



Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc Bulletin

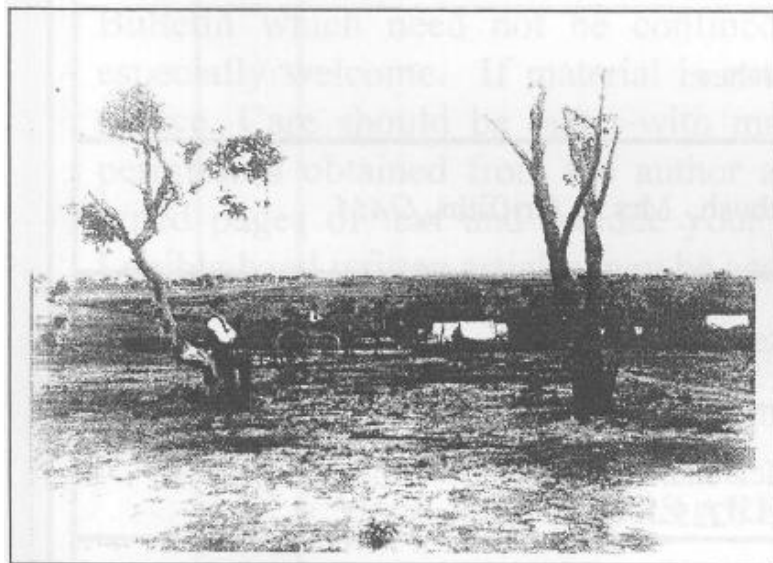


VOL. 3 No. 1

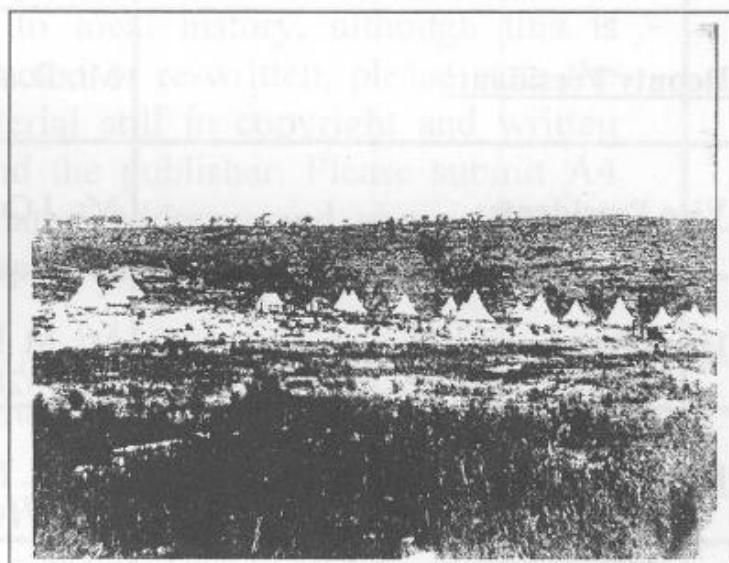
www.suthshirehistsoc.com.au

February 2000 \$1.00

Military Camp at Loftus



Looking North at Loftus



Tents Overlooking Audley

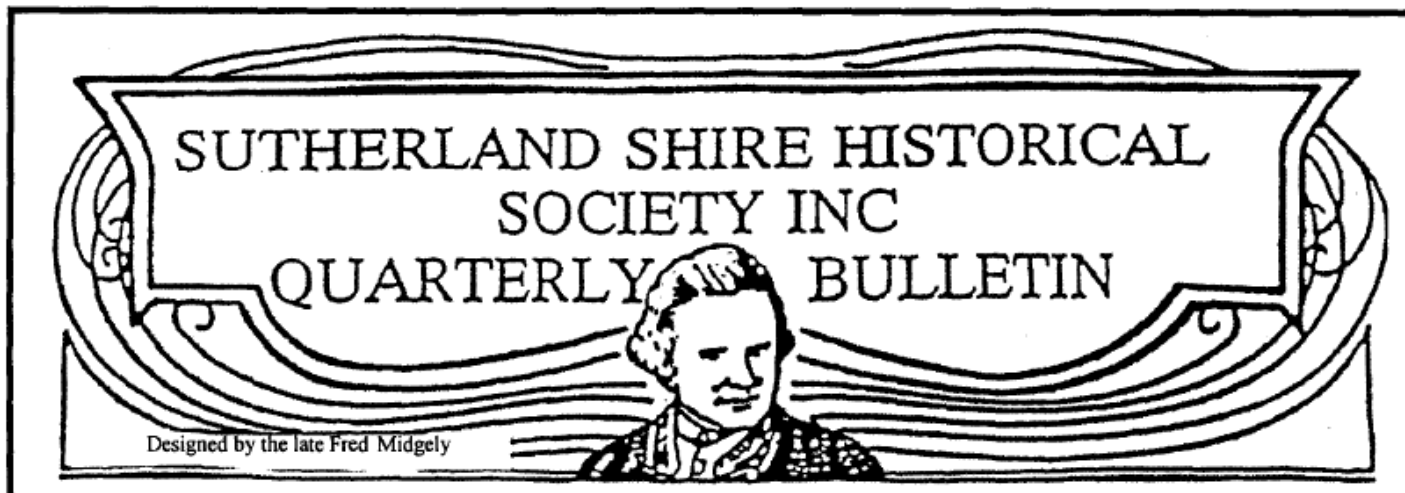
Long time Engadine resident and amateur historian Frank Purvis has submitted an interesting account of the Loftus and Sutherland Shire links with the military. The two photos above (courtesy of Sutherland Shire Library Local History section) show views of the Royal National Park as it was prior to its creation as a national park.

Frank's account of the military camp and the reports from the media of the day show how limited the services were to the area and also shows an entirely different approach to landscape management.

(The full story of the "Easter 1886 encampment" can be read on pages 13 & 14 of this quarter's Bulletin.)

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<u>President:</u>	Councillor Dawn Emerson. 64 Moreton Road, Illawong, NSW, 2234 Ph: 9543 - 1060 Fax: 9543 0191
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<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u>	Mr. M. Beaven Ph: 9528 - 7826
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<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Mrs. M. Blackley
<u>Editor:</u>	Mr. D Overett Ph: 9524 - 8721
<u>Hon. Auditor:</u> Mr. R.H. Lavers	The Society sadly records that Mr Lavers passed away on 12.2.2000 after serving the society since 1994. He will be sadly missed.
<u>Hon. Solicitor:</u>	Mr. M. Solari
<u>Committee:</u>	Mesdames: B. Greentree, B. McGrath, I. Caddell B. Perry, Messrs: S. Roberts, A. Platfoot, D. Perry.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin copies are supplied to all branches of the Shire Library; to the Mayor, General Manager and all councillors; the Royal Australian Historical Society; National Trust (NSW); State Library, NSW; National Library, Canberra; Universities of Sydney and NSW; State Rail Authority; Australia Post Archives; Sydney Water Board Historical Research Unit.

Bulletin Extracts: Editorial material may be reprinted in other publications provided that acknowledgement is made both to the author and the Society's magazine. Copyright is retained by the author.

Contributions: Members are invited to submit material for inclusion in the Bulletin which need not be confined to local history, although this is especially welcome. If material is extracted or re-written, please state the source. Care should be taken with material still in copyright and written permission obtained from the author and the publisher. Please submit A4 typed pages of text and include your name, address and phone number. Legible hand written articles may be accepted in some circumstances.

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 carpark)

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

All correspondence should be addressed to

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

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**Vale Roy Labers
Deceased 12 February 2000
Requiescat in Pace**



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we welcome in the New Year and our calendars tell us that we no longer start our years with 19 but with 20, it has been decided that it would be an appropriate time for your Bulletin to have a new start as well. To achieve this, Les Bursill has agreed to take on the role of editor and as many of you know Les has the computer technology to make our Bulletin something rather special.

It also seems an appropriate time to formalise the Bulletin's numbering system so this edition commences Volume 3, and a larger print to improve legibility for the partially sighted. This should enable senior members to enjoy our articles fully.

On a personal note I would like to thank all those who have made my short time as editor an agreeable one. In particular, Allan McGrath for the time he gives in ensuring that we all receive our Bulletins; the enveloping, labelling and posting. Thanks to Andrew Platfoot for processing the labels, to the Council for their courtesy and promptness when we have gone to press and to Helen McDonald and others at The Sutherland Shire Library.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin is once again indebted to the Sutherland Shire Council Printing department for their courtesy and efficiency in printing and stapling of the Bulletin.

This year also saw the introduction of our own Web site on the Internet and for this our thanks go to Les Bursill and Andrew Platfoot. The web site address appears on the front cover of every Bulletin. So welcome aboard Les. We all look forward to these new and exciting changes that will ensure our Bulletin still remains a welcome arrival every quarter.

David Overett

Editor

President's Remarks

Welcome to the Naughty Noughties. (?) It's not the beginning of the Millennium, nor even of the century, but we decided it was time to re-vamp our image. We have our own Web page, and our new Bulletin is the brainchild of David Overett and Les Bursill, our former and current editors respectively. We have "made over" the Bulletin, and are commencing a more traditional method of numbering and thought we would try a larger print format, so if you have a partially sighted friend or relative you might like to bring our bulletin to their attention, as they are assured of a good "read", and perhaps a bit of a nostalgia trip as well. Our new size means more pages, and the larger print increases the size also, but we will experiment for a trial period, and if you like it-- do write and tell us. And while you are at it, why not jot down some of your childhood memories of life in the Shire, or some particular event you witnessed and send it to us to print. Reading history books can be very dull (SSHS author members excepted!) and first hand accounts can be very exciting and make you feel that you were really there!--And photos or drawings of these events are very acceptable also!

We were delighted with the response to our photographic displays for Australia Day at Menai Market Place, (over 1,300 attending) and at the North

Cronulla Bowling Club. Many Menai residents seemed surprised at the paucity of our collection, and spoke of other photos at the Midgley slide shows. Does anyone know their whereabouts? Many were given to the Library, but apparently more are extant. Perhaps they were lent on the night from other private collections? Anyway if you know any descendants of the Menai area could you find out if they still have any photos we could copy and return?

For our Heritage Festival, from April 1-30, our theme this year is "Our Sporting Heritage". If you have any photos of any historic sporting event in the Shire, we would like to copy them and display them at our Museum. Contact: Ms. Helen McDonald: 'Ph: 9710 0225. We would also like the loan of any Olympic Games memorabilia, however small. (My husband has a 1956 ticket to the Melbourne Games athletics events and saw Shirley Strickland, Betty Cuthbert and Marjorie Jackson's great performances.) Contact our Museum Curator: Mr. Allan McGrath, 9521 2227. All items will be securely displayed.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM, and discussing our proposed changes to the constitution .(We're really in the mood for change and naughty in the noughties!)



Clr. Dawn Emerson, President

Meetings in 2000

17th March: Annual General Meeting

14th April at Hazelhurst: Mr. Reg Davis on "Commandos"

19th May: to be announced (Qantas Museum?)

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PRESIDENT'S ADDENDUM

I keep thinking back to the evening 3 years ago when I came to chair your AGM as a member and a local Councillor, and could not believe when no one stood for president on Aileen Griffiths's resignation, that I, myself, was duly nominated and elected as the new President! The Executive Council has

always available for advice, and once again I thank Doug Archer, the Deputy President, for willingly taking meetings when I was busy with Council duties.

I also thank Aileen Griffiths, OAM for her competent management of our excursions, and for attending functions as a Vice-President in my stead. Our excursions are greatly envied by other societies, and indeed we sometimes have other Societies' members join us, which we encourage and really enjoy! There has been talk of renewing our train excursions, but we will keep you posted.

My grateful thanks to our Museum Curator, Allan McGrath, ably assisted by Vice-Presidents, Jim Cutbush, and Aileen, also Doug who arrange our displays, erect them and dismantle them, all over the Shire. Miss Helen McDonald, from the Sutherland Shire Council, our Research Librarian and Archivist, keeps finding interesting new additions to our photo collection and designs our displays and we greatly appreciate her efforts.

Our Secretary, Mina Whybourne, diligently and reliably records our minutes and is always available to lend a hand. Mr. Maurie Beaven, our treasurer, rules over his books with an eagle-eye, keeping us solvent, handing to our able Assistant Treasurer, Andrew Platfoot, when required. We were delighted when our new Bulletin Editor David Overett offered his services, but like all talented people, his job had prior claim on him and with the Olympics he has had to bow out. Thank you David, for assisting when we needed you most. We thank Les Bursill, not only for stepping into the breach as Bulletin Editor, but also for putting us on "the Net"! Our thanks to Betty McGrath, our Booking Officer, who is so efficient it causes great consternation if she is away!

This year we have the sad task of thanking our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Roy Laver, who gave us many years of advice and service, but passed away only a few days ago. Whilst we are noting absent friends, we thank Mr. Alf Humphries for his much loved presence on our committee, and note his recent passing also. Our thoughts and sympathy to these families in their untimely loss. Again we were grateful for the offer of the services of our Honorary Solicitor, Mr. Michael Solari.

Betty Perry and Doug Perry, and Betty Greentree, always cheerily help out with the supper, unbidden, and it would be nice if a few other members could give them some back-up occasionally to ease the burden. We do love our cuppa and thank you heartily!

Continues opposite

From previous page.

Other Executive Committee members: (Signalman!) Mr. Stewart Roberts, Marjory Blackley (Publicity Officer Extraordinaire), and Mrs. Ishbel Caddell attend Executive Committee meetings, which are sometimes fiery, sometimes boring, with equal complacency and are there when I most need advice and support

Thanks again to the Executive Council members who gave wise counsel on the following working parties: the Excursion Rules Working Party, and the Constitution and By-laws Working Party. Both were mammoth tasks, and achieved finally by a will to succeed on behalf of those members, and to come up with the best solutions.

Our thanks to our patron and Mayor Ken McDonnell, and General Manager, Mr John Rayner for their continuing support we are currently discussing our plans for a new Museum some time in the future, and we value their expertise and thank the Sutherland Shire Council for all their help. It gives the members a little thrill when our services are acknowledged by the Shire Council, and although we love conserving our history and displaying it, it is so nice to be recognised for our efforts. We will continue to assist the Shire in any local celebration or anniversary, and regard it as our duty to future generations to record current celebrations for future displays. We also would like to record the continuing assistance we receive from many staff members of Council, who genuinely appreciate the work of the Society, and generously offer support..

Finally a big thank you to the members of the Society, those who record interesting events, write little articles, give talks at our meetings, and those who are just good listeners: you deserve the highest acclamation. Without

you we would not have the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, and by working with you and for you, the efforts of the Executive Council, including mine, are all worthwhile.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dawn Emerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Councillor Dawn Emerson

President

MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT

Over the past year the Museum has been involved in many historical exhibitions. Heritage Festival 1999 proved to be a very interesting and informative time with the usual display of artefacts in the Museum as well as a photographic display of the building of the railway line from Sutherland to Cronulla, which was opened on the 16th December 1939.

In October 1999, the Museum was involved in the Grays Point Public School October Fest. An exhibition of photographs of the Sutherland Shire was very well received by the public, with 320 people passing through the class room where they were on display.

In November 1999, the Museum had an exhibition of photographs at the Cronulla Bowling Club celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the building of the Sutherland to Cronulla railway line. The exhibition proved to be very interesting to the Bowling Club members and visitors with 350 people viewing the photographs.

The 16th December, 1999 celebrated the railway line's 60th Anniversary. There were also photographs celebrating the 100th year of the naming of the Village of Gunnamatta, which took place on the 25th November 1899. The entrance to the Museum was transformed into the front end of an old "Red Rattler" train, which the public enjoyed very much.

Australia Day 2000 was celebrated at Menai Marketplace on Saturday 22nd January. This proved to work well, as the area where the photographic exhibition was located had lots of room for the display. There were photos of the pioneer days at Menai, as well as the early days of Cronulla. The exhibition was opened throughout the day with the public showing great interest, with 1304 visitors passing through. Australia Day - 26th January 2000 - the Museum had an exhibition of photographs at the North Cronulla Surf Lifesaving Club. Of the 88 visitors that passed through we had a lot of good comments and often received new historical information, as well as supplying it to the public.

Thank you to the Sutherland Shire Council for their support of the Museum. Thank you to the Committee and Members for their continued help throughout the year.

The Museum continues to be open on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00am to 3:00pm and at other times on request.

ALLAN McGRATH
MUSEUM CURATOR

EXCURSION REPORT

February - Boat trip on the Hawkesbury

Plans are well in hand for the outing on Saturday, February 26, 2000 when we shall be having a trip on the "Macquarie Princess" on the Hawkesbury River, leaving from Berowra Waters. This is another historic date for Sutherland Shire -- it was on 26th February, 1908 that the proclamation was issued to change the "Village of Gunnamatta" to "Cronulla".

There will be no formal celebrations to mark this occasion, but it is appropriate for us to remember this date in our historic calendar.

Coach will leave Cronulla at 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9 a.m. --take your morning tea, but the cost includes a two course luncheon on the launch. Members \$30.00 Visitors \$35.00.

May - to be announced

An outing for May is being investigated -- there are three about which we are enquiring but as this is being prepared so far ahead, for the Bulletin, nothing can be confirmed yet, or at this time even the date -- one of the destinations may need a different date to our regular outings.

For bookings please contact Mrs. Betty McGrath - 9521 2227 - or write to 141 Loftus Avenue, LOFTUS. 2232. For information re the selected outing, please contact Betty, or myself on 9523-5801 or Mobile 0408-580-104.

Aileen M Griffiths
OAM

EXCURSION CONVENER

**"Richmount",
34 Richmount Street,
CRONULLA. 2230.**

Sutherland Shire Historical Society
Revenue Account For The Period Ending November, 1999

1998	Income	1999
1,610.00	Members Subscriptions	1,440.00
763.95	Donations/Grants	1,035.75
23.00	Sates	16.50
6.22	Interest Commonwealth Bank	6.45
4.05	Interest St George Bank Step-up Acc	0.24
nil	Rounding (St George Bank Step-up Acc closed)	0.01
372.23	Interest St George Bank Fixed Deposit	360.32
236.95	Interest Commonwealth bank Fixed Deposit	319.67
11,734.00	Excursion Deposits	7,874.00
14,750.40		11,052.94

1998	Expenditure	1999
982.62	Bulletin Expenses	1,166.76
50.00	Presentation to retiring Secretary	nil
70.00	Australia Post PO Box	72.00
94.15	Postage/Phone Calls	75.75
nil	Setting up Web/Internet Site	960.00
81.50	Purchases	263.00
5.00	Miscellaneous	19.95
95.00	Subscription to R.A.H.S. etc.	95.00
265.00	GIO Insurance	265.00
119.24	Suppers	86.45
396.00	Hall Rentals	616.00
370.00	Out of pocket Expenses Pres. Sec. Treas. Curator	310.00
43.24	FID GDT Operating Account Commonwealth Bank	49.99
0.13	FID St George Step-up Account	0.34
3.73	FID Commonwealth Bank Fixed Deposit	0.17
33.50	Account Keeping Fee St George Step-up Account	6.00
500.00	Donations	225.00
11052.05	Excursion Payments	7,983.50
677.75	Museum	503.20
14,838.91	Expenses Total	12,698.11
-88.51	Surplus/Deficiency for year transferred to Accum Funds	-1,645.17
14,750.40		11,052.94

Accumulated Funds**1998****1999**

8,000.00	St George Fixed Term Acc 015-152-672	8,000.00
350.20	St George Deposit Acc. 031-133-594	Closed
6,233.22	Commonwealth Bank Fixed Term Acc 2259-5009-3603	6,552.72
2,381.43	Commonwealth Bank Savings/Cheque Acc 0090-5269	766.96
16,964.85	Total	15,319.68
17,053.36	Period Asset Balance	16,964.85
-88.51	Deduct Shortfall from Revenue Account	-1,645.17

16,964.85 TOTAL**15,319.68****Cash Book Balance As At 30/11/99**

7,991.43

Balance Brought Forward 1/12/99

Less previously un-presented cheques

5,610.00

2,381.43

Add income

11,077.13

13,458.56

Less expenditure

12,691.60766.96**Bank Reconciliation As At 30/11/99**

Bank balance as at 30/11/99

969.56

Less Unpresented Cheques:

97.6

96

97

88

80

25

Subtotal 202.60202.60

Balance As Per Cash Book

766.96
M.J. Beaven

Hon. Treasurer

The Place of the Little Pink Shells

Where are you now, you little pink shells
That once gave Cronulla its name?
Were you washed from the sand by the blue-green swell
To the depths from whence you came?

In the dream-time when the sands were white
And the ocean had secrets to share
With sea-birds and fish in the long dark night,
Was it chance that brought you there?

Pink, marbled shells from a world apart,
Sculptured by sand and sea,
Hiding the secrets deep in your heart
Of the world as it used to be.

Our name then was softer, ever progress came,
'Kurranulla', a lyrical sound,
And the sea and the wind in the trees would proclaim
That here the pink shells could be found.

The harsh hand of progress replaced the trees
With icons and monoliths tall
And the shadows they cast, reaching down to the sea
Spread their chilly, grey cloak over all.

Now the sea has adapted to changing ways
And is home to new creatures, who ride
Like fearless young gods, and fashion their days
With the ebb and the flow of the tide.

Yet the blue-green waves that they try to tame
Keep their secrets, so no-one can tell
If 'Kurranulla' altered its name
When it lost the little pink shells.

MERLE BROOK

Military Camp at Loftus

From page 1

Frank relates his story drawing from the newspapers of the day and eyewitness accounts. His story begins in 1886, at the camp.

Easter 1886 - Volunteer Military Activities

Began at Loftus Heights

It was the first public revue of the combined New South Wales volunteer forces held in Royal National Park. The Easter weekend of April, 1886 was the first of a number of annual revues held on the newly cleared military land at Loftus Heights. This first revue attracted a large number of visitors and created an enormous problem for the Railway Department.

In the words of the time, a Special Reporter from the Sydney Morning Herald describes the scene, early on the first morning at Loftus Heights, 1886 :

The Easter Encampments. Loftus Heights, Friday.

At 5.30 am. the long-drawn notes of the Artillery trumpet sounding the "Rouse" rang out sharp through the clear morning air, warning all sleepers in camp to arise. The moon is still shining brightly high overhead, while all round the eastern horizon a band of delicate saffron colour above the dusky line of the ocean fades away into the pale blue of the firmament, whence the morning star sheds a soft radiance, all betokening fair weather

(Sydney Morning Herald, April, 24 1886)



Aerial Photo Audley and Grays Point.

Easter Monday, April 26, 1886, saw the first revue of some 3,000 men of the combined NSW volunteer militia from all parts of the State. These volunteer forces consisted of infantry, mounted infantry, cavalry and field artillery.

The trains as soon as emptied ran down to the platform, where the line of railway terminates, returning thence to Sutherland...

.....the next two trains arrived, bringing the whole of the 4th Regiment, who looked clean and well, notwithstanding their long night voyage by sea from Newcastle. At 10 o'clock the corps from Wagga Wagga, Moss Vale and Mudgee, accompanied by those from Wellington and Molong appearing none the worst for the night spent in the train....

(Sydney Morning Herald, April, 24 1886)

This first Military Revue attracted a large number of Sydney citizenry, creating a transport record. The Railway Department ran out of carriages to move the many passengers, resorting to cattle trucks in desperation.

From the advent of Federation (1901) and the formation of the Commonwealth Military Forces, Royal National Park was used by the New South Wales Field Artillery, until just after the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the main area for these activities being "Artillery Hill" above Audley.

The clearing, grassing and forming of the military encampment ground, a costly undertaking, was brought about by the combined efforts of the National Park Trustees and the Government's Casual Labour Board. The contract for clearing the military encampment ground stipulated

...that all good shelter, well-grown and handsome trees ... and other plants of an ornamental nature shall be left.

By the end of 1883 some 80 acres had been cleared and finally by 1892 2,000 acres. Even today the results of this early clearing of the site can still be seen in the areas around Farnell Avenue.

In 1886, after the Illawarra Railway had reached Heathcote, a "military railway" branch line, the first of its kind in New South Wales, was built from Loftus Junction to pass through the centre of the camp terminating at National Park Station. The early line followed much the same alignment as it does to-day.

On the present line, the Loftus Tramway Museum runs a regular tram service at weekends and public holidays. The signal box that still stands on the main line opposite the tram crossing at Princes Highway, had its first day of operation on 20 April 1886 for the Easter Camp and Revue.

The area north of Engadine through to Sutherland and east of the Princes Highway, formed roughly the site of the military training camp, and was in use from 1886 until the early 1960's when action was taken to cease military exercises.

**Frank Purvis
Engadine
January 2000**

THE LADY NELSON

While researching aspects of Henry Hacking I noted that he had at one time been first mate on the Lady Nelson. This led me to seek references on that vessel and I soon became immersed in her history.

Late in 1800 the Lady Nelson arrived in the southern waters of Australia to carry out survey work. She was under the command of Lt. James Grant, who, as he travelled east named many points of land, including Cape Northumberland and Mount Gambier. On December 7 of that year his ship became the first vessel to pass through Bass Strait sailing in an easterly direction. Just over three months later, on March 21, 1801, Lt. Grant carried out the first comprehensive survey of Western Port Bay.

The ship was very busy that year carrying Lt. Gov. Patterson on an explorative trip along the Hunter River in June. In November, now under the command of Lt. John Murray, The Lady Nelson was once again sent south towards Australia's southern waters. This became another memorable voyage when on January 5 of the new year [1802] Lt. Murray observed 'an opening in the land that had the appearance of a harbour'. She sailed into Port Phillip Bay on February 15 being the first European ship to do so.

Back in Port Jackson the ship teamed up with another famous vessel and an even more famous captain. On July 22, 1802 the Investigator, under the command of Matthew Flinders, left with the Lady Nelson to explore the waters to Sydney's north. Three months later Flinders ordered the Lady Nelson back to Sydney. It appears that our ship went north again the following year with Henry Hacking as First Mate but her most famous exploit in 1803 was when on September 11, she preceded the Albion into the Derwent River to establish the penal settlement in Van Diemen's Land.

In 1806, the Lady Nelson, now under the command of Lt. Symonds, was absent from Sydney for four months. She was visiting New Zealand but due to severe storms encountered on the way, returned to Sydney via Norfolk Island after a stay of only five days. Her mission was to transport a leading Maori "Chief", Tip-Pa-He, his house and his possessions, to the Bay of Islands. In gratitude many gifts were sent back to the Governor with the Lady Nelson arriving back in Sydney on June 13. A refit and a change of crew saw our ship during the following years take up domestic duties once again, trips to Newcastle and Norfolk Island being amongst these.

Governor Macquarie took up his duties in 1810 and in the following year on November 4, was aboard the Lady Nelson for his first visit to Van Diemen's Land. The ship remained in Tasmania with the Governor and on December 20, sailed with His Excellency aboard from Port Dalrymple up the eastern coastline to Newcastle arriving on New Year's Eve, 1811. In his five days there the Governor inspected cedar camps as well as the lime pits and coal mines.

Two months later the Lady Nelson left Sydney once again. This time she had on board the explorer and surveyor, George Evans, who was to survey Jervis Bay. Evans disembarked at his destination returning overland where he recorded the areas we now know as Nowra, Port Kembla and Wollongong, arriving at Appin on April 15, 1812.

The *Lady Nelson* had now been sailing the southern seas for twelve years and would continue to do so for another twelve. She was there at the forefront of many Australian milestones some of which I have not mentioned, such as being, along with the Prince Regent, the first ship to take a group of convicts and soldiers to found the penal colony of Port Macquarie in 1821.

There were also many tales associated with the vessel such as the deserter Henry Antonis described in the Sydney Gazette as a Black Portuguese, with the warning that anybody harbouring such a dangerous man would suffer under the law.

Or what about the ex-convict deserter who left our ship in New Zealand and was reputed to have married a Maori princess, been kidnapped by a trader and later to have been presented as a Maori prince in India. So what started out as a search for Henry Hacking ended up as a small tribute to a small ship which did a big job. In February, 1825, the Lady Nelson left Melville Island and was set upon by Malay pirates. Both the vessel and her crew were lost forever.

DAVID OVERETT

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*Gogerly's
Cottage
Port Hacking*

RURAL FIRE BRIGADES

Mrs. G. Anthes of 37 Hassen Walls Road, LITHGOW, 2790 is doing research on the Rural Fire Brigades (formerly Bush Fire Brigades) and has asked if any of our members can help her with her enquiries.

On behalf of the Society I was able to speak to her about the very early days of the Cronulla Volunteer Group and refer her to the folk involved with other Shire "Bushies".

If you can help Mrs. Anthes would you please contact her direct with anecdotes, photos and any other items or knowledge, or if you prefer contact me and I shall pass on your details to her. I've got many memories of the fires in the earliest days of the Cronulla Brigade -- by the ringing (sic), of the Siren, long or short beats with the numbers indicating which side of Gunnamatta Bay and whether it was house or bush fire, and of seeing workers come from shops to get on bicycles to rush to a given point or to the Station if nearer.

Those were the days!!!

Aileen M Griffiths
OAM

Phone: 9523-5801
Mobile: 0408- 580 104

"Richmount"
34 Richmount Street,
CRONULLA. 2230.

A Query from a Shire resident.

Whilst clearing a block for building at Como a Shire resident has uncovered two (2) tombstones. One is marked and the second tombstone is marked



A similar date but not sure if it is Johnston or Johnson. Has anyone any knowledge about the pioneers of the Shire? Please contact Mina Whybourne.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1999

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mr. D. Archer

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Mr. A. Platfoot
Mr. D. Perry

HON. AUDITOR

Mr. R. Lavers

HON SOLICITOR

Mr. M. Solari



*Fernleigh at
Caringbah*

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 34TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Sutherland Historical Society Inc. will be held Friday, March 17, 2000, in the Multi Purpose Building, Flora Street, Sutherland at 8.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm and adopt Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting.
4. Submission and adoption of the Annual Report of the Executive Council and Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for 1999.
5. Out-of-pocket expenses.
6. To ratify the revised Constitution as proposed on page 27 of this Journal.
7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2000.
8. GENERAL BUSINESS: Pertaining to the Annual General Meeting only.

Councillor Dawn Emerson
PRESIDENT.



*Stonehenge
facing North,
April 1999,
near Salisbury*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1999 was another year of interesting and stimulating meetings covering varied topics and we had the privilege of listening to many gifted and well-informed speakers.

January

Members' Night in January was as usual most informative – Doug Perry showed a piece of shale Torbanite - which came from Joadja. This shale had been mined in the last century, to produce kerosene, under very harsh conditions. (This was a very pertinent topic as our May outing was to be to Joadja and the prior knowledge we had of the history of the mine made the trip more interesting.) Mr. John Risebrow displayed a series of photographs he had taken of the Sutherland area which he identified and explained. His photography was excellent.

President Dawn Emerson then spoke on the history- of her husband's family who had lived in the district for many years and were particularly involved in the early growth of the oyster industry in Botany Bay.

February

In February, our speaker was Mr. George Cotis who spoke to us of the history of Port Hacking - how the terrain had altered - in the 2 million years to 1788 huge physical changes – 1788 to 1990 - human interest in this very productive area - timber, grazing, fishing. We must be mindful of our heritage and consider conservation seriously.

March

March was the Annual General Meeting and we were delighted to know that Councillor Dawn Emerson was happy to continue as our President. At this meeting, we were pleased to honour Mr. Jim Cutbush and Mr. Terry McCosker with Life Membership in the Society in recognition of their service.

April

Mrs. Thelma Deacon was our speaker in April. Mrs. Deacon had written a book on poetry and prose from the coal-mining district particularly in the Helensburgh area and gave us a brief history of the coalmining industry in Australia – first discovery 1797 - of the hardships endured by the miners and their families – very graphic and poignant stories in prose and poetry.

May

Mr. Rae McLintock OAM from the Historic Houses Trust was our speaker. He is a volunteer guide with the Trust - usually at Government House. He gave us some very interesting insights into the various Historic Houses under their mantle: - Government House, the Museum of Sydney, Elizabeth Bay House, Rouse Hill, Hyde Park Barracks, Vacluse House. He showed some slides of Rouse House which had been neglected but now open to the Public - fascinating history of a family. We were very interested as we were to visit Rouse House in July.

June

We were privileged to have Bruce Baird MP, the member for Cook as our speaker. Mr. Baird had been involved in our successful bid for the Olympic Games and had been Commissioner for Trade in Bonn and New York. He spoke of his childhood in Cronulla - schooldays at Cronulla and Sutherland and said how happy he was to be back in the Shire - and would do all in his power to improve problems such as pollution, traffic difficulties, etc.

July

Mr. Les Bursill, a member of the Society, introduced us to the Website - we are registered (www.suthshirehistsoc.com.au) and would demonstrate at a future meeting as to how the Bulletin would be viewed.

Then Councillor Anne Field from the Rockdale Council addressed us on the history of the Moorefield's Racecourse. She had an exhibition of photographs and newspaper cuttings which were most interesting. She is also writing a book on the rise and fall of the Racecourse - from 1888 to 1951.

August

Mr. Bursill was able to come to the August meeting and set-up the Internet and showed how the Bulletin appeared - several pages - and to that point 102 persons had viewed the Bulletin via the Net. He then showed his slides of the axe grinding grooves used by the aboriginal people for thousands of years and found in the Royal National Park. His commentary was most enlightening and he said he would be most happy to take a group of members to view some of these sites on a date to be arranged. The walk to sites is proposed for September 2000, but details and costs are yet to be finalised.

September

This was an extremely interesting meeting. Mr. Charles Banks and his son, Steve spoke of their experiences in the furniture making-business. They had been involved at Brinsleys. They had a wide knowledge of timbers and the origin - were distressed at the disappearance of red cedar - many of the older houses used red cedar and when demolished, the cedar was often taken to the tip. Many questions asked and answered.

October

Mr. Gordon Geering spoke to us of the Boer War - 100 years ago - a War fought because of greed and self-appraisal. 16,000 Australian were involved - N.S.W. Lancers, with a huge loss of life on both sides. The first concentration camps were erected - mostly women and children - no medical services. We all felt saddened at the utter futility of War.

November

Mr. Mark Mitchell was our speaker in November - he had renovated a very old residence in Matson Crescent, Miranda which had been badly neglected. He showed slides of "before-and-after" - a wonderful improvement - turning a derelict cottage into a most attractive home, using heritage methods and materials. Members were most interested and asked many questions.

December

Our last meeting of the year was held in the School of Arts in Sutherland where we were entertained by a delightful programme of music by "The Choraliers" after which a festive Christmas supper was enjoyed.

We are very fortunate to have Councillor Dawn Emerson as our President; she is a very busy Councillor, on many Committees and we are grateful for her experience and expertise. May I say a sincere thank you to President Dawn and all members of the Executive Committee for their support and co-operation over the past year.

Mina Whybourne
Hon. Sec.

ANNUAL EXCURSION REPORT.

29th May, 1999 -- Joadja -- This was long promised as a tour, but had to be delayed as the village was opened and closed so many times in past years. I understand it is "up for sale" once again now!!! Being such an historic site it is very sad that there is a possibility that this area could be sold and the remnants of the old mining area and the ingenuity of the arrangements made to take the ore out to Mittagong on its way to processing, could be lost forever.

24th July, 1999 -- Rouse Hill House and Mambledon Cottage and the old Parramatta Cemetery: This was a very interesting day and showed us how the historic buildings can be preserved for future generations. The cemetery has been of special interest to this Society for many years because we gave the money to have the grave of Henry Dodd maintained, when there was a special appeal for funds to restore the cemetery -- (he grew the first grain in the country, not for consumption of the settlers, but to obtain seed for the ongoing grain production.)

24-25-26 September, 1999 -- Week-end to Kempsey: Regretfully we only had a small group on tour. A number of our members felt they could not sit for such a long journey in coach conditions and apologized for being unable to accompany us.

The members of the Macleay River Historical Society went out of their way to make us welcome and we certainly were shown everywhere possible, both near town and surrounding areas, including Trial Bay Gaol, Smokey Cape Lighthouse and other areas of interest. President Dawn Emerson was the chief librarian and her husband Cliff, the Headmaster of Gladstone school, when they lived in Kempsey for a number of years.

We were appreciative of the letter sent by Sutherland Mayor, Clr. Ken McDonell, to the Kempsey Mayor with greetings and introducing our members. The Mayor, Clr. Peter Mainey and his wife were our guests at dinner as were members of the Macleay River Historical Society. The Mayor of Kempsey acknowledged our Patron's letter and this was read at the November meeting by Clr. Emerson.

We thank our hosts for all our outings and for the time given to make us welcome in the places we visited throughout the year.

There was no official "day out" arranged for November this year as the usual dates for travel conflicted with the celebrations and commemorations of the naming of the "Village of Gunnamatta" on 25th November, 1899 and the arrival of the electric train into Cronulla on 16th December, 1939. Most of our Executive Committee and Excursion Committee, together with a number of the members were involved at the "Spring Fair" in Cronulla Mall the week-end before and during the week-end of November 27 and 28 and we were unable to select another suitable date for touring.

We trust all our travellers have enjoyed the selected venues and look forward to your support in the coming year. On your behalf I thank the members of the Excursion Committee, namely Messrs. D. Archer, T. McCosker, S. Roberts and Mesdames I. Caddell and B. Perry, with Mrs. B. McGrath as Booking Officer and myself as Excursion Officer. Clr. Emerson as the President of the Society is Ex-Officio to all sub-committees.

Special thanks, as always, are due to the management of Tiger Tours, especially Mr. Ron Wood and his family and staff for their advice and assistance with bookings of coaches always -- and for him always rostering Terry McCosker to our trips.

Thank you to Terry for the support he gives with plans for the outings - his careful driving - and thoughtfulness to members and visitors. Terry has been a member almost since the foundation of the Society and it was our privilege to confer Life Membership on him at the 1999 Annual General Meeting.

And now to the year 2000 -- please support the outings as you have done in the past.

Aileen M Griffiths
OAM

EXCURSION CONVENER



*Homelea
Engadine*

Book Review.

Sutherland Shire. A History to 1939.

*Maryanne Larkin,
Sutherland History Press
(P.O. Box 473, Jannali, NSW), 1998,
ISBN 0 646 36239 9; 198 pages with notes,
illustrations and index;
RRP \$24.95, paperback.*

This is a fine history destined to become a classic study of the Sutherland Shire up to the Second World War. Maryanne Larkin's book is the product of meticulous research, particularly in the records of the Holt-Sutherland Company.

Although the major focus of her book is the nineteenth century and the first four decades of the twentieth century she also sheds light on the eighteenth-century history of the shire. Dr Larkin mounts a convincing argument that the shire is indeed named after the Orkney islander Forby Sutherland who died during the visit of the Endeavour in 1770. (This was disputed by Marjorie Hutton Neave who declared in 1970 that 'neither the naming of the old Parish of Sutherland, the township nor the Shire had anything to do with the memory of Forby Sutherland')

In the course of research on the life of the Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander, I thought there was not much I had not read about the Endeavour at Kurnell. Yet Dr Larkin has uncovered some fascinating snippets of Aboriginal oral history passed down to a woman named Biddy Coolman who lived at Kurnell in the 1840's. On my many visits to the Endeavour's watering place, I have often wondered whether Forby Sutherland's grave was ever excavated. The answer appears to be yes, although it was not an intentional archaeological exercise. Dr Larkin quotes Robert Cooper Walker's report on the Holt-Sutherland Estate (1868):

When the holes were sunk for the posts of this yard some years back, part of the skull of a man was found. It is therefore supposed to be the burying place of Sutherland, one of Captain Cook's men, who died soon after he arrived here, and after whom the Estate is named.

Much of the history of Sutherland is the history of a large-scale residential leasehold estate, created in 1881 from 12,000 acres of the 13,000-acre property of Thomas Holt. I cannot help but think of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company Limited as having a strong smell of English feudalism about it; however it did

enable a large number of people to acquire land to live on and work at an affordable price with the option to convert to freehold. The centralised management also offered considerable cohesion. Dr Larkin suggests, however, that one of its most unfortunate legacies is the scarcity of public access and reserves along the Port Hacking and Georges River foreshores. In 1891 the company even made the perverse boast that 'there is not a foot of [water] frontage reserved on the whole of the Estate'.

It is well known that Sutherland Shire evolved with an unusually high proportion of British immigrants. By 1921, 16.2% of shire residents were born in the British Isles compared to 12.4% for New South Wales as a whole. Of the 7,676 residents counted in that year, fewer than 200 were born in continental Europe, North America or Asia. Nevertheless, Dr Larkin chronicles the contributions of a number of immigrants from other corners of the globe.

I was particularly pleased to read the story of Marie [de Clozet] d'Errey whose son Mick Derrey I had the honour to befriend shortly before his death. As Dr Larkin recounts, the Derreys (as they became known) were 'French-speaking immigrants from Mauritius' who were unable to pay the rent on their small house in the inner Sydney suburb of Strawberry Hills and saw the option of leasehold land in Gymea as an attractive alternative. Marie, a sailor's wife, arrived at Sutherland Station with her father and walked to Dent's Creek (near the present Gymea TAFE College). They found it 'slimy and full of weeds' and decided to press on, then crossed Woronora Road (which would become the Kingsway) and finally reached:

*"a spot where the creek was crystal clear and ten feet wide.
There were waterlilies in the creek and it was surrounded by
Christmas bush and waratahs. " Marie Derrey knew that this
was the place for her".*

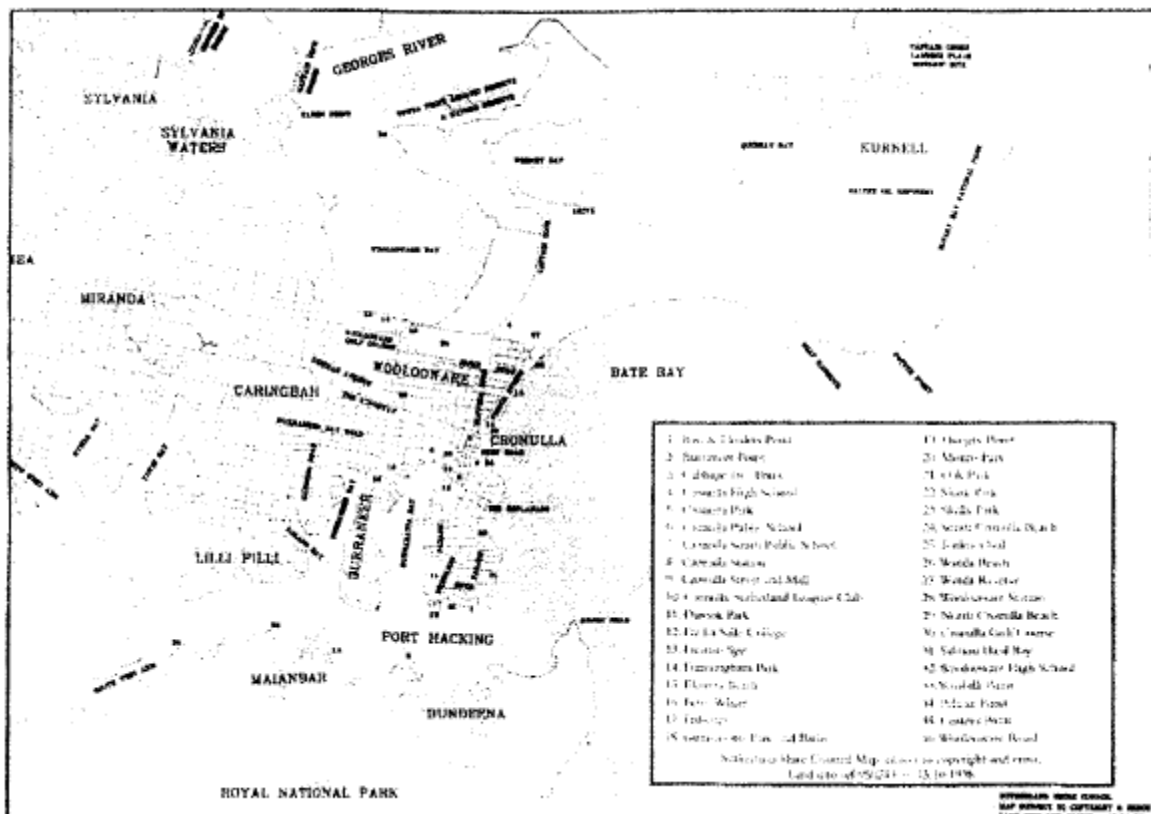
Despite the beautiful site, Dr Larkin later recounts that Marie Derrey 'was so lonely on her first farm in Gymea that she reputedly sang the Marseillaise in the evenings to keep up her spirits'. No doubt living in a dirt-floored shack with bark roof and hessian walls also took a toll on her spirits! Sutherland Shire's history embraces many such stories of determination and personal fortitude in the face of hardship and isolation. Indeed isolation engendered by the Georges River, Botany Bay, the Pacific Ocean and the wilderness of the Royal National Park helped to give the shire its distinct identity and sense of 'separateness' from the rest of Sydney.

It also reduced the price of land for those with few alternatives for permanent domiciles and attracted those who wanted secluded holiday homes and 'weekenders'. Dr Larkin's canvas is a broad one. She covers the Shire's early

industries, the paths of faith, the development of public transport, the construction of road and railway bridges across the Georges River, politics (including the career of the psychopathic Thomas Ley, MLA), tourism and the shire's symbiotic relationship with the rest of Sydney. Maryanne Larkin is a resident of Sutherland Shire and her book is the scholarly yet very readable product of her Ph.D. research. Now Senior Manuscripts Librarian at the Mitchell Library, her professional experience has not only helped her ground this instant local history in a wide range of historical sources, it has enabled her to embellish it with some charming illustrations from the State Library's collection (including Myles Dunphy's beautiful 1912 watercolour of Wattamolla on the cover). The result is a well-produced and very satisfying book.

Edward Duyker

Edward Duyker was born in Melbourne in 1955. He first visited India in 1975-76 and returned twice in 1978-79 to complete what he calls "gruelling fieldwork" for a doctoral dissertation on the Maoist "Naxalite" insurgency. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne, he worked as an intelligence analyst with the Department of Defence in Canberra. In 1983 he accepted a teaching fellowship at Griffith University in Brisbane. He settled in Sydney as a full-time writer in 1984. Dr Duyker's previous books are: *Mauritian Heritage*, *Tribal Guerrillas*, *The Dutch in Australia*, *Beyond the Dunes* and *Of the Star and the Key*. He is married with two sons and is completing a biography of the 18th century French explorer Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne.



SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

CONSTITUTION

(Reviewed February 2000)

It is recommended that the following alterations and additions be made to the Constitution:

ITEM 10. FINANCIAL YEAR: The financial year shall commence on the first day of December in each year and end at the Last day of November in the following year.

ITEM 11: ADDITIONS to the Executive Council:

10. EXCURSIONS OFFICER

11. EXCURSIONS OFFICER

12. MUSEUM CURATOR

13. BULLETIN EDITOR

* 14. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (up to five (5) positions)

(Moved from No 10 old Constitution)

N.B. 9. HONORARY ARCHIVIST - delete "who shall be Chief Librarian of the Shire of Sutherland"

ITEM 12: DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

HONORARY SECRETARY: add

(f) HAVE THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMON SEAL OF THE SOCIETY.

HONORARY TREASURER:

(b) Keep Account Books and deposit ALL monies at a bank acceptable. to the Executive Council.

PUBLIC OFFICER: Delete SHALL HOLD THE COMMON SEAL OF THE COMPANY.
Add:

The Public Officer is required to notify the Department of Fair Trading by the prescribed form in the following circumstances:

- i) appointment (within 14 days)
- ii) a change of residential address (within 14 days}
- iii) a change in the Association's objects or rules (within one month)
- iv) a change in the membership of the Committee (within 14 days)
- v) of the Association's financial affairs (within one month after the Annual General Meeting

The Annual Statement must be lodged with the Department of Fair Trading within one month of the Annual General Meeting. The Public Officer is responsible for this and a \$20 lodgement fee is payable.

EXCURSION OFFICER: shall organise excursions each year as directed by the Executive Council. in consultation with members of the Executive Sub-Committee, cost same. advise Booking Clerk of coach passenger capacity and price to members and visitors.

The Excursion Officer will arrange for training by the Treasurer

and the Booking Clerk for each member of his/her Committee to enable them to take over the Booking Clerk's duties in the event of the Booking Clerk's absence, as temporary Deputy Booking Clerk. In the event of the Booking Clerk not being available. a trained Deputy Booking Clerk will be appointed from the Excursion Committee. If a suitably trained person is not available, then the Treasurer will carry out these duties.

EXCURSION BOOKING CLERK: will take all monies for the excursions organised by Excursion Officer and will issue tickets accordingly. (See the By-Laws as printed in Bulletin.) He/she will forward total amounts to the Treasurer.

From previous page.

SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ITEM 12: MUSEUM CURATOR: To keep a register of all items donated to the Society; to take care of the items in the possession of the Society and ensure they are housed adequately; to arrange inspections of the Museum on a regular basis; to arrange displays as required; to liaise with the Local History Librarian for resource material, photographs, etc and to arrange displays for the Shire Council, e.g. Heritage festival Australia Day, and as requested.

BULLETIN EDITOR: To collect contributions and relevant information in order to compile a quarterly Bulletin and to ensure a professional product, same to be proof-read by an independent person prior to going to press; arrange distribution through Sutherland Shire Council.

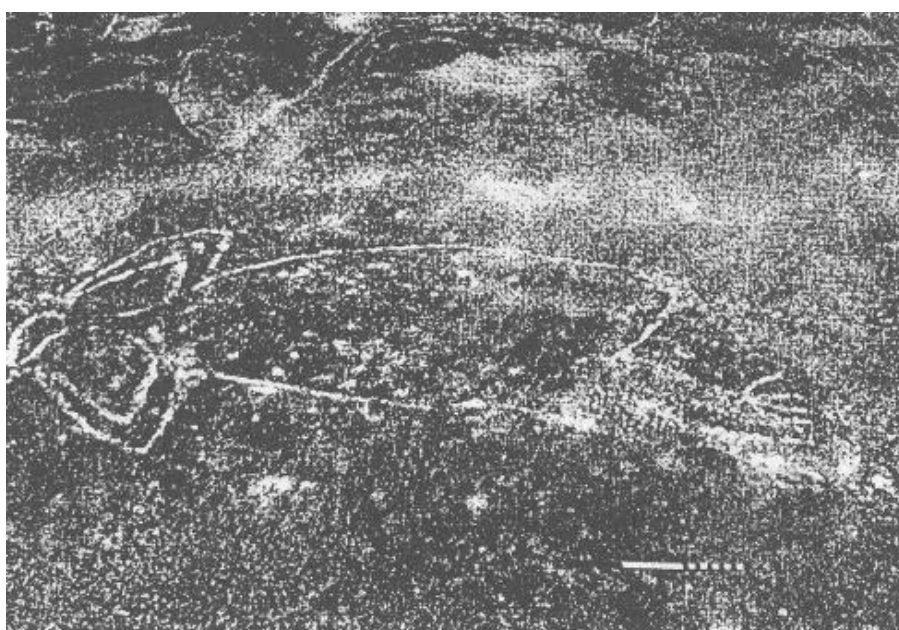
PAGES 5 & 6 EXECUTIVE to be inserted before "COUNCIL" whenever mentioned.

ITEM 15: OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES: Museum Curator to be added.

ITEM 17: PATRON: The Patron shall be the Mayor of the Sutherland Shire Council.

ITEM 21: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - shall be held at such times and place as the Executive Council may determine within six months of the end of the financial year, e.g. no later than May 31 in each year.

ITEM 28: DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY: Delete ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - insert to LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE LIBRARY.



*The "Settler's Wife"
Courtesy of the
Sydney Pre-history
Group's photos of
Campbelltown and
Sutherland
Aboriginal
Engravings.*

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

BY-LAWS

1. FEES:

From 1st December, 2000, the following fees will apply:

Ordinary Members	\$12.00 per annum
Junior Members	\$6.00 “ “
Life Subscriber	\$75.00
Corporate	\$100.00

2. EXCURSION BOOKING RULES:

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 in the general meeting and payment is to be made with booking. Telephone bookings to the Booking Officer are acceptable, but must be payable within seven days.

Excursion - 2-3 day

1. Payment of the specified deposit must be made within one 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.

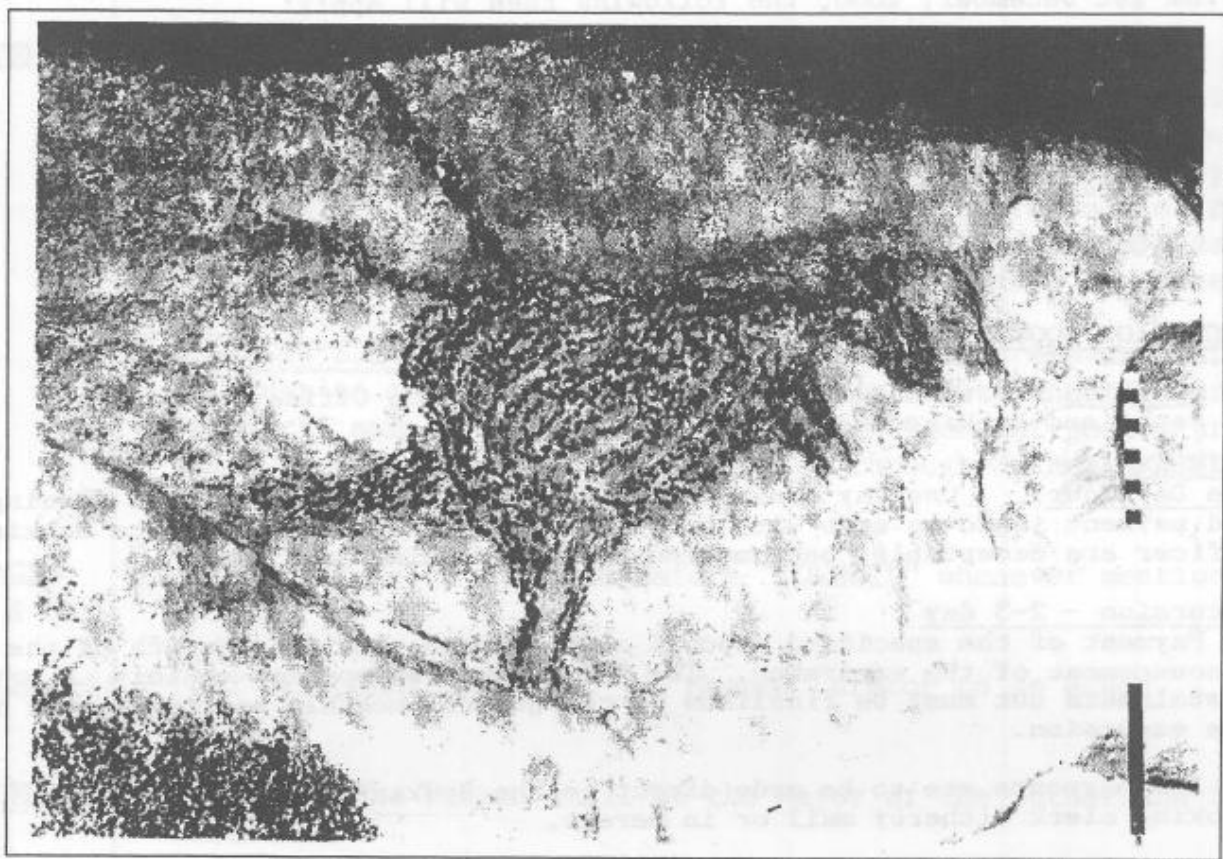
(b) Excursion with Vacancies

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.
- (iii) In the event of the ticket purchaser being unable to reallocate the ticket, he/she 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.

3. MEETINGS: The Society shall meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at 8 p.m. except when a public holiday intervenes, when alternative arrangements will be made.

COMMITTEE meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m.



Charcoal Drawing from Heathcote National Park.

“Speared Kangaroos”

Courtesy of the Sydney Pre-history Group.

These photos are now lodged with the Society at their Museum.