

The view from my window has changed a lot. I now look at a row of houses and a busy road. Mangroves and trees have grown across where the footbridge used to be and my river view is much less.

Some good things have come from the changes though. Residents are now working in the park together with the Council Bush Care Officers, to beautify it, and it is constantly used.

Congratulations must be extended to the Sutherland Shire Council

for giving the residents the dog walking facility, as the dogs using it: are well adjusted and friendly and many friendships have formed in the community between the owners and people walking for pleasure. Hundreds of dogs now use the park and more arrive daily.

Gymkhanas are held about five times a year in the park and are well attended. Horses may be exercised at any time in the two arenas in the park.

Because the reserve is constantly used by residents and there are no built facilities available no trouble has been experienced with undesirable elements. The reserve is one of the cleanest safe passive recreation areas in Sydney.

Ortona Parade which was the main road to Jannali has now become a dead end street and the new road is much easier to use.

I still miss the lovely peace and beauty of the original Carina Bay but all "progress" is not for the worse. I am pleased that the thinking of the past has changed and now waterways are considered an asset and not just a handy area to tip waste.

The river is polluted now and the oysters have gone, fishing is prohibited and swimming in some areas banned. Let's hope that the new clean rivers campaign works, and we get our river back again .



JUNE FITZPATRICK

*April 1997*

## EXCURSION REPORT

The tour of ween Victoria Building was another outstanding outing; thanks especially to the Guides for their interesting and informative stories. And another "thank you", to Coach Captain Terry for the "long way home" trip and the history he is always able to tell us.

The weekend to Bateman's Bay November 28, 29, 30, 1997 is almost upon us as this Bulletin is being prepared. The support has been very encouraging and we hope our first three day excursion will prove successful.

A reminder of travel times; Cronulla 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. at Sutherland. By the time you receive this Bulletin I am unable to say if there will be a seat available, or a cancellation, but if at the last minute you find you can join us let Betty know and we will contact the Motel about

the extra accommodation. Members \$175.00 and Visitors \$180.00

Plans are still being debated for a February Outing; if one can be arranged to a suitable place (having in mind the hot weather of February) tickets will be available at the November Meeting.

For Excursion Bookings and Payments please contact Mrs. Betty McGrath on 9521—2227 (141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus, 2232.) For details of our tours either Betty or myself on 9523—5801.

Aileen M. Griffiths, O.A.M.

EXCURSION CONVENER

"Richmount",  
34 Richmount Street,  
CRONULLA.2230  
(9523—5801)

## VALE GEORGE H. HEAVENS

It is with regret that we report the passing away of one of our very early members George Heavens on Wednesday 8th October, 1997 in the country town of Gilgandra N.S.W. Our condolences go to Georges wife Eileen and Family.

George held the position of Vice President for a number of years in our Society. George's interest in the Sutherland Shire, it's people and events of which George put pen to paper and recorded it all, has left us with a legacy of great stories for future generations to look back on of which many have been included in our Bulletin with more to come.

George lived through and witnessed great changes in our Shire and the City of Sydney, not always being easy for him but he kept his sense of humour at all times.

George in his time always believed in calling a spade a spade and sometimes raised a few hackles because of it.

George was the only person I knew that was at one time in his early life, a true blue Australian swagman.

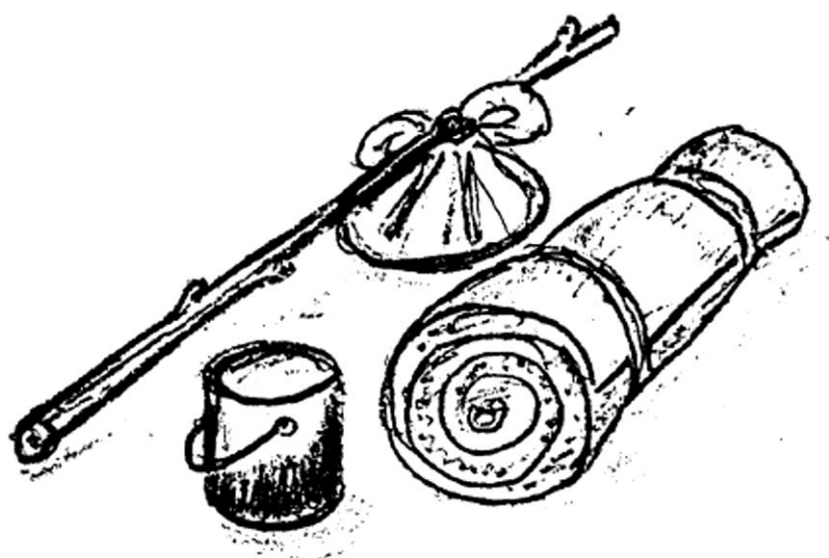
Sutherland Shire Historical Society has lost a respected member and we thank George for his years with us.

George we wish you a peaceful passage Waltzing Matilda.

JAMES S CUTBUSH

VICE PRESIDENT

BULLETIN EDITOR



## IN 1953 WE MOVE TO CARINGBAH by David Overett

In 1953 when I was five the family made repeated visits from our rented house at Kogarah to Caringbah to see how our new home was coming along. Dad had purchased the land in 1948 before there was even a street running by it. But now there was not only a street but a partly constructed house. The trips to see this new home seemed to take up a good part of the day especially if we went by public transport. This involved a walk to Kogarah Station, two trains to Caringbah,( we had to change at Hurstville) and then another fifteen minute walk to the house. Leaving the station we crossed the Kingsway and proceeded down a narrow bush track passing a clearing in which was a children's playground. From here we crossed a small bridge that forded a creek just near the Caringbah Produce Store on President Avenue. Then it was straight down a two lane President Avenue to Kanoona Street and our house at the top end near Caringbah Road. Sometimes friends or relatives would drive us over in their car going by way of the Taren Point punt or Tom Ugly's Bridge. Dad didn't have a car but most other people didn't either.

The house cost £2750, which dad borrowed from War Service Homes, and the block of land cost £100. The area was very bushy with lots of rocks and dirt. Even the road was made of dirt. Where we were to live smelt of creosote.

After what we had been used to at Kogarah, our new house was as different as one could imagine. The biggest change for me was that I now had my own room. It had boy-coloured walls while Judith's was painted pink. A western theme soon developed in my room with a large cowboy transfer at the head of my bed and Indian ones at the foot. The chenille bedspread was cream with a colourful cowboy motif slap bang in the middle. The bedhead etc was painted yellow and I liked the overall effect a lot.

The house was new and clean, smelling no longer of creosote but of new timber and linoleum. All the rooms appeared to be very big but it was really just the lack of furniture . The interior of the house was painted in creams and pastel shades, while the floors were either plain boards or lino as was the case of Judith's and my bedrooms as well as the kitchen. The central passage through the



house was carpeted but not all the way to where the walls met the floor. There was in fact a border of floor boards around the carpet. Outside the house was the most amazing yard I had ever seen. It was full of bush and rock and lots of trees. There was no garden at all; no lawn, no footpaths, no signs that would throw back towards that home we had just left. Despite not being able to recognise it as a yard that I could comprehend, it was pretty great all the same. We had to be careful though as the yard was fraught with danger. This came in the form of ants, spiders, snakes and rock ledges, not to mention the odd nail or block of wood left over by the builders whose best legacy was red cement in a pile in the front yard. The toilet was out in the backyard but unlike the toilet at Kogarah, this one didn't have a chain. Dad explained that when the pan was full a new one would be placed there by a man who came twice a week. I had seen one like this before at Uncle Jack's place in GyMEA so it wasn't such the strange concept that it could have been. The only moments of terror came if I was in there on the morning the pan was changed and it often required Mum or Dad to stand watch outside the toilet door. It, like the house, was made of weatherboard and varnished with a dark oil. The same oil was also used on the front fence.

When the August holidays were over it was time for Jude and me to start at our new school situated on the corner of Port Hacking and Burraneer Bay Roads. The school was brand new having only been opened the previous year. It was quite a walk from home so Mum used to come with us. I was put into K4 and my teacher was Mrs. Dawes. The classroom was one of two in a detached block off the main building with a wide covered verandah where we all left our bags raincoats etc. on hooks at one end. The format at Caringbah Infants School was pretty much the same as the one I had left behind at Carlton South and in the first few days there I had already made firm friends.

In the weeks ahead I was to meet Peter Bate who with his family lived just three doors away. Going to school was now a great adventure as it turned out that there were several alternative routes which one could take. The best way was down Taren Road across the creek, then up Burraneer Bay Road to the school.

The Bates soon became our best friends Their house was made of fibro [fibrolite] and had a porch along the front that was enclosed

with a low cast iron railing. This was extremely useful for walking along, falling off and getting into trouble.

Meanwhile back down at our place dad and mum were spending their spare time making improvements to both the interior and exterior. Gardens were being formed, rock was being chiselled, paths were being laid, furniture was being installed, rugs covered the floors and life was looking pretty good.

© David Overett 1997.

### **St. John's, Sutherland, Horticultural Society**

On Monday evening, 1/11/1937, despite threatening weather, a number of interested garden lovers attended the usual quarterly social lecture of the above Society. Several members came from the boundaries of our Shire, proof that a good gardener is not afraid of rain. The speaker was Mr. E. Griffiths, the chief chemist, Dept. of Agriculture, Sydney, and his subject was "Manures." He spoke particularly well, and his lecture will prove for a long period to be a fount of information to his listeners.

The desirability of our gardeners forming contact with prominent specialists such as Mr. Griffiths cannot be over stressed. The Dept. of Agriculture are desirous of assisting you to improve your crops, and this Society is delighted to be able to introduce you. Mr. Griffiths will be here again to speak on a different subject, and he assures us that his Department will willingly assist with any available information. It was announced that the next speaker would be Mr. Woods, a horticultural judge of vast experience. He will give a practical demonstration of show judging, and pay special attention to the dahlia section.

Following Mr. Griffiths' able address, an enjoyable musical evening was rendered by the choir, assisted by Mrs. Valentine, Miss Fenton and Mr. Tony Smith.

### **The Shire's Sewerage**

With regard to the sewerage system for the Shire, Cr. Monro, M.L.A., has received the following letter from the Minister for Works and Local Government:-

Sydney, 6th May, 1936.

Dear Mr. Monro, I refer to the question without notice asked by you in the House in September last, in relation to the question of sewerage your electorate, and have now received a report from the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. The Board has definitely adopted the scheme for the duplication of the southern and western main outfall sewer as the means of providing for the sewerage of the whole of the

Illawarra suburbs sloping towards George's River and also the Municipality of Bankstown.

It is stated that it is hoped to commence construction of the main sewer and the George's River sub-main during the financial year 1936/37, and the work will be pushed on with all possible expedition, provided funds are available from time to time.

A separate outfall will be necessary to deal with the sewerage of the Sutherland-Cronulla Peninsula, and investigations in connection with this work are now being carried out by the Board's technical staff.

### **Troughs For The Shire.**

#### **HELPING THE HORSES.**

Action is being taken by the Council to have new memorial horse water troughs erected throughout the Shire, these being provided from a will in a Victorian deceased estate, where the testator was a lover of horses. A letter was received at the last meeting from the makers of the troughs, stating that they had four of them on hand for some time for the Shire, but they had not yet been delivered. It was asked that immediate arrangements be made for the foundations to be prepared so that they could be sent out and put in position.

The Engineer (Mr. Thompson) said he had not been able to spare any men to prepare these foundations, and no final decision had been made concerning the sites for the A Riding troughs. He would take action immediately to have this matter finalised and the troughs put in position.

### **C. H. HEAVENS Builder and General Contractor**

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THE SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CARINGBAH.

1998 will be a very important year for "our" hospital and all organisations are being asked to support efforts to celebrate the Official Opening Day of Saturday, 29th March, 1958.

Being the Sutherland Shire Historical Society I'm certain many of our members have kept items of interest about the Hospital and its doings through the years, as also a number of our members were associated with Staff, either medical, domestic, administration and in particular, Nursing.

Plans are now being put in place to receive any memorabilia if people will loan or give this to the Community Relations Department -- anything on loan will be returned at a later date and contributions will be acknowledged.

As I have been given permission to include this article in the Bulletin, if any members wish to discuss anything with me I would gladly do so, and also it would be my pleasure to accept and pass on items, or anecdotes, you may care to share.

Community Relations Telephone Number:

Mrs. Lee Thompson -- 9540- 7730

Through Hospital Switchboard -- 9540- Ext. 7730.

Please help with the celebrations -- much more will be advised at a later date.

Aileen Griffiths, O.A.M. "Richmount",

34 Richmount St.,  
CRONULLA. 2230.  
(Phone -- 9 5 23- 5801

## MUSEUM REPORT.

The Museum has put on displays for Australia Day, Heritage Week, Saturday Openings and Council Meeting Openings. Visitors to all of the above were of a good count with Australia Day's count of visitors being down because of bad weather. The combined visitors to our openings were approx. 1020. The Museum lent out photographs and posters to the Sutherland District Hospital for display in their vestibule also photographs were lent to Grays Point Public School.

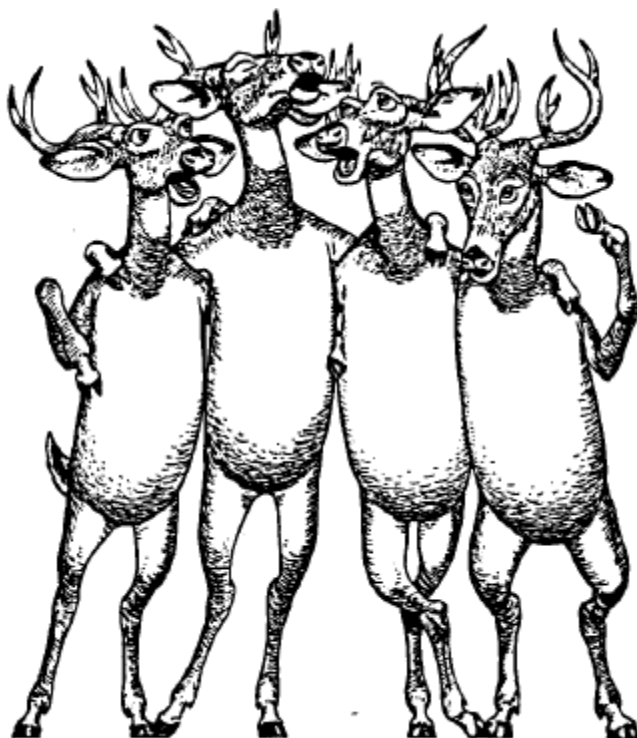
The Museums Visitors Book from the 6-8-1993 until 1-11-1997 has 575 names and comments in it.

Thank You to our members for their efforts in helping in attendance at our openings and for work in our store and writing and phoning for information for the museum and also to the kind folk who gave our museum donations of photographs and items of interest.

Thank You to our Sutherland Shire Council for a well kept School of Arts.

Allan McGrath

Museum Curator.



Tuesday; October 14;

1824

The Weekly Australian, NSW's first privately-owned newspaper, is founded by William Charles Wentworth and Dr Robert Wardell.

As you will have noticed in this issue of the Bulletin we have lost two of our early members of this Society who were always willing to help in their respective ways. Both Harold Ivers and George Heavens will be sorely missed by myself and this Society.

As the Christmas Season approaches may love of family help heal the loss that some have suffered this year and that 1998 brings health and happiness to all.

Thank You to all who have contributed this year to the Bulletin and to those that are thinking of contributing in the New Year, please do.

I wish to Thank Allen McGrath without who's help the bulletin's would not be packed and posted, and also Marjorie for the typing she does for me and Andrew Platfoot for doing our address labels.

Jim Cutbush.

Editor.

## RECIPE CORNER

### Reflections Fruit Cake Recipe

#### Ingredients:

1 cup or butter	1 cup dried fruit
1 cup of sugar	1 cup brown sugar
4. large eggs	1 teaspoon salt

Teaspoon baking power. lemon juice. nuts. 1 bottle whisky

#### Sample the whisky.

Take a large bowl and check the whisky again. Be sure it is of the highest quality, so pour one level cup and drink. repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter In a large fluffy bowl. Add one spoontea of sugar and beat again. Make sure the whisky Is still O.K... Cry another cup. Turn off the mixer break two eggs and add to the bowl. Chuck in the dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fruit get stuck in the beaters. pry it loose with a drewscriber. Sample the whisky again to check for consistencity. Next sift two cups of salt or something. Who cares. Check the whisky. Now cut the lemon juice and strain your nuts. .Add one babblesoon of brown sugar or whatever colour you can find. Mix well. Grease the oven. Turn the cake pan to 350 gredees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window. Check the whisky again and go to bed.



DANIEL SOLANDER 1733-1782

Daniel Carl Solander born in 1733, was raised and educated in a Lutheran manse in Pitea in Sweden. He started at the University of Uppsala working under the greatest naturalist of the day, Carl Linnaeus. In the late 1750's in response to requests from English naturalists for an adviser to aid in organising their biological collections, Solander went to England.

Between 1763 to 1768 Solander, using the Linnean system, organised the natural history collection of the British Museum, helped Gustav Brander with fossilia hantoniensia, worked with John Ellis and Peter Collinson, and formed a lifelong friendship with Joseph Banks. In addition he was engaged in the professional and social activities of the eighteenth-century scientist. At the end of the period when he joined the Cook voyage, he was one of the better naturalists, if not the best naturalist, in England.

In August 1768, the scientists boarded the H.M.S. "Endeavour" and the journey began. The voyage took them to South America, Australia and Africa, and across the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. For Solander it was a venture involving daily routine, frustration, brushes with death, exotic natives, and hundreds of new biological specimens.

Almost from the day the voyage left England, every scrap of news about it was eagerly received by the natural scientists in England. When Banks and Solander returned they were the centre of attention for some time. Yet despite this welcome, the published results from their efforts were quite small and disappointing to their scientific colleagues.

Within a short time after he arrived back in England, Solander seemed destined for another voyage to the Pacific. However, a misunderstanding between Banks and the Admiralty led to a journey to The Hebrides and Iceland instead. Although this voyage was not as monumental as the first Cook voyage, the expedition contributed to the increased English concern about these areas in the late eighteenth century, and Solander's scientific standing was increased by it.

The years between 1773 and 1782 were busy years for Solander. He continued his work at the British Museum; he helped Banks with his projects; he was employed by the Duchess of Portland; and he aided John Ellis, Doctor Fothergill, and others in their scientific projects. In addition to these occupations, Solander was actively involved in the affairs of The Royal Society, The Royal Society Club, at least one coffee house club, and a Society of Physicians.

Daniel Solander died in May 1782 in London.



There'll always be a Christmas  
As long as childhood believes in magic  
As long as candles glow in windows  
As long as carols are joyfully sung  
As long as faith and peace live in our hearts  
As long as the Star shines leading to the Christ Child.



Peace

# Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

FOUNDED  
1966

