



*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*

Bulletin



VOL. 3 No. 4

www.suthshirehistsoc.com.au

November 2000 \$1.00

History, History.....Everywhere

The wonderful news is that Engadine Lions Club has recently applied to Sutherland Council Heritage Committee for funding support to revise, enhance and publish a new history of Engadine.

In the past a number of people have compiled histories and remembrances of "Old Engadine". These books and pamphlets have been a great adjunct to Engadine but fell well short of the quality and depth of historical information required to capture Engadine's past.

The new historical document will contain the oral histories of some now deceased residents of the suburb and will also have more recent additions from old time residents.

There will be reflections by residents who have lived in this suburb for almost 60 years. One old timer will share his

stories of attending at Engadine Public School in the early days and the first residents who lived in "wattle and daub" shacks around the area referred to as the "old Woronora Weir".

In this new history there will be photographs of the main street, parades and other happenings in the suburb. Other photos show significant changes in the shopping centre and railway.

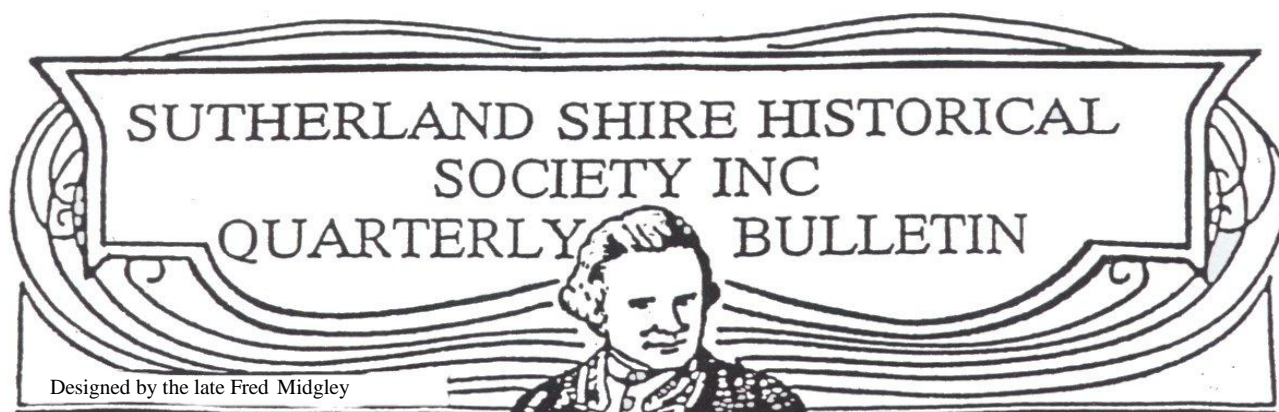
Your editor has been asked to write a section on the "First Inhabitants" and that is to be included in the book. That story appears in this Bulletin for all to see and comment upon.

Our president, Dawn Emerson is also writing a history of Menai and perhaps that document could at some time be an addition to the now growing number of books on Miranda, Cronulla, Caringbah, Heathcote, Waterfall and now Engadine.

Les Bursill

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ISSN 1444 - 2930



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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; University of Sydney and UNSW; 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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President's Remarks

One of the pleasures associated with being President of the Society is being present when any of our historian members are honoured. This month I was fortunate in attending two such occasions. At Hazelhurst on October 11, 2000 a commemorative sporting heritage sign was unveiled in conjunction with an exciting photographic history of Australian surfing as recorded by Jack Eden in the 1950's and 1960's.

This large stainless steel historical marker records the development of the sport of surfing and the surfboard itself and is to be placed at the end of the Kingsway on the Esplanade at Cronulla. Two of our members, Pauline Curby, the author and our Archivist, Ms. Helen McDonald were responsible for the research for the sign in conjunction with other members of the Signs Working Party- Richard Aberline, Andrew Goldie, (staff at Sutherland Shire Council) and Margo Lagos (Kurnell and Sutherland Shire Tourism) and myself. Two other historical signs for Cronulla produced by the Working Party had been erected previously. The sign was an initiative of the Sutherland Shire Heritage Festival Committee, which I chair, in conjunction with the National Trust's theme- "Our Sporting Heritage". Unfortunately I had to leave to attend another engagement just before the sign was unveiled, and I believe not all our members were recognised by name formally, so I am "setting the record straight". This historical surfing sign, the forerunner of many more heritage signs, attracted very favourable comment from all those present and our members, Helen and Pauline should feel proud of their achievement and we look forward to seeing more of these signs in the Shire.

Another of our members, Dr. Edward Duyker, was accorded an outstanding honour, the Palmes Academiques on October, 3 by the French Consul General Jean-Claude

Poimboeuf, for his extensive research and work as an historian on the French exploration of Australia. This award instituted by Napoleon in 1808 is the highest French academic honour which can be bestowed, and is equivalent to a knighthood. Dr. Duyker, the Honorary Consul of Mauritius was also honoured for his work on the history of Mauritians in Australia who took part in many of the early French expeditions.

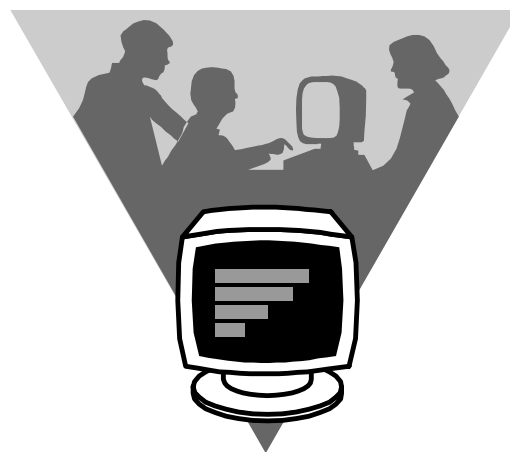
Ed, who has been a member of our Society for some years, is currently engaged in writing a biography about Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardiere and executing the first English translation of d'Entrecasteaux's journal written during the expedition to Australia in 1791. My husband and I were delighted to have been invited to such an important ceremony, and it was with great satisfaction we saw a personal friend and eminent colleague so well deservedly decorated. This silver medal is most attractive, and we hope Ed may come along in the future to speak to us about his biography on Jacques Julien Houtou de Labillardiere and display the medal for our members to view.

The end of the year is almost upon us, and I wish all our members the merriest Christmas ever, and I look forward celebrating our Centenary of Federation in 2001, commencing with an exciting Australia Day at Cronulla plus Opera on the Beach, Symphony on the Beach with a special work commissioned for the Centenary of Federation, and a Film on the Beach to round off a wonderful Australia Day weekend! Merry Christmas!



**Deputy Mayor,
Clr. Dawn Emerson
President**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Hello again. Each quarter seems to flash up into existence and I no sooner finish a Bulletin than I seem to be preparing another.

Each Bulletin brings its own challenges and themes. You may notice that this Bulletin is more homogenous in style and page layout.

I have made a commitment to the President that I will endeavor to slowly bring each section of the Bulletin up to the same style, typeface and layout.

I thought it would be only proper then to change the look of the "Editors page" to develop the theme and style of this new look. Therefore I have replaced the typewriter with a computer and use an image that shows that the editor is not alone in what he/she does (hence the two others helping).

I have also changed the layout of the Presidents Remarks to reflect a stronger move to columns rather than wide set typed pages.

As usual I have prevailed upon a number of Shire residents to contribute and Dr. Ed Duyker has responded with a range of items. Some of those items are book reviews and I have

attempted to design a new look for a book review section.

Others who contributed material have also been included with a second piece from John Risebrow on an uncle he never knew and who died at Gallipoli. John is also becoming a reliable and regular contributor.

However it is important that material submitted for publication can be read by the computer. Handwritten or poorly typed text cannot be understood.

The most acceptable form of copy is electronic or digital (on a disk or by email). Retyping text supplied is very time consuming and tends to contribute to errors in text either by my mistyping or misreading the copy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "L. W. Bursill".

Les Bursill
Editor November 2000

Meetings arranged:

22nd December: Xmas Party: Mr. Cameron Semmens- Recitations; also The District Singers at The Sutherland School of Arts (note change of venue!)

19th January, 2001: Dawn Emerson: South Africa & Doug Archer: Collector's Items

16th February 2001: Mr Shayne Williams. Two Cultures, Two Centuries.

Undecided 2001: Mr. George Roberts: The Redex Trials- the people, the cars-now the dust has settled!

Excursion Report

24th February 2001 Outing: As decided and confirmed by the executive committee of the Society we are to travel towards the Olympic Lakes provided for the water activities at the Olympic Games at Penrith

Terry has suggested that the bus travel to different venues to those that we have previously visited as a Society, between Liverpool and Penrith and intervening places, making it a "Mystery Tour" and to include the Fire Museum at Penrith where many trophies won by Sutherland Shire engines at the annual Bushfire competitions during the 30's are on display, also the 1929 Menai Bush Fire Brigade Engine (Contact Sutherland Library, local history section for further details).

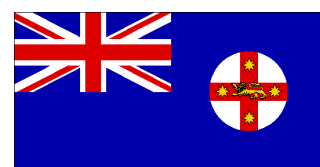
We have booked a Smorgasboard Luncheon too.

The outing will leave Cronulla at 8.00am, Sutherland at 8.30am on Saturday February 24th 2001. Cost \$29.00 which includes coach travel smorgasbord luncheon and donation to the Fire Museum.

Bookings: to Betty McGrath, 9521-2227 or Aileen on 9523-5801

Aileen M Griffiths
OAM
EXCURSION CONVENOR

Aileen Griffiths
"Richmount"
34 Richmount Street,
Cronulla. 2230.



Sutherland Shire Council
Presents

SUTHERLAND SHIRE LITERARY AWARDS

Proudly sponsored by
LIONESS CLUB OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE
ROTARY CLUB OF SUTHERLAND
SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please apply to Sutherland Council for entries to the CENTENARY OF FEDERATION LITERARY COMPETITION. The entries may be in any of 5 sections 1. POETRY 2. SHORT STORY 3. JUNIOR 4. STUDENT or 5. ADULT.

Prizes of Cash, Trophy and Certificate may be won in each category.

ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 1st 2000
INQUIRIES: (02) 8536 5777
Email: culture@ssc.nsw.gov.au



New South Wales
Centenary of Federation



Telephone - 9523 5801 (I will return call if message on answering machine) Mobile -- 0408 -580104.

Errors and omissions in this report are the responsibility of the Editor.

Membership Renewal 2001

The Society's financial year commences 1st of December and concludes on the 30th November of the following year.

In accordance with the above, membership renewals are due on the 1st of December each year. Renewal forms on this page (below) should be completed and handed to the Honorary Treasurer at the monthly general meeting or posted to the Society using the address shown on the renewal form. The renewal application should also contain the appropriate subscription fee.

To assist with accurate record keeping each member is required to complete an individual renewal form. It should be noted that a failure to pay the membership fee within the three months from the end of the Financial Year will result in a lapse of membership.

RECEIPTS Receipts may be collected from the Treasurer at monthly meetings. If you wish to have your receipt posted to you a stamped self addressed envelope must be included with your renewal form and payment.

Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Application for Renewal of Membership 2001

TITLE: Mr.Mrs.Ms.

Family Name.....

Given Names.....

Postal Address.....

.....Postcode.....Tel. No.....

Please find my Subscription for 2001 enclosed herewith
Annual Adult Subscription - \$20.00 + \$2.00 GST = \$22.00
Junior member / Fulltime Student - \$10.00 + \$1.00 GST = \$11.00

SignedDate.....

Post to -Treasurer, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, PO Box 389 Sutherland NSW 1499

Sutherland Shire Historical Society

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SignedDate.....

Post to -Treasurer, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, PO Box 389 Sutherland NSW 1499

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ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

At this time, when we are hearing the Australian National Anthem played so often, I reflect on the story told to me by my father, Thomas William Atkinson, eldest son of Cronulla pioneer John Atkinson.

To explain -

If you were in the Infants School during the 1920's you will recall the monthly school magazine, and on the back page was a song with words and music.

In an issue of my fourth class magazine during 1928 "*Advance Australia Fair*" was chosen showing words and music by Peter Dodds McCormack.

On seeing this my father told me that the writer (or is it author?) was a visitor to John Atkinson's home both in Balmain and later after he settled in Cronulla being known to the family as "Paddy".

On 9th September 1995, when the plaque was placed in Gunnamatta Park to "mark its proclamation on 9th September 1895", Mayor, Clr. Genevieve Rankin thought it appropriate to start the occasion with "Advance Australia Fair"

The rendition was sung to a taped background generously provided by Sutherland Shire Silver Band. The first two verses were sung by Mrs. Janelle Scott, great grand-daughter of John Atkinson in the presence of Clr. Ian Swords the previous Mayor. They were joined by one hundred and ninety eight descendants of John to celebrate the

centenary his land acquisition on 11th September 1895.

Tribute was paid to Messrs Atkinson, Windsor and Wilshire for their foresight in being able to persuade the authorities not to sell the western side of Nicholson Parade when the Government of the day released land on the Cronulla Peninsula for sale in the first week of September in 1895.

The first rendition of the Anthem had been in 1878.

I'm certain that anyone who may have been doubtful of the suitability of "Advance Australia Fair" after the rendition in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 27th Games, together with the winners of Olympic Gold Medals must surely enjoy it now, as I always do –

And here again, it is associated with the Sutherland Shire through Peter Dodds McCormack and his connections with the Atkinson family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aileen M Griffiths". To the right of the signature, the initials "OAM" are written in a smaller, simpler font.

Aileen Griffiths O.A.M.

The "Old Illawarra Road" c.1924

Some excerpts from Frank Cridland's book

"Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire" (circa 1924)

Dot Johnson has been kind enough to supply to the Editor some pages from the above book. I will, from time to time, attempt to publish excerpts from those pages as poignant reminders of our so recent past.

THE OLD ILLAWARRA ROAD

All motorists and most Sydney people know the Main Illawarra Road that runs from Sydney via Tom Ugly's punt, Sutherland, Heathcote and Waterfall. Just recently it has been given the more grandiloquent title of "The Prince's Highway."

When the road is completed to Melbourne, no doubt this latter designation will come into popular favour; but it is likely to be many years before the old name drops out of common usage, at any rate so far as that portion is concerned which links Wollongong and Sydney.

The first road to the Illawarra district ran by way of Campbelltown and Appin, but probably not many present-day Sydney-Illawarra travellers know that nearly eighty years ago Surveyor general Sir Thomas Mitchell surveyed and superintended the construction of a "new" Illawarra Road by way of Lugarno, ferry, Menai, Woronora Ford and Heathcote.

From Heathcote on to Bulli Pass the present Prince's Highway is simply Mitchell's "new" road of 1843-5; but for various reasons Mitchell's Illawarra road from Heathcote to Menai was never used to any great extent, and since the establishment of the Tom Ugly's punt in 1880 it has fallen altogether into disuse as a route of approach to the South Coast.'

It joins the present main road about half a mile on the Sydney side of Heathcote railway station, and at the intersection a finger board bears the inscription "Old Illawarra Road, Woronora River, 2 Miles." Not one out of a thousand passing tourists explores this old trail; not one in a hundred residents of the Shire has ever run the

discarded track down to the rocky ford that Mitchell named the "Pass of Sabugal."

Not only is the short journey worth while for the old associations connected with it, but the scenery at the end atones for a much longer and less interesting trip.

The first half-mile of the road towards the ford already is assuming the appearance of a village street, as it is the frontage of a number of scattered houses in the newly christened village of Engadine, which until recently was part of the township of Heathcote.

For the next half mile or more the track remains very much in its original state, but is quite negotiable for almost any class of vehicle. After this, for nearly a mile, the road dips down steeply to the river.

Some thirty-five years ago the unemployed of the day were engaged in reconstructing this latter portion on quite an ambitious scale. The old track, which here wound round the face of a steep hill, was widened to a broad carriage-way forty feet across by blasting the stone out of the hill on the upper side, packing the centre, and building a retaining embankment to the lower edge. This embankment in places rises to a height of over forty feet.

It is passing strange that this reconditioned and most solidly constructed section is now the least traffickable; but, as against that, it is the most picturesque portion along the whole length of the road. No sooner was it built than nature started to reclaim it.

The she-oak trees began to take possession of the roadway, closing in from the sides, but leaving a shady avenue down the centre. Often it is littered with a carpet of leaves that curl themselves up like needles and send the unwary skating down the incline.

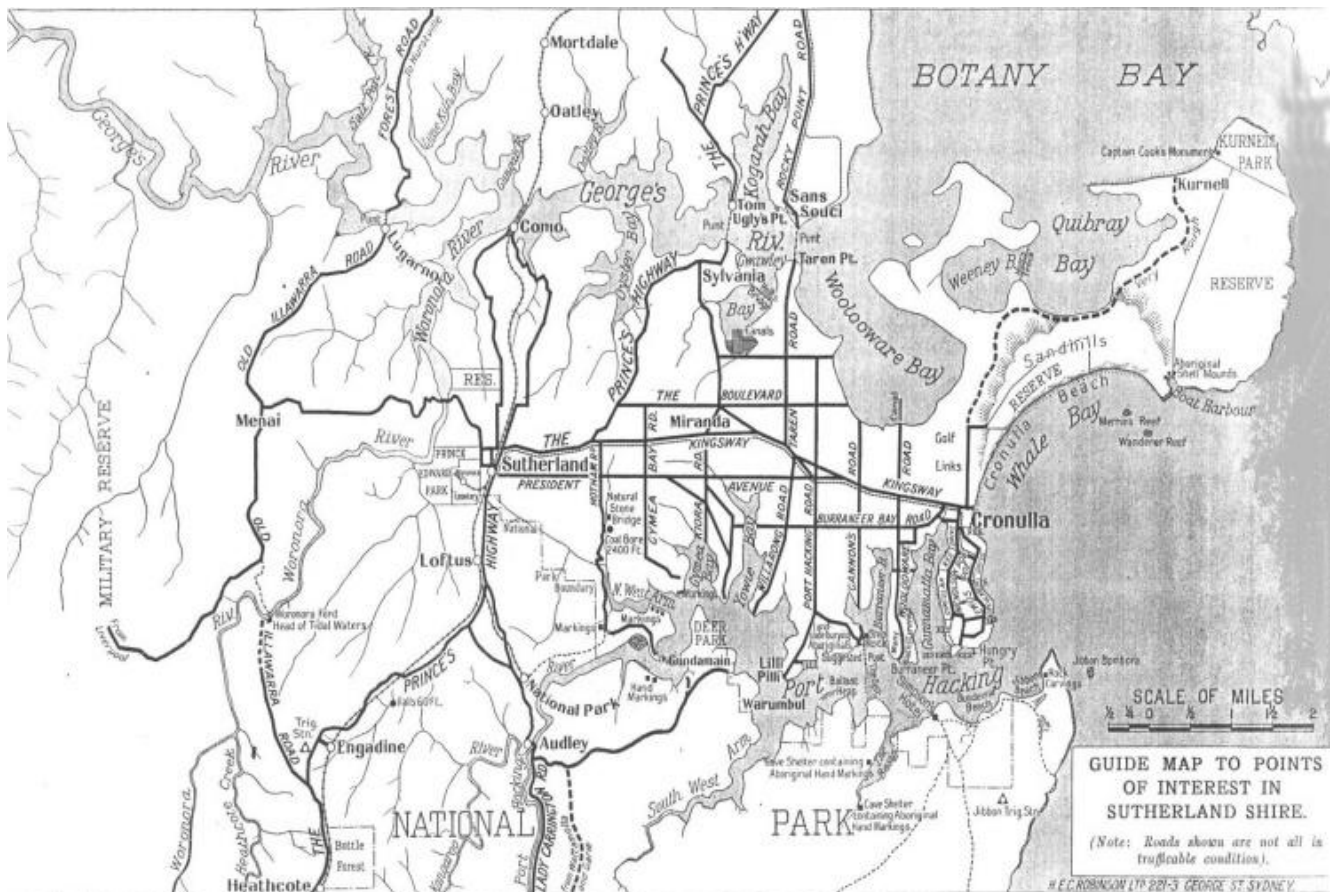
The surrounding bush is mostly eucalypt, and very few oaks can be seen. Apparently this variety of sheoak will germinate and thrive in upturned subsoil that other native trees disdain. The result of the oaks taking possession before the gums has created a happy effect that an avenue designer well might envy. Some of the trees have already grown to a height of nearly fifty feet.

The reconditioned road stops short a hundred yards from the river, but commences again some distance back in the hills on the other side of the ford. Here it was planned and started on the same liberal scale as on the Heathcote side of the river; but it ends abruptly at the face of a mountain in an

unfinished state 100 feet below the old survey, as if all hands had been paid off at a moment's notice.

Originally there was a stone weir across the river, but storms have long since washed away almost every trace of it. A few rusty bolts projecting from the stony bed of the stream are the only visible remaining evidences of its existence. On the western side of the river it is difficult to pick up the approaches of the old road, owing to the reclamations of Nature; but, once found, it can easily be followed to the tablelands above.

To be continued



This map shows the disposition of roads and tracks in and around Sutherland Shire Circa 1924. It also shows some Aboriginal sites from that era. Many of these sites no longer exist, however some of you may remember a recent trip to view the remaining engravings on the rocks. Ed.

MY UNCLE FREDDIE,

whom I never met!

By John Risebrow

Some regiments of the British Army are 'Yeomanry'. Historically these were formed by a requirement from the Crown that the yeoman farmers, (a sort of middle class between "Gentlemen" and peasants), make available in time of national or regional need, from their establishments, one out of every ten of their horses with a rider and armament ready for active service. In much the same way as the CINQUE PORTS were required to donate a tithe of their ships and men for naval service.

They were the original C.M.F. and Naval Reserve. The system was embraced enthusiastically by many of the 'yeomen' who volunteered more than the required tenth, whether through patriotism, self-aggrandizement or the likelihood that their standing would be enhanced by finding favour with their Monarch, is conjectural.

The nature of 'Yeomanry' differed from other regiments in that the same 'gentry' who were the masters in civilian life became the 'officers' over the 'other ranks' who were previously their servants, their roles simply being transferred from the estate to the battlefield.

Such a regiment was the Norfolk Yeomanry, of which one of my paternal uncles became part in 1915. He was killed at the Hill 60 sector of Gallipoli, just two weeks before that remarkable piece of military strategy, the withdrawal, on the night of 19th & 20th December 1915.

The following, is the letter written in pencil on an army message pad, from Major Quentin Gurney, his Commanding Officer, to my grandmother;

Dear Mrs Risebrow

6th December 1915

I am most sorry to say that I have very bad news to break to you. I have just come back from the funeral which was at 5pm in the Brigade Cemetery in a valley about 300 yards from here. One grain of comfort I can give you -your son Fred did not suffer. He was hit near the heart by a shrapnel bullet and though he lived some hours he did not really regain consciousness.

There was a doctor in attendance within three minutes of his being struck and he was at once attended to and then carried to a field hospital about 114 miles away when 3 doctors saw him - but

he was beyond human aid. The shell burst in the Signal Office and besides hitting Fred, killed instantaneously one of my signallers named Burton whose mother may possibly write to you. It also wounded two other men (not my signallers).

This happened about 11 o'clock on Sunday morning Dec 5 and Fred died at 6pm the same day (yesterday). We buried him this evening -The Rev F.A.S. Ffolkes - the chaplain of the Norfolk Yeomanry and rector of Hillington (near Sandringham) conducted the service.

I can't say how I regret it but one does feel more than ever out here that GOD gave and that it is GOD that has taken away.

I am sure it will be a great comfort to you that Fred had been so recently confirmed. The confirmation having been held at 6 o'clock on a Sunday evening within 100 yards of where he was standing when he was hit.

Fred was always so willing - of course he was not trained as a signaller but he must have walked miles and miles carrying dispatches which were of such a nature that they could not be sent over the telephone.

This is a most important job and none too easy - if - as is so very often the case - it has to be done in the dark.

6 Dec 1915

During the 48 hours preceding his death he had been looking after me as Sarge is a little seedy. We had moved to new dug outs in that time - some little way from where we have been and Fred carried round all my heavy belongings in a most wonderful way.

He had become as strong as a horse. - I was out when the shell came so do not quite know what happened but he was evidently cleaning the mud off

my boots as one was clean and one half cleaned with the brush etc lying beside it.

He must have been called to the signal office to go with a dispatch and was picked up just outside the signal office.

I enclose 30/- which was on him - also some photos - and a coin.

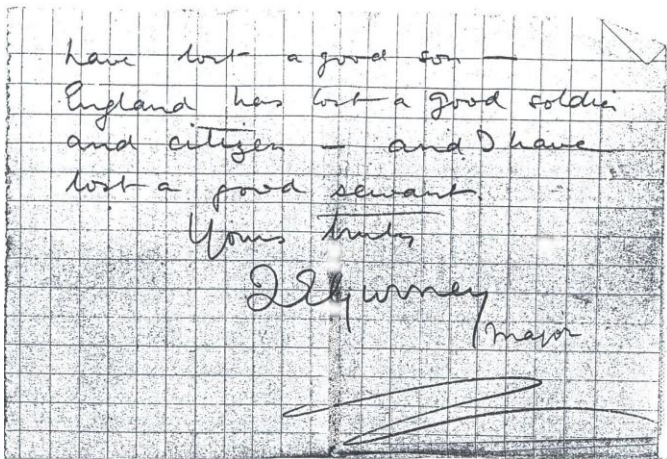
You will in a month's time or so be officially informed of his death and at the same time should receive his watch and chain and a note book.

I owe him 30/- for wages which Mrs Q Gurney will pay you.

I am too too sorry as you have lost a good son - England has lost a good soldier and citizen - and I have lost a good servant.

*Yours Truly
Q. E. Gurney.
Major.*

Below is a page of the original letter



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

FREDERICK RISEBROW

Private
1617

Norfolk Yeomanry
who died on

Sunday, 5th December 1915. Age 20.

Additional Information: Son of Edward John and Sarah Risebrow, of Church St., Northrepps, Norwich.

Commemorative Information

Memorial:

HELLES MEMORIAL,
Turkey

Grave Reference/

Panel Number: Panel 20

Location:

The Helles Memorial stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 m. high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles.

Historical Information: The Helles Memorial bears over 20,000 names and is both the memorial to the Gallipoli campaign and to men who fell in that campaign and whose graves are unknown or who were lost or buried at sea in Gallipoli waters (other than Australian, New Zealanders and Newfoundlanders who are named on other memorials). Inscribed on it are the names of all the ships that took part in the campaign and the titles of the army formations and units which served on the Peninsula.

Alterations and omissions from this article are the responsibility of the Editor. Ed.

IN MEMORIAM

ALWYN HAMILTON

We were saddened to learn that after a long arthritic illness the Honorary Life Member and former Hon. Treasurer of this Society, Alwyn Hamilton passed away at Wollongong Nursing Home, Fig Tree on Friday, September 8, 2000.

A Private Service was held at Woronora Crematorium on Tuesday September 12, 2000. Because of their friendship with Alwyn, Neville Martiensen and Allan Boissery were invited by the family to join them at the Crematorium and represented the Society.

Alwyn was the son of Myrtle and Jack Hamilton, V.C. He was a font of knowledge regarding Victoria Cross history, recipients, etc. and often sought for information or photographs. Many times Alwyn loaned memorabilia for display by organisations.

Alwyn donated his father's medals to the Australian War Memorial on the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine, which was 9 August 1985. By coincidence Alwyn, was advised that the Minister for Veteran Affairs had expressed a wish to accept the medals at the official "handover" -- that was Senator Arthur Geitzelt, former Councillor and President of Sutherland Shire Council!!! And also the founder of Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

At the end of 1987 Mrs. Eileen Sheppard the then incumbent Treasurer advised she was moving from Sutherland Shire and would be resigning. After only three months membership Alwyn was recommended and selected as Hon. Treasurer.

His background in financial matters was well known to President Harold Ivers and members, of the Committee as he had only recently retired from the position of Senior Inspector of M.B.F. after thirty--one years service.

He was meticulous in keeping the Society's books, preparing reports as required for monthly meetings and especially having books ready for audit, with typed statement, no later than two weeks after the end of the financial year of the Society.

For his service he was elected an Honorary Life Member at the 1994 Annual General Meeting. Alwyn was reelected Hon. Treasurer each year until he indicated he would be moving to his holiday home at Surfers Paradise and tendered his resignation, towards the end of 1994.

He was grateful to Andrew Platfoot for offering to stand in until the Annual General Meeting and the change-over was very smooth to our current Treasurer, Maurie Beaven..

Alwyn was a dedicated volunteer for Sutherland Hospital, delivering Meals on Wheels two days each week, and also on casual roster when needed on other days -- sometimes it was -five days in a week! He was a member of Cronulla Auxiliary and for five years conducted the White Elephant Stall at the Annual Fete; when Cronulla closed, he assisted Bundeena Auxiliary in the same way for a further two years.

Another interest was his membership of North Cronulla Surf Club having learned radio control when he became a pilot (in peace time). Alwyn's service was of much assistance in carrying out his patrol duties and he was able to achieve 100% attendance for five consecutive years before arthritis prevented him from "climbing the Tower" and managing the heavy shutters for opening and closing times when very few people are still on the beach. His radio knowledge and his attention to watching

beach conditions and the public in the water was invaluable to the Club and Surf Life Saving Association

During World War Two Alwyn served six years in New Guinea, after training in various states of Australia. When peace was declared Alwyn remained in the Air Force for some time before returning to civilian life.

Alwyn didn't make friends lightly; but Frank Simpson with whom he attended Tempe Primary School from about six years of age joined the family at the funeral; he had worked for some years before joining the services with Roy Lavers, former Hon Auditor of the Society, and who pre-deceased him a few months ago; and Mick Foster with whom he shared a tent whilst in New Guinea (who was interstate and unable to attend) are examples of keeping ones friends for many years through thick and thin.

Miranda R.S.L. paid a special tribute to Alwyn for his service to that Club - he was a director in its early days of establishment and it was very special for the family that three past Presidents and the current president, together with Mr. Ed Knight the Welfare Officer attended and conducted a special R.S.L. Service.

To his family, son John, daughter-in-law, Cheryl and their children Matthew and Joanne, and daughter Kay, son-in-law Glen and their children Eleanor, Angelee and Jessica the thanks for his service and deepest sympathy is extended by the members of Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Farewell, my friend!

V A L E A L W Y N H A M I L T O N

Aileen Griffiths
"Richmount"
34 Richmount Street,
Cronulla. 2230.

Aileen M Griffiths
OAM

Some editorial changes have been made to this article due to editorial requirements. Ed.
--

An Aboriginal Rock Shelter in Sylvania

by

Sam Duyker

Caringbah High School

I live in Sylvania near the Georges River. There is an Aboriginal rock shelter on our property with a midden on its floor. 'Midden' is an old English word for rubbish dump. Middens are places where food remains (such as shells and animal bones), ashes and charcoal from cooking fires, and worn out or broken implements were dumped or buried. It is half-way up a sandstone cliff face and there are thousands of shells in it, which the Aborigines would have used for food. Most of the shells are rock oysters (*Crassostrea commercialis*) and the rest are mainly Sydney cockles (*Andara trapezia*) and pink frilled murex (*Torvamurex denudatus*).

My family and I wanted to know how old these shells were, so we brought a pink frilled murex and some charcoal from the surface to Dr Claudio Tuniz at the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organization (ANSTO) at Lucas Heights to do a Carbon-14 dating. Normally it costs about \$1000, but I didn't have that much so Dr Tuniz said he would do it for free and put the story in the ANSTO newsletter. It was good publicity for them. Because the site was churned up by the Water Board in the 1960s, when the sewage was put through, we don't know if the shell originally came from the bottom, the middle or the surface of the midden.

According to Ronald Jessup, this is how Carbon-14 analysis enables dating of objects:

All plants, as they absorb carbon-dioxide from the air, take in with it minute amounts of a radioactive form of carbon known to scientists as Carbon 14. Since all animals depend directly or indirectly on plants for their food, it follows that every living thing contains Carbon 14. But when something dies, it doesn't take in any more Carbon. Instead, its radioactive carbon begins to decay. In dead organisms the Carbon 14 decreases at a fixed rate which does not vary under any known physical conditions . . . By comparing the

amount left in any dead organic matter with the amount in living matter, scientists can estimate when the organism died.

Dr Tuniz estimated that the shell was alive between the years 237 AD and 473 AD, so the midden in the rock shelter has been there for at least between 1520 and 1750 years, a long time before Europeans came here.

On the site there are also ashes and charcoal raked out of cooking fires. A basalt hand axe, human teeth and parts of two skeletons were found on the site by my parents in 1982. The teeth were 2 molars and one premolar which probably belonged to a teenager judging by how unworn they are.

The bones were reburied by Bronwyn Conyers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service after being examined by the police and archaeologists. They weren't carbon dated because Aboriginal people don't like their ancestors remains to be disturbed.

The hand axe is made from stone (basalt) not from this area, so it must have been made by another group of Aborigines from another area and then traded. (*It was a common practice for the local community to trade axe blanks from further down the coast, usually from around Bateman's Bay*) Ed.

The cave faces north. Because of the overhang, it stays cool in summer. Yet it is warm in winter with the lower solar angles. There are many places where water drips from the roof of the shelter, even when there hasn't been rain for weeks. Under one such drip there is a sandstone 'bowl' where the Aborigines probably collected water at a rate of 1.5 litres an hour.

There are rock shelves which they would have used to store things. They are smeared with clay to make them smooth. You can still see the finger marks.

On the wall are several child's and adult's hand stencils made by blowing red ochre over their hands - which leaves an outline. Like the basalt axe, the ochre would have been brought in from elsewhere.

The shelter is surrounded by native bushland (including food trees such as *Ficus ruginosa*). Ferns, lichens and algae grow inside. The shells of the midden may have reacted with the acidic soil and raised the pH levels. This may be helping unwanted exotic plants such as privet and *Lantana* to take hold.

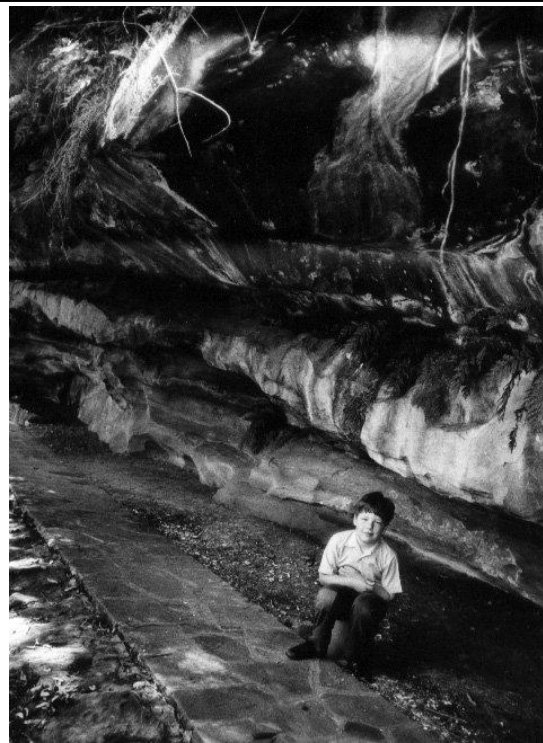
This site is important to the community because it shows us something of the lifestyle of the local Aborigines and how long they have lived in this area. The shelter was probably used by the Thurrawal tribe (also known as Dharawal or Tharawal Ed.). It is important to the Aboriginal community, represented by the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, because many such sites have been destroyed since European settlement.

This site is scientifically significant because of the information it can reveal about how the Aborigines fed themselves and changed their shelter to their liking. It tells us that Aborigines in this area used fire to cook their food and gives a clear indication that they ate shellfish and which species they ate. It tells us that they used ochre to paint with and that they probably traded with other tribes.

We can care for this site by making sure that it is not damaged or destroyed. For instance, property development above might cause more water to flow over the cliff or raise levels of chemicals in the water which could affect the hand stencils. Excavation could also affect the water source in the rock shelter and change its character for ever.

We also need to record information in case the site deteriorates, by taking photos, measuring, making plans and drawing sketches. Some of this was done by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and we have done some photography since. Weeds need to be kept away and we can aim to get it to look more like it did when the Aborigines lived there.

There is still a great deal we can learn about the heritage of the Aborigines of this area.



A young sam Duyker playing in the Rock Shelter in question.

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This is a slightly revised version of an essay Sam Duyker wrote in his first year at Caringbah High School. Since then, Sam has renewed his association with ANSTO as a work experience student in the Environment Division. There he undertook further chemical (including tritium) analysis of the water in the rock shelter. At present the aquifer remains relatively free of contamination. Its age, however, has been more difficult to determine. It could take between 2 to 10 years to percolate through the sandstone, or be a mixture of recent infiltration with older groundwater.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Dr. Ed. Duyker

Marc Serge Rivière (translator and editor), *The Governor's Noble Guest: Hyacinthe de Bougainville's Account of Port Jackson, 1825*, The Miegunyah Press (an imprint of Melbourne University Press), Melbourne, 1999, pp 291, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, ISBN 0 522 84852 4.

Hyacinthe de Bougainville (1781-1846) always had a hard act to follow. His father was Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), the commander of the first French circumnavigation of the globe. Bougainville *fils* entered the navy in 1799 and the following year joined Nicolas Baudin's expedition as a midshipman on the *Géographe*. What might have been a springboard to glory, proved otherwise. As a result of a repeated clashes with his commander, Hyacinthe sought voluntary repatriation from Port Jackson on the *Naturaliste* in 1803. Baudin's uncomplimentary report on his young subordinate might have destroyed his prospects in the navy, had his famous father not intervened on his behalf. After the collapse of the Peace of Amiens, Hyacinthe rose steadily through the ranks. He commanded a succession of corvettes and frigates - when not serving as a senior officer on larger men-of-war or languishing as a prisoner of the British (1814). In 1811 he was made a baron of the Empire, but was also decorated under the Bourbon Restoration. In 1824 he was given command of an expedition which visited Bourbon (La Réunion), Pondicherry, Manila, Macau, Surabaya, Port Jackson (Sydney) and Valparaiso in two vessels: the *Thétis* and the *Espérance*. Although Bougainville was expected to conduct hydrographic research during the voyage, his mission was not one of exploration, rather it was one of political, strategic and mercantile reportage. A decade after Waterloo, a more confident, commercially expansionist, France wished to show the flag, seek-out trading opportunities and gather intelligence in case of any future war.

This book marries Bougainville's private diaries kept during his return visit to New South Wales in 1825, with extracts on Port Jackson from the published *Journal de la*

navigation autour du globe (1837). The former are part of the Bougainville family archives now held in the Archives Nationales in Paris. Among the appendices, Professor Rivière has included a detailed list of Bougainville's papers on Australia, his Port Jackson journal of 1802 and his confidential report on the colony's defences.

Although Professor Rivière's translation is praiseworthy, his explanatory annotations are at times frustrating. Historical translation often requires a grounding in numerous fields. It is sometimes difficult for historians and translators to secure the range of expertise required for a particular project. Nevertheless, there is no substitute for meticulous checking.

Popular reference works such as Frances Bodkin's *Encyclopaedia Botanica* (1986), cited by Professor Rivière, should be used with caution. Tasmania's majestic Huon pine (famed as a timber for shipbuilding) has not been included in the genus *Dacrydium* (p. 52) for nearly twenty years; rather it is a member of the restricted genus *Lagarostrobos*. The grass tree used by Australian Aborigines to make spear shafts (p. 98) and as a source of resin to 'fix the points of spears' (p. 195) was the *Xanthorrhoea*.

It can even be seen in Joseph Lycett's illustration on the dust-jacket of this book. Professor Rivière's square-bracketed textual inclusion, *Dracophyllum milliganii*, a member of the Epacridaceae family found only in Tasmania, is a serious ethnographic and botanical mistake. There are others. The 'white-coloured myrtle' in the botanic gardens (page 65) is unlikely to have been *Melaleuca acuminata*, since this species was first collected many years later. Indeed the botanist who described it, Ferdinand von Mueller, was born in the same year Bougainville visited Port Jackson.

While Professor Rivière makes admirable use of familiar Australian biographical sources, his textual notes lack symmetry with regard to French sources. I was very surprised to see no explanation, for the general reader, of significant French scientific figures such as André Thouin (after whom a bay is named in Tasmania) and Geoffroy de Saint-Hilaire. They could have been easily had from the *Dictionnaire de biographie française*. Furthermore, biographical details of Bougainville's officers would have been readily accessible among the dossiers of the Service Historique de la Marine.

Despite its editorial omissions and errors, *The Governor's Noble Guest* is yet another beautifully produced Miegunyah book complemented by a fine selection of illustrations. Like Professor Rivière's

earlier translations, it will undoubtedly prove a valuable historical resource, making accessible much candid material on familiar names in early Australian history, such as Governor Brisbane, Nicholas Rossi, John Macarthur, Samuel Marsden, John Piper, Allan Cunningham and many others. Furthermore, it offers valuable descriptions of early Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool, the Blue Mountains, Cow Pastures and Emu Plains. From his narrative, Hyacinthe de Bougainville emerges as a thoroughly likable and erudite individual who very much left his heart in Sydney.

Edward Duyker, Sylvania, NSW

*This is a revised version of a review first published in the *Northern Mariner*.

Jill Duchess of Hamilton, *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist: The Story of Napoleon, Josephine's Garden at Malmaison, Redouté & the Australian Plants*, Kangaroo Press, Sydney, 1999, pp 244, illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index, ISBN 0 7318 9834 7.

Reviewed by Edward Duyker

This is an endearing account of the imperial couple, their residence, and the exotic (including Australian) fauna and flora established in the grounds of Malmaison and illustrated by the great botanical artist Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759---1840). Unfortunately, endearing accounts are not always accurate or balanced accounts. I share Hamilton's admiration for Napoleon's achievements as a general, modernizer, law maker and patron of the arts and sciences. I share her respect for Napoleon's extraordinary mind and her repugnance for the reactionary Bourbon regime which followed him. And I share her delight in the history of Malmaison and the botanical treasury Josephine created there. However, one has only to shift one's gaze from the botanical paintings of Redouté to that of David, and more appropriately Goya, to be reminded of the 'other' Napoleon who stifled the democratic republican aspirations of the Revolution and bathed Europe in blood.

General Bonaparte may have rescued France from disorder and invading foreign armies, and he may have picked the crown up from the gutter with his sword, but to keep it on his head he was prepared to gamble with the lives of millions of others. He also invaded, subjugated and plundered his neighbours.

And in his orders to kidnap and execute the young Duc d'Enghien, in the fosse at Vincennes in 1804, he revealed the same ruthlessness to his perceived political opponents as did Robespierre in his execution of Danton and Desmoulins (and all the other victims of the Terror). I do not wish to suggest that *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist* is devoid of critical comment; nevertheless, this book is essentially panegyric in tone and its author makes no mention of Napoleon's brutal repression in Spain. Even in discussing the imperial divorce, she never calls a cad a cad! Hamilton may have an excuse in focusing on Bonaparte, Beauharnais and botany, rather than battle and blood, but these days I am surprised to see any serious work on any aspect of the Premier Empire which does not take note of Pieter Geyl's (1887-1966) landmark critical study *Napoleon For and Against* (1949).

Although Napoleon may have taken to gardening at various times in his life and owned a number of multi-volume natural history titles, I remain unconvinced that he had a very serious interest in the natural sciences. His memoirs do not suggest such a passion. Yes, he surrounded himself with savants, but they tended to be mathematicians and

chemists, rather than botanists and zoologists. I was also amazed at Hamilton's attribution of humility to the Emperor; she writes, for example: 'Although Napoleon was reluctant to have his name glorified, he made an exception with art and science'! The author has no trouble convincing the reader of Josephine's serious interest in plants and gardening, however, her botanical artist Redouté remains a spiritually elusive character (probably because of the limited historical sources available). Although scholarly titles and other authorities are mentioned in the text, there are no footnotes. Thus it is often difficult to determine the basis of some of the author's assertions.

As I am working on a biography of the French naturalist Labillardière (the author of the first published flora of New Holland), I would dearly love to know the source of Hamilton's statement that 'Labillardière personally planted *Eucalyptus globulus* at Malmaison in 1805 (page 20)'. Similarly, Hamilton mentions the various editions of the translation of Labillardière's *Relation* (1800). It is a pity, however, that she does not give details of the Russian edition she alludes to. In his *Bibliography of Australia*, John Ferguson listed three English editions and two German language editions (one published in Hanover, the other in Vienna). Hamilton, however, refers to only one German edition. Furthermore, I was very surprised to read Hamilton's declaration that Labillardière 'came from a noble Normandy family', that his 'parents had a large estate', and that he was related to Talleyrand's mistress Madame de Flahaut Comtesse de la Billardière (page 77). As a result of archival research in Labillardière's birthplace Alençon, I can write with conviction that Labillardière was the ninth of fourteen children born to Michel Jacques Houtou, sieur de La Billardière, a lace merchant (and town clerk), and his wife Madeleine, a lacemaker. The location of the family landholding, 'La Billardière', remains uncertain. In the département of Orne, of which Alençon is capital, there are seven other known communes in which one can find the locative name 'La Billardière'. The name also appears in other parts of Normandy. The bourgeois Houtou family had no connection with the noble Flahaut family, even though both owned properties with similar name, and the naturalist Labillardière was no aristocrat as is suggested in the caption to his portrait on page 81.

The author of *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist* also has a tendency to elevate the status

of Félix Delahaye (1767---1829) gardener on d'Entrecasteaux's expedition and, from 1805, chief gardener at Malmaison. She often writes of Labillardière and Delahaye as if they were an equal twosome and of the Abbé Louis Ventenat's (1765---1794), as simply their chaplain (see for example page 21). The fact is, Delahaye, for all his talents was very much subordinate to Labillardière. On an annual salary of 1000 livres plus 400 livres for equipment, Delahaye was not accommodated as one of the savants and did not dine with the officers of d'Entrecasteaux's expedition. Nevertheless, aside from collecting seeds, he did make a personal collection of 2,699 dried and numbered plant specimens under Labillardière's guidance. It would seem that the Abbé Ventenat (according to his final letter to his brother, Pierre-Etienne, later conservateur at Malmaison), assisted Labillardière during his scientific excursions and made a joint natural history collection with him. Louis Ventenat died in Port Louis hospital, Mauritius, in August 1794, before he could produce any published work. Labillardière is known to have sent Pierre-Etienne Ventenat specimens of Australian plants collected during his voyage with d'Entrecasteaux. They formed part of the 'Herbier Malmaison' and thus the 'Herbier Ventenat' now preserved in Geneva.

Having examined a specimen of *Chorizema ilicifolia* in the 'Herbier Ventenat' in Geneva and having searched successfully for it in its natural habitat in Esperance, I was immediately interested in Hamilton's arguments regarding the etymology of the generic name of this beautiful Western Australian plant. On page 156 she writes: 'So great had been his [Labillardière's] joy when he stumbled across a spring that he celebrated the occasion by naming a plant he found growing there *Chorizema ilicifolia* - in Greek, *choros* meaning "dance" and *zema*, "drink"'. This same etymological argument was aired by Thomas Hart in an article in the *Victorian Naturalist* in January 1954. Hart, however, offered an alternative and far more convincing explanation which was also proposed by the great Dutch botanical historian Frans Stafleu (1921---97) in the introductory essay to the facsimile edition of Labillardière's flora. Hart and Stafleu suggested that Labillardière, using unconventional ellipsis, created a short euphonious name reminiscent of an outstanding characteristic of the plant (rather than an incident associated with its discovery). Since *Chorizema* has a pea flower bearing separate stamens, they argued that its generic name was derived from *chorizo* (I separate)

and *nema* (filament). Hamilton, however, is entitled to her opinion.

In *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist* it is also asserted that Labillardière's *Novae Hollandiae plantarum specimen* 'is the first book published after settlement in which the continent is referred to as Australia . . . Matthew Flinders, who is usually acknowledged as the first person to coin the name Australia, used the word in correspondence but did not actually publish it until ten years later, in 1814' (page 24). It seems to me that the question of who first used the name 'Australia' after settlement is immaterial. Who used it first would seem to me to be a more important question.

Although the Alexandrian geographer Claudius Ptolemy (c. 90-168 A.D.) referred to the unknown southern land as 'Terra Australis Incognita' nearly two thousand years ago and many after him employed the Latin adjective *australis* (southern, from *auster* the south wind) to describe the continent, it seems that the Portuguese-born Spanish explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros (1565-1615) was the first to employ a noun 'Austrialia', derived from this adjective, when he discovered Espiritu Santo (Vanuatu) in 1606 and thought it part of the great southland. Yet, Quiros' spelling with its extra 'I' is still not as strikingly familiar to the modern reader as the 'Australia' of the account of Jacob Le Maire's and Willem Schouten's voyage *Spiegel der Australische Navigatie* (Amsterdam, 1622) which has just been republished in a facsimile edition by the Australian National Maritime Museum. I have said as much in the introductory essay.

I was a little frustrated by the manner in which the narrative in this book has been broken up with report-like subheadings. These are often all the more obvious because of the double columns of text so characteristic of Kangaroo Press books. *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist* contains many interesting illustration captions, but a good many of them end with the unexplained (contributor's?) initials 'D.R.' Furthermore, the title page carries Hamilton's name, but also the names of the author of the preface (Bernard Chevallier), the foreword (Bernard Smith) and the editor (Anne Savage).

It is not unusual, these days, for the name of a publisher's desk editor to appear on a colophon, but the appearance of Savage's name on the title page and among the cataloguing-in-publication details, is unusual. Be that as it may, this book contains a number of editorial lapses. All historians have their

oversights, indeed Hamilton has been kind enough to point out errors in my own work. She may care to note that on page 37 she implies the French republic was declared on September 1791. On page 84 we are told it was in August 1792 and on page 233 we are finally given the correct month and year (September 1792) but not the date: the 21st. On page 94 we are given the very interesting list of European nations which have ruling families descended from Josephine.

However, Portugal, one of the countries listed, has not had a 'sovereign' since it was declared a republic in 1910. It should also be mentioned that Alexandre de Beauharnais, Josephine's first husband (the sole father of her children and thus also the ancestor of many present day European monarchs), was the secretary, rather than the president of the National Assembly at the time of Louis XVI's flight to Varennes (page 56).

In his foreword, Bernard Smith writes that this book is 'packed with surprises. How many of us knew that the young Napoleon when a cadet at military college applied to join the La Pérouse expedition to the Pacific?' The fact is, Napoléon's attempt to join La Pérouse's expedition is not new. I first read of it in John Dunmore's biography *Pacific Explorer* (see my review *Explorations*, No. 7, December 1988), and I doubt if it escaped the attention of the seven other biographers of La Pérouse this past century.

I had other differences of opinion with Hamilton with regard to the course of the Revolution and the campaign in Egypt, the so-called imprisonment of Rossel in England and Labillardière's return from Italy (before Napoleon), which would take too long to discuss in this review. However, I feel I must address her sweeping statement that 'Neither Captain Cook, a farm labourer's son, nor Matthew Flinders, the son of a doctor, would have got a post in the old French navy (page 181)'.

Undoubtedly commoners had no prospect of reaching senior naval ranks, in the 'Royale', however, they could become *officiers bleus* i.e. naval officers, largely recruited from the merchant marine, who held intermediate grades and wore a uniform of *garny bleu* to distinguish them from noble *officiers rouges* (red officers). Despite the contempt of the rest of the officer corps, which had hitherto been the exclusive preserve of the aristocracy, the *officiers bleus*, sometimes exercised independent command. This was usually in

unglamorous convoy escorts during wartime, as happened to Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne who later led the first French expedition to any part of Australia. Other *officiers bleus* participated in major French voyages, as junior officers, such as Josselin Le Corre who served under Bougainville and then Marion (see my article in *Explorations*, No. 13, December 1992). For a more detailed examination of this subject, see Jacques Aman's *Les officiers bleus dans la marine française au XVIIIe siècle*, Geneva, 1976.

In summary, *Napoleon, the Empress & the Artist* is likely to have enduring value as an accessible source of reproductions of Redouté's superb coloured illustrations of Australian plants and as a useful account of how many of these plants came to be grown and studied in France. Hamilton does not pretend to offer the most recent taxonomic revisions associated with the plants illustrated. This is always a difficult task. Hopefully some of the errors in the text can be addressed in any future edition.

Biographical Notes.

Dr Edward Duyker is the eldest of eight children born in Melbourne to a Dutch father and a Mauritian mother in 1955. He graduated from La Trobe University in 1977 with a BA (Hons.) and received his Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne in 1981. He worked as an intelligence officer with the Department of Defence in Canberra until 1983 and was briefly a Teaching Fellow at Griffith University in Brisbane. In 1984 he settled in Sydney as an independent historian. Since 1996 he has also been the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Mauritius in New South Wales. Dr Duyker is the author, co-author or editor of thirteen books, including *Tribal Guerrillas* (1987), *The Dutch in Australia* (1987), *Of the Star and the Key* (1988), *Molly and the Rajah* (1991), *The Discovery of Tasmania* (1992), *An Officer of the Blue* (1994) and *Nature's Argonaut* (1998). In 1998 he was awarded the New South Wales History Fellowship to write a biography of Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière (1755---1834), naturalist on d'Entrecasteaux's expedition and author of Australia's first published flora. *Nature's Argonaut*, his biography of Daniel Solander (1733---1782) the Swedish naturalist on the Endeavour, was shortlisted for the New South Wales Premier's General History Prize in 1999. In 2000 he was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government. With his mother Maryse Duyker he has recently completed the first English translation of Bruny d'Entrecasteaux's journal (1791---93). It will be published by Melbourne University Press in April 2001. Dr Duyker is also a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Historical Society. He is married to Susan Duyker, an architectural heritage specialist with the City of Sydney, and has two sons: Samuel (16) and Pierre (14). Professor Manning Clark once wrote of Ed Duyker's work that 'He has an eye for the things of the mind'.

The First Inhabitants of Engadine

By Les Bursill

As reported on the front page, the Engadine Lions club is now preparing a new history of Engadine.

I am very pleased to have been asked to write the section of Engadine's "History" on the Aboriginal occupation as I can claim a connection to the locals who passed through Engadine each year.

My family has its Aboriginal roots in Kan-garoo Valley. My English heritage comes from William Rollins who was transported to Australia on the prison ship Strathfieldsay in 1835. when William was 18 years old he was sent to work for the "Osborne Family" who were large landholders in Wollongong. He was indentured to them as a bushman.

William married into the local Aboriginal community at 28 years of age.

He married Susan Ellis. She was the daughter of Dr. Ellis an Aboriginal "Clever Man" who did some work for John Macarthur as a native botanist. I am Susan Ellis' great great grandson.

I was born at the "Woodley Private Hospital" on Woniora Road in Hurstville in 1945. Nicolas Petersen (Ed. 1976), in his book Tribes

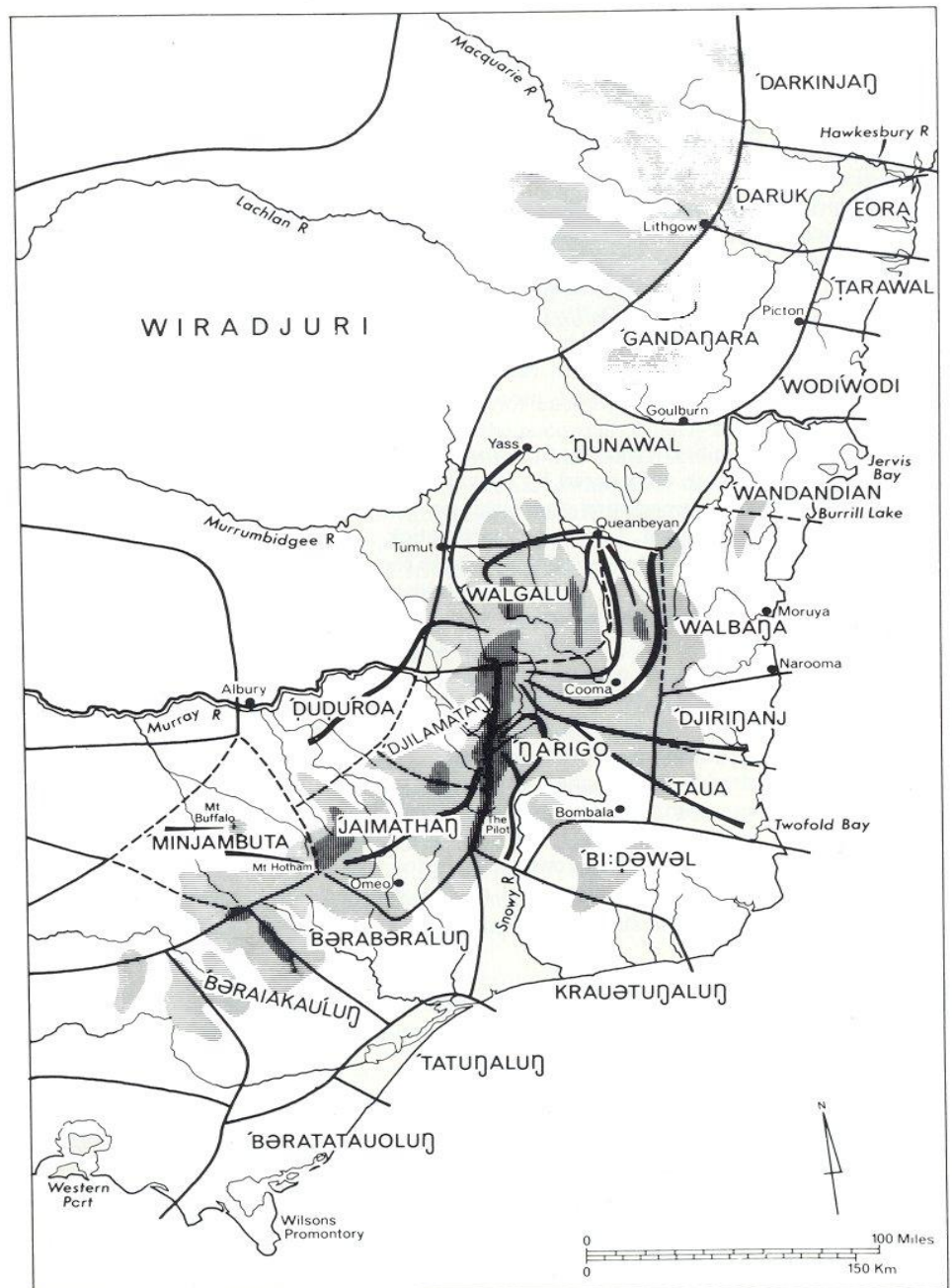


Figure 1: Tribal movements in the exploitation of Bogong moths are indicated by black arrows (after Tindale 1940).

and Boundaries In Australia, describes the boundaries of the Tharawal as lying between the Georges River, inland to Appin and as far south as Woonona, and so I can claim my heritage as Tharawal as I was born of that country. Just as in European law, Aboriginal Law says that the country of your birth is your "Dreaming Country" so mine is right here.

I have been a resident of Engadine since 1969 and lived in Porter Road when it was surrounded by bush and had a creek and

swampland where Dobell Park is today. Engadine High had just been completed.

My Tharawal ancestors walked the hills and valleys of Engadine for at least 8,000 years. They had probably travelled through or around Engadine for much longer, as evidence from up and down the Coast of NSW indicates Aboriginal occupancy, along the east coast NSW, for at least 20,000 years.

However the relatively few archaeological “digs” in the area (one each at Gymea, Connell’s Point and Cabbage Tree Basin) reveal ages of only about 8 or 9,000 years. So for the sake of accuracy I am bound to recognise the “known” facts.

We know the people who lived in what we now call the Sutherland Shire as the “Tharawal” though that is most likely the language they spoke rather than any particular “Tribal” name. We do know that the local Tharawal people were really made up of a number of family groups who spoke the same language.

Groups surrounding the Tharawal were the Gandangara to the west, the Wodi Wodi to the south, Eora to the north and Daruk to the northwest. These people traded with each other, had some language similarities and probably shared marital ties.

Occupation of Engadine by the Tharawal was not a year round event but probably only occurred during the warmer parts of the year. The hunting and fishing are better inland during winter and the plains of Campbelltown probably offered better game than hilly Sutherland Shire.

Fishing starts to improve in Port Hacking about the middle of September and drops off in late April so that could be the window for occupation of this area. Hunting is similarly affected during the cold months.

Where did the Tharawal live when they were here? Well probably they did not spend large periods of time in the Engadine area but may have passed through going to and from the coast and the inland, probably travelling along creeks and river valleys.

Surveys of camping sites and occupation sites in the Sutherland Shire reveal that the favourite areas for ritual and ceremony were around Waterfall and Heathcote, with some evidence of families using the valley bottoms and rock shelters on the valley sides in Waterfall, Heathcote, Audley, Woronora River and along the Georges River.

Fresh water and native foods (berries, fruits, roots and flowers) seem to be more abundant along river valleys and on the bay shores. These places also coincide with animal habitats. Archaeologists believe that high places were where men hunted for game and also where the majority of male religious activities occurred.

The richest occupation sites in Sutherland are in the large inlets and bays of Port Hacking, including those we know of as Cabbage Tree Basin, Gymea Bay, Dolan’s Bay, Gunnamatta Bay, South and North West Arms and the Hacking River. The Woronora River was also a favourite camping and hunting place and there are many examples of Aboriginal art along the banks of this river.

There are also many hundreds of caves and rock shelters with evidence of art and cooking fires. There have been over 260 sites of such art and camping sites and many hundreds of shell mounds and food remains found in Sutherland Shire.

What remains of these people today are their camping sites and some ceremonial areas. Today many of the Tharawal people live at La Perouse and some still live in the Wollongong area and around Wallaga Lake and Wreck Bay.

There were locals living in “Blacks’ camps” on Salt Pan Creek and along the Georges River when I was a small boy.

The Tharawal appear to have been a happy and well founded community but that lifestyle came to an end with the arrival of Captain Cook. Almost certainly the people who greeted Cook at Botany Bay in 1770 were the Tharawal (perhaps the Gweagal hearth group). Some evidence found at Grays Point shows that these people quickly learned to trade and conduct commerce with members of the First Fleet.

As previously stated there is little evidence to show that the Tharawal were a violent or aggressive people, but certainly they would have fought off other communities who came into the area or those with whom they had some dispute.

The Tharawal used spears and shields as weapons and carried axes and stone tools for hunting and perhaps fighting. Though there are no existing records of large scale fighting or other conflict, such things have been reported further south and north of Port Hacking.

Rock engravings around Sutherland and Engadine show that whales (Orca), fish, kangaroos, snakes, eels and lizards were favourite foods. The engravings also show that ceremonial life was very active and involved numbers of people with instances of 5 and 6 men dancing in various ceremonies.

It is interesting to note that in the Heathcote Creek area there are some drawings indicating that the locals may have poached sheep and cattle from nearby farms. This would fit the pattern as it was almost certainly the Tharawal who stole and ate Macarthur's prize cattle. This activity is depicted in rock shelter drawings in Campbelltown.

So to conclude I can say that Engadine was probably a place where Aboriginal people passed through rather than camped and it was probably used by men as a large game hunting area rather than a family gathering place. It is the valleys and creeks that held the majority of food and water and therefore they were camping places.

As it is today Engadine was then a crossroads for people travelling to and from the coast.



Minto Bull Cave showing an Aboriginal representation of a European Bull, probably from Macarthur's herd. Photo courtesy of *The Sydney Prehistory Group* Collection per Charles Geeson (photos now held by Sutherland Shire Historical Society).

Sherlock Holmes and his Creator at the National Library of Australia

Dr. Edward Duyker

In 1886 a young Scottish doctor of Irish descent sold the rights to his first novel *A Study in Scarlet*, largely set among the Mormons of Utah, to the publisher Ward Lock for a mere £25. Dr Arthur Conan Doyle had begun writing while waiting for his newly established medical practice in Southsea, Hampshire, to grow. In his novel he created two characters who have achieved a legendary status in the popular imagination: Sherlock Holmes, the private consulting detective of 221B Baker Street, London, and his companion-biographer Dr John Watson, late of the British Army Medical Department. With his extraordinary powers of observation and deduction, Sherlock Holmes was a literary first. In a *Study in Scarlet*, Dr Watson defined his eccentric new friends' limits as follows:

1. Knowledge of Literature. - Nil.
2. " " Philosophy. - Nil.
3. " " Astronomy. - Nil.
4. " " Politics. - Feeble.
5. " " Botany. - Variable.

Well up in belladonna, opium, and poisons generally. Knows nothing of practical gardening.

6. Knowledge of Geology. - Practical, but limited.

Tells at a glance different soils from each other. After walks has shown me splashes upon his trousers, and told me by their colour and consistence in what part of London he had received them.

7. Knowledge of Chemistry. - Profound
8. " " Anatomy. - Accurate, but unsystematic.
9. " " Sensational Literature. - Immense.

He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated this century.

10. Plays the violin well.
11. Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.
12. Has a good practical knowledge of British law'.

It is hard to imagine that Sherlock Holmes could have been inspired by a real person, but during his student days, Conan Doyle had been dazzled by the remarkable ability of Dr Joseph Bell, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh University, to deduce intimate personal details of his patients through careful observation and intuition. In his short story 'The Recollections of Captain Wilkie' (1895), he wrote:

'I used rather to pride myself on being able to spot a man's trade or profession by a good look at his exterior. I had the advantage of studying under a Professor at Edinburgh who was a master of the art, and used to electrify both his patients and his clinical classes by long shots, sometimes at the most unlikely of pursuits and never very far from the mark. "Well my man", I have heard him say, "I can see by your fingers that you play some musical instrument for your livelihood, but it is a rather curious one - something quite out of my line." The man afterwards informed us that he earned a few coppers by blowing *Rule Britannia* on a coffee-pot, the spout of which was pierced to form a rough flute.'

(My readers may be interested to learn that Professor Joseph Bell's portrait, in bas relief, can be seen in the entrance to the old Institute of Anatomy building, now the National Film and Sound Archives, in Canberra.) But the more one learns of Conan Doyle himself, the more one sees the unique reflexes of Holmes, rather than the retired army doctor Watson.

A Study in Scarlet was followed in 1889 by *The Sign of Four* which was written in only six weeks and published in Philadelphia's *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*. The following year Conan Doyle moved to London, where he sought to establish himself as an eye specialist; in his spare time he began writing a series of Sherlock Holmes short stories which were published each month in the *Strand Magazine* with illustrations by Sydney Paget. (Holmesian enthusiasts might care to savour the State Library of Victoria's comprehensive collection of this periodical.) Twelve of these stories were eventually collected in one volume, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Another twelve were published as *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. Paget's illustrations of Holmes, apparently based on his brother Walter, also stamped the image of the lean-faced forensic sleuth in the public mind. Although there is no specific reference in the Holmesian canon to a calabash pipe, in early stage adaptations and in the films starring Basil Rathbone, the curved tobacco burner suspended from the great detective's lips became an inseparable iconographic detail. It is perhaps also worth mentioning at this point that in the original stories Holmes never exclaimed: 'Elementary my dear Watson!' This was an embellishment in William Gillette's stage play.

Dissatisfied with his literary achievement, Conan Doyle attempted to end the series of Sherlock Holmes stories by allowing Professor Moriarty to get the better of his hero at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland in the story 'The Final Problem' (1893). Public reaction was intense and Conan Doyle ultimately bowed to pressure and penned another story in 1901 set before Holmes' death. The serialisation of this long tale, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, increased the circulation of *The Strand Magazine* by almost 200,000 copies. In 1903, with Holmes ingeniously resurrected from Reichenbach, Conan Doyle wrote another series of stories which were eventually collected under the title *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. More Sherlock Holmes short stories followed and they were eventually collected as *His Last Bow* published in 1917. This anthology took its name from the title of Holmes' final adventure. In the meantime (1914-1915) Conan Doyle produced *The Valley of Fear* (two parts each with seven chapters) set in a Sussex manor house and in an American mining settlement enslaved by a secret criminal society. The final collection of 12 stories, set before Holmes' final adventure was published in 1927 as *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*.

Most of the National Library's collection of Sherlock Holmes adventures comprises editions published after Conan Doyle's death in 1930. They include all the long stories in an edition of 1937. Although the collection could be more comprehensive, particularly with regard to the 56 short stories, there are some surprises. For example, the library holds a 1921 braille edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and Braille Writers' Association of Victoria editions of *The Valley of Fear* and *The Sign of Four* published in Melbourne in 1923 and 1924 respectively.

Conan Doyle's literary career was not entirely dominated by Sherlock Holmes and the National Library holds important editions of many of his other works. These include an 1892 edition of *The White Company* and several other braille editions of his romantic novels and autobiographical works. During the Boer War, Conan Doyle served with a field hospital in Bloemfontein for which he was knighted by King Edward VII. His experiences led him to write *The Great Boer War* (1902) of which the National Library holds a first edition. The Rare Book Room also holds a 1917 edition of Conan Doyle's other work of military history *The British Campaign in France and Flanders 1915*. It is accompanied by a card engraved 'With the Author's compliments'. After his brother-in-law

was killed at Mons in 1915, the creator of Sherlock Holmes was drawn irresistibly to spiritualism and the National Library holds a 1918 edition of his occult work *The New Revelation*. Conan Doyle's belief in spiritualism is also reflected in the conversion of Professor Challenger (hero of his novel *The Lost World*) to the occult in *The Land of Mist* of which the library holds a 1926 edition. Most bizarre is *The Return of Arthur Conan Doyle*, a 1956 reprint of *Thy Kingdom Come* originally published in 1933 three years after Conan Doyle's death and supposedly based on a message received from the author by the medium Grace Cooke! I am pleased to report that there is some sceptical balance in the collection with a Rationalist Press Association (Melbourne, 1920) edition of a verbatim account of a debate between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the famous rationalist firebrand Joseph McCabe. The debate took place in London in March 1920, but the verbatim record was published here to coincide with Conan Doyle's tour of Australia and New Zealand.

During his spiritualist lecture tour which lasted several months over the summer of 1920-21, Conan Doyle and his family visited Adelaide, Melbourne, Bendigo, Geelong, Sydney, Auckland, Christchurch and Perth. On his return to Sydney from New Zealand, the author received news of his mother's death. He was unable to visit Tasmania because of a strike which paralysed coastal trade on the eastern seaboard. Conan Doyle's detailed account of his time in Australia is included in his book *The Wanderings of a Spiritualist*. Surprisingly, the National Library does not hold this work, but I found a 1988 American reprint at the Bankstown City Library, in Sydney. The great writer was upset at the treatment he received at the hands of the local press and clergy because of his unusual beliefs, but he nevertheless enjoyed his time in Australia greatly. Of the capital of Victoria, he wrote:

'Melbourne is a remarkable city, far more solid and old-established than the European visitor would expect. We spent some days exploring it. There are few cities which have the same natural advantages, for it is near the sea, with many charming watering places close at hand, while inland it has some beautiful hills for the week-end villas of the citizens. Edinburgh is the nearest analogy which I can recall.'

Although a committed monarchist and staunch imperialist, Conan Doyle was somewhat bemused by Australia's many state governors. Given the republican groundswell in this country and more recently the controversy over the appointment of a part-time Governor of New South Wales and plans to use Government House in Sydney for other than vice-regal purposes, there is an ironic modernity in his observation:

'One asks oneself what will be the end of this system of little viceroys in each State and a big viceroy in the Capital-however capable and excellent in themselves such viceroys may be. The smaller courts are, I understand, already doomed, and rightly so, since there is no need for them and nothing like them elsewhere. There is no possible purpose that they serve save to impose a nominal check, which is never used, upon the legislation. The Governor-Generalship will last no doubt until Australia cuts the painter, or we let go our end of it, whichever may come first . . . When the sons leave the father's house and rule their own homes, becoming fathers in turn, the old man is not weakened thereby.'

Staying at Medlow Bath and visiting the Jenolan Caves, he wrote of the Blue Mountains:

'I have never in all my travels seen anything more spacious and wonderful than the view from the different sandstone bluffs, looking down into the huge gullies beneath, a thousand feet deep, where the great gum trees look like rows of cabbages . . . I cannot understand those who say there is nothing worth

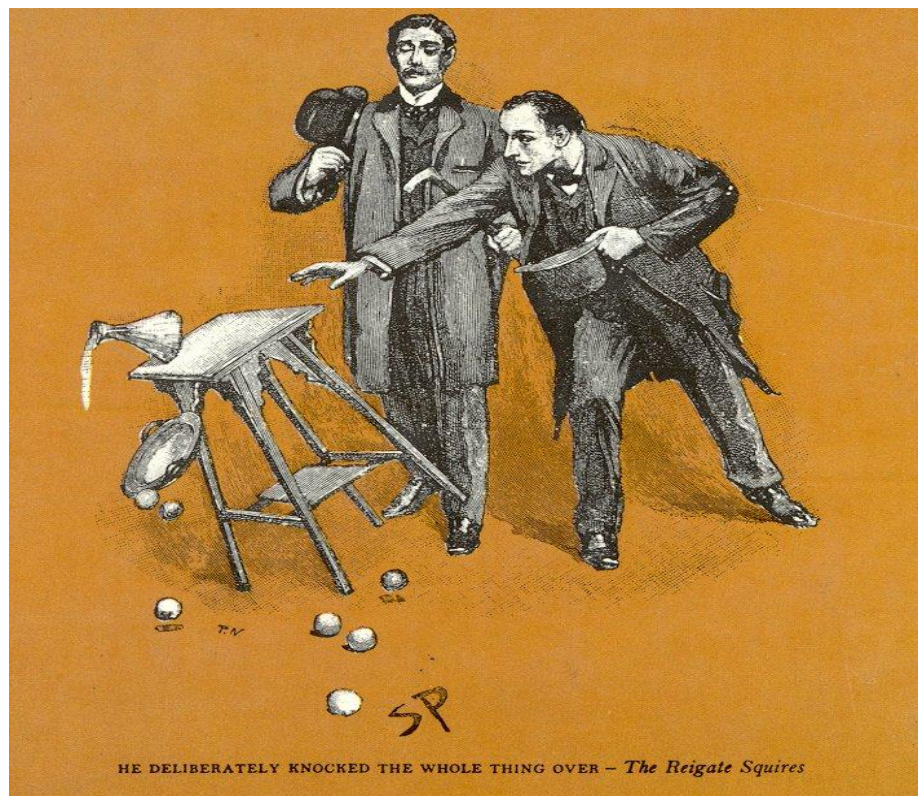
seeing in Australia, for I know no big city which has glorious scenery so near it as Sydney.'

Although Australia did not provide a setting for any of Sherlock Holmes' adventures, Dr Watson, tells us on one occasion that he spent time on the Victorian goldfields. And the story of Ned Kelly inspired Conan Doyle's suggestion that British troops should employ body armour in the trenches and wear steel helmets.

Aside from original works by Conan Doyle, the National Library is very rich in bibliographic studies and literary criticism dealing with Sherlock Holmes in addition to biographies of his creator. These include John Lamond's *Conan Doyle* (1931), Michael Harrison's *In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes* (1958), James Edward Holyrod's *Baker Street By-ways* (1959), Jay Finley Christ's *The Fiction of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* (1959), Walter Klinefelter's *Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile* (1963), Trevor Hall's *The Late Mr Sherlock Holmes and other Literary Studies* (1971), Ivor Brown's *Conan Doyle* (1972), Peter Haining's *The Sherlock Holmes Scrapbook* (1973), Ian McQueen *Sherlock Holmes detected* (1974), Jack Tracy's *The Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana* (1977), Gaby Goldsheider's *Conan Doyle Bibliography* (1977) and Donald Redwood's *Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: Copyright and Conan Doyle in America* (1990). There are many others titles; their breadth and detail would no doubt have filled Conan Doyle with amazement.

This is an expanded version of an article entitled 'Come Watson, come! The game is afoot!' first published in the *National Library of Australia News*, vol. VII, No. 8, May 1997.

*Photo courtesy of
Sidney Paget of
"The Strand"
Magazine 1889*



Sutherland Shire
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