



*Sutherland Shire  
Historical Society Inc*

## Bulletin



www.suthshirehistsoc.com.au

VOL. 4 No.1

February 2001 \$1.00

# The Sutherland Hundred

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

*By Daphne Salt*

In 1817, twenty-nine years after the First Settlement Governor Macquarie decided that it was now time to evaluate the Colony and to get it into some sort of order, so he ordered a complete survey of all of New South Wales. This was begun by Dixon, completed by Surveyor-General Major Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, and presented to the Legislative Council in April, 1835. It was a long and tedious process.

The *Nineteen Counties* were then proclaimed. County No. 12, bounded by the Pacific Ocean, Woronora River, Hacking River and the Georges River became the County of Cumberland. The Nineteen Counties were each divided into *Hundreds* (10 miles by 10 miles, totalling 100 square miles each) — a system dating back to feudal Anglo-Saxon times when clusters of outlying villages in Mediaeval England were combined for convenience of reckoning. The *Hundred of Woronora* had four Civil Parishes: Bulgo, Wattamolla, Heathcote and Southerland and a population of 1000 residents.

Sporadic pockets of settlement developed south of the Georges River after the surveys and the installation of the punt crossings, despite the fact that three quarters of the pre-shire was tied up in private ownership, first by the Connell clan and then by Thomas Holt and the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company. By 1888 trains were running to Wollongong and there were well-established communities at Heathcote, Cronulla, Kurnell, Sylvania, Miranda and Sutherland.

By the turn of the century Miranda was a leading agricultural community with a Progress Association (the first in the Shire and one of only two in Sydney).

It had a Co-operative Society, shops, a school, a mounted policeman (Australia had mounted police before the Canadian Mounties came into existence); recreation facilities, a library and a purpose built School of Arts.

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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.

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

Happy New Millennium Year! And what a great year it is for Australians with its Centenary of Federation also occurring this year. Sutherland Shire Council has decided that we are not choosing just the 1st January to celebrate,--- but the whole year, with events in different suburbs, and our Sutherland Shire Historical Society has a role to play at each and every event. In the enthusiasm of celebrating we are not overlooking its *raison d'être*, the date upon which our country achieved Federation, and status of nationhood, but adding in all the other events which occurred during the formation of our suburbs in the Shire. There are displays to organise, in addition to our usual duties of assisting the public with information, providing guest speakers for organisations, and arranging guest speakers for our own meetings, and outings so we ourselves can be more informed.

**Centenary of Federation Events:** The Council's Heritage Festival Committee, which I chair, has been given responsibility for arranging all the Centenary of Federation events in the Shire. The honour of holding our first event of the year goes to the Cronulla Bowling Club, holding a special Bowls Tournament on 7th January, 2001, which was a great day and we have asked that the address on Federation given at that luncheon, be included in this newsletter for all our members to enjoy. Next, on 27<sup>th</sup> January, came our Jazz on the Beach at Cronulla, followed by Film on the Beach that evening ("The Castle", which was ironic as we ourselves almost had an airport next door to our Kurnell homeowners!) Next day we had Symphony on the Beach, featuring a specially commissioned musical work : "The First Shire" composed by Sven Libaek. The first movement is "Fanfare", followed by "Past", then "Present" which describes each and every suburb in the shire, followed by the

last movement, called "The Future" the lyrics are featured in this edition. Also at this event our Centenary of Federation Literary Award winners were presented by our Mayor, Clr Tracie Sonda. Our Society donated the prize money for the adult award winners, and they were judged by one of our members Dr. E. Duyker, an eminent historian himself. It was pleasing that two of our members won awards. Their entries will be printed in a future Bulletin.

In March we have the Woronora River Festival on 10th-11th March, with a Weekenders Ball at the Life Savers' Clubhouse. In the old days this was held at the School of Arts at Sutherland, and we have a picture of one such happy occasion from the past. A Sports Day for adults will also be held as they were then. Bundeena Art of Living Festival features also in March. The Society is holding a Centenary of Federation Trivia Night, so get a table of eight together, and start boning up on your Australian and Shire history and you may win a prize! You have to be multiskilled as the questions will range across the Shire.

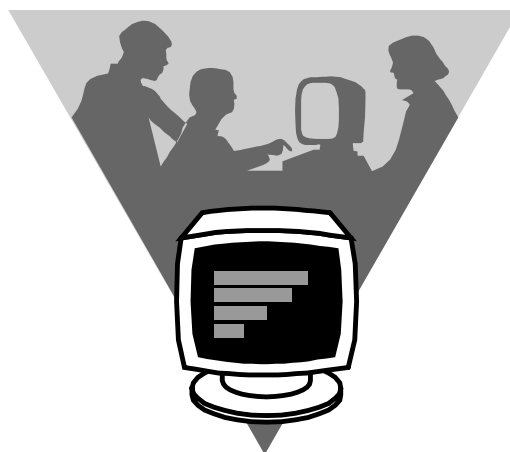
In April, once again we have our Heritage Festival month and a great line-up of events. If you missed our rendition of "The First Shire" at Cronulla, you can hear it again at Kurnell on 29th April, following the flag-raising ceremony at the Meeting of Two Cultures celebration. Each bulletin I will keep you informed of our local celebrations.

Let's make this a happy and historical year-  
- and one we will all remember, with more than just a touch of pride.



***President & Deputy Mayor  
Sutherland Shire Council***

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



I love the cut and thrust of politics and in our Centenary Year of Federation I see it all around.

Discussion, argument and opinion are the lifeblood of any growing and developing organization.

As an example, I have had many of you telling me that the content of the Historical Society Bulletin had become too “folksy” in flavour.

The Bulletin has undergone substantial change to take account of that opinion and I believe that the Bulletin is no longer the social journal that it was becoming.

However I now understand that the Journal has become too erudite in presentation and has lost its homespun touch.

So to take account of other opinions I have agreed, with the direction of our President, to include some appropriate local content. Content that is less academic in nature and representative of a wider community interest, to provide a balance

At end of this issue I have included a new “Opus” about our Shire, commissioned to celebrate our centenary. I have also included a locally written poem to raise the “spirit” of Australians.

To further widen the content spread I have included some very local pieces of history: two from Daphne Salt on Sutherland and one by Louisa Singleman on our oft forgotten village

community at Sandy Point, Sutherlands far-flung outpost.

Louisa is presently attempting to publish a history of Sandy Point and needs some assistance to do that.

Another aspect of the “new Bulletin” is *proofs*. Giving out proof copies of the Bulletin is a very old editorial means of limiting errors, omissions and unwelcome changes of policy or direction.

Proof copies of the Bulletin have been made available to the Executive since early last year. It is from these proofs that changes emerge that otherwise would have gone to press.

I also communicate with the President, the V-Presidents, Secretary and members of the Executive Council if and when I am uncertain about content or directions in regard to publishing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "L. W. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping final stroke.

So, if you have any issue with the quality or content of the Bulletin please contact me directly. You can also contact any of the editorial committee and make your opinion known to us.

## Meetings for 2001:

**February: Shane Williams: *The Meeting of Two Cultures***

**March: Annual General Meeting-- all positions become vacant for election**

**April: Mr. Reg Davis: *An ex commando speaks of his wartime experiences.***

# Treasurer's Report

## Sutherland Shire Historical Society Revenue Account For The Period Ending November, 2000

1999	Income	2000
1,440.00	Members Subscriptions	2,116.00
1,035.75	Donations/Grants	1,476.05
16.50	Sales	NIL
6.45	Interest Commonwealth Bank	4.07
0.24	Interest St George Bank Step-up Acc	NIL
0.01	Rounding (St George Bank Step-up Acc closed)	NIL
360.32	Interest St George Bank Fixed Deposit	356.11
319.67	Interest Commonwealth bank Fixed Deposit	168.70
7,874.00	Excursion Deposits	6,840.00
<hr/> 11,052.94		<hr/> 10,960.93
1999	Expenditure	2000
1,166.76	Bulletin Expenses	415.09
72.00	Australia Post PO Box	77.40
75.75	Postage/Phone Calls	108.28
960.00	Website Maintenance	500.00
263.00	Purchases	64.00
19.95	Miscellaneous	155.00
95.00	Subscription to R.A.H.S. etc.	NIL
265.00	GIO Insurance	286.42
86.45	Suppers	133.45
616.00	Hall Rentals	651.00
310.00	Out of pocket Expenses Pres. Sec. Treas. Curator	310.00
49.99	FID GDT Operating Account Commonwealth Bank	32.86
0.34	FID St George Step-up Account	NIL
0.17	FID Commonwealth Bank Fixed Deposit	NIL
6.00	Account Keeping Fee St George Step-up Account	NIL
225.00	Donations	NIL
7,983.50	Excursion Payments	6,942.91
503.20	Museum	447.35
NIL	GST	230.04
<hr/> 12,698.11	<b>Expenses Total</b>	<hr/> 10,353.80
-1,645.17	Surplus/Deficiency for year transferred to Accum Funds	607.13
<hr/> 11,052.94		<hr/> 10,960.93

**Accumulated  
Funds  
1999**

**2000**

8,000.00	St George Fixed Term Acc 015-152-672	8,000.00
6,552.72	Commonwealth Bank Fixed Term Acc 2259-5009-3603	6,721.42
766.96	Commonwealth Bank Savings/Cheque Acc 0090-5269	1,205.39

15,319.68	<b>Total</b>	15,926.81
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16,964.85	Period Asset Balance	15,319.68
-1,645.17	Deduct Shortfall from Revenue Account	607.13

<b>15,319.68</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,926.81</b>
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**Cash Book  
Balance As At  
30-11-2000**

Balance	.....	969.56
Bought Forward		
Less	.....	202.60
Previously Unpresented Cheques		
	.....	766.96
Add Income	.....	10,792.23
	.....	11,559.19
Less expenditure	.....	10,353.80
	.....	1,205.39

**Bank  
reconcilliation  
As At 30-11-  
2000**

Bank balance as at 30-11-2000			3,277.79
Less Unpresented Cheques			
710455	.....	92.40	
710459	.....	1,980.00	
	Subtotal	2,072.40	2072.40
Balance As Per Cash Book			1,205.39

  
M.J. Beaven  
M.J. Beaven  
Hon. Treasurer

# Secretary's Report

**Our meetings in 2000 were, as in past years, very interesting and informative with stimulating and thought-provoking speakers.**

## **JANUARY :**

Members' Night was a very enjoyable evening - held in St. John's Anglican Church Hall . Mr. Doug Archer showed some of his exquisite collection of porcelain pieces and explained the history of the makers - Crown Derby, Royal Doulton and others - such a pleasure to admire.

Mr. David Overett then told of his interest in "Robin Hood" - he had many books on the subject - many stories had been told over the centuries -was he a good man?, or was he not?

Mina Whybourne spoke of her visit to China with a former missionary nurse visiting many ancient cities - seeing some of the treasures saved from the Cultural Revolution and hearing of the destruction of precious books - a most interesting experience to meet with some of Deaconess Mary's old friends.

## **FEBRUARY:**

Mr. Paul Zaat was our speaker - and he gave us a graphic account of the War in Vietnam - Mr. Zaat had been in the Army - and had been horrified at the destruction to this country - the Vietnamese were gentle hard working people - very involved in agriculture, particularly rice growing. They had suffered so much down the centuries by invasions - French occupation, etc. So many innocent people killed - young men from USA and Australia - Agent Orange a dreadful weapon. Very disturbing and thoughtful address.

## **MARCH:**

The 34th Annual General Meeting was held and the reviewed Constitution was passed by members and Subscription fees increased to cover rising costs of production, postage, hire of meeting room, etc. Councillor Dawn Emerson graciously agreed to continue as our President.

## **APRIL:**

Mr. Raymond Greig an Englishman who had been involved in the Siege of Malta during the Second World War, in the Army. He painted a graphic picture of the horrors of the constant bombing, how brave the Maltese people were how they endured and were not conquered. King George VI bestowed on the Island the George Cross for bravery. This meeting was held in the Theatre of the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, a most attractive venue.

## **MAY:**

A very enjoyable meeting with an exceptional speaker Mr. George Roberts QANTAS historian - he had been one of the original engineers with his brother - he had a splendid set of photographs of all the QANTAS planes from the beginning up to the latest 747 which carries 500 passengers. All members present were enthralled as he told stories of the early flights overseas and the perils encountered.

## **JUNE :**

Mr. George Hawkins, our speaker, was an expert on the history and use of coins down the centuries. He had a "hands on presentation passing the coins to the members - all beautifully documented - and some, many hundreds of years old.



## **JULY:**

We were privileged to have Dr. Maryanne Larkin, Senior Manuscripts Librarian at the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, as our speaker. Dr. Larkin has written a book "Sutherland Shire - a history to 1939" based-on her research for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney. She gave us a most interesting address on the history of the settlement of the Shire - how people were drawn to the Shire because of its rivers, beaches and bushland. She illustrated her address with several slides of early settlement and advertisements for the sale of land.

## **AUGUST:**

Mrs. Louisa Singleman who had lived at Sandy Point for 35 years with her husband spoke to us of this small suburb at the western extremity of the Shire - of its beautiful trees - angophoras, bloodgums, banksias, bottlebrush - district very bushfire prone;- fires in 1968 and 1997 created a lot of damage. The Dharawal tribe had lived in this area. Matthew Flinders and George Bass had made a sketch of Sandy Point when they travelled the Georges River and established Bankstown.

## **SEPTEMBER:**

This meeting was cancelled as it was the same night as the Opening Ceremony of Sydney Olympic Games.

## **OCTOBER:**

Mr. Peter Christian, President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters 1986-1990 and 1993 to date - was our speaker a most articulate and interesting address about early life in the colony. He is a descendant of William Tunks from "Sirius" and Sarah Lyons, convict 2nd Fleet. He told us of the formation of the First Fleet in England - 11 ships - under the leadership of Captain Arthur Phillip and of their perilous journey to Sydney via South Africa. He said our past Governors, Sir David Martin and Peter Sinclair were descendants of First Fleeters. He recommended a book - "The Founders of Australia" by Dorothy Gilham.

## **NOVEMBER:**

Mr. Ron Cundy, DFC, DFM, MID, gave us a most poignant and graphic address on the "Battle of Britain" - "never had so many owed their lives to so few" Hurricanes and Spitfires involved - London very badly damaged - especially the East End - incredible bravery and fortitude of the people -Winston Churchill an inspiration.

## **DECEMBER :**

Our last meeting of the year was held in the School of Arts, Sutherland and we were entertained with a delightful programme of music by "The District Singers" and some very enjoyable and unusual poetry from Mr. Cameron Semmons, followed by a festive Christmas supper. We are very grateful to our President Councillor Dawn Emerson (now Deputy Mayor) for arranging such interesting speakers for us during the year and we appreciate her experience and expertise. Our special thanks too are due to Mr. Doug and Mrs. Betty Perry for attending to supper arrangements during the year. Fellowship over supper is always very much enjoyed. May I say a sincere thank you to President Dawn and all members of Executive Council for their support and co-operation.

*Mina Whybourne, Hon. Sec.*

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

## *OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2000*

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Councillor Dawn Emerson
<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT:</b>	Mr. D. Archer
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS:</b>	Mr. J. Cutbush Mrs. A. Griffiths O.A.M.
<b>HON. SECRETARY:</b>	Mrs. M. Whybourne
<b>HON. TREASURER:</b>	Mr. M. Beaven
<b>HON. RESEARCH OFFICER ARCHIVIST:</b>	Ms. H. McDonald
<b>HON. PUBLICITY OFFICER:</b>	Mrs. M. Blackley
<b>PUBLIC OFFICER:</b>	Mr. A. Platfoot
<b>EXCURSIONS OFFICER:</b>	Mrs. A. Griffiths O.A.M.
<b>EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK:</b>	Mrs. B. McGrath
<b>MUSEUM CURATOR:</b>	Mr. A. McGrath
<b>BULLETIN EDITOR:</b>	Mr. L. Bursill
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	Mrs. I. Caddell Mrs. B. Greentree Mrs. B. Perry Mr. D. Perry Mr. S. Roberts
<b>HON. AUDITOR:</b>	Mrs. Carole Draper
<b>HON. SOLICITOR:</b>	Mr. M. Solari

# **SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc. will be held **FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2001**, in the **Multi-Purpose Building, Flora Street, Sutherland** at **8.00 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm and adopt Minutes of the 34th 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 2000.
5. Out-of-pocket expenses.
6. Election of officers for 2001.
7. **GENERAL BUSINESS:** Pertaining to the Annual General Meeting only.



Councillor & Deputy Mayor Dawn Emerson PRESIDENT
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# EXCURSION ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with the new instructions this report will be much briefer than the usual details given in the Annual Report. However, we must thank the folk who accepted us and acted as our guides whilst we were visiting.

**February:** - trip on "Macquarie Princess" along the Hawkesbury River with an experienced Captain sharing his knowledge the day was very enjoyable and the information gained very acceptable.

**May:** - visiting Spectacle Island the naval area now being made into a naval museum; after being shown around the island's treasures *and* served morning tea., the rest of our visit was spent in the Museum. On return to Drummoyne, luncheon was taken at The Sailing Club,

No outing was arranged in August or September 2000, as we were of the opinion so many would wish to visit the Olympic Games the outing could be very depleted.

**November:** - week-end to Canberra. Under the guidance of Terry McCosker this was a special treat. The places he knows about and which many of *us* have never seen or heard about are legion.

Thank you, Terry, once again for being our member, for driving us so carefully, and for the knowledge you share with us. Special thanks too, to Ron Wood and his "crew" at Tiger Tours for the assistance always given me when discussing and making arrangements for our outings,

My appreciation must be extended to members of the Excursion Committee - Ishbell Caddell, Doug Archer, Betty and Doug Perry, and Stewart Roberts and a very special vote of appreciation to our booking clerk, Betty McGrath. Thank you all for supporting me.

In 2001 the Society will have been having excursions for thirty years, so is becoming

harder to find "new" places; if we return to an earlier place, no doubt extra research has been done, and we learn lots more. Thank you members for being part of those outings.

*A. Griffiths O.A.M.  
Excursion Officer.*

## **EXCURSION REPORT**

As I have been requested to shorten the Excursion Report both at the Meetings and in the Bulletin, I shall be brief. Possibly by the time the February issue is in your hands the "*Mystery Tour*" we are undertaking on February 26 will be over; I hope you have booked to accompany us that day.

We have been unable to obtain the services of our very special guide regarding Leichhardt's history, but by agreement of the members at January meeting, we will proceed with the Balmain section - date Saturday, May 26, 2001, leaving Cronulla at 8.30 a.m., Sutherland 9.00 am - cost \$2.00 which includes GST. Please take your morning tea and luncheon needs, as usual.

Future outings for 2001 will be in August and November, but the details will need to be discussed by and with the incoming 2001 Executive Committee, before proceeding with arrangements.

*Aileen M Griffiths* O.A.M.  
EXCURSION CONVENOR

As always, bookings and payments to Mrs. Betty McGrath, 141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus, (9521-2227) - as usual information regarding the outings to either Betty or myself on

(9523-5801).  
"Richmount"  
34 Richmount Street  
CRONULLA. 2230

# President's Addendum

After four years as your President, I am actually starting to feel that I know what the role of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society is in our community, and finding ways in which we can address this. The exciting part is that the council is now looking for a spot where we can construct a purpose-built museum, possibly in conjunction with a community centre, where we can hold our meetings, and a library so our Local History Section can be maintained in conjunction with our Museum. Meetings will be held shortly with our Executive Council, to plan this. We are looking forward to a bigger and better Museum, and this shows how much we value the work of the Museum Sub-committee: Allan McGrath, our Museum Curator and Jim Cutbush who arrange the content and transport of our displays, working long hours to enable the public to enjoy a little nostalgia,-- and their band of "merry men" (plus ladies): Alan Boissery, Doug Archer, Doug Perry, Neville, Maurie, Aileen, Ada, Marj, Betty and various other members who also help out from time to time. Helen Mc Donald, our Archivist and Research Librarian is always available for advice, and assistance, and ably runs our Local History Section of the Library, as well as providing material for our displays, and we greatly value her professional support.

Our Executive Council has so many multi-skilled people, and we really don't know how lucky we are to have their combined expertise being used for the benefit of our Society. At this point I would like to thank the members of our Executive Council for their wholehearted support throughout the year, especially Doug Archer, our Deputy President. His cheery smile never wavers when I have to call on him to chair a meeting, so I may attend to Council duties which have suddenly arisen.

Aileen Griffiths, OAM also willingly chairs meetings for me upon occasion, as Vice-President, and keeps finding new places to visit to widen our knowledge of our Australian history and heritage. She also ably supports me on several council committees, such as the Heritage Festival Committee, the Disabled Access Committee, as well as Australia Day. Whilst we are talking of council committees, I am indebted to our talented editor of our Journal, Les Bursill, for his unswerving support on the Heritage Committee, for which he has compiled a CD with all our heritage buildings listed. Les has, in addition, compiled another CD with over 2000 Dharawal sites: cave drawings, rock engravings, axe grooves and has conducted a series of lectures at Hazelhurst on their culture. Les keeps us up -to-date on the net, and our Journal is now available via this medium, thanks to Les. Our Journal is really becoming quite professional with Les's expertise, and perhaps I am being over cautious, but I have asked if some of our "folklore" history could be retained--- just to keep that "warm and fuzzy" feeling we get because we are Australians, in this our year of the

Centenary of Federation. Les is also a member of our Keep Sutherland Shire Beautiful Committee, as was Maurie Beaven, our treasurer, and I deeply value their support which spills over into so many activities in the community. Maurie is such a competent Treasurer he also has been involved in my Blaxland Drive Tennis Courts Community Management Committee, and the Careena Bay Reserve Community Management Committee, apart from Bushcare. Unfortunately Maurie has decided that he really would like to retire as Treasurer, from all our committees including the Society and his diligence in keeping our books will be sorely missed, and we gratefully thank him for all his efforts. To Andrew Platfoot our assistant treasurer, I gratefully acknowledge your assistance in many avenues of the society.

Every organisation has a quiet achiever, who competently works behind the scenes: reminding, recording supporting and actually running the whole Society: Mina Whybourne, our unflappable secretary is totally indispensable to me, and whenever she tells me that her departure from our midst has been delayed I do mental handstands! Thank you Mina for being you, always patient, efficient and so even-tempered. Our other stalwart member is our Booking clerk, Betty McGrath, who is always jolly and it creates quite a stir if she cannot attend, trying to find someone who has taken time to be trained how to do her job. Could all interested committee members go and visit Betty and receive training! We need a Deputy Booking Clerk!

Our thanks to Carole Draper, our new auditor for her help, and to our solicitor, Mr M. Solari, for being on call if required. Now we come to the workhorses, unsung, always there to carry the burden and always available to attend committee meetings and make up our quorum :Betty Greentree, Doug and Betty Perry, Ishabel Cadell, Stewart Roberts, and Marj Blackley, who is the Publicity Officer who painstakingly reports all our guest speakers, and gets us into the press.

We thank our patron, Mayor, Cllr. Tracie Sonda who has been so supportive in assisting us to gain a museum, and Mr John Rayner, General Manager, Sutherland Shire Council who is always ready to lend an ear to our problems, and assist wherever possible. We would also like to record the help of the officers of the council in so many ways throughout the organisation. We relish our partnership with our council, and are never happier than when serving the community, organising displays and generally providing information or guest speakers to any organisation requesting an historical address, and we are particularly delighted to participate in any way we can in our nation's Centenary of Federation.

**Cllr. Dawn Emerson  
Deputy Mayor  
PRESIDENT**

## The Sutherland Hundred

In 1905, all areas that were not municipalities were encompassed by the proclamation of the Local Government Shires Act 1905. At this time the Progress Association of Miranda became aware that the old *Hundred of Woronora*, now with a massive population of 1500, residents was destined to be part of Bulli Shire and its members protested to the Government. So successful was their fight for recognition as an area having a distinct local identity, that less than one year later, on March 7<sup>th</sup> 1906, the Government Gazette proclaimed the Shire of Sutherland.

The Governor appointed a Temporary Provisional Council of five members:-

**John Atkinson** Esq. of Cronulla Beach

**Edwin Best** Esq. of Sutherland

**William G. Judd** Esq. of Yowie Bay and Arncliffe

**Charles McAlister** Esq. of Heathcote and Cronulla

**Edward Thacker** Esq. of Miranda

The Provisional Council was given six months to do the groundwork for the formation of the first official Council. It was responsible for creating the electoral roll, organizing the first election and finding suitable premises for Council Offices. The selected five Councillors held their first meeting in Miranda School of Arts on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1906, on the corner of Kiora Road and the Boulevard at the 5-Ways Miranda on the site of Tynan's "Car Sales Yard".

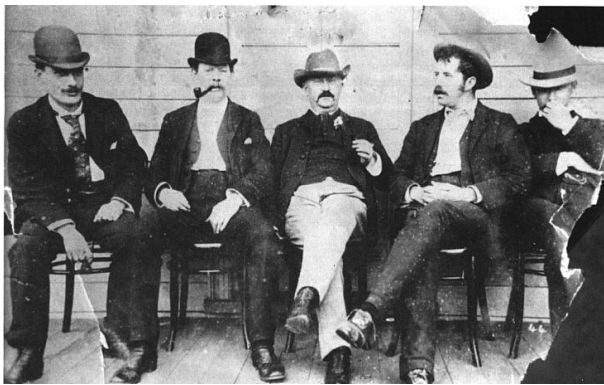
To prepare the electoral rolls they obtained the names from the Department of Works, the Holt Sutherland Company (who charged them £2/10/- for their information), and the 2 local policemen.

Mrs LeHane leased them a shop with residence on the Princes Highway at Sutherland next door to the Commonwealth Bank for 15/- per week. The Shire Clerk paid 5/- per week from his salary of £1/10/0 for the residence.

**Conflict and bitter debate followed the selection of Sutherland as the site of Shire Administration. Miranda Progress Association argued that it was only because of their efforts that the Sutherland Shire was actually proclaimed and that Miranda was the centre of agriculture, business and finance. Miranda had the Central School that the shire children attended. Miranda was an older established village with better facilities. It was central in the shire therefore Miranda should be the seat of council.**

Because the Shire was named Sutherland Shire by the Governor, the railway passed through Sutherland, it was more accessible for all people. Land was available on which to build Council Chambers, and the Government-nominated Provisional Council, acting on instructions from the Governor, had selected Sutherland as the seat of Local Government. Sutherland became the Shire headquarters.

In addition to their appointed duties, the Provisional Council proposed the preservation of the foreshores of Botany Bay, Port Hacking and their tributaries and the Pacific Ocean beachfront so people could always enjoy access to the waterways and Nature would not be despoiled. This was against the Minister for Lands wishes to alienate the foreshores for private use. With extraordinary foresight they also dedicated a road from Cronulla to Kurnell.



Thacker, Atkinson, Best, McAlister and Judd

This could be a scene from *GUNSMOKE*, but it is actually the only known photograph of the Provisional Council

## THE CHOSEN FIVE

The first Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company signed a lease with Thomas Holt in September 1881 immediately prior to his final departure from Australia. The 13,000 acres that had been locked in the Holt Estate were finally released. This resulted in an influx of settlers attracted by the low lease payments, the option to purchase and the beauty and potential of the area. Those men selected as the Provisional Council and the later councillors had taken advantage of the land sales. They were financially quite comfortable and were men of property and enterprise and intended to do whatever they could to expand, promote and improve their Shire. They were all Independents. None was affiliated with a political party. (The descriptions of these gentlemen in bold print, following their names, were bestowed upon them during their lifetime.)

**Ted Thacker, “the Patriarch of Miranda”** During the first of these land sales, Ted Thacker bought the Blaxland 'Old Farm' and lived on the central portion of it where the theatre section of Miranda Fair now stands. At that time there was no road, only rough tracks from the Sylvania punt. Thacker, who

allotted part of each day to community projects, considered it his duty to see that his neighbours prospered and improved their lives as he intended to do.

In 1892 Edward Thacker, John Macfarlane, Edward Lye and Mr. Berger formed pre-shire's first community co-operative organization - the Holt-Sutherland Horticultural Society which had the revolutionary acumen to pool their resources and buy supplies in bulk to save on freight. Their collective buying scheme was in operation for about one year when Edward Thacker realised that it was not the pooling of orders, but the pooling of funds that was needed. A committee was formed to carry the co-operative scheme further and Thacker gave it money to sustain it through its early stages. Trade interests opposed them bitterly but Thacker led the successful fight for permission from the Government for their co-operative enterprise to survive and the Horticultural Society became the Miranda Agriculture Bureau then the Miranda Co-operative Society with an effective discount system. As a result of their activities the poultry farmer in this district was in a better position than anywhere in NSW.

Edward Thacker was also an early President of the Miranda Progress Society, which had its first meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November 1898. Their School of Arts was a small corrugated iron room at the rear of the old Congregational Church that stood where the eastern Kiora Road entrance to Miranda Fair is today. In July 1904 the School of Arts moved into its own new building on the corner of Kiora Rd and The Boulevarde (near the massive roundabout). Thacker supplied



the land, some of the building funds and his personal labour in its construction.

### **John Atkinson, “Preserver of Cronulla Foreshores”**

Born in 1843 on the Manor of Richmount, Armagh, Northern Ireland, John immigrated to Brisbane with his family. The Atkinsons moved to Balmain where John became a carpenter and shipwright. There he married, fathered a family, was widowed and remarried. Here he also made the acquaintance of the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, the Secretary for Works and they became firm friends.

Still in his early 50s, John Atkinson procured 11 acres of leasehold land on Parraweena Road, Caringbah (now occupied by Parke Davis and other factories) where he established a dairy which his daughter Olive and her family continued to operate after John built “Richmount” at Cronulla.

He had a great confidence in the prospects of the region. With two other Cronulla pioneers, Wilshire and Windsor, Atkinson successfully urged the government to set aside land for a park between Nicholson Parade and Gunnamatta Bay. Gunnamatta Park was proclaimed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1895, less than one week before the Crown Land Auction. On 11<sup>th</sup> September 1895 Crown Land in Cronulla was put up for auction and John purchased his 2-acre Nicholson Parade allotment for £16/0/0.

Atkinson built a commodious 10-roomed establishment on what is now the corner of Richmount Street and Nicholson Parade at Cronulla and named it 'Richmount' after his family seat in Ireland. He was adamant that it was not a guesthouse though he did cater for elite boarders. E. W. O'Sullivan (Ewos

Parade in Cronulla is named after him); and Peter Dodds McCormick - the man who wrote *Advance Australia Fair*, were known to have frequented Richmount and were friends of the family.

John Atkinson helped to establish the South Cronulla Progress Association and as its President on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1903 formed a Committee which built the Cronulla School of Arts.

Atkinson was amongst the founders of the Ratepayers' Association, formed to promote the interests of Cronulla and its neighbourhood.

So great was his love of the tranquil waterways which surrounded the Cronulla Peninsula that Atkinson implored the government to use foresight to preserve all of the foreshores as reserves for the people for all time. It was through his efforts that the Cronulla Esplanade, Darook Park and Gunnamatta Park were dedicated.

### **Edwin Best “The Lumber Lord”**

On the early electoral rolls Mr. Edwin Best lived at Sutherland and was recorded as a "Settler". He was a foundation member and vice-president of the Sutherland Progress Association. Best took advantage of the increase in the numbers of settlers and began a sawmill and lumberyard near the corner of President Avenue and the Highway. There is a block of units there now.

### **Charles McAlister, “The Father of Heathcote and Prince of the Riviera”**

As a young man Charles McAlister spent many years pursuing the pearling industry around Thursday Island before settling in Sydney where he was a prominent businessman in the grocery trade for nearly 30 years.

When Crown Lands were released and put up for auction in 1886 Charles McAlister bought heavily into both Heathcote/Engadine and Cronulla. He invested in several waterfront blocks at South Cronulla. He built the first brick house in Cronulla which was to be his holiday retreat. His occupation is listed on the early electoral rolls as "gentleman".

During the 1890s Mr. and Mrs. McAlister lived in a 4-roomed home, 'Sunbeam Cottage' on the corner of Woronora Road and Fairview Avenue Heathcote. He enlarged the cottage and re-named it 'Homelea'. In 1900 he subdivided and sold much of his Engadine Estate, encouraging settlers to the district. McAlister was a man of the times, he bought one of the first cars in the shire and the *St George Call* reported that he had been seen speeding in his car towards Heathcote and covered the distance from the National Park gates to Heathcote station in only 11 minutes.

### **William George Judd, "The District's Grand Old Man"**

William George Judd was born in 1847 on the site of the Sydney Hilton in Pitt Street. His father went overseas to make his fortune on the American goldfields and was shipwrecked, picked up by a passing ship and dropped off on an island where he sat for 4 years before he was rescued and returned home. Mrs. Judd opened a laundry business to support young William and herself.

When he was 5 years old William was kidnapped and one of his mother's laundry employees retrieved him and administered a sound thrashing to the kidnapper. William was working at the age of 7 years amongst the old handmade sandstock bricks at St. Peters, attending

denominational schools intermittently and later night school, where he derived his chief education. Then having mastered his brickmaking trade Judd established himself as a storekeeper.

After 13 years he sold the business and built a comfortable home, "Athelstane", at Arncliffe where he laid out a fine orchard and provided a cricket ground for the local enthusiasts. Athelstane is now a private school. In 1882 he was elected an alderman to the newly founded West Botany (Rockdale) Council and later to the St. Peters Municipal Council where in 1885 he became Mayor.

During the push for the railway extension from Redfern to Hurstville Judd and some friends paid for a trial survey of a route running from Baldface to Kangaroo Point, thence through Sutherland to Port Hacking River. Had that route been adopted it would have avoided the expensive steep gradients and would have revealed greater scenic beauties than the existing line.

1885 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly and later elected vice-president of the Local Government Association. Judd established the Hurstville Steam Brickworks (Judd's Brickworks) at Mortdale. He was instrumental in establishing the new St. Peters Brickworks and retained the post of chairman of Directors for 45 years until his death. Judd had his fingers in many pies and amongst his private enterprises were extensive mining ventures at Broken Hill and other places. William George Judd acquired property in the Sutherland Shire at Yowie Bay and threw himself into the betterment of his new environment. He established himself firmly in his chosen new territory though

he did not give up his Arncliffe residence. He was one of those responsible for the construction of the Cronulla-Sutherland tramway - in fact he promised to make up any deficit that might arise from the tram.

#### ***Sutherland Shire's first elected Council***

The culmination of the preparatory work of the Provisional Council was election of the Shire's first Council. It was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1906 and voting was by personal voting - "first past the post", not preferential. The entitlement to vote was restricted to the owner-occupiers of land, the ratepayers only, and therefore did not apply to all the adult population.

*St George Call* 1/12/1906 reported -*The election of Shire Councillors was disposed of last Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1906 and there was no great excitement.*

**A Riding**, Hyndman 104; LeHane 71; Diston 57; Thacker 40; Roberts 24

**B Riding**, McAlister 87; Hill 68; Atkinson 15;

**C Riding** Cook 101; Judd 94; Best 68.

*Only William George Judd and Charles McAlister of the Provisional Councillors were elected to the new council.*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1906 the Provisional Council handed over to the elected Council. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 1906, the formal Council met for the first time and elected William George Judd as the Shire President (now termed Mayor). He was the only one with administrative experience. Mr. William Charles Danne was appointed Shire Clerk with a salary of £1/10/- per week. His duties included Inspector of Nuisances and Cattle Slaughtering Inspector. The entire council was to be the Health and Works Committee. They immediately authorized two competent valuations on all rateable land within the

shire. The Seal of the Council, designed by the Sydney firm of John Sands was received at the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907. The Captain Cook central figure had been chosen by unanimous agreement because of the significance of the new Shire of Sutherland as the Birthplace of Australia. Later adjusted to the "Birthplace of Modern Australia"

All of the newly elected councils had little more than a year to run as the Government had scheduled elections for February 1908 to coincide with the triennial municipal council elections, creating a situation where all local government elections in New South Wales were held at the same time.

#### ***First Council By-election in New South Wales!***

On January 28<sup>th</sup> 1907 - less than 10 weeks after the election - Councillor John Hill resigned. Nominations for the extra-ordinary vacancy were received up until 6<sup>th</sup> February 1907 and the polling day was fixed for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 1907. Though no reason was given for Councillor Hill's resignation, it was discovered that he was **not** on the electoral roll and therefore he had been ineligible as a candidate for the shire election of the previous November.

*St. George Call* referring to the resignation reported *the vacant chair (of John Hill) was occasioned by the Police Court proceedings of the previous week. ... Whatever the reason for his resignation, they no longer applied by 6<sup>th</sup> February 1907. ... In the resultant by-election John Hill was returned unopposed.*

#### ***The first year of the Sutherland Shire Council***

In 1906 the new Council took over miles of unmade roads, bridges and tracks in Holt and Crown subdivisions.

Councillors were allowed 6d per mile travel allowance.

At the February 1907 meeting *as a matter of urgency* the Council authorized the purchase of an Accounts Ledger, other Official Records Books and Works Department tools (picks, shovels, wheelbarrows etc.).

March 1907 the Council held its first Field Day. The Councillors travelled by train to Waterfall where inspections were carried out with borrowed horse transport arranged by Charles McAlister. They then went to Heathcote where Mrs. McAlister provided refreshments at 'Homelea'.

It was in April 1907 that Council instigated the *regulation of the erection of buildings as to height, design,*

*structural materials, building line and sanitation.* They also decided to regulate subdivision of estates with the aim of an access way to each and every property. The construction of new roads such as that from Sutherland to Como had begun.

By this time there already existed several very active local interest organizations. Miranda and Cronulla had Schools of Arts, Miranda and Menai had Progress Associations. Menai Progress Association (formed May 1901) discussed with Council their detailed proposal of a bridge over the Woronora River and the Tramway League was pressing for a tram link from Sutherland to Cronulla.

*Daphne Salt*



*NSW Executive Council, 1856.*

*Thomas Holt (Treas.) Sir Wm. Manning (Avd. General). Sir Stuart Donaldson (Sec.)  
J.B. Darvall (Slct.. Gen). Geo. Nichols (Aud. General).*

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# BOOK REVIEW

By Dr. Ed. Duyker

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**Colin Dyer (translator and editor), *A Frenchman's Walk Across the Nullarbor: Henri Gilbert's Diary, Perth to Brisbane, 1897-1899*, Melbourne University Press, 2000, notes, bibliography, map, plates, pp. 195, \$29.95, hardback.**

## **Reviewed by Edward Duyker**

Born in Nantes in 1865, the son of a shoemaker, Henri Gilbert came to Australia in 1897 as a result of a £10, 000 wager by a group of wealthy businessmen apparently inspired by yet another Nantais: the novelist Jules Verne. But unlike Phileas Fogg, the eccentric hero of Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days* who utilized the latest in nineteenth-century transport technology to circle the globe in less than three months, Gilbert undertook to do so on foot (wherever possible) in just over five years.

Furthermore, he agreed not to receive 'pecuniary assistance other than what he fairly earned'. Aside from lecture fees and payments for newspaper reports, he was permitted to accept free board and lodgings. Ultimately, however, he hoped to publish an account of his travels in order to make his fortune.

The book appears never to have been written, but more than a century later, the diary of the Australian leg of Gilbert's journey - inexplicably preserved in the John Oxley Library in Brisbane - has finally been translated and edited by Colin Dyer, Associate Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Queensland.

The resulting work is both a delightful curiosity and a charming record of an

extraordinary physical feat. Wherever possible Gilbert requested signed attestations from postmasters, station managers, publicans and civic officials to prove that he had indeed arrived at individual settlements on foot. In his notebook, he also pasted newspaper reports of his visits and occasional photographs of the local personalities he met. These photographs, and the information gleaned from the attestations and clippings, have greatly enriched Dr Dyer's very readable translation and introduction.

Henri Gilbert followed the telegraph line across the vast arid plain of the Nullarbor and the individually numbered poles enabled him to maintain a steady course and calculate the daily distances he travelled. It seems unlikely, however, that he could have crossed the Nullarbor without the help of the linesman James Lawrence and several other outback folk who left advance supplies of water along the way.

Having personally driven across the Nullarbor (and blown two head-gaskets and seized a gear box in temperatures which approached the mid-40°s), I can only begin to imagine the physical endurance required for Henri Gilbert's walk. But Gilbert did have limits; and the Frenchman collapsed in February 1898 and had to be taken by camel to Bookabie until he was fit enough to continue. When he finally reached Port Augusta he declared:

*My pen cannot express the joy I experience on arriving at this point, especially when thinking of the countless difficulties that I have had to overcome from Albany to Port Augusta on this bad track where, apart from fatigue, I have suffered hunger and thirst*

*many times. But my will was of iron: I had to get through, and I did get through.*

Gilbert collapsed again in Ballan, Victoria, in June 1898. His journal, aside from being a record of remarkable individual fortitude, is a valuable account of social conditions in isolated parts of Australia on the eve of Federation. It is perhaps not surprising that a Frenchman such as Gilbert should have mentioned other French speakers he met along the way. They included a Marseillais, François La Tour; a Quebecois, Jean Garrett; Reginald Pigou, a government employee in Kolendo, who was the grandson of a Frenchman; Louis Blot, another Nantais; Emile Benda and a Mauritian named Leishmann who gave him a tent and several tins of salmon in Adelaide; and Henri Millenet a publican in Wagga Wagga.

According to the *Melbourne Age* 'At least 800 people rode with him as he stepped down Elizabeth Street to the General Post Office where he called for letters'. Such was the warmth of the welcome Gilbert received, that an individual named James Johnson (who spoke no French) decided to assume Gilbert's identity and accept free drinks all the way from Seymour to Violet Town until it was realized he was an impostor and the police arrested him!

Despite the quirky charm of this book, I was disappointed that Dr Dyer has given us only the barest of explanatory notes for the text. He does provide a great deal of information (even too much), in the introduction, on Gilbert's great precursors Eyre and Forrest and their travels across the Nullarbor, but very little on Gilbert and the people *he* encountered. Could he not have researched the name of the mayor of Ballarat in May 1898, instead of simply telling us his signature was illegible? And what of Gilbert's fate and the mystery of whether or not he completed his quixotic endeavour?

Dyer speculates: 'Perhaps he never left Brisbane? We know from the Brisbane

*Courier* for Saturday 7 January 1899 that there was a China Navigation Company steamer leaving for Hong Kong and Japan at 2.00 p.m. that day. We can but conjecture'. Yes, but Dyer could also have checked Queensland and other state records to see if Gilbert died suddenly, fell in love and married, or was naturalized in Australia. He could also have checked Hong Kong archival records, and passenger lists published in newspapers in the British crown colony to see whether or not Gilbert actually arrived there.

Dr Dyer gives us no indication of such research. He does tell us that he wrote to 'every fourth one of the fifty-eight Gilberts listed in the Nantes telephone directory' in an unsuccessful attempt to learn more of the pedestrian. Why did he not write to the rest when the first quarter proved fruitless? And did he try the Centre Généalogique de l'Ouest or search for probate documents in the Archives Departementales de la Loire-Atlantique? If Gilbert did 'perish in some opium den in the depths of China, or froze to death on the arctic wastes of Siberia or Alaska', as Dyer suggests, his family and wealthy backers, would surely have made some enquiries of French consular representatives to discover his fate.

Some clues, therefore, may lie in the AE (*Affaires Etrangères*) series of the Archives Nationales in Paris. Consular correspondence is a rich source of information on travellers abroad and it should be remembered that Gilbert was particularly keen to seek the apostiles of his country's diplomats while he was in Australia.

It seems likely, therefore, that he would have done the same in China, Japan or Siberia if he reached any of these lands. Regardless of the mystery which surrounds Gilbert's fate, we should be grateful to Dr Dyer and Melbourne University Press for bringing this historical gem to public attention in such an attractive format.

# AUSTRALIA and the James Cook Landing Place Reserve AT Kurnell

Cook was not the first person, nor even the first European to "discover" Australia, but Lieutenant James Cook was the first to accurately chart a substantial part of the coastline and to fix the continent in relation to the known waters. Not since Columbus had such a discovery been made. On his voyage in the "Endeavour", Cook was also the first to calculate his longitude position with accuracy using a complex mathematical formula developed in the 1760s along with the "Harrison" clock.

There were quite a lot of maps in existence in the 1600s (see 'Australia from Antiquity') and Cook had these maps with him on the Endeavour when he was given secret orders by the Admiralty to find and claim Australia for Britain after he had observed and recorded the transit of Venus.

Australia is a great country! A unique and unusual country; a country of contrast and ambiguity, a country of harmony in conflict. Australia is at once the smallest continent on earth and the largest island. Australia is the world's most isolated continent, one of the oldest places on earth, but it is one of the youngest in terms of modern civilisation. Here we find some of the world's finest snowfields yet Australia lies mostly in the tropics.

We have spectacular high mountains yet statistically Australia is the world's flattest continent. Our deserts are amongst the driest and most desolate places on earth but underneath them is more water than there is in all the rivers, lakes and harbours throughout the country! Australia is the only nation to be sole occupier of an entire continent with 90% of the population occupying less than 30% of the land.

*Whilst this is interesting, even if it is useless information, I must say that I'm proud to be an Australian! I have travelled*

*around the globe and gazed in awe at ancient places, Stonehenge, Venice, the Rocky Mountains, Lake Como, the Black Forest; but I wouldn't want to live anywhere but here! When I looked up into the night sky of the northern hemisphere, and couldn't find the Southern Cross, I thought — I don't belong here!*

When I stood on Plymouth Steps, I recollected that it was from this very spot that in 1588, Sir Charles Howard and Sir Francis Drake launched the English fleet and defeated the Spanish Armada. It was from here that the Pilgrim Fathers on board the *Mayflower* sailed in 1620, and landed at what they called Plymouth Rock, the foundation stone of the United States of America.

Their landing place is held sacred! And as I recalled that in 1768, James Cook, on board the *Endeavour* also set out from those same Plymouth Steps, discovered Australia, landing first at Kurnell, and much of the First Fleet was prepared, readied, crewed and loaded at Plymouth — I was disappointed to see only the British and American flags flying — There was **no** Australian flag! What a shame!

*It is beyond comprehension that a place so significant as the Birthplace of Modern Australia has been allowed to slip into obscurity, that it has been ignored, mistreated and swept under the historical carpet throughout our entire history. In any other country in the world Kurnell would be a shrine! Kurnell MUST be formally recognized as Our Plymouth Rock! What happened here??*

*It is hard to believe that Cook's landing place was among the first lands to pass from the Crown into private hands — for a paltry £1 an acre! It remained in private hands until 1899, when Sir Joseph*

*Carruthers, after a 10-year fight with Sir Henry Parkes, managed to dedicate the Captain Cook Landing Place Reserve — to the Australian people for all time. In his dedication speech, 100 years ago, Carruthers said: "What Plymouth Rock is to America, so should this memorable but little revered spot be to all Australians."*

*Barron Field, President of the Royal Philosophical Society, when they placed the inscription on Inscription Point in 1822, wrote that 'this was Classic Ground'. Henry Kendall wrote that 'this place is holy ground'. Henry Lawson, while he was living at Como wrote about it too.*

Kurnell is **FIRST** of the firsts in Australia — James Cook first landed here and it was *here* that he first raised the flag. It was *here* that the Aborigines first encountered Europeans, *here* that Australian exploration began with Cook's explorations on foot and in boats. *Here* that scientific study of Australia began with Banks and Solander (the same species of plants they collected still survive in the area). And *here* that Phillip and the First Fleet first raised the flag.

It was *here* that the first environmental protest took place when the Aborigines objected to Cook and Phillip's men cutting down trees. *Here* that Australia's first graffiti was blazoned when Phillip's men painted instructions on Cape Solander for following ships to move on to Port Jackson. It was also *here* that the first

Nature Reserve in Australia (Towra Point) was dedicated to the people by the Federal Government.

Apart from being well known in Sydney as a popular fishing and hunting venue, Kurnell was selected in 1848, because of its isolation, to be the **cesspool** of Sydney! The Noxious Trades and Cemetery Reserve, was chosen to get rid of malodorous and polluting activities from the city. Kurnell was too hard to get to, so this was put on hold for another century.

Despite the fact that ever since the first Royal Visit to Australia, royalty has come to Kurnell and planted trees in recognition of the place, and there have been intermittent Cook birthday celebrations and landing re-enactments, it appears that Kurnell has never *really* been taken seriously!

In the meantime Kurnell Village, which began as a fishing and shell gathering outpost, just "grewed up". Kurnell has found maturity, and despite industrial onslaught, it has retained a village atmosphere.

Kurnell is the Birthplace of Modern Australia! It was also its bed of conception. But it was designated as the cesspool of Sydney back in 1848! and has suffered at the hands of successive decades of Government inaction. It's time we demanded the recognition that modern Australia's birthplace deserves.

*Daphne Salt*

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# An over-view of the first landholders

**James Birnie** first visited Sydney in 1806 on board his own sealing and whaling ship, the *STAR*. He was a Merchant Trader. The prospects of the fishing and whaling industry here inspired him. He spent the next three years fishing, sealing, whaling and bringing sought after cargo to sell in Australia. In August 1809, Birnie, Master of his ship, *MARY*

*ANNE*, immigrated to Sydney bringing his wife Martha Matilda with him.

In 1815, Twenty seven years after the First Fleet departed from Botany Bay, Birnie was given *on Promise*, 700 acres Portion No.1, at Kurnell and became the first landholder in the Sutherland Shire.

He named it "Alpha Farm". But the semi-literate convict clerk wrote it as he heard it, so in the official records Birnie was the owner of "Half-A-Farm".



Although the James and Martha never lived on the grant, Birnie did intend to build a whaling station there. He set up a farm, market garden and dairy and built a homestead, which he named *Curnell* (the Aboriginal name for the area as he heard it). He installed his caretaker/manager while he pursued whaling and other shipping interests from his Sydney home. Birnie erected a *three-roomed cottage with dairy and outhouse for servants*.

He was assigned convict farm-laborers to fell the trees and clear the land and he installed a manager. Alpha Farm was self sufficient with grazing cattle, an orchard and vegetable gardens irrigated by the stream which was Cook's watering place.

Widowed in England, **John Connell Snr.** came to Australia with his two children (Margaret and John) as free settlers in 1801. He transferred his London business to Sydney, setting up a large ironmongery shop where Australia Square now stands. Catherine Sullivan, a convict transported to Australia in 1798, was assigned to Connell as a servant and, after marrying him in Sydney was pardoned.

Both businessmen, Birnie and Connell knew each other in Sydney town. And in 1821 Connell Snr. obtained 'On Promise' portions 2 and 3 at Kurnell and an additional 1000 acres on Quibray Bay. Connell leased some of his land to Birnie for grazing cattle then when the 66-year-old Birnie was declared insane in 1828; the trustees of the Birnie Estate sold his land to John Connell Snr. In the same year, Connell erected another cottage, Alpha House, on the foundations of Birnie's old three-roomed house.

Connell's daughter Margaret married Captain Thomas Laycock and had two sons, Elias Pearson Laycock and John Connell Laycock. Both parents died when the boys were young, and John Connell became their guardian.

By 1838 almost the entire Kurnell Peninsula, including Birnie's "Half-A- Farm", was in the name of John Connell. John junior lived on Alpha Farm with his sisters two boys. Connell Snr. cleared heavily, selling the timber in

Sydney (Ed. Note; thus causing the Dunes at Kurnell to form).

When John Connell senior died in 1849 he left his entire Estate to his grandsons as tenants in common.

In 1856 the Government held the first auction of Crown Land in the Sutherland district at £1 per acre, but it reserved 1500 acres for fortifications on the east coast from Cape Solander to Boat Harbour (Endeavour Heights) and the Cronulla Peninsula. John Connell Laycock secured over 700 acres at the sale. By 1858 he owned 4600 acres and had settled again at Kurnell.

1860 was a year of disaster for J.C. Laycock, (he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly and a friend of fellow Member, Thomas Holt). He had mortgaged most of his inheritance to Holt and was forced to sell all his mortgaged properties the following year. Prior to his land sale he escorted Holt around his Hacking and Georges River properties.

**Thomas Holt** was born in Yorkshire in 1811, the eldest of five sons of a Leeds wool breeder, manufacturer and merchant. While he was in Berlin representing the family firm, he married. It was there that he read the German translation of Dr John Dunmore Lang's *An Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales*, a book describing the colony and its potential—it was to change his life.

In 1842 Holt and his bride Sophie sailed into Sydney. He arrived here a wealthy man, and began at once to speculate in mortgages and the money market; he also obtained grants for huge tracts of Colonial Crown Land. He amassed vast sums of money by disposing of his squatting holdings throughout the State during the flurry of land sales following the gold discoveries in the early 1850s. A city man, he nevertheless delighted in being the Country Squire, but always held country estates (on Botany Bay and its tributaries) close enough to commute into Sydney to his counting house, so maintaining control over his business affairs. Holt was a member of the first New South Wales Legislative Assembly (1856). He

became the first Treasurer in what was in fact Australia's first Parliament.

At the 1861 auction of Laycock's land, Holt was the highest bidder at £3275 for the entire 4600 acres. Amongst the properties bought by Holt was the Birnie Estate, which comprised all of the Kurnell Peninsula with the exception of the Government Reserve at Endeavour Heights, but included the Cook Landing Place. The 4600 acres Holt bought from Laycock were scattered lots. During 1861-62 he consolidated his holdings by securing large portions of land between the Georges and the Hacking Rivers. He even procured two more waterways—Gwawley Bay and Weeney Bay. His accumulated holdings in the pre-Shire were approximately 13000 acres.

Thomas Holt, like Birnie and Connell, with a view to economics, procured the services of government men (convicts), runaway sailors and Aborigines for the workforce on his estates.

THE LANDING PLACE RESERVE — *On 20<sup>th</sup> March 1822 at Kurnell an old Aborigine, "white haired and hoary with age", who had witnessed Cook's landing, accompanied members of the executive of the Philosophical Society of Australasia to Kurnell and pointed out the landing place to them. They fixed a brass plate (to commemorate 50 years since the landing of Captain Cook) on the cliff-face a little to the north east of the Landing Place as the nearest available spot. This is known as Inscription Point.*

In 1870 Thomas Holt erected an obelisk at his own expense to celebrate the centenary of Captain Cook's landing at Kurnell. He had had the landing place pointed out to him by Laycock, whose childhood nanny witnessed the landing and told him about it and of the burying of Forby Sutherland.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 1881, two visiting royal princes, Prince Albert, Duke of Clarence, and the future king, George, Prince of Wales, on Holt's invitation, travelled to Kurnell by boat from Botany. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported:

*"The one spot in all Australia which can claim to be called Classic Ground is undoubtedly that little area by the southern shore of Botany Bay, where, more than a century ago, Captain Cook first set foot on the soil of this continent; where the seaman Forby Sutherland was buried; and it was but right that the Royal Princes, now amongst us—one of whom will probably ascend the throne of Great Britain; should not be allowed to leave the colony without being asked to visit the scene ... Nearly everyone took a sip of the water from the historic stream."*

Near the obelisk, Prince Albert and Prince George planted four pine trees, two of which were *Araucaria Cookii* which Holt had brought over from New Caledonia. Cook had identified it as a separate species and Banks named it there during his voyage. The tree planting and official proceedings over, the party strolled around inspecting the historic area. The princes joined a group of Kurnell residents in a game of cricket before sitting on the ground for lunch. (squatting is good — said the crowd) "A marauding dog, which had pilfered a plump turkey, was hotly pursued by the waiter; whereupon Prince Albert joined in the chase, and outpacing the waiter, made a cut with his stick at the thief. The dog dropped his prey; and the prince retrieved the bird."

Ownership of the landing place and celebration and recognition of the landing was until this time, a civilian instigated event.

**Sir Joseph Hector Carruthers** was born in Kiama in 1857. This kid from Kiama, was, like James Cook, the son of a Scotsman; and like Cpt. James Cook and Sir Henry Parkes, he got the rudiments of his education at a dame's school, then he went on to William Street School then Fort Street, followed by Goulburn High School then Sydney University where he took his BA in 1875, aged 18 years. He qualified to practice Law at the age of 21.

Carruthers loved nature, he had a wide knowledge of fauna, flora, forestry, land settlement, diversities of soil and climate. He was 30 in 1887 when he was elected to Parliament in the Legislative Assembly in the Parkes Government; his seat was Canterbury. In 1888 he was Minister for Public Instruction and founded the Department of Technical

Education (today's TAFE). In 1894 he became Minister for Lands, then in 1899 was Colonial Treasurer, leader of the Liberal Party as well as Minister for Lands.

Carruthers was a fervent fisherman and an avid sports-shooter. In 1899 a report on Kurnell revealed that the fishing was rewarding and that "Oysters are plentiful and large and may be detached from the mangroves about Quibray Bay. Ashore there is always good shooting". Sir Joseph Carruthers kept a careful tally of his hunting triumphs. During an 1883 Kurnell expedition, he shot 256 birds and animals including hawks, quail, parrots, wattlebirds, koalas and snakes. They seem to have shot anything that moved! (and cut down anything that stood still! Ed.)

'Koala' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'no water'. This unique, inoffensive marsupial was so named because it derives its hydration, not from drinking water, but from its diet of eucalypt leaves. The 1927 open season on koalas was devastating. In 1938 concern was belatedly expressed for the diminishing number of koalas, but in 1945 an application for a koala sanctuary at Kurnell was rejected and the consequences were fateful. — There have been no koalas living at Kurnell for half a century now.

Despite his anomalous behaviour in shooting all the wildlife, Carruthers was something of a self-appointed guardian of the environment. He was well acquainted with the 1848 Act of Parliament banning noxious activities from the city of Sydney because of the threat of bubonic plague and the 'disgustingly offensive' odors in the air, and the late 1870s Noxious Trades Association which controlled malodorous and polluting activities such as tanneries, soap and glue works, wool-scouring mills, lime kilns and sewage farms.

He knew of the 1883 Royal Commission suggestion to use his 'pet' Kurnell as the site for Sydney's nasties, and was well acquainted with the 1886 Parliamentary Bill to resume 3570 acres at Kurnell for Noxious Trades, waste and cemetery and he knew that a branch railway line was proposed to link it to the main line at Sutherland.

Cemeteries were then classified as toxic regions because the runoff from the leachate in the soil after rains was believed to cause health problems. Nineteenth century maps show a proposed mortuary and trade railway from Sutherland to the Noxious Reserve at Kurnell. However the opening of Woronora Cemetery on Linden Street in Sutherland in 1893 put an end to that plan. But the noxious trades and waste classification still applied to Kurnell Peninsula and moves were again afoot to develop it as such.

Carruthers was staunchly patriotic. He knew fellow MLA Thomas Holt, who had erected the obelisk and arranged celebrations on his property for Cook's birthday and his landing. As Minister for Lands, Carruthers was at last in a position to rescue this historic spot from development of any kind. But it took a 10-year battle with Sir Henry Parkes to get as much land as he did.

*The Kurnell Reserve (Endeavour Heights, not the landing place) was put under the provision of the Public Parks Act of 1884 and a "Deed of Grant" was issued to the Trustees — the Lands Department. This was Crown Land.*

In 1899, 251 acres of land, including Endeavour Heights and Holt's land on which the obelisk and Forby Sutherland's grave are situated, was resumed by the Government and dedicated as the **Captain Cook Landing Place Reserve for the use and enjoyment of the public for all time.**

Of the resumption, it was recorded in the Government Gazette that "*whereas, in order to commemorate the landing of Captain James Cook R.N., then in command of His Majesty's ship "Endeavour" on the shores of Botany Bay, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1770 [civil date — I'll explain this later] at a place situated on land afterwards resumed under the Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act, it is considered desirable and for the public benefit that the said land, together with other land of the Crown, on the ocean side of the land resumed (about 251 acres in all- described in the Schedule hereto), should be set apart and dedicated as a Public Reserve under the name of "Captain Cook's Landing Place", and dedicated for the use and enjoyment of the*

*public for all time. ... The land shall forthwith be vested in the constructing authority as a corporation sole on behalf of Her Majesty for an estate in fee simple in possession, freed and discharged from all trusts, obligations, estates, interests, contracts, charges, rates, rights-of-way, or other easements whatsoever."*

A formal and public dedication by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Sir Frederick Darley, was to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1899 [calendar date; and 29<sup>th</sup> April by the ship's log date], being the anniversary of Captain Cook's landing. Unfortunately foul weather necessitated a postponement until the 6<sup>th</sup> May — the date on which Captain Cook sailed away from Botany Bay. (**Ed's note:** The discrepancy was caused by Cook's crossing the International Date Line, as it is now known, without realizing the implications).

Guests crossed Botany Bay in steam ferries, and were escorted to a dais on the hill behind the monument. In his address Sir Joseph Carruthers said *"What Plymouth Rock is to America, so should this memorable spot on the south shore of Botany Bay be to all Australians. Birthplace though it is of the great nation that Australia is destined to be, it is comparatively little known, and certainly little revered."*

The administrative methods of the early colonial authorities allowed this, above all places, to be one of the first to pass from the Crown into private hands.... *this land is at last rescued from the hands of any private individual or land corporation. What blind folly ever induced the Government of New South Wales to part with this area of land for a paltry £1 per acre? It may be mere sentiment on my part to rescue this land as a national birthright!"*

Sir Joseph Carruthers reminded the gathering that in 1861 twenty-year-old Henry Kendall visited Kurnell with Thomas Holt, who told the poet about his finding the bones of a white man when he was digging out the posts of the old dairy. Fired by the significance of this discovery Kendall wrote:

*"There tread gently—gently, pilgrim; there with youthful eyes look round;  
Cross thy breast and bless the silence: lo,  
the place is holy ground!  
Holy ground forever, stranger! All the quiet  
silver lights  
Dropping from the starry heavens thro' the  
soft Australian nights—  
Dropping on those lone grave grasses—  
come serene, unbroken clear,  
Like the love of God the Father, falling,  
falling, year by year!  
Yea, and like a Voice supernal, there the  
daily wind doth blow  
In the leaves above the sailor buried ninety  
years ago."*

The Cook Landing Place, having been part of the Birnie, Connell and Holt estates was Torres Title — and it still is!

The Captain Cook Landing Place Reserve came under the provision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act in 1967 when the park was proclaimed "an historic site", but the Trusteeship actually still remains with the Lands Department because it is Torres Title. It cannot be given away under any conditions! Towra Point was combined with Endeavour Heights and the Landing Place Reserve to become the Botany Bay National Park.

In 1988 Bare Island and La Perouse were included in the Botany Bay National Park which now frames the two headlands of the bay. Though the character of the landscape at the entrance to Botany Bay does now differ, it would not be unrecognisable to the 18<sup>th</sup> century British and French maritime explorers.

Throughout the intervening years, until 1967, when the National Parks and Wildlife Service took over its care, the Reserve was one of the most popular camping venues close to Sydney. Site bookings were taken two years in advance. Under the provision of the NPWS Act 1967, the area was increased to about 700 acres by the addition of a coastal strip of land from Cape Solander to Cape Bailey. In 1968 a further 100 acres was added to the park.

**Daphne Salt**

# AN ABORIGINAL REFLECTION.

*By Louisa Singleman*

The *Dharawal* Tribe also known as the *Tharawal* originally inhabited large areas of what is now known as Sutherland Shire.

They occupied a tract of land generally described as “south of Botany Bay and the Georges River as far as Jervis Bay in the south and south west to Appin, Cordeaux and Cataract Water Catchment area”. *Tharawal* territory possibly ran inland as far as Campbelltown and Camden.

Where their country began and ended only the Tribal elders would have known but it seems certain the *Tharawal* people moved around the area of Sandy Point and the Holsworthy Firing Range. Middens and rock art seem to show that one of the regular camping places for the *Tharawal* was at Sandy Point.

Aboriginal people belonged to the land, scattered throughout which were sacred sites, rocks, caves, rock shelters ancient trees, streams and waterholes entwined with the Dreaming. They lived apparently in complete harmony with the land. The **Tharawal** people had a strong empathy with their environment taking only what was needed for their survival. With such a gentle touch the land remained the same for countless generations.

The communal lifestyle of the tribe was governed by the Law which was administered and enforced by the elders who were custodians of the oral traditions which were handed down to the young men. Women’s business consisted of songs, stories and dances and ceremonies to maintain traditions.

The education of the children included the ancient rules of the tribe and once puberty was reached the youths were initiated into adulthood.

An abundant food supply from the rivers, streams, creeks and swamps offered the

**Tharawal** people a healthy lifestyle while large native animals such as the kangaroo and wallaby provided them with red meat. Emus, pigeons, ducks and pelicans added variety to an already diverse diet. Fruits and vegetables such as the lillipilli, figs and bush currents were plentiful.

The men hunted with spears and fished the rivers and creeks while the women collected nuts, yams and bulbs and made cakes and roasted the flower heads of the *Banksia*, *Bottle Brush* and *Honeybush*.

Warm cloaks worn in winter were fashioned from wallaby and possum skins decorated with parrot feathers and red ochre often adorned their bodies and the yellow crest of the white cockatoo decorated beards.

Grease and red ochre gave the bodies of the women a glow and the incisor teeth of the kangaroo and the tails of the possum decorated their hair. Both men and women considered raised cicatrices over the breast, arms and back an adornment.

The many examples of the red hand stencils in the rock shelters are evidence that the **Tharawal** people were in the area for many thousands of years. Forty thousand years – four hundred centuries and still the land remained the same; virtually free from disease, happy, healthy people possessing all that was needed then came the “superior culture” of the white man. A people and a culture destroyed in one brief century.

Thorough in their genocide the white settlers took over the traditional lands of the original inhabitants. Not by violence but in an insidious manner of exposing the **Tharawal** people to European diseases such as small pox, diphtheria, measles and influenza to which they had no resistance. Gonorrhoea and syphilis were responsible for thousands of deaths.

The demise of the **Tharawal** people was accelerated by the influenza epidemic of 1846–47 as well as the clearing and cultivation of the traditional tribal lands. Birds and animals were driven off as their habitat was stripped and the **Tharawal** people were unable to follow them beyond their tribal boundaries.

Now dependant upon the handouts from the white man's diet which consisted of flour, sugar and tea as well as tobacco and alcohol, this starchy, sugary diet devoid of proteins and vitamins had disastrous consequences. Obese, inactive, clothed in dirty cast off rags the **Tharawal** people stripped of their dignity were robbed of their traditional land and culture.

Four hundred centuries of tradition wiped out by one century of “civilisation.”

*No marble marks his resting place  
No artist here has stopped to trace  
The sculpted words of woe,  
No gilded organ pipes are here,  
Naught but the wild birds note we hear  
Or the wind murmuring low.*

*There are no sable hatchments shown  
No weeping seraphins in stone  
Above this sylvan grove,  
No towers or spires overhead  
But lofty gums their branches spread  
And mournful grass trees wave.*

*The wild flowers bloom about the place,  
Sad token of a vanished race  
Vanished, Ah who may know!  
O Pass not by with careless tread  
The sacred ashes of the dead  
The dead of long ago.*

**S.V.Bennett, 1903.**



# SEAFOODS OF THE DHARAWAL

By Peter Turbet

Along with coastal Aborigines all around the country, the indigenous people of the Sutherland Shire have a traditional diet of impressive variety. In this article I would like to outline some of the saltwater food resources that we know were utilised by the Dharawal before 1788. Some of our knowledge derives from archaeological investigation while some comes from Aborigines themselves.

## Fish

The ocean and the estuaries of the George's, Woronora and Hacking Rivers provided the fish that was such an integral part of the local diet. Women would spend much of their time fishing from bark canoes (Dharawal: *mudyeri*) with hook and line. A fire, burning in the canoe, was used to heat the catch, parts of which, along with chewed mussels and cockles, were spat into the water as berley.

The fish hook was a crescent-shaped piece of Large Turban Shell ( *Turbo torquata* ) and the line was twine from the bark of various trees - the Cabbage-tree Palm (*Livistona australis* ) was one species reportedly used. It seems likely that the fish hook's mother-of-pearl sheen acted as a lure to make bait unnecessary at times.

Men caught fish with the four-pronged fishing spear (Port Jackson: *mooting*). They also used chewed shellfish as berley. Spearing was done from the shore or from canoes, sometimes after sunset. One night, standing on the deck of the *Endeavour* Joseph Banks saw many moving lights around Botany Bay and he concluded that the Aborigines were fishing. Other accounts report that men would lie across canoes with both their faces and *mooting* spears immersed.

Analysis of fish bones at local midden deposits indicate some of the species eaten. At a rock shelter on Gymea Bay, excavated in the sixties, snapper and bream were the best represented species while the remains of groper, mullet, leatherjacket and wrasse were also found. In a midden at Wattamolla, adjacent to the ocean, bream and snapper bones were again the most common finds.

Fish were prepared and eaten in the following way. The catch was thrown onto the fire until warm and the scales were then rubbed off. The skin was held between the teeth, peeled off and eaten. After being gutted, the fish was returned to the fire for final heating. Some fatty organs were regarded as delicacies.

## Shellfish

Molluscs from estuary and seafront were another important food resource, often relied upon in times of shortage. Indeed, piles of shells are the most obvious feature of coastal middens. Men were seen diving from rocks into rough water and throwing shellfish they had gathered to a companion ashore who had a fire burning. The sharp ends of woomeras were used to prise limpets off rocks. Oysters were reportedly opened with the fingernail but stone oyster-hammers have been found along the Hawkesbury and may have been used locally.

At the Gymea Bay shelter the most common shell remains, in decreasing order of abundance, were the Sydney Rock Oyster, Sydney Cockle, Hairy Mussel, Southern Chama and Mud Oyster. In ocean-front middens estuarine species are replaced by limpets, rock welks, abalones, periwinkles, nerites and mussels. The large midden mound at Boat Harbour contains

these rock platform species as well as, not surprisingly, many pipies from the nearby beach.

### **Seabirds and Marine Mammals**

Dead and dying seabirds, washed onto beaches, were another notable addition to the Dharawal diet. An excavation at Durras North in the mid-sixties discovered many bones of the Short-tailed Shearwater (Tasmanian Muttonbird ). This migrant from the northern Pacific arrives on the south coast in late September in immense numbers to breed on offshore islands. It is clear that the many dead and exhausted birds washed ashore were a significant, if seasonal, addition to the coastal people's diet. Shearwater bones were also found at the Wattamolla campsite. Other bird species represented at seafront middens include the Australian Gannet, Little Penguin and White-capped Albatross.

At a campsite at Currarong, near Nowra, the remains of six Australian Fur Seals were unearthed. Seal bones were also discovered at the Wattamolla site indicating another food that was available to the Dharawal in traditional times.

Whenever a whale became stranded on a beach, messengers would be dispatched and a great feast would take place. At least two hundred people attended such a gathering at Manly Cove in September 1790 when a whale became stranded there. A whale feast on a beach somewhere near Botany Bay in 1788 has also been reported.

On the N.S.W. south coast, whenever people saw Killer Whales attacking another whale an old man would start some fires on the beach and hobble around pretending to be disabled. The ruse was intended to arouse the compassion of the killers so that they would drive the whale towards the beach. Sometimes he would call out "Throw that fish on the shore!" If the whale became stranded men rushed out to kill it with their spears. Once it was dead they would cut through the blubber with the sharp shell cemented onto the end of their woomeras. Neighbouring bands would be notified. Once the internal organs had been removed people with rheumatism or similar pains would sit inside the carcass and rub themselves with fat, believing that this would provide relief. Large rock engravings of whales at Jibbon Beach and Burraneer Point indicate their importance in the local culture.

### **Mixed Economies**

The diet of coastal bands was not restricted to seafood. The Awabagal from Lake Macquarie, for example, were fishing people in traditional times but also hunted kangaroos and bandicoots. At the ocean-front campsites at Durras North and Wattamolla the midden refuse is almost entirely marine in origin yet in rock shelters at Currarong and Bundeena, only a short distance inland, the remains of land mammals were found alongside fish bones and shells. The mammal remains at Currarong included 20 bandicoots, 11 wallabies, 8 potoroos, 7 dogs, 6 seals and one possum.

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Reference: Turbet, Peter, *The Aborigines of the Sydney District Before 1788*, Kangaroo Press, Sydney, 1989.



# *"The First Shire" Opus 38*

*Composer: Sven Liback Lyrics: Lolita Rivera*

Commissioned by  
**Sutherland Shire Council**  
for the Centenary of Federation.

*Fanfare and Introduction*

## ***The Past***

*Men came to view, old saw the new, discovering the wonders of this strange land.  
Red gums reached up to the skies, wildflowers in their eyes, and dazzled with their glory,  
Sand that spread in from the shore, as never seen before, returning home they told their story.  
Men came to stay, left in dismay, sailed northwards in search of easy haven.  
And abandoning the best, they left this land at rest, it was too hard to take it.  
Thus this southern land remained, and waited to be tamed,  
by those who had the heart to make it theirs  
So they came, those pioneers, who dared to strive alone,  
Life was harsh but they prevailed and made this land their own.  
This sturdy breed, willing to lead, had vision and prospered in the Southland.  
Here where others turned their back, at what it seemed to lack, they conquered isolation,  
And they went on to inspire formation of this Shire, birthplace of our beloved nation ?*

*Home.*

## ***The Present***

*Cronulla, Como, Kirrawee, Bundeena, Bangor, Bonnet Bay, Sylvania Heights,  
GyMEA Bay and Sandy Point.  
Kareela, Menai, Lucas Heights, Miranda, Garie,  
Taren Point, Sylvania Waters, Oyster Bay, Caringbah, Caravan Head, Kangaroo Point and  
Yarrawarra,  
Heathcote and Barden Ridge, Loftus, GyMEA, Woronora  
Heights, Audley and Alfords Point, Waterfall, Dolans Bay, Sylvania, Grays Point, Burraneer, Jannali,  
Southgate, Yowie Bay, North Engadine and Como  
West, Holsworthy, Port Hacking, Engadine, Kurnell, Warumbul and Woolooware, North Cronulla,  
Gundamain, Lilli Pilli, Illawong, Woronora, Maianbar, Sutherland, Sutherland Shire.*

## ***The Future***

*We look to the future, then look to the past, to help us remember beauty will not last  
unless it's protected for all to enjoy. We did not create it and must not destroy.  
We have been blessed with many graces, gift to be shared with many races.  
We can redress the wrongs of others and live in harmony.  
We all love this Southland in our custody, caring for it wisely is our legacy.*

## ***Sutherland March***

*Hail to Sutherland, we sing proudly,  
Hail to Sutherland, we sing joyfully,  
Land, where we began to be a nation.  
Sutherland.  
Raise your voices high, sing out proudly  
Raise your voices high, sing out joyfully  
Stand; honour this land in celebration.  
Sutherland.*



The Sutherland Shire Historical Society  
Bulletin.

