



*Sutherland Shire*  
*Historical Society Inc*  
**Bulletin**



VOL. 10 No. 3

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The iron clipper ship Tayleur- bound for Australia -1854

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| <b>SOLICITOR:</b>                            | Mr. Michael Solari  |           |

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

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**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, preferably word processed 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 Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

## VISITORS ARE WELCOME

All correspondence should be addressed to

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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

Vale: Aileen Griffiths, OAM: This edition of our Bulletin and my report comes with a heavy heart as our former President, who was also our Patron and Foundation Member, Aileen Griffiths, OAM has passed away. Aileen had been in failing health for over a year, and she finally succumbed to a series of strokes. Her service to the SSHS commenced 41 years ago, and her commitment to our Society, was total. Aileen was the third longest serving President. Aileen, over the years had held every executive position on our committee, and her knowledge of our Shire, and her accurate recall of facts, was remarkable. She was indeed the matriarch of the Society, nurturing, encouraging and exhorting us to higher achievements. I felt it a sad duty, but a privilege to give the eulogy for Aileen at the chapel at Woronora Crematorium. I believe Bruce, our editor, has incorporated the further remarks I made, elsewhere, so I won't repeat these. Suffice it to say that her influence on the Society will be far-reaching onward into the future.



Vale: Betty McGrath: When I first began to write this Report over a week ago, I paused to take a `phone call from John Risebrow, who rang to tell me that our popular member and Bookings Officer for our excursions, Betty McGrath, had also passed away. It was such a shock to come to grips with the loss of two of our longest serving members. Betty had recently had a bad fall, sustaining a gash to her head, but she still seemed in good health, although a little shaken and had decided to leave her home and go into a retirement home. Betty was so energetic, always helping out when we needed anyone on duty at the Museum or at a Photographic Display, or to bring a plate for supper—and what a wonderful cook! Betty supported her husband Allan, who had been our tireless Museum Curator for many years, wherever she could. Betty was always in the midst of a circle of friends, with her cheery smile and infectious laughter. No matter what calamity befell her, Betty was able overcome it with a chuckle and good humour. Her own struggle with breast cancer was a case in point. I had the good fortune to be Betty's room mate on a bus excursion to Bateman's Bay some years ago, and long after everyone else was asleep, Betty had me in fits telling me the funny things that had happened over the years in the Society. She too, thoroughly enjoyed our time together, and after that called me "my other sister" as she said I had become like a sister to her! Aileen's daughter Janelle, told me this week that Betty had frequently rung to ask how Aileen was, and that of all the members Janelle felt that Betty was like a second mother to her. It is sad indeed that these two stalwart members, Betty and Aileen should pass away with a couple of weeks of each other and the society is so much the poorer for their passing.

Congratulations: Les Bursill. I believe that Les was recently honoured in a ceremony at Goulburn by the Police for his excellence in teaching. Les has not filled me in with the details, but we are so proud of you, Les, and offer you our hearty congratulations.

Congratulations also to: Merle Kavanagh & Terry McCosker. Merle recently received a Cook Award for her community service to the Guides, and Terry received a Hughes Award also for community service, for his services to Shire history and our Museum, and to the Menai District Neighbourhood Services, taking senior citizens on bus outings etc.

Welcome Home Dr. Ed. Duyker and his wife, Sue Duyker! We have been receiving a series of travelogues by email, enviously hearing of Ed's and Sue's activities in France, Switzerland etc. Ed. had received a scholarship for six months to Paris, and has been busily researching for a new book, at the same time as completing his latest book: "A Dictionary of Sea Quotations". It is great to hear that they have arrived home safely and we look forward to having Sue as our guest speaker in November, on climate change effects on world heritage buildings and Ed as a speaker in February on Francois Peron. Bedford Cottage aka Gardener's Cottage, RNP- Saved? For some time we have been writing letters to all levels of government, and I, Les Bursill and Pauline Curby have also been pushing the conservation of this lovely old house with the Sutherland Shire Council's Heritage Committee and the National Trust. In desperation we wrote to the Dept. of Planning, and have received a letter confirming that the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NPWS) must utilize the cottage for "adaptive re-use", so they must NOT demolish it! NPWS had previously decided to demolish it and just leave an historical plaque on the site recording the history of the cottage. This was very commendable, but we would rather have the actual cottage!

I gather that Section 151B permits the Minister to grant a lease over buildings in National Parks for specific purposes which are called adaptive reuse leases. We had been advised by DECC that it is not permissible for the Minister to grant a lease or licence under Part 12 of the NPW Act for a community radio station in the RNP, which was sad as 2SSR were interested in leasing the building 24/7. This would have overcome the problems of vandalism etc. as someone would have always been on the premises. Now with the direction from the Dept. of Planning to DECC to seek adaptive re-use for Bedford cottage, this gives it a new "lease of life". We have had a heritage consultant examine it and are told that the footings are sound, and the brickwork with its attractive herring-bone corner brick pattern can be stabilized without too much effort. Of course it is obvious it needs a new roof, flooring, and fittings which will cost about \$300,000, but the structure itself is able to be saved. This was the home of James Toyer and his wife, who was the daughter of the first Manager of the RNP. The cottage was built in the early 1900's and was one of the first homes in this area. James Toyer was a member of the Toyer family who owned the nursery in Rockdale, and have a street named after them. James Toyer set up the first horsedrawn bus service to run from Sutherland station to the RNP, which later became a motorized service and ran for over 25 years. And NPWS told us the cottage didn't have any great historical value! Sutherland Shire: a history. We are still receiving complaints from readers as to the inaccuracies in this publication. We have now compiled an errata so if there is a 2nd ed mooted we will pass this on to the Council for inclusion. We felt that we should have had a history of the Sutherland Shire Council itself as its centenary has recently been held, but although we offered to write this if Council could assist with printing costs, we have been advised that they are unable to help. We were advised that if we published it then they may be able to give us something towards it, but we are hoping to eventually gain larger premises for a Museum, so cannot afford to outlay such a large sum, when there is a possibility that it will not be recouped if funds are not available.

Air Museum, Temora: In May Cliff and I attended the Air Show at Temora, and what a great Museum of aircraft which actually fly! Do visit this if you get the opportunity. We watched spell bound for five hours seeing many aircraft flying such as a Ryan, a Hudson, a Canberra Bomber, a Wirraway, a Kittyhawk and a Spitfire (both the latter with huge teeth painted on their fuselage which must have struck fear and dread

into our enemies, or at least given our pilots a feeling of invincibility!) All of these planes looped the loop and did breathtaking death-defying dives, but the final event on the programme was the F111. This `plane came swooping in eerily and silently over the heads of the crowd with flames leaping from it and then flew off. Suddenly its accompanying ear-shattering noise caught up with it and it was so loud, we all cowered in disbelief! The Fill did loops and dives and was such a master of the skies that it was just poetry in motion to watch. If you go in Winter or early Spring, do take your Winter woollies; I had on everything in our caravan that I could find—and I was still cold, even though the sun was shining brightly and I needed sunglasses and a hat! Take your own chairs as you can sit by the fence for an uninterrupted view of the performing aircraft.

Hoping to see you at our next meeting, and I am sure Doug and Betty will give you a nice warm cuppa if you brave the cold night to come along!

*Dawn Emerson*

Dawn Emerson, President \_\_\_\_\_

Forthcoming Programme: 2007-2008 8pm : Stapleton Centre, (except Dec. mtg)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Friday, 17th Aug:        | Mr. Ivan Webber: Woronora Cemetery History— Grave tales with many plots.                                     |
| Friday, 21st Sept:       | AGM and talk by Deputy Mayor, Clr. Ken McDonell Recent history of Sutherland Shire Council.                  |
| Friday, 19th Oct:        | Mr. Ian Small: The Kurrajongs (his book on WWII soldiers from Inverell, Armidale etc.)                       |
| Friday, 16th Nov:        | Susan Duyker: World Heritage Buildings & Climate Change  |
| Friday, 21st December:   | Show & Tell Xmas Party: bring an object of interest, & short note about it for display (at Suth Sch of Arts) |
| Friday, 18th Jan., 2008: | Mem. Night: (inc D. Archer: Royal Mashman Pottery)   |
| Friday, 15th Feb., 2008: | Dr. Ed. Duyker : Francois Peron  |

# From The Editor's Desk

Much is written elsewhere in this bulletin about Aileen Griffiths, the Society's co — patron and one of the foundation members who recently passed away. I was a neighbour of Aileen's for over 20 years and in recent times, spent a considerable amount of time chatting to her. Her knowledge of local history was remarkable. Having been a member for over 25 years, I made the passing remark to her one day that I wouldn't mind becoming more involved. It wasn't long before I found myself in the role of Editor! Aileen had a way of getting things done.



I dedicate this issue of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society bulletin to Aileen Griffiths who contributed so much to the Society over 41 years.

Another milestone in the Society's history has also been passed with the passing of Betty McGrath who, with her husband Allan, had also contributed greatly to the Society.

Several recent bulletin articles have featured maritime stories. The story of the Tayleur is tragic in itself, however in researching and writing it, I was taken by the relevance to Australia's colonial past. Shipping was the only means of transportation in the early days. How many of our forebears risked their lives in perilous journeys by sea. The article 'morphed' in a few different directions including clipper ships, immigration and census details that shed light on aspects of social history.

The August edition of the bulletin preceded the Annual General Meeting and by necessity contains matters that inform members of the AGM and contains reports covering the major activities of the Society over the past year. I would encourage members to actively seek as many new members as possible to rejuvenate the activities of the Society. The renewal / new members application is included in this edition. Members are reminded that annual membership extends from July to June. If you have not renewed at this stage there is a gentle reminder that your membership is now overdue. Membership issues are covered in the article reproduced from the first AGM in 1967. It is interesting to note that membership (149) was about twice its present size one year after this Society was formed. There were several life members, junior members and corporate members. Many of the local businesses no longer exist but our current members will no doubt remember them. It is also interesting to note that all Shire High Schools were honorary members. Take a moment to look over the list of names. At the AGM we will be debating the issue of reinstating all Shire High Schools as honorary members to encourage further interest in local history.

It is with some regret that the internet site is no longer active. It is intended that we reactivate the site in the near future

At this point I make the usual call for papers. The role of the editor is to gather materials, make necessary changes and assemble it in a manner that suits its readership. I thank all those who do contribute to the Bulletin. I would also like to say that my task would be easier if more articles were forthcoming.

*Bruce Watt*

## President's Addendum

It is always a delight each year to have this opportunity to thank the officers of the Society who have laboured long and hard for the Society during the year. It goes without saying that they deserve to be thanked more often as it is due to their commitment and diligence that the Society runs so smoothly. Everyone knows their job and gets on with it, and we all share the belief that conserving our Shire's history is the most important task and the best way we can spend our leisure time. For some of us who are retired we work at it full time!

My first vote of thanks goes to our former patron, foundation and life member Aileen Griffiths, OAM who passed away last month. Aileen was so proud of us all, and our efforts and one evening a couple of years ago said to me: "Dawn, congratulations!" When I asked why, she said it was because I had now exceeded her term as President making me the second longest serving President after Harold Ivers. She was so thrilled that she was the one who had nominated me and thrust me into the position at that fateful AGM when I came as a Councillor to run the SSHS AGM, and ended up its President! We were all devastated to hear of Aileen's passing. I keep hearing wonderful amusing stories about her. Yesterday I was told by a theatre group who had arranged with Allan McGrath to borrow a kerosene fridge and a cast iron stove for a play, how, as they completed loading up and were pulling out from the kerb, Aileen, who did not know they had Allan's permission, came charging down the street angrily waving her walking stick at these thieves who were stealing our museum's exhibits, or so she thought, and was quite abusive! It was all sorted out amicably, but this was typical of Aileen's feelings of responsibility for the position of President that she looked after its possessions as if they were her own. Thank you, Aileen for steering the good ship SSHS all these years as its captain, and leader.

My next vote of thanks also goes to another member, Betty McGrath, (wife of Allan, our former Museum Curator) who sadly passed away this week. Betty had been our popular Booking Officer for many years, and was the only one who could run the books satisfactorily to our Treasurer's and former President's satisfaction, so this was a high honour indeed! Probably Betty's cheery personality and infectious chuckle enabled her not to get too fussed when all was falling apart around her. She could always see the funny side of things. Betty made her own clothes and was always smartly dressed and loved jewellery, and wore the prettiest strappy shoes. She was also a superb cook, and my greatest thrill was when she brought me some lemons, and told me that she had heard I made gramma pie, and could I spare her a slice when I made the next one, as her mother used to make them and she hadn't tasted one in years. I dutifully baked one for us and a small pie for Betty, and took it over to her. Her superlatives as to my cooking made me blush, such high praise from such a master of the culinary art herself! During Betty's battle with breast cancer she relinquished her position on the committee and then last year, she returned, coping as well as ever. It was a great shock to hear of her demise and she will be sorely missed.

The backbone of our Society is our Museum Curator, Jim Cutbush, ably assisted by his wife Marjorie, and his willing Assistant Curator, Terry McCosker. Terry also "doubles" as Excursions Officer, and Deputy President, so is multi-skilled, as well as over-worked, and we really appreciate his efforts in all these capacities. Terry has organized some very interesting excursions, and spends time researching them, so that they are all usually a great success. (It's not Terry's fault that trains don't run on time and we miss connections; I applaud Terry for his quick thinking and finding an alternative attraction at a moment's notice! Well done!) Jim and Terry transport our exhibitions all over the Shire, and every display hinges on Jim's talent for amassing and arranging, coupled with his extensive knowledge of the Shire and where to lay his hands on the information he needs. The sad fact however is that our Museum has reached absolute saturation point, and Jim fears we may have to start turning away treasures unless we can get more space. It is annoying when we know we have an item we wish to display, but it is right at the back of the garage at the School of Arts, and we can't get to it, because everything is so closely packed inside. If we do nothing else during 2007-2008, our goal must be that we will gain larger premises so we can professionally display more of the Shire's historical possessions. At our last meeting it was resolved that we must put in a submission to council informing them of our plight and ask for assistance.

Four of our executive committee members, Merle Kavanagh, Les Bursill, Daphne Salt and myself, have now had training in the computer programme Mosaic, which is the programme used by most small Museums in Australia, used for accessioning the items in the collection. Council has given us a grant but it was insufficient to pay for training for our officers so we used the grant to obtain a second hand computer, and the equipment necessary for accessioning. The society outlayed \$200 for each officer for training. This is an enormous expenditure for our Society but we must modernize our procedures and upgrade our presentations competently. At the course we discovered that every Museum represented there, and there were several, had been sponsored by its council, except us, and their council is also allowing them to use Council's computer system and providing backup and maintenance. This type of support is mandatory if a Museum is to function professionally, even if it is staffed by volunteers. Both Campbelltown and Hurstville Museums have fulltime curators employed by Council, with voluntary assistance, but we have to run ours ourselves.

Whilst talking of the Museum we heartily thank one of our Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Daphne Salt for her expertise in providing DVD's on many diverse subjects, and her generous donations of photographs and material for our Museum. Nothing is too much trouble for her and Daphne makes and prints tickets for our events on her computer, as well as programmes, flyers, leaflets, labels, etc. in addition to videoing any important event or guest speaker. Her commitment is total and she is so gracious and good humoured that it is a treat to work alongside her. On the subject of commitment, and good humour, our Secretary, Mrs. Angela Thomas is an absolute treasure also. We load her up with letters to write, and copious minutes, and her output is so efficient and well-nigh flawless. In the meantime she is writing and publishing novels with aplomb, and never seems fussed, despite the demands we make of her. Thank you Angela for your timely reminders and always being on call when needed, which is most appreciated.

I am most grateful, too, for the help of Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Mina Whybourne. Mina assists whenever Angela is unavailable, and is a very dear friend. Mina has a very sweet and gentle nature, and is always thinking of others; she visits our members when they are ill, and often gives an elderly member a lift in her car to the meeting. She helps out at the Museum, and her wise counsel is most appreciated. Our Treasurer, Mr. Maurie Beaven, has wrestled with our accounts on our behalf, and finally battered them into shape to the satisfaction of our auditor, a feat which has not always been achieved by his predecessors. We hear a lot about "creative accounting" but Maurie is from the old school, and is systematic. Maurie abhors computers, and does things painstakingly and manually—and gets results! This year we look as if we have made a huge profit, but Maurie is adamant we must put in last year's annual figures so that you can see that as a result of an error in late banking, this was not the case, and he wants you to know the true picture. We could not have a more honest and hard-working Treasurer and we really appreciate the work Maurie puts in to our service. Maurie, with the assistance of another committee-member, Mr. John Risebrow, is taking control of our membership records, which have become a bit piecemeal over the years. John regularly attends committee meetings and helps out at the Museum on Open-days, and his genial demeanour, knowledge of the Waterfall area, his little jokes to keep us amused, and his assistance are much appreciated.

One of the most important committee members is our Bulletin Editor, Mr. Bruce Watt. Bruce is one of our quiet achievers, always on the lookout for a new story, conscientiously rabbitting through old Bulletins, for stories which should be re-cycled, and avidly researching old photographs to accompany these stories. Bruce loves our heritage houses and we look forward to further articles from him on historic buildings around the Shire. We give him a hard time, never having our reports ready for him for publication, but he goes on politely begging, exhorting, and encouraging until he gets enough material for a publication. We are most grateful for the polished and professional Bulletin he produces, and never "losing his cool" at our tardiness.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our Research Officer & Archivist, Mr. Les Bursill. Les generously set up our website for us, but pressure of work has caused a delay in updating this, and Les would dearly love someone to take on this role. Any takers? Nevertheless he still fields questions for us from readers and enthusiasts, and passes them on to me for distribution to our local experts for resolution. The number



of queries and their variety has been quite surprising, and we thank Les for taking on this task when his work sees him travelling all around the State, but he still has time to assist us.

Our Book Review Editor, Dr. Ed Duyker, has had six months leave of absence whilst he has been on a scholarship overseas in Paris, nevertheless he has kept me informed of his activities by a series of emails. If I had thought in advance I would have asked him permission to reprint them for you in the bulletin, as his adventures researching, and exploring have been a delight to peruse. Consequently we haven't had his usual fare of exciting insights into recent publications, but now he has returned we are looking forward to getting him back into harness, and also being a guest speaker with his talented wife Sue.

Mrs. Marj. Blackley has battled on with illness to continue her job as Publicity Officer, and done a sterling job. We have had more success this year than previously and I think that she has finally "cracked the code" to get our events into the local papers. Thank you Marj for all your efforts, including assembling the Bulletin and posting it out each quarter. You do a great job, which is quite onerous, unaided and we are most grateful.

To our other committee members: Mrs. Mary Small, one of our authors, who regretfully had to resign half way through the year as her choir chose the same night as our committee meeting to meet; Mrs. Merle Kavanagh, another of our authors, who is such a fount of knowledge, and always ready to assist; and my husband Mr. Cliff Emerson, who is always willing to help in any capacity needed and thoroughly enjoys the company of our members and their interests (as do I), ---I say a grateful "Well done!".

We are also thank our Mayor, Cllr. David Redmond, who is our patron and has willingly assisted with launches and openings and has shown great interest in our displays and exhibitions. We thank the General Manager, Mr. John Rayner, for his assistance with our Bulletins, enabling us to have a coloured cover to celebrate our Centenary Year, and the Council staff who are always courteous and obliging. We thank our Honorary Solicitor, Mr. Michael Solari, upon whom we have never had to call but are grateful to have the security of his support, and our auditor Mrs. Carol Draper for her continuing generous advice and assistance.

Our Public Officer, Andrew Platfoot, despite his busy work calendar, still manages to attend our Committee meetings whenever he can, and we appreciate his support and valuable input to our decisions.

Any Society is only as good as its membership—and whilst we have quality, we no longer have quantity, or as many members as previously. We seem to have lost several over the last few years: some have moved to other permanent holiday locations, some have gone into retirement homes outside the Shire, and some, sadly, have passed away. Can you help? If every current member can encourage ONE more member to join, we can double our membership, and this shares the load for the rest of us. Junior members, and student members are only half price (\$11) so how about enrolling your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. and giving tomorrow's citizens a head start on learning about our Shire's history? What a great birthday, Xmas or congratulatory present on passing an exam! And to you, the members, thank you for your attendance at our meetings, your assistance in "babysitting" and guiding at our Museum displays, your articles you have written for the Bulletin and your financial support. Most importantly, thank you for your friendship, and your ongoing interest in our great and wonderful Sutherland Shire.

*Dawn Emerson*

PRESIDENT

# Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the

41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

will be held on Friday, 21st September, 2007 in the  
Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland at 8pm.

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm and adopt Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 15th September, 2006
4. Submission and adoption of the 41st Annual Reports of the Executive Council
  - a. President's Report & President's Addendum
  - b. Secretary's Report
  - c. Museum Curator's Report
  - d. Excursion Officer's Report
  - e. Bulletin Editor's Report
  - f. Archivist's Report
5. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for 2006-2007, 2007-2008
6. Life membership
7. Notice of Motion: That Executive Committee Officers upon request, for out-of-pocket expenses, be granted an honorarium not exceeding \$50, providing records of expense are kept which account for this expenditure.
8. Election of Officers for 2007-2008
9. General Business: pertaining to the AGM only

On behalf of the Executive Council of  
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

*Dawn Emerson,*

Dawn Emerson,  
President

# Sutherland Shire Historical Society

## Membership applications or Renewals 2007/8

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

**TO ASSIST WITH ACCURATE RECORD KEEPING EACH MEMBER IS REQUESTED TO COMPLETE AN INDIVIDUAL RENEWAL FORM EACH YEAR**

Applications 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 new / renewal application should also contain the appropriate subscription fee.

It should be noted that a failure to pay the membership fee within three months from the end of the financial year will result in a lapse of membership.

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.

This membership application is a -Renewal ( ) New Membership ( ) (please tick)

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name: -----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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

**Please find subscription for 2007/8 enclosed**

**Annual adult subscription = \$22 junior member / full time student = \$11**

Signed ----- Date -----

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

ABN No. 17 083 299 572

Note: This organisation is GST exempt.

----- This  
membership application is a -Renewal ( ) New Membership ( ) (please tick)

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name: -----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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

**Please find subscription for 2007/8 enclosed**

**Annual adult subscription = \$22 junior member / full time student = \$11**

Signed ----- Date -----

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

ABN No. 17 083 299 572

Note: This organisation is GST exempt.

# Sutherland Shire Historical Society — Treasurer's Report

## Income and Expenditure Statement as at 30th June 2006\*

|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| <u>Income</u>  | \$      |         |
| Members subscriptions  | 1210.00 | \$      |
| (this does not include \$792 collected but not banked until July 2006 Donations and grants |         |         |
| Excursions and functions   | 4367.50 |         |
| (does not include \$2640 collected but not banked until July 2006) Sales                   | 386.65  |         |
| Interest received  | 51.00   |         |
| - St George fixed term deposit   | 128.05  |         |
| - Commonwealth Bank fixed term deposit   | 152.78  |         |
| - Commonwealth Bank — Cheque a/c   | 11.20   | 6307.18 |
| <br>Expenditure  |         |         |
| Museum      -including projects with Sutherland Shire Council & Centenary                  | 3991.39 |         |
| Excursions and functions   | 2224.38 |         |
| Meeting expenses including guest speaker   | 68.05   |         |
| Telephone  | 15.00   |         |
| Computer   | 350.00  |         |
| Postage  | 683.60  |         |
| Printing and stationery  | 646.00  |         |
| Licences, fees and subscriptions   | 198.00  |         |
| TV purchase (not capitalized)  | 249.00  |         |

This loss recognizes that \$3432 was not taken into account as accounts are done on a cash basis and these funds were not banked in this financial year. The true figure for the period is a profit of \$589.66

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Insurance -   personal and accident and public liability | 582.45 |
| 9149.52  |        |

Net loss           2842.32

I Caroline Joyce Draper certify that I have audited the above accurate position of the Society as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006



# Sutherland Shire Historical Society Treasurer's Report

## Income and Expenditure Statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

| Income  | \$      | \$      |
|---|---------|---------|
| Members subscriptions   | 2068.00 | 7267.35 |
| ( includes \$792 collected but not banked from previous year) | 1357.30 |         |
| Donations and grants  | 3168.77 |         |
| Excursions and functions                                      | 23.00   |         |
| ( includes \$2640 collected from previous year)               | 417.62  |         |
| Sales   | 223.63  |         |
| Interest received - St George fixed term deposit              |         |         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>  |         |         |
| Museum  | 180.59  |         |
| Bank fees   | 14.70   |         |
| Donations   | 36.00   |         |
| Postage   | 683.60  |         |
| Printing and stationery                                       | 1011.40 |         |
| Subscriptions -Royal Australian Historical Society            | 102.00  |         |
| Training course   | 594.00  |         |
| General expenses and petty cash                               | 180.45  |         |
| Insurance - personal and accident and public liability        | 532.95  | 4032.52 |
| Nett profit   |         | 3234.83 |

*M Beaven* .....

M Beaven Hon  
Treasurer

I **Caroline Joyce Draper** certify that I have audited the above accounts and find they are a true and accurate position of the Society as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

## Sutherland Shire Historical Society Balance Sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

### ASSETS

|  |             |                              |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|
| Commonwealth Bank Cheque a/c Statement balance | 1699.80     |                              |
| Unpresented cheques                            | 129.50      | 1570.39                      |
| St George Bank fixed term deposit              |             | 7000.00                      |
| Commonwealth Bank fixed term deposit           |             | 8382.55                      |
| Cash on hand                                   |             |                              |
|  | <u>6.30</u> | <u>TOTAL ASSETS 16959.24</u> |

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| EQUITY Retained  | 13724.41                     |
| earnings Current | <u>3234.83</u>               |
| earnings         |                              |
|                  | <u>TOTAL EQUITY 16959.24</u> |

## Treasurer's Report

Over the last two year period we have shown a combined profit of \$392.49 (equal to \$196.25 per annum). As the amount earned in the same period in interest on deposits was \$942.31, the actual operations of the Society gave a two year loss of \$549.82

Annual fee paying membership declined from 108 in the year 2000 to 79 members in the years 2006/7, whilst our overheads have increased.

We should ensure that future activities, such as functions and excursions are fully funded.

...*Maurie Beaven* .....

Maurie Beaven

Hon. Treasurer

## Secretary's Report

Our Society is fortunate to have so many creative members. Over three quarters of the speakers who have entertained us this year have been 'home grown', so to speak.

The year started with Les Bursill introducing Nigel Dawes, who asked our support for his choice in the naming of a new section of Darling Harbour. We voted on the website and consequently out of 300 suggestions the name 'Barangaroo,' was chosen. Barangaroo was the brave and iconic wife of Bennelong who was befriended by Captain Arthur Phillip.

Each meeting demonstrated a new facet of our membership, from Ken Humbley and the tales of his 56 acres of oyster leases to Mary Small and her book "Feathered Friends" presenting, for younger readers, the work of carrier pigeons in wartime...and may we wish her well for her new work, on the similar role of dogs. A fascinating glimpse of members' interests was given to us in "Show and Tell" when we had a brief sighting of several collections. John Risebrow and his cameras riveted the attention of many and Cliff Emerson's tale of the clock remained in our memory The most glamorous hobby being Doug Archer's collection of Estee Lauder solid perfume compacts.

Recently we listened to Mavis Sourry speaking on Helen and Harriet Scott Mitchell and many of us wished we could have heard even more about that talented pair.

Once, when we were suddenly lacking a speaker Terry McCosker stepped in, suggesting his son-in-law could talk on underwater diving in the murky depths of Sydney rivers, and Neil brought along his friend Steve Cross. What a bonus at the last moment! Since then Neil has been back with another programme on scuba diving.

When Greg Bond came to talk about the ill fated La Perouse expedition many members expressed the hope we'd have more about rivers and the seas around our country.

Straying from the present day we all remember Vera and Alf Catt, most interesting early residents, recalling times when life was simpler and you made your own fun. Vera was Miss Brinsley and for her wedding reception they pushed the machines aside and danced the wedding waltz at Brinsleys Joinery.

Angela Thomas

## EXCURSION REPORT.

Three excursions were planned during this period but only two eventuated. The first , on Aug.21 2006, was a very successful trip to St Johns College within the grounds of Sydney University. The Dean, David Daintree, was our very accomplished guide and showed us over most of the buildings of the college. including some parts where the public would not usually be allowed. After this we walked across the university grounds to the Holme building which houses the student union café where we had lunch. After lunch we met Craig Barker, who was able to get permission for us to see the wonderful murals in the main hall of the Holme building, as well as the art gallery in the Great Hall building and the Hall itself

which , unfortunately was set up for student interviews and many of the features of the halls interior were obscured from our view. Craig then took us for a tour of the Nicholson Museum. All in all the day was a great success although it's a pity that so few members attended.

The second planned excursion was the "Fish and Ships" tour conducted by the Sydney Heritage Fleet, Darling Harbour, We had done this tour sometime earlier and those who attended will remember the rain. This was planned for the 15th March 2007 but had to be cancelled because we could not get enough members to make up the minimum number, 15, as required by the Sydney Heritage Fleet. Once again it's a pity there seems to be so little interest.

The third outing, also poorly attended. was on Thursday the 10th May 2007. This was a guided tour of St. Stephens Church in Macquarie St. It was extremely interesting, particularly the beautiful stained glass windows in the Ferguson Hall below the main body of the church. We were also very fortunate to have a special organ recital by one of the church organists. After St. Stephens we crossed the road to the State Library for the exhibition of early paintings and documents relating to Sydney Harbour. This day seemed to be enjoyed by those who attended.

Next outing, Oct.11. Garden Island. Tickets available at meeting on 20.8.07.

*T. McCosker.*

## **2006/2007 Annual Museum Report**

Exhibitions: Australia Day 2007 at Nth Cronulla SLSC.

2007 Heritage Festival (2 weeks).

6 Special Openings Two Local Schools, Two Retirement villages, Cronulla SLSC, McGrath Family. Three talks given by Curator, Two for Stroke Recovery Club of Caringbah and One for Retirement Village Residents.

Total Visitors to our Museum of 2054 was after a very cold dry winter that kept numbers low. We have had an increase in donations mainly due to older residents of the shire downsizing into units and retirement villages etc and not wanting their family's keepsakes to finish up lost, destroyed or maybe even forgotten. These items have been entrusted to us so they can be displayed for future generations in projects like the continuing replica home of Owen and Sarah Jones- Menai 1895 whose interior will be changed over time. (at the moment it is in the period of 1914-1918 the First World War). We can go up to 1974 when the original burnt down in the large bushfire that went through Menai and other parts of the Shire. But we now have a major storage problem that has to be solved. My thanks go to our dedicated regular museum committee Dawn, Cliff, Norma Jean, John, Merle, Daphne, Maurie, David and my Deputy Curator Terry McCosker.

Special thanks go to Daphne Salt for producing the wonderful DVD of 100 years of Cronulla SLSC and the Beach that has complimented our museum display so well and is also being used by Cronulla SLSC during their Centenary Celebrations.

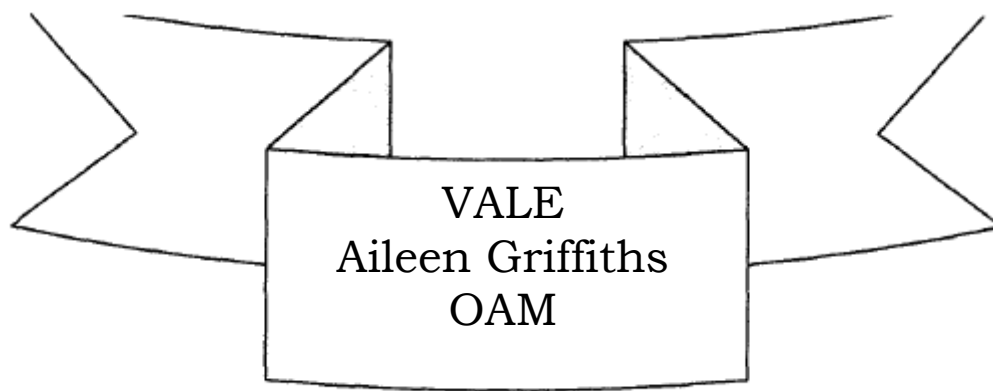
Another Special thank you to Helen McDonald and the Sutherland Shire Council for help with displays, copying etc that is very much appreciated by us all.

I will close this report by saying 2007 has not been kind to this society as we have lost so many of our original members of Pioneering Heritage of the Shire. Fortunately their lives are preserved both in our Museum and Bulletin Publications for future generations.

"May they all rest in peace"

*Jim Cutbush*

**Museum Curator**



It is with great sadness that this Society farewells Mrs Aileen Griffiths OAM, JP, who passed away on the 6th July aged 88 years. Aileen held many prominent positions in Shire organizations throughout her long period of community service. Perhaps a just culmination of this service was the award of Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year award in 2006, on the one hundredth anniversary of local government. She was also featured as one of the 100 'Faces of the Shire' in 2006 for the centenary celebrations.

Aileen was a tireless worker for a large number of community organizations to which she made exceptional contributions, many of them as life member. These affiliations included:

North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club (joined 1937), Woollooware Golf Club (foundation member and first to sink a hole in one on the 13th), Sutherland Hospital support groups, Meals on Wheels, Southern branch of the Association of Civilian Widows, Cronulla Women's Bowling Club, Sutherland Shire branch of NSW Association of Justices, Sutherland Shire youth music awards, Sutherland Shire Community Radio, Sutherland Shire Access Committee (for the disabled), Sutherland Shire Australia Day Committee, Kirinari Aboriginal Hostel, member of the Sutherland Shire Heritage Committee and the Pioneer Women's Association.



Aileen was a true pioneer of the Cronulla area. Her great grandfather purchased 2 acres of land on the Cronulla peninsula in the first Crown Land sales of 1895 for £ 16. Her grandfather, John Atkinson was a noted pioneer resident and was a member of the provisional Shire Council in 1906. Aileen was born in Annandale in 1918 and grew up in Leichhardt. After her move to Cronulla in the 1930s, she soon became involved in local causes. After her marriage to George Griffiths in 1947 she resided in the family home, 'Richmount' in Richmount Street South Cronulla and continued to live there until shortly before her death. George was a very accomplished musician and played in some 'swing' bands in the 1930s through to the 1950s. Both George and Aileen developed an interest in orchids. They joined the Sutherland Orchid Society and won many awards for their efforts. Aileen was secretary for some time. In 1988 Aileen received a NSW Premier's Award and in 1995 she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition of 60 years of outstanding contribution to the community and especially to Sutherland Hospital.

Taken in January 2006 when a Video of Aileen was produced at her home. Sadly shortly after this her health deteriorated



Aileen was a great organizer and fund raiser. Long before Sutherland Hospital was built, she organized annual balls and volunteered at the annual fete to raise money.

The North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club was one of Aileen's favourite causes. She joined the club in 1937 and helped form the Ladies committee the following year. She served as secretary and President, was granted life membership and was Lady Patroness. Always involved in organising, she ran meetings, surf carnivals, a newsletter, dances and many fund raising activities including the James Peryman Memorial Trust fund.

Where did she get the time and energy to do all this?

Aileen was one of the foundation members of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society and held every executive position, including President in her 41 year membership. A special recognition was the award to her of the position of co-patron of the Society along with the Mayor.

Aileen was instrumental in lobbying Council for the use of the Sutherland School of Arts as the Historical Society's museum.

In appreciation of her commitment and diligence she was nominated for a Certificate of Achievement by the Royal Australian Historical Society and also a Cook Award for her dedication in preserving our Shire's history. She was awarded Life Membership by the Society, usually the highest award that we give, and then honoured with the award of co-Patron of our Society in conjunction with the Mayor. Aileen had a deep knowledge of the Shire and its history and she had many anecdotes that she could relay about past personalities or events. There are few remaining who share her knowledge of a by-gone era in our local history.

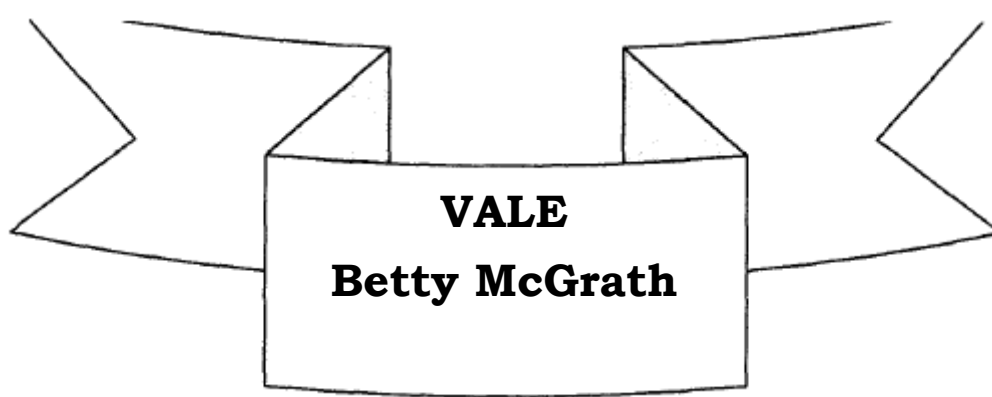
Aileen was a 'doer' and an organizer. This attribute is important in volunteer organizations where members are often reluctant to stand forward and assume leadership roles. When Aileen wanted things done, woe-betide those who stood in her way. She was a superb leader, sometimes bullying and cajoling others to follow. She was highly respected for her energy, drive, determination, knowledge and ability to speak in any forum. One of her favourite sayings was 'If you want something done give it to a busy person — they can always find time to do more'. She was also encouraging to others and had faith in people's ability to take on tasks that they initially may have felt incapable of performing.

She always had time to listen to problems and always gave wise counsel, but at the same time she did not suffer fools gladly. These qualities are what most endear her to us. She prioritised her time and didn't allow anyone to waste it unnecessarily. Her directness, integrity and sharp intellect are what most people remember about her. To us, the members of the Historical Society, she was a mentor and a leader, a loyal friend, compassionate and caring, sharing her knowledge and her memories and we will always remember her with affection and her contributions not only to the Society, but to the Shire that she loved so passionately.

Her ashes will be scattered at sea by North Cronulla Surf Club.



*Corner Richmount and Nicholson Pde-Cronulla, John Atkinson's original land grant*



Betty McGrath was born on the 1st of Jan 1926 the 1st of five children to Leila and George McHugh of Gynea. She was followed by two sisters Beryl & Nancy plus and two brothers George & Frank. Betty loved growing up on her father's dairy in Gynea. This love led to her love of horses. Her dream was to ride at the Royal Easter Show but unfortunately World War II put a stop to her dream.

She began her life time career as a dressmaker at the age 14, earning 9 shillings for a 48hr week of which she gave 3 shillings to her Mother for board; 2 shilling 9 pence — her train ticket, leaving her with 3 shilling and 3 pence. During the war years Betty enjoyed an active social life going to the local dances with her best friend Merle Butler. At the end of the war Betty lost her father, which led to a change in circumstances with her mother trying to provide for her family. Around this time Betty met Allan McGrath of Loftus and a romance soon blossomed.

Marriage followed in 1948 and they decided to build in Loftus. With a shortage of building materials due to the war progress was slow which left them living in a house without windows or lining. A sheet of fibro was bought every pay week.

At this time Betty & Allan had began their family and had three beautiful children; Maureen, Gary and Mark. Betty continued her dressmaking from home, sewing from dawn till late in the evening to make ends meet. As the years progressed she invested in an industrial sewing machine, which enabled her to sew for dressmaking companies at home; Trent Mathew being one of her labels.

After years of working at home she went back to work at the dressmaking factory in Cronulla where she eventually retired from.

Betty was of the generation who worked hard and never complained — the expression having a 'sickle' was not in her vocabulary.



Betty's retirement years were filled with her sheer joy of life and not being confined to a sewing machine opened up a vista of new horizons:

Doing lunch with mates namely Beryl and Phyllis at the Hurstville Catholic club. The \$1 lunch and Ladies Day was a big favourite. Live plays which she loved, with dear friend Helen accompanying her.

Off to the movies

Joining the Historical Society with Allan. They enjoyed many years and day trips with members of the society. Betty eventually became a lifetime member assisting the Treasurer. Music played an important part of her life. She had a vast array of favourites including Opera, Country and Western, Rock and Roll to name only a few. This led to her many happy times with Allan's second cousin Kevin, enjoying karaoke nights at the ripe old age of '80'!

Betty McGrath has been a loved and respected member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society for many years and a member of the executive committee serving as booking officer for a long period of time. Betty lived in Loftus for over sixty years and was a well known and highly respected member of this community. She was always a good neighbour and friend. She had just made the change to live at the Percy Miles retirement home

We were all deeply saddened by her sudden death and Betty will be fondly remembered by all

# 'Tayleur' -the White Star Line's first Titanic

Bruce Watt

Some time ago in a place now forgotten I bought a nicely framed print of a Clipper ship. It was titled: 'The new iron clipper — built ship "Tayleur" bound for Australia' and on the back was an inscription; 'Antique print guaranteed 100 years old. Tayleur, 1853'. An internet search revealed that this woodcut engraving was published in the Illustrated London News on November 6th 1853. In researching the ship, an amazing story unfolded.

The Tayleur was a fully rigged iron clipper of 1750 tons, 230 feet long and built in 1853 in Bank Quay, Warrington some 20 miles up the Mersey River near Liverpool England. She was a leviathan, the largest merchant ship to be built at the time. Destined for the Australian passenger trade, it was boasted that she would be faster than any of her rivals. The average time for the voyage from anchorage to anchorage was 90 days. However, a few months before the Tayleur arrived in Liverpool, the Marco Polo of the Black Ball line achieved an astonishing voyage of 76 days.

The Tayleur was designed to carry more than 650 passengers in considerable comfort as well as 4000 tons of cargo. Chartered by the White Star Line, famous as the owners of the Titanic, she too was lost on her maiden voyage with great loss of life.

In 1851 gold fever hit fever pitch in Australia and a human stampede began; all convinced that they would make their fortunes on the gold fields. Seamen deserted their ships, policemen deserted their posts and even some clergymen fled to the goldfields to lay claim to the easy pickings. Within a year, Melbourne's population went from 23000 to 70000. The population of the colony of New South Wales was only 130,856 according to the 1841 census. Between 1851 and 1861 Australia's population expanded from 437,655 to 1,151,947. In England, demand for emigrant berths on ships could not be met. Gold, the potato famine in Ireland and political unrest in Europe meant that large numbers of people emigrated to the United States, Canada and the British colonies including Australia. Poor Irish families, Scottish crofters and English labourers came in hordes, willing to endure weeks below decks during winter storms in the Atlantic and Southern Oceans, to be a part of the rush for land and potential riches in the new world. During the 1850s, 2% of the population of Britain and Ireland emigrated to New South Wales and Victoria.

The Tayleur was named after Charles Tayleur, the wealthy founder and owner of the famous Vulcan locomotive works. The forests of England were swiftly disappearing and railroads created a vast demand for iron. It wasn't long before the construction of iron hulled ships had begun. An unfortunate problem that had yet to be mastered, and one of the factors that proved fatal for the Tayleur, was the affect that the iron hull had on the magnetic compasses on board ships, giving inaccurate readings.

Among the many clippers that were waiting to take on cargo for Melbourne were Sunatra, Fitzjames, Emma and Lochiel, the Golden Era and Ben Nevis. The cut throat competition for passengers between the White Star Line and its rivals including the Black Ball Line meant that the Tayleur was put to sea without adequate preparation or trials. Apart from the faulty compass readings, the Tayleur had difficulty turning when fully laden, a problem compounded by the fact that, in the haste to embark, no sea trials for the new ship were conducted. The rudder was undersized for the tonnage and Captain Noble, a survivor of the shipwreck, was to claim that 'the ship would not obey the helm'. The problem was only encountered after the Tayleur left port. The rigging was also faulty. The ropes were new and had not been properly stretched which meant that they became slack and it was very difficult to control the sails. The Tayleur left Liverpool on the 26th January 1854, under command of Captain Noble, on her maiden voyage bound for Melbourne with 581 passengers and 71 crew. Melbourne was in the grip of gold fever and Liverpool was the major port of embarkation for the many people wishing to emigrate to Australia from Great Britain and European countries. It is estimated that in one month in 1853, 30,000 people left England for Australia.

The author's background is English and Scottish. His great grandfather, James Watt left the Southport area (near Liverpool) in 1884 for some 'colonial experience'. He married Louisa Miller, a first generation Australian soon after. Her family was German and Anglicised their name, Muller to Miller when arriving in 1855 on the 'Helveta' out of Bremen. A copy of a letter written by Jacob Muller states the reason for leaving German was 'I did not want my sons to become cannon fodder for Bismarck'. Otto von Bismarck, the 'Iron Chancellor', was busy unifying the German states at that time and was conscripting young men.

'Iron Clipper 'Tayleur' — the White Star Line's First 'Titanic', was published in 1999 and draws these eerie comparisons:

Her design included five watertight compartments, each fitted with pumps and she was considered unsinkable. However, with faulty compasses, an undersized rudder, an undersized and inexperienced crew, (some Asian who did not understand instructions) and insufficient life rafts, she foundered on rocks off the Irish coast only 100 miles into her voyage and within 48 hours of departing Liverpool. The loss of 370 lives ranks amongst the worst maritime disasters in British history. Like the Titanic (that sank 58 years later on April 15 1912 with a loss of 1496 lives), her exact position wasn't established until much later, in 1959.

Both vessels were registered in Liverpool and operated by the White Star Line, each was described as the largest, fastest and most comfortable passenger vessel ever built, they were considered the strongest vessels yet built, both were designed with watertight compartments, each carried hundreds of emigrants, both had inadequate lifeboats, and each wreck remained undetected for years.



Banner of the white Star line — red background with white star and lettering

The following is an account of the sinking from the 'Illustrated London News' 28th January 1854.

The Tayleur was designed expressly for the Australian passenger trade. It sailed for Melbourne at 12pm on Thursday 26th January with 652 passengers. After nightfall it began to blow strongly and during the

night and all next day the ship struggled with an adverse wind. By that time the more intelligent passengers became alarmed on account of the evident incompetence of the crew to manage the vessel. A number of the men were Chinese or Lascars who hardly knew the English language and were consequently unable to understand the orders given by the captain. Throughout the whole of Friday the weather was thick and hazy also, so that no observations could be taken. Early on Saturday morning the ship was under full sail, for which the captain was blamed by some of the passengers, who remarked that the crew could not take in so much sail in an emergency. As the day wore on the weather became boisterous and about 10am land was in sight. In order to avoid any possible danger the ship's course was altered. The crew had thought that they were sailing south when in fact they were sailing west towards Ireland. It was whilst on this course in about half an hour that a man in the bows on lookout cried out 'breakers on the starboard bow!' It was then blowing heavily and a high sea running. The helm was put hard to starboard, the sheets of the headsail let go and every means taken to bring the ship on a course free from the threatened danger. It was then impossible to see a cable length in front and in about 20 minutes she struck with such violence on a reef of rocks running out from a creek to the eastward bluff of Lambay Island. The shock was tremendous, shaking the vessel from stem to stem. She rose on the next wave and drove in broadside on and the sea made a clean breach over her midships setting everything afloat. After 2 or 3 more shocks the ship began to sink from the stem. The scene of confusion and dismay that ensued baffles all descriptions. Passengers rushed up the hatchway, husbands carrying their children, women lying prostrate on the deck with their infants screaming for help. They were so close to land that the crew was able to collapse a mast onto the shore.

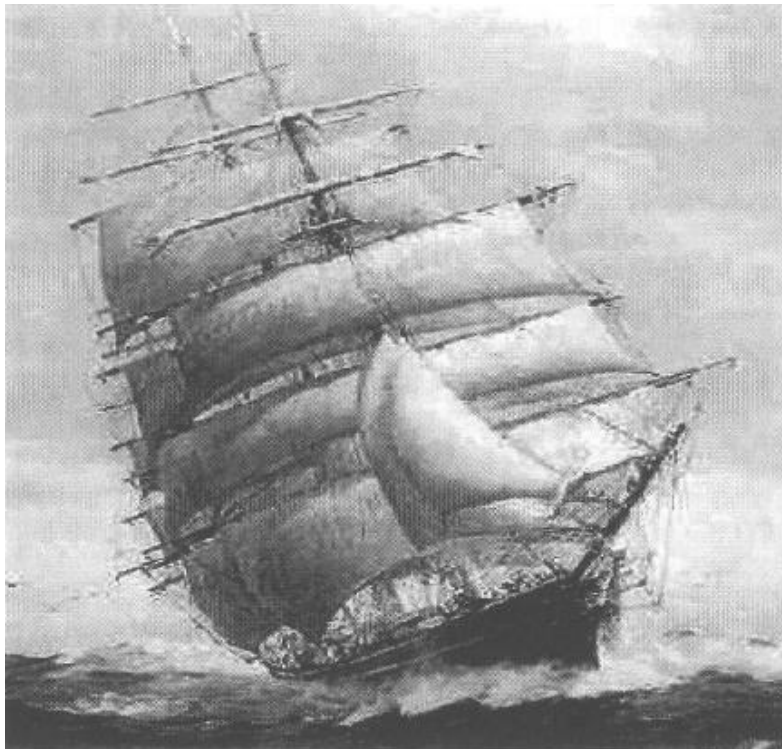
Some were able to jump into the water and swim to shore or clamber along the mast. Later a rope was thrown across and some were rescued in this manner. Those who attempted to escape by the bows met a miserable fate. The moment they fell into the water, the waves caught them and dashed them violently against the rocks. A first class cabin passenger who managed to get ashore gave this account. 'Among some of the earliest of the female passengers who attempted to get on shore were some young Irishwomen. Most of them lost their hold of the rope and fell into the sea. The doctor of the ship, a most noble fellow, struggled hard to save his wife and child. He had succeeded in getting about half way to the shore on a rope holding his child by its clothes in his teeth, but just then the ship lurched outwards and he was pulled high up above the rocks. Attempts were made to lower the rope and he disappeared beneath the waves. When he came up he swam towards a ladder on the side of the ship. After a desperate struggle they were washed off and drowned.



The most desperate struggle for life was made by the wretched passengers. Great numbers of women jumped overboard in the vain hope of reaching land. The ropes were crowded with hundreds who in the eagerness, terror and confusion, frustrated each others efforts for self preservation. Three women only out of 200 were saved.' This was possibly due to the type of clothing that they were wearing. The ship's stem then began to sink and scores were washed off by waves. At last the whole ship sank with just the mast and rigging visible. Two men in the rigging were eventually rescued, one after clinging there for 14 hours.. Lambay Island, the scene of the shipwreck is 3 miles from Rush and 13 miles from Dublin. 282 persons on board were rescued and 370 lost their lives.

### Clipper ships

These romantic ships of the 19th Century burst on to the shipping scene in the 1840s and had a brief but brilliant career lasting 30 – 40 years. They disappeared equally as quickly by the late 1870s, when steam ships took over. Prior to this, 'Packet ships', so called because they provided a regular service moving passengers and mail (small packets) between Britain and the colonies, had been the main types of ships. An elegant site to behold, the clipper was a 3 masted vessel with a narrow, sleek timber hull and very large sail area. Clipper masts could reach as high as a twenty story building. 150 miles a day was considered adequate until the clippers arrived. They were designed for speed. They could travel 250 miles a day and the very fastest could travel 400 miles a day. The word 'clipper' is most likely derived from the verb 'clip', to move along quickly and was originally applied to a fast horse who would get up to a fast clip. These small hulled, fast ships were best suited to low volume, high profit goods such as spices, tea, people and mail. The captains who commanded them became celebrities and advertisements for the ships usually featured the captain's name.



### The Cutty Sark

Clippers were built mainly in the USA and Britain. In the American market they were used for the trans-Atlantic route and for the New York to San Francisco route during the Californian gold rushes. In Britain they were used for fast transport to the colonies and for the Asian trade, especially for tea.

The most spectacular clippers were built for the China tea trade. The two most famous of these clipper ships were the Cutty Sark (extensively damaged by fire whilst in dry dock undergoing

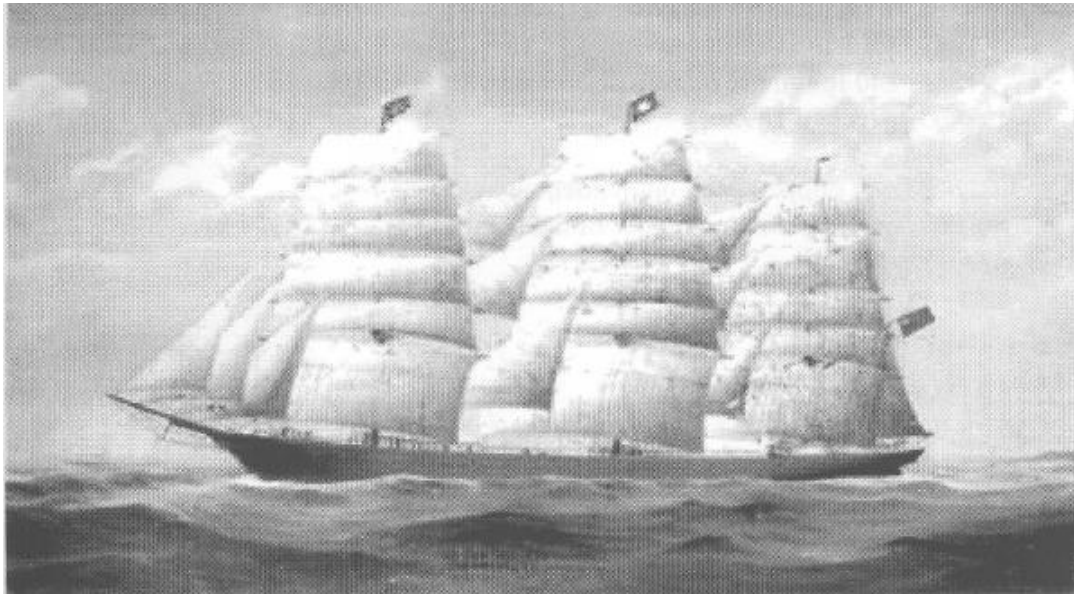
restoration on the 21st May 2007) and the Thermopylae. The Cutty Sark was built in Scotland. A cutty sark is a Scottish term for a light undergarment which described her speed and lightness. These 2 ships regularly engaged in races

and they could reach speeds of 16 knots per hour. In a famous race from Foochow in China in 1872, the 2 ships were neck and neck until the Cutty Sark's rudder broke in a violent storm in the Indian Ocean. The ship's carpenter managed to build another temporary rudder from spare parts and the Cutty Sark arrived back in London seven days after the Thermopylae.

The decline of the clippers began with the introduction of steam ships that were not reliant on the winds. The opening of the Suez canal in 1869 provided a huge shortcut for steamships between Europe and Asia, cutting the time to about 70 days. It was difficult for sailing ships to use the canal and it marked the beginning of the end for sailing ships. However, after some time, ships like the Cutty Sark and the Thermopylae found a new commercial use and in the wool trade. The Thermopylae was later sold to the Portuguese Navy. It was used for torpedo practice and sunk in 1910. The Cutty Sark fared better and after a variety of uses, was restored as a reminder of the glory days of sail.

## Immigration to Australia

Before the 20th Century the only way to travel to Australia was by sea and this was fraught with considerable danger. Over 6500 shipwrecks surround the Australian coastline. A well known Sydney maritime disaster occurred on August 20 1857 when the Dunbar approached Sydney Heads in a violent storm. The ship foundered on the rocks at South Head and all but one of the 122 on board lost their life. A gravesite in St Stephen's churchyard Newtown commemorates this tragedy.



**The Themopylae 1867**

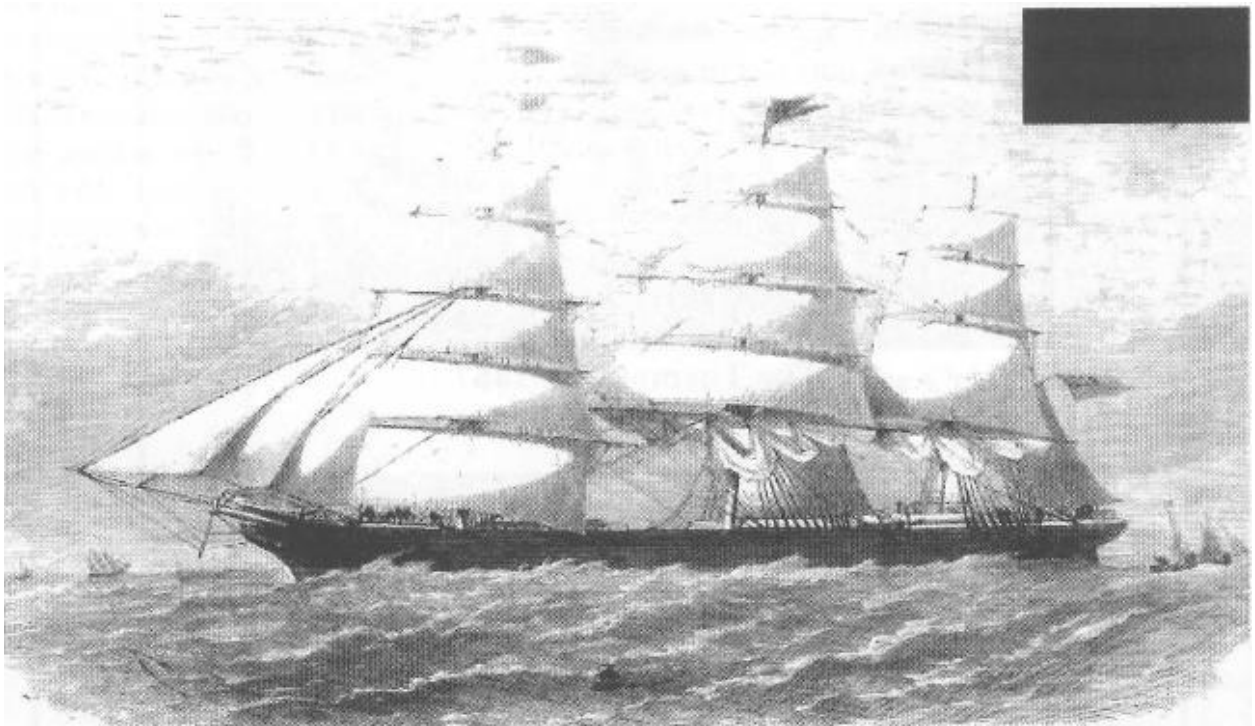


**The Flying Cloud**

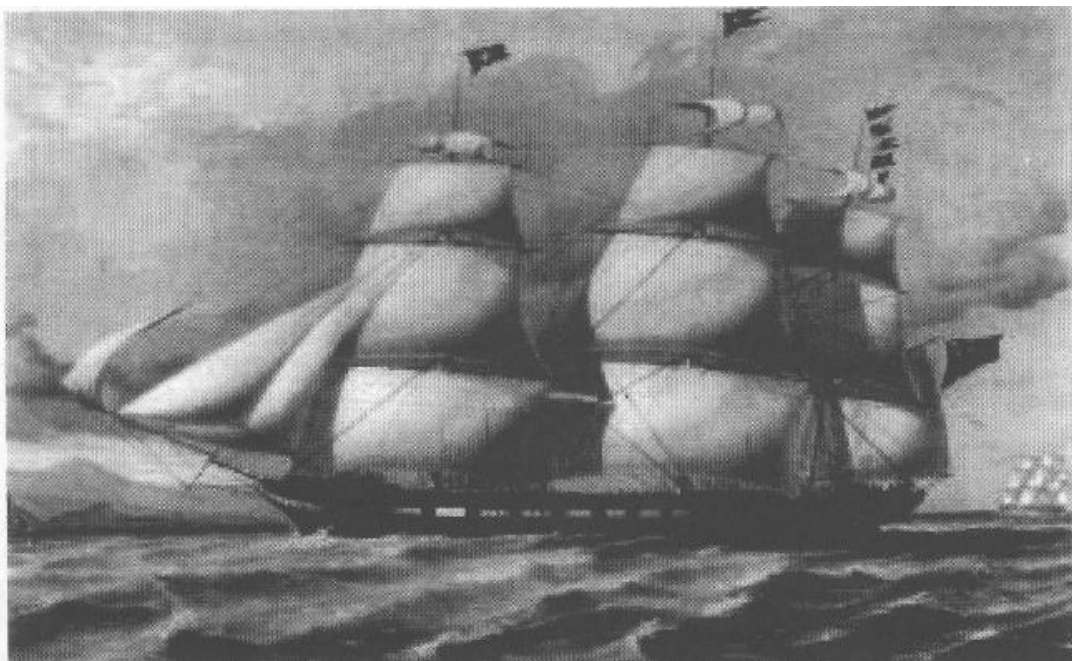
### **Some famous clipper ships**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Blackadder       | 1870, wrecked 1905  |
| City of Adelaide | oldest surviving clipper  |
| Cutty Sark       | 1867, one of the fastest clipper ships, burned 2007                           |
| Flying Cloud     | 1851, American clipper cut New York to San Francisco time from 200 to 89 days |
| Donald McKay     | 1855, extreme clipper, 2604 tons  |
| Hallowe'en       | 1870, sister ship to Blackadder, wrecked 1887                                 |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Lothair          | 1869, iron, sailed until about 1910  |
| Lightning        | built Boston, 1854 by Donald McKay. Record of 436 miles in a day, 68 days<br>Liverpool to Melbourne in 1856, burned whilst loading wool, Geelong 1869.<br>record England — Australia trip in less than 60 days |
| Marco Polo       | 1869, wrecked 1883   |
| Norman Court     |  |
| Rainbow          | 1844, first of the true clipper ships  |
| Red Jacket Royal | 1853, 4000 tons, set record Liverpool to Melbourne record of 67 days in 1854 1864,   |
| Edward Sea       | 1508 tons, built for the Red Cross Australian line   |
| Witch            | 1846, 140 foot mast  |
| Sir Lancelot     | 1865, wrecked 1895   |
| Taeping          |  |
| Tayleur          |  |
| Thermopylae      | 1853, iron clipper, sank on maiden voyage, 1854<br>1867, record breaking clipper of the tea trade  |



Some clippers. The Royal Edward and (below) the Tayleur



## Emigrant ships

Return of Ships and Emigrants despatched by Public Funds to New South Wales, in 1854, 1855, and up to the 31st March 1856. *(It would appear from the death rate that the voyage was quite hazardous)*

| Name of Vessel | Tonnage         | Date of Departure | Date of Arrival | No. Of Days on the Voyage | Name of Surgeon Superintendent | Number of Emigrants |     |    |        |     |                   |   |             | Number of Deaths on the Voyage |   |                   |   |             |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----|----|--------|-----|-------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------|
|                | New Measurement |                   |                 |                           |                                |                     |     |    | Adults |     | Children under 14 |   | Total Souls | Adults                         |   | Children under 14 |   | Total Souls |
|                |                 |                   |                 |                           |                                |                     |     |    | M      | F   | M                 | F |             | M                              | F | M                 | F |             |
|                |                 | 1854              |                 |                           |                                |                     |     |    |        |     |                   |   |             |                                |   |                   |   |             |
| Switzerland    | 640             | 1 Mar             | 16 June         | 107                       | J.F. Knipe                     | 98                  | 76  | 40 | 33     | 247 | 1                 | - | 3           | 3                              |   | 7                 |   |             |
| Sabrina        | -               | 28 Mar            | 10 July         | 104                       | H. Costerton                   | 107                 | 95  | 29 | 30     | 261 | -                 | 1 | -           | 2                              |   | 3                 |   |             |
| Plantagenet    | -               | 16 April          | 29 July         | 104                       | C. Chapman                     | 176                 | 71  | 40 | 32     | 319 | -                 | - | 1           | -                              |   | 1                 |   |             |
| Lady Elgin     | -               | 21 April          | 4 Aug           | 105                       | E. Deane                       | 136                 | 116 | 24 | 24     | 300 | No Deaths         |   |             |                                |   |                   |   |             |
| Araminta       | 845             | 3 May             | 20 July         | 87                        | R.N. Lowe                      | 136                 | 128 | 31 | 28     | 323 | 1                 | - | 1           | 3                              |   | 5                 |   |             |
| Monsoon        | 1,150           | 13 May            | 14 Aug          | 93                        | Fred. Cumming                  | 179                 | 109 | 47 | 58     | 303 | -                 | - | 3           | 5                              |   | 8                 |   |             |
| Columbia       | 1,291           | 16 May            | 22 Aug          | 98                        | E. Kearney                     | 112                 | 204 | 37 | 41     | 394 | 1                 | 1 | 1           | 4                              |   | 7                 |   |             |
| China          | 630             | 28 May            | 24 Sept         | 119                       | J.W.C. Merrewether             | 53                  | 146 | 20 | 14     | 233 | -                 | 1 | 1           | 1                              |   | 3                 |   |             |
| Genghis Khan   | 1,306           | 31 May            | 14 Aug          | 75                        | O. Johnson                     | 196                 | 152 | 62 | 67     | 477 | -                 | - | 2           | 5                              |   | 7                 |   |             |
| Tantivy        | 1,040           | 3 June            | 3 Sept          | 92                        | J.G. Moir                      | 148                 | 105 | 66 | 80     | 399 | -                 | 1 | 3           | 6                              |   | 10                |   |             |
| Lady Ann       | 745             | 25 June           | 29 Sept         | 96                        | P. Beal                        | 183                 | 49  | 32 | 24     | 288 | No Deaths         |   |             |                                |   |                   |   |             |
| Caroline       | 733             | 8 July            | 13 Oct          | 97                        | A.S. Gray                      | 54                  | 169 | 13 | 22     | 258 | No Deaths         |   |             |                                |   |                   |   |             |
| Anglo-Saxon    | -               | 11 July           | 21 Oct          | 102                       | M. Grover                      | 129                 | 111 | 45 | 51     | 336 | 2                 | 4 | 1           | 2                              |   | 9                 |   |             |
| Ellenborough   | 1,031           | 14 July           | 31 Oct          | 109                       | D. Stolworthy                  | 174                 | 99  | 65 | 67     | 405 | -                 | - | 6           | 2                              |   | 8                 |   |             |

|                      |       |         |        |     |               |     |         |    |    |     |   |   |    |    |           |
|----------------------|-------|---------|--------|-----|---------------|-----|---------|----|----|-----|---|---|----|----|-----------|
| Stamboul             | 890   | 28 July | 23 Oct | 87  | E. Gregory    | 133 | 12<br>1 | 46 | 47 | 347 | - | - | 2  | -  | 2         |
| Kate                 | 904   | 2 Aug   | 7 Nov  | 97  | F.W.C. Beaven | 117 | 11<br>6 | 70 | 60 | 363 | - | 2 | 2  | 2  | 6         |
| Patrician            | 1,071 | 4 Aug   | 31 Oct | 88  | G.P. Lambert  | 60  | 23<br>2 | 25 | 42 | 359 | 1 | 2 | -  | 2  | 5         |
| Lady Kennaway        | -     | 24 Aug  | 8 Dec  | 106 | J. Magee      | 34  | 18<br>4 | 15 | 21 | 254 | - | 1 | 1  | 3  | 5         |
| General Hewett       | 1,055 | 25 Aug  | 12 Dec | 109 | R.T. Webber   | 151 | 11<br>7 | 57 | 69 | 394 | - | 2 | 4  | 10 | 16        |
| St. Helena           | 811   | 30 Aug  | 17 Dec | 109 | T. Charles    | 133 | 97      | 28 | 34 | 292 | - | - | 1  | -  | 1         |
| David M'Iver         | -     | 7 Sept  | 18 Dec | 102 | J.C. Sanger   | 170 | 13<br>4 | 37 | 36 | 377 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 3  | 20        |
| Rajasthan            | 700   | 23 Sept | 11 Jan | 110 | Chas. Lewis   | 85  | 13<br>1 | 27 | 38 | 281 | - | - | 1  | 7  | 8         |
| Wacousta             | 734   | 28 Sept | 2 Jan  | 96  | J. Berneasto  | 67  | 15<br>0 | 12 | 23 | 252 | - | - | -  | 1  | 1         |
| Queen of England     | 876   | 30 Sept | 29 Dec | 90  | J. Blenek     | 142 | 11<br>2 | 63 | 58 | 375 | - | 3 | 1  | 2  | 6         |
| Ebba Brahe           | 1,756 | 14 Oct  | 6 Jan  | 84  | L. Foucart    | 153 | 21<br>0 | 38 | 43 | 444 | 2 | 1 | 6  | 7  | 16        |
| William Miles        | -     | 16 Oct  | 16 Feb | 92  | W.G. Gun      | 210 | 10<br>1 | 50 | 45 | 406 | 2 | - | -  | -  | 2         |
| Samuel Boddington    | 669   | 21 Oct  | 17 Feb | 110 | J.T. Hannsard | 83  | 10<br>3 | 36 | 37 | 159 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 2  | 5         |
| Nabob                | 835?  | 2 Nov   | 13 Feb | 93  | J.R. Coward   | 128 | 14<br>6 | 54 | 52 | 519 |   |   |    |    | No Deaths |
| Lord George Bentinck | -     | 5 Nov   | 9 Mar  | 124 | ---           | 62  | 27      | 15 | 13 | 117 |   |   |    |    | No Deaths |
| Ascendant            | 562   | 14 Nov  | 25 Feb | 103 | F.N. Greene   | 97  | 80      | 46 | 28 | 251 |   |   |    |    | No Deaths |
| Anna                 | 1,098 | 15 Nov  | 21 Feb | 98  | Robert Alsop  | 161 | 12<br>6 | 63 | 65 | 415 | - | - | 2  | 3  | 5         |
| Bengal               | 582   | 17 Nov  | 25 Feb | 100 | C.A. Becko?   | 95  | 82      | 37 | 55 | 269 | - | - | 3  | 7  | 10        |
| Blackfriars          | -     | 20 Nov  | 10 Mar | 110 | ---           | 89  | 41      | 23 | 19 | 172 |   |   |    |    | No Deaths |
| Lord Hungerford      | 928   | 1 Dec   | 20 Mar | 109 | R.W. Doman    | 102 | 14<br>0 | 35 | 44 | 321 | - | - | -  | 1  | 1         |
| Nepaul               | 1,006 | 7 Dec   | 15 Mar | 98  | J. Carroll    | 162 | 99      | 52 | 29 | 342 | 1 | - | -  | 1  | 2         |
| Bermondsey           | 507   | 26 Dec  | 29 Apr | 124 | Jos. Speer    | 83  | 86      | 29 | 30 | 228 |   |   |    |    | No Deaths |
| Speedy               | 1,031 | 31 Dec  | 9 Apr  | 99  | C. Chapman    | 154 | 14<br>8 | 56 | 58 | 416 | 1 | - | 1  | -  | 2         |
| 1855                 |       |         |        |     |               |     |         |    |    |     |   |   |    |    |           |
| John Davies          | 1,133 | 6 Jan   | 3 May  | 118 | J.J.Evans     | 159 | 10      | 68 | 60 | 392 | - | - | 5  | 3  | 8         |

|                |       |          |         |     |                 |     |         |    |    |     |           |   |   |   |    |
|----------------|-------|----------|---------|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|----|----|-----|-----------|---|---|---|----|
|                |       |          |         |     |                 | 5   |         |    |    |     |           |   |   |   |    |
| Rose of Sharon | 870   | 10 Jan   | 13 Apr  | 93  | Chas. G. Taylor | 153 | 93      | 62 | 55 | 363 | -         | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3  |
| Simonds        | 1,202 | 13 Jan   | 12 Apr  | 89  | Chas. Ferraby   | 103 | 22<br>4 | 30 | 46 | 406 | -         | 1 | - | - | 1  |
| Sultana        | 588   | 20 Jan   | 19 May  | 119 | Wm. Booker      | 125 | 62      | 29 | 20 | 236 | -         | - | 1 | - | 1  |
| Himalaya       | 477   | 20 Jan   | 10 May  | 110 | Chas. Temple    | 31  | 12<br>2 | 10 | 16 | 179 | No Deaths |   |   |   |    |
| Victory        | 579   | 6 Feb    | 24 May  | 107 | Wm. Stephens on | 100 | 85      | 35 | 26 | 246 | -         | - | 1 | 2 | 3  |
| Asiatic        | 954   | 13 Feb   | 23 May  | 99  | Lawrence Martin | 148 | 10<br>7 | 63 | 56 | 374 | -         | - | 5 | 3 | 8  |
| Truro          | 694   | 14 Feb   | 27 May  | 102 | Geo. Spicer     | 111 | 10<br>9 | 47 | 39 | 306 | -         | - | 1 | - | 1  |
| Constitution   | 992   | 17 Feb   | 27 May  | 99  | Alex. Cummin g  | 143 | 10<br>9 | 70 | 48 | 380 | 3         | 6 | 8 | 2 | 19 |
| Matoaka        | 1,323 | 21 Feb   | 17 May  | 85  | A.D. White      | 104 | 25<br>6 | 23 | 22 | 405 | -         | - | 1 | - | 1  |
| Libertas       | 602   | 6 Mar    | 28 June | 114 | W. Holman       | 136 | 59      | 33 | 24 | 252 | -         | - | 1 | - | 1  |
| Golden Era     | -     | 21 Mar   | 16 June | 87  | A.C. Kemball    | 133 | 22<br>7 | 38 | 38 | 436 | -         | - | 1 | 4 | 5  |
| Blenheim       | 808   | 31 Mar   | 5 July  | 96  | Fred. E. West   | 124 | 95      | 52 | 34 | 305 | -         | - | 2 | - | 2  |
| Gloriana       | 1,056 | 12 April | 27 July | 106 | Edwd. Kearney   | 124 | 18<br>8 | 30 | 21 | 363 | No Deaths |   |   |   |    |
| Cambodia       | 700   | 20 April | 1 Aug   | 103 | Phillip Beal    | 144 | 11<br>1 | 37 | 27 | 319 | -         | 2 | - | - | 2  |
| Exodus         | 1,237 | 21 April | 26 July | 96  | Osborne Johnson | 132 | 19<br>2 | 50 | 68 | 442 | 2         | 1 | - | - | 3  |
| Mangerton      | 1,080 | 22 April | 28 July | 97  | F.W. Johnson    | 71  | 21<br>7 | 35 | 48 | 371 | 3         | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Euphrates      | 953   | 22 April | 5 Aug   | 105 | D.B. Daly       | 123 | 77      | 46 | 42 | 288 | No Deaths |   |   |   |    |
| Lloyds         | 1,069 | 8 May    | 1 Aug   | 85  | R. Wilson       | 171 | 13<br>8 | 57 | 71 | 437 | No Deaths |   |   |   |    |
| Eliza          | 912   | 30 May   | 18 Sept | 111 | I. Burrows      | 90  | 17<br>1 | 24 | 26 | 311 | -         | 1 | - | - | 1  |
| Anglia         | 570   | 5 June   | 24 Sept | 111 | E.H. Longstaff  | 114 | 63      | 39 | 33 | 249 | -         | - | - | 3 | 3  |
| Gilmore        | 630   | 12 June  | 17 Oct  | 128 | G.E.F. Hatch    | 107 | 86      | 46 | 43 | 282 | 3         | - | 2 | 1 | 6  |
| Conrad         | 842   | 27 June  | 15 Nov  | 141 | E. French       | 123 | 12<br>1 | 36 | 56 | 336 | -         | - | 2 | 6 | 8  |



|                 |       |         |        |     |                   |     |         |    |    |     |           |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------|-----|-------------------|-----|---------|----|----|-----|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| Hilton          | 1,437 | 27 June | 10 Oct | 105 | M.E.B. Nicholson. | 154 | 19<br>8 | 50 | 57 | 459 | -         | - | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Chowringhee     | 893   | 16 July | Nov    | --- | H. Wilkinso<br>n  | 120 | 11<br>5 | 31 | 28 | 294 | 1         | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Ramillies       | 740   | 25 July | 19 Nov | 117 | S.W. Aldred       | 126 | 73      | 44 | 36 | 279 | -         | - | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Sabrina         | 673   | 8 Aug   | 27 Nov | 111 | T. Rowland<br>s   | 121 | 86      | 35 | 34 | 276 | 3         | 3 | - | 2 | 8 |
| Kate            | 904   | 15 Aug  | 4 Dec  | 111 | W. Donaldso<br>n  | 117 | 14<br>7 | 32 | 27 | 323 | 1         | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Fortune         | -     | 4 Sept  | 8 Dec  | 95  | J.R. Marshall     | 98  | 76      | 21 | 29 | 224 | -         | - | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Bee             | 1,352 | 11 Sept | 6 Jan  | 117 | R. Allsop         | 132 | 21<br>8 | 38 | 42 | 430 | 2         | 2 | - | - | 4 |
| Cressy          | 720   | 29 Sept | ---    | --- | J. Barlas         | 57  | 17<br>1 | 18 | 18 | 264 | -         | - | - | - | - |
| Morayshire      | 832   | 7 Oct   | 19 Jan | 104 | J. Bleeck         | 80  | 16<br>9 | 44 | 30 | 323 | No Deaths |   |   |   |   |
| James Fernie    | 1,037 | 24 Oct  | -      | -   | W.J. Rowland      | 168 | 13<br>6 | 47 | 59 | 410 |           |   |   |   |   |
| David M'Iver    | 862   | 22 Nov  | -      | -   | P. Culhane        | 127 | 18<br>1 | 22 | 25 | 355 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Maitland        | 700   | 16 Dec  | -      | -   | F.N. Greene       | 118 | 12<br>1 | 29 | 28 | 296 |           |   |   |   |   |
| 1856            |       |         |        |     |                   |     |         |    |    |     |           |   |   |   |   |
| Phoebe Dunbar   | 704   | 22 Jan  | -      | -   | H. Costerton      | 136 | 84      | 24 | 24 | 268 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Robert Small    | 794   | 30 Jan  | -      | -   | W. Arthur         | 107 | 12<br>3 | 38 | 45 | 313 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Commodore Perry | 2,143 | 17 Feb  | -      | -   | D. Macosh         | 194 | 16<br>6 | 55 | 43 | 458 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Persia          | 658   | 14 Mar  | -      | -   | J. Belcher        | 119 | 84      | 32 | 25 | 260 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Sultana         | 588   | 14 Mar  | -      | -   | J.S. Ireland      | 83  | 95      | 28 | 39 | 245 |           |   |   |   |   |
| Ben Nevis       | 1,347 | 29 Mar  | -      | -   | C. Chapman        |     |         |    |    |     |           |   |   |   |   |

## Most attempted hangings survived

A 22 year old Australian, Joseph Samuel was sentenced to death by hanging in Sydney in 1803. On the first attempt the rope broke. On the second attempt the rope stretched so much that the victim's feet touched the ground. The rope broke again on the third attempt and as a result, Samuel was reprieved. Ref. Guinness Book of Records 2005

## The Population of the Colony of New South Wales

According to the census of March 2 1841

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Free males                   | 61,324                |
| Free females                 | <u>40,425</u>         |
| Total free                   | 101,749               |
| Bond males                   | 23,844                |
| Bond females                 | <u>3,133</u>          |
| Total bond                   | 26,977                |
| Employed in colonial vessels | 2,130                 |
| <b>Total population</b>      | <b><u>130,856</u></b> |

### Males

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Born in the colony | 14,189 |
| Arrived free       | 30,745 |
| Other free persons | 15,760 |

### Females

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Born in the colony | 14,630 |
| Arrived free       | 22,158 |
| Other free persons | 3,637  |

### Bond males

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Ticket of leave   | 5,843  |
| Government employ | 6,658  |
| Assigned          | 11,343 |

### Bond females

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Ticket of leave    | 316   |
| Government service | 979   |
| Assigned           | 1,838 |

### Religion

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Church of England           | 73,727 |
| Church of Scotland          | 13,153 |
| Wesleyan Methodist          | 3,236  |
| Other Protestant Dissenters | 1,857  |
| Roman Catholic              | 35,690 |
| Jews                        | 856    |
| Mahomedans (sic) and Pagans | 207    |

### Number of houses

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Stone or brick | 6,375         |
| Wood           | <u>10,401</u> |
| Total          | 16,776        |

Ref London Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary c1845

The 1840s was a period of economic depression and widespread drought in eastern Australia. However, the population grew 900% to 1,150,000 over the next 20 years. These demographics show that males outnumbered females by 2:1. The ratio of Protestants to Roman Catholics in the colony at the time of this census was 3:1. Comparing the total population to the number of houses shows that 7 — 8 people occupied each house.

## BARANGAROO — a new Sydney suburb

Marj Blackley

This information is about the naming of the East Darling Harbour precinct, previously known as the Hungry Mile.

My particular interest in this came about at a SSHS meeting where we were addressed by Nigel Dawe who had entered the competition for naming this harbour side area being re-developed. I liked what he told us about the Aboriginal history of this area and I wrote a letter supporting his entry of naming the site

BARANGAROO. I overcame the pronunciation by remembering Bar and kangaroo — put the two together and found it no harder to say than WOOLOOMOOLOO or PARRAMATTA but I liked the story that went with his entry.

BARANGAROO was the second wife of Bennelong, one of two Aboriginals captured by Governor Phillip with the idea of getting to know the Aboriginal language and their culture so that understanding could create harmony between the Europeans and Aboriginals. Bennelong proved to be an excellent choice — he seemed to fit into the high society of Government house as well as being a native. He had residence at Government house and Phillip became so interested in him and his customs that he took him to England and he was introduced to George II 1. On returning to Australia Phillip asked him to select a place to live and he chose that point on which the Opera house now stands and it was named Bennelong Point. At the age of about 50 he was killed in a tribal fight. This area called Bennelong is the Prime Minister's electorate.

BARANGAROO — (had she been European I think she would have been a suffragette) — was a woman with courage — she saw a convict being whipped and thought such a punishment was barbaric and certainly not one she could tolerate. She therefore attacked the soldier doing the whipping. In defiance of a practice awarded to men only she wore a bone through her nose. At a formal dinner at Government house she arrived with Bennelong in full native regalia — COMPLETELY NAKED. She was a woman with the courage of her convictions. Barangaroo died giving birth. In view of the fact that there were no significant places named after Aboriginal women — I think BARANGAROO is a great name choice. It is rather nice to have the husband and wife team Bennelong and Barangaroo on the same harbour shoreline. I hope you agree.

## COLONY CLUB CAPERS

By Merle Kavanagh

Fifty five years ago, in March 1952, I returned from New Zealand on the **Monowai**, having spent two years travelling and working in that country. I was broke and owed my father £20, which, like the dear parent he was, I was never asked to repay. Having worked for three months as a waitress at the Chateau Tongariro, now called the Grand Chateau, I was drawn to an advertisement for a clerical assistant at the Colony Club, Sylvania. To work in the hospitality and entertainment industries can be an eye-opener, as I well knew from my time at the Chateau, but I was desperate so I applied and was given the job. Sylvania during that period had a few nightclubs, just across the bridge from the St. George area and the Colony Club operated on the South West corner of the Port Hacking Road/Princes Highway junction. The big boss was Mr. Bianci, a quiet, formal Italian whose right hand woman, Mrs. Rawson, more than made up for his reserve, ruling the staff in no uncertain manner. This was probably justified in many circumstances as Italians can be very excitable, and during my 2 years at the Colony Club, it became more apparent with a kitchen full of Italians. There was also Tony Clerici, the manager, a friendly, smiling man who, at that time, was writing a regular recipe column in the **Australian Women's Weekly**. On the staff was Steve, a Greek waiter, who set up the cabaret room each day, and laid the fire and lit it during the cooler months. There was also Martino, a handsome young man, educated in law, who was a

go-for, and who also dropped me home after the Wednesday evening cabaret when I was required to receive clients' payments of their bills from the Head Waiter. He was Ivor Balmain, a tall attractive blonde man whose life was thrown into turmoil when he tragically lost his model daughter, Rebel, many years later.

My job was to answer the phone, prepare reports on the meals sold and do anything else I was told, which is standard in small operations. It wasn't long before Steve was asking me to the Greek Ball, but I declined and told him that my mother wouldn't let me go. Without missing a beat he told me to bring my mother as well! I am sure Mum would have enjoyed a good night out (we were a singing and sometimes dancing family) but the offer was refused. I also learned early to be quickly out of the truck cab when Martino dropped me home late on Wednesday nights.

There were some memorable events. At one time we had a pianist making a bid for the longest piano-playing record. I arrived to music and departed to music, though there were short breaks each hour and a longer one every few hours. I was heartily sick of the melody 'Tea for Two' as the aspiring pianist s-l-o-w-l-y tinkled the keys to that tune which reverberated in my brain. Even when the cabaret was on, he continued playing in the foyer.

I think he may have achieved his goal, but I only remember the endless background music.

One day Steve laid the fire in the large fireplace in the cabaret room and having lit it, turned his back. There was a greasy cleaning rag hanging from his back pocket and it managed to catch alight. I know it was not funny but the sight of Steve running around whacking himself on the backside was an image that brought a smile to my face for many months after. He managed to douse the flames without injury to himself though it did flash through my mind that he could have jumped into the pool which adjoined the cabaret room.

On another occasion, Mrs. R. and I heard shouting and screaming in the kitchen and hurried from the office to discover the staff running around in circles screaming as a fire burned near the stoves. Mrs. R. told them to get a bag to beat out the flames and they continued to run around, almost berserk, screaming 'A bag! A bag!' I asked her would I phone the Fire Brigade and she told me to do so. Back in the office I phoned Kogarah Fire Brigade then returned to the kitchen where I discovered the fire was just about out. Mrs. R. asked me to cancel the Fire Brigade so I returned to the office and phoned them again. I was told that having received a call, they were obliged to come and would check that all was well. They did that, and more. A few bottles were opened and they sat around a table in the cabaret room enjoying the fruits of their labours for some time before leaving. Quiet then returned to the Colony Club.

There were often entertainers giving a show on cabaret nights and one of those I recall was Tommy Trinder, the British comedian. Unfortunately the Club did not have change rooms for the performers so all their changes were made in Mr. Bianci's office, just a few steps South East of my desk on my cabaret night and right in my line of sight. I will never know if I am one of many, or one of few, who has seen Tommy in his undies!

The Club had a female cleaner, Mrs. Price, who lived in Sylvania. She was a lady with a great sense of fun and one morning when none of our superiors were there, she came into the office to tell me that the pool had been drained and she could see some coins amongst the silt and rubbish thrown in by patrons. Neither of us needed much encouragement, so we took off our shoes and began collecting the coins! The phone rang and I raced across the cabaret floor to answer it, discovering later that I had left a line of damp footprints on the polished dancing floor. They were to be my undoing as I am sure Mrs. R. noticed them and made a black mark next to my name.

For Christmas 1953 Martino bought me a lace-trimmed blouse which I felt I should not accept, but I did not want to hurt his feelings. It was time to move on so I resolved to leave the nightclub scene and get a 'proper' job. I found the perfect place a few miles further south on the Princes Highway at Sutherland - the Shire Council's Rates Recovery department under R. Stevenson, the Rates Recovery Clerk. There I joined a bevy of beauties typing standard letter demands to recalcitrant rate payers and chorusing 'Good morning Mr. Kirkby' or 'Good morning Mr. Howard' as the Shire Clerk or Deputy Shire Clerk passed by our desks. There was no piano playing, no dramatic fires, no pool pennies and no visible undies. The most risqué thing to be seen was probably a stockinged ankle or the glimpse of a knee as the ladies of the office stepped down the central hall of the old Council Chambers towards the front counter. That was the domain of Sid Naughton, a future Deputy Shire Clerk, who catered excellently to the needs and enquiries of customers with his vast local knowledge. It was indeed a very proper job.

## Some useful internet sites

Since the internet burst onto the scene a little over a decade ago the world has not been the same. The personal computer has revolutionized the way in which we access information and communicate with each other using electronic mail. This bulletin as an example used to be typed and physically pasted together and then copied. Today, authors email their articles, together with images that may have been accessed from the internet and it is then assembled electronically. This process hasn't diminished the appeal of books but it has meant that information on practically any subject is available at our fingertips.

The following are only a tiny fraction of the vast number of web sites that can be used to access historical information. If these websites are to be used regularly they can be added to 'favourites'. For the historian, it really increases the ability to access information that would take a lot of time using conventional methods, even if the material was available which in many cases it is not.

**Search engines –** portals that can be used to 'burrow' into information about any topic

Google [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Sensis [www.sensis.com.au](http://www.sensis.com.au)

Dogpile [www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

Metasearch [www.mamma.com](http://www.mamma.com)

**Booksearch –** to find books for sale

Alibris [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)

Bookfinder [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com)

Abebooks [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)

**Research-** some specific historical sources

National Library of Australia [www.nla.gov.au/oz/histsite.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/histsite.html)

Images [www.nla.gov.au/apps/picturescatalogue](http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/picturescatalogue)

Images [www.pictureaustralia.org](http://www.pictureaustralia.org)

State Library of NSW [www.atmitchell.com/](http://www.atmitchell.com/)

State records [www.records.nsw.gov.au/staterecords/](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/staterecords/)

Sutherland Shire [www.ourshire.com.au/suburbs/](http://www.ourshire.com.au/suburbs/)

[www.omnipelagos.com/entry?n=sutherland Shire](http://www.omnipelagos.com/entry?n=sutherland+Shire)

**Shipwrecks** [www.environment.au/heritage/shipwrecks/](http://www.environment.au/heritage/shipwrecks/)

Royal Australian Historical Society

Australian War Memorial [www.rahs.org.au/](http://www.rahs.org.au/)

Heritage Office Screensound [www.awm.gov.au/](http://www.awm.gov.au/) [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/oz/index.htm](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/oz/index.htm)

Australia Australian Cultural Network National Trust of [www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/screensound/screenso.nsf](http://www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/screensound/screenso.nsf)

NSW Australian Museums and [www.acn.net.au/](http://www.acn.net.au/)

Galleries [www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/](http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/)  
[www.collectionsaustralia.net/](http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/)

**Australian Railway Historical Society**

[www.arhsact.org/misc/links.php](http://www.arhsact.org/misc/links.php)

**The History Channel** [www.history.com/](http://www.history.com/)

**Sands Directory** [www.sydneyarchives.info/Sands\\_Directory/body\\_sands\\_directory.html](http://www.sydneyarchives.info/Sands_Directory/body_sands_directory.html)

# SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1967

31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1967 Total Membership 149

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President      | Clr R Harrison    |
| Vice President | Mr C Law          |
|                | Mr D Kirkby       |
|                | Mt J Walker       |
|                | Mr J Penbrook     |
|                | Mrs M Hutton-Neve |
| Hon Secretary  | Mr N Horwood      |
| Hon Treasurer  | Mr D Witcombe     |
| Hon Archivist  | Mr B Sargeant     |
| Committee      | Mr T Cosgrove     |
|                | Mrs D Cosgrove    |
|                | Mrs A Griffiths   |
|                | Mr C Spencer      |
|                | Mrs I Mowbray     |
|                | Mrs V Edwards     |
|                | Mr F Midgley      |

## HONORARY MEMBERS

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| All secondary schools of the Shire | Mrs. I. Mowbray |
|                                    | Mr. R. Pier     |
|                                    | Mr. C. Spencer  |

## LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. N. Coleman  
Mrs. D. Cosgrove  
Mr T. Cosgrove  
Mr, T.A. Holt

## Junior Members

**Miss M. Alcock** (1967)  
Master D. Witcombe

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Andre de Leede<br>Pty.Ltd.      | Kalf & Van Etten<br>Pty.Ltd.         |
| Arthur J. Hand<br>Pty.Ltd.      | McDowells Ltd.                       |
| Breen Holdings<br>Pty.Ltd.      | Master Builders Assocn. of N.S.W.    |
| Brownbilt Ltd.                  | Miranda RSL<br>Club                  |
| Cronulla-Caringbah Leagues Club | Parke Davis<br>& Co.                 |
| Farmer & Co. Ltd,               | Sutherland District Trade Union Club |
| L.W. Giles Pty.Ltd.             | Woolooware Golf Club                 |

## ORDINARY MEMBERS

|                   |      |                  |      |
|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Mrs. I, Adcock    | 1967 | Mr. F. Anderson  | 1967 |
|                   |      | Mrs. M. Anderson | 1967 |
| Mrs. E. Alcock    | 1966 | Mr. G. Barter    | 1966 |
|                   |      | Mr. F. Beck      | 1966 |
| Sister M, Alexius | 1966 | Mrs . H H. Beck  | 1966 |



|                      |      |                                |      |
|----------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| Mr. C. Bennett       | 1966 | Mr. J. Moodie                  | 1967 |
| Mrs B. Bennett       | 1966 | Mrs. E. Morrison.              | 1966 |
| Mrs. M. Boler        | 1966 | Mr. Mowbray                    | 1966 |
| Mrs. E. Carmichael   | 1966 | Mrs. B. Muller                 | 1966 |
| Mrs. O. Carroll      | 1967 | Mrs. V. Nagle                  | 1967 |
| Mr. Carroll          | 1967 | Mr. E. Northwood               | 1966 |
| Mr. N. Chiver        | 1966 | Mrs. P. Northwood              | 1966 |
| Mrs, V. Connerton    | 1966 | Miss D. Oliver                 | 1966 |
| Mrs. E. Corbett      | 1966 | Mr D Orr                       | 1966 |
| Mrs. N. Crocker      | 1966 | Mr. K. Palmer                  | 1966 |
| Mr. F. Dawson        | 1966 | Mr. J. Penbrook                | 1966 |
| Mr. D. Dobie, M.H.R. | 1967 | Mrs. Penbrook                  | 1966 |
| Mrs. V. Edwards      | 1967 | Mrs. .Phillpot                 | 1967 |
| Mrs. R. Evans        | 1966 | Mr. R. Pike                    | 1966 |
| Mrs. M. Farrelly     | 1966 | Mr, J. Price                   | 1967 |
| Mrs. Ferguson        | 1967 | hr. N. Priestley               | 1966 |
| Mrs. I. Ferguson     | 1967 | Mr. R. Pyne                    | 1966 |
| Mr. J. Foskett       | 1967 | Mr, F. Quiney                  | 1966 |
| Mrs. J. Foskett      | 1967 | Mrs. J. Roes                   | 1966 |
| Clr. A. Gietzelt     | 1966 | Mrs. Russell                   | 1967 |
| Mrs. A. Griffiths    | 1966 | Miss S. Russell                | 1967 |
| Mrs. A. Hand         | 1967 | Mrs. N. Sansom                 | 1966 |
| Mrs. Hankins         | 1967 | Mr B. Sargeant                 | 1966 |
| Mrs. W. Hannah       | 1967 | Mrs D. Sargeant                | 1966 |
| Clr, R. Harrison     | 1966 | Mr. S. Simpson                 | 1966 |
| Clr. K. Hewson       | 1966 | Mr.. A.. Sinclair              | 1966 |
| Mr. A. Holt          | 1966 | Mrs, P. Sinclair               | 1966 |
| Mr. N. Horwood       | 1966 | Mrs. M. Sleeman                | 1967 |
| Mrs. O. Horwood      | 1966 | Mrs. B. Smith...               | 1967 |
| Mrs. M. Hutton-Neve  | 1966 | Mr. C. Snape                   | 1967 |
| Mrs. P. Jackson      | 1967 | South Pacific Electric Railway | 1966 |
| Mr, B. Kalf          | 1966 | Mrs. B. Steaker                | 1967 |
| Mrs. A. Kimber       | 1966 | Mrs. N. Stewart                | 1967 |
| Mr. J. King          | 1966 | Mrs. J. Stronge                | 1966 |
| Mr. D. Kirkby        | 1966 | Hiss L. Stubberfield           | 1966 |
| Mrs. H. Kirkby       | 1967 | Mr. J. Swan                    | 1966 |
| Mr. C. Law           | 1966 | Mr. H. Taplin                  | 1966 |
| Mrs. V. Law          | 1966 | Mrs. H. Taplin                 | 1966 |
| Mrs. M. Lewis        | 1966 | Mrs. G. Thompson               | 1966 |
| Mr. R. Ley           | 1967 | Mr. J. Thompson                | 1966 |
| Mrs, M. Lisle        | 1966 | Mrs. J. Thompson               | 1966 |
| Mr, E. Lukeman       | 1966 | Clr. R. Thorburn               | 1966 |
| Mrs. M. Maclean      | 1967 | Mrs. L. Toulmin                | 1967 |
| Mr. E. Mahony        | 1967 | Mrs. P. Tuite                  | 1966 |
| Mrs, P. Mahony       | 1967 | Mrs. J. Tyson                  | 1966 |
| Mrs. J. Manhire      | 1966 | Mrs. E. Unt                    | 1966 |
| Mr. J. Masters       | 1966 | Mr. J. Walker                  | 1967 |
| Mrs. A. May          | 1967 | Mrs. N. Wanstall               | 1967 |
| Mrs. E. Mellor       | 1967 | Mrs. A. Watson                 | 1966 |
| Mr. A. Midgley       | 1966 | Mrs. N. Willetts               |      |
| Mr. F. Midgley       | 1966 |                                |      |
| Mrs. B. Miller       | 1966 |                                |      |