



*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



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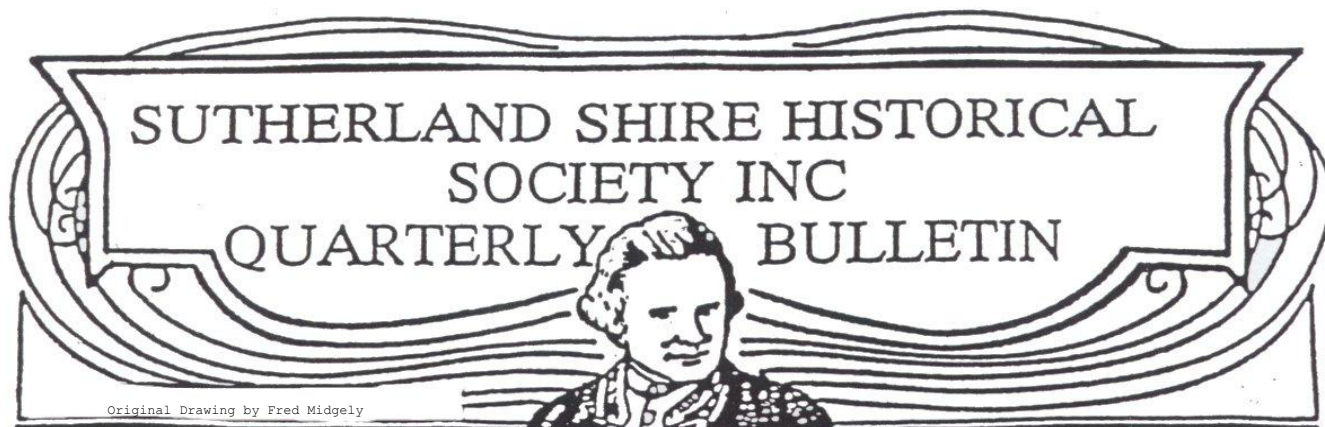
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Madame Melba getting into her car at Audley 29/8/1909

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the third Friday at 7.45pm at the Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

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Disclaimer

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

President's Report



President's Report

Happy New year to you all! Already the year seems to have galloped off in a very unseemly manner without waiting for a gentle “settling-in” period! However I must say that our Christmas “Show and Tell” meeting and our January “Members’ Night” gave us a great opportunity to exhibit not only the talents of some of our members but the excellence of their interesting possessions also. Weren’t they great evenings! What a variety of items too: clocks, dolls, aeroplanes, cameras, pez containers, fishing rods, gramophone records, books, bejewelled Este Lauder compacts, and pictures made from butterflies’ wings just to mention a few! I think too we just enjoyed talking to friends who have similar interests, and listening to their fascinating experiences: How Doug came to collect such beautiful objects, Angela tripping around Europe young and fancy-free on a shoestring, and Mary with her fascinating book she has written on our feathered soldiers! You members really are the most amazing people and I dearly love you all, and am so proud of you as your President!

Sutherland Shire History

This latest history which was sponsored by the Council has been eagerly awaited, and was launched at the end of last year. Four of our members: Les Bursill, Pauline Curby Don Truman, and myself were members of the Heritage Committee which commissioned it, but unfortunately we did not have much input to its content, or supervision as to its progress. I myself believed that as it was the Centenary of Local Government in Sutherland Shire, this history would be different from the several others already existing, in that it would show how our Council had “shaped our Shire” over the last one hundred years. We are very proud of our council and in many respects the Sutherland Shire Council has led the way for other councils in community welfare, development controls, and in standing up for its beliefs by taking a stand in the courts on pertinent issues. We Heritage Committee members even saw a first chapter, which I believed was only setting the scene---but even *this* was vastly different when printed! We never saw any further chapters until the work was a *fait accompli* so we were quite surprised at the end result, and I have to say, not a little disappointed.

Yes, there are some interesting stories which had not been told before, but a disproportionate preponderance on *minutiae* such as the Puberty Blues culture. This may have affected about 5% of our population, and was NOT unique to the Shire-- whilst the rest of our population went about their business, building homes, raising families, moulding their community and environment in a unique way, led by dedicated groups of councillors with a conscience and served by council staff members with commitment and expertise. How did we omit *their* contribution, when they have done so much to make our Shire great, contributing the lifeblood which moulded the community spirit pulsing through the very heart of our Shire!

There has to be a theme as to how and why the Shire developed. It is the historian’s job to find that theme which explains history—otherwise it is just a chronicle of events, dry and uninteresting—until all the threads are drawn together!

We have 36 past councillors living, many still in the Shire, and yet none of these were interviewed, despite the fact that they made the decisions! We have many dedicated retired staff members who know HOW the decisions were implemented. This is the stuff that history thrives upon, and of which it is made! Perhaps the authors were frightened of the politics; surely we are big enough to say “Well done!” regardless of the party or person responsible, and aren’t we mature enough to say “Yes, we made a mistake” and learn from those mistakes. It is not a polli-bashing or councillor –bashing exercise. Credit has to be given where credit is due, and it is an historian’s job to present the facts as they are, not colour or obfuscate them, otherwise they are not doing their job.

Resolution

On Members’ Night we discussed the new Shire history and a resolution was passed that we apprise the council of our thoughts, and suggest that as we still haven’t got a history of the Centenary of Local Government in Sutherland Shire, that we ask Council to consider financing a further volume. We also would like to send along a deputation to the Mayor, Councillors and Shire Manager, to discuss this. We

have council minutes to draw upon and make sure our history is accurate. We have 36 ex-councillors: ex-Shire presidents, ex-Deputy Shire Presidents, ex-Mayors, and ex-Deputy Mayors and we have ex-staff, as well as ex-Members of State and Federal Parliament from whom we can get first-hand experiences. No doubt it will take two or three years to write such a work, and we need a good editor. We have asked Prof. James Hagan, from the University of Wollongong to guide and edit this work if council is interested in our proposal. The authors would not be paid, but do as we do at present, collect history because of our love of it, and as a service to our community. Meetings are soon to be held throughout the community consulting with the people of the Shire seeking your opinions, as we believe that the history of a region is the history of its people and their environment and how they shaped that environment.

Well, we have begun the year on a very serious note, and I believe that your Shire Historical Society has a duty to its council and its people, to collect and preserve the history of our Shire. Surely our Society can have no greater *raison d'être* than to actually record the history of its council, and its legacy and certainly there has been no concerted attempt to do this over the last fifty years, since Kirkby.

Australia Day

This was a disappointment as we are out of the mainstream at North Cronulla Surf Club, up several flights of stairs and Council omitted us from their advertising, so we only had 78 people attend despite having one of the best displays we have ever had including the Centenary of Lifesaving. Next year we have booked the Community Hall in the Mall, so we hope for a better attendance, and we will ensure that our event is advertised. A big thankyou to all those who helped, and also on the following Sunday at the Community Relations Commission's "Did You Know?" event at Dunningham Park.

Parc Menai Centenary Celtic Festival

This is the last event being held for the Centenary of the Shire, and will be held on 24th and 25th February at Parc Menai, and feature our Investiture of the Caedwadd, Inspection of the Cromlech, and Spiral Candlelight Walk, Address to the Haggis, and Ceremonial Toast from the Quaiche. On the Sunday, we have the Mass Celtic Flag raising, Parade of the Celts, Blessing of the Celts at the Rotunda, and a free Celtic Concert which will extend until 4pm. There will be the interesting stalls and workshops and talks on Celtic culture and musical instruments.

Heritage Festival: Places in Context

This year this festival commences with the Parc Menai Celtic Centenary Festival on 24th February, 2007 and concludes on the 8th April, 2007. The dates for late March and early April were chosen prior to the State Government choosing the date for the election, and when the National Trust wanted to change the dates to avoid a clash, most of us had already booked our venues, so this year our Festival covers some six weeks. On Friday, 23rd March we have Gary Waller as our guest speaker and this will be a cocktail reception and the Mayoral Launch for Heritage Festival. Jim has designed a fascinating display in the foyer of the School of Arts for "Places in Context" and as this is the year of the Lifesaver, we will have a Centenary of Lifesaving in the small exhibition room, in keeping with Cronulla's SLSC celebration. Flyers will be handed out at the next meeting detailing the many events planned throughout the Shire, and we have a fascinating programme.

Anzac Day

This year we will have the Menai Pioneer home refurbished in the era of World War I, so although we are not usually open on public holidays, we have decided to open it and advise the RSL's that we have a special exhibition for the 25th April. Let Jim know if you can spare 2 hours to help out at the Museum on that day. Cliff and I will help out. Hours: 11am-3.30pm

We have an interesting series of talks planned for the year, and I hope to see you and have a chat at these evenings, or at our Museum displays.

Dawn Emerson,

President

2007 Meetings - Friday at 8pm, Stapleton Centre, Sutherland:

February, 24th Parc Menai Celtic Fest. Mayoral Cocktail Reception, **Menai Community Centre,**

March 16 : Mr. Greg Bond: La Perouse Museum

March 23 : Heritage Festival. Mr Gary Waller: Places in context. Our built heritage. SSMA Cocktail reception \$4 6.30 Please bring a plate

April 20 : Films of Yesteryear. From the SSHS archives

May 18 : Deputy Mayor Clr Ken McDonell: Council's centenary

From The Editor's Desk

The 'Moombara' story is a fitting sequel to the last edition's coverage of 'Fernleigh' and fills a gap by providing a more detailed coverage of significant items in our built heritage. When I assumed the editor's role I made a commitment to researching the history of some of our more significant houses. As historians we enjoy discovering the nuts and bolts of the past – the when, why and how's of the conventional history... 'built in 1881 of local sandstone by.....' What is often more interesting is the social history. Who were the inhabitants, what part did they play in the social life of the area, what records did they leave, what did they do? The Shire at the beginning of the 20th Century was an idyllic playground for an energetic few who battled hard to earn a living and to raise a family.



The pioneers were not wealthy and few left grand homes or sought and cultivated social status and the trappings of the elite. For many it was a place to get a start. Transport was a problem. Getting farm produce to market was difficult and until the motor car became affordable for the masses, especially until after the Second World War, few chose to live here. When they did begin to arrive in the post war era, it was the prospect of cheap land and many lived in garages whilst they built their modest homes. By contrast, the Shire is now amongst the ten or so highest income local areas in Australia.

Yet a few of the early settlers were very wealthy and lead extraordinary lives.

The Allen family who owned Moombara for much of the first half of the 20th Century was of this ilk. They owned motor cars at the very dawn of motoring history and the list of dignitaries and interesting and influential people who visited Moombara over the years would qualify it as a 'Hollywood of the south' and they left a wonderful legacy of the period in photographs.

Thankfully, Moombara has mainly had sympathetic owners throughout its life and it remains intact as an excellent example of a period architectural style, complete with an impeccable pedigree. The photographs in the story on Moombara are from the Mitchell library and cannot be used without permission.

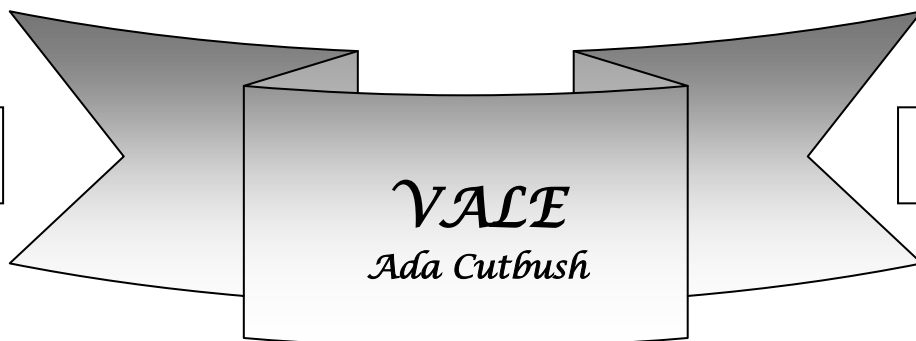
I recently spoke with a person in **XXXX** Street Sylvania and by chance they mentioned a house opposite. 'Did you know that Gladys Moncrief used to own it? (numbers 5-7) 'Our Glad' as she was affectionately known was a very well known and popular Australian operatic singer who made many recordings on 78s. I had heard that she often visited the Shire but was unaware that she actually had a house here. She retired to the 'Isle of Capri' on the Gold Coast and died there in 1976. It would be good if anyone could follow up my article on 'The history of recorded sound' with additional insights or anecdotes about our early recording artists.

We are still on the hunt for original photographs or film. Perhaps you have some tucked away or come across some in the course of your work or through family or friends. Often when people are moving or older people are downsizing, items that would be useful historically are discarded. Contacting the Society could mean that important items are preserved for future generations to study and observe. These needn't be antiques. Many more recent items will in time be of historical value. At the monthly meeting on the 20th April I'll be showing some slides of early days in the Shire.(we've converted them to disk!) Come along and enjoy the evening.

As the 'face' of the Historical Society I look forward to providing enjoyable reading in 2007 and I encourage you to send in your contributions.

Bruce Watt

14/9/1917



4/2/2007

Ada passed away, aged 89, at Sutherland Hospital after suffering a stroke at Thomas Holt Village, where she has resided for the past 18 months.

Ada was born at Bondi, Sydney, the 5th child of a 7 child family (4 Boys, 3 Girls). She had a happy childhood until just after the family moved to Concord West. Her mother passed away when Ada was only 9 years of age. Her Father managed to hold the family together. All the children made successes of their lives and the family continued to be close and loving.

Ada's earlier interest's included physical culture, tap and ballroom dancing and teaching Sunday school. After High School she attended Scott and Underwood Business College, Sydney and was later employed by the Day and Liverpool Street Motor Company, Sydney.

She married Bill Cutbush on 20/4/1940. They purchased land in Hyndman Parade, Woollooware from Joe Monro, on what was then known as the "Castlewood Estate" and battled, as many did during the war years to slowly build a home. Husband Bill was building aircraft at Mascot when Ada decided to do her bit at the I.X.L. factory Newtown on the peach and corn lines, leaving toddler Jim at "Winston College" on the Kingsway Cronulla, where a motel stands today. In the 50's Ada had 2 more children, Terry and Jennifer. Bill was employed from the very start of Caltex Refinery construction and as with many other families in the Shire, living became a whole lot better.

Ada's husband Bill passed away with a heart attack at the age of 60. She gained strength from faith and family and becomes an active member of the following: St Andrew's Choir, The Sutherland Shire Historical Society (Hon. Life Member), The CWA – Port Hacking Group, Canterbury Historical Society, The 1788-1820 Pioneer Association, Friends of the First Government House Site inc and Save The Children – to name a few.

In our Society Ada contributed to our "Bulletin" and helped 2 other ladies compile the "Descendants of the First Fleet Register" for the Sutherland Shire, a 1988 project that took approx. 2 ½ years to complete. She served on our "Bulletin", Museum, Excursions, Heritage, Australia Day and Sutherland Shires 1988 Bi-Centennial Committee's. She also assisted with transport pick up and drop off for members and visitors that found it difficult to get to our meetings and functions – all done in her faithful old Ford. In 2003 she suffered a small stroke which contributed to some health problems. Fortunately, Ada was able to live in her home up until the last 18 months when she entered Thomas Holt Village, North Sutherland, where she was given kind and loving attention by the staff of "Magnolia Wing" till the end.

Always kind and loving – Nothing was a problem.



Ada will be sadly missed by us all.

Jim Cutbush

Vice President – Museum Curator – Son.

A brief history of recorded sound

Bruce Watt

The way in which civilisation sees, hears and communicates with itself has a dramatic impact on the way it behaves. Oral tradition, books, drawings and paintings were the chief means of describing social activity in the past. Then from the middle of the 19th Century, the invention of photography, then recorded sound, electricity, transport systems, telephone, radio, television and the internet, fundamentally altered human existence. Imagine for a moment how different our perceptions of history would be if there was original film footage of the battle of Hastings, voice recordings of Abraham Lincoln's speeches or broadcasts of the First Fleet landing.

Recorded sound

The first recorded and reproducible words of a human voice were 'Mary had a little lamb' spoken by Thomas Edison on a tinfoil cylinder phonograph on 6th December 1877. Edison was one of the greatest entrepreneurial inventors of his time and was credited with over 1000 patents including the electric light. But the cylinder phonograph was not to be the eventual winning format for sound recordings, even though Edison persisted with it until 1913.

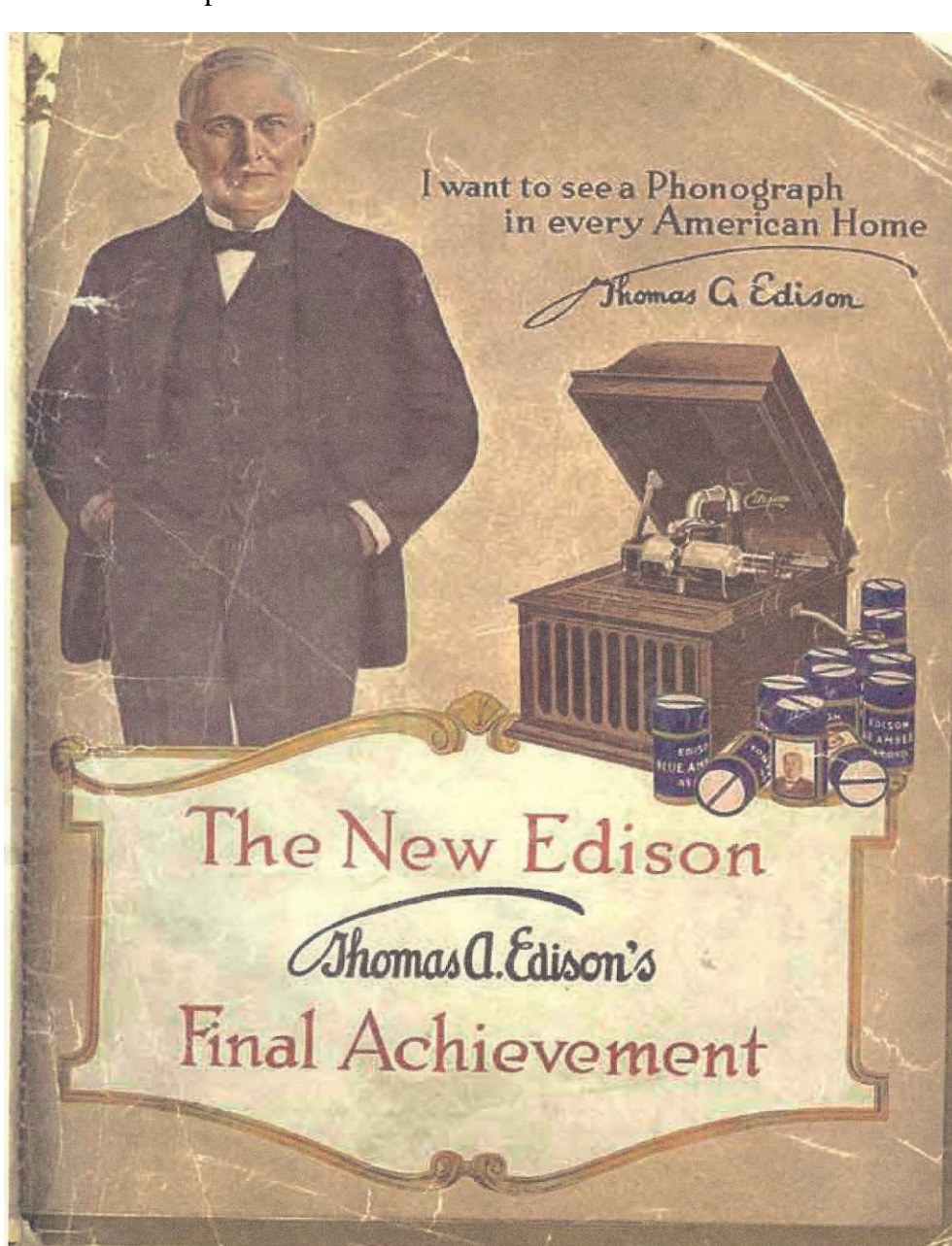
A major drawback of the cylinder system was the additional space occupied by the cylinders compared to flat records and the inability to print details on the record. Initially, entertainment wasn't the use that Edison had in mind for this development. He saw it having more use as a dictaphone to be used alongside the typewriter as a business correspondence device.

Bell and Tainter graphophone

During the 1880s, Chichester Bell and Charles Tainter began a contest with Edison to develop a more suitable alternative to tin foil for recording and to develop a better machine. Edison developed wax recordings and although they produced a better sound, they were too soft and fragile for a permanent recording. Bell and Tainter named their apparatus a graphophone. Both were making improvements but by the time that they had overcome many of the cylinder's defects, the cylinder record was already doomed to extinction.

Emile Berliner

In May 1887, Emile Berliner, a German born inventor who had immigrated to the USA in 1870, was granted a patent for a new type of



playing device which he called the gramophone and for several years experimented with different methods and materials of reproducing sound. It's interesting that in the USA, the word phonograph was later universally adopted whereas elsewhere the term gramophone came into common use. The 'grammies', the annual awards for members of the recording industry is derived from gramophone.

In 1894, Berliner founded the United States Gramophone Company and began manufacturing disc (flat) records and continued until about 1900. A hand operated machine for playing these records was first put on sale in 1893 but the lack of motor and surface noise kept sales low. They played sound that was recorded on a flat 7 inch disc much like the records common throughout the 20th Century. The single sided recordings played for 2 minutes at a speed of about 78 rpm and were initially manufactured from hard vulcanized rubber though shellac was substituted after 1896. Song title, artist and a recording date were hand engraved on the record often with 'reproduced in Hanover' and an angel trademark embossed on the top. Initially the titles, artists and dates were hand etched onto the records. These earliest of records are extremely rare.

This writer has approximately 20 of these records that were discovered in a box on his grandfather's farm in the 1960s. The dates range from 1894 to 1901. Another 12 were donated to the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra. Their discovery led to a lifelong interest in early gramophone recordings.

In 1896, Berliner formed the National Gramophone Company. In this year Berliner was introduced to Eldridge Johnson who improved the gramophone by adding a windup spring driven motor. His Consolidated Talking Machine Company joined with Berliner's company to form the Victor Talking Machine Company.

In 1897, Berliner sent his agent William Barry to London to establish sales outlets and recording studios. He established the Gramophone Company in 1899 and a subsidiary, Deutsche Grammophon in Germany.

His Master's Voice

In September 1899 Owen purchased the famous 'His Master's Voice' painting by the English artist Francis Barraud. The artist later made 24 copies of the painting for the Victor Talking Machine Company which later became His Master's Voice. (HMV). Nipper (the terrier dog), had originally appeared in England listening to his master's voice on an Edison – Bell cylinder phonograph and the original player was painted over by the artist who owned the dog. Berliner had the foresight to trademark the painting and it became one of advertising's most recognizable symbols. After 1900 Berliner lost control of his company and Eldridge Johnson positioned the Victor company as the leading record producing company for many years. From about 1902 there was a rush by recording companies, especially Victor, to sign up well known artists, often classical or opera singers. These included Enrico Caruso, Melba, Dame Clara Butt, Peter Dawson, Alma Gluck (the first artist to sell 1 million records), Richard Tauber and John McCormack. The very top artists appeared on the Victor Red Seal records.

Cylinder records phased out and flat disc records become the industry standard

Paper labels were introduced after 1901. Until about 1908 records remained single sided although the standard size had moved to 10 inch and after 1903, to 12 inch. These played for about four minutes. Whilst these are referred to as '78s', the actual recording speeds of the early records varied between about 70 and 100 rpm. Early gramophones had a regulator for varying the speed to obtain the best reproduction.

In 1913, Thomas Edison eventually conceded victory to the flat disc method of recording. He ceased production of cylinder records and introduced the 'Diamond Disc' system. The Edison diamond disc record was in some ways the 'Rolls Royce' of recordings although they weren't destined to become the industry standard. The records were very heavy and about a quarter of an inch thick (6 cm) and made from a pre-runner of bakelite. They could only be played on a diamond disk player and conventional records could not be played on these machines due to a difference in recording methods. They were also very expensive. Diamond discs continued until 1929. Interestingly, Thomas Edison maintained control over which artists and tunes were to be recorded despite being nearly deaf.

Labels

Labels from the early 20th Century included: The Aeolian Company, Brunswick, Columbia Gramophone Company, Celebrity Records, Edison – Bell Winner Record, Eclipse, HMV, Imperial, Oriole, Parlophone, Vocalion, Victa Talking Machine Company, Victrola and Zonophone.

Some of the many dozens of other labels that emerged later include:

Artransa, Banner, Broadcast, Decca, Electron, Embassy, Esquire Mercury, Homophon, Gennett, Grammavox, Lilley, Mimosa, Perfect, Piccadilly, Regal, Rex, Rondophone, Sterling, The red rag, The twin and Vox Humana.

New popular music

Each decade brought new styles of popular music.

1894-1899

Although relatively few records were made, bands such as Sousa's band, military marches, monologues, vocalists and novelties such as birdcalls were featured.

1900-1909

Competition was on to attract the great European opera singers including Enrico Caruso and Nellie Melba. The first decade produced a fair share of nostalgic and schmaltzy tunes such as 'You are my heart's delight', 'Loves old sweet song', 'Meet me in St Louis, Louis', 'Shine on Harvest moon', 'Ida, sweet as apple cider', 'Wait till the sun shines Nellie' and 'I wonder who's kissing her now'.

The author has a rare and unusual record from this period. It is a single sided 1904 Gramophone Concert Record recording of Ave Maria by Professor Moreschi (the last of the castrati). Until the Pope banned the practice of castrating young boys towards the end of the 19th Century, many thousands were subjected to this to achieve beautiful contralto voices for choirs.

1910-1919

This decade is sometimes referred to as the 'Ragtime years'. The first of the new 'Jazz' and 'Blues' records were being produced towards the end of the decade.

Popular songs included: 'Alexander's ragtime band', 'Rock-a-bye your baby with a Dixie melody', 'The darktown strutter's ball' and 'You made me love you (I didn't want to do it)'. It was also the years of the Great War although the USA was not affected by it until near the end. Other popular tunes were: 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag', 'It's a long way to Tipperary', 'We're gonna hang out the washing on the Siegfried line', 'Mademoiselle from Armentiers', 'Kiss me goodnight sergeant major' and 'I'm forever blowing bubbles'.

1920-1929

The roaring 20's was a prosperous era that produced the Charleston dance and tunes such as 'Way down yonder in New Orleans', 'Yes, we have no bananas', 'Sweet Georgia Brown' and 'I'm looking over a four leafed clover'. Popular singers included Al Jolson – 'There's a rainbow round my shoulder', 'California here I come', 'For me and my gal', 'Swanee' and 'Toot, toot, tootsie, goodbye'. The introduction of radio, Jazz clubs and dance halls helped to popularize music. Bessie Smith, 'the Empress of the blues', and 'Louis Armstrong' and other big band leaders such as Fletcher Henderson, Count Basie and Duke Ellington were popular recording artists. The introduction of the microphone encouraged the 'crooner' sound popularized by artists including Bing Crosby and Gene Austin. The first 'talkie' movie, 'The Jazz Singer' starring Al Jolson was released in 1929. From then on silent movies were out. People wanted sound.

1930-1939

This is the era of the big bands and 'swing music'. Popular band leaders included Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton and Artie Shaw. The depression affected sales of records but the style of music had moved on and Radio helped to spread the new sounds. Juke boxes became available from 1933 and 'high fidelity' records were introduced.

1940-1949

The war years were again popular for big bands. Glen Miller's band suited the times with 'In the mood', 'Tuxedo junction', 'Chatanooga Choo choo', 'American patrol' and 'Sun Valley jump'. In England, Vera Lyn entertained the troops and the general population with 'There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover' and 'We'll meet again some sunny day.' Another major change occurred in 1948 when Columbia introduced the thirty three and a third rpm microgroove vinylite record with 23 minute per side capacity. In 1949 RCA Victor introduced 7 inch 45 rpm records.

1950 -1959

Rock and Roll as a genre began in the late 1940s with Roy Brown's song 'Good rocking tonight' although Trixie Smith, an early Blues singer had recorded 'My man rocks me with one steady roll' in 1922. In 1950 Muddy Waters recorded 'Rollin' stone' and Elvis Presley recorded 'That's alright' in 1954, the year that Bill Haley recorded 'Shake, rattle and roll' and 'Rock around the clock'.

Other popular performers included Buddy Holly, Doris Day, The Everly Brothers and Dean Martin. 'Beatniks' and 'Bodgies' were part of the sub culture encouraged by cult movies starring Marlon Brando and James Dean. Overall however, the 'teen' culture was yet to emerge and most 'kids' were clean cut. The American 'Bobby sox' image of females reflected musical lyrics which spoke of conformity and settling down with a partner. 'I want to be Bobby's girl' is an example.

The 1950s saw the introduction of the first audio tape recorders and amplifiers. The first portable transistor radio was introduced in 1954. CBS broadcast the first network television show using videotape in 1956 and in 1958, the first stereo long play (LP) records were released.

Television was invented in 1936 but wasn't introduced into Australia until 1956. Broadcast was in black and white until 1973 and initially broadcast was limited to a few hours a day. Variety acts and the 'Western' movie genre were popular.

The first Australian radio broadcast was in 1923. Radio had enjoyed immense popularity as an entertainment medium with the whole family huddled around the 'wireless'. (wireless was the accepted Australian term) Early radios were large console models often in the art Deco style of the 1930s in shapes like the Empire State building. Mantle style radios were often in black bakelite. In Australia, popular shows included 'Dad and Dave', 'Mrs 'Obbs', 'Life with Dexter', 'The quiz kids', 'Tarzan', 'Police file', 'Ada and Elsie' and 'I hate crime' and long running serials such as 'Blue Hills' and 'The return of the golden boomerang' were popular.

By the end of the 1950s, vinyl records had all but replaced the 78rpm record which had existed for about 65 years.

1960-1969

The 'swinging 60s' saw an explosion of popular music and was the heyday of the 12 inch vinyl 33 and a third stereo LP (long play) record era that was to last until the end of the 1980s. It marked the start of the 'teenage' or youth culture. Bands such as 'The Beatles' and 'Rolling Stones', 'The Kinks' and in Australia, 'The Delltones' and 'The Seekers' and individuals such as Bobby Darin and Johnny O'Keefe were popular. The radiogram as a large piece of furniture was replaced by the stereo system and the reel to reel tape player.

Philips demonstrated the first compact audio cassette tape system in 1963.

In 1969 Sony introduced the first videocassette. Over the next decade or so a battle of formats was waged over the Beta and VHS systems with the VHS system eventually winning acceptance.

The last 25 years

In 1979 Sony marketed the 'Walkman', the first portable cassette player which started the era of personal music listening.

In 1982 the first compact discs (CDs) were marketed and by 1988, the sales of CDs overtook LP sales.

In the early 1990s the internet was developed. Its universal uptake and acceptance along with the personal computer has revolutionized the way in which we communicate through email and downloaded music and video.

In 1996 DVD players began selling in Japan and 1997 MP3.com was founded.

By the turn of the century large screen television was introduced and by 2002, sales of video discs had overtaken video cassettes.

In 2003 Apple developed the iPod compact music player and users had the ability to download and store up to 10,000 music tracks. Compare this with storing the same number of old 78s or LPs! In 2007 Apple introduced the iPhone – a video capable iPod with integrated mobile phone and mobile internet.

Recorded sound was originally mechanical. Digital technology has revolutionized the speed of retrieval and ease of storage of vast amounts of information. The manner in which society thinks and communicates is fundamentally different from pre 20th Century civilizations. One wonders what the next century will bring?

Moombara

Bruce Watt

'Moombara', at 17-19 Moombara Crescent Lilli Pilli is one of the Sutherland Shire's oldest and grandest residences dating from the late 19th Century. It is a substantial late Federation double storey bungalow style having a ground floor and basement sandstone storey constructed in 1881 and a timber second storey added in 1904 and added to in 1907. It has a slate roof.

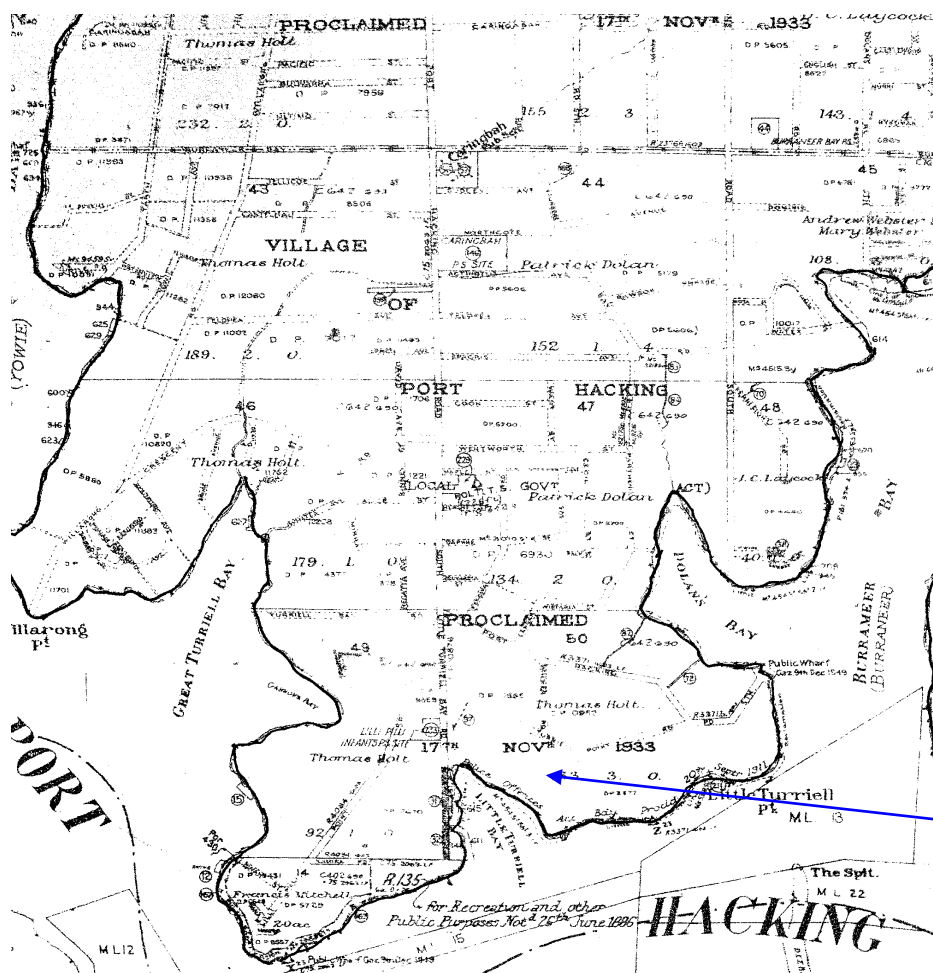
Every grand home deserves a colourful pedigree. Moombara was for 30 odd years in the early years of the 20th Century, the playground for many famous identities and we are fortunate to have a comprehensive written and photographic history of its past.

Before street address numbers came into common usage by the 1930s, most houses had a name and many of the early Sutherland Shire house names had aboriginal links. Moombara is an aboriginal word for 'camping ground' and the area was used intensively by aboriginals over a long period.

Early history

'Moombara,' was built by Richard Cornelius Critchett Walker, CMG, JP, Principal Under Secretary in the NSW Government. Shortly after land was granted to him by the newly formed Holt Sutherland Estate Company on the 1/7/1881 he built a single storey (with basement), four bedroom sandstone residence as a weekender. The sandstone was quarried locally. The land extended to the waterfront and originally consisted of about 6 acres covering much of Turriel Point. The house was located half way down a steep hill with horse stables at the top of the hill.

The National Park was established in 1879, hastening the flow of visitors to the area. They travelled along the line of Port Hacking Road to (current day) Lilli Pilli. Port Hacking Road had been surveyed in 1865 following the opening of Tom Ugly's punt in 1864. From here they would cross the river by boat, often staying at Simpson's Hotel on the other side of the river. Several of the Shire's oldest residences are located around Burraneer and Lilli Pilli (Port Hacking). Indeed on early maps the area around Lilli Pilli is shown as the village of Port Hacking.



The village of Port Hacking, proclaimed 17th November 1933

'MOOMBARA'

Richard Cornelius Critchett Walker

Critchett Walker was born at sea in 1841 and arrived with his family in Launceston on board the 'Arabian'.



His father had been chaplain of New College, Oxford and later took up the position of Head Master of King's School Parramatta.

Walker joined the civil service in 1856 and rose steadily to a very senior rank. Sir Henry Parkes, a close personal friend, recommended his appointment as Principal Under Secretary in 1879, a position he held until his death. This was a very high ranking position with wide responsibilities. Other positions he held were magistrate, member of the Civil Service Board, a founding member of the Australasian Geographical Society, a New South Wales commissioner for the 1886 Colonial and Indian Exhibition, the 1887 Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition and the 1888 Centennial International Exhibition in Melbourne. From 1889 he was trustee of the National Park where he 'invariably spent his Sundays'. Moombara was his 'fishing resort'. He was returning officer for the 1897 Australasian Federal Convention, for the two referenda on the Constitution and for the first Federal elections in 1901. Walker, unmarried, died of diabetes and pneumonia at Bligh Street Sydney on the 13th June 1903 and is buried in the Anglican section of the Waverley cemetery. (ref. Australian Dictionary of Biography- online edition)

A substantial monument to him in Waverley Cemetery reads:

'Who for 45 years was a faithful officer in the Public Service of NSW and for the last 34 years held the position of Principal Under Secretary.

This monument is erected by some of his personal friends who admired his noble character, valued his friendship and deeply regret his death'.

Following his death the house was sold. For the next 35 years it enjoyed a romantic period which included substantial additions to the house, many visits by famous celebrity guests and a lifestyle only enjoyed by the very wealthy Edwardian professionals which was far removed from the few Shire pioneer residents of the time who were struggling to make a go of it.

Difficulty of access meant only the well off could afford to have weekends here.

'Jack Want was a noted barrister and parliamentarian who was Attorney General on several occasions during the 1880s and 1890s and also became a National Park Trustee on July 4 1893. In this role, J H Want was instrumental in establishing the Port Hacking Marine Fish Hatchery in Cabbage Tree Creek. An interesting fact is that J H Want's nephew was one E P Simpson, another notable commercial lawyer who purchased the original Gogerley's cottage and land on the southern shores of Port Hacking in 1888.' (photo 742 PX*D574, Allen collection Mitchell Library shows him with Ethell, Arthur Allen's wife)

'The region on both sides of the Hacking was fast becoming an enclave for Sydney's elite. Other landowners on the southern side included Charles Bull, a solicitor and mayor of Hurstville, Greville Tregarthen, P H Sullivan and Bernard Ringrose Wise, a leading reformist politician. Wise held the posts of Attorney General in 1887-1888 and in 1899-1904, Minister for Justice from 1901-1904 and Acting Premier in 1904' (Kass, 1990)

‘The adventurous lawyers of the Sydney social and political world set the tone of early residential development in the region.’ T Kass describes them notably as ‘Athletic Attorneys’. (Moombara heritage assessment report, 1994)

Moombara after the first upper storey addition – 17/2/1904



The Allens

Moombara was sold at Public auction on 23rd July 1903 to Arthur Allen, a leading Sydney solicitor and a partner in the law firm of Allen, Allen and Hemsley, the oldest law firm in Sydney founded by his grandfather. The residence was sold ‘with furniture which is in excellent taste and good order.’ It appears that the family of Arthur Allen had stayed at Moombara with the permission of the executors of Critchet Walker’s estate and liked it so much that they bought it at auction.

Allen had been admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court in 1886 and married Ethel Grace Lamb in 1891. They had 3 children. Their main home was ‘Merioola’, a large home in Woollahra. (its ballroom was 60 x 30 feet) Amongst his interests were the theatre, acquiring paintings and etchings and photography. (upon his death, the Mitchell Library was bequeathed a significant photographic collection which included many images of Moombara, Port Hacking and visiting personalities as well as many other aspects of Sydney life)

After purchasing Moombara, Allen immediately added a second story in timber and it became one of their country houses and used extensively. A new boatshed was added by August 1905 and in 1907 he added rooms above the kitchen as staff quarters. A pool was also created at the water’s edge and swimming, fishing and boating were popular pastimes of the many visitors to the home. Whilst the original house was built in the Victorian era, Allen’s extensions were Edwardian or arguably influenced by the American two storey bungalow style popular in the north eastern states of the USA. The upper storey was in Californian redwood.

‘The Allen family was among the district’s best known weekend visitors. Allen’s meticulously kept diaries show that at least one member of the family visited Moombara almost every week of the year. The Allen children went there every school holiday, Ethel Allen took friends down for several days at a time and Arthur himself went on most weekends. The Allen’s also hosted parties for theatrical personalities and lent it to friends for their honeymoons. Arthur Allen almost never stayed overnight because of his poor health. He usually motored down for only a few hours’. (Larkin. A history of Sutherland Shire to 1939)

Much of the domestic history of Moombara comes from a book written by one of his daughters later in her life. The book, ‘I can hear the horses’ contains a chapter on Moombara. Indeed the title of the book comes from the sound of the horses as they rode up to the stables at the top of the house on Turriel Point Road

after their trip out from the city. Margaret Gifford, the author led a privileged life, almost oblivious of the hardships faced by people in the 1920s and 30s. After a carefree life of horse riding, playing tennis, raising dogs and socializing with influential Australian and foreigners, at the age of 42 she married Charles Gifford who was to become a peer and she became Lady Gifford, spending the remainder of her time in the UK.



From the dustcover of the book.

'I can hear the horses' portrays a lifestyle no longer existing in Australia- the leisured era of town and country houses, ballrooms and stables, eccentric family characters, masses of servants, governesses, trips overseas and for the boys, an English education.

Margaret Allen was born into such an atmosphere in Sydney in 1896. From an early age her independent and adventurous spirit and her sense of humour set her apart from her contemporaries. Her life revolved largely around horses – she was one of the first women to ride astride instead of sidesaddle – playing polo and driving her 1923 model Studebaker car. In 1919 she became the first woman to climb to the top of Mt Kosciuszko and she was an early pioneer aviatrix.

Outside Moombara 17/2/1904

Her father, a partner in a leading law firm and shareholder in the theatrical agency J C Williamson was an avid

photographer and collector of the latest technological advances including some of the earliest electric cars in Australia. His parties, where 'the ladies were not always as staid as they appeared' were famous and guests included Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Duke of Windsor, Dame Nellie Melba, Somerset Maugham, members of the Russian ballet and the 'bodyline' England cricket team. 'Gubby' Allen was a cousin and a member of Jardine's 'bodyline' team. He later captained the England team.

The following are quotes or paraphrases of the chapter on Moombara.

Moombara was 18 miles from Sydney on the beautiful Port Hacking estuary. Before the motor car, Punch and Toby (horses) could do the trip from Woollahra (their principal home) in 2 hours. All our holidays were spent at Moombara. Moombara means camping ground and when a tennis court was cut into the hillside about 50 feet above the waterline, they encountered layers and layers of oyster shells, showing that the place had been used as an Aboriginal camp for hundreds of years.

The whole property was on a steep slope. From the stables, the drive curved down to the house and as it was far too steep for the horses, everything had to be carried down by hand.

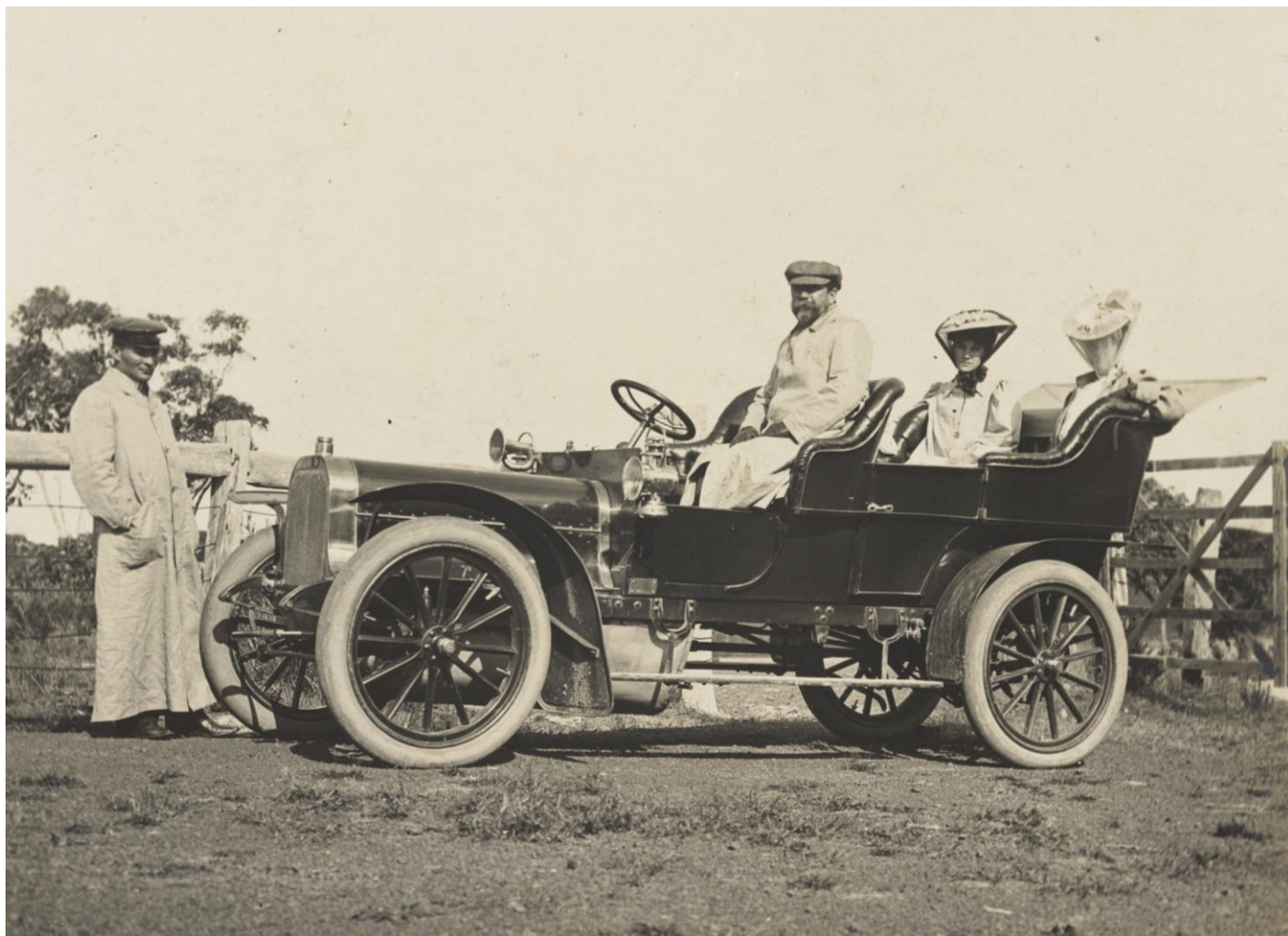
The view was magnificent and looked onto the river and untouched bush.

When the house was bought it was a four roomed cottage but a second storey was soon added. A housekeeper and other servants lived permanently at the home and kept it in readiness for the family and guest visits. Dame Nellie Melba came several times as also did Dame Clara Butt [a popular English singer] and many other notable and famous guests.

In the Allen albums, volume 50, number 3409, the caption of a photo of Melba getting into a car reads:- 'Madame Melba went down to Moombara with me today. I went with Madame Melba in Madame Melba's car. [others] came in my Fiat.'

Arthur Allen suffered from Asthma and in 1912 he sold Moombara and bought Elvo at Burrandoo in the southern highlands because doctors thought that the country air would be good for his asthma. The queues at Tom Ugly's Point also made getting there and back to Moombara almost impossible. Elvo never suited Arthur and he seldom went there although the family made good use of it.

Argyle car - dressed for driving - 4/3/1906



In 1918 there was a sudden opportunity to buy back Moombara as a 'walk in walk out' proposition which they did and everything was found in place exactly the way that it was left 6 years before. Moombara stayed in the Allen family until about 1949.

Whilst most Shire residents struggled during the depression years of the 1930s, the Allen's 'hardly felt the economic effects and continued to visit Moombara regularly'. Arthur Allen's daughter, Margaret Gifford later wrote: 'apart from cutting out a few luxuries, there was little change in our standard of living. Life was leisurely. The girls did not have to rush off to a job and the men seemed to be in no hurry to get to their offices or ships. To me [the depression] was an exciting and stimulating period with endless parties at Moombara for visiting overseas theatrical stars' (Larkin p129)

Later owners

Since the Allen years it has had a number of owners. Ronald Foster was the first to purchase it and used it as a weekender. It was sold to Russell Knapp in the mid 1950s and the land was subdivided. Indeed most of the present settlement of Lilli Pilli didn't occur until the 1960s when the larger holdings of Moombara and the other large estate, 'Nuimburra' in Gorokan Place were subdivided.

In 1958 Ian Griffiths bought it for about £10,000. This was the time that Moombara Crescent was created. Griffiths was the State Liberal member for Cronulla from 1956 -1978.

The next owners were the Crowthers who owned a local bus company. During their time up until 1984 the house was used as a refuge for needy children and many of the rooms were divided up for more



Moombara – South elevation facing Port Hacking.

Melba is reputed to have sung from the balcony.

East elevation: - driveway and entrance. Sandstone base and timber upper storey.



accommodation. Sometimes, up to 20 people lived there. The wide verandahs were also used for accommodation. Little renovation work was carried out.

Indeed, it is often the very special houses that don't survive. Often built on valuable sites and requiring a lot of maintenance, they can fall foul of developers and 'demolition by neglect'. Whilst Moombara was not in danger of demolition, years of minimal upkeep meant that future owners needed to spend money to regain its former glory.

Ken and Lyn Brunker were the next owners who did a lot of work in restoring it from a fairly rundown condition and in researching its past. The Brunkers had contacted Ian Griffith after purchasing it and in a reply letter dated 2nd February 1985, were offered this information.

It was purchased in 1958 for £10,000 and the waterfront blocks in the subdivision were sold for £1,500. He mentioned that Margaret (Lady) Gifford (Arthur Allen's daughter and author of 'I can hear the horses', had paid him a visit in the 1960s. She told him that the Camellias in the front were planted in 1903 and the Port Wine Magnolia in 1910. Nellie Melba was a frequent guest and used to sing from the front balcony to the guests on the lawns below. The tennis court was still there in 1958.

At one stage Moombara was nick named 'honeymoon house' as many of Sydney's social set were invited to honeymoon there.

Ian Griffiths changed the colour from a dirty stone colour to white – its principal colour is still white.

The Williamson's purchased Moombara from the Brunkers and undertook fairly extensive renovations and decoration and added a pool. The kitchen area, which includes a large original fuel stove was opened up with the removal of a wall into an adjoining dining room that was originally for the servants.

In 1990, Allan and JanMaree Turnbull purchased it and have continued the work of restoring it and adding a conservatory, and sandstone gates. The house has been used as a family residence since then and furnished and decorated in keeping with its architectural heritage. The Turnbull's have many of the Allen photographs of Moombara and the surrounding area displayed on the walls.

From a sales brochure of the 1980s the house is described as having the following accommodation:-

Grounds – large driveway on entry with ample vehicular access and parking, plus under cover parking for three vehicles

Cellar – substantial plus work room with separate tap room (converted to bedroom) Fireplace intact.

Ground floor – large wide verandah surrounding all major entertainment rooms, very large lounge reception room with open fireplace plus dome cedar ceiling, formal dining room, billiard room, study, family room, country style kitchen, bathroom and additional WC.

First floor – seven bedrooms. The 3 master bedrooms have their own private balconies, large bathroom with separate WC.

Is there a ghost?

Every grand old home needs a ghost story and according to Mrs Turnbull, when they first moved in they did feel the presence of a woman who it was said had been a servant and reputedly died there in the early days. However she has hasn't been active lately.

The Allen photographs.

Arthur Wigram Allen, the prominent Sydney solicitor and socialite who owned Moombara from 1903 to 1941 left a unique legacy of his family's life in the form of an extensive photographic album collection. The Allen albums are well known to researchers of Sydney history and are in the Mitchell library, State Library of NSW.

On the 17th May 1966 his son, Arthur Dennis Wigram Allen donated 51 albums of photographs taken by his father, a very accomplished photographer. They show views of his family, his residences, views of Sydney and social life between 1890 and 1934. Several of the many hundreds of photographs from this collection are reproduced here with permission of the original materials section of the Mitchell Library. For future local area researchers the albums are numbered 5-6, 14, 20-25, 27, 30-38, 40-41, 43-48, 50-52, 54-64, 66-68, 71-72 and 74. Their library reference is PX*D562 – PX*D609

According to the terms of the donation, the photographs will be used for restricted issue.

At the time of writing, the cost of obtaining a photographic print is \$22 per 20 x 25cm (8" x 10") copy.

The albums represent a magnificent snapshot of a country that no longer exists. The Allen's and their friends were very wealthy. Their houses were grand. They were driving motor cars at the very dawn of the motoring era when very few could afford them. Their dress was formal and yet they show a family that is very much enjoying itself.

Bathing at Cronulla beach 22/1/1911

The writer has viewed most of these albums. What is listed here is only a small fraction of the photographs. Whilst the general reader won't find the following references of much interest, they are presented to give an idea of the content that is relevant to our local area and to enable future researchers to more easily access materials. Not all of the albums (volumes) contain photographs that are relevant to the Shire. The dates are an indicator of the frequency that Moombara was used. Some idea of the frequency of visits, guests, cars being driven and activities can be deduced.



Photo number	description	date
Vol. 32	PX*D574	
15	Beautiful view of Moombara with additions to top. Great view of Port Hacking with sweeping drive	17/2/1904
665	Edwardian clothes	
669-670	Views of horse drawn coaches on motorized punt at Tom Ugly's	8/4/1904
672-675	Beautiful scene of Edwardian dress (male and female) on shores of Port Hacking	
682	Horse drawn buggy waiting for punt-Tom Ugly's	7/5/1904
685	On the river in Matson's launch	8/5/1904
695-6	Serene views of Port Hacking near dusk	15/5/1904
711	HMS Lizard in Port Hacking. The first Man of War to enter the Heads (steam and sail)	5/6/1904
	Various views of Moombara	June 1904
	View from Lilli Pilli Point showing Rathane (occupied by Petre Close)	
739	Leaving Cronulla – horse drawn buggy	26/6/1904
742	Ethel Allen and E P Simpson in boat ON Port Hacking	29/6/1904
745	'Warumbil'	
747-750	Views of very old man who earns a living by boiling water and selling curios on Cronulla Beach- hut made from driftwood	3/7/1904
762-3	Expansive views of Port Hacking	6/7/1904
772-3	Horse drawn buggies at Tom Ugly's	27/7/1904
Vol 33	PX*D575 (not sighted)	
	Views of Tom Ugly's punt, large driving party to Moombara, Port Hacking	11/9/1904-18/1/1905
Vol 34	PX*576 (not sighted)	24/1/1905-2/7/1905
	Views of Moombara and launch 'Carrara', Audley and National Park, punt and Tom Ugly's point.	
Vol 35	PX*D577 (on microfilm)	
	10 hp Panhard	
	New boathouse at Moombara	26/8/1905
Vol 36	PX*D578	
1477-8	Early motor car at Moombara	12/11/1905
1514-18	Early motor cars leaving Moombara	3/12/1905
1560-64	Argyle car at Moombara	23/12/1905
1596	8 hp de Dion at Moombara	4/1/1906
1670-76	Argyle car at Moombara	4/3/1906
1689-91	Family shots –front steps of Moombara and car	
1702	Outside Moombara showing driving outfits	
1703	Good shot of Argyle – dressed for driving	1/4/1906
Vol 37	PX*D579	
1728-30	Motoring scenes, Moombara	19/4/1906
1774	Laycock sculling off jetty at Moombara	8/7/1906

1776	People and Moombara scene	8/7/1906
1781	Motor car on punt	11/7/1906
1784-91	Various views of Moombara and Port Hacking	14/7/1906
1797-8	Excellent shots of Moombara	5/8/1906
1829	Port Hacking from Moombara	
1864-70	Individual photos of cars at Moombara	
1871	Six cars at Moombara (Argyle, De Dietrich, de Dion, Martini, Swiftsure)	7/10/1906
1872	Edwardian scene – on the wharf at Moombara	7/10/1906
1879-84	Views of cars	21/10/1906
1894	Jibbon beach	
Vol 38	PX*D580	
1917	Clement-Talbot motor car at Tom Ugly's	24/11/1906
1965	18-20 hp Vulcan motor car outside Moombara	5/12/1906
2025-6	Views of Moombara	9/1/1907
2090	Peaceful view of Port Hacking	3/3/1907
Vol 40	PX*D581 NOTE-This is an interesting album	
2251-2	Cars outside Moombara	21/7/1907
2254	Car outside Moombara	28/7/1907
2271	car	11/8/1907
2275	car	14/8/1907
2297	Car – not at Moombara (a good shot)	1/9/1907
2230-33	Upstairs extension to Moombara	Sept-Oct 07
2342	Good shot of large lunch party at Moombara	13/10/1907
2343-65	Many shots of party guests at Moombara	
Vol 41	PX*D582	
2597	De Dion car	28/3/1908
2598	Moombara with car outside	28/3/1908
Vol 50	PX*D589	
3409	*Madame Melba getting into her car at Audley	29/8/1909
3408	Madame Melba	
Vol 51	PX*D590	
3578-80	Fiat car at Moombara	6/11/1909
3590	Horses outside Moombara	7/11/1909
3603	Horses	
3604	Family shot at Moombara	6/11/1909
Vol 56	PX*D594	
4616-7	Itala car at Audley	4/12/1910
4160	Period costume on Cronulla beach	22/1/1911
4162	Fiat car at Audley	22/1/1911
4207-8	Other views of Itala car at Moombara	5/3/1911
4709	Good picture of Itala	
4710 - 4713	Four views of Cronulla beach and costumes	19/3/1911



When motoring was still for the very rich - 1/9/1907

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Heritage Assessment Report for 'Moombara' – 1994
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Acknowledgements

Alan and Jan Maree Turnbull -	current owners of Moombara.
Ken Brunker -	former owner

The Odeon Cinema Clubs

David Overett.



Sutherland Odeon Club's cricket team went through the 1948-9 season undefeated.

Recently I found a wonderful book in a Caringbah Op Shop. It was titled *The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual*. The year was 1950 and it was full of film reviews, star portraits and information on the Clubs themselves. It was an English publication and covered the famous cinema chains of Britain including ABC, Gaumont, and Odeon. There was even a section on the international clubs. International here meant Canada and Australia. A page was dedicated to Australia where the young, mainly I guess, British readers, were shown a scroll map of Sydney,

captioned *Odeon Clubs of Australia*. Here was shown each Odeon cinema in the metropolitan area. Two of these cinemas were those at Sutherland and Cronulla. There were pictures on this page showing boys and girls from the various Australian cinemas but unfortunately none for Cronulla. For Sutherland however there was a small photo of the Odeon Club Cricket Team of which we were advised went undefeated through the 1948-9 season. The photo has been enlarged and I have included it here in case anyone recognises those in it or where it was taken.

I have also included four photographs taken both outside and inside Cronulla Odeon Theatre which when magnified do in fact show on the hoarding the words "Cronulla Odeon National Cinema Club for Boys and Girls. These photos were said to be taken in 1947 and as the film showing at that time was "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers" starring Barbara Stanwyck and Van Heflin this is probably correct. This film was released in 1946 but during this period the films being shown in Australia were always a year or so behind the American release date.

Children's film matinees begin in 1900

The first recorded film matinee took place in Derbyshire, England, in 1900 where the Odeon National Cinema Club for boys met. The Odeon cinema chain was also started in England by one Oscar Deutsch who opened his first cinema in 1928. Coincidentally, this was the year Cronulla Theatre opened in its present location. The name Odeon supposedly came from *Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation* but it had actually been around since at least ancient Greek times. Even the American theatres known as nickelodeons started in 1905. By 1937 the Odeon chain numbered 250. It was in this year that Deutsch started his children's matinees.



I would like to thank the Hood Collection, State Library of New South Wales for permission to reproduce the four photographs pertaining to The Odeon Club, Cronulla.

Any further use of these images cannot be made without application to the Library Council of NSW.

Deutsch died in 1941 and his widow sold the Odeon chain to J. Arthur Rank who, in April 1943, opened Rank's Odeon Children's Clubs with 150 cinemas in Britain initially taking part.

Sutherland was where I saw *Bridge on the River Kwai* and *The Dam Busters* while Cronulla brings back memories of Saturday serials, *Smiley*, *Robinson Crusoe* and the *Black Knight*.

I almost forgot the Drive-In at Caringbah which evokes memories of hiding in the car boot or sneaking through a cut in the wire fence, trying not to get caught. The first film I recall seeing at the Drive-In was *The Purple Plain* with Gregory Peck, and the last was *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.



In a relatively small community we were indeed fortunate to have had a good representation of picture theatres and thousands of children in the Sutherland region got their first glimpses of the outside world, not through television but from the cinema. Many of you may remember that the Society's late curator, Mr Allan McGrath, was at one time a projectionist at the Sutherland Odeon Picture Theatre.

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 Wikipedia web site.

Some) Ships of the Discovery of Australia

Part 1 - the Dutch

Garriock Duncan

This article is a spinoff from my article published in the May, 2005, edition of the Bulletin. I However, this is not the article promised on whether Cook had a French map with him when he

"discovered" the east coast of Australia². That article remains to be written but I offer a slight taste of it. On Thursday, June 14, 1770, the Endeavour grounded on the Endeavour Reef. Cook needed a suitable place to careen the Endeavour and make repairs. He chose a bay at the mouth of the Endeavour River, now the site of Cooktown, Queensland. However, the bay was "much smaller than I had been told"³. Of course, the question is by whom or what? Perhaps one of the Dieppe maps. More on this later.

Enough of digressions. Australia has a lengthy maritime history - at least four centuries. And that is just counting the Europeans! Most of us are familiar with the exploits of a Royal Navy lieutenant, James Cook, and his contribution to the discovery of Australia. The Sutherland Shire has close and direct links with the European discovery of, at least, the east coast of Australia. The local government area is, in fact, named after one of the seamen on Cook's Endeavour -

Forby Sutherland - and the image of Lt James Cook features on the logo of the Sutherland Shire⁴

However, the European discovery of Australia was very much a multicultural affair. It is not a coincidence that there are so many French place names to be found in south west Western Australia and Ed Duyker has contributed much to the Society's understanding of this largely unknown aspect of the discovery of Australia. However, in three short articles (and this is the first), I want to talk about five ships that played some part in the "Discovery of Australia".

Two are Dutch and three are English. The first two are the Duyfken and Batavia, both operated by the Dutch East Indies Company (the VOC). The other three were all vessels of the Royal Navy, in chronological order, Endeavour, Bounty and Pandora. The first four have something in common - replicas have been built of all four. However, no one has built a replica of the Pandora - yet.

The Duyfken can be visited in Western Australia where it forms part of the WA Maritime

Museum (WAMM) in Fremantle⁵. However, it did visit Sydney in 2000-2001⁶, together with the Batavia. Unfortunately, after its visit to Sydney in 2000-2001, the Batavia returned to Holland on the deck of a ship, the sort of ship that took HMS Nottingham back to England for repairs after it collided with Australia. Both the Duyfken and Batavia were moored at the

1 G Duncan, "Of Lost Ships and Stolen Maps: an often Untold Story of the Discovery of Australia", SSHS Bulletin, 8(2), May, 2005, pp. 22-26.

2 *ibid.*, pp. 25-26.

3 See: entry for Thursday, June 14, in - J C Beaglehole, ed., *The Journals of Captain James Cook: Voyage of the Endeavour, 1768-1771*, Hakluyt Society, 1968, p. 348.

4 For the importance of Cook in the Shire, see: D Salt, "Captain Cook Commemorated at Kurnell", SSHS Bulletin, 7(4), November, 2004, pp. 19-21; "Cook's Landing Place", SSHS Bulletin, 9(3), August, 2006, p. 20.

5 See: N Burmingham, "The Duyfken Project", *Bulletin of the Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology*, 21(pts 1 & 2), 1997, pp. 19-22.

6 See: S Meacham, "Wellkom again to tiny Dutch sea-bird headed south to remind us of a long forgotten passage, Sydney Morning Herald, March 3, 2001, p. 9.

Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) at the same time. In an article in the May, 2004, edition of the Bulletin, I mentioned visiting both vessels and made the point that they were both moored alongside the same wharf⁷. My research for this article revealed that they were moored at different wharves. So much for the power of memory!

Nonetheless, Shire residents are doubly fortunate for Sydney is also the home of the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM). Thanks to the Museum and Sydney's splendid harbour we are able to enjoy the permanent presence of one of replicas of these famous ships. Endeavour is now berthed permanently at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour. The Bounty, too, used to be berthed in Sydney, on the western side of Circular Quay. When last seen, late 2004 or early 2005, it was moored at ANMM Wharf 7. It had been withdrawn from cruising Sydney Harbour and was awaiting relocation to the waters of the South Pacific.

Some of you might be surprised that while the Endeavour, and even the Duyfken, which is described as a "yacht", can "chug" their way round the world, while the Batavia cannot. Although the Duyfken, Endeavour, and Bounty all look like genuine 17th and 18th century vessels, in order to obtain the necessary certificates of seaworthiness, even replica vessels have to meet specific criteria, including modern navigation aids and auxiliary engines. Now you know why the Bounty was so often seen moving round the harbour with virtually no sails set. Not so the Batavia - it is a faithful replica, historically accurate in every detail. So, while it can sail in Sydney Harbour, it cannot pass the Heads.

The Dutch have played a significant if overlooked part in the discovery of Australia. After all, the first name of our island continent was New Holland and one Australian state has a "Dutch" name - Tasmania - as does the home of our rugby playing cousins - New Zealand. The pre-World War II name for Indonesia was the Dutch East Indies and it indicates the level of Dutch maritime activity to the north of Australia in the 16th century.

2006 marked the four hundredth anniversary of Dutch contact with Australia.⁸ For, in November, 1605, the Duyfken, skippered by Willem Jansz, left Indonesian waters on a voyage that would culminate in 1606 with the first European landing on the Australian mainland - a land which still went by the name *terra australis incognita* ("the unknown southern land") - on the western coast of Cape York Peninsula in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Unfortunately, Jansz died before the significance of his voyage was realised. The replica Duyfken is 24 metres long and weighs 110 tonnes. The hull was launched in January, 1999, and the vessel was completed in July of the same year for a cost of \$AUD 3.7 million. After visiting Sydney in 2001, the replica Duyfken set sail for the island of Texel, near Amsterdam, some 18200 nautical miles away - all under sail⁹. It has since returned to its home port, Fremantle, where, as stated, it is part of the WAMM.

⁷ G Duncan, "Diving Deeper into Shipwreck Detectives", *SSHS Bulletin*, 7(2), May, 2004, p. 18.

⁸ It also marks the same anniversary for Spanish contact with Australia. This was an anniversary ignored in Sydney but not in Canberra: "Naming Australia: a celebration of the Spanish contribution to the history and naming of Australia", *Canberra Times*, Supplement, Friday, May 12, 2006

⁹ See: "The Little Dove Sails back through Time", *Maritime Log*, *WAMM Magazine*, 2002, pp. 13-14. For the full story of the replica Duyfken, see: J Henderson, *Sent forth a Dove*, Western Australia UP, 1999.

The **Batavia** had set sail from Holland, the flagship of a fleet of vessels sailing to the East Indies for the Dutch East Indies Company (the VOC), with a total complement of 315 passengers and crew. The journey was to end in disaster. Separated from the rest of the flotilla, the **Batavia** ran aground on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands on June 4, 1629. Mutiny had been brewing on the ship before this disaster and the departure of the senior officer to sail to Batavia (now Jakarta) for help provided the mutineers with their opportunity. An orgy of murder followed and by the time

rescue arrived half the survivors had been killed¹⁰. The wreck was finally found in the 1960's. The surviving timbers of the hull have been reassembled in the WAMM Shipwreck Galleries in

Fremantle, WA¹¹. Building the replica proved a challenging task. The original was built in only seven months without any plans or drawings - the builders just relied upon their practical experience. The builders of the replica did have data provided by the study of the remains of the original. The full story of the building of the replica is told in a lavish "coffee table" book,

widely available¹². When **Batavia** visited Sydney and sailed up the harbour under the Harbour Bridge - the main mast was so tall, that she could only make the journey to the Maritime

Museum under the Harbour Bridge at dead low tide ¹³,

The Diamond Dakota Mystery,

Review: J wills,

Allen & Unwin, 2006, pp. 240, ISBN 9781741147452, \$26.95, paperback.

In the May, 2004, edition of the **Bulletin**, I described the Japanese attack on Roebuck Bay, Broome, on March 3, 1942. (pp. 19-21). The target of the attack was a motley collection of civilian and military aircraft that had been ferrying refugees from the Japanese advance down the Indonesian archipelago to Australia. Almost as an afterthought I briefly mentioned the fate of a KNILM (Netherlands East Indies KLM) DC-3, that, too, was flying to Broome on that fateful morning. Now, thanks to Juliett Wills' book the whole story is now available.

KNILM DC-3 PK-AFV, "Pelikaan", was ferrying a group of civil and military personnel from Bandung, in Java, to the safety of Australia. Just before take-off, a brown paper package was handed to the pilot with the instructions to take good care of it since it was valuable. The contents, though were not disclosed. The flight was uneventful, though no doubt, very tense, since in those early days of 1942, the skies swarmed with Japanese planes, seeking out the refugee aircraft (ch. 1).

Disaster happened within sight of Broome. Broome had been attacked by ten Japanese aircraft - seven participated in the attack and the remaining three provided what is called "top cover", i.e. to protect the attacking aircraft from any defending aircraft (ch. 2). Just as the plumes of smoke rising from Broome were visible from the flight deck, "Pelikaan" was bounced by the three fighters providing cover. (ch. 3)

Normally, a DC-3 should have been an easy victim for a single Zero fighter, let alone three. However, fate had intervened. For the pilot of the DC-3 was now ordinary KNILM pilot. He was Ivan "Turc" Smirnoff, Russia's fourth ranking fighter ace from World War I, with eleven

¹⁰ For the story of the wreck, see: M Jeffreys, *Murder, Mayhem, Fire and Storm - Australian Shipwrecks*, New Holland Publishing, 1999, pp. 9-24; E McHugh, *Shipwrecks*, Viking, 2003, pp. 27-70.

¹¹ "Shipwrecks, treasures and tales of disasters", *Maritime Log*, WAMM Magazine, 2002, pp. 9-10.

¹² P Godard, *The First and Last Voyage of the Batavia*, Abrolhos Publications, 1993..

¹³ See: W Richards, 'Welcome Batavia', *Signals*, 49, December 1999 - February, 2000, pp. 4-6.

German kills to his credit. The Japanese pressed home their attack setting the port engine on fire. However, in a brilliant feat of flying, Smirnoff maintained control of the aircraft and managed a beach crash landing on the shore of Carnot Bay using the waves to put out the burning engine (ch. 3).

Several of the passengers and crew had been wounded in the attack, including Smirnoff but all survived the crash landing. The downed plane was strafed several times by the attacking fighters before they flew away, adding to the toll of injured. And later that day, the survivors were attacked by another Japanese aircraft, which dropped several small bombs, all of which failed to explode (ch. 4).

The survivors were to spend several days before being rescued, during which time several of the wounded died. The attack and landing, however, had been witnessed by an aboriginal, who reported what he had seen to the Beagle Bay Mission. The rescuers arrived on March 7, 1942 (ch. 6). What of the brown paper package? It had apparently been lost in the surf as the survivors evacuated the downed aircraft (ch. 7).

So ends part 1 of Wills' book and I have summarised the story at some length because it is the part which interests me the more. However, for those readers more interested in a crime thriller, the second part of the book will interest them more, because Wills describes the fate of that brown paper package. For, the somewhat insignificant package contained diamonds worth £300,000 (in 1942).

The rescue party had failed to find the package. The diamonds were "rescued" by Jack Palmer, a local beachcomber (chs. 8-9), who shared his good find with friends (ch. 10). In mid April, 1942, Palmer tried to enlist in the army and during his interview he poured some of the diamonds on the desk (ch. 11). The result was that Palmer and two of his associates were tried in May, 1943 but were acquitted (ch. 12). More of the diamonds were recovered but only a small proportion. Some £250,000 worth (1942) are still missing, some \$10 million worth in today's money (ch. 13).

The book is a good read. Wills has an ABC journalistic background and has written for national newspapers and magazines. In a time, when Australian History is undergoing intense ideological scrutiny, we should be thankful for writers like Wills. The fate of the "Pelikaan" and its diamonds are hardly major events in the broad canvas of Australian History. In fact, to call this story even a "footnote" of History would be excessively generous. Yet, that canvas would be much the poorer without people like Wills recording stories like these.

Childhood memories of the other Shire

There are two shires, each with its own stories. This division was brought home to me by Eva Carmichael's interview with Joe Green (Bulletin 8[3], 2005). The stories Eve told were of a shire sparsely populated. Apart from the beginnings of suburbia at Cronulla, it was a semi-rural shire - a land of dairy and poultry farms and piggeries, too (Is that how OLMC, Burraneer Bay, got its nickname - the "pig farm"?). This is not my Shire but the two do connect as I hope to show. So, read on!

At this stage, I need to define my shire. My shire is the outer dormitory suburb of Greater Sydney - the product of the post-war housing and baby boom. My family moved to the Shire mid 1949 to what was later no. 29 Chamberlain Ave, Caringbah. My parents had been living with my grandparents in Marrickville but the arrival of a second child (myself) had necessitated a move.

As the post war baby boom "boomed", shortages of traditional building materials saw the rise of the new fibro suburbs. My Caringbah was one such suburb. There were few houses in Chamberlain Ave in 1949. The street must have been developed in two sections. The top half, my half, of the street slowly filled up with fibro tile cottages like mine. More substantial houses were built in the bottom half of the street - these included several built of brick.

Home was a very basic, double frontage, two bedroom fibro tile cottage, dumped according to my mother in the middle of a blackberry patch. Over the years, the house was remodelled. A front verandah was the

first addition. The first major addition came when my parents decided my sister was too old to share a bedroom with her brother. My grandfather built an extra

bedroom (for me) and a sunroom on the back of the house. Some time later a covered verandah was added across the back. The final addition came in the late 1960's when my sister and son moved home after the break-up of her marriage. A large multi-purpose room was added to my bedroom. The house was sold in the mid 1980's. The backyard "dunny" did not disappear till the sewer finally came through.

From the front door, my parents said, you had an uninterrupted view down to the shores of Botany Bay. This was long before Captain Cook Bridge was built. Taren Point Road may have been sealed but there was no curb and guttering, then. Chamberlain Ave was a narrow dirt track - my memory is that it was not sealed till I was about twelve years of age. Curb and guttering came even later. The area would have been a dream playground for adventurous children - not that I was very adventurous but I occasionally strayed. I do have memories of the abandoned farm or orchard where Endeavour High now stands and there was the deep pond on the site, probably too rounded to have been a natural formation. I even got as far as the abandoned quarry, today the site of original buildings of Caringbah High.

At this stage, i.e. 1949 (?), there were only two shops in Caringbah - one of the originals was the old cake shop opposite Caringbah railway station - they made the most delicious vanilla slices. Today, the shop is the Book Station. Other memories are the moving of Caringbah Post Office from President Ave near where the Caringbah hotel now is to its present site on the Kingsway. Eventually, the timber yard on the corner of the Kingsway and President Ave was replaced by the Shire's first department store, Farmers & Co. This department store had a sad and chequered history. Its last manifestation was as a branch of Waltons-Bond.

The arrival of Farmers seemed to set the pattern for the shire. Sutherland was the administrative centre, Caringbah the retail centre and Cronulla the leisure centre. The other suburbs were to remain quiet little villages, though Miranda got a boost with the opening of Port Hacking High in 1959. The opening of Miranda Fair put paid to any such arrangement and the Caringbah CBD lapsed into what still seems permanent decline.

Life was fairly spartan. My mother did not work and my father was a relatively poorly paid salesman at the City Markets in Haymarket. However, it was the era of time payment. Nearly everybody called - the milkman, of course, and baker, too, but also the dry cleaner, the insurance man, the Walton's man and the green grocer. The green grocer was called Monty. I guess I remember his name because of my father's being in the same industry. We rarely bought anything off Monty. Fruit and vegetables we had aplenty and my father used to supply the whole family.

We had no car but because my father started work so early, he used to bring the work's truck home (My father had been a truck driver during the war). So, the Duncans would travel, only on weekends, in a green Bedford tray top truck. It seated three but there were four of us. Otherwise, our mode of transport was the NSWGR - Caringbah station was within walking distance. In the 1950's a rail journey to the city could be an adventure - it was not uncommon for the trip to take ninety minutes. It took me years to figure out the motto - "orta recens quam pura nites" - painted on the side of the old red rattlers, resplendent in Tuscan red.

The dividing line between Caringbah and Miranda was apparently somewhat flexible in the 1950's. So, when it was time for me to go to school, I headed off to Miranda Public. By third class, it had been determined that I was in the school zone for North Caringbah Public. So, I changed schools. My sister, being nearly four's older, spent all her primary school years at Miranda. While I went to Caringbah High, enrolling in 1961, my sister went to Sutherland Intermediate High in 1957 and spent her last year at Port Hacking when it opened in 1959.

I wrote of a connection between the Shire of the prewar and the shire of the postwar period. For me, that connection occurred in the second paragraph of Eve Carmichael's article - it was the mention of a Miss Annie Mondel.

Miss Mondel figures in my childhood memories. From the date supplied by Eve, Miss Mondel would have been in her seventies or eighties when I "knew" her. I don't ever remember speaking to her nor do I remember her speaking to me. I think I would have been too frightened if she had approached me.

Miss Mondel lived in a tumbled down cottage on the corner of Carrington Ave and the Kingsway, on the Miranda side, opposite the site of Sutherland Hospital. My recollection is of what I would have called a country cottage - a timber construction with a tin roof and front verandah. Though, I am really

guessing since very little of the house was visible. The garden had clearly escaped and the house was obscured by a thicket of green something - perhaps a hedge that had grown too high.

Miss Mondel often walked up Chamberlain Ave. I always remember her as being heavily clothed. Thick stockings, a woollen skirt, a heavy cape, a cloth cap - these are what I remember her wearing, bent over (with age, I guess) leaning on a walking stick. Obviously, she stopped coming one day but I do not remember it. It was the same with her house - one day it was just gone. Vale Miss Mondel.

I have talked of two Shires. There is at least a third. My own children would not recognise my childhood memories. Future residents of the shire will increasingly come from the new medium and high density housing which is now springing up all over the Shire. The residents of these houses will have memories worth recording, too.

Garriock Duncan

The museum is seeking military uniforms for their display this year.

Contact Jim Cutbush



Down memory lane – Cronulla over the century