

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC
QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Design by (the late) Fred Wiggley



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NELSON'S STORE 1910
JOSEPH NELSON, A FORMER TEA MERCHANT, OPENED CARINGBAH'S
FIRST STORE IN 1904.
LOCATED IN PORT HACKING ROAD, HIGHFIELD, [CARINGBAH], IT
GAVE WAY TO A LARGER STORE IN 1918.
JOSEPH NELSON DIED IN 1927 AGED 84 YEARS

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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 7:45pm at the multi purpose building, Flora Street. Sutherland. (Next to council car park)

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

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QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

VOL.2 NO 26

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President's Remarks

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me and your current executive for yet another year. It seems that you, the members, are happy with how your Society runs, and we hope to have yet another exciting line-up of events this year for you to enjoy. We had very few changes at our AGM, and only because the members themselves chose not to renominate. One great loss will be Jim Cutbush who has been our diligent Bulletin editor for some years, but he has chosen to stand down due to pressure of his work. Congratulations to Jim Cutbush and also Terry McCosker, our eloquent and faithful bus driver on excursions, on being awarded life memberships at our AGM. We have not set a precedent in Terry's case, as he has been a member in his own right for many years--he just loves local history, and has rightfully earned our highest award. A warm welcome to David Overett, our newly elected Bulletin Editor! This is a most important position on our executive, as this puts our society "on show" by the quality of the articles and content of our magazine and newsletter. He has large shoes to fill, but seems very capable and we welcome him aboard.

Our Society is again involved in the Sutherland Shire Heritage Festival, and as its Chairperson, I thank you all for your support. This year it ran from 17th April, 1999-2nd May, 1999. We had our favourite events as usual: the Heritage Bus; The Woodturners Guild Display at the Oyster Bay Scout Hall; talks at Brinsley's Heritage joinery in Cleo St., The Botany Bay Family History Society at St. John's Hall as well as our own display at the School of Arts, so ably presented by Mr. Allan McGrath and Ms. Helen McDonald, our Society Archivist. What fun, to enter the Historical Society Display through the door of a "red rattler"! To commence the festivities we had the Heritage Tram Festival at Sutherland, with its stalls, and many other events, including a showing of the wonderful old movie, shot in Sutherland Shire's sand hills: "Forty Thousand Horsemen", the latter unfortunately very poorly attended. We had a Youth Music Awards evening with our talented young people in formal evening attire making it a great occasion, and a wonderful Seniors' Concert courtesy of Sutherland Music Club, as well as a Welsh Concert at Menai Park. We finish with a stirring finale: the Kurnell Heritage Festival, and an historic running of the ferry between La Perouse and Kurnell for those last few days.

I feel a little hesitant giving talks on our history, when I have lived in the district for only 18 years, and many of you have been here all your lives, but with the help of our archivist, Ms. Helen McDonald I gave a recent talk on the "History of Menai" at the AGM of Menai Neighbourhood Services Inc., of which organisation I am a Life Member. It seems it was a success, and I now have two more bookings! Several of our members on the executive are happy to give talks on our Shire's history, (and are much better than I) so if you would like a guest speaker for your organisation, just contact our Secretary Mina Whybourne on 95254339.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, and having a chat over supper.



President

1999 Meetings:

May: Guest speaker from "Historic Houses"
 June: Mr. Bruce Baird, MP: Early days in Cronulla
 July: Clr. Anne Field, Rockdale Council: History of Randwick Racecourse

Rev FATHER DUNLEA AND A.A.

A.A. first came into being in Akron, Ohio, U.S.A. in June 1935. The founders were Bill W. and Doctor Bob, both alcoholics. They brought about their own recoveries by developing a way of life set out in twelve steps, which they adopted. Bill W died on 24th January 1971. Doctor Bob in 1950, both retaining their sobriety to the last.

Father Thomas Dunlea having read of these men further obtained a copy of their ideals. In 1945 so true to form, The Father mustered about a dozen drunks together at National Park, in tents near to where he first tried to establish Boys Town. A good mile walk from Sutherland and the nearest Pub, it was a sort of a camping holiday to keep them away from the Pub and keep them off the Grog, and the Park was out of the Councils jurisdiction. He was able to keep them in order, feed and water them, they had plenty of time to relax, have walks in the bush and sleep, while he was away doing his other duties.

This proved to be quite satisfactory for a start, and on his return each day he would have a bottle of good wine which he shared out and it was not hogged, this kept down the desire to drink plonk and metho.

As far as the Alcos were concerned it was a terrific long holiday camp in a pleasant setting away from the slums of Sydney. And it looked like working O.K. but one day while the Father was away someone brought some Metho along and gave it to them, it was either a very poor joke, or a deliberately an act of wickedness for they all got blithered and caused trouble which involved the police having to go up and quell the trouble, however the police took no action provided the men moved out and they returned to the city.

The Fathers first attempt, a miserable failure. But Father Dunlea was a Pigheaded Irishman, as well as being a dedicated man. So notwithstanding his failure he got together with Doctor Minogue who was a Psychiatrist and Medical Superintendent of Rydalmere Hospital, and Archie McKinnon a Psychiatric nurse at Darlinghurst Reception House. In April 1945 for a meeting at the Boys Town office in Elizabeth street. Now here were three men with the same ideals, under one roof, where they could work out a founding of an Alcoholics Anonymous for Australia.

And after a full discussion of all the pros and cons of A.A. they decided to unite and build here in Sydney an A.A. to start with. Father Dunlea provided the room in Bligh street in the centre of Sydney and their first meetings were held there quite successfully but as time went along some of the members were anything but sober and became quite noisy, the caretaker took umbrage at this



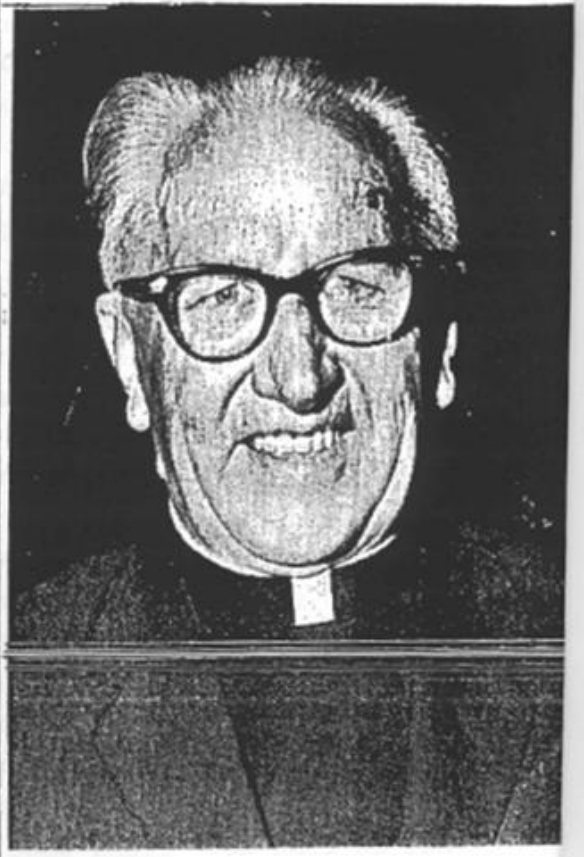
A. V. (Archie) McKINNON, M.B.E.



DR. S.J. MINOGUE



FRANK STURGE HARTY



REV. FATHER THOMAS DUNLEA O.B.E.

type of behaviour, he did not like Alcoholics anyway and insisted that they had their get-togethers elsewhere.

So they moved their meeting place from Bligh House they were running things now with quite a good following of members all who were trying in various degrees to get away from the demon drink and this was not an easy task. Right from the word go Father Dunlea had the idea of establishing the A.A. in Sutherland. so he secured quite a large cottage in Loftus avenue Loftus on the edge of the National Park. His idea was to have a home for alcoholics where he could treat and cure them and dismiss them cured. A beautiful dream I'm afraid. But, Oh No, Sutherland Council again rejected his application to open the home. the Councillors immediately assuming that there would be dozens of drunken bums arriving on their door step. they hadn't forgotten the melee in the camp at the Park that the police had to be called to.

However at the following council meeting Father Dunlea and Dr Minogue spoke loud and long and persuaded the councillors to let them have a try. and it was on Xmas day 1945 with a brass band and decorations Christmas house was dedicated and opened as a home for the treatment of alcoholics.

For a long time it ran along successfully but finance always the big problem. Father Dunlea put all of his personal money into the project but he was ruthlessly exploited. Pat who was the Manager of the home really tried hard to make a success of it. Pat himself being a reformed Alcoholic was dead keen to help the others help themselves. it was a valiant try and at great cost to Father that A.A. had got off the ground and credit must be given to Father Tom. Dr Minogue. Frank Sturge Harty. Rex. Bill. Jack. Russ. Fred. Clive. Betty. Pat. Jim. Dave. and Ossie and last but far from least Archie McKinnon. Those were the Foundation members of on which the Australian A.A. was founded. With all the work involved let us hope that A.A. will stay and continue. those who remember Father Tom Dunlea will never forget his efforts to the doing of good in the community and good to others.

Drunkenness is nothing new for Omar Khyayam says on his last page.

And when thyself with shining foot shall pass
Among the guests Star-Scattered on the grass
And in thy joyous errand reach the spot
"Where I made one—turn down an empty glass.

Contributed George Heavens.

PATRICK SMITH

Convict

1783 - 14.2.1868

Patrick Smith, from Lismagirl, Baileborough, Co. Cavan was tried and convicted of cow stealing on 10th March, 1828 at Wicklow. He was 46 years of age, married and had no previous convictions. His sentence was seven (7) years transportation to Australia, departing Dun Laoghirie (Dunleary), Dublin, Ireland on 16th November, 1828 aboard the "Fergusson", (554 ton) arriving Sydney, Australia on 26th March, 1829. He was assigned to G.B. Sutton of Baulkham Hills, near Parramatta His convict records described him as 5'4 1/2" tall, ruddy and freckled complexion, black hair, hazel eyes, sight of right eye weak, and a scar on right forehead and under left ear. He could read, but not write. He left behind his wife, Letitia, and seven (7) children, i.e. Anne (14 years), Mary (12 years), Phillip (10 years), Susannah (8 years), James (6 years) Bridget (4 years) and Cormick (2 years).

Following his trial on 10th March, 1828 and prior to his departure to Sydney on the "Fergusson" on 16th November, 1828, Patrick was held in custody aboard the hulk "Essex" with over 200 other convicts. This must have been an agonising ordeal, as was evident by a report of acts of cruelty submitted by the Surgeon Superintendent, Charles Cameron, of the "Fergusson", upon its arrival in Sydney 130 days later. Cameron reported that when the prisoners were taken on board the "Fergusson" from the "Essex" they were in very poor mental and physical condition, which lead to scurvy in its worst form on the voyage. This was supported by many affidavits taken from prisoners. An extract from Cameron's report to the Colonial Secretary, dated 3rd April, 1829 reads:-

".....These were the only persons I questioned and think that 200 of the prisoners would give evidence to the same purpose. When the prisoners came on board the "Fergusson" I saw several of them covered with stripes and bruises, but could not find out the cause till after they felt confident that I would not allow them to be ill treated; when numerous complaints poured in upon me, till I was obliged to say that I could not interfere further with what took place in the hulk.

I wish to avoid further remarks, but I consider it my duty to say so much before the Government of NS Wales, as I thought the subject merited their attention.

*I have the Honour to be Sir
Your very obedient
Humble Servant
Charles Cameron
Surgeon Superintendent"*

Patrick Smith (contd)

Cameron further writes (see separate report) that the scurvy threatened the lives of all 214 convicts on board. He did not have "such refreshments as their condition might require", i.e. lime juice, or vinegar (which contained nitre) and doubted they would be able to proceed further than Rio de Janeiro. In total despair, it then occurred to him that gun powder contained nitre (potassium nitrate, or saltpetre) and set about manufacturing nitre from the powder with huge success.

Charles Cameron is to be commended for his compassion and ingenious method of controlling the scurvy among the convicts by the manufacture of nitre from gun powder and administering this to the convicts to arrest the scurvy. As a result, only two lives were lost on the voyage, namely Andrew Brush and Bryan Spollan.

Patrick received his Ticket of Leave on 1st October, 1833 (No. 33/804) and was allowed to remain in the Parramatta District of Sydney. His Certificate of Freedom was issued on 20th August, 1835 (No. 35/905).

Following a number of letters of referral on her behalf from the local Parish Priest of Killinkere, Bailieborough, Father J. Fitzsimmons and other local dignitaries, Letitia and five of her children were granted free passage, on the recommendation of Colonial Governor Bourke, to join Patrick in Sydney. The two older boys, Phillip and James, worked their passage out on the convict ship "Surry", with 229 Male convicts on board. The "Surry" left Cork on 9th January, 1836 and arrived in Sydney on 17th May, 1836, with a sailing time of 129 days. Letitia and the remainder of the family left Cork aboard the "Thomas Harrison" on 19th February, 1836 and arrived in Sydney on 9th June, 1836. On board the "Thomas Harrison" were 112 Female convicts, 11 free women and 24 children with a sailing time of 111 days.

In 1855, Patrick and Letitia's sons, James and Cormick, purchased land along the Cox's River, Burratorang Valley, which is approximately 60 miles west of Sydney, but there is no reference to either Patrick, or son Phillip, having owned land. James and Cormick later lived in Sydney, owning a Wheelwright business on the corner of Parker and Gipps Street. Although Phillip was also believed to have been a wheelwright, he did not join his brothers in business, remaining in the Burratorang Valley for his entire life.

On 18th November, 1857 Patrick Smith, a resident of Burratorang Valley, made a Will, leaving all his possessions, real or personal, to his sons James and Cormick. When the Will was probated in 1869 the Estate was valued at 11 pounds. His son, Phillip, was disinherited, as were all his daughters. According to family "tales", Phillip was an "undesirable", to the point where the local Parish Priest took to him with a whip because of his ill treatment of his wife, Mary Shoobridge, which could account for the disinheritance.

Patrick Smith (contd)

Both Patrick and Letitia died in Sydney; Letitia on 3rd July, 1863 aged 81 years and Patrick on 14th February, 1868 aged 85 years; his occupation being listed as a farmer. Their children's dates of death were Anne (d.1903), Mary (death unknown), Phillip (d.22.8.1872), Susannah (d.1896), James (d.1890), Bridget (d.1900) and Cormick (d.1879)

Patrick, Letitia and their son Cormick were buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Devonshire Street, Sydney. Their remains were moved to Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, when the land was reclaimed for the construction of Sydney's Central Railway Station. Cormick paid for his parents' headstones, which are still in quite good condition. Their son Phillip and daughter Anne, were buried in the Burratorang Valley, which was dammed in the 1950s to provide Sydney's main water supply.

During our research we found that the Burratorang Valley consisted of mostly Irish convicts/settlers, many of these originating from Co. Cavan, and in particular, the Bailieborough area. Perhaps it was the beautiful greenery in the Valley which reminded them of Ireland. The last Smiths in the Burratorang Valley left the area in the 1930s. They were among the earliest settlers in the Valley.

Patrick and Letitia's house in Lismagirl still stands and is owned by John Simpson, who now uses it for storage purposes. It is a detached house, the other house believed to be occupied by Patrick's brother and his family in the early to mid 1800s. The houses were on a five acre block of farming land.

The Smith family was typical of the strength of pioneers to Australia in its early years; after all, the country was only settled by the Europeans 40 years earlier. Patrick endured horrific conditions, i.e. custody in Wicklow Gaol prior to conviction, on board the hulk "Essex" without adequate rations and poor hygiene leading to scurvy in its worst form, the voyage to Australia and no doubt his harsh treatment as a convict on arrival in Sydney. However, we, his descendants, are eternally grateful he stole that cow (or perhaps it followed him home!!!)

so that we may enjoy the privilege of living in this wonderful country called AUSTRALIA.

THIS RESEARCH .DATA WAS SUPPLIED BY TWO OF PATRICK AND LETITIA'S GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRAND DAUGHTERS:-

CORAL SLATTERY (WITH THANKS TO HER HUSBAND., JACK FOR HIS MANY HOURS OF DELVING INTO OLD RECORDS) 22 PARE AVENUE, LOFTUS, NSW 2232 AUSTRALIA

VAL MALCOLM, 165 ROCKBARTON ROAD, PICTON, NSW 2571 AUSTRALIA

20 January, 1998

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY BY CHARLES CAMERON,
SURGEON SUPERINTENDENT OF THE "FERGUSSON" FOLLOWING THE DEATHS
OF TWO MALE CONVICTS - DATED 30TH MARCH, 1829

"At the time these men died there was a great deal of sickness of a similar character in the ship, which I think, was from the following circumstances:-

When the prisoners came on board they were physically in a low state of health --- such as would arise from deficient nourishment and on proceeding to sea, strong gales and heavy swells during the first twelve or fourteen days, caused such a degree of sea sickness that little, or no nourishment could be taken by them. From the debilitated state of the system thus induced, scurvy in its worst form soon began to prevail very generally amongst the prisoners. The disease thus formed, being modified and certainly aggravated by the calm and hot weather, for about three weeks, in crossing the line, rendered the result of their condition generally so very doubtfully that I thought it would be impossible to proceed passed Rio Janeiro, until their health had been recuperated by such refreshments as their condition might require. Having previously experienced the good effects of the solution of Nitre in Lime juice, or in Vinegar, in the treatment of Scurvy and. particularly in that form of Scurvy in which, modified by the hot climate, attacks the internal organs of the body, and the lungs and bowels, I was anxious to cure it, but had so little on board that I despaired of serving any benefit from it. At this period and immediately after the death of Bryan Spollen, it occurred to me that I could manufacture Nitre from Gunpowder. The Master of the ship had the goodness to supply me with as much powder as I wanted and I succeeded beyond my hopes. From that moment the sick under my charge, although many of them were almost hopeless cases, began rapidly to amend, and my mind was thus suddenly relieved from the responsibility which was becoming ---- Awful. Although two thirds of the voyage was then before us, during which they continued on the same diet, instead of becoming worse, the general health of the prisoners is now better than when they sailed from Dunleary. I am willing to ascribe much of this to the effects of the climate, but I feel assured that the solution of Nitre which I have mentioned, is the best remedy which has been proposed in the treatment of Scurvy when a diet of recent animal and vegetable matter cannot be procured, and as such would wish to see it restored to its proper place in public estimation as a medicinal agent.

Charles Cameron, Surgeon Superintendent"

THE STORY OF "GRANNY SMITH"

..... Of Apple Fame



Thomas and Maria married when Maria was 19, They both came from Sussex, England, in 1828. They had eight children – three died while young. Thomas and Maria came as immigrants in "The Lady Nugent" to help with labouring and settled in what was known as the 'dark country' (later it became known as Eastwood). Thomas bought 10 hectares and started a farm. The area was famous for fruit growing and produce.



Maria - "**Granny Smith**" as everybody called her - drove a horse and cart to the markets (Victoria), or sometimes she walked or went in the ferry to Sydney. At the markets she had a stall selling her produce.

My dad often told me the story of the apples' beginning. He believes Granny Smith was given a crate of apples which were rotten. The apples came from Tasmania and she took them home and fed them to the pigs. The sty was near a creek. Granny Smith was very impressed when healthy young plants came up. Selecting the best, she grafted one, resulting in the beautiful apple suitable for every use. When she took the apple to the markets everyone was so delighted they called it the "Granny Smith" Apple.

Granny Smith did not live long enough to see her apple become famous all over the world. She died in 1870 and was buried in St Anne's Cemetery in Ryde. Thomas died in 1876. They had been great workers on their land and were well liked. (Granny Smith had also been a midwife whenever needed).



Their two sons, Charles and Thomas Jnr, carried on with the farm. Thomas Jnr was my grandfather. Later some of the property was sold. Part of the property is still there today. There is a Memorial Park to honour Granny Smith in Ryde.

Thomas Smith was married three times so there are a lot of descendants. My sister and I are the oldest direct descendants living at the present time from Thomas Snr – my Great Grandfather. A few years ago a reunion of descendants was held at McQuarie University with about 800 attending.



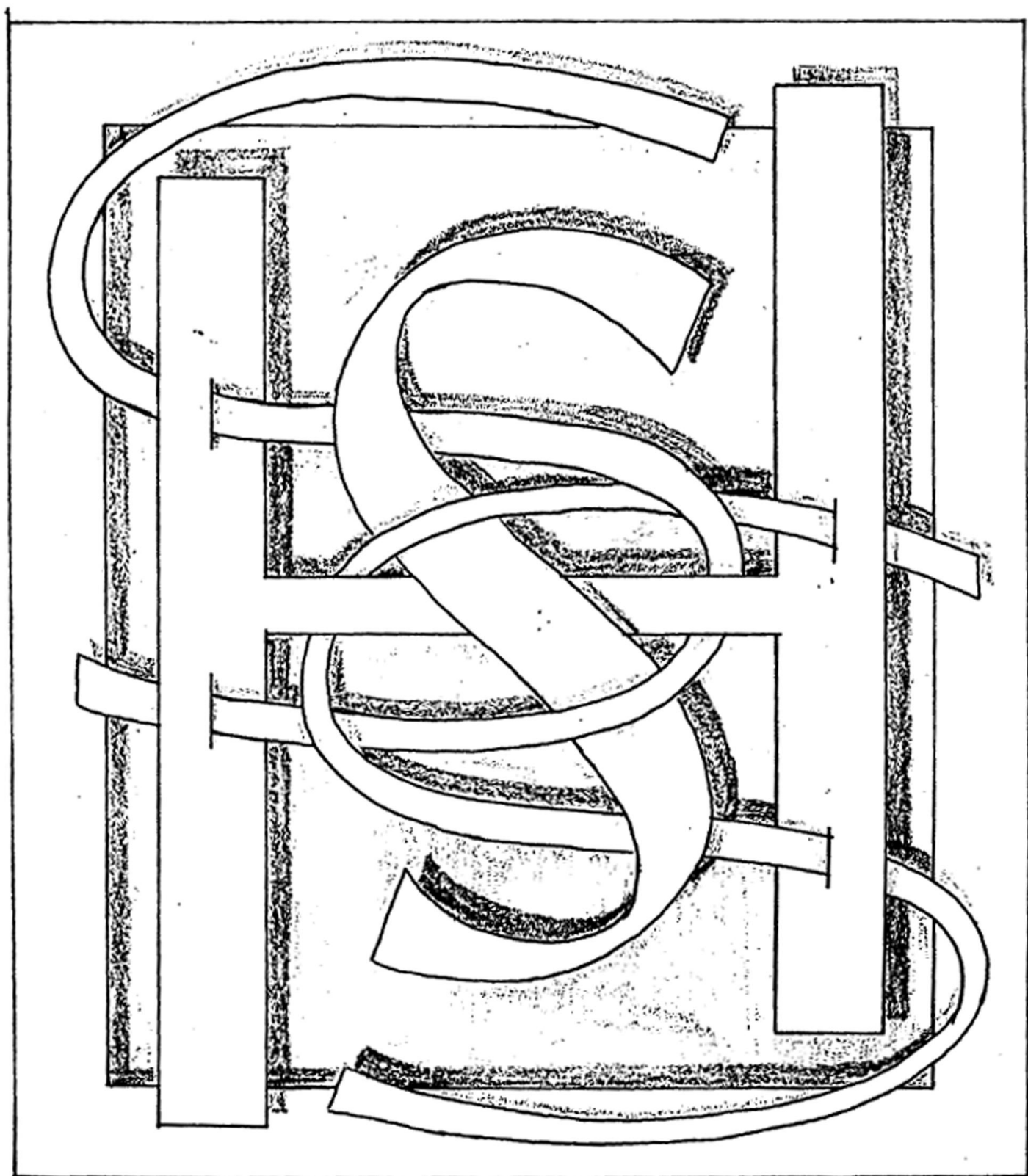
The Bathurst Experimental Government body began to concentrate on the apple and in 1975 40% of apples grown were Granny Smith. They are now grown in South Africa and New Zealand, Chile, France and USA.

LIL HARRIS

Member of Engadine Caring Centre

Aged 89

Great Grand-daughter of "Granny Smith"



*THE DOCTORS THOMAS HENRY (1853-1927
AND PIERO FRANCIS BRUNO FIASCHI
(1879-1948).*

As Sydneysiders, members would no doubt be familiar with the sculpture of the bronze boar, Il Porcellino, in front of the Sydney Hospital in Macquarie Street. You may even be one of the many thousands of people who, over the past 25 years have stopped and made a wish whilst rubbing his snout and then dropping a few coins in the grating to ensure that the wish will come true!

I joined a crowd of spectators on a Thursday morning in 1993 in front of Il Porcellino who looked resplendent in the November sunshine with a garland of flowers and tulle draped around his neck and down his back. The flags of Australia and Italy stood at each side of a table on which stood a birthday cake.

The Hospital Manager welcomed the two Lord Mayors and other guests and spoke of the two doctors, Thomas Henry and Pieta Francis Bruno Fiaschi (Father and Son) whom the sculpture commemorated. It was donated in 1967 by Dr. Thomas Fiaschi's daughters Clarissa, Machesa Torrigiani.

In his speech, Lord Mayor Frank Sartor mentioned that he had recently visited Florence, on his way home from the Olympic Games, to sign the Accord making Sydney and Florence sister Cities and that was the reason Lord Mayor Giorgio Morales had come to Sydney, to sign the accompanying Accord. Mayor Sartor also told that Signor Morales has promised to send the famous Florence Football Team out to Sydney during the Olympic Games in year 2,000; this team plays the old game in traditional costume.

Mayor. Saxton referring to the Fiaschi doctors in his speech, mentioned that Thomas Fiaschi had married a nun (which surely must have upset some people in those early days I thought!). I seem to remember reading somewhere that he was involved in the wine industry.

Signor Morales responded to Mayor Sartor's welcome in Italian with an interpreter. This was followed by the cutting of the birthday cake which was performed by some of the young descendants of the Fiaschi families. The ceremony ended and I continued down Macquarie Street to the library as I had some research to do there. Whilst waiting for the film reel I had requested to come up 'from the stack' I wandered over to the Genealogical corner to look up the Fiaschi doctors in the Australian Biographical Dictionary. They were indeed, remarkable men and had lead very full lives.

"Thomas enrolled at the Florence University as a medical student. At the age of 21 he came to Australia where he worked on the north Queensland goldfields for a time, but later travelled to Sydney where he became a house surgeon at St. Vincent's hospital.

On 17th February, 1876 he married Irish-born Catherine Ann Reynolds, a nun from St. Vincent's. They returned to Florence in 1877 where he graduated MD and CH.D (Pisa and Florence) Their first son Lodovico, who was mentally retarded, was born there. He died in 1944).

In 1878 Thomas practised medicine and surgery in Italy, then London for a short time before returning to Sydney in the "Garonne" in February, 1879. He practised at Windsor, NSW and in 1883 moved to Sydney where he was active in the NSW Branch of the British Medical Association, being President in 1889-90.

In March, 1891 he became Honorary Surgeon Captain in the NSW Lancers and in 1894 Honorary Surgeon to Sydney Hospital. He served with the Italian Army in Abyssinia in 1896. After visiting Italy he returned home through the USA where he studied advances in aseptic and abdominal surgery. In 1897 he moved to 149 Macquarie Street.

During the South African War Thomas Fiaschi was promoted to Major, commanded the NSW 1st Field Hospital and was Senior medical Officer with General (Dr) Edward Hutton's Brigade. In February 1900 whilst searching for wounded in the Boar trenches, he received the surrender of Cronje's forces. For bravery and devotion to duty he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and was, twice mentioned in dispatches. He. was promoted Lieut. Colonel in the Commonwealth Forces and in 1902-09 was Honorary Surgeon to the Governors-General. In 1911 he became principal medical officer of the 2nd Military District. He was also Chairman of the board of medical students (1909) at Sydney Hospital and in 1911 became honorary consulting surgeon.

On 10th August, 1913 he wife died in Sydney and on 19th August, 1914 he married Amy Curtis, a nurse at Christ Church, Bundaberg, Q'ld. in May, 1915 he left Sydney for Lemnos where he commanded the 3rd Australian General Hospital before being invalided to England with beriberi. On recovery he went to Italy where in July, 1916 he temporarily resigned his commission in the A.I.F. to be surgeon in a military hospital at Schio in the Trentino; his wife accompanied him and worked as a nurse for the Italian Red Cross. They returned to Australia in October, 1917 and he joined the Australian Army Medical Corps. Reserve as Colonel, retiring in January 1921 as an honorary Brigadier-general.

Dr. Fiaschi was an excellent practitioner and a good teacher. He did pioneering work in Listerian surgery, the treatment of exophthalmic goitre, hydatid disease and in bone surgery which, according to Dr. Archie Aspinall, was his best work. He was a President of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

Tall and handsome with keen searching eyes, fine physique and erect military bearing, Dr. Thomas was a dignified and imposing figure. Though quick tempered, he readily forgave and never bore a grudge. He had a keen sense of humour and anecdotes about him a-bound. He was well read in both the general and medical Literature of Italy and France. On his professional jubilee in July, 1926 he was honoured by a wide section of the community; he was presented with a portrait of himself by Dattilo Ribbo, a gold medal from the Dante Alighieri Art and Literary Society, of which he was a founder and president, and a book of autographs illuminated by W. Hardy Wilson.

Fiaschi was a firm believer in wine as a medicament and planted the Tizzana Vineyard on the Hawkesbury, another near Mudgee and had cellars in Little George Street, Sydney. He was President of the Australian Wine Producers' Association of NSW in 1902-27; a Councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and an active member of the Royal Society.

Thomas died at his son's home at Darling Point on the 11th April, 1927 and was buried in the Anglican Section of Waverly Cemetery.

He was survived by two sons and two daughters of his first marriage and two daughters of his second.

His second son Piero, born on 5th March, 1879 at Windsor, went to the USA where he graduated from the New York College of Dentistry in 1903 and M.D. in 1905 from Columbia University. In 1906 he qualified MRCS (England), and LRCP (London) and next year returned to Sydney to practice. In 1909 he became a part-time officer in the AAMC.

and, serving in Egypt, Gallipoli, France and England during W.W.I, became a Lieut-colonel and was mentioned in dispatches and was appointed OBE.

Discharged in February 1919 he spent time in the USA before returning home On 31'st January, 1917 he married Grace Horwood Thompson at All Souls Parish Church, Marylebone, London. He set up a successful practice at 178 Phillip Street, Sydney as a genitourinary specialist and an authority on venereal disease; he refused to move to Macquarie Street when it became fashionable to do so. He was clinical assistant at Sydney Hospital in 1936-46.

From March, 1921 to April, 1935 when he was placed on the. retired list, he held a number of medical appointments in the militia; he commanded the. 9th Field Ambulance 1927-28, the. 4th Cavalry Field Ambulance 1928-30 and in 1930-32 was acting director of medical service of the 1st Cavalry Division of 2nd Military District. In 1939-48 he was honorary medical officer to the. South African War Veterans' Association of NSW and in 1941-42 senior members of the mixed medical commission inspecting prisoner of war camps. He was a familiar figure in Sydney's Anzac. Day march.

Tall, lanky with an aquiline face, dark, sad eyes and booming voice, Piero was a strange mixture of bluntness and sensitivity. His war experience had affected him deeply. Although outwardly abrupt, he was inwardly shy with many lovable qualities, he combined the hospitableness and stubbornness of the northern Italian with the generosity and impetuosity of the Irish. Piero was intensely fond and proud of his father and like him the subject of many anecdotes.

He died in Sydney hospital on the 15th June, 1948 from burns received when a spirit heater he was lighting exploded. He was survived by his wife and daughter and is buried in the Anglican Section of Waverley cemetery.

Both these doctors were indeed truly remarkable men and contributed much to the Sydney community."

Completing my research I returned the roll of film and walked out of the library to retrace my steps along Macquarie Street to Martin Place Station. Il Porcellino still wore his flowered tulle garland, but the crowd with their microphones and cameras had long dispersed as it was late afternoon. On an impulse, I walked up and rubbed his shiny snout, made a wish and dropped some coins in the grating. This monument is, in its own way, still continuing the work of these two doctors of Italian origin and we now have a further link with Florence by being a sisters city.

Jean Jehan.

Reference: Fiaschi, Thomas Henry (1853-1927) surgeon, and Piero Francis Bruno (1879-1948) Australian Biographical Dictionary. G. P. Walsh. Author.

William Gillyard Roberts

On Wednesday last, the 18th June, 1911, Mr. William Gillyard Roberts, of "The Poplars," Port Hacking Rd., passed away. Death has claimed another of the pioneers of this district: Mr. Roberts came to this Shire over 50 years ago, and at first lived at the corner of Port Hacking Road and the Prince's Highway, on the property which was afterwards known as The Motel. Mr. Roberts, from his earliest days, took a great interest in the welfare of this district. When he first arrived, tolls were levied on the punt to Tom Ugly's Point. Mr. Roberts, in conjunction with Mr. J. W. MacFarlane and the late Mr. Edward Thacker, was responsible for an agitation which ultimately resulted in the tolls being abolished. He took a great interest in the Miranda School of Arts, and in the days when this district comprised principally of broad acres and bushland, he did much to bring about improvements, and to set the foundation which has resulted in this prosperous district of to-day. He moved from the corner of Port Hacking Road and the Prince's Highway to the property situated at the corner of Port Hacking Road and Box Road. For many years he followed agricultural pursuits and specialised in growing high class peaches and nectarines.

In the year 1909 Mr. Roberts was appointed Health Inspector of the Sutherland Shire Council. He was a foundation member of the Health Inspectors' Association, and in that organisation he took the same keen interest as he did in his district. As Health, Building and Noxious Plants Inspector, he had to travel over this widespread Shire, and rely on the train, tram and coaches for transport. He carried out his duties impartially, fairly and tactfully. In the year 1930 Mr. Roberts resigned from the Council, and has been living

in retirement on his property in Port Hacking Road.

During his fifty years of residence, he had helped the district to develop. and It must have been a pleasure for him, in the eventide of his life, to see the district so advanced. He loved to go back over the old days, and reminisce over the events of the past.

He was a man of character, one who gave of his best when faced with difficulties and adversity, and was particularly fond of outdoor life, and never lost interest in the cultivation of the land and rural primary production. He was generous in the relief of genuine distress.

On Thursday last, a large number of old Shire residents (of Miranda in particular), paid their last tribute of respect to one who was loved by all with whom he came in contact.

Numerous floral tributes were lead on the grave. and looking around the groups of mourners, it was noticed that they included the President of the Sutherland Shire Council (Councillor R. Bingham), together with ex-Presidents R. W. Cook, A. J. Hand, Councillor C. O. J. Monro, the Shire Clerk (D. R. Kirkby), Shire Engineer (T. L. Thompson), Health Inspector (W. L. Cooper), Ganger T. Cole, ex-Councillors N. Fletcher and H. Dadley, and a large number of old residents from all parts of the Shire.

To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy and regret at the passing of one of our old pioneers.

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1941, Mr Roberts was the Shire's 1st Health & Building Inspector

EXCURSION REPORT

To date we have been unable to arrange a tour of Spectacle Island, and a visit to the Archives Centre at Chester Mill; the former will be much better in the Spring, now it has become so late and further enquiries about the content are being undertaken as to the latter. Further details, hopefully, at June meeting.

The trip to Joadja is almost full at this date -- if the Bulletin is in your hands prior to the outing, please contact Mrs. McGrath if you wish to go. Leaving Cronulla 7.30 a.m., Sutherland 8 a.m. Saturday, May 29. Members \$38.00, Visitors \$43.00. Morning Tea provided, but take your luncheon needs as usual.

July 24, 1999 has been chosen for our visit to Rouse Hill House, Hambleton Cottage etc. The cost is \$20.00 members, \$25.00 for visitors; leaving Cronulla 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9 a.m. Take morning tea and luncheon requirements on this tour.

Because of some historic events coming up at the end of November and into early December, it was approved that we make our week-end visit to Kempsey at the end of September; leaving Cronulla at 7.30 a.m. and Sutherland 8 a.m., to fit in with arrangements being made for us by Kempsey Society in the afternoon of Friday.

DATES -- Friday September 24 to Sunday September 26, 1999. The cost of \$210.00 for members and \$215.00 for visitors covers all costs from Dinner Friday to after breakfast on Sunday. Wines. will not be served with dinner-- all drinks will be for you to pay

Due to an upset on the last week-end tour the Executive Committee has ruled this way, as also there will not. be sweets circulated on the Coach on any future outings. I regret this, but must abide by directions given to me, as Excursion Convener by Committee.

Because of our earlier week-end tour, and when dates are settled for the year end functions, we will try to arrange a longer day-trip in November allowing for the longer days and daylight saving. More about this next time.

For any information regarding bookings, please contact McGrath on 9521-2227 (141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus); payment must be made for tickets with booking at meetings, but if you 'Phone Betty later, payment is due not more than seven days after booking. Should a demand for tickets be made, any not paid for MAY BE disposed of to other waiting members. This, too, is a direction from Executive Committee - don't blame Betty and me.

Information regarding outings either Betty or I will be pleased to discuss the matter with you. My telephone number is 9523-5301

"Richmount",
34 Richmount Street,
CRONULLA. 2230

Allen M Griffiths O.A.M.

EXCURSION CONVENER

Excursion Bookings

1. Bookings are to be made direct with the Booking Officer or a duly deputised booking clerk.

Payments

One Day Tour

One day tours are to be announced at the general meeting, and payment is to be made with booking. Telephone bookings to the Booking Officer are acceptable, but must be payable within 7 days.

Excursion- 2-3 day

1. Payment of the specified deposit must be made within 1 month of the announcement of the excursion. The balance may be paid in monthly instalments but must be finalised by the general monthly meeting, prior to the excursion.
2. All payments are to be made direct to the Booking Clerk, or deputy booking clerk either by mail or in person.

Refunds

Should a ticket purchaser be unable to attend, contact should be made at the earliest opportunity with the Booking Clerk.

(a) Fully Booked Excursion

The booking Clerk may be able to reallocate the ticket to another person should the excursion be fully booked and there is a waiting list.

(b) Excursion with Vacancies A refund will be given:

- (i) If the tour is not fully booked the ticket purchaser may endeavour to transfer the ticket to another person known to them and will be responsible to recoup the cost of the ticket from same. The Booking Clerk should be advised of any such transfer at the earliest opportunity.
- (ii) In the event of the ticket purchaser being unable to reallocate the ticket, they will not be able to obtain a refund except where the Society may be able to cancel any of the cost components of that excursion, and a refund relates to these monies.
- (iii) In the event of the transfer of a ticket the Booking Clerk, or deputy, is to be advised of any change in the pick-up point, which information is to be passed on to the Excursion Officer.

Booking Clerk: Mrs. Betty McGrath Ph: 9521-2227 141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus, NSW

MUSEUM REPORT

Heritage Week 1999, was celebrated at the Museum, with the 60th Anniversary of the electrification of the Sutherland to Cronulla Railway line and the 100th Anniversary of the Village of Gunnamatta, now Known as Cronulla. The exhibition was very successful with an overall total of 408 visitors, who all enjoyed entering the Museum through a replica of the front end of a "Red Rattler". The photographs of the building of the stations were well received as were the photographs of old Cronulla.

My special thanks to Jim Cutbush for the building of our "Red Rattler", and for his help in putting the exhibition together. Thank You to Andrew Platfoot for the loan of his train sets. Thank You to the Society members who helped man the Museum during Heritage Week and Thank You to the Sutherland Shire Council for their help.

The museum continues to be opened on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 3pm and at other times on request.

ALLAN McGRATH
MUSEUM CURATOR





FROM THE EDITORS DESK

It's a great honour to be asked to take over as editor of the Bulletin from Jim Cutbush who as you all know has given so much time and put so much effort into making it the fine publication that it is today. I hope that I shall be able to live up to these high standards.

Any bulletin such as this relies heavily on its membership to assist in providing ideas and stories. Local content of course is always preferred but other articles which may be seen as being of interest to our members are most welcome. Tell us about your early days in Sutherland Shire; when and why you first came to live here or perhaps you were born here. Some people seem to think that because they weren't here 150 years ago we wouldn't be interested in hearing from them. I can assure you we are.

So thank you Jim for the great contribution you have made and thank you in advance to all those members who are about to put pen to paper and help keep this bulletin at the top.

DAVID OVERETT

Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

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.. VISITORS AND
INTENDING MEMBERS WELCOME