



Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc **Bulletin**



VOL. 7 No. 1

by Jan Efferidge

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Land Resumed for Caringbah Railway.

By Joan Buda

In about 1890, Fred and Mary Moore (*at right*) moved to NSW leaving their first child Frederick in New Zealand he was reared by his grandparents (Mary's Parents) as far as it can be pieced together from certificates Fred first worked in the sawmill at Bowral. They had a horse drawn caravan and travelled around Kangaroo Valley and the south coast. They then moved to Nelligen on the Clyde River, where Fred worked in the mill.

About 1899 their address was Victoria Road, Marrickville. At this time they had some land at nearby Tempe. In 1902 they lived at Rose Street, Darlington. Frederick then bought 5 acres of land at Bankstown about half an hours walk from the railway station and started a market garden.



In 1915, they moved to Moore Street, Hurstville and Fred worked for the railways. In the early 1930's Fred and Mary bought a house called "Bethel Cottage" Gardier Street, Caringbah. This was described as a weatherboard cottage, one room, kitchen offices, three veranda rooms, iron roof and a shed (the shed was a wash house come bath room) with a large claw footed bath and when I was a child I didn't like sharing with the large blue tongue lizards that scurried underneath the bath and also called it their home.

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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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 should be 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 car-park)

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

*All correspondence should
be addressed to*

**The Honorary Secretary
Sutherland Shire Historical Society
PO Box 389
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Disclaimer

The individual comment, articles and Office Bearers reports that appear in this Bulletin are the responsibility of the writer and in no way reflect the opinions or beliefs of the members or Executive of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

President's Remarks



Clr Dawn Emerson

President; Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

Gallipoli - On the Anzac weekend, the Australian National Maritime Museum sponsored a talk by Kevin Fewster, which Cliff and I attended, on his book: "Gallipoli--the Turkish story" ---having been there. Our Turkish guide was curious as to why I wanted to read the Turkish graves inscriptions (in English), as well as those on the graves of our Anzacs. I replied that they were worthy opponents of our brave Anzacs, and I wanted to know as much as I could about the Turkish soldiers who fought there, as well as our own Anzacs.) The Museum is setting up a fund for a project for the Centenary of Anzac, on 25th April, 1915: the raising of the Australian submarine AE2 which lies on the bottom of the sea near Gallipoli. Although the British ships were unable to breach the Dardanelles, the AE2 was successful. Unfortunately it met with misfortune, and although the crew were saved, the sub went to the bottom. The Museum is seeking donations to raise this unique vessel, and put it on display in time for the Anzac Centenary.

Nan Tien Buddhist Temple, Berkeley--Literary memories, not historical, unwittingly jogged Earlier this month some of the Executive Council of our society joined the Sydney University Women's Group and hired a small bus to visit the Buddhist Temple. We had a most comprehensive tour, by our very learned guide, who introduced himself as "T.S"

(naughtily I mused: "Eliot?" but didn't ask.) Our guide took pains to tell us that we were not going to be subjected to any pressure for conversion to Humanistic Buddhism. It was impressed upon us that if we live our lives being kind to others, and treating others as we ourselves would like to be treated we are living as Buddha did. (I suddenly thought of Mrs. Doasyouwouldbedoneby in Charles Kingsley's "The Water Babies".) Everywhere glittered with gilt and harmonious colours, with a theme of the lotus intertwined. We visited the main shrine with its five Buddha's of Confidence, Longevity, Wisdom, Inner Beauty, and Calmness and 10,000 smaller Buddhas to show everyone can achieve Buddhahood. It was interesting noting a reverse swastika (the Souvastiva?) on the Buddhas' chests, going back to Etruscan times and even earlier. We visited The Great Mercy hall, where suggestions could be made in Dharma. (Suddenly I had a flashback to fifty years ago when Jack Kerouac was the rage amongst our generation, with everyone reading "The Dharma Bums". I, at this late stage now had an understanding of the title of this "stream of consciousness" work, that this was Kerouac's aimless way of life, with no responsibilities, no possessions just existing and recording existence, as do extremists who practise Buddhism.) Our tour next took us to The Pagoda: an 8-storey resting place for the deceased. People could request to have their ashes placed here and a plaque noting their name. One could make a wish here at the Wishing Bell (not Well!) and there were many chambers where one could meditate and pray. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and came away with a feeling of inner peace and serenity.

Parc Menai Celtic Heritage Festival 7th-9th March, 2003 - Our Heritage Celtic festival was an outstanding success, with over 10,000 people visiting Parc Menai and the venues surrounding it. What a contrast to the previous Heritage Festival at Sutherland last year which was marred by the public liability scare! The Friday night Caedwad ceremony

was superb, with all the Celtic nations' flags flying, the sashing of the Caedwads (Wardens or Guardians of the Cromlech) : Breton, Cornish, Irish, Manx, Scottish, Welsh, etc. plus the Ward councillors, including myself. A place has been allocated, in future, for the President of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, so our President will always be recognised at this ceremony, but as I held both positions this year, there was no extra person. The Mayor, our State and Federal Members of Parliament,, and our guests: Vera Wilson from Bangor, Wales and Grace Roberts, from Qld who had been on our original Steering Committee, which created the heritage area in Parc Menai, were duly sashed with the Ancient Sutherland tartan. Our candles were lit and we proceeded to traverse two spirals so that the scene became a moving river of pinpoints of light in circles of varying size, and was most spectacular to any onlookers and there was a lovely feeling of togetherness and harmony as we passed and re-passed each other. We adjourned for a Mayoral Reception where the Haggis was slashed with a sword in true Robbie Burns style, and the little pageboy became so overwhelmed by it all he gave the first glass of Scotch to the Mayor, instead of the haggis-slasher (David Campbell) and poor David missed out! Unheard of departure from protocol! We had the Saturday night Ceilidh, with different Celtic dishes where the Celtic council recognised my service to the Welsh community by investing me as "Duine Vassal", with the post-nominals "D.Va" and presented me with several Celtic nations' flags for the council for next year. Then on the Sunday we marched in the Parade of Celts, and the Kirking of the Tartan with stirring Pipe Bands playing. This was the week before the Iraq War was initiated by the United States of America and the most telling point for me was the request from the rotunda to the four corners of the grounds: "Is there peace?" We had been informed previously that if there was a negative reply we could not proceed with the ceremony. With one voice the crowd called back enthusiastically four times, with a resounding "YES"! (What a contrast just a few days later with the world in turmoil. We were fortunate indeed to have that interlude.) The church service went so well with each nation saying the Lord's Prayer in their own language, and

then at the end I was presented with a Worcester numbered plate by Prof. Haydon Lloyd-Jones to be placed in the Mayoral suite, a gift to him from the Mayor of Bangor on a recent visit. I must pay tribute to several sections of council who made the festival such a success: Parks & Gardens, who had the grounds in superb order; Communications who, as always ran the Mayoral Reception like clockwork, Helen McDonald our Local History Librarian with her innovative Menai Pioneers display on corrugated iron, and many others. David Coburn, our Events Co-ordinator did a superb job. His events are imaginative and exciting, and David wrote the Kirking of the Tartan service himself, in conjunction with advice from the Celtic Council of Australia and the Ministers' Fraternity, which shows his excellent capabilities. Thankyou to David, and everyone concerned, including the members' of my magnificent Heritage Festival Committee, and of course my own beloved Sutherland Shire Historical Society members, who stand by me, stalwartly regardless of what task I allot them. I apologise that the Museum was not open for this year's Celtic festival, as our Curator Mr. Allan McGrath became ill, and there was no one available to open up over the three days of the Festival to help him out, and he didn't want to worry us by trying to find someone else when he knew most of the executive was busy. If you can help act as a guide on the days our Museum is open can you ring Allan or Jim Cutbush, and volunteer your assistance? On such occasions we need phone numbers of willing helpers to slot in if others are suddenly taken ill.

National Trust Heritage Festival- 5th-7th April vs. 29th April: Gweagals, Cook, & Kurnell This year Allan and Jim organised a splendid display on Cook, in the small room at the Sutherland School of Arts, using the National trust theme: "Freshwater, wind waves and wanderers" which the Trust advertised in their booklet, as one of the NSW events. Historian Daphne Salt assisted greatly by the loan of photos, and text. As usual the date did not coincide with our most significant date in our nation's modern history, the 29th April. The Sutherland Shire Council celebrated the 233rd Anniversary of Cook's landing at Kurnell, with the attendance by

many school children, and a welcome by the Dharawal elders to the Meeting of Two Cultures ceremony. Members felt it should have been publicised more widely and query why it does not receive national TV coverage especially if it is on a weekday in the morning, and there is plenty of time to get the film back to the studio in time for relaying on the evening news programme? How about it, Sydney TV channels? This should be relayed across Australia on 29th April! The National Parks Service are evolving the Kurnell Master plan for the Kurnell Peninsula. Have your say! What do you want to see happen in the Botany Bay National Park?

Menai Pioneer House Grant - We were delighted that council has given us a \$3,000 grant to build a replica Menai pioneer house, based on Owen Jones's house at Menai. I spoke of this in my last report, so you know what is outlined. Tom McMahon is keen to assist, and we hope that as soon as the money is available we can get started. We will keep you posted as we progress the project.

Stories from the Past - We know our members have amazing stories to tell of yesterday's events. How about putting it down on paper? You don't need to have a flowery style or any great literary skills. Just get it down on paper and Les and I can help out with any editorial assistance (Les does the editing and I give the assistance!) Or, do you know someone who has great tales to tell of "the old days". Grab a pen, get them to tell the story and get the facts on to paper.... we will do the rest. I know many of you are shy; don't be! It is your story which must be told, and the important thing is to have it recorded before it is lost. None of us are getting any younger, and once you have departed--no one else knows exactly what you know! So get it on to paper now, and give it to Les: those funny things that happened at school, the church concerts, the dances, the horse you used to ride, the old man who lived down in the gully near your house, how your family got by in the Depression, the old car you had, the days you used to go swimming in the creek, the church picnics, the house your Mum and Dad lived in, how your suburb looked 50 years ago---- we

want to know about them! See you at the next meeting and talk to me about it!

Clr Dawn Emerson
President

Guest Speakers for 2003

Friday, 15th May, 2003: Mrs. Leanne Mundy: Lieutenant Cook and his youthful Canadian exploits.

Friday, 20th June, 2003: Mr. Jim Cutbush: the Australian Flying Corps.

Friday, 18th July, 2003: Terry McCosker: Mystery subject.

Friday, 15th August, 2003: Mr. Mitchell: Oral history.

Friday, 18th September, 2003: Annual General Meeting.

Please Note

**The Annual General
Meeting of the
Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc.
will be held on the
19th September 2003**

From The Editor's Desk

"Today's events are tomorrow's history. I was called up to fight in Vietnam (though I did not actually get to Vietnam!) My father, Wallace Bursill fought in the Second World War and my maternal grandfather, William Smith fought in the Middle East in 1941-1943. My paternal grandfather, Oliver Bursill fought in the First World War (The Great War), 1914-1918. Millions of people died in those wars, probably more than 100 million. What did they die for? Money? Oil? Defence of freedom? The right to speak out without fear of retribution?

Well, here we are again, in the Middle East fighting a war ----for what? the so-called "weapons of mass destruction" so touted by George W Bush have not made their appearance, in fact the Iraqis seem barely able to defend themselves against the perceived real aggressors in this war, the United States. What have we Australians given up for this? Our hospitals refuse admission, our medical services charge like wounded bulls. Our poor are denigrated for their poverty and the unemployed are lambasted for their lack of enterprise. Citizens are attacked for speaking out; school children are bullied and assaulted by police; racial vilification is back, and we are the pariahs of the refugee seekers. It seems Australians now support an ally that denies human rights to men taken in battle, men who did no more than fight for their religious views in a foreign country.

We celebrate with pride the valour of our young Anzacs. With the spirit of Anzac Day at this time of year upon us, are we losing the rights we so valiantly fought for? Are we sacrificing our freedom and way of life by swallowing without question the fear ridden hyperbole of "be alert, but not alarmed!" Those in the trade union

movement
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assert
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workers have lost more rights in the last six years than were gained in the last 40 years! More workers are temporary or part time, than are employed full time in Australia today. What have we gained?

Ordinary people are often the major casualties in war, more so than the combatants. In that appalling event of "9/11", two aeroplanes were flown into the Twin Towers, NY and many innocent civilians lost their lives, and the whole western world sorrowed. On the first day of the Iraqi War 3,000 missiles flew into Baghdad, the very origin of civilisation, and the loss of life and injuries is beyond belief. Last week another 5,000 missiles were flown in, and the loss of innocent civilians and their injuries must now far exceed those of "9/11".

If Someone is keeping a bloodied score-book on who has killed the most blameless bystanders: men women and children---can we stop now? The Scales of Justice are dripping with their blood from both sides, and have mingled quietly in a great pool beneath. Pity they could not have met amicably in life. What price is "victory"?.

Les Bursill Editor.

FEBRUARY EXCURSION NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

As no Excursion Report was included in the recent Bulletin. (February Issue) I am writing specially to let you know we have, been invited to visit the Dural area on Saturday May 31st 2003; this in return for them coming to the Sutherland Shire last year.

'We will be leaving Cronulla at 8 a.m., Sutherland 8.30 us time to be at their "Cottage" in time for Morning Tea at 10 a.m. Following this we will be guided around their District and have a picnic luncheon in one of the parks; The President. Mr Michael Bell tells me there were fires in Dural but he will chose a suitable park site for us. Hopefully the regrowth will be well on the way by May.

Cost of the day will be \$26.00 members and \$31.00 visitors inclusive of Morning Tea; please take your Picnic Luncheon with you

Bookings to Mrs. Betty McGrath 141 Loftus Avenue, Loftus 2232, (Phone 9521-2227) Bookings open at February Meeting.

If you need any more information regarding the outing, please call- me on (9523-5801).

This Newsletter is being posted to those members who regularly or occasionally travel with us and we ask that you support us in this special effort; there is lots of history in the region and we have not made a visit there, previously as a group.

Aileen M Griffiths OAM

Deputy President and Excursion Officer

"Richmount"
34 Richmount Street,
CRONULLA. 2230 .

Membership Renewal 2003/4

The Society's financial year commences 1st of July each year and concludes on the 30th June of the following year.

In accordance with the above, membership renewals are due on the 1st of July 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 2003/4

TITLE: Mr.Mrs.Ms.

Family Name.....

Given Name.....

Postal Address.....

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

Please find my Subscription for 2003/4 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

Application for Renewal of Membership 2003/4

TITLE: Mr.Mrs.Ms.

Family Name.....

Given Name.....

Postal Address.....

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

Please find my Subscription for 2003/4 enclosed herewith
Annual Adult Subscription - \$20.00 + \$2.00 GST = \$22.00
Junior member / Fulltime Student - \$10.00 GST + \$11.00

SignedDate.....

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

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From page One

The Moores of Caringbah

My Grandfather Frederick Stebbing Moore was born in 1855 at Stepney mile end, County Middlesex England. His family ran a horse drawn bus company in London and during the world war it was bombed.

Fred attended Oxford University where he obtained an Engineers Degree. However he emigrated to New Zealand in 1881, where he married Mary Harrop in Auckland later that year. The couple had 7 children whilst living in New Zealand at Opua Whangarei. As a child of only 9 years Mary had worked in the cotton mills of Manchester, she migrated with her parents to New Zealand in 1880 on the ship Hurunui. Fred went on to become a Steam Train driver with the New Zealand railways. Later He and Mary migrated to Australia. Mary had a further 7 children after arriving in N.S.W.



The photo is Mary as a young woman with her first two children in New Zealand.

They came to N.S.W. circa 1889 initially residing in Sydney they then moved out of the city to Cooks River Tempe. It was here that Fred set up as a Hotelier although he still regularly used his talents as an Engineer repairing the boilers and machinery for the Nuns at the Convent across the road. (*editor; The Convent was only recently torn*

down and was replaced by the new road tunnel and railway line to the Airport at Wolli Creek Rail Station. My Grandmother Olive Bell [ne Smith] was sent there as a child to tend the clothes boilers and do washing for the Nuns. She often related terrible stories about the Nuns and their treatment of her).

Whilst the mystery remains as to why this long time *city dweller* chose to move 'BUSH' but he did, and chose the suburb of Caringbah and a property called the 'Kingswood Estate' the old house was surrounded by bush and as children we walked through a bush track to reach the shops. From memory the grocers were called HINTIES and LIME&BATES and the Butcher was BILLY MACS, SCARFITTIS sold fruit and vegetables, newspapers and was also a general store with a Post Office service.

On Saturdays the egg and bacon man called to the house with his horse and cart selling smallgoods. Most things were delivered by horse and cart. Those items included Ice, Milk, Bread, Coal etc. The one I remember most was the big man who walked from door to door carrying a large suitcase of clothing and Manchester. Usually before he got to our door I would observe him taking a break and sitting on his suitcase wiping his brow. I was always excited to see him making his rounds as he had classy dresses and Mum would usually buy items from him.



Fred and Mary in Tempe.

Fred's favourite place was the old Wine Bar it was situated near Willarong road and the Kingsway just a few steps from his front door but after the new rail line was completed his street was no longer called Gardere street it was changed to Curtis street (*see the Railway*

resumption plan) and he had a long walk around to the bridge over the rail line to reach the wine bar.

In 1941 my Grandfather Fred had a clause in his Will stating (that the four Christmas Bush trees in the front of the residence and one bird tree at the back of the residence must not be uprooted or destroyed) I wonder what he would think about the block of units minus his beloved trees now occupying the site.

The following pages will show a set of photographs of the Moores in Caringbah and will also show the first resumption certificate for railway land.



Mary and Fred Moore on horse and cart, 1922

Above - 1922 on a Sulky near Tempe?

Below, Mary Moore c. 1939 at Caringbah.



Above The House at Caringbah

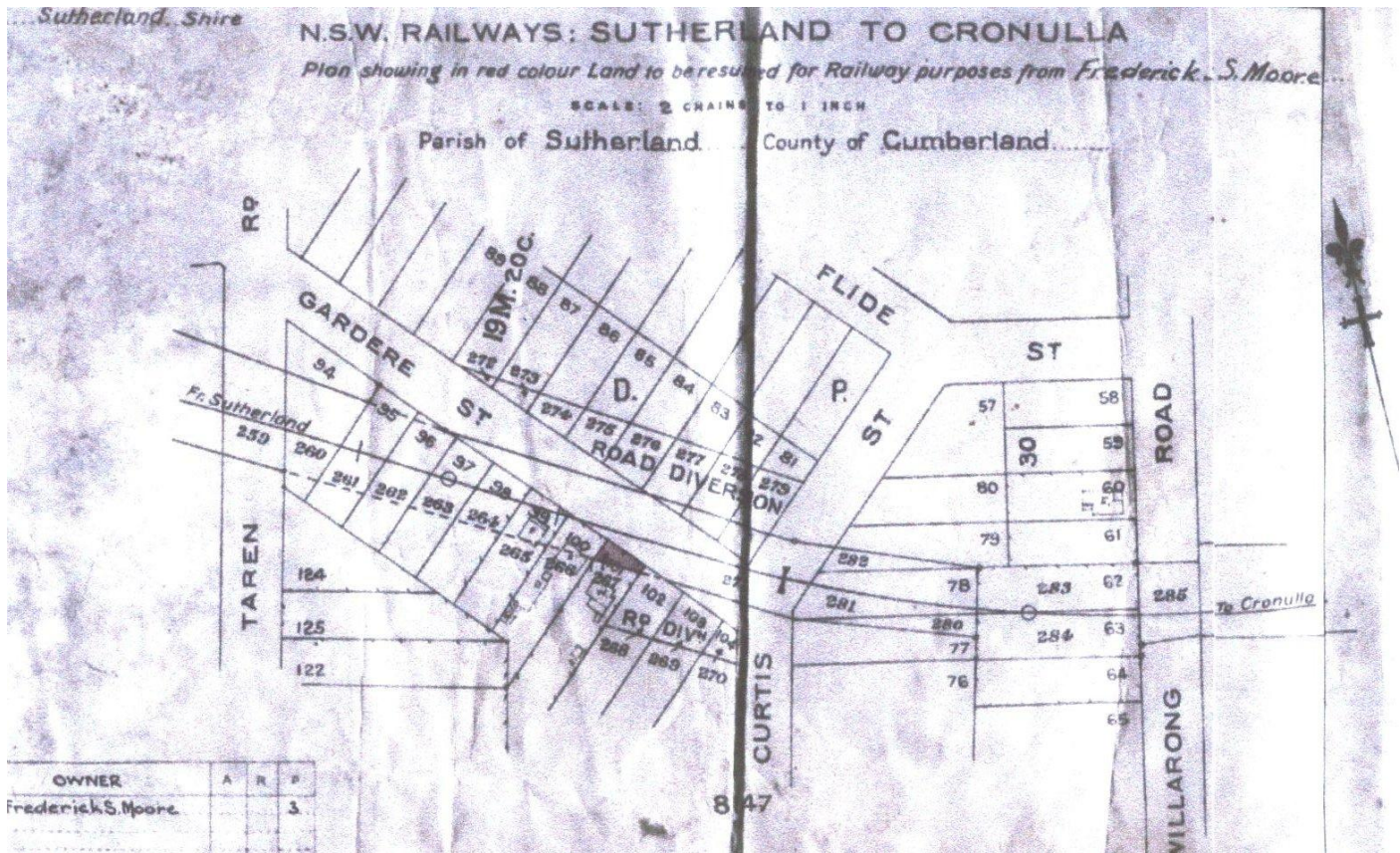


A young Mary Moore in New Zealand - Circa 1889

The following images are of the resumption documents and are courtesy of the Stebbing Moore family. Documents supplied by the family indicate that Fred Stebbing Moore purchased his Caringbah property in 1916.

The documents indicate that the Railways resumed the land along Gardere and Curtis streets and Willarong Road in June 1938. The land along Gardere road was valued at £1.00 (one pound) per foot. The land resumed from the Moores was deemed a 'Flower Garden' and there was compensation of £2.00 for a lost fence.

MAP OF LANDS RESUMED AT CARINGBAH FOR RAILWAYS USE



Offer and Particulars of Claim for land taken for Railway purposes.

To: *Department of Railways, N.S. Trade Office of the Government*

I HEREBY offer to accept from the Constructing Authority, as purchase money for the land (including buildings and fences erected thereon) of which I am *the proprietor in fee simple* delineated on the tracing plan attached to the Notice of land taken, and numbered *64 (col 101)*, which I hereby acknowledge to have received, containing *—* acres *—* rods and *3* perches, more or less, and as compensation for damage by severance, by the *railway*, or otherwise caused by the execution of the *railway* Works, as particularly set forth in the subjoined Schedule of Claim, the sum of £ *56*, which sum I declare to be my full claim in respect of the matters aforesaid.

DATED this *30* day of *June* 19*35*.

Name and address of Claimant: *F. S. Moore, Sutherland*

TO THE CONSTRUCTING AUTHORITY, SYDNEY.

SCHEDULE OF CLAIM.						
Reference No.	Area.			Character.	Estimated Value.	Total Value.
	a.	r.	p.			
Land Resumed.			3	Building	Per acre £ <i>—</i> or per foot £ <i>1</i>	50 0 0
				Cultivation	<i>House garden</i>	4 0 0
				Pasture	<i>NIL</i>	
				Mineral	<i>NIL</i>	
Improvements taken.	Nature and Description of Improvements taken.					
	Buildings <i>None taken</i>					
	Fences <i>front fence & side fence containing 200</i>					2 0 0
	Other Improvements <i>None</i>					
Damage by severance or otherwise						
Total amount of Claim						56 0 0

F. S. Moore

Department of Railways, New South Wales.
Legal and Estates Branch.

Office of the Estate Agent,
19 York Street,
Sydney.

2nd June 1935

Sir,

SUTHERLAND TO CRONULLA RAILWAY.

The document attached addressed to you is a Notice of Taking by The Commissioner for Railways of land for the Sutherland to Cronulla Railway. The land taken is indicated by red tint on the plan enclosed with the document.

Two (B) forms are enclosed also to enable you to furnish thereon the particulars of any claim you have to make for the taking of the land.

One form of claim with your name and address indicated thereon and signed by you should be sent to this office.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
Estate Agent.

Encl.

Mr. Fredk. S. Moore,
"Bethel Cottage",
Gardere Street,
SUTHERLAND.

VALE ISHBEL CADDELL

We were very saddened to know of the sudden death of our loved member, Ishbel Caddell on Friday 25th April.

Ishbel has been a faithful member of the Society for many years, had been a dedicated Committee member and was always of great assistance on our Excursions.

She was Scottish and still retained her attractive accent - she was a lovely gracious lady, very kind and thoughtful and devoted to her daughter-in-law, Lynne and grand-daughter Rylee.

Ishbel was a staunch member of Caringbah Presbyterian Church and also belonged to a Probus Group and had recently become very involved in Bowls which she was enjoying very much.

She will be very much missed and our loving sympathy is extended to her family.

Mina Whybourne



What a lovely lady and such a great loss to our Society. I have known Ishbel for about ten years and was always impressed by her serene manner and very able support for the Society. I was so shocked by her passing, as it was to me, totally unexpected. I can only imagine how her family must feel in losing such a young and vibrant Mother and Grandmother.

Editor.

A Celebration of Joyce Ericsson The Life of Stella

Stella was born in Christchurch New Zealand on the 21st April 1912, almost a century ago. She has seen the dawning of the 21st century, lived through two world wars, the great depression and endless other tragedies and witnessed time spanning from the horse and buggy days to the modern travel of the jet age.

Stella was one of six siblings all of who were adopted and fostered. Her adopting parents Alf and Annie Godfrey were Australian from the Riverina District of New South Wales. Alf was a shearing contractor employing a team of shearers. Annie had a background of bush nursing so she set up a nursing home in Cootamundra to take care of sick and terminally ill boarders in a better environment than was available in isolated rural areas in those days.

Annie's bridesmaid was also her best friend. She was involved in a horse and buggy accident which killed both her and her husband. They left three teenage children Jean, Darcy and Ada Mitchell who Annie and Alf fostered. The children were known as the Mitchell Mob. Times were not easy then with no Social Security or child support so any income Annie derived from the nursing home was greatly needed to support the extra family members. Stella and the three Mitchell siblings were expected to work tirelessly to earn their keep and to learn life's principles. Annie ruled with an iron rod. Stella said later in life that nothing was free in the Godfrey household, one had to work for one's meals.

Her adopted father adored Stella all of his life. Annie, his wife, had been married previously and had a daughter Sylvia who was nine years older than Stella and had little in common with Stella. Sylvia rarely visited her mother. Sylvia's natural father financed her upbringing paying for her education at boarding school, her wedding and all her other needs. This caused a great deal of anguish for Annie who then bullied Stella and the Mitchell children into working for their keep.

Alf was fortunate to be paid a cash wage and keep and would bring home a couple of sheep as part of his earnings.



Annie kept house for her family and seven house guests. She also attended to their medical needs. She was well respected in the district and honoured by the local doctors and politicians because there was no other place like her Nursing Home. Annie's recipes and bush medicines are kept as a written record in the archives of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs.

In 1914 Australia and New Zealand shared a time when adoptions were conducted in total secrecy. Stella's birth name and natural parents' names were not revealed. At the age of sixteen during a family squabble, Stella found out her birth name to be Joyce Tranter Garland. Her adoptive name was Stella Joyce Godfrey. It took almost a life-time to establish her birth family connections and to learn that she was one of six children, Norman, Netta, Stella, Gladys, Letitia and Ellen. Ellen now 81 yew of age is called Nellie. She still resides in New Zealand and sadly Stella only met

Nellie in 1998 when she attended the 150 year celebrations in Dunedin of the arrival of the first Scottish settlers to New Zealand on the ship "Philip Laing. Stella is descended from the Ferguson family who came to New Zealand on this ship. Her ancestors were also part of the original Canterbury settlers and Stella attended the 150 year celebrations in Christchurch in 2000 for this occasion. On this trip, she was presented to the Governor General of New Zealand as the senior member of the Garland family.

Through the intervention of the children's aunt; Gladys Campagnolo, Stella's whereabouts were traced. Aunt Gladys was able to put the children of her dead sister Ellen in touch with each other. Over the years Stella met Netta and Gladys her sisters and they shared a wonderful friendship. As Netta's daughter, I have all my life known Aunt Stella as my aunt and dear friend. She had grown into the role of Matriarch of her Garland heritage where she has become the much loved Aunt to us all. We have called on her strength and wisdom to support us in our joys and grief. She was always there for us. Stella became the Doyen of The Garland Girls as she referred to us girls. When being spoken to she would always say "it's Aunt Stella to you" if we referred to her only as Stella. To all her Garland family she will always be the aunt every family should have. I will always remember her for her style and how she would say "Get on with it" So I will.

Stella married Noel Ericsson in Hay on the 18th of April 1933, a marriage that lasted 54 years and produced two sons. Noel chose Radio Science as his career and worked on ships at the start of their marriage being away for three months at a time. The home port was somewhere between Port Macquarie in the East and Perth in the West. Stella would travel and meet the ship where ever mid whenever it was in port be it Sydney, Melbourne Or Adelaide.

During the Second World War, Noel was employed as a weather lookout spokesman and was contracted to live on Lord Howe Island. He would have to report any Japanese submarines or

ships etc and report the weather at the start of the Australian day. This information was relayed by Morse code. Later Noel managed the flying boat base in Sydney which involved Newcastle (Lake Macquarie), Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island. The greater part of his career was spent at Mascot Airport as an Air Traffic Controller. During this time aircraft were slower and smaller. He could talk personally to the pilots and have them take off and land safely.

Noel devised ways of making air travel safe by stacking planes, keep them circling the airport and then calling them to land one by one. He produced safety procedures for plane takeoffs within Australia that are still used today even with the huge advances in electronics and radar. His main passion was Amateur (HAM) radio and to his final days he was teaching blind students to send and receive Morse code. All over the years and through Noel's career moves, Stella, "His GAL", was at his side.

Following Noel's death Stella resumed her love affair with travelling. She loved to travel by any mode of transport but most especially by train. Throughout her lifetime her journeys saw her travel across Europe on the Orient Express; through the highlands of Scotland on the Flying Scotsman; across Australia over the Nullabor Plains on the old Puffing Billy then later the Indian Pacific Express and from Adelaide to The Alice on The Ghan to name just a few.

Her passion for reading, and her involvement with gardening and writing clubs, theatre and Historical Societies provided her with not only a diverse understanding and keen interest in the ways of the world but also a large number of friendships many of which lasted for more than six decades.

Stella is survived by her two sons, Godfrey and Michael, daughters in law Karen and Beverly and two Grand daughters Simone and Lisa. Ben her Grandson predeceased her as a teenager. She was extremely proud of her family. Stella wanted it known that she did it "HER WAY"

*An Ode to
Stella Joyce Ericsson
21st April 1912 12 March 2003*

One at Rest

Think of me as one at rest
For me you should not weep.
I have no pain no troubled thoughts
For I am asleep.

The living thinking me that was,
Is now forever still.
And time goes on without me
As time forever will.

If your heart is heavy now
Because I've gone away,
Dwell not upon it friend
For none of us can stay.

Those of you who liked me
I sincerely thank you all.
And those of you who loved me,
I thank you most of all.

The answer to life's riddle
In life I'll never knew,
I go with hope that now I will,
And even so will you.

Oh, foolish, foolish me that was
I who was so small,
To have wondered even worried,
At the mystery of it all.

And in my fleeting lifespan
As time went rushing by,
I found some time to hesitate,
To laugh, to love, to cry.

Matters it not now if time began,
If time will ever cease,
I was here, I used it all,
And now I am at Peace

*Vale
Dr. Mark Florence*

Our Georges River Keeper, Mr Simon Annabel notified me this morning that Dr. Mark Florence , an Oyster Bay resident for many years and eminent scientist, who has been a volunteer for the GRCCC since the inception of the Georges River Keeper Volunteers' programme, some six years ago, finally lost his battle with cancer on Easter Saturday, 2003 and passed away.

Mark had assisted with teaching volunteers water sampling, boating, and generally advising on how we should care for our environment. He was a gentle person, softly spoken, very learned but willing to share his knowledge with others so all could appreciate our riverine environment and the principles of conservation. Mark was well-liked by members of the GRCCC as well as the volunteers whom he instructed. His paper on the Georges River, showing that its waters were improving and that it was now so much cleaner due to the efforts of the community was well-received.

Not only involved with the Georges River, he became involved with the Oyster Bay project, writing a History of Oyster Bay for Council's survey of the area, which was published by council, as a booklet. The History of Oyster bay was also published in the Sutherland Shire Historical society bulletin, as it was a worthy contribution to our local history knowledge.

Mark will be sadly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family, and grieve with them in this sad loss.

Clr Dawn Emerson,

President, Georges River Combined Councils'
Committee
President, Sutherland Shire Historical Society

A GRAVESTONE, NO GRAVE AND A RIDDLE

from Bettye Ross

Just over two years ago an article appeared in the St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader titled "The Grave Mystery of Will and Eliza's Death"

I thought it was a pretty eye-catching headline and on reading through it, found that a Headstone had been found in bushes in a backyard in Como, which is the next suburb to Oyster Bay where I live. Now the headstone had been thrown over the fence of this property some years before, presumably as a party piece, and had ended up in the bushes. New occupants clearing the block had found it and wondered where it came from, why and whose was it?

Its inscription read:

*"William Jonathon Johnson
Died, October 3, 1866, aged 55
This sweet remembrance of the
just shall flourish when he
sleeps in dust. Psm CXII. 6*

underneath in smaller letters a smaller tribute stated:

*"Eliza Harris who died on December 8,
1878, aged 65*

Eliza's name and tribute had a pretty insignificant tone about it compared to William's. Was Harris her surname? The Leader asked this as well as wondering whether the pair were sister and brother or "star-crossed lovers who thwarted convention by not marrying more than a century ago?"

This threw me into a mood of this has got to be solvable so I set to looking up newspapers of the time and found a nice long obituary to William and other notices of his occupations and abilities in various other articles, but so little about Eliza it amounted to nothing. But was she Eliza Harris or was she Eliza Johnson or was she Eliza the de facto of William Johnson or had she remarried

after her husband William Johnson died? It didn't matter what or where I looked she was not there. So if she wasn't there, when and where had she come from? I was fairly certain of one thing - she had been lying in state" wherever that headstone had originally stood - I hoped! There was not even a birth registration for an Eliza Harris or Johnson if she'd been related before marriage to William Johnson. There was only a Marriage for a William Johnson to an Eliza Tompson. No way you wrote Harris could it look like Tompson!

There were two deaths registered who possibly could have been her, so I sent for both Certificates, one didn't fit because it was a death of an Eliza Johnson before the above date, but the other one did have a possibility although it was for a burial for 2nd January, 1879 - 25 days after she died! Not only that but between Eliza and Johnson was an H.! That certainly could stand for Harris. Naturally this Death Certificate didn't have any more helpful details than that - no date of death, she was a female and she had been buried 2.1.1879 at Camperdown by Mrs. Kinsella & Sons of Sydney and witnesses were Henry Kinsella and William O'Dwyer. No date of death as I said, no age, no birthplace, no husband and no children!

Well I swung into research action - I eventually found where Kinsella's Burial registers were but they were scant and some years missing, but Eliza Johnson was there no date but round about 1879-80, no more details than I had. So I started looking around the date of burial instead of death, nothing. I was starting to get to know Eliza - she appeared in my mind as a pathetically lonely lady, living on her own, her children gone or estranged from her, alone since her husband's death! Perhaps she'd fallen, lay injured on the floor with no one to hear her cries, no one to come and comfort or cover her emaciated body.

Perhaps she'd died of thirst, exposure and loneliness! I knew she was emaciated because I'd now worked out how pathetic were her circumstances! If it wasn't 120 years ago I'd probably have considered going and forcing her door open to find her!

I didn't though - I went back to the old Registers looking for more clues and decided to follow all the indexes of William Johnson marriages. The one that fitted was Eliza Tompson because the groom had the second initial of J. When hooked it

up they had married 21st July, 1838 at St. Philip's, Sydney, her name given as Eliza Harris Thompson and the groom as William Jonathon Johnson. The witnesses were Charles Thompson, Richard Johnson, James Johnson, Jane Ann Armytage and I*~ Ann Johnson.

A lot of Johnson's to say the least and who was Jane Ann Armytage, was she a relation? This took me back to the 1828 Census and I found Charles Thompson aged 44 who had arrived Free on the "Coromandel" in 1804, his wife Jane aged 34 and children Charles Mr. 21, Frederick 14, Eliza H. 11, Edwmi 9, Alfred 7, Emina 5, Ferdinand 3 and another Eliza H. aged 18 months, but how could wife Jane aged 34 years have a son aged 21? All except Charles Stir had been born in the Colony. Then when I looked under the Census for Armytage I found it stated Charles aged 12, George 9 and Jane Ann aged 10 months were the children of Mrs. C. Thompson and in the Appendix it states "Children of Jane Morris by former husband". I now had two Eliza H.'s, two Charles' and a Jane Ann Armytage - back to the Drawing Board and after a few more delving's into Archives I came up with Eliza Harris Thompson daughter of Charles Thompson and Jane Armytage (nee Morris) marrying William Jonathon Johnson. I'd solved it!

My findings were sent off to the Leader a couple of months later and it was inserted under the headli-l "Mystery of Como Tombstone Known" BUT, wait till the next Bulletin to find out how I fell on tily face, and the stories and twists this riddle took me into!

So there we were Eliza Harris Thompson, was the daughter of Charles Thompson and Jane Armytage (nee Morris) and with a little leeway from the 1828 Census that looked right. The St. George & Sutherland Shire Leader published my results and I received a very nice 'phone call and letter from a lady descended from Charles Thompson, but before I move on to my conversation with her I'd still been playing with the research tools!

I had now come up with the fact that Charles Thompson had NOT COME FREE but as a Convict, on the Coromandel 1 (2) as the Census stated, and he and Jane had only married in 1822. Eliza Harris TOMPSON had been born Cl 817 (naturally there is no birth or baptism registration) so was she being claimed as a Thompson or was

this an adopted surname, perhaps she was really an Armytage?

Further research into Jane showed she had been born in the Colony to James Morris a Private in the New South Wales Corps and his common-law wife Elizabeth Watts and that Jane had a younger sister Hannah (same parents) who also had married a Charles Thompson. Now I was in trouble, two Charles Thompson's.

Meanwhile back to the 'phone call and letter from the Thompson descendant, she verified that she was the great granddaughter of Eliza Harris Thompson's brother and that Eliza had been given the second name of Harris after the Surgeon John Harris who obviously had delivered her, and that Eliza Harris Johnson's maiden name had definitely been Thompson and that she was not the daughter of Charles Thompson's marriage to Jane Armytage (nee Morris) but that her mother had been Elizabeth Boggis, the first wife of Charles Thompson and that Elizabeth had died in 1822 when Eliza H. (Harris) was almost five years of age. Charles Thompson had then remarried to Jane Armytage (nee Morris) who was widowed the same year as Charles and she brought three children to join his seven motherless children. They then went on to have another eight children and the third one was named Eliza H. in the 1828 Census but was actually baptized Elizabeth Henrietta.

Incidentally Eliza's brother Alfred had the second name of Fulton (after Rev. Henry Fulton) and her half-brother Ferdinand's (mother Jane Armytage nee Morris) second name was Macquarie, and her half-brother Theodore's second name was Lachlan. All very relevant to the new Colony!

Eliza Harris Thompson married William Jonathan Johnson in 1838 at Clydesdale, Windsor which was the home of the Thompson family. Her adoptive mother Jane Thompson (was Arinylage nee Morris) had a younger sister Hannah Morris who as I said above married Charles Thompson and he was the brother of Eliza Harris Johnson (nee Thompson) and like his father he was Charles Thompson but he was born 1807 of the first Thompson wife, Elizabeth nee Boggis.

William was the son of Richard Johnson a Watchmaker and Elizabeth Phillips and he and Eliza Harris Thompson had eight children - three

boys and five girls living and one boy and three daughters dead when William died at Newtown after an illness of Dropsy 3.10.1866 aged 55 years. He had been born at Islington, London 18 11. He built the first Organ in the Colony "of two manuals and nine stops which today stills stands in its original place in St. Matthew's at Windsor and had major restoration in 1986 but still has most of its original parts. The one other surviving piece of Johnson's organ building -an 1844 chamber organ is now in the Powerhouse Museum."

He also built 12 other organs, gave singing and music lessons, edited books of psalms, was a founder of the Sydney Vocal Harmonic Society and when forced through bankruptcy sold English organs to churches in Bathurst, Mudgee and Darling Point.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST.

Sixty years ago on the night of 31st May 1942 the war was brought to Sydney with 3 Japanese Midget Submarines having been launched from their mother submarines off the Coast, entered Sydney Harbour through the Boom Defences with the intention of wrecking havoc to any of the vast fleet at anchor. The most obvious target was the American Cruiser USS Chicago.

The raid was unsuccessful with one of the subs getting entangled in the boom net & the crew of two blowing the vessel and themselves up. The second sub fired its torpedoes at the American Warship and Missed it, but unfortunately one of its torpedoes travelled on to hit the HMAS Kuttabul (a former Sydney Harbour ferry), which was tied up at Garden Island and used as a depot ship. This resulted in the unfortunate death of 19 sailors asleep on board. That submarine was destroyed by depth charges and was later recovered with the bodies of the two crew still aboard.

The third submarine was never found and it is thought that it escaped out to sea again. Despite a lot of controversy at the time, the Japanese Sailors were accorded full naval honours at their cremation, their remains having later being returned to Japan after cessation of hostilities. These were dangerous times and Sydney had actually been observed by a Japanese Naval Seaplane from another Mother Submarine just prior to the bombing raid on the night of 7th June

1942. Nine residences in the Rose Bay and Bellevue Hill area were hit by shells, which in most cases were "duds". Some of the buildings were badly damaged by the resulting blasts.

Source: Permission given by Mr. Doug Cumining OAM. - President Waverly Historical Society To reproduce their article written by him that was printed in their Monthly Bulletin Volume 14 Number 5 May 2002.

A Short History of George and Mary Gilmore

My grandparents, George & Mary Gilmore were very early settlers in the Shire. George purchased 100 acres of land in 1908 from the Prince's Hwy to Waratah St & from Kenneth Ave to Acacia Road including all the land now occupied by North Sutherland Primary from Waratah St to beyond The Boulevarde. He gave most of this land to a fellow named Thomas Holt, (now famous for the Holt Village) and as my dear Mum still recalls, George never received a zac (6d or 5 cents) for it.

George Gilmore was also one of the first Pioneers to to be involved in the construction of the steam tram line from Sutherland to Cronulla. Mum has photos of one tram which overturned on the bottom of the hill East of Miranda Shopping Centre. If interested take a drive down Acacia Rd.; directly opposite Clio St is the original home built by George Gilmore in 1910, a lovely old cottage where all of their children, 10, were born; myself in 1944.

*Kindest Regards.
David. Gilmore*

Please Note.

**The Annual General
Meeting of the Sutherland
Shire Historical Society
Inc. will be held on the 19th
September 2003.**