

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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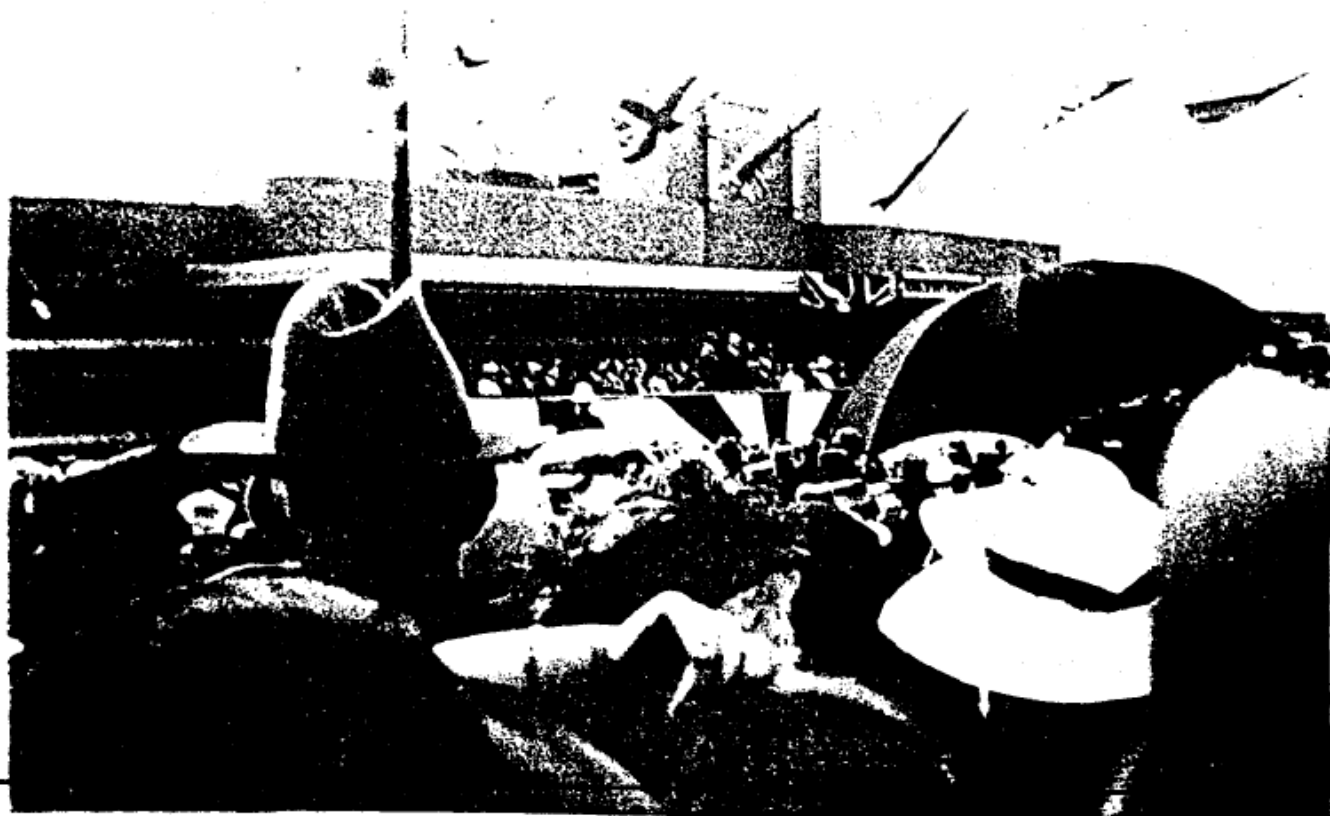


VOL. 2 No. 28

NOVEMBER 1999

PRICE: \$1.00

CELEBRATING
THE CENTENARY OF CRONULLA
AND
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUTHERLAND TO CRONULLA
RAILWAY



CROWDS GATHER AT CRONULLA RAILWAY FOR THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE NEW STATION BY COLONEL BRUXNER ON
16 DECEMBER 1939

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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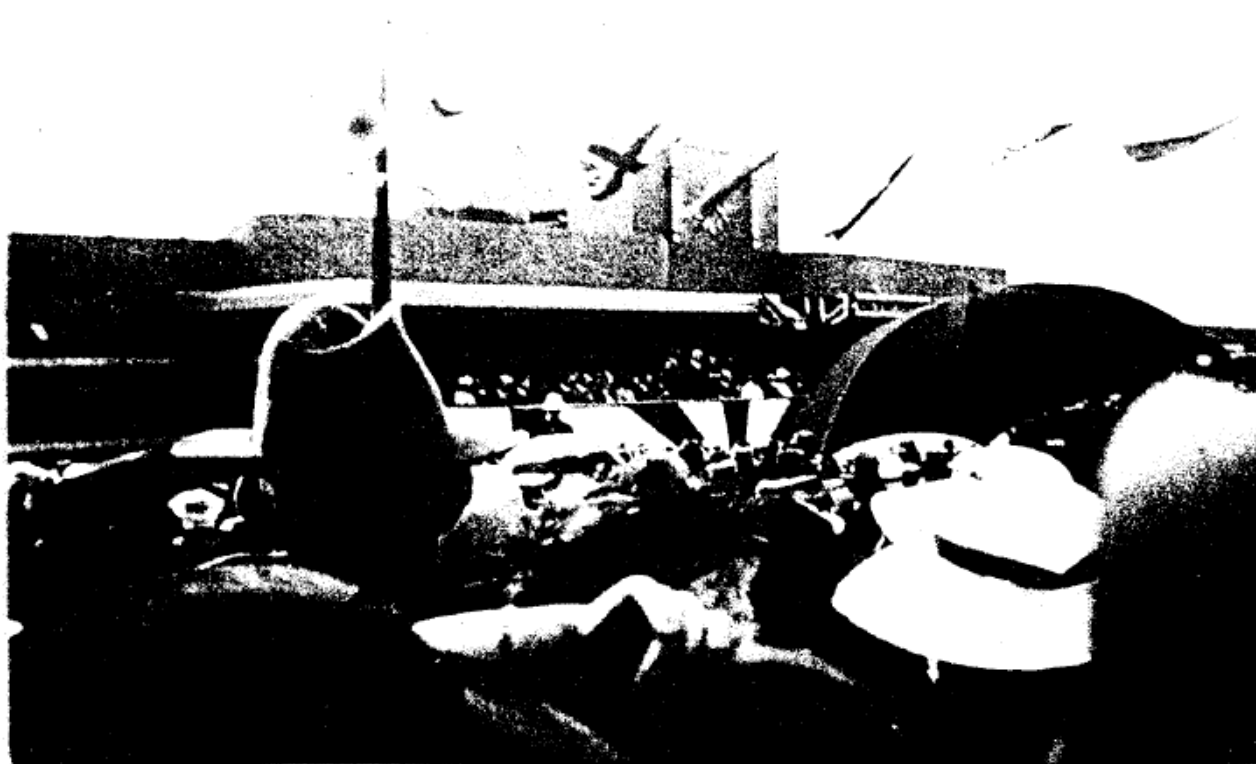


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NOVEMBER 1999

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**Celebrating
the Centenary of Cronulla and
the 60th Anniversary of the Sutherland to
Cronulla Railway**



**Crowds gather at Cronulla Railway for the Official Opening of the New
Station by Colonel Bruxner on 16th December 1939**
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COUNCIL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the third Friday at 7.45pm at the Multi Purpose Building, Flora Street, Sutherland. (Next to Council car park)

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

All correspondence should be addressed to :-

The Honorary Secretary,
Sutherland Shire Historical Society
PO Box 389
Sutherland NSW 1499

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - 2000

Renewal of Subscription for 2000 as from 1st December 1999. As approved at the 1994 Annual General Meeting the Society's Financial Year will be from 1st December to 30th November in the following year.

Each individual member must complete a separate form when renewing his or her membership even when residing at the same address.

The form/forms on the following page should be completed and can either be handed to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr M. Beaven at the monthly general meeting or posted to:

THE HON. TREASURER,
SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
PO BOX 389,
SUTHERLAND 1499.

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 it's 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.

ENQUIRIES: President: Ph. 9543 1060 Hon. Secretary: Ph 9525 4339

RECEIPTS: Please collect your receipt either at a meeting or, if you wish the receipt to be posted please include a stamped, self addressed envelope with your payment.

+++++

New members joining from 1st October in any year will be financial until November in the following year

TITLE: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

SURNAME

CHRISTIAN / FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

.....

..... POSTCODE TEL. NO.....

Please find my Subscription for 2000 enclosed herewith.

Annual Adult Subscription - \$10.00

Junior Member / Fulltime Student - \$5.00

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Signed Date

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CHRISTIAN / FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

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Annual Adult Subscription - \$10.00

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Signed Date

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.

VOL. 2 NO 28

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President's Remarks

"One of the qualifications for active citizenship is a knowledge of history." NSW Premier Bob Carr, on the SBS TV programme "Insight" 7/10/99.

Isn't history a fascinating subject? Knowledge of the history of our Australians' struggle for democracy and equality enables each citizen to appreciate the benefits we have as a result.

Last October weekend I had the opportunity to attend the national Labour History Conference, "Labour & Community" hosted this year by the Labour History Society of the University of Wollongong. The papers were very interesting, going back to convict times, and the conditions under which both our men and women pioneers worked and lived. It was fascinating hearing how the guilds and friendly societies, often led to establishment of our trade unions, and how sectarian issues arose between the Irish Catholic convicts and the Orange societies amongst the militia, remnants of which are still evident in our political system and in our secret societies which arose from religious beliefs and brotherhood.

It is pertinent that in the Republican referendum in November all these strands of history will surface, including "church and state", and you, the citizen will make your choice. Regardless of the choice that is made, I personally would like to see our flag remain; it is the flag our diggers gave their lives to protect, thus preserving "home and country". I have asked our editor to include a little poem on our flag which I saw at the Telstra Museum at Ashfield.

Late September I accompanied a bus load of our members to Kempsey to visit the Macleay River Historical Society, and what a wonderful welcome we received from President Jack Randall, Gwen Kemp, Mary Yabsley, Margaret Jopling, Billie Crawford, Alan and many others! Their purpose-built museum was greatly envied; designed by architect Glen Murkitt, and so professionally laid out, with a working model of a timber mill, a completely furnished pioneer's cottage, exhibits under glass protected in drawers from light, and a superb research area with catalogued information and back copies of their local paper the "Macleay Argus" going back many decades. We were guided around the district by the members, and visited Gladstone, (where my husband Cliff was Principal), Trial Bay Gaol (and what a superb lunch!), Smoky Cape Lighthouse, a rammed earth walled nursing home, and an aboriginal "bush tucker" garden established by their local TAFE students and teachers. The Mayor, Clr. Peter Mainey and his wife Clare welcomed us over dinner with the M.R.H.S. members, and we thoroughly enjoyed their company. It was a sad farewell we made to our Kempsey friends before departing "down the track" to Sydney on the Sunday. I had intended using a smaller bus which would have left us a small profit, but I was glad the Excursion Committee decided to hire Terry McCosker and our usual bus which was more costly, as it was so much more comfortable, and so interesting with Terry's commentary (and I hope, my Kempsey snippets!) to keep you entertained.

I have now informed my Council, that I am going to lobby for a more spacious museum than our School of Arts, for which we have been very grateful, but have now outgrown our space. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting--and how about bringing along another member who can't drive, or hasn't any transport!



Clr. Dawn Emerson,
President

1999 Meetings:

- 15th October: Mr. Gordon Geering: The Boer War
- 19th November: Mr. Mark Mitchell "Renovating a Heritage Home"
- 17th December: SSHS Xmas Party/Concert with the Choraliers (Sch. of Arts)

OUR FLAG

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night,
In our southern sky of blue,
And the little old flag in the corner,
That's a part of our heritage too.

It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish,
Who were sent to the ends of the Earth,
The rogues and schemers, the doers and dreamers,
Who gave modern Australia birth.

And you who are shouting to change it,
You don't seem to understand,
It's the flag of our law and our language,
Not the flag of our far away land.

There are plenty of people who'll tell you,
How when Europe was plunged into night,
That little old flag in the corner,
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It doesn't mean we owe our allegiance
To a forgotten imperial dream,
We've the stars to show where we're going,
And the old flag to show where we've been.

By an unknown soldier

Cronulla's Centenary

On 25 November we celebrate the centenary of the naming of the Village of Gunnamatta in 1899. The 'village' was quite different to the Cronulla of the 1990s. A hundred years ago it was an out of the way place only visited by adventurous holidaymakers. There were few permanent residents. What led to the gazettal of the Village of Gunnamatta in this lonely location in 1899? Research into Department of Lands records indicates that the motivation for the gazettal seems to have been a desire to effect an administrative change that would make the sale of land on the Cronulla peninsula more convenient. A Pictorial History of Cronulla was written to celebrate the centenary of this event.

When I was researching material for this book at the Kingswood depository of the NSW State Archives I managed to locate Department of Lands papers concerning the Cronulla peninsula. These papers deal with the disposal of this land and provide important insights into the background of the gazettal of the Village of Gunnamatta.

The Cronulla peninsula was first reserved in 1861 and in 1886 was designated as a reserve for 'recreation and other public purposes'. (Reserve 133) In the early 1890s this land came to the notice of a variety of people. F. Brown, a resident of the Boulevard, Sutherland wrote to the Minister for Lands on 18 January 1894 to inquire about obtaining a 'residence area' of one or two acres on the southern shore of Gunnamatta Bay. Permission was not granted for this. A request from E. J. Sayers of Kogarah, made in June 1894, that s/he be allowed to erect a 'small tenement' to be used as a 'pleasure resort' was also rejected.

At this time the Department of Lands was taking a close look at Reserve 133. In May 1894 the Cumberland Ranger, Richard Dalrymple-Hay, was sent to investigate an alleged illegal occupation of the reserve at Gunnamatta Bay. His subsequent report provides details of the first residents on the Cronulla peninsula. The two squatters, John O'Neill and his wife, were living in frugal comfort near what is now the ferry wharf. Bureaucrats within the Department of Lands displayed touching humanity when they allowed this elderly couple to remain in their idyllic location. There were no old age pensions at this time. If they were evicted from their hut they would have had to take shelter in 'Government Asylums'. This would have meant institutionalisation and parting from each other in separate men and women's institutions. The O'Neills obviously did not wish to consider this option. They remained together on the shore of Gunnamatta Bay until John O'Neill's death in 1900.

It is uncertain what led to the Secretary for Lands' decision, in October 1894, to survey Reserve 133 'with a view to its subdivision for sale by auction as village blocks'. The applications made by Brown and Sayers, followed by the investigation into the O'Neill's illegal occupation, undoubtedly brought this potentially valuable land to the notice of the Department of Lands. Although the Port Hacking district was off the beaten track, this unprecedented interest in the reserve may have seemed a sign of things to come. In New South Wales the years of depression in the early 1890s were marked by government cost-cutting and desperate efforts to raise revenue. The

prospect of making money from the sale of Reserve 133 became an alluring possibility.

The subdivision of the Cronulla peninsula in 1895 was eventually to have a dramatic impact on patterns of settlement in the district. At the first land sale in September 1895 John Atkinson, the grandfather of Sutherland Shire Historical Society past president, Aileen Griffiths, was one of those who bought land. More blocks were sold at a second auction held in January 1897. Land sales had not, however, been as brisk as had been hoped. The colony had just come out of a depression and by this time a devastating drought had decimated rural industries. This impacted on the colonial economy and there was no stampede to buy land at Cronulla Beach.

At the first two auctions the reserve land had been advertised as country lots. These were not available for sale after the auction if unsold. If the land were 'suburban', however, rather than 'country' they could be sold off after the auction. Surveyor E. Twynam suggested to the Minister for Lands that:

In the circumstances I would suggest as the readier and simpler way out of the difficulty, [of not being able to sell off the land after auction] to notify the area covered by portions 179-191 as the site for the village of Gunnamatta, with suburban limits enclosing the entire area of the late reserve.

Therefore in March 1899 the Minister for Lands recommended that the Village of Gunnamatta be gazetted. The notice appeared in the Government Gazette on

25 November, 1899. What had been known previously as Cronulla Beach was now officially a village. Cronulla was gazetted a village in order to give land sales a boost. The place has been a real estate agent's dream ever since!

A few months later in April 1900 a third auction of land on the Cronulla peninsula was held. In that year also legislation was passed that allowed Holt-Sutherland Estate tenants to convert their leases to freehold. An upsurge in population and building activity was the result and by 1908 the Village of Gunnamatta had become a popular tourist destination. In that year its name was changed to 'Cronulla'.

Pauline Curby

Right: Plan for sale of town lots, Village of Gunnamatta

TOWN LOTS AUCTION SALE & CROWN LANDS

PORT HACKING

ON TUESDAY, 10TH APRIL 1900
at 11.30 o'clock a.m.

PLAN of the

VILLAGE OF GUNNAMATTA

PARISH OF SUTHERLAND COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

LAND DISTRICT OF LIVERPOOL

at the Rooms of
BATT, RODD & PURVES
(LTD.)

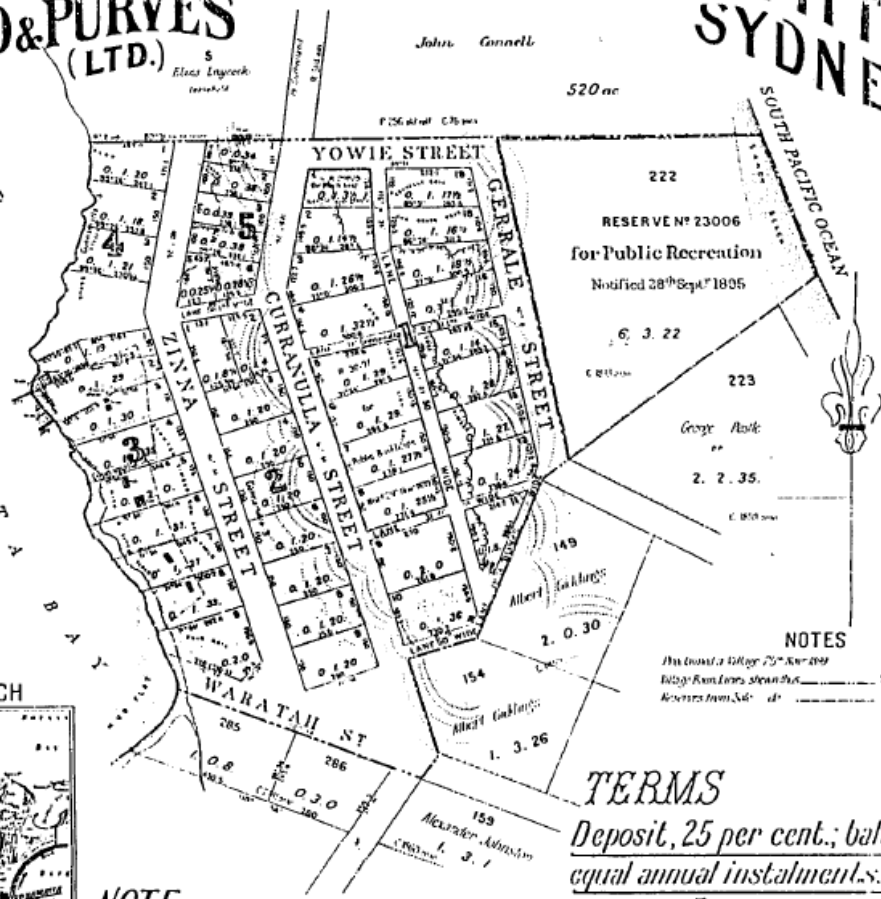
SCALE

88, PITT ST.
SYDNEY

SET PRICES

| Lot | Set Price per lot |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1 | 16. 0. 0 |
| 2 | 20. 0. 0 |
| 3 | 22. 0. 0 |
| 4 | 24. 0. 0 |
| 5 | 23. 0. 0 |
| 6 | 17. 0. 0 |
| 7 | 14. 0. 0 |
| 8 | 15. 0. 0 |
| 9 | 14. 0. 0 |
| 10 | 15. 0. 0 |
| 11 | 14. 0. 0 |
| 12 | 18. 0. 0 |
| 13 | 23. 0. 0 |
| 14 | 23. 0. 0 |
| 15 | 20. 0. 0 |
| 16 | 24. 0. 0 |
| 17 | 25. 0. 0 |
| 18 | 10. 0. 0 |
| 19 | 12. 0. 0 |
| 20 | 8. 0. 0 |
| 21 | 9. 0. 0 |

LOCAL SKETCH



NOTES

This is a Village 750 Acres 2000
Borough from 1895 to 1900
Reserves from 1895 to 1900

TERMS

Deposit, 25 per cent.; balance in 5
equal annual instalments, with in-
terest at 5 per cent. per annum.

NOTE

LAND FOR SALE SHOWN THUS

All Streets are one Chain wide

Printed & Published by the Proprietor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph



The Sutherland to Cronulla Railway

Following the opening of the George's River Bridge in 1930. Cr. C.O.J. Monro proposed a train line from Sutherland to Cronulla to be built by the Sutherland Shire Council. The proposal was eventually quashed due to incomplete estimates of the true costs and objections by landholders uncertain as to which properties would be resumed.

Cr. Monro however continued with his dream of the railway line and in July 1936 the NSW Government placed the matter back on the agenda with the introduction of a bill for the lines construction.

The usual problems associated with projects of this size naturally occurred. These included the acquisition of property, the demolition of many dwellings, the construction of necessary bridges and tunnels plus the re-direction of many old roads and the laying of new ones.

The railway construction helped alleviate the unemployment situation from the end of the Great Depression to when the project was finally completed in the first months of World War II.

On December 16, 1939 Lord Wakehurst, Governor of NSW, officially opened the line with a ceremony at Sutherland and following the first official train trip, another ceremony was held to open Cronulla Railway Station. This was performed by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Col. Bruxner. To enable Cr. Monro to be at the forefront of the opening activities and to show appreciation for his hard work and vision he was re-elected Shire President.

The line was a great success and ran continuously at a profit. Here was the first train line in Sydney, and still the only one, that could convey the public directly to a surfing beach. The opening of the line saw the start of a real estate boom that continued long after the Second World War had finished bringing thousands of people who now made their homes in Sutherland Shire. Those scattered villages between

Sutherland and Cronulla had now become suburbs of Sydney.

David Overett

WHAT THEY SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE
SUTHERLAND - CRONULLA RAILWAY.

The opening of the railway line to Cronulla is just as important to me as it is to the people of the shire, because it is the first railway line I have opened since holding the position of governor of New South Wales.

If we look back into the development of railways in this state we find that the first line was built to Parramatta in 1888, a distance of about 14 miles, but today we have 28,000 miles of railways in Australia, with a quarter of them in this state. Today we can recapture some of the enthusiasm of the early pioneers when they opened their first lines, and it is fitting that we should remember that the railways are still the most efficient conveyors of goods and people in large numbers, despite competition from other transport methods. The growth of Sydney has been phenomenal, and it's population of a million and a quarter people have spread out all over the metropolitan area to avoid the congestion around cities which is so familiar in London. With such spreading out the shire has gradually developed and we find that when it was constituted in 1906 the population was only 1500 whereas today it has reached 18,000

.....I sincerely hope the line will prove to be a Substantial asset to the shire, and be able for many years to take people to the delightful port hacking and surrounding district.

LORD WAKEHURST

Following the opening of the railway the next round of speeches took place at Cronulla where Colonel Bruxner, Minister for Transport and Deputy Premier, opened Cronulla Railway Station.

Bruxner said it was a privilege to him to open such a modern station in such beautiful surroundings as Cronulla. He mentioned that it wasn't very often that a Minister could authorise the construction of a railway and still be around long enough to see it opened.

He later added that the railway still stood alone as the best and safest means of transport for the masses despite competition from motor vehicles and aeroplanes. The construction of the Cronulla line showed that the people still had faith in the railways, and the railway system was the best one to advance the wonderful claims of Cronulla. He had no doubt that the line would be a paying one, because the people of Australia were a beach-loving people. With the vast improvements made by the Shire Council at Cronulla it would not be long before the area became a very popular part of the State. The Cronulla station could compare with any other in the world for neatness of design and efficiency.

Later in the day under marquees in Monro Park, Cr Monro made a presentation to Lord Wakehurst and on behalf of the people expressed their loyalty devotion and allegiance to the throne, as represented by the Governor and his wife.

In reply the Governor stated: -

I want to acknowledge the sentiments of loyalty expressed by Mr Monro on behalf of the citizens, and also to congratulate him on the wonderful success and enterprise shown in today's ceremony.

There is no doubt that this line will be of untold benefit to the shire and the surrounding neighbourhood. In this time of war we have to remember that big issues are at stake, although there is no doubt as to the final result of the struggle. We cannot realise too much the ideals for which we are fighting; ideals against domination by the ambition of Hitler's Germany and all that it means. This is not only a war for self-defence, but a war to preserve the standard of life as we know it. We will all be called upon to make sacrifices before the finish of this war, but we can keep before us the reasons for this fight, because if Germany wins away will go all our achievements and hopes of democracy. I have just seen the wonderful beauties of Cronulla and the many improvements made by your shire council. The shire has within its bounds a wealth of historic value, and I look forward with great pleasure to my next visit to lovely Cronulla.

In a further speech the State Premier, Mr. Mair said members of Parliament recognised the responsibilities place on them by the people, and endeavoured to do their best for all sections of the community. The opening of the Cronulla railway was the consummation of a desire held by Mr Monro for many years. It had

only been due to the persuasive powers of Mr Monro that the 'bill' had successfully gone through the house.

I am a stranger to Cronulla, and had no conception whatever of its beauty and charm. The council has added many improvements to the natural beauty of Cronulla, and it can easily claim the distinction of being one of the few real beauty spots of the state. There will be tremendous development along this line and it will certainly prove a profitable venture

=====

Railway Memories

My memories of the Sutherland - Cronulla railway are as follows. I was ten when it began and 13 going on 14 when it was completed. It was so exciting as nothing much happened in the rural setting in which we lived. There were the dairies, the market gardens and we rode horses. Time seemed to stand still. We played where the diggings were at GyMEA and I use to ride my scooter down the hill where the station now stands. I remember the day it opened; Lord Wakehurst was in the front carriage and he waved to us children standing on the station. The next day I bought a ticket to Miranda and after sixty years I still have it.

Betty McGrath

00000000000000000000000000000000

EXCURSION REPORT

Our visit to Kempsey was enjoyed by all our travellers and we were much indebted to members of the Macleay river Historical Society for their efforts to entertain us. Their museum is magnificent - I doubt if we have seen one to match it in all our visits to other societies. It was purpose built after much fund-raising and grants received towards the project.

We were indebted to the Sutherland Shire Council Mayor, Clr. Ken McDonell for the letter of greetings he sent with our President, Clr Emerson to the newly elected Kempsey Mayor, Clr. Peter Hainey. The Mayor and Mayoress joined our group for dinner on Saturday evening, together with the President and a number of members of the host society.

As a number of functions are being arranged to commemorate the centenary of the 'Village of Gunnamatta' which was proclaimed as the area now Cronulla on November 25, 1899, and including the sixtieth anniversary of the railway line being extended to Cronulla on December 16, 1939, we will not be having an excursion during November - our members are involved in events and could not find a suitable date for an outing.

However, after allowing for the festive season entertainments we must all attend arranged by other organisations with which we may be associated, and family planning - and with school holidays to the end of January, we have selected Saturday, February 26, 2000 for our next day trip.

In keeping with the usual hot weather in that month, we have made a booking for a cruise in the 'Macquarie Princess', leaving from Berowra Waters and cruising on the Hawkesbury River. The cost for the day will be \$30.00 members and \$35.00 visitors, which covers coach, launch and a two course meal of ham or chicken, salad and sweets of fruit salad and cream, together with tea or coffee.

This date too is significant; it is ninety one years since the proclamation of Cronulla on February 26, 1908. But after all the 1999 celebrations this date will, at this time, pass quietly.

A request has been made to me that we have a seven day trip, as we did on two occasions many years ago; going to our destination by rail and book a local coach and society guide, as we did previously. Will you please give thought to this idea and I will discuss it at the November meeting when you have had time to consider the idea.

For any enquiries regarding outings please contact either myself on 9523-5801 or at meetings - for bookings or queries in that regard please contact Mrs Betty McGrath, 9521-2227 [141 Loftus Ave., Loftus, 2232.]

Aileen M Griffiths OAM
Excursion Convenor

TRIAL BAY GAOL

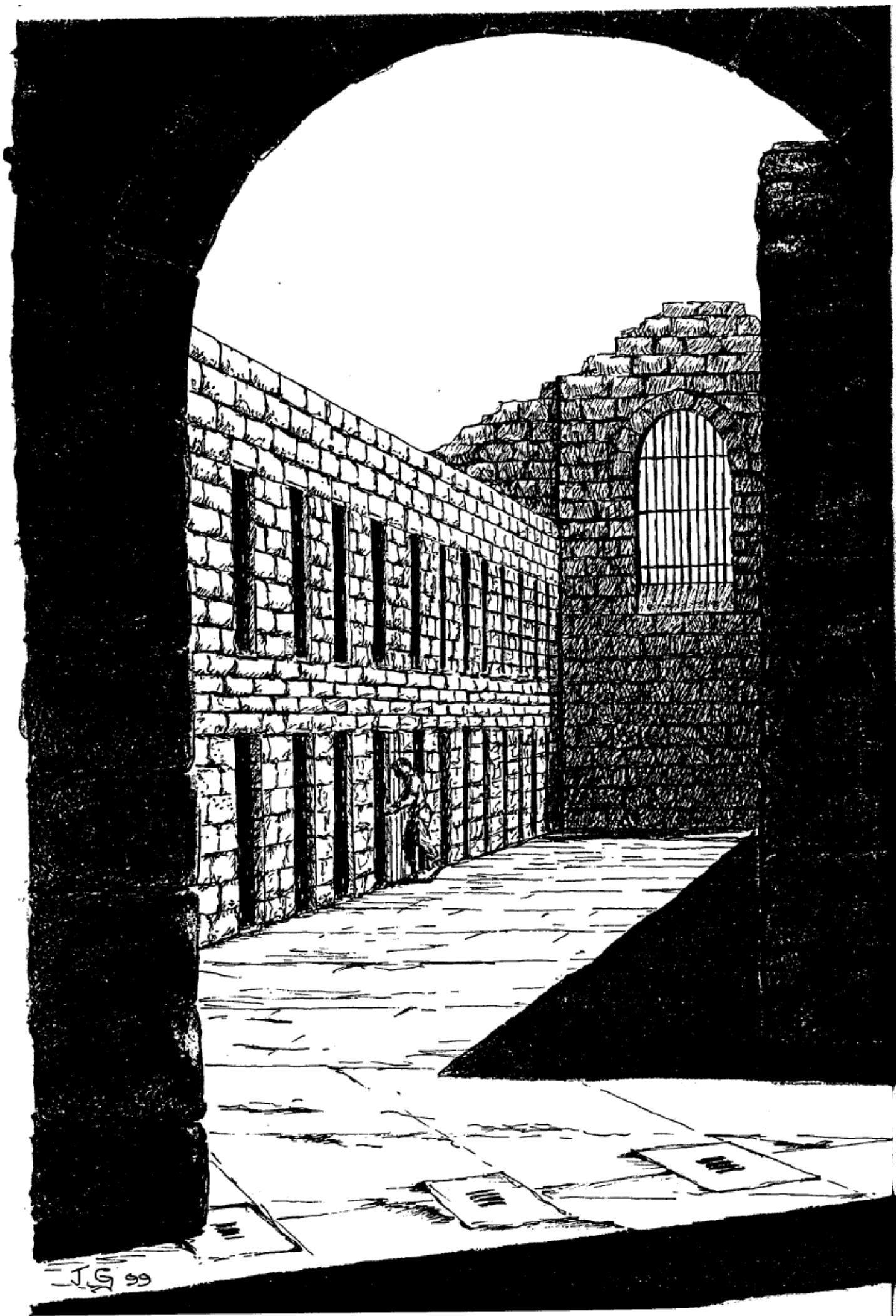
On the recent visit to Kempsey one of the many interesting places that our members saw was the old gaol at Trial Bay. Trial Bay itself was named after a brig, the TRIAL, owned by the pioneer merchant and manufacturer Simeon Lord and, which was subsequently stolen by convicts from Sydney Harbour in September 1816. The wreck was found the following year and the spot where it lay was given the name Trial Bay.

The first wing of the gaol was begun in 1877. Constructed of local granite, the gaol was to be an experiment in penal reform and became the first Public Works Prison in the country. This first wing opened in 1886 and four years later saw the opening of the second wing. The prisoners worked on the construction of a breakwater from Laggars Point under relatively easy conditions but the gaol closed in 1903 due to the construction of the breakwater being over budget. This wasn't helped by storms and other environmental changes that further delayed the project.

The gaol remained closed for the next twelve years when it re-opened as an internment centre and gaol for German internees and prisoners. The internees were allowed to roam the area during the daylight but had to return to the gaol at night.

In memory of their fellow internees who had died whilst interned here, the other inmates erected a large obelisk with a crucifix at its base. By persons unknown this monument was blown up in 1919 but years later in 1959 the monument was rebuilt. The reconstruction was made possible in part with a grant from the then Federal Republic of Germany.

John Green has once again honoured us with another wonderful work of art. He has managed to capture the essence of the place and I think everyone will agree we are very fortunate to have John as one of our members.



The Dutch-Australian Artistic Heritage

By

Edward Duyker

Rembrandt van Rijn was born in 1606 the year the Dutch first reached Australia's shores. Art historians usually overlook the fact that Dutch explorers drafted coastal profiles in their logs which were the first European-Australian landscapes. But it was the Dutch cartographers of the Golden Age who first ushered Australia into the European imagination through their art.

Although the Dutch did not colonise Australia, individual Dutch men and women took part in the drama of British settlement. Cornelius du Heg, a seaman on the *Friendship* in the first Fleet was probably a Dutchman. Dutch names appear in the Second and Third Fleets and we know of other Dutch convicts who arrived in Australia between 1814 and 1833. The first significant wave of Dutch immigrants to this country, however, was during the Gold Rush. Most were sailors who jumped ship. They only numbered several hundred, but some were to make a significant impact in their new country. Jan Vennik, born in Koedijk near Alkmaar in April 1823, was brought to trial after the heroic Eureka Stockade Rebellion. William Henry Paling, a Rotterdamer who arrived in 1855, established a highly successful music business which is still in existence today.

Among these Gold Rush arrivals was the first serious Dutch artist to work in Australia since Victor Victorzoon accompanied de Vlamingh at the end of the 17th century. This was Henricus Leonardus van den Houten [1801-1879] who was born in Den Haag. He studied art in his home town in the years 1818-1819 and worked there until he moved to Leyden in 1831. Later, while working in Utrecht, he became caught up in the excitement of the Gold Rush and arrived in Victoria in 1853. Already middle aged, and with a wife and five children, van den Houten did not spend long on the goldfields. In 1855 he began teaching art in Melbourne schools on a salary of £300 per annum. As art master at Scotch College he influenced the Australian painters Gladstone Eyre and Charles Douglas Richardson. Allan McCulloch in his *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art* describes him as 'instrumental in the formation of the Victorian Academy of Art' and gives him the honour of having been a 'possible precursor of later Heidelberg School'. Among his friends were leading colonial artists such as Louis Buvelot and William Ford. Van den Houten died in Melbourne in 1879.

Jan Hendril Scheltema [1861-1937] like van den Houten, was also born in Den Haag. He studied painting there and at the Royal

Academy in Belgium. In Europe he began to acquire a significant reputation as a portrait painter, but was attracted to Australia at the time of the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition in 1880. In Melbourne he devoted himself to distinctive landscape and figurative works. While living in a Melbourne boarding house in the early 1890s, Scheltema fell in love with a young woman named Edith Bailey who had been raised by a wardrobe mistress at J.C. Williamson's. Edith spurned him and went to America to join a convent. In America, however, she changed her mind about Scheltema and returned to marry him. [The marriage almost didn't take place because Edith's ship caught fire within sight of the coast and several lives were lost!] Scheltema's portrait of Edith is now owned by the Western Australian Art Gallery. Perhaps inspired by the great Dutch master Paul Potter, Scheltema abandoned portraiture and became a painter of rustic scenes and farm animals. But he often worked in conjunction with other painters such as John Mather and Charles Rolando. Despite this 'division of labour' for commercial reasons - Scheltema was good at animals while Rolando was good at landscape - their joint works are now keenly sort after and fetch high prices. Ironically, Scheltema is said to have been colour blind; he certainly tended to paint in monochrome.

Another Dutch artist who arrived in Australia about the same time as Scheltema was Jacques Carabain. Born in Amsterdam in 1834 he was a painter of landscapes, streets and architectural subjects. Carabain is known to have exhibited Italian coastal landscapes at the Victorian Academy of Art in 1885. One of his works, a view of the Melbourne Town Hall [1890], is owned by the La Trobe Library. Scheltema and Carabain were not very influential artists but the painter and etcher Henry Benedictus van Raalte [1881-1929], British born of a Dutch father, certainly was. Van Raalte arrived in Australia in 1910 and held art classes in Perth. He has been described as 'one of the best printmakers of his generation'. Van Raalte was also curator of the Art Gallery of South Australia and a founding member and first president of the United Arts Club in Adelaide.

An equally important Dutch influence on the visual arts in Australia, was Henricus [Harry] den Hartog. Born in Rotterdam in 1902, den Hartog arrived in Australia in 1923. Despite his lack of formal training, he became president of the Contemporary Art Society and was one of the first artists in Melbourne to be influenced by cubism. In the 1930s and 1940s he exhibited with important Australian social-realists such as Counihan, Bergner and O'Connor.

During the Second World War, Dutch servicemen evacuated from Indonesia and based in Australia, played an important part in the defence of this country. They provided the aircrews for No. 18

[Mitchell Bomber] Squadron and for No. 120 [fighter] Squadron. Dutch ships undertook important convoy operations. Two thirds of Vice-Admiral Lockwood's cruisers and destroyers based in Western Australia were Dutch. A number of Dutch submarines based in Australia had successful cruises against Japanese [and even German] shipping in waters to Australia's north. Furthermore, units of the Dutch army fought along with Australians in Timor.

It was after the Second World War that the Dutch made their most significant impact on Australia. After five years of German Occupation, the economy of the overcrowded Netherlands was in a shambles. One hundred and sixty thousand Dutch decided to emigrate to Australia. Many came under the Netherlands-Australia Migration Agreement [NAMA] on proud old vessels such as the *Johan van Oldenbarnevelt* and the *Volendam*. Despite the reputation for 'assimilation' and for supposedly being among the 'best' immigrants to Australia, about sixty thousand Dutch decided they did not want to remain in this country. Homesickness, economic recovery in the Netherlands and more generous Dutch social services are usually cited as the main reasons for this. Those who remained mainly settled in the outer suburbs of Australian cities.

Among those who have put down roots in this country have been numerous artists. The painters include: Maria Blansjaar whose career in the Netherlands was already established in her teens; Alfred Calkoen who has gained a significant reputation for his Ernst-like modernist paintings and his striking 'industrial' murals; William Pieter de Vos whose most important work has been in line etching, aquatint and dry-point; Gerard Ebeli [who studied under Max Meldrum]; Carl Nieuwmans who has been profoundly influenced by the Australian desert; Jan Riske, whose work is characterised by large heavily textured 'baroque abstractionist' paintings; Alex Rotteveel who also established Maryborough's 'Little Theatre'; Ian van Wieringen, an abstract expressionist who dwells on lush plant and insect themes as well as European lifestyles in the islands of the Indonesian Archipelago; and Peter Zaadstra whose paintings have been inspired by almost everything from fishing to the books of J.R. Tolkien. Other Dutch-Australian painters [among many worthy of mention] are Yolanda Calkoen, Marijke de Geus, Hank Guth, Louis Jetten, John Marinali, Hendrick van der Graaf, Dirk van de Lindt, Chris van Kampen, Nico van Dalen, Jan van Fucht, Mitta van Putten, Gishka van Ree, Anton Vogels, Bastiaan Vroegop and Jan Wigbout.

Potter Henri Le Grand has taught in Canberra for many years and his work is represented in a host of major collections. Other ceramic artists include Marijke Owen [who also works in textiles] and Petrus Spronk.

Stained glass artist Rein Slagmolen was born in Utrecht in 1911 and arrived in Australia in 1945 after serving with the British Army [he also served in Australia in 1945]. Among Slagmolen's first Australian works were the 12 metre high faceted glass windows of the Church of the Holy Eucharist in Chadstone. He was also commissioned to make the glass mosaic wall in the foyer of Qantas House Melbourne. Slagmolen's stained glass and enamel work is now represented in several hundred buildings, mainly in Victoria. His studio is in a former convent in Lower Plenty. Also born in the Netherlands in 1911, was John Orval. He studied stained glass prior to emigrating and worked firstly with the Australian firm of Brooks Robinson. In 1953 he established his own studio. Living and working in the Victorian country town of Hamilton, he despatched commissioned windows around the country; and in 1968 he held the very first one-man exhibition of architectural stained glass in Australian History. Some of Orval's best work can be found in St. Paul's Catholic Church in Mt Gambier.

A number of Dutch-Australian sculptors have also achieved prominence in Australia. In fact Australian sculpture owes an enormous debt to Dutch artist Ernst van Hattum. Van Hattum arrived in Australia in 1958 and took up the position of Director of the Mildura Art Gallery. In the next seven years he and his wife made the Mildura Art Gallery a national centre of sculpture. One sculptor represented in the Mildura Sculpture competition was Berend van der Struik, a student of the great Zadkin and Auricoste; he lived and worked in Australia between 1957 and 1964. Many Sydneysiders are familiar with Gerard Havekes' monolithic 'F.J. Walker' fountain in Hyde Park. Havekes arrived in Australia from Haarlem in 1949. The works of sculptor Adrian Mauriks grace the lawns of Springvale Crematorium. Other Dutch-Australian sculptors include Hans Arkeveld, who has won numerous sculpture prizes and has undertaken commission for many churches in Western Australia; textile sculptor Mien Annemieke; Anton Bruinsma; Theo Koning; Frank Otto; Peter Schipperheyn, born in Melbourne of Dutch parents; and glass sculptors Rob Knottebelt and Mea Rijdsdijk.

Among Australia's best photographers are Dutch born Richard Woldendorp who arrived after a three year stint in the Dutch Army; Gerrit Fokema who has worked as a photo-journalist and like Woldendorp, has been attracted to Australian outback themes; Gerard Vandenberg and Corrie Ancone.

In film maker and photographer Paul Cox, Australia has a Dutch-born Titan of the visual arts. The son of Dutch film maker Wim Cox, Paul was born in the Netherlands in 1940 - the year of the German invasion. He first came to Australia as an exchange student in 1963, went back to Europe in 1964, but returned to settle in Australia in 1965. It was as a photographer that he initially achieved

international prominence, but throughout his travels he also made documentary films. Cox made his first feature film *The Journey* in 1972, but it was his fourth feature film *Kostas*, about a romance between an erudite Greek taxi driver and a middle-class Anglo-Australian divorcee which first attracted attention to his brilliance in Australia and Europe. In 1981, *Lonely Hearts* [Best Film, Australian Film Institute Awards] won him international fame. This was followed by the power and elegance of *Man of Flowers* [1983], which won critical acclaim at the Cannes Film Festival. Among his most recent films have been *Cactus* and *Vincent: The Life and Death of Vincent van Gogh*.

Today nearly a quarter of a million Australians are either Dutch-born or of Dutch descent. Clearly they include many remarkable men and women who, with their brushes, pallets, cameras, hammers, chisels and looms, have helped shape our artistic sensibilities and our identity as a people.

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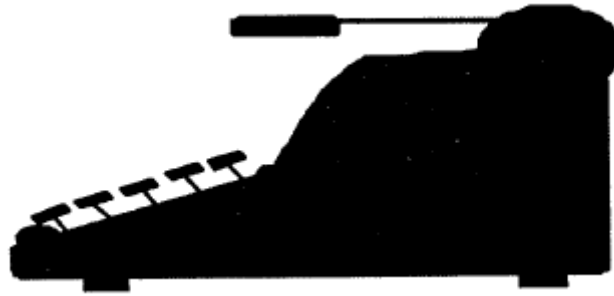
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FROM THE EDITORS DESK

If Christmas alone wasn't keeping us busy over the next two months, celebrations for the Cronulla Centenary and the 60th Anniversary of the Sutherland - Cronulla Railway surely will. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped me since I took over the reins of the Bulletin in May. Jim Cutbush for his patience and help in getting me going; Allan McGrath for the thankless task of organising the Bulletin's distribution; Andrew Platfoot for the address labels and the work on the WEB; Les Bursill for arranging the Internet site; the Printing Department of the Sutherland Shire Council and Helen McDonald for showing me where to find what I was looking for even when I didn't know what exactly I was looking for. To all the contributors a big THANK YOU. Without all those articles and stories there wouldn't be a bulletin.

So have a wonderful Christmas and a mighty New Year as we leap out of the 1900s and into the new century [or is there still one year to go?].

On a more serious note a diary and three books all belonging to our President, Dawn Emerson, went missing at the last meeting on October 15, 1999. If anyone recalls seeing these items or knows what happened to them Dawn would be very grateful if you would contact her. For someone in Dawn's position the recovery of her diary is especially crucial. So please have a look in case you have accidentally picked it up or remember who did.

DAVID OVERETT.

Merry
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