



*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*



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CENTENARY OF SCOUTING IN AUSTRALIA

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The growth of Scouting Australia was organic and occurred during the first half of 1908. By the end of that year membership figures in New South Wales were 1,200 boys. In Victoria the First Caulfield Troop was formed in June 1908. The visits made to Australia by Baden-Powell in 1912, 1927, 1931 and 1934 — 35 encouraged the extension of the movement in Australia and enabled him to attend the Jamboree held in Frankston, Victoria, at the end of 1934.

Historically Scouts in Australia operated at a state level, reporting to the headquarters in Britain. The national organisation, Scouts Australia, was formed in August 1967 and incorporated through Royal Charter and Act of Parliament, when it was recognised as a member of the World Organisation.

Scouting Today

Scouting is now an international movement dedicated to building peace and understanding among young people of different cultures and backgrounds. The movement is recognised as the world's largest youth development organisation and is active in almost every country in the world. Since the Scouting movement was formed more than 250 million people have joined.

There are currently some 60,000 scouts in Australia, in five different groups: Joeys (six to seven year olds); Cubs (eight to 10½); Scouts (11 to 14½); Venturers (15 to 17 1/2; and Rovers (17 to 26).

Originally Scouts was a movement for boys, however, girls were admitted to Venturer Scouts and Rovers in 1973 and to Cub Scouts and Scouts in 1988. Joeys began in 1990 and has always admitted both girls and boys.

Scouts on stamps

Only two previously issued Australian stamps featured Scouts — a 2 1/2d Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree 1948-49 and a Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree 1952 — 53. The common design for both stamps was a Rover Scout with the model for the design being Owen Manley (son of the stamp designer and engraver of the stamps, Frank Manley). Both father and son worked at the Note Printing Branch. Melbourne



Original Drawing by Fred Midgely

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

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Disclaimer

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

President's Report

Affirmation of Support: I was really chuffed at the resolution from the public meeting supporting my actions on behalf of the society. Thank you all so much.

We had to act quickly, as the Dept. of Fair Trading had set a closing date for our reports of past years to be received, and I do thank the members of the executive: Maurie Beaven, Pat Hannan, Angela Thomas and my husband Cliff for helping me to research these, fill out the forms, check them and send them to Bathurst. We never knew why they were not on file, but have since been informed that all is now well, and we have a clean bill of health! Well done, everyone!



NOTE: New meeting date for two winter months! Members at the last meeting voted to have a trial of meeting on a 3rd Saturday afternoon instead of a Friday night meeting for two of the months of winter. We would have liked 3 but unfortunately the hall is booked for June. So to avoid confusion:

June Meeting: FRIDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2008 AT 8PM
July Meeting: SATURDAY, 19TH JULY, 2008 AT 1.30PM
August Meeting: SATURDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2008 AT 1.30PM
September Meeting: FRIDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 AT 8PM

and then 3rd Friday nights throughout spring, summer and next autumn. We did say we would trial it for one winter only, but then the council wanted to know in advance what we intend to do in winter 2009. so tentatively we have booked for next winter as well, but see if you like day meetings this winter, and then you can let me know what you prefer. Some members prefer ALL meetings to be in the daytime, but others want their warm weather Saturday afternoons free, so we will just trial the winter months first and see if that is popular.

Heritage festival

SSHS displays : I realized that this was our 27th year of participation with the National Trust in their Heritage Festival, and once again it was a great success. Thank you to the council, which re-booked the hall so we could have at least one of the weeks of Heritage Festival and we had already booked the week previous to this so we could have two weeks in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts foyer. Thanks again to our Curator, Jim Cutbush, who designed our displays, and created them from photos, articles, artifacts etc and did all the titles. Our display on the Centenary of Scouting excited a lot of interest as did the Menai Pioneer home with its women's crafts: embroidery, sewing, dressmaking, knitting and cooking during the World War I era—the women who waited at home whilst their men were at war. The theme: "Our Place" highlighted our display in the foyer, of the homes in the shire: tents and lean-tos, Hessian-bag humpies and caves during the early 'weekender' years and then also during the Depression. Following that was the modest fibro and weatherboard homes, up until today's substantial architect-designed brick residences. Thanks to all the members who helped by guiding, and researching, as well as just chatting to our visitors about our Shire's past. We had 703 people through our displays and many told us tales of life in those days, and first hand accounts of the districts and suburbs which greatly added to our knowledge of these areas. It is sad that we are having to battle the Council to allow our Museum to regularly inform our residents of our Shire's superb history, and especially as the Council, and we, celebrate the Shire as being "the birthplace of modern Australia" and we both even share the Captain Cook logo! WE are so strapped for space we have had to turn donations away. We have always been willing to co-operate with council and have now asked our honorary solicitor to send them a letter on our behalf and will keep you posted as to the outcome.

Festival launch: This was conducted on Friday, 28th March, 2008 by the Sutherland Spinners & Weavers, and they provided an excellent supper, assisted by our members, whilst we provided the refreshments. Congratulations to Karen Severn, and Pam Boley for their job well done as the “masters of ceremonies”. We had over 90 attending, which was surprising seeing that Hazelhurst had its launch on the same night for “Lines in the Sand” and some of our members were involved in both functions. Thanks to our Mayor, Clr. David Redmond, and Clr. Jan Forshaw who attended and enjoyed the conviviality and inspecting the displays.

Sutherland Music Club: They held two concerts on Tuesday, 1st April, 2008, with the morning concert having over 98 people and the afternoon between 160 and 180 counting carers, who of course attended free of charge. Bernard Walz was the expert pianist, and the music was superb. (We bought the CD and last week Cliff and I had a BBQ in our backyard in the balmy autumn sunshine, and re-lived that wonderful music all over again.)

Sutherland Shire Council: We have had no reports on the library talk, or the walk around Gynea but the Art Exhibition in the Gynea Cafes and the Symphony by the Sea went well with a minor hiccup at the beginning of the latter delaying proceedings, but it was well-attended. It was noted at our last Heritage Festival meeting that the bandstand at Menai is rarely used, and how nice it would be if bands would practice there on a Sunday afternoon, and perhaps they could take a bucket around for donations! Brinsley’s Heritage Joinery was open, with Gary Waller doing several tours and talks, and he said he had many “old chippies” come along who were interested in the machinery.

Heritage bus: This ran as usual on Open Day, Saturday, 29th March, 2008 with good attendances but did not stop outside the School of Arts. It stopped up on the railway ramp, and elderly folk could not face walking down the steps, or the long hike along the ramp and along the street, so we missed out on quite a few customers. I have spoken to the Traffic Committee and asked if we could have our bus stop back outside the Museum next year, and possibly a loading zone, but I have to write to them formally.

Tramway Museum : This was not as well attended as in previous years, with about 70 visitors, but they enjoyed the day. We did not hear from DECC so do not know if the Royal or the BBNP had any events, but I believe they were open on the following Saturday, so missed out on our bus connections.

Botany Bay Family History Society: They held their open day on Saturday, 5th April, 2008 and Merle Kavanagh and I helped out with an SSHS table, answering questions and using Merle’s index and the Sowden Index to find information on people and places mentioned in our bulletins. We were really touched by the kind offer of the BBFHS to join forces with them and occupy the 3 rooms next to them in conjunction with their displays and research in the future, but unfortunately the space would not be large enough for us, especially with our museum. It is really heartening to feel the unity with other organisations, and of course we have members who belong to both, the same as in the Sutherland. Music Club.

2SSR: As usual, we were invited to give talks on the radio about our displays as run-up publicity and although not all of our group was able to take advantage of this kind offer, those who did, were pleased with the response, and the welcome given.

It was sad this year that Anything Goes from Como, were unable to assist, also the Lioness Club or the Oyster Bay Woodturners, but they are promising that they might be able to participate next year. To all those who participated in Heritage Festival 2008 a very grateful thank you, and your reward is in knowing that you did “your bit” to display and inform the public about our wonderful Shire and its history!

Cooee Tree: We have asked the Leader to publicise the existence of our “Cooee Tree” in Sutherland Park, which we presume was planted when the Cooee Marches were being held during World War I, but about which both the Council and its Library have NO information. If you have any knowledge of when this tree was planted and

who the people were at the ceremony, and when it was—we would love to know! Both the Council, and our Member for Hughes, Ms. Danna Vale have offered to help with a plaque to commemorate this occasion. We had hoped to have had it for Anzac Day, 2008, but now we are aiming for 2009!

AMISA: We have been asked by the Association of Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts (NSW) for information on Como, Cronulla Beach, Cronulla, Miranda, and the Sutherland Memorial Schools of Arts. I have supplied what I have available, including photos, but if you have any information not held by us or the Library could you let me know? My phone number is: 9543 1060.

Research: We have now set up our research centre at the Museum, but unfortunately cannot access it regularly when the building is being hired by theatre groups. Daphne Salt has been invaluable in putting the Rupert Gough Collection and the George Heavens's collection on disk, and Les Bursill has recorded much valuable Aboriginal history of the area on disk also. We are most grateful to these members for their outstanding work on the part of our members. Already we have been able to give information to people who called in during Heritage Festival and we are delighted to assist wherever possible.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting when we have a member of Bankstown Historical Society as our guest speaker—and do stay for the outstanding supper provided by Angela, Daphne, Mina and our other members.

Dawn Emerson,

Meetings

June	FRIDAY, 20 TH JUNE, 2008 AT 8PM	David Campbell. Influences of Gov MacQuarie on the development of NSW
July	SATURDAY, 19 TH JULY, 2008 AT 1.30PM	Beverley Earnshaw. Story of Princess Charlotte
August	SATURDAY, 16 TH AUGUST, 2008 AT 1.30PM	Pamela Griffith. Artist
September	FRIDAY, 19 TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 AT 8PM	AGM . Film

Some common terms

An **antique** is an old collectible item from a previous era in human society. One definition states that the item must be at least 100 years old.

Ephemera is transitory written and printed matter, not intended to be retained or preserved. Some collectible ephemera are movie posters, airsickness bags, train tickets, bookmarks, cigarette cards, greeting cards, letters, pamphlets, photographs, postcards and posters.

Heirloom may refer to an antique or an old collectible item passed down from one generation to another

A **manuscript** is any document that is written by hand, as opposed to being printed or reproduced in some other way. In publishing and academic contexts, a "manuscript" is the text submitted to the publisher or printer in preparation for publication.

Veteran Vehicles are those" built prior to January 1919, that is, up to and including December 1918.

A **vintage car** is commonly defined as a car built between the start of 1919 and the end of 1930.

From The Editor's Desk

After a lapse of several years we are proud to announce that we have a new and revitalised website.

The new address is www.suthshirehistsoc.org.au

I hope that our members avail themselves of this facility and that some will contribute information for the site. One of the great features of electronic era is that large amounts of information can be stored and accessed. With the journal in its paper form, a limited number of users can access it. These include members and the public that would access it through public libraries or more recently, local high schools. It would be reassuring to think that someone researching say Thomas Holt in Yorkshire might come across an article that the Society has published that helps them. We are in the Information Age. Those who use the internet understand the enormous potential and practical use of being able to access information from obscure sources almost instantly. Over the coming months we hope to add much more information including past bulletins. We also will be adding links to other organisations, and in this way gaining a wider readership. This will help us to maintain relevancy.



In this edition we continue our 'Meet the Executive' segment. Jim Cutbush is a life member, as was his mother, Ada. The Cutbush's have a long association with the Shire. Jim is the Museum curator and a hard working member of the executive. He has recently assembled a fascinating display in the museum on scouting. There are several articles on scouting in this bulletin.

Some time ago in the bulletin we featured an article on clipper ships. This has certainly inspired writers to contribute articles on this topic ever since.

The second part of the trilogy on 'A (very) brief history of the world' appears in this bulletin. The time scale is 1500 – 1750. I hope that it crystallises some issues for readers.

Another article linking Shire names to past associations is also featured.

An article on a quintessentially Sydney theme is featured. Sydney is sandstone. Picture the great 19th Century buildings of Sydney, glowing golden in their magnificence. Stone won by hand by an army of stonemasons from deep quarries scattered over Sydney. The Shire is also synonymous with sandstone. D'Arcy Nagle is from a family of stonemasons stretching back in Australia to 1832.

Another new item is the Shire crossword. We all like a challenge and what better way of testing our knowledge of local history than in completing a crossword. No prizes for the first one to work it out. However, if you have clues for other crosswords and would like to pass them on to me, I will include them in future bulletins.

I was recently loaned a priceless collection of personal items from a World War 1 digger who saw service in Egypt, Gallipoli and France. His diary makes poignant reading. More of this in the August edition.

Good reading.

Bruce Watt

Meet the Executive

Jim Cutbush (James Skipton Cutbush)

Deputy President and Curator Sutherland Shire Historical Society Museum, Honorary Life Member, Cook Award recipient 2006, Royal Australian Historical Society Certificate of Achievement 2004.



All births are special, mine was no exception. Born during the running of the Melbourne Cup in 1941 (The last race for 2 years due to World War II restrictions) at the Royal Women's Hospital, Paddington Sydney – Hence my middle name being the winner of the Cup that year! My parents Bill and Ada lived in a flat at Bondi for approximately 2 years after my birth. During this time I was taken most weekends (when War effort allowed) to Hyndman Parade on the Castlewood Estate, Woollooware where my father had built a laundry and toilet area, where we slept and stored tools, while the house was slowly built. My parents purchased 2 blocks of land. They built on one and the other was sold later for building materials. Next door there were 8 blocks of land, (a bequest from an old identity, Nathaniel Bull) for the Church of England to build a church for the people of Burraneer and Cronulla. This bequest never came to fulfillment, as it was sold later to help fund St. Andrews, Cronulla. This large paddock became my playground and many a movie seen at the Odeon Theatre Cronulla, was re-enacted there!

My grandparents came to Cronulla in 1916 when my Father, the youngest of 5 children, was 3 months old. They all attended Mr. Tonkin's school at what is now Monro Park and were also some of the first students at Cronulla Public School on Burraneer Bay Road, which I also attended. My school years were happy ones. Most of our teachers were older people that had served in the 1st World War and the lady teachers were nearing retirement – all due to the demands of World War II. I found them very interesting but one in particular, Mr. Lewis who was Deputy Headmaster and taught 6th class, sparked my interest in Australia, it's characters and history and that interest has stayed with me to this day. Up until then, outside of my chores at home, I could go fishing (my father and his brother Neville had a licensed boat), swimming, lots of nature to study and a quarry to explore.

Sutherland Intermediate High was my next school. Mr. Shuemaker was the principal along with a number of good teachers, trying to get the best out of us. I obtained my Intermediate Certificate in 1957.

Now What?

I always had an interest in drawing and noticed two advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald one Saturday asking for apprenticeship applications for dot etching and retouching, and another one for lithographic printing and plate making, at John Fairfax's large printing plant "Sungravure Pty Ltd" Rosebery. So I applied and was accepted for the lithographic one. Five years of more learning, but what tradesmen I had, who gladly imparted their knowledge if you listened. Towards the end of my apprenticeship I was given the responsibility to print a number of art reproductions, all limited prints. This was when I met some of our great artist's in person – William Dobell, Russell Drysdale, Sali Herman, Eric Jolliffe – to name a few. All of this time was spent working with their original artwork which was a great experience. Two years out of my time I was asked to work at what was then the 3rd biggest and one of the most progressive printing companies in Australia, Deaton & Spencer Pty Ltd in Botany Road, Alexandria. This company and its people gave me the most rewarding time in my printing career. I spent 26 years in this plant, which included 2 years when it was taken over and became ANZPAC, which is still a large company now located in Smithfield. A number of certificate courses were completed during this time, some

of these being: advanced printing, industrial relations, OH&S, quality assurance and production management and control. I also assisted Ultimo TAFE to set the post printing certificate course – lithography 1994.

In the late 1970s I was chosen to be Lloyd Rees' printer for his art reproductions and his only book produced in Australia "Lloyd Rees-Drawings". Lloyd worked with me every day until it's conclusion on the press. We both learned a lot from one another. A great man and a privilege to know him.

After leaving ANZPAC with the experience gained, I worked and helped a number of company's in positions from factory manager, general manager, production manager, sales & technical manager and now semi-retired working one day a week for our only independent ink manufacturer, "Horizon Ink Pty Ltd", Kirrawee.

I have been a previous member of 1st Cronulla cubs, S.H.S. cadet corp., North Cronulla SLSC, CWA Port Hacking youngsters and the Lithographic Institute of Australia.

I met my wife Marjorie, who was my mate's sister, and we were married in April 1963. This year (2008) we celebrate 45 years of a happy marriage. We have 4 children; Karen, Steven, Jodie and Nathan and 2 grandchildren, Imogen and Kaelan. We only left the Shire for the first 2 years of our marriage, while I sub-contracted and helped build our home in Kirrawee. So one might say we have come from one end of the Shire to the other. We have enjoyed our life in the Sutherland Shire and have met a lot of nice people and have witnessed many changes over the years.

I have been an active member of this Society from my 1st meeting over 30 years ago, thanks to our past president Aileen Griffiths, who put me down for most positions and committees we have. I enjoy meeting people from all walks of life and can't help but be surprised by those that say they haven't a story to tell – everyone has a story.

I will always thank my parents who raised me in this area.

In 2006, Pauline Curby and Liz Adams asked me to take part in a Sutherland Shire Centenary Oral History project, "Telling it as it was". Thanks to them, on the 11th May 2006, they recorded and made 4 CD's of some of my local memories, which are now stored for future generations in our local studies area of the Sutherland Library.

MUSEUM REPORT

Jim Cutbush, Museum Curator

This years Heritage Festival was appreciated by 703 visitors, who left a lot of nice comments in our visitor book.

Thank you to all our members, including the museum committee, who supported the long manning of our three exhibitions:

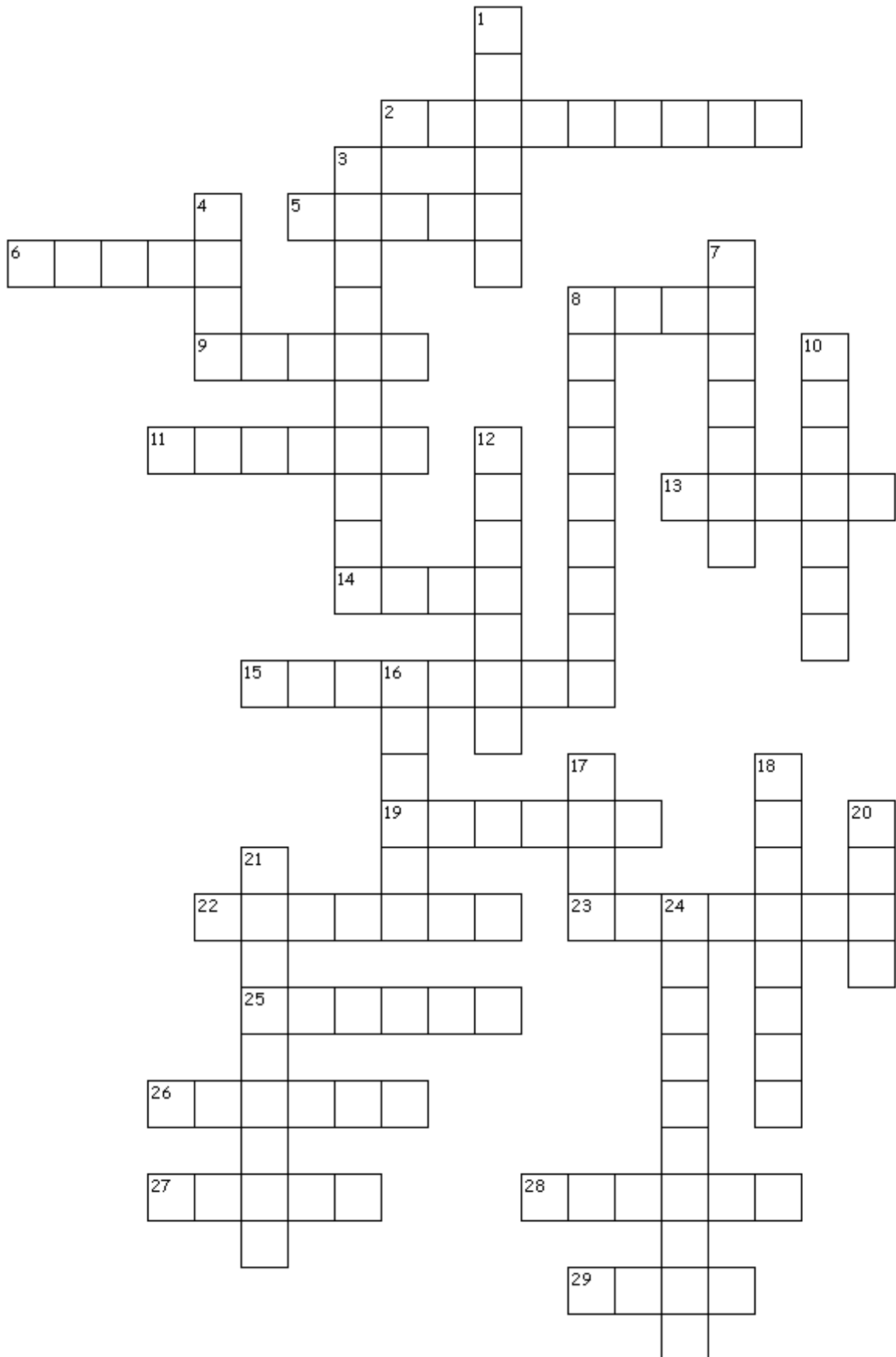
1. A hundred years of Scouting — small exhibition room
2. "Our Place" local photos and memorabilia — main foyer

3. WW1 memorabilia in the Owen Jones home — large exhibition room. We also had a DVD donated [and playing in a small area of the theatre] of the Kirrawee Gang show. Thanks to Roger Critchley for making the DVD possible. There are too many 'Thank You's to mention each one in this report, as to the loan of items and collections used during this period. I hope you all noticed the signs of thanks displayed in various areas. A number of items were donated ranging from photographs, books, old 1940's newspapers and even a long lost Council athletics shield which was saved from a Council clean up. All donors will be thanked shortly. A special thank you must go to Dawn & Cliff Emerson, who turned up each day to help, even though they were going through a rough period of health problems. A thanks also goes to my family for their support during this period.

To conclude, if you think we had storage problems before in the Museum, it is now near impossible! !

I hope you all enjoyed the Festival.

Shire History



The Editor invites readers to submit their own questions/
clues for inclusion in future bulletins

Across

2. oldest inhabited house in Shire
5. slang term for unemployment relief during Depression
6. long standing Shire President and developer
8. first major landholder in the Shire
9. trams were propelled by this
11. site of military training from the 1880s
13. Lieutenant Cook's botanist
14. first farm at Kurnell (1823)
15. author of first Shire history
19. Australian literary figure that lived briefly at Como
22. Suburb - Aboriginal word for 'beautiful moonrise'
23. Aquaculture promoted by Thomas Holt
25. Aboriginal name for Port Hacking
26. Heathcote's first name was _____ Forest
27. infamous murder of two girls at this beach
28. noted local ornithologist
29. earliest form of Georges River crossing

Down

1. winner of Anniversary Surf Queen competition (1927)
3. original name for Cronulla
4. famous milkbar at Cronulla
7. Botany Bay's first name
8. original name of Caringbah
10. river discovered by Bass and Flinders in 1796
12. local Aboriginal clan
16. founder of 'Boy's Town'
17. rail bridge built here in 1885
18. manufactured televisions in the Shire
20. nuclear establishment at Lucas Heights (inits)
21. dominant rock type in the Shire
24. first European to die in Australia

On Scouting

Our museum curator, Jim Cutbush has been busy finalising an exhibition on scouting in Australia. This month's bulletin features some relevant stories.

A FITTING FUNERAL

Baden Powell was 84 when he died. Born in London 22nd February 1857, he passed away in Kenya on the 8th January 1941.

He had lived through the reigns of four monarchs and seen two World Wars, perhaps that is why he chose to end his days in the peaceful surroundings of Kenya, within sight of the snow covered peak of Mount Kenya.

When I was working in Kenya, many years ago, I met a lady who told me that Baden Powell's funeral had been one of the most extraordinary she had ever attended and very few people would ever know. People did not dwell on misadventures... 'least said soonest mended' was the popular maxim of the day, nowadays the gutter press would have had a field day.

She told me that her husband was PC for the area around Mount Kenya...in my ignorance I thought that was 'police constable' but was soon put right...he had been a Provincial Commissioner. In that capacity they were expected to attend such an

important event...and Baden Powell was a very much respected member of the community.

Even in wartime many attended his funeral. People travelled some hundreds of miles on roads that were mainly dirt. When the cortege finally set off for the church it was lengthy and clouds of dust enveloped everyone.

Imagine the dismay when the hearse broke down!

Everyone stopped. They got out and went to the aid of the driver but nothing would get the vehicle to budge an inch.

As they stood there, puzzling what to do next, there came the warning sound of a car horn. A safari truck laden with hunters, firearms and camping equipment was coming along and wanted to pass.

In a few minutes the coffin was transferred and the funeral procession drove on to the church.

Everyone agreed the words emblazoned on that truck **HAPPY SAFARIS** could not have been more fitting for the final journey of such a well loved man.

Angela Badger

1ST CARINGBAH WOLF CUB PACK - 1956.

© David Overett 2008

Along with my good friend Peter, I had waited some months to get into the Cubs and we had filled the time in at Boys' Club. Finally however some vacancies occurred and to our fathers' delight we were now on our way.

The scout hall was between Pacific and Bulwarra Streets, quite close to home, and Peter and I were soon fully fledged cubs of the 1st Caringbah pack. Peter was in the blue six and I was in the red six. The other sixes were green, yellow, grey and brown. Cubs met on Mondays and Thursdays and started much earlier than Boys' Club. There were a lot of our friends involved as well so it didn't take us long to get into the swing of things.

When we had passed our tenderfoot course we were then entitled to wear the full uniform. These weren't available at any ordinary shop but only at the Scout Shop. Mum bought mine for me in town.

The uniform consisted of a woollen navy blue or black shirt and shorts, a green peaked cap with gold ribs and a furled scarf held in place by a leather woggle. The scarf was dark green bordered by red and yellow [gold] stripes. The navy blue long socks were held up by brown and green striped garters.

The Cubmaster was Akela and the assistant Cubmaster was Baloo.

Generally life at Cubs was a lot of fun with there often being special nights or weekend activities. The two big activities for the year however were Bob-a-Job Week and the bottle drive.

Bottle drives were held on a weekend with parents coming along to help. You would mainly get empty beer bottles or sherry bottles. Most soft drink bottles were out of the question because people would take them back to the shop and receive their deposit money. The exception being Blue Bow lemonade bottles which were only sold by pubs. The bottles we did get were put into hessian sacks and left out by the roadside to be picked up later by one of the fathers who had a truck. Later in the afternoon we would assemble at the Scout hall and sort the bottles into crates and stack the crates up. There the bottles stayed until someone came to collect them. I don't know who it was as they hung around for months at a time until one evening we would arrive for Cubs and they would all be gone.

Bob-a-job week involved going from door to door asking people if they needed any work done. They were expected to pay for the work commensurate with the degree of difficulty and/or the time taken to get it done. I had a little card which I presented to people explaining what it was all about. The main line stated quite firmly "Pay what the job is worth but the minimum is one shilling". The inside of the card was divided up into columns showing the date, description of job, amount paid, plus a space for the person to sign. As we were pretty young Peter and I did most of the "jobs" in Kanoona Street. We started with our parents then moved onto close neighbours. If we were visiting friends on the weekend Mum told me to take my card with me "You never know they may have some jobs for you". Within the week I would hope to raise about £3 or maybe a little more.

Other fund raising activities such as campfire nights were occasionally held at the Scout Hall and once we even held a car rally. Those lucky Cubs whose fathers had a car would take two or three of us as we followed the clues around Caringbah and Cronulla on a Saturday night. The clues would consist of such things as counting the number of wooden verandah posts at the Hotel Cronulla or determining the number of miles inscribed on the milestone in Port Hacking Road near the corner of Telopea Avenue.

As time went on our pack would also take part in parades and perform other ceremonial duties. When the Sutherland District Hospital had its grand opening we were there marching in the parade from the corner of President Avenue down along the Kingsway to the hospital. We were at Bundeena to celebrate the connection of the water supply and with all other cubs and scouts from the district we took part in the official opening of the District Scout Camp at Heathcote.

Unlike Scouts, Cubs didn't go away camping over night; we just went for day outings to the Royal National Park or any other convenient location. A lot of these outings were arranged for ceremonies when a cub was to be inducted into the scouts due to having reached eleven years of age.

At the start Cubs was quite daunting for me with it's discipline and traditions but very soon it became a pleasurable part of my early life.

There are now 28 million scouts worldwide. In the 1980s, girls were allowed to join and the uniform is now distinctly non military in appearance. Obedience and belief in a God are still core values. Baden Powell copied the left hand shake from observing African warriors. The left hand held the shield so adopting a non warlike pose represented non hostility.

Ed

Dear Editor,

Articles in the February, 2008 Bulletin on the Clipper ships of the 1800s revived my interest in this part of our maritime history.

Some years ago I chanced upon Jack Loney's work "Australian Shipwrecks" Vol. 2: 1851-1871. I felt deeply moved by the tragic loss of lives and ships, "Loch Aird", "Admella", "Dunbar", "Catherine Adamson" to name a few, and so wrote my work on these events entitled "Race of the Sea Horses".

I am including a copy of this work which I wrote in 1993 for possible inclusion to the Bulletin if you think it suitable.

Best Wishes,

Jim Baker, Tuross Head

“RACE OF THE SEA HORSES”

Brooding and threatening, the sheer cliffs of Sydney Heads rear skywards, toes in the swell. They have brought many ships to their doom. From the heaving deck of the Manly ferry on rough days one can feel the danger of the rocks – though the experience still remains a thrill for the young.

Many of the early sailing ships succumbed to tragedy, the clippers “Dunbar” and “Catherine Adamson” amongst the worst. Optimism of the migrants was dashed at the Heads after enduring weeks of sea voyage from England. Safety and a new life was just a mile away into the harbour.

At midnight, in a south-easterly gale and poor visibility, “Dunbar” was smashed to pieces within minutes on the cliff face near the Gap. One hundred and twenty-nine passengers and crew were drowned in the raging sea. A young Irish seaman, James Johnson, was the lone survivor. Looking down from a ledge at dawn he saw floating beneath him the bodies and possessions of good shipmates and passengers. He would remember well the almost unbearable grief of that early spring morning of 1857.

Eight weeks later the “Catherine Adamson” made the entrance at night but a typical westerly gale prevented further progress up the harbour. She stood across for three hours vainly waiting for a tug that never came. Midnight saw the wind change to the south and she was blown onto North Head, taking to their death twenty-one passengers and crew, including the pilot, Hawkes.

Many survivors were heroically rescued by Captain Creagh and his brave crew, of SS. “Williams”, which stayed with the doomed clipper throughout the ordeal.

Fog-shrouded Bass Strait also took its terrible toll. Reefs, shoals and treacherous weather created a graveyard of ships – amongst the most tragic being s.s. “Admella” in 1859.

Come away come away to the great Southern Land
Where the living is easy and the climate is grand.
The creeks are all loaded with diamonds and gold
And a new life awaits for the brave and the bold.

Our pioneer stock had to travel by sea
Accepting its dangers with sails blowing free.
Weeks below deck as she chops with the gale
In the roar of the forties fast comes Plymouth Mail.

Cruel are the fogs that cover Bass Strait,
The light that was hid sealed “Admella’s fate,

Life boats all broken when swept from the blocks
And a rag doll found floating at Carpenters Rocks.

From Hobart to Sydney there's a great sea horse race,
Their foaming white necks all break with the pace.
So fear for your lives when the southerlies blow
For they show no regard for the fools and the slow.

They pass Gabo Island the track half-way mark,
Width of the Tasman their vast racing park.
Perpendicular Point and they're into the straight
Now huge rolling combers that broach with the weight.

The Koories were tempted in days long gone by,
Good food from the island was well worth a try,
But the sea is no place for a frail bark canoe,
They were drowned by the gale when they left Montague.

"Our poor daughter's name, it be Nellie Brown,
She lay trapped with her babe when "Dunbar" went down.
Storm shipwreck by night, we all try to be brave,
Looking down from the cliff at her watery grave."

Perhaps these maritime disasters point to the designed hostility of nature to colonization, perhaps resisting the destructiveness of man, every reef and shoal, every coral rampart defending a pristine island continent.

Rapid advancement of steam propulsion for ships hastened the competition between the Western nations for claims on the land. It was a race alright, our shoreline littered with the shattered remains of ships pushed beyond their capabilities.

Some who came defeated poverty but found a new enemy in loneliness. Some who came for gold and riches found none but were rewarded with new friendships and happiness where class distinctions and the old unkind conventions were irrelevant.

Many would remember, with sadness, relatives and friends who lost their stake and their lives in the fury of "The Southern Sea Horse Race".

Jim Baker, 1993

Reference: Jack Loney, 1980 "Australian Shipwrecks",
Volume 2, 1851-1871, A.H. & A.W. Reed Pty. Ltd, Terry Hills, Sydney

A (very) brief history of the world

Part 2 Converging worlds 1500 _____ 1750

Bruce Watt

Overview

At the end of the 15th Century, European civilization was recovering from the 'Dark Ages' and did not lead the world in any of the common measures. China, India and the Islamic world had much richer and sophisticated civilizations. Yet within the next century, European countries came to dominate half of the world. The history of the last half a millennium has been dominated by Europeans. The period from 1500 -1750 marked the beginning of European conquest and exploitation of the New World which had up to this point, not been discovered or explored by Europeans. It also heralded the emergence of great super powers from the Old World such as Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and England and the inevitable rivalries and wars between them. For the first time, large numbers of people, livestock, plants, crops and diseases crossed distant oceans. The indigenous peoples of the New World had no immunity to many of the European diseases and most died very quickly after contact with Europeans. It is estimated that in Mexico, 95% of the indigenous population died of disease within a short period of European conquest.

Slavery was the economic engine of colonisation. About 15 million Africans were sold into slavery during this period. Huge wealth poured into European cities, driving the emergence of a wealthy middle class who in time began to demand a greater say in government. During this period and certainly by the end of it, the absolute power that monarchs had once held over their citizens was challenged, reduced or completely extinguished. In some countries, the monarchs themselves had lost control, were about to or had been executed. Parliament, made up of elected representatives of the broader population was still a long way off, however the seeds of parliamentary democracy were emerging.

A split in the Roman Catholic Church and the emergence of Protestant religions began to influence religious life. In Germany where the movable type printing press had been invented and where literacy was improving, a religious revolt against Rome's authority led to the Reformation. Martin Luther, a German monk, challenged the Pope's religious authority in 1519. His expulsion from the Church led to a breakaway, 'protestant' movement who formed the Lutheran church.

In England in 1534, King Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church because the Pope had refused him a divorce from his wife who had not born him a male heir. Henry disbanded the monasteries and confiscated their wealth. The Church of England became the established church with the English monarch as its head.

The Renaissance or rebirth which had commenced in Italy in the 14th Century continued to influence art, music, architecture and philosophy and the printing press continued the spread of learning to other classes within society.

The first stirrings of scientific discovery began to bring changes to the way that people viewed the world. The Church still maintained its influence for the next 300 years but its grip was weakening.

Another momentous revolution that would fundamentally alter the social fabric of society was about to take place. The Agricultural (agrarian) Revolution commenced in the 17th century. Sweeping changes in plant breeds and farming methods lead to much higher yields and reduced the number of agricultural workers needed to feed the population. An army of displaced and largely unskilled workers drifted away from the country side towards the towns. Ill equipped for this influx, towns became squalid and some turned to crime to meet their needs. This was an era long before social security,

government support or town planning. Male and female vagrants were on the move, either drifting to or being driven from one village to the next. Poor laws, an early social welfare system, were enacted in England in the 1590s to raise money for support of paupers and itinerant vagrants. Parish workhouses were built to provide work. England's overcrowding led to attempts at establishing colonies in North America in the early part of the 17th Century. The reasons for this expansion were still apparent in the late 18th Century when colonies were established in Australia.

Fortunately from the middle of the 18th century, another great change in human existence, referred to as the Industrial Revolution got underway, firstly in Britain, then in the German states and later spreading to North America. Growing numbers of workers found employment in workplaces that harnessed steam power and adopted automated processes in factories. But that story belongs in the next instalment.

Throughout all previous eras the world's population had remained at a fairly low and constant level, kept in check by poverty, disease, high infant mortality and low life expectancy rates. From about 1600 onwards, world population slowly began to increase. It took millions of years for the human population to reach the first billion and 130 years to reach the next. Today, a billion is added every 11 years.

The Renaissance

The spirit of artistic and intellectual awakening that began to emerge in Italy in the 14th Century was based on a rediscovery of achievements of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. The huge wealth of the Roman Catholic Church enabled a succession of 16th Century Popes to fulfill their dreams of transforming Rome into a city that would surpass the glories of ancient Rome. Renaissance artists such as Da Vinci, Raphael, Titian and Michelangelo created great works of art. Da Vinci's Mona Lisa (or La Gioconda) was painted in 1503



Michelangelo was a great painter and sculptor and his marble statue of David and his painting of the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel are considered to be masterpieces.

The Mona Lisa hangs in the Louvre museum in Paris

The Spanish Inquisition

At this time, Martin Luther was calling into question the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church. In time this led to a break within the Christian church. Luther's followers and those that came later became known as 'Protestants' because of their protesting against the official church's policies and practices.



Burning of Algerius, a young nobleman from Padua, 1557

The Catholic Church became involved in another matter to investigate and punish those who deviated from the faith. This continued for some 300 years. The Spanish Inquisitions empowered courts to investigate heretical behaviour. Defendants were accused anonymously and were assumed guilty until proven innocent. Confessions were often extracted under torture and those found guilty were often burned at the stake.

Witch hunts were another product of an over zealous belief in religion. Organised evil was believed to be equally as prevalent as good and witches were seen as the personal servants of the devil. When tragedy or natural or economic hardship struck, it became necessary to search out the offending witch. Between 1450 and 1700, many thousands of people were burned or hanged throughout Europe for practicing witchcraft. . Witches were mostly women, many of them old, disfigured, spinsters or widows. They were cruelly punished, banished or put to death. One test involved throwing them into a river (or ducking). If they came to the surface, they were guilty and treated accordingly. If they didn't surface then they were considered innocent. Another test was for the accused to grasp a hot iron. If the wound festered, the charge was proved.



A well publicised witch hunt occurred in Puritan Salem in Massachusetts in 1692. In all, 19 women and a man were executed following their trial. The women were hanged and an eighty year old man who refused to stand trial was 'pressed to death' - heavy stone weights were placed on his chest for two days before he died. Two dogs were also executed as accomplices.

England in the 16th Century

The English King **Henry VIII** is famous for his six wives, two of which were executed, mainly because they did not produce a male heir to the throne. His first wife was Catherine of Aragon who was a Spanish princess. Their 24 year marriage only resulted in a daughter, called Mary and it was Henry's defiance of the Roman Church in trying to have his marriage annulled that led to the establishment of the Anglican Church. His daughter, Elizabeth, from his second marriage to Anne Boleyn whom Henry had beheaded, was to become Queen in 1558.



Queen Elizabeth 1 ruled for 45 years and her reign (known as the Elizabethan period) was considered a golden era. By the 1580s, England and Spain came into conflict. Spain had amassed a very large fleet of ships to invade England. A great naval battle fought in 1588 led to a resounding defeat of the Spanish Armada and as a result, England became the leading naval power, a position it held until the 20th Century. The period also laid the foundations for the emergence of the enormous British Empire. As Elizabeth never married and was childless she was the last of the Tudor line of monarchs.

Literature

Whilst there was no great flourishing of English artists or musicians, the writings of **William Shakespeare** marked this era with greatness.

Controversy marks the real identity of William Shakespeare. The Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon appears to have been relatively poorly educated and virtually no reference to his life exists.

Indeed in his will of 1616 he makes no mention of his literary legacy. His plays, sonnets and poems show a detailed understanding of vocabulary, history, languages, the law and court life and it has been suggested that 'William Shakespeare' was a pseudonym used by a person with a much more aristocratic standing. Several possible names have been suggested and one that fits many of the requirements is Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford.



Science

Nicholas Copernicus was a Polish astronomer who in 1533 first noted his belief that planets revolved around the sun. Revolutionary at the time, this concept was the spark that lit the flame of modern astronomy and modern science. The idea that the earth was not the centre of the universe, in turn led to a questioning of religious beliefs.

Galileo Galilei was one of the greatest scientific minds of the period. Born in Italy and living from 1564 – 1642, he made major scientific discoveries in physics and astronomy. He perfected the telescope and with it made major discoveries about the nature of the planets and the universe. His methods of scientific research using experiments contributed greatly to founding modern scientific method.

William Harvey, an Englishman, published a book in 1628 asserting for the first time that the function of the heart was to circulate blood around the body. As unspectacular as this idea appears to us today, it was radical at the time. Harvey greatly progressed the understanding of physiology.

Sir Isaac Newton 1642 – 1727 was arguably the greatest and most influential scientists ever.

Amongst his discoveries were the properties of light and refraction, the invention of integral calculus and the postulation in physics of the laws of motion that are the basis of mechanics. He established scientific method and fundamentally changed the way that scientific study was pursued and in doing so, changed the lives of modern humans.



Colonisation of the Americas.

The two great European colonisers of the Americas (North and South America) were Spain and Portugal. Spain first colonised the Caribbean and Mexico after Christopher Columbus erroneously reported that he had discovered India in 1492. In 1521, the Spanish conquistador or conqueror, Cortes, led a small army against the Aztecs and defeated them and established Mexico City on the site of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. Many of the Aztecs died of smallpox. In Peru, a similar swift military attack led to the overthrow of the Incas by an army led by Pizarro in 1530.

The Portuguese were also successful in their conquest of Brazil. They also developed an extensive influence down the west coast of Africa in the 17th Century and later extended up the east coast of Africa.

The Dutch established a trading post at Cape Town in 1652 and later colonised South Africa.

New crops from the New World such as Potatoes, peanuts and tobacco began to be introduced to Europe.

Spain grew very wealthy from the extraction of silver from Mexico and Peru. Spain had also large tracts of land in parts of the present day United States of America.

These included Florida, Texas, New Mexico and California. French and English claims on North America led to clashes and war.

England developed tentative colonies in North America in the early 17th Century, lured by promises of riches, trade, cheap land and freedom from religious persecution. The 16th Century had been a time of high inflation. Whilst prices rose by 6 times, wages had only doubled and this had caused much hardship to wage earners.

The first attempt at settlement was in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. However, more than half died of starvation and disease over the first winter.

In 1620 another group, spurred on by the desire to practice their own religious faith, set sail from Plymouth in the 'Mayflower'. The 'Pilgrim fathers' desire was to establish a 'New England' free from religious persecution.

Asia and the Pacific

The Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) was in power in China at the beginning of the 16th Century (1500). At the time the Chinese civilization was considerably more advanced than in Europe. Initially the Chinese were very open to outside influences. In the late 14th Century under the direction of the Emperor Zhu Di, China began to reassert itself as a world power. They undertook a major program of vastly expensive internal expansion including repairs to the Great Wall and movement of the capital to Beijing. Externally they embarked on a program of exploration and trade expansion. They possessed a huge fleet of very large ships which were much larger than any European ships at the time. In 1421, the Emperor Zhu Di's fleet, under the command of the eunuch Zheng He, set sail on a major voyage that has been asserted, discovered or visited many parts of the world. Meanwhile domestic events in China were

deteriorating. Mandarins, who had opposed Zhu Di's grandiose and ruinously expensive expansion plans and foreign policy, plotted his overthrow. A disastrous fire destroyed the new royal palace in the Forbidden City that had been built at enormous cost. It was seen as a bad omen. This, combined with the emperor's faltering health, brought a sudden end to this expansion. After his death, his son reversed his father's expansion policies. All records of the voyages of discovery were destroyed along with the fleets of ships. China and Japan in time became isolationist and less receptive to outsiders. This left the door open for European nations to explore and exploit the Asian area in the following centuries. China and Japan remained almost closed to the wider world until the 19th Century when pressure from Europeans destroyed their isolation.

In India, Turkish conquerors seized power in the 1500s and established the Mogul Empire. They allowed British and Portuguese traders to establish ports in India cities such as Bombay, Goa and Calcutta. In time Britain seized control and the riches that were to flow from India greatly increased Britain's standard of living, especially in the 19th Century. The lasting legacy for India was a Westminster system of government, English as an official language, an extensive rail system, educational system and legal system. In the 21st Century, this legacy especially will assist it in becoming a dominant superpower. Whilst China will assume the dominant economic position in the 21st Century, its lack of infrastructure of the type imposed on India will limit its growth.

European knowledge of the world and of map making at the start of the 16th Century was very limited. The idea of a spherical world was just being tested.

Early European discovery of the Pacific and Australia in particular is open to speculation. Spain and Portugal were at war in the early 16th Century and any discoveries were subject to strict secrecy. The Spanish in particular were in search of the legendary Great South Land and keen to discover treasure. Christopher Columbus had just returned from his discoveries in North America. The Spanish Pope Alexander VI gave the Spanish a head start in the domination of the New World. The Catholic Church was also keen to see that other parts of the world be discovered and that the Christian faith be spread via missionaries to heathen people of the South Land.

The Treaty of Tordesillas (Spain) in 1506 effectively divided the world into two down a north/south meridian. All lands east of 46°E went to Portugal and all to the west to Spain. This gave Spain most of the Americas, though Portugal could claim Brazil. In 1529 the other side of the globe was divided under the treaty of Saragossa. Spain received most of the Pacific and Portugal claimed all of Asia west of the Moluccas. These were part of the prized 'Spice Islands'. Cloves which grew in the Moluccas were worth their weight in gold.



1659 map by Joan Blaeu based on voyages by Abel Tasman and William Jansz. Only the east coast of Australia is un chartered. The treaty was remarkably durable with both sides adhering to its conditions over a long period. It's worth noting that in 1770, when Cook claimed the 'East Coast of New South Wales' for the British crown, the claim did not extend over the whole continent.



The Western Australian state boundary line is the meridian of longitude that corresponds with the boundary set under the Treaty of Saragossa in 1529. The British were keen to adhere to this long established treaty and not claim land that was the prerogative of Portugal.

Western Australia was referred to as New Holland for many years. In 1826 a small colony was sent from New South Wales to pre-empt the French from establishing a colony. It was officially claimed by the British Crown in 1829.

Voyages and discoveries

The following is a brief history of discovery in the Asia –Pacific region between 1500 and 1750.

Though open to much conjecture, an expedition by the Portuguese Christavo Menonca in 1522 may have circumnavigated Australia and produced maps. The wreckage of the fabled ‘Mahogany ship’ reportedly seen on the

Victorian coastline in the mid 19th Century along with the ‘Geelong keys’ and other Portuguese coins provide some evidence of this.

The first documented sighting and landing occurred in 1606 by the Dutch navigator, Willem Janszoon. In 1616, Dirk Hartog nailed a pewter plate to a tree in Western Australia and in 1642, Abel Tasman discovered Van Dieman’s Land (Tasmania). Cook’s ‘discovery’ of the east coast of Australia in 1770 completed the final chapter in the official history although some have speculated that secret maps had shown that exploration of this region had previously occurred.

The 17th Century – absolute monarchy

Politically this century in Europe was dominated by civil and foreign wars, the cost of which created tensions between the monarch and their subjects. Kings for the most part ruled without the participation of their subject. In other words, they had absolute power.

The first half of the century was dominated by the Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648) in which Germany was the battleground and the victim. It took Germany some time to recover from the devastation and delayed the economic progress enjoyed by England and France.

Louis XIV took over the monarchy of France in 1661.

He believed passionately in absolute monarchy and in his divine right to rule. He kept decision making firmly in his hands. He saw waging wars as the ultimate achievement of glory. A lasting testament to his flamboyant nature is the vast and grandiose Palace of Versailles, just south of Paris.



James 1 (1603 -1625), the first of the Stuart King from Scotland, succeeded Queen Elizabeth 1 as the English monarch. James was a believer in absolute monarchy, though a relatively ineffectual monarch. Continuing religious tensions led a small Catholic group to plot to blow up James and his whole Parliament by gunpowder whilst they were in session at Westminster. In the confusion that would follow, a Catholic regime might be established. Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators were hunted down, tortured and executed. They were ‘drawn on sledges

to the scaffold, swung on the gallows, beheaded and quartered on the block'. Until relatively recently, November 5 was celebrated with bonfires and 'cracker night'. Perhaps James' greatest achievement was a new version of the Bible. In 1611 the Authorised Version of King James 1" was published. No new version was deemed necessary for 300 years. Perhaps this act helped cement English as a pre-eminent world language.

Charles 1 (1625 – 1649) extended his father's absolute ambitions with fervour. He strongly believed that he was God's deputy on earth, answerable only to God. For 11 years from 1629 he suspended Parliament and only recalled it when he needed funds to repel an uprising of Scots. Charles resisted the demands from Parliament to share power. Following a six year civil war, Oliver Cromwell, a brilliant military commander led the Parliamentary forces (the Roundheads) to defeat the Royalists. (Cavaliers) Charles was tried for treason and executed by beheading. England now became a Republic (called the Commonwealth). Various models of government and Constitutions were trialled. Cromwell ruled with support of the army and was virtually a military dictator, though a benevolent one who tried to establish a workable government.

Cromwell died in 1659 and in 1660, **Charles II** was restored to the throne. When his successor, **James II** tried to restore absolutism he was deposed in a bloodless revolution in 1688.

How it came about was that James' son in law, **William III**, Prince of Orange in the Netherlands was invited by Parliament to come to England and to lead resistance. When James abdicated, William and his wife Mary were invited to take up the vacant throne under conditions set down in the Bill of Rights, reaffirming the character of England as a constitutional monarchy.

Under this arrangement the king was subservient to Parliament. In later years the example of English democracy was a guiding principle in the establishment of democratic governments in Western Europe, North America and in British colonies.

Plague and fire

Not since The Black Death of 1348 had the plague returned in such a virulent and devastating manner as it did in 1665. London was caught in its grip and thousands were dying each week, spreading panic. In September 1666, the Great Fire of London engulfed the city and burnt furiously for four days. 60% of London was destroyed by fire. Fortuitously, the conflagration wiped out much of the old unsanitary mediaeval city and destroyed the breeding habitat for the plague. Rebuilding also greatly improved town planning and many fine buildings along realigned streets improved London's layout.

At the end of the century, England was still largely rural. Towns rarely exceeded 1000 inhabitants. A single gutter ran down the street into which runoff, sewage and rubbish were placed. Householders were responsible for their own street lighting and sanitation. Water usually came from a well. Naturally, disease was prevalent.

The 18th Century –the Age of Reason

The 18th century, sometimes referred to the Age of Enlightenment, was an era of discovery and questioning of all things about the world. Classification of plants and animals, the movement of heavenly bodies, political philosophy and economic thought were all studied to widen the horizons of human knowledge. Newton's scientific theory of the movements of the universe, 'The Mathematical Principles of Natural Science' (1687) cast the universe as a giant clock, even if God was the watchmaker. By the end of the century nearly all of the major landmasses had been discovered if not yet explored. By the end of the century the Industrial Revolution had

begun to fundamentally change human existence and usher in lifestyles that are still reverberating today.

In Russia, the Czar **Peter the Great** (1672 – 1725) began a process of westernization and modernization that would lead the transformation of Russia from a backward region centuries behind the rest of Europe into a great power.

In England, the century started with the reign of **Queen Anne**, (1702 - 1714) Anne was the daughter of James II, deposed in 1688 and the sister of Mary, wife of the former King, William of Orange. During her reign the Acts of Union were passed where England and Scotland were united as a single State; the Kingdom of Great Britain. During her reign there was a shift in power from the Crown to Parliament and the period saw the development of the 2 party system, (Tory and Whigs) which has since remained a feature of Westminster government.

Despite 18 pregnancies including 13 miscarriages, no heir survived to adulthood. Anne was succeeded by her cousin, George I from the House of Hanover, from Germany. The 'Georgian' period occupied the rest of the century with Georges I, II and III.

George I, a fairly minor German prince from Hanover could not speak English and was fairly unenthusiastic about his fortuitous appointment. After the tumultuous tussle between King and Parliament in the last century, the Georgian era was relatively mundane and uncontroversial.



The wealth of the aristocracy began to be expressed in grand country houses in the Baroque or Palladian styles designed by Robert Adam and landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. The Rococo style expressed the flamboyant feeling of the period.

Winpole's folly in Cambridgeshire made to resemble a gothic era ruin

A little later, furniture by Chippendale and Sheraton and china by Wedgwood and Spode were popular and the grand houses were crammed with European art treasures and antiquities gleaned by gentlemen on the 'Grand Tour' of Europe and especially Italy and France. Grand 'follies' or architectural structures with little practical use were popular architectural additions on grand estates.

Yet the excesses of the aristocracy (both in England and France) would not last forever. Within a century, the clamour of the working classes for a share of the 'old' wealth and the 'new' wealth had begun. A new egalitarianism growing out of the French Revolution at the end of the century and the Industrial revolution from about 1750 onwards, would shape a whole new world.

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The period from 1750 till the present day will conclude this historical trilogy.

Menai and the Romans

Garriock Duncan

In the wider community, there has been quite some debate in recent years about the state of Australian History, particularly in schools. Unfortunately, its health is not well. Local History fares no better (Marie Hlavac, *SSHS Bulletin*, 10(3), November, 2007, p. 27). Recently I accessed the Society's website I was particularly interested in the Society's first objectives: "the Study of Australian History in general and Shire History in Particular". Now, that is what I would call a double "whammy". To use the language of "Blairite" spin, local history needs "sexing up".

The meaning / derivation of the names of the Shire's suburbs can be a little prosaic. So, this is the area I have chosen for sexing up". There are a number of websites you can access to find out this information. The majority of the names of the Shire's suburbs are of aboriginal derivation, as it should be. Some are named after local identities or early politicians. A few are foreign in origin and of these few two – Menai and Como - have Roman connections. So, this is the first of two articles. The second will be, "Como and the Romans". Why have I picked the Romans? There are two reasons. The first is that the Romans are a real "sexed up" people and provide the grand romance that Marie Hlavac's pupils want. (p. 27)! The second is a consequence, I guess, of the first. Currently Ancient History is experiencing a real boom in popularity

Where does "Menai" come from? Perhaps, surprisingly, the original name of the area was "Bangor", named after Bangor (Wales), the smallest city in the United Kingdom and located on the Welsh mainland at the northern mouth of the Menai Strait. Owen Jones was a native of Bangor (Wales) and he settled in the area in 1895 and called it after his home town. The name, "Bangor", survived until 1910, when the Post Master General changed it to avoid confusion with Bangor in Tasmania. Menai was the new name, thus preserving Owen's Welsh connection. Because of increasing development, in 1976, the eastern section of Menai became its own entity and the name, Bangor, was revived

The imagination of our ancestors I always find amazing. I have been to the Menai Strait (in 2004) and there are superficial similarities with the Woronora River where the Bangor By-pass crosses via the high level bridge. Of course, the bridge was not there in 1895 and Owen, anyway, approached from the Bankstown side of the Georges River. The Menai Strait (in Welsh, Afon Menai, i.e. the "River of Menai") is approximately 23 km long and varies in width from 2 km to 200 m. It is subject to fast and varying currents but can be forded on foot over Caernarvon Bar at certain conditions of low tide. The Strait separates the island of Anglesey (in Welsh, Ynys Mon) from the Welsh mainland

I have run out of Menai information and seemingly no mention of the Romans. But where are the Romans? I mentioned visiting this part of Wales in 2004. My wife and I stayed in a small village about fifteen minutes' drive from Caernarvon – Llanberis. Llanberis is Welsh speaking and all signs in the village were in both Welsh and English. I was amazed by the number of Latin loan words buried in modern Welsh. In fact, the Romans have already arrived. The Welsh have preserved this Roman connection in their name for Anglesey – Ynys Mon. It does not take much imagination to see in the Welsh the Latin name for the island – Mona.

The Romans visited Britain (in Latin, Britannia) briefly in 55 and 54 BC. However, they came to stay (for four hundred years) in mid to late summer, probably, of AD 43.

In that year, the Romans landed a large force of four legions and auxiliary units (about fifty thousand men) on a small promontory near the site of Sandwich, in Kent. The site is now called Richborough (in Latin, Ritupiae) and the remains of the defensive ditch the Romans dug the full width of the promontory can still be seen.

Richborough, though, is no longer a coastal site but is about 1500m in land. After securing their beachhead, the Romans moved inland, making for their principal objective, Camulodunum, (now Colchester), the main centre of the tribe of the Catuvellauni. It was quickly conquered and became the administrative centre of the new province, Britannia.

What of the four legions of the invasion force? Consensus is that the four legions were: Legio II Augusta ; Legio IX Hispania; Legio XIV Gemina ; Legio XX Valeria Victrix. As you can see Roman army units had both a unit number (vaguely indicating the order in which the units were raised) and a title or two (in Latin, cognomen / cognomina) indicating place of origin or some battle honour. The explanation of their cognomina are: Legio II Augusta (the 2nd Augustan Legion) was raised during the reign of the emperor, Augustus (27 BC – 14 AD); Legio IX Hispana (the 9th Spanish Legion) had won battle honours campaigning in Spain; Legio XIV Gemina (the 14th Twin Legion) resulted from the amalgamation of two legions; Legio XX Valeria Victrix (the 20th Legion Valorous and Victorious) received its titles because of its part in suppressing the revolt of Boudicca in 61 AD. So, while Legio XX VV initially stayed in Colchester as the reserve force, the other three legions fanned out across the countryside”: Legio II Augusta struck southwest; Legio IX Hispania drove northwards. The fourth legion, Legio XIV Gemina moved northwest in the direction of the modern town of Chester (in Latin, Deva Iscorum). By AD 60, Legio XIV Gemina, along with a detachment (in Latin, vexillatio) of Legio XX VV, the combined force being commanded by the provincial governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, had reached the Menai Strait (60-61 AD). The objective of Paulinus was ostensibly the conquest of the island and the extermination of the last Druids, a native priesthood, whose activities were prolonging native resistance. More likely Paulinus needed a cheap victory to enhance his career. Tacitus describes the battle as follows:

...Suetonius planned to attack the island of Mona, which although thickly populated had also given sanctuary to many refugees.

Flat-bottomed boats were built to contend with the shifting shallows, and these took the infantry across. Then came the cavalry; some utilized fords, but in deeper water the men swam beside their horses. The enemy lined the shore in a dense armed mass. Among them were black-robed women with disheveled hair like Furies, brandishing torches. Close by stood Druids, raising their hands to heaven and screaming dreadful curses.

This weird spectacle awed the Roman soldiers into a sort of paralysis. They stood still – and presented themselves as targets. But then they urged each other (and were urged on by the general) not to fear a horde of fanatical women. Onward pressed their standards and they bore down their opponents, enveloping them in the flames of their own torches. Suetonius garrisoned the island. The groves devoted to Mona's barbarous superstitions he demolished. For it was their religion to drench their altars in the blood of prisoners and consult their gods by means of human entrails.

However, the complete pacification of Mona had to wait. For by AD 61, Legio XX Valeria had moved from Colchester and the former military base became a civilian settlement for Roman army veterans. However, conflict broke out between the

Roman administration and the powerful nearby tribe, the Iceni. Under their queen, Boudicca (not Boadicea), the Iceni rose in revolt and burnt Colchester to the ground. Suetonius had to rush back from the incomplete subjugation of Mona to confront the rebel hoard, probably somewhere near St Albans (in Latin, Verulamium) to win a great victory.

Much of Suetonius' work was undone by the rebellion and the Romans came close to abandoning the province but it was not to be. Much rebuilding had to take place, for Colchester was not the only town destroyed. This rebuilding included the transfer of the capital of the province from Colchester to the site of a crossing on the Thames called by the Romans Londinium, i.e. London. Thus, it was nearly another twenty years, i.e. c. AD 78, before another Roman general, again the governor of the province, Gnaeus Julius Agricola, gazed across the Menai Straits. Again, in the words of Tacitus:

...he (i.e. Agricola) took the decision to reduce Mona. I have previously recorded how Paulinus had been recalled and stopped from occupying it by the rebellion of the whole of Britain. But, as happens in enterprises undertaken at short notice, there were no ships available. However, the general's resources and resolution got the troops across. Auxiliaries, specially selected from those who knew the fords and whose national practice was to swim while carrying their weapons and controlling their horses, were told to discard all their equipment. Then he launched them into attack so suddenly that the enemy were dumbfounded. They had been expecting an attack by sea; now they believed that for men that came to war in this way nothing was difficult or insuperable.

So...they had petitioned for peace and surrendered the island...

Mona does not figure again in the narrative of Roman Britain. Naturally, there are no visible reminders of these events. The A55 which leads to the port at Holyhead is presumed to overlay a Roman road and in Holyhead, itself, there are remains of a Roman fort (i.e. the Caer Gybi). In fact, the nearest visible Roman remains are at the fort, Segontium, within the city limits of Caernarvon. The remains at Segontium are not impressive, at all, and are best viewed by Roman enthusiasts. The nearest Roman remains worth visiting are at Chester, where the layout of the centre off the city betrays its origin as a legionary fortress. However, for travellers with an interest in military fortifications, the surrounding area offers some excellent opportunities, with impressive castles at Conwy, Beaumaris (on Anglesey) and Caernarvon. An easy day trip away is Harlech Castle.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society is dedicated to the research, presentation and dissemination of local history and the preservation of written, photographic and physical materials for present and future users.

The Society welcomes donations of ephemera, items of interest and collections suitable for museum display or research.

Cash donations and bequeaths also welcome.

D'Arcy Nagle –Stone Mason

Amongst the more unusual (and uncommon) occupation these days is that of stone mason. It's a skilled profession that hasn't changed much over the years. It still involves a lot of physical strength in extracting and cutting the stone and in shaping it with a lump hammer. The demand for these skills in the early colony of Australia was recognized when, by negotiation and strike action, the Operative Stonemason's Society, (one of the earliest trade unions), in Sydney in 1855 was able to establish working conditions that other unionist soon copied. Their slogan was:

*'eight hours work, eight hours play
eight hours sleep and 8 bob a day'*

D'Arcy Nagle is a fifth generation stone mason who has lived for most of his life in Miranda. He likes to work mainly in sandstone because of the beautiful colours and grains and the personal satisfaction of working the stone.

'My family emigrated from Ireland in 1832 and have worked on many of the landmark buildings in Sydney including Victoria Barracks, the Queen Victoria building, Sydney GPO, The Art Gallery of NSW and many, many more'.

Stone masonry is a craft that is often passed down from father to son although for D'Arcy, this is the last of the line. His son has chosen the computer industry as a career.

D'Arcy is one of six children to Tom and Mavis Nagle. D'Arcy and his two brothers, Tom and Dennis are all stone masons. D'Arcy was always interested in stonework as a child and decided to continue the family tradition. At 14 he went to work with his father Tom as an apprentice at Sylvania. There used to be a lot of stone quarries in the Shire. There were sites in Canberra Street Sylvania and on the corner of Sylvania and Box Roads, Karimbla Road Miranda and Bates Drive Kareela just to name a few.

Traditionally all stone was quarried by hand with the use of a jumper bar, tongue and feathers, hammer and gads and occasionally with a little help from gunpowder.

'I learnt all the trades of a quarryman at Helensburgh. I also learnt how to dress and carve sandstone. I was taught the art of a blacksmith as we had to sharpen, harden and temper and make some of our tools'.

At the age of 23 D'Arcy went into his own business and did contract work for Gosford Quarries and Loveridge and Hudson (Melocco) amongst many others. The nature of the job means that work can be in the metropolitan area, the Southern Highlands or even interstate. In his yard, D'Arcy has a large stockpile of stone. Some is old stone that can be dressed up and recycled where needed. New stone is sourced from Gosford Quarries, Bundanoon, Sydney Sandstone, Donnybrook and Capricorn Stone in Queensland.

Stonework is very heavy and physically demanding. In the past, one man would have to lift up to 70 kilograms but today lifting devices, pneumatic hammers, diamond saws and tungsten tools have made the job easier and computers and plotters have made some aspects redundant. As a profession you need to be dedicated but seeing the finished job is rewarding. D'Arcy has fond memories of working on NSW University, Sydney University, Victoria Barracks and many more.

Beside stone work, D'Arcy's hobbies include restoring 1950s and 1960s Triumph motorbikes and old Fords from the same era. One of his work vehicles is a 1950s 'Mainline' Ford ute. Other than that; I like 'anything mechanical'.

Sandstone Sydney

Some cities can be defined by the nature of the natural materials on which they're built. Melbourne is famous for its bluestone buildings and New York for its brownstones. Santa Fe is known for its mud brick adobe dwellings and Coober Pedy for its underground dwellings. Sydney is quintessentially sandstone.

Its founders discovered early that the rock that lay beneath it was a wonderfully durable building material that was relatively easy to work with. Its golden colour and earthy texture meant that it blended in total harmony with the environment. Many of the fine public buildings in the 19th Century were built from sandstone. Examples are the Queen Victoria building, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Darlinghurst gaol, the Lands Department building, the Public Library of NSW, the GPO building and Sydney University to name just a few. In the Sutherland Shire a few significant homes built from sandstone exist including Fernleigh at Lilli Pilli and The Terraces at Dolans Bay. Stonework is used quite extensively in garden walls, steps and in retaining walls along foreshores. Sandstone is a sedimentary rock. The Hawkesbury sandstone of the Sydney basin was laid down perhaps 150 million years ago when the area was a huge delta. Sydney's iconic coastline consists of rugged and weathered sandstone cliffs fringed by beaches of golden sand.

Excursion report. 21 April 2008. Terry McCosker

This first excursion for 2008 involved a guided tour of both St.Patrick's church and Scots church on Church Hill, Sydney. The group,(that's using the term loosely as there were only 8 of us) met on Sutherland station and caught the 8.52am train to Wynyard, arriving there in time to have coffee prior to the 10.30am tour. On arriving at the church we were met by Doug Archer which brought the numbers up to 9.

Our tour guide was one of the resident priests, father Peter McMurrich. He had an amazing knowledge of the area and the growth of the parish from very small beginnings to being the busiest Catholic church in Sydney, where 12 masses are said every day as well as weddings, funerals, school group and tourist visits.

We were shown the foundations and existing parts of buildings on the site dating back to the very early days of the colony and on one spot we were able to see evidence of building activity from 4 centuries ago.

The tour commenced from inside the church in the choir loft, from where we had a very good overall view. We were then taken right up to the stunning brass altar, one of five made in France during the 1800s. The detail on the altar was unbelievable and there were delicate marble columns across the front. Father Peter told us that the altar was valued not so long ago and they were advised to insure it for \$8,000,000. After the tour we had a pleasant lunch in the coffee shop in a building adjacent to the church which was an earlier chapel.

The second part of our day was a tour of Scots Church just a block away. The Rev. Adrian Van Ah was our guide. This is a very unusual building, much more like one of Sydney's grand theatres than a church. It was built in 1926 as an assembly hall and over the years was used as a concert hall as well as a church. One of the visitors in our group remembered singing there as a young girl. Extensive renovations and restoration has been carried out during the last few years without compromising the original plan and it still looks like a theatre, especially from upstairs.

The tour finished at about 2.45pm and we all made our way home having had a truly great day. My only regret is the apparent lack of interest by most members in these outings. Nine people attended. Of these, three, that's one third, were visitors and four were members of the executive. - **Pretty disappointing.**



During 2008 Kurnell Public School conducted a literary competition on aspects of James Cook's landing – leading up to the Kurnell Festival and the Meeting of Two Cultures Ceremony to be conducted at the Landing Place on 29th April 2008. The winner of the competition was Adam Ross-Hopkins, aged 11 years. Adam is in year 6 and is the Vice-President of the Kurnell Public School.

Pictured above is a photograph of Adam Ross-Hopkins and Captain Ross Mattson, Australian National Maritime Museum, Captain of the HMB Endeavour and Kurnell resident. The photograph was taken by Daphne Salt at the Meeting of Two Cultures Ceremony conducted at the Landing Place on 29th April 2008.

WINNER: 1ST PLACE 2008 ADAM ROSS-HOPKINS

BOUND FOR BOTANY BAY

1770 Captain James Cook's Log

The Harbour was like any other, trees lines the beach, a stream trickling down the autumn tinged rocks a kilometre from the heads, whales dancing and singing, jumping out of the water and yet there's plants that I've never seen before. Banks and Solander were eager to be at anchor and check out some of the wildlife while the crew fill up our water supply.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

The bay was like any other, houses lined the beach, a dried up stream with dry rocks making the riverbed, whales being watched by tourists at a lookout point up at Cape Solander, and some small native plants which are now endangered. But now I must hurry to be at anchor out of the pathway of the container ships.

1770 Captain James Cook's Log:

Joseph Banks informs me of the native tribes in the area and we must be careful for the natives will attack most of the crew on sight.

He has also informed me that every native he saw through his looking glass is completely naked.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

My binoculars allow me to see many people around the Bay going about their business. Some are in cars, some are working in their gardens, some are jogging through the park, some are working on the Caltex wharf and I see school children in their Kurnell School uniform.

1770 Captain James Cook's Log

We noticed a few Indians out in tiny canoes but they payed no attention to us. While we while we were out searching an Indian village we stumbled across some awkwardly shaped canoes. These were made from 12 to 14 foot long pieces of bark

from trees. The ends were tied together and the middle kept open by means of wood. I'm astounded that most of them even float.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

I've noticed a few people in canoes and kayak's, some by themselves and some practising in groups of five or six people. Their canoes come in all shapes, sizes, colours and lengths imaginable. They look really safe in their life jackets and the canoes and kayaks look sturdy and seaworthy.

1770 Captain James Cook's Log:

I've also noted the number of stingrays in the area for when I look over the side of the ship I can see the dark shapes gliding across the sand and feeding on unsuspecting crabs and squid. My men also caught a stingray weighing three hundred and ninety seven pounds without the entrails. I think I might call the area Stingray Harbour.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

When I look over the side of the Endeavour I can see many fish and a few small stingrays. I see a bit of rubbish but no more than usual. I can't see the bottom of the bay but they tell me soon there will be some desalination pipes running across the floor of the bay. Whenever I am here I always think of the song Bound for Botany Bay and today the crew all start singing out loud.

1770 Captain James Cook's Log:

Today while we were exploring some of the Indian's campsites we found that the Indians use spears to hunt fish. These spears are made from sticks and fishbone for barbed points. Dr Solander also got a bad sight of a small animal like a rabbit or dog and we found the dung of an animal which must feed upon grass. Upon our return to the boat we found that the crew had caught a great number of fish which the sailors call leather jackets due to their hard leathery skin.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

On the shore I can see people fishing with rods and reels. They don't seem to catch as much as people used to. I also hear there used to be some Wallabies around these parts but unfortunately I think they're extinct now. I can still see lots of birds though and we were followed into the Bay by a group of dolphins.

1770 Captain James Cook's Log:

At night we can also see an array of lights through the bushes probably from campfires made by the Indians. Also as we were moored out in the bay just before night the sun goes down over the horizon and illuminates the whole bay with a beautiful stream of light. I sent the word that in the morning we will leave the bay to explore the uncharted waters to the north.

2008 Captain Ross Mattson's log:

At night the bay lights up. All the lights from the airport, the Caltex Oil Refinery, Port Botany and from cars and houses make the bay very bright. In the afternoon just before sundown the Endeavour was illuminated by a streak of beautiful light. It's just astounding to be in the ship when the sun hits the horizon. In the morning we will set off and use our maps to navigate north, into Sydney Harbour.

Sources

1. Journal of James Cook, Captain of the Endeavour.
2. Journal of Joseph Banks, botanist on the Endeavour
3. Interview with Mr Ross Mattson, Australian National Maritime Museum, Captain of the HMB Endeavour (and Kurnell resident)

Book Review

Dharawal: The Story of the Dharawal Speaking People of Southern Sydney,

Dharawal Publications, Sydney, December 2007,

Les Bursill, Mary Jacobs, Deborah Lennis, Beryl Timbery-Beller and Merv Ryan,

maps, illustrations, bibliography, pp. 64, ISBN 9780646480138, \$20* (available from Les Bursill, 10 Porter Road, Engadine NSW 2233, phone 95207394 or 0419298018, or Mary Jacobs, TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute, Sutherland College, Pitt Street, Loftus, 2232).

Reviewed by Edward Duyker

The Dharawal country is bounded by the south of Botany Bay, the Georges River, Appin, Goulburn and the coastal lands down to Wreck Bay near Nowra. Since this territory embraces the modern Sutherland Shire, the publication of this book is an important community milestone and of considerable local historiographic significance. Les Bursill and Mary Jacobs, in collaboration with artist Deborah Lennie, and with the community representation of Merv Ryan and the recently deceased and much-respected elder Beryl Timbery-Beller, have provided a valuable summary of local Dharawal culture, kinship and totemic relationships, women's business, men's business, body decoration, habitats, corroboree (music, dance and oral tradition), art styles (stencils, engravings and carved trees) and much more, including a section on Dharawal charcoal drawings of extinct thylacines in southern Sydney.

The middle of the book contains a precious thematic vocabulary of Sydney Aboriginal words and their meanings compiled by Dr Jackelin Troy and Les Bursill. There are sections on toponyms, language, mythology and ceremony, equipment, food (including cooking and fire), landscape, natural items, local mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and sea life and plants. This vocabulary will prove a major local linguistic resource and give added meaning to all who seek to engage with the local environment from an Aboriginal perspective.

There is also a brief historical section covering the period since 1770. Clearly a fuller history of the Dharawal since the arrival of the Europeans needs to be written, but this book, designed as a resource for teachers, will be a welcome reference work for all who seek to know more of the Dharawal heritage of the Shire (and beyond) and the living traditions it engenders. This is a modest book with surprising depth. It will enrich all who read it.

<p>* As a special offer, Les advises that with a purchase of 6 or more books, he will give a 1 hour presentation at your school or club meeting.</p>
