



*Sutherland Shire  
Historical Society Inc*

## Bulletin



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Surf plane hire, Cronulla beach sign – 1940s – 1950s.

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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**

*All correspondence should  
be addressed to*

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Sutherland Shire Historical Society  
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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



**Museum:** Can you believe that half the year has gone already, and our museum problem is still not resolved! We were quite upset at the council's dismissive reply to us. We had pointed out that the Sutherland School of Arts had been given by the State Government into the care and control of Council by a Supreme Court Order "for the purposes of a museum", and could we have more space, as we only have two rooms at the front of the building, and a small garage at the back. Council even refused to improve the lighting which is so dim that people have difficulty in reading the title tags on photos, or discern features. As we had not been able to convince the Council of our plight in our correspondence with them over the last 20 years, and had been receiving similar evasive answers, we finally asked our honorary solicitor to explain the position more clearly. The solicitor has received a letter introducing Council's corporate lawyer, and saying that Council will reply to our letter soon. We hope this will be the case, as we had to ask a Councillor, after waiting five months, to obtain the last reply, and already we are starting to prepare for the next Heritage Festival! We have been grateful to Council for helping us print our Bulletin, but instead of being able to meet at the Museum, free of charge, to discuss our plans for museum displays of the Shire's history, we have to pay to meet at the Stapleton Centre, as we are told the School of Arts hall is always hired out, and Council cannot forego the rent. So the Council gains rent both from us and from the hirer of the SMSA hall! For the same reason we are unable to hold displays during the actual dates of Heritage Festival, --although Council did manage to finally give us one week of the period this year, which was greatly appreciated. We hate being "out-of-step" with Council over this matter, and hope we can soon have the matter resolved amicably.

**Powerhouse Discovery Centre Collection Stores:** Last Wednesday week Cliff and I attended the Jaguar Midweek Rally and it concluded at the PDCCS Museum at 172 Showground Road, Castle Hill. If you haven't yet made this excursion, it is well worth a visit. Bookings: 9762 1300 There is plenty of parking, and for you motor enthusiasts, some wonderful old cars, including a Stanley Steamer, an Australian Six and a Sheffield Simplex. This latter was a competitor of Rolls Royce, who set up their showroom not far from their rivals in London, and advertised that they would measure up the driver so the car seat fitted perfectly. Rolls Royce countered by advertising that if you sent in your chauffeur they would measure him for the car---because of course, you would not be driving it *yourself*! Sir Roden Cutler's Rolls Royce, purchased by the Govt. when he was Governor General is also there. It had previously been owned by the Hordern family, but was returned within a week as one of the ladies "did not like it"! They have a great collection of pianos including a beautiful walnut piano which came to Australia in 1835, and Robert Louis Stevenson's piano which he owned in Sydney. They have some from the Beale Piano factory at Annandale, which company also made sewing machines. The volunteer guide was surprised when I told her they also made Mosquito aircraft during the war at the Government's behest, as they were accustomed to gluing timbers. Unfortunately the glue recipe which they were given, which apparently was used on the planes successfully in Europe, was not suitable for our climate, heat and humidity and several planes delaminated in mid-air, including the one which fell on my school at Petersham. They lost 8 pilots before the problem was discovered, by two pilots who crash-landed at Dubbo, and lived to tell the tale, but by then the war was over and production halted. The PDCCS also holds the 1930 Genairco biplane which barnstormer Goya Henry flew under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. There is a magnificent Royal Doulton collection, and all the costumes and props used in the Sydney Olympics, as well as a representative collection of Australian furniture over the last 200 years or so.

**SS Pheasant** Of particular interest to Cliff and me was a triple expansion marine steam engine made by Hawthorn Leslie and Co., in 1889 at their Forth Bank works, Newcastle on Tyne, England. It was imported into Australia and fitted into the SS Pheasant, which was skippered by Cliff's grandfather, a ferry master, John Emerson (son of Albert Emerson, who held the first licence to harvest oysters, for the whole of Botany Bay and all its tributaries). It plied from the King St. Wharf in Sydney to Parramatta, taking just over an hour for the journey. In 1914 the Pheasant was taken out of service and the engine transferred into

the newly built ferry Karrabee. In 1936 it was replaced by a diesel and donated to the Power House Museum.

**Women's Prison, Parramatta** During Heritage Festival Cliff and I attended this interesting tour of inspection of buildings from our past history. We saw the exercise yard, the open air dining room (even in the middle of winter!) and the cramped cells. The women trooped down to the riverside to do washing for the guards and themselves, and there are still vestiges of the old laundry. Periodically a "marriage market" was held and the girls were paraded to the farmers and officers to become wives. The only protest a girl could make if a prospective suitor stopped in front of her and chose her, was to step back, indicating she did not want him for a husband. However most were so glad to get out of their situation, the suitor would have to be quite repulsive to be refused! Good behaviour meant that the girls had a room on the top floor with sunshine and views. Those who behaved badly or agitated for more food or better conditions were consigned to the lower levels, with few windows and poor conditions—especially in the basement.

**Doryanthes:** This Shire academic journal of history and natural history, which was mooted a few years ago by some of our members, has finally come to fruition, with several of our members comprising the editorial board. Nothing will ever replace our SSHS Quarterly Bulletin, which we regard with affection, containing folksy poems, local social history articles, and photos about ordinary people like you and me who have grown up in the Shire, or about local places. However, for those who prefer in-depth articles on Shire subjects with detailed footnotes, or by people living in southern Sydney, it is another avenue for scholarship and information, as well as opinion. The Society had undertaken to assist in the birth of Doryanthes, without disrupting the continuity of the Bulletin, and is pleased that it will be advertising our society, its museum openings as well as its meetings, so it is another arena for advertising our 'endeavours' and we wish them well.

It is sad that our decision to have Saturday meetings in winter was not possible except for August, due to council having bookings for the hall on those Saturdays in June and July, when they had previously advised us they were free. Hopefully we can get them for 2009, and you won't have to come out on those chilly winter nights! I look forward to seeing you at our first Saturday meeting in August as well as our AGM in September, when we will be having some historical films and slides of the local area immediately following the meeting, so do come along. Thankyou again to those ladies who provide such a superb "country-style" supper for our meetings!

*Dawn Emerson,*

#### **Forthcoming Meetings, 2008-2009 at the Stapleton Centre, Sutherland, at 8pm:**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> August:     | <b>Note at 1.30 pm.</b> Phyllis Solomon: The Kookaburra and its role in our history  |
| Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> September:  | AGM and local historical films-- with "country-style" supper!                        |
| Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct.:       | Pauline Curby: Her latest book, Randwick Sesquicentenary, 'Coming down the straight' |
| Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov.:       | Pamela Griffiths: Living in and painting the Shire and its beauty.                   |
| Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.:       | Show and Tell Christmas Party (bring historical item) at Sutherland School of Arts.  |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan., 2009: | Members' Night: Cliff Emerson and 2 other SSHS members present a short talk.         |

#### **President's Addendum**

One of the most delightful tasks in being President is getting the opportunity to thank the Executive committee for their assistance during the year. So often everyone just does their job, and I am remiss in not thanking them for all they do, and this is my chance to individually recognize these executive members. This year has been a very worrying year with many problems, because we seemed to be bedevilled by bureaucracy. Firstly we ran into troubled waters with the Dept. of Fair Trading who notified us that some of our annual reports in previous years were missing, but with typical teamsmanship, several of the committee simply got on with the job of going through back issues of our Bulletin and furnished the missing data, so we now have an unblemished record. Then when we contacted the Council, noting that the Museum was bursting at the seams and we are in dire need of space at the School of Arts, the building

being recorded as being given into the care and control of Council “for the purposes of a museum”, we received no acceptance of our claims, and so had to get our honorary solicitor to explain the situation on our behalf. This elicited only a formal note from their solicitor that they had received our letter and would in due course reply—and we are still waiting, with the Museum so full of treasures, that visitors can hardly negotiate its corridors, and we can’t unpack or sort them! We also need to get all our museum possessions on computer, but there is no space to work to complete this complex task. Once recorded, there is no adequate storage shelving to house them when not being used in a display. We paid several hundred dollars out of our own funds to do a museum computer course, when all others doing the course had their enrolment paid by their respective councils, as we are unsupported in our role of running the Shire Museum. However it is believed that once other theatre accommodation is built by Council then more of the School of Arts may be made available to us, and we can create order out of chaos.

Our Museum Curator and Deputy President Jim Cutbush, not only provides excellent displays at our Museum (albeit overcrowded!) in the Sutherland School of Arts, and upon request at other venues in the Shire, but assists other organizations by lending them photographs for publication. We are always happy to oblige, providing the society is acknowledged as the source. Jim has also given several talks to many groups around the Shire, and even opens the Museum especially for small groups upon appointment, as well as representing us at functions if I am not available. The Museum is always open on the first Saturday of the month, and if Jim is unable to be present, Terry McCosker, one of our Vice Presidents, and our Assistant Curator, helps Jim assemble displays and in transporting them to Fairs and for special days such as Australia Day at Cronulla. Thankyou Jim and Terry, and also to the willing workers who have rostered themselves to assist at the Museum: David, Maurie, Cliff, Joy, Mina, the two Marjorie’s, Angela, and the two Doug’s, amongst others, but we still need volunteers on the Saturday afternoons if you can spare an hour or so. David Overett helped Terry out for a while taking on Excursions Officer, as well as helping at the Museum, when Terry had a bout of illness; but now Terry is back in the saddle and we have had several interesting trips to historic places around Sydney accessible by train and are now looking forward to having a few bus trips shortly.

I thank all the women, particularly, on the executive for their assistance and wise counsel and for being thoroughly supportive and a great tower of strength to me. I value their friendship and their diverse talents and reciprocate their affection. My thanks to our well-nigh flawless secretary, Angela Badger, a lady of many talents, who also writes books and is shortly going to England for the production of a musical based on her book about her pirate ancestor, Charlotte Badger! She is ably backed up by Mina Whybourne as Assistant Secretary, making a “dynamic duo” and we thank them both for their assistance, so cheerily provided, as nothing is too much trouble. Thankyou also to Pat Hannan who has taken over the task of Booking Clerk under Maurie’s watchful eye, as well as helping out Angela, Mina and Daphne with providing delicious suppers after our meetings. To Daphne, our other Vice President, we are eternally grateful for her diligence copying photographs and manuscripts and entering them on to our database. Her workload has been stupendous and she also writes books in between her duties for us! We now have a wealth of photographs and information on our Shire and can assist visitors to our Museum with information and photos about Shire places, homes, and people. We say a big thankyou to Marj Blackley who has been our busy Publicity Officer and whilst she dutifully gets the right information to the papers, --our guest speakers sometimes cannot come on the night, so that we have to substitute! It must be very frustrating for her, but she takes it all in her stride.

Many thanks to Merle Kavanagh, also one of our busy authors who has taken the time to assemble an index to our Bulletins which is an invaluable addition to the Sowden Index, completed some years ago. Merle also does our proof-reading, which is most appreciated, as well as writing books. We are aiming to make our Bulletin a more professional journal, and trying to keep those “printer’s devils” at bay! Bruce Watt, our Bulletin Editor, keeps on finding interesting articles to print, and introducing new features to make it more thought-provoking in addition to producing a teaching journal for another organization, as well as being a busy teacher himself! We loved the coloured covers during the centenary of Sutherland Shire, thanks to the help of Council for 2006, and then some of the commercial businesses helped with a cover in recent times. We would love to make it permanent, but have to rely upon donors.

To our Treasurer, Maurie Beaven, who battles with our accounts all year, keeping us solvent and “in the black” we are very grateful. Maurie, in addition to helping out at the Museum has also crafted the lovely lectern that we

now use for our guest speakers. He came to our aid when we were unable to borrow one from council, and we realised we should obtain our own for use at Mayoral functions and special evenings. To our Research Officer and Archivist, Les Bursill, who spends a lot of time fielding the questions from our readers and securing answers, as well as publishing articles in addition to his other tasks, we say a hearty thankyou. Les has been launching another Shire journal, “Doryanthes”, as well, and soldiering on under difficult circumstances and bad health. Our condolences are with him in his sad losses over the past few years.

Our thanks also to our Book Review Editor, Dr. Ed Duyker, who regularly provides us with compelling information about recent “must have” publications. Ed tells me that he doesn’t have a position on our Executive Committee, according to the constitution, yet we have elected him every year. We must place it on the agenda this year at our AGM, to be voted upon next year, as he has held that position for the last 15 years or so, and no one realized it was not formalised! To our other committee members: John Risebrow; my husband, Cliff Emerson; and Andrew Platfoot, our Public Officer, thankyou everyone for attending our committee meetings regularly, and providing input to our meetings. An organization is only as good as the committee which runs it, and I value your counsel and support and thoughtful contributions. Being a leader is not always easy, as it requires gaining the support from other members on the committee and firing them up with enthusiasm for the same shared ideals and then carrying them forward with you until the task in hand is completed. I admit that sometimes my faith in our ability to achieve has faltered, but then, you the committee, have picked me up and carried me with you, restoring my resolve—so I really feel that I have your full confidence, and I am deeply touched by your concern.

We gratefully acknowledge our auditor, Carol Draper for her expertise in auditing our accounts, and we are most grateful to Mr. Michael Solari, our honorary solicitor for his advice. In the past this has been almost a formality, but this year Michael has given generously of his time to assist us, and we do thank him for his concern and his efforts on our behalf. For several years Doug and Betty Perry shouldered the burden of providing supper after every meeting, which was gratefully appreciated, until Betty’s current illness prevented their attendance. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them again at meetings.

We thank our patron, Clr.David Redmond, Mayor of Sutherland Shire Council and wish him well in the current elections. We thank the council’s General Manager, Mr. John Rayner, for his assistance over the past year, and look forward to ironing out our current situation amicably, to the benefit of all shire citizens, the council and our society. Finally to you, the members, thankyou for renewing your memberships, indicating your faith in our Society and your support by attendance at meetings, rain, hail or shine! Without you, our Society and our labours on your behalf, are worthless. Please come along to meetings and have your say—as everything we do, is for your benefit. Thankyou everyone for your interest and your support in preserving the memories, the history, and the heritage of our Shire.

The cover of this edition was printed by the office of D. Vale MP as a community service, and the SSHS gratefully acknowledges this support.

Regards, Dawn E.

# From The Editor's Desk

For our members I commend this important pre-AGM edition of the bulletin. Also I commend it to the many friends of the Society who may read the bulletin as a hard copy in schools and libraries or as a virtual publication through our website at [www.suthshirehistsoc.org.au](http://www.suthshirehistsoc.org.au)



Over the years, the Bulletin has been a combination of many things. It has been a voice of the Society and its activities and its content has been educational, entertaining and a record of oral and written history of a local and at times broader nature. Today's events in time become tomorrow's history and the Bulletin will be one source that future historians will scour for insights into the events of the past. As editor, I invite readers to submit articles or items of interest. Leave the editing to me if writing style is a concern.

I am pleased to present in this edition the final part of the trilogy; 'A (very) brief history of the world'. This completes the time period from 1750 until the present day. My day time job is teaching and the art of this profession is to try and make the complex appear simple. It's been a challenge to reduce such a broad sweep of history down to forty or fifty pages. I apologise to those who find it simplistic or who are critical that it has left out large sections or reduced the description to a trite comment. This was inevitable in such an undertaking. We have a variety of readers. There is no shortage of detailed histories that anyone can access if that is their need. Feed back so far though is that it has been interesting and has helped some of our readers to understand the broad historical flow.

In this edition our Publicity Officer, Marjorie Blackley, is featured in 'Meet the Executive.' Marj has held several positions within the Society and her life story makes interesting reading. I am very thankful for her assistance in distributing the Bulletin.

Another Shire crossword is featured in this edition. We all like a challenge and what better way of testing our knowledge of local history. No prizes for the first one to work it out. Please, if you have some clues that you would like to submit to me I would be pleased to incorporate them into a future crossword. Our cover illustration is a sign from the 1940s and 1950s at Cronulla Beach. It is from the private collection of Barry Makay, the contents of which I will feature in a future bulletin.

**This is a reminder to members that the annual membership subscriptions run from July 1 to June 30. If you have not paid your subscriptions by now, then you are unfinancial. Forward payment with your renewal to the Treasurer. See the form on page 37. Alternatively, if you have friends who would like to join then direct them to the application. Membership may also be a thoughtful present.**

Some members may be 'downsizing' or know of others who are. We are always pleased to have donations for the museum. Items don't need to be 'priceless crystal' or rare items. Many post war items are becoming interesting museum pieces.

I recently spent a weekend at Ranelagh at Robertson for Christmas in July and whilst there I visited Bundanoon. The local Historical Society had a Garage Sale in the street. Now there's an idea to get out and meet people and to clear some unwanted junk from the garage. Would anyone like to organise one? As this edition is full I have been unable to feature the World War 1 digger's diary that I had flagged would appear in this edition. This will appear in the next edition.  
Good reading.

*Bruce Watt*

# Secretary's Annual Report

Angela Thomas

For the past twelve months we have enjoyed a varied selection of speakers on our Friday nights. Our sincere thanks go to all of them and to Daphne, Terry and Les who have helped with sound and visual presentation and Maurie for his ingenious lectern, also used at another local society event recently.

We began our year's programme with Ivan Webber, manager of Woronora Cemetery who enlightened us regarding its corporate structure and history. Local interest was again to the fore with the subsequent speaker, Clr. Ken McDonell, who recounted some of his experiences in Sutherland Shire and his work with Sutherland Shire Council.

At the following meeting Sue Duyker kept us enthralled with her erudite talk on the effects of Global Warming on Heritage Sites throughout the world.

A constant contributor throughout has been Daphne Salt who gave us several viewings of George Heavens and Rupert Gough's work, culminating in an entire evening of Rupert's collection which was so interesting that no one wanted to stop watching and we just included our suppertime with the programme.

In October we had Ian Small, author of *The Kurrajongs*, the story of the WW1 enlisting marches converging on Sydney. On that particular night I had asked a friend to come and she said she'd quite like to but she was really keen to finish 'this wonderful book I'm reading, I'd love to meet the man who wrote it' ...and it was the very same book! So I said 'Come and meet him tonight.'

Our Christmas 'Show & Tell' and the January Members Night brought our own members to the fore with most entertaining presentations. We had John Risebrow's "Dissertation on the vascillating logistics of the under wheel infrastructure of the CBD in the Village of Waterfall - to the layman "how the roads and railways in Waterfall have moved around" – we can always depend on John's wry sense of humour to mystify us. We had Jennelle Scott, (Aileen Griffith's daughter) showing us a number of decorative stick pins from her mothers effects. Cliff as always entertains as well as informs and he imparted so much information on Japanese fans; their history, the different fans (uchiwa is the round one, ogi or sensu the folding one) that we hardly had time to take it all in and can only hope he'll return to the subject at next 'Show & Tell'. Lyn from the Sutherland Music Club touched our hearts with excerpts from the diary of a friend who had nursed in action during WW2. We saw yet another aspect of Doug Archer's collection; his Mashman pottery and learnt much about these pieces. Every year he manages to show us yet another facet of his hobby. He is a true collector. And we had the pleasure of meeting Rupert Gough's family, Troy Simons and other relatives, who spoke briefly on Rupert's model-making work and photograph collection. Many members, too numerous to mention, contributed to these events and we always find great interest in learning of other peoples hobbies.

In February, Ed Duyker came to tell us of his latest book 'Peron' and as always with Ed's talks, we all enjoyed his illustrations as much as his text.

In fact the use of Powerpoint has enlivened many of our meetings this year.

The following month memories flooded back for many of us with Allan Cameron's reminiscences 'Growing up in the Shire and living here 60 years'. Many of us would like recollections such as Allan's. Just a few could remember the early tramways of Sydney, as shown by Peter Kahn of the Tramways Museum in an excellent film production at the following meeting.

Unfortunately a very cold night coincided with a variety of problems for members and not many came to David Campbell's, 'The Influence of Governor Macquarie on the development of early NSW' (not forgetting Mrs Macquarie). Perhaps we could repeat this at a more convenient time as David had us enthralled and in answering the numerous questions certainly added to our knowledge.

In deep midwinter I took my cue from the chilly temperature, speaking of the bitter weather of the Retreat from Moscow 1812, reading from the diary of an officer. I illustrated my talk with many contemporary sketches.

So let us hope next year continues with the same variety and do remember, if you have a hobby or even an abiding interest in any aspect of history....WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

We say this because for years Rupert Gough sat amongst us, went on our excursions and regularly attended our meetings, yet we had no idea of the depth of his knowledge and the breadth of his interests. He had taken thousands of photographs and after researching had catalogued the history of the areas concerned. How we wish we had known at the time as he had so much to tell us. He was a modest and retiring man and we are so lucky that he has left us this legacy of local knowledge.

We are fortunate indeed to have so many historians in our midst and we need to know who you are!

# **Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the  
42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.  
will be held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 in the  
Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland at 8pm.

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome
  2. Apologies
  3. Confirm and adopt Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 21st September, 2007
  4. President's Report
  5. Submission and adoption of the 42nd Annual Report of the Executive Council
  6. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for 2007-2008
  7. Motions:
    - 7.1 That the position of Book Review Editor shall be added to the list of officers in the constitution as follows:  
Book Review Editor: He/she shall advise the members with pertinent comment on recently published works via the Bulletin.
    - 7.2 That the monthly meeting be held on a 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday or Sunday at 1.30pm, instead of being on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 8pm.
  8. Election of Officers for 2008-2009
  9. General Business: (pertaining to the AGM only)
- On behalf of the Executive Council of  
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

Dawn Emerson,  
President

## **PORT HACKING**

Last month your president, Dawn, and members of our Society joined dedicated residents of Port Hacking to protest against the loss of that suburb's name.

Port Hacking disappeared in January when its streets were divided between Lilli Pilli and Dolans Bay but Sutherland Shire Council and the Geographical Names Board are attempting to reverse the State Government's decision.

It is People Power which really counts and longtime resident Mrs. Mindy Maggio has been tireless in her efforts to prevent the absorption of her suburb into these larger entities. So we joined her in a protest at the milestone in Caringbah which proclaims for all the world to see that 'PORT HACKING 3 MILES' is the distance to that suburb.

Mrs. Maggio's late mother owned the Port Hacking Post Office store. She recalled their Progress Association meeting by lamplight in an old barn and neighbours remember the mail being delivered on horseback. As a teenager she found the original deeds of the property which went back to 1860.

It is people like Mindy, Isabel White, Kelvin Hunt, Kay Lindop, Margaret Richardson and Wally and Betty Harmen who keep history alive with their support and continual vigilance.

Let us hope their efforts will not be in vain.

## Meet the Executive. - Marjorie Blackley



Some time ago my granddaughter was asked to bring along an antique to the school for discussion.

She asked if she could bring her grandmother – so I went along and spoke about my life ‘in the olden days.’

I think I must be the oldest member of this society. I have been a member for many years and have been the Secretary and the Publicity Officer and labelled and packed the Bulletins. Today I am the Publicity Officer and still label and pack the Bulletins.

I was born in Kogarah with a midwife in attendance at the latter end of the First World War and lived in the same house until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

When I was eleven years old the great depression had hit Australia and my father, a compositor with the Government Printing Office was forced to resign at 60 instead of the retiring age of 65. There was no pension until he was 65 and consequently there was simply no money at all coming into our home. My Mother before her marriage was the Manager of the Queens Hotel in Bundaberg and a remarkable manager in all things. So our modest home was turned into a miniature boarding house accommodating two male boarders. I was transferred to the front verandah – partly enclosed – with a tarpaulin over the bed to keep off the wet weather. Butter boxes were my wardrobe. I loved it – a room to myself and plenty of fresh air. My father ran a few fowls and grew our vegetables and we existed. Two old men lived in the house opposite and kept a racehorse – we used to trade eggs for manure.

We bought a rabbit each week from the Rabbito selling from his horse and cart. The grocer rang each Monday morning for an order and delivered, usually with a free bag of boiled sweets. Milk was delivered twice a day because there was no refrigeration and with small dairies in many suburbs there wasn't far for it to travel. Fish was often purchased from a local man who spent his days fishing and eked out a living selling his catch. We thought nothing of walking to Brighton le Sands from Kogarah on Sunday mornings for a swim. Baths were divided into two sections one for the men and one for the women. The women's section had a thick rope spread across it so that you had something to hang on to. As children we played in the streets – there was little traffic and what there was was slow. I made friends that have lasted a lifetime. Father Christmas always came and Dad would kill and pluck a fowl and Mum would clean and bake it preserving the giblets for delicious soup. The Christmas pudding had threepences hidden in it and the day was shared with old friends.

Almost to the day I turned 14 a job was found for me at the local drapers. My wage was 11/9 (slightly less than \$1.20) per 60 hour week. When really bad times came we had one week off in three without pay. I wrote the first script for an advertisement to go on that new wonder Radio and it nearly caused a riot in the shop the next day with the number of women that arrived to buy those awful rayon stockings at 2/1ld a pair. I remember vividly so many injustices – one when the ‘boss’ called to the buyer of the men's wear department – a man in his forties – who had been there since he was a boy saying “Oh Arthur I want you to finish up”. Arthur replied “I'll be right with you Mr... just tying this parcel up.” “No” said the boss, “I want you to finish up altogether, I want the job for my brother in law” No hope of another job. Arthur died twelve months later.

I learned a lot in the three years at that store but I left there when my parents remembered twenty-five pounds that had been put aside for ‘education’ at my birth and so I attended Chartres Business College and became an invoice typist with the Kraft Cheese Co. I could write a book on that. There were two of us Dorothy and myself. Each invoice had seven copies – if you made an error you had to erase the error (with a rubber), each copy separately. All sums were calculated in our heads. It was some time before the calculator was used.

One Thursday, before the Saturday that was to be my wedding day I received a telegram saying “I will be overseas when you receive this” signed Alf. The section of the army that

Alf was part of had been whisked off to New Guinea without warning. We did not know then just how desperate was our war situation. It was two years before he returned and we were married. I left the Kraft Cheese Co to give birth to my son.

With Alf away and opportunities galore my parents undertook to mind my son while I returned to the work force. I took a position as secretary with the Australian Jockey Club. I became with my Mother a regular attendant of the Randwick Race meetings and loved every minute of my involvement with the AJC. I left there to give birth to my second child – a daughter Ailsa. My two children have proved my greatest joy in life.

I studied to become a needlework teacher. It took me six years part time at the East Sydney Technical College to gain my Teacher's certificate. My appointment as a tech teacher was at Meadowbank but by this time my father had died of cancer and my Mother was an invalid so it was impossible to accept. I applied for school teaching and after struggling through the leaving certificate at Jannali night school I was accepted to teach needlework at Kogarah High School on a casual basis. There was a bit of irony about it – here I was teaching needlework in the very room that my ex-needlework teacher had dismissed my sewing efforts with "You are hopeless. I'll teach you to knit."

I spent 25 years teaching needlework. To get on the permanent staff I had to do a 2 year special course at Sydney Teacher's College (later reduced to one year) after school between 4.30 and 9pm. I had to employ a lady to come in at home each night to prepare a meal for the family.

I loved dancing and was a member of the Scottish Society at Rockdale for many years. I loved all dance and enjoyed the many balls Alf and I attended. When he died I took up square dancing and later line dancing. Line dancing was my undoing as I had a fall and have had hip trouble ever since but I did take up International dancing (very gentle) with the Older Women's Network – a group of ladies in the Shire that exercise mind and body. I am still a working member of that society.

I have managed to travel - my two most exciting trips would have been one with Community Aid abroad to Tanzania where we lived and worked with indigenous people and a second trip - the train journey through Russia – on the trans-Siberian railway. I vividly remember walking to the dining car three times a day through nine carriages – so much for travelling "hard class."

Somehow I have stepped into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I have lived through many changes, met some wonderful people – been blessed with family – and can stand back and wonder at it all. After a two year course at Loftus TAFE and with the untiring efforts of Les Bursill I have become a computer addict and have had a lot of pleasure from this incredible machine. I like the internet, love having questions answered at the touch of a key, enjoy the recipes and games and keeping in touch with people so quickly, making my own greeting cards and enjoying chit chat.

I have indeed been blessed.

## **BULLETIN INDEX**

### **May 1986 – November 2006**

Following on from the Snowden Index of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletins covering the years 1966 – February 1986, Merle Kavanagh has compiled an index for the following 20 years from May 1986 – November 2006. This consists of 100 pages and is available on a 3.5" floppy disc which sells for \$10 post free, all proceeds going to the Historical Society. Printed books of the index are also available at \$12 (plus \$2.50 postage). Contact Merle Kavanagh at 6 Sumner St, Sutherland 2232 (9521 1043)

# ***MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT***

## **EXHIBITIONS**

- Frank Vickery Village, Sylvania – Antiques Fair, October 2007.  
The fair was organised very professionally and we had 680+ visitors on the day.
- Australia Day 2008 – Cronulla Community Hall, Surf Road.  
The location was changed this year and proved to be better for our display, “100 years of Cronulla”. We had 600+ people visit our display.
- Heritage Festival 2008 – 28<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April – Sutherland Memorial School of Arts.  
“100 years of scouting” and the First World War 1914/18 in the Owen Jones replica home were well received. The main foyer contained items of interest and photographs for our other display theme “Our place”. The total visitors for this festival were 703.

We also had 5 special openings of the museum during the year for 2 local school classes, 2 retirement villages, 2 Cub and 1 Scout group, totaling 97 visitors.

Donations to our museum continue to be strong with a large variety of items still waiting to be stored safely prior to exhibition. Hopefully our problem with this should be resolved in the near future with the help of Sutherland Shire Council who are, like this society, the co-custodians of this Shire’s history and heritage for future generations.

Our most recent exhibition celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting, and has proved to be very popular with our visitors and local scout groups. A big thank you goes to one of our foundation members, Mr. Richard Peir, who loaned a number of early documents, photos and memorabilia that date from the Boer War which belonged to his Grandfather who was at one time Baden Powell’s aid in South Africa, where the ideas for scouting and its early uniforms came from. Special thanks must also go to our members Merle, Daphne, Pat and David, my son Steven, niece Denise and nephew Wayne – for the loan of a large part of our items in this display. Thanks also to Mr. Roger Critchley who donated a DVD showing 3 performances of the Kirrawee Gang Show, which has been enjoyed by many in our small theatre.

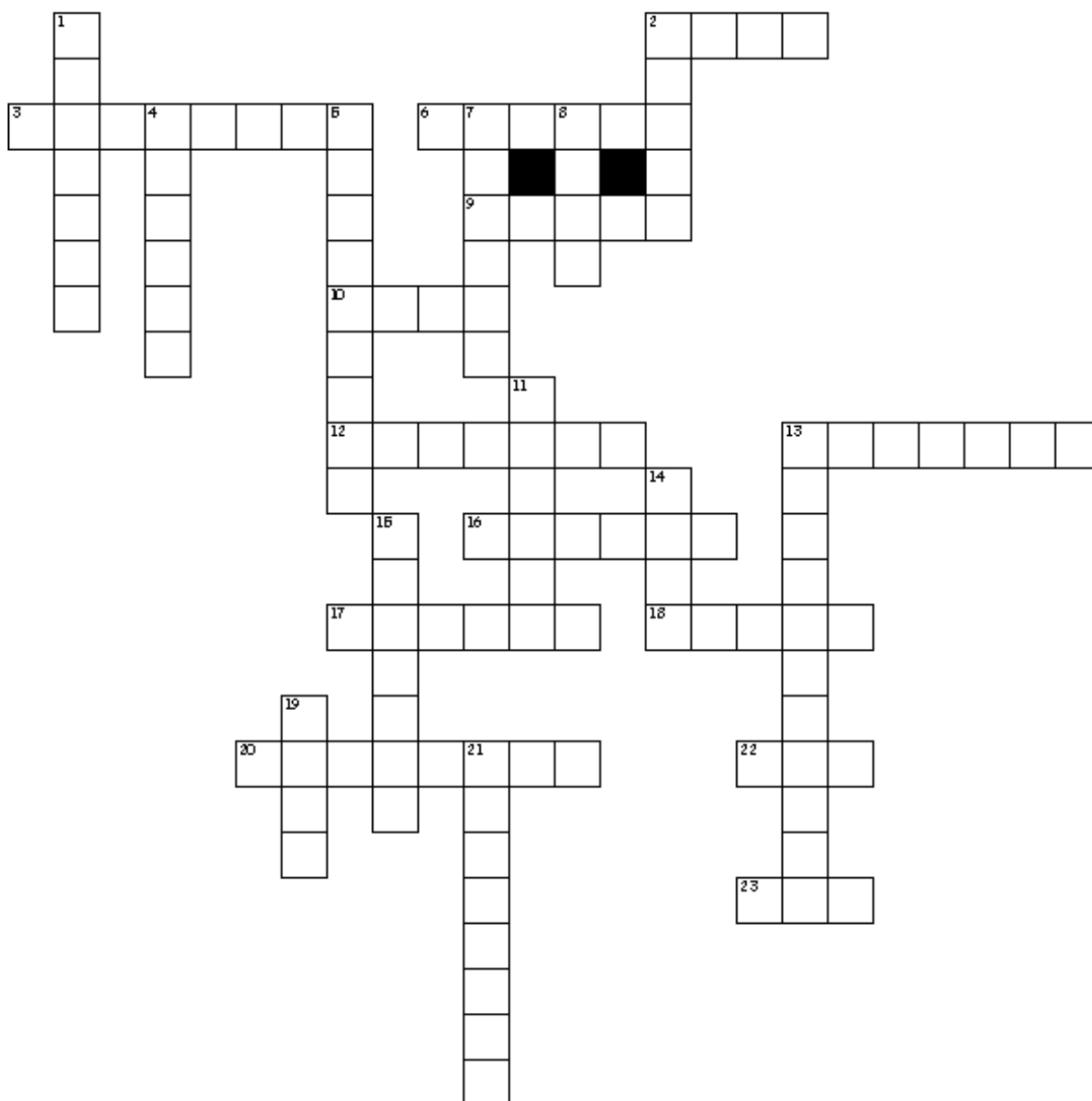
Has anybody not had any association with this great scouting organization in one way or another??!!

Many thanks to my museum committee regulars Dawn & Cliff Emerson, Terry McCosker, Angela Thomas, Merle Kavanagh, Daphne Salt, Norma Jean Taylor, Maurie Bevan, John Risebrow and David Overett. Our exhibitions would be difficult to produce without the help given by Helen McDonald of the local studies area of Sutherland library and the Council’s assistance with transport of items during the Australia Day exhibition.

Thank you all once again for your assistance.

Jim Cutbush  
Museum Curator

## *Shire History 2*



### **Across**

2. First Shire President. William \_\_\_\_\_
3. James Cook set sail from here in 1768
6. Surname of original owners of Yowie Bay Pleasure Grounds
9. Creek with natural stone bridge
10. World War 11 finished in 194\_\_
12. Early sculling champion. Elias \_\_\_\_\_
13. Legendary cockatoo at Tom Uglys
16. Winner of 1927 Surf Queen contest. Phyllus \_\_\_\_\_
17. Thomas Holt's home at Tempe. The \_\_\_\_\_
18. Thomas Holt lost a son to this malady. Scarlet \_\_\_\_\_
20. Early name for Miranda
22. Year the Sutherland Shire Historical Society commenced. 196\_\_\_\_\_
23. Female form of early Shire agricultural pursuit

**Down**

1. Original road name of Kingsway
2. First Menai settler. Owen \_\_\_\_\_
4. He was known as the last of the explorers. Donald \_\_\_\_\_
5. Early name for Caringbah
7. Where most boats were taken during World War 11
8. Main resource from the Kurnell peninsula
11. Original name for Heathcote. \_\_\_\_\_ Forest
13. Early name for Kirrawee
14. This popularised Cronulla
15. Known as the patriarch of Miranda. Edward \_\_\_\_\_
19. Several bores were drilled for this resource
21. First hotel in Cronulla

+++++

**Sutherland Shire Historical Society  
Balance Sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

| <u>Assets</u>                               | \$             | \$             |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Commonwealth Bank – Cheque Account          |                |                |
| Statement balance                           | 1119.15        |                |
| Unpresented cheques                         | <u>51.95</u>   | 1147.20        |
| St George                      term deposit |                | 13,288.00      |
| Commonwealth Bank – term deposit            |                | 8666.50        |
| <br><u>Equity</u>                           |                |                |
| Retained earnings                           |                | 16959.24       |
| Current earnings                            | <u>6148.76</u> | <u>6148.76</u> |
|   |                | 23108.00       |

M. Beaven  
Hon. Treasurer

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 389, Sutherland 2232

INCOME and EXPENDITURE STATEMENT as at  
30th June 2008.

INCOME

|                                |             |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Member Subscriptions.          | \$1782. 00. |                   |
| Donations                      | \$6645. 20. |                   |
| Sales                          | \$88. 00.   |                   |
| Excursions & outings/Functions | \$189. 00.  |                   |
| Interest Received-             |             |                   |
| St.George Term Deposit         | 350.66      |                   |
| Commonwealth Term Dep          | 283.95      |                   |
| Commonwealth-Cheque Acc        | 21.13       | \$655. 74.        |
|                                |             | <u>\$9359.94.</u> |

Expenditure

|  |                  |                   |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Museum Expenses                        | \$58.10.         |                   |
| Bank fees                              | \$26.10.         |                   |
| Excursion/function costs               | \$96.25          |                   |
| Rent                                   | \$299.53.        |                   |
| Postages                               | \$540.40.        |                   |
| Printing & Stationery                  | \$663.45.        |                   |
| Fees & Licences                        | \$193.00.        |                   |
| Donations                              | \$40.00.         |                   |
| Insurance -Public Liability/pers Accid | \$528.00.        |                   |
| Web site expenses                      | \$600.00.        |                   |
| General Expenses                       | <u>\$166.35.</u> | <u>\$3211.18.</u> |
|  | Net Profit       | <u>\$6148.76.</u> |

.....*M. Beaven*.....  
M. Beaven.  
Hon.Treasurer.

I Caroline Draper, certify that I have audited the above accounts and books and find they are a true and accurate position of the Society as at 30th June 2008.

.....*Caroline Draper*.....

.....*30/7/08*.....

# A (very) brief history of the world

## Part 3 The Industrial and Information Ages 1750 - 2000

Bruce Watt

### Overview

There is an old Chinese proverb; 'May you live in interesting times.' The last 250 years have in many ways been the most extraordinary period in all of human history. The following is a brief synopsis of the major themes and changes that have dominated this era.

**Population:** 2000 years ago the world's population was no more than 300 million people and by 1750 it had grown to about 800 million. Disease and pestilence had kept population growth roughly in check. By 1800 it reached the first billion and took 125 years to double. Between 1925 and 1975 it doubled again to 4 billion and in the next 25 years it had reached 6 billion people. More people were added to the world's population in the 1990s than in all of history up to 1750. 'It was not that we'd started breeding like rabbits; it was more that we had stopped dying like flies.' World population will grow to 9 billion over the next 50 years and will most likely stabilize. But that will mean that the world's population will have increased by 900% in 250 years. Many of the developed countries are starting to experience a leveling in the rate of growth or even a decline though growth in less developed countries is continuing rapidly.

**English** emerged as the pre-eminent global language in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century but this would not have been apparent in 1750. The loss of the American colonies in the 1770s forced Britain to turn its eyes to the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The immense wealth that subsequently flowed from colonies that Britain developed helped cement Britain's economic and political power well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Politics:** Most monarchies were swept away. Replacing these were a variety of economic and / or political experiments including Socialism, Communism, Republicanism, the Welfare State, Fascism and Capitalism. In some, individual rights were not preserved; however in general, there was a gradual move to universal suffrage, human rights and equality aided by higher literacy, increased wealth, and the improved status of women. Most of the major European countries adopted the principles associated with Capitalism and living standards increased considerably. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the gap between the rich and poor countries (or the 'haves' and the 'have nots') continued to widen.

**Religion** tends to flourish when daily life is more perilous and painful. The firm hand that religion had exerted on daily life began to weaken by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century as economic prosperity began to improve. Curiosity with the way the world was organised became a preoccupation with scientists who sought to bring rational order to the classification of living and non living things. The publication of 'The origin of species' by Charles Darwin in 1861 created a furor as it contradicted the traditional biblical creationists' view of history.

**Colonisation:** The 19<sup>th</sup> Century was a period of intense fascination with science and discovery and much of the non European parts of the world were explored and annexed as colonies of European countries, especially Britain, France and Germany. Within Europe, national boundaries were being redrawn as disparate regions were being drawn together in a wave of nationalism and nation building. A trend in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw many former colonies seeking and gaining independence from former colonial 'masters'. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 'globalisation' associated with the rapid movement of people, goods and ideas began to replace nationalism as an economic force. Institutions such as the European 'Economic Union' was established to achieve greater economies of scale by combining member countries into a larger single political unit. Thousands of Trans National Corporations which operate across national borders began to dominate the international commercial world.

**Energy:** The harnessing of energy sources other than human or animal power set the modern era apart and allowed all of the developments associated with the Industrial Revolution that began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Energy sources have included wood, coal, wind, gas, petroleum and uranium. James Watt didn't invent the steam engine, however his improvements to its efficiency allowed the mining industry to expand and with coal as a power source, it enabled the factory system to flourish.

**Work:** Changes in the nature of work including specialisation and division of labour and the assembly line which promoted speed, efficiency and standardisation were introduced. Enormous social change followed as workers moved to factory towns.

**Government intervention** and regulation increased as a result of the growing urbanization.

The earliest Police Force was established in England in 1829. They were known as ‘Bobbies’ or ‘Peelers’ after the politician, Robert Peel, who established the force. Though initially banned, trade unions began to expand in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to protect workers’ rights and to seek better working conditions. The expanding role of governments led to social reforms including universal suffrage, age pensions and other welfare benefits, compulsory education, changes to the status and rights of women and laws protecting the rights of children.

The adoption of electricity as a source of lighting had profound effects on human activity. Without reliable lighting, the coming of darkness generally meant that people went to bed. Electric lighting blurred the distinction between night and day. Factories could operate around the clock and greater output could be achieved.

**Transport and communication** methods separate the modern era from all previous times. Up until the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, most people lived and died within a radius of about 20 kilometres from where they were born. Steam driven trains began operating in England in 1825. In one of the greatest explosions of any technology ever over the next 75 years, a network of train lines criss-crossed most countries. Steam powered ships began to replace sail. The era of mass transport and migration had begun. The adoption of the private motor vehicle as a means of mass transportation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century fundamentally altered the nature of work, urban growth and recreation.

During the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century the telegraph system allowed instant communications between countries. Photography was one of the great inventions of this period and for the first time; personal records and events of national interest could be captured for posterity. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, motion pictures allowed events to be recorded and a revolution in public entertainment began.

**Health:** Barring natural disasters in countries such as China and India, the last great famine of the modern era occurred in Ireland in 1848. A disease called potato blight rendered the staple potato crop useless. Up to a million people starved to death and many more migrated to America, Australia and other countries.

**War** has been a feature of human existence throughout time. Technology fundamentally altered the nature of war in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Heavy artillery, machine guns, motorised transport, tanks, aeroplanes and submarines increased the impact of warfare. The First World War was fought however using new technology but old tactics. As a result, the war ground to a halt; a war of attrition as massive armies and equipment in roughly equal proportions were pitted against each other. Trench warfare was a static tactic that wore both sides down at a tremendous cost in lives and equipment. Two world wars were fought during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and collateral damage and loss of military and civilian life was far in excess of any wars in previous times.

**Economics:** The 20<sup>th</sup> Century brought great wealth to many countries but the economic foundations from time to time, sowed the seeds of its own collapse. The decade following World War 1 was generally prosperous for western nations. New inventions including radio and television, the availability of mass produced motor vehicles and a general feeling of prosperity was evident. World Stock Markets reflected the mood and prices climbed until by the end of the decade a ‘bubble market’ had developed. The collapse on the Wall Street Stock Market in New York in October 1929 sent economic shock waves through world financial markets which eventually led to a severe world depression lasting for several years. Up to one third of workers lost their jobs. This was at a time when there was usually only one breadwinner in a family. Conventional economic wisdom up to this time was that if the country was in recession (or depression), the government too should tighten its belt as well as individuals. John Maynard Keynes, an English Mathematician published a book in 1936 which turned economic management on its head. In ‘The general theory on employment, interest and money’ he argued that governments need to act in a counter cyclical manner. During economic downturns, governments need to spend money to stimulate demand. Alternatively during upturns, they need to cut back on spending. This counter cyclical theory of fiscal policy management became a fundamental aspect of economic management during the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In the United States, President Roosevelt had used a similar concept in his ‘New Deal’ in 1933 where he stimulated employment through an extensive program of road and dam building and public works.

**The nuclear age:** America’s decision to explode nuclear bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ushered in the nuclear age. The latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was dominated by the ‘Cold War’ between the two superpowers; the USA and The Soviet Union. For most of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the world lived in fear of a nuclear war between the two superpowers. Diplomatic and economic relations between Communist countries of China and the Soviet bloc of Eastern Europe and Western

Capitalist countries were almost non-existent. The collapse of Soviet Communism in 1989 and adoption of capitalist market ideas by China has fundamentally altered the international outlook. China's economy will exceed the size of the US economy by 2020 and India has one of the fastest growing economies.

Many of the most influential people of all time lived within this period. These include James Watt, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Louis Pasteur, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Guglielmo Marconi, Adolf Hitler, Albert Einstein, Joseph Stalin, Henry Ford and John F. Kennedy.

## **1750 - 1800**

The era is often referred to as the 'Age of Reason' or the 'period of enlightenment'. Events which dominate this period include the British exploration of the Pacific, the American Revolution, the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution.

### **The Age of Reason**

Growing out of the scientific revolution begun by Galileo and Newton, writers and scholars including Locke, Rousseau and Voltaire began to challenge traditional ideas about the authority of kings, the structure of the universe and the authority of religion. At this time France was the most powerful European country. Many philosophers were questioning the role of monarchs and the issue of human rights. In England in 1776, Adam Smith published 'An inquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations' which was the first modern study of Economics.

George III ascended the English throne in 1760. With three Georges as kings in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, this is referred to as the Georgian period. The period of his reign was a very eventful period in European history. Whilst he did not die until 1820, during the last 20-30 years of his reign he was suffering from a rare but as yet undiagnosed illness deriving from an hereditary blood disorder which existed within parts of the European royal families. As a result he is often referred to as the 'mad king'. His son was virtually in power from the late 1790s and served as the Prince Regent. The early 19<sup>th</sup> Century period is referred to as the Regency period.

### **Pacific exploration**

Between 1768 and 1779, James Cook, (later Captain) undertook three voyages of exploration in the Pacific Ocean. He was killed in Hawaii in 1779. Sailing with Cook on his first voyage was Joseph Banks, a person of considerable wealth and social status who had paid for his passage. On this voyage, the eastern coast of New Holland was explored and mapped. When the American colonies were lost, Banks avidly promoted the case for Botany Bay to be used as a penal colony for British convicts. By taking possession of the eastern half of New South Wales in 1770, Cook had blocked French expansion in the area. In 1787, a fleet of 11 ships and about 1100 Marines and convicts left Portsmouth in England. Finding Botany Bay unsuitable, the colony was moved to Sydney Cove and on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1788 under the leadership of Admiral Arthur Phillip as Governor, the British flag was raised. The early period was very difficult as the colony lacked food and equipment and there was a poor understanding of the environment.

### **The American Revolution**

In 1756 England became involved in the Seven Years war between France, Prussia and Russia over the French presence in North America. It had been costly and American colonists were taxed without their consent. In 1775 British troops were sent to quell protestors. In 1776 the revolutionaries proclaimed a Declaration of Independence. Over the next seven years there were many battles. In 1783 George Washington's army scored a decisive victory and the Treaty of Paris forced Great Britain to recognise the independence of the 13 American colonies. In 1789 George Washington became the first President of the new nation.

### **The French Revolution**

Dissatisfaction and resentment with the excesses and privileges of the French Royal and aristocratic class was growing by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The emerging middle class or bourgeoisie objected to the heavy taxes. The Seven Years war had all but bankrupted the government. Food shortages and calls for the National Assembly to be representative of the people led to widespread rebellion. On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1789 an angry Parisian mob stormed the prison fortress of the Bastille looking for guns and ammunition. This marked the beginning of the revolution. Word of the crowd's success spread and uprisings occurred

throughout the country. In August a Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen was drafted and a new Constitution was established.

In 1792 the Monarchy was abolished, France was proclaimed a Republic and King Louis XVI accused of treason. In January 1793, the King and his wife Marie Antoinette were beheaded by guillotine. A period known as the Reign of Terror followed in which thousands of 'counter-revolutionaries' were summarily executed. Robespierre, the leader of the Jacobins was eventually arrested and guillotined in June 1794 and some calm returned.

In 1799 another coup d'etat was executed by a group of politicians and the army. This began the brilliant career of a young general called Napoleon Bonaparte.

### **The British in India**

After 1750, Britain began to exert imperial supremacy. The loss of the American colonies was offset by the seizure of India which became 'the jewel in Britain's crown.' Britain's colonies became sources of cheap raw materials and markets for manufactured goods. At its height it was said that 'the sun never sets on the British Empire'. It controlled a quarter of the earth's territory including 400 million people.

The British East India Company had been operating in India. To protect their economic interests they employed local troops called sepoys. In 1756 the Indian ruler of Bengal seized Calcutta's British garrison for violation of trading regulations. They were held overnight in a poorly ventilated cell, later called the 'Black Hole of Calcutta'. By morning, most had died. In retaliation in 1757, Colonel Robert Clive retook Calcutta and went on to seize all of Bengal. By 1849, Britain dominated all of India. Infrastructure, including railroads, schools, and the establishment of the Westminster legal system are a legacy of British rule and today, provide a sound basis for India's growth. However in the meantime, Britain extracted huge wealth.

### **The Industrial Revolution**

The word 'revolution' denotes a sudden and complete change. The confluence of events that took place in England, and subsequently other European countries and the USA, between 1769 and about 1900, fundamentally altered the nature of work, workplaces and lifestyle.

Northern England had traditionally been home to a cottage textile industry. In 1769, Thomas Arkwright patented a machine, called the spinning jenny, for spinning cotton into a strong thread. Thomas Newcomen had invented a steam engine to pump seeping water out of mines in 1712; however it was not very efficient. In 1769, James Watt patented a much improved engine and over the next 20 years made several more improvements. Up until this time, human muscles had been the main source of power. This invention provided the vital stimulus to the industrial revolution and within a short time, steam power was used extensively in factories, ships and locomotives. The location of industry was no longer tied to a source of water. The north of England, where there was a plentiful supply of coal, became a centre of heavy industry and the wealth derived from it, along with resources and cheap raw materials from Britain's colonies, brought great prosperity to Victorian England in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. A downside to this rapid industrialisation was a very heavily polluted and degraded landscape.

Unfettered by restrictive labour laws, factories became hell holes in which adults and children worked long hours in unhealthy conditions. Industrialists became extremely wealthy and most people's standard of living generally improved, however mechanisation was making many traditional jobs redundant. Unskilled workers feared that machines would take over their jobs. In 1811, a group of textile workers fearful that weaving machines were taking their jobs broke into a weaving shop to destroy the machines. Termed 'Luddites' after (possibly) a fictitious leader, Ned Ludd, they continued to smash machinery and burn factories for 14 months until an army of 14,000 troops were sent to quell the violence. Dozens of Luddites were executed or exiled to Australia.

The government's response to the industrial situation up until this time had been laissez-faire (let it be). However in 1832 they passed the first Factory Act. One provision was to establish a minimum working age of nine years. An 1853 Act established a 12 hour workday with a half hour break.

Revolutions in Europe during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century made governments fearful of worker uprisings. In Britain laws had been passed forbidding the congregation of people which might give rise to sedition. Trade Unions had been banned though this was repealed in 1824. In Dorset in 1833 the Tolpuddle Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers was founded. Agricultural workers were particularly poorly paid. But in 1834, six of the Tolpuddle labourers were arrested and charged with administering an illegal oath to a new member. They were found guilty and sentenced to transportation to New South Wales for seven years.

Following protests and petitions, they were eventually pardoned after two years. They are remembered as the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century a second Industrial Revolution occurred with the inventions of electricity, the telegraph, gas lighting, telephone, the phonograph, typewriter and radio.

## 1800 – 1850

Napoleon Bonaparte was of Corsican origin and trained in the military. He was a second lieutenant when the French Revolution broke out. As commander of the French army in Italy, he achieved some spectacular victories and was hailed as a hero. During this campaign he was promoted to Brigadier General. In 1798 he headed a French invasion of Egypt although the expedition was a disaster. He abandoned his army and returned to France where he took part in a coup d'etat.



He became the first consul in a new government and soon assumed complete power in what was in effect, a military dictatorship. His rise was spectacular as he was still only 30 years old. He initiated changes to the administration, legal and financial systems. He created the Bank of France and the University of France. He also created the French civil code which guaranteed equality of all men under the law and abolished privileges of birth.

In 1804 he proclaimed himself Emperor of France and installed three of his brothers on the thrones of other European States.

Involvement in foreign wars provoked his eventual downfall. In 1805, the French navy was decisively beaten by Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar. From

that time on, Britain's naval supremacy was not challenged.

A major defeat occurred in 1812 when he foolishly attacked Russia after breaking a treaty of friendship. The Grande Armee marched on Moscow and quickly captured it. Caught short with supplies and with the Russian winter approaching, the army began a retreat which quickly turned into a rout. Less than 10% of the Grande Armee got out of Russia alive. Following another defeat he resigned and was banished to Elba, a small island off Italy, however he escaped in 1815 and was welcomed back and restored to power. His last major defeat was at the Battle of Waterloo. The British had him imprisoned on the small island of St Helena in the South Atlantic where he died in 1821.

One of the most long term affects of his rule occurred in 1803, when cash strapped he made the offer to sell a vast portion of France's North America possessions to the American government for three cents an acre. The Louisiana Purchase transformed the United States into nation of near continental size. The price of this land purchase was \$15,000,000.

## Revolution in the air

In 1848, political revolution swept across Europe although it was largely suppressed or poorly supported. Agitation for political change persisted though throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In Germany and Italy political unification into modern states occurred.



Throughout Europe workers began to clamour for better working conditions and voting rights. In 1848, Karl Marx, along with his friend Friedrich Engels, published a book called the Communist Manifesto. In it they called on the workers of the world to unite and throw off the shackles of capitalism. In 1867 Marx published Das Kapital. Marx's work outlined the theoretical basis of Communism as well as many modern forms of Socialism. Marx incorrectly predicted that over time, working people would become progressively poorer and that in time the working class would rise up and overthrow the exploitive capitalist employers. In reality, workers in western capitalist countries saw their standards of living rising and didn't seek the radical solution of revolution to achieve their aims. They resorted to the less radical trade union movement to gain better pay and conditions and political representation. Communism did take hold in Russia and later China

and other countries but under different circumstances. As a working economic system, Communism flourished for a while in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century but has all but disappeared. The method of preserving the socialist system of government generally involved repressive dictatorship and loss of personal freedoms which ultimately proved unpalatable for the general population.

## **Ireland's potato famine**

Britain had gradually seized control in Ireland and absentee British landlords owned much of the land. Poor Irish tenant farmers eked out a meagre existence on small plots of land. Their staple food crop was the potato. In 1845 a fungal infection turned the potatoes to rotting mush. The same thing happened in 1846 and 1848. They had no potatoes to eat or sell. Having no money, the English absentee landlords evicted them. One million Irish died of starvation or typhus and cholera. Those who could, bought passage in 'coffin ships' to America, Canada or Australia. Up to one third died during the voyages. Ireland's population fell by a half. Resentment between the mainly Protestant English and the mainly Catholic Irish continued. In 1916 an Irish uprising was brutally put down by English troops.

## **The California Gold rush**

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. Over the next seven years, 300,000 people poured into the area travelling overland or by sailing ship, sparking one of the greatest land rushes. The population growth allowed California to join the Union of American States. Gold was discovered in New South Wales in 1851 and in later in Victoria sparking a similar influx of population into Australia.

## **China**

China had remained isolated from the west for several centuries. However, Britain was keen to commence trade. To achieve this they arranged with Chinese drug dealers in Guangzhou to exchange Indian grown opium for Chinese goods. Opium addiction soared. The Emperor, seeking to suppress the trade had a large quantity of opium seized and destroyed. The Opium War between China and Britain ensued. Britain quickly gained control and forced concessions from the Chinese including opening up more trade. China slowly began to engage with the west.

## **1850 – 1900**

### **The Victorian era**

The Victorian era in The United Kingdom refers to the period of rule of Queen Victoria from June 1837 to January 1901. This was a long period of economic prosperity gained from its overseas empire, the fruits of the industrial revolution and a period of political reform and technological and scientific progress. Hers was the longest reign of any British monarch. In 1840 she married her first cousin, Albert of Saxe Coberg Saalfeld.



The Great Exhibition of 1851 in the Crystal Palace, an enormous glass and iron structure, showcased the many great achievements of the era. Though the era was morally conservative, the wealth in the era manifested itself in some fine stately homes and richly embellished architecture.

In 1861, the Queen's beloved husband, Prince Albert died prematurely and she went into mourning for 40 years. She became reclusive and wore black. She had nine children, many of them marrying into the royal families of Europe. Her first daughter Victoria had a son who became Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany who led his country into the Great War (1914 – 18). Upon the

Queen's death, her second son, Albert Edward became king (1901 – 1910). The early period of the 20<sup>th</sup> century therefore is referred to as the 'Edwardian' period.

## **Japan**

Like China, Japan had long shunned contact with the west and was technologically backward. In 1853, under pressure, it agreed to an American request to open some trading ports. In 1869, a new emperor began a radical overhaul of administration and commenced an astonishing transformation of Japanese society to meet the western challenge by acquiring western knowledge and modern technology. The remarkable transformation transformed it into a major regional power in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **The American Civil War      1861 – 1865**

The civil war was fought between the northern Unionists and the southern Confederate states, largely over the issue of slavery. The south was fearful that the abolition of slavery would destroy their economy which was based on cotton plantations worked by slaves.

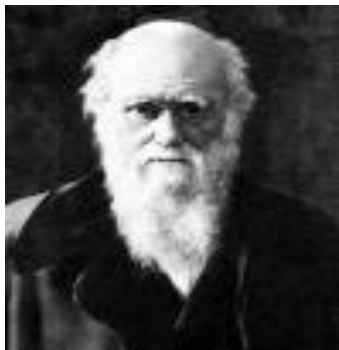


Abraham Lincoln was elected as President in 1861. His newly formed Republican Party opposed slavery. Seven states in the deep south seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America.

War was declared between the north and the south and fighting continued for four years. Modern weapons resulted in a large loss of life. On the bloodiest day, 23,000 lives were lost. Eventually, the Unionists gained control and General Lee surrendered to General Grant on April 9 1865. President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Slavery was abolished in 1865 and laws guaranteeing rights of blacks were passed. However, southern states later imposed voting restrictions that disenfranchised most blacks. The white supremacist group, the Ku Klux Klan was established at this time. It wasn't

until the 1960s that black Americans achieved equality.

Charles Darwin was the originator of the theory of organic evolution by natural selection. In 1831 he secured a position as a naturalist on board HMS Beagle which made a five year voyage of discovery in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. What he observed provided evidence that would in time help him to formulate a theory about evolution. In 1859 he published a book called 'The origin of species' which created a furor. In 1871 he published 'The descent of man and selection in relation to sex.' His assertion that man was descended from ape-like creatures created a raging controversy.



Louis Pasteur was a French scientist whose discoveries of germs and his subsequent development of vaccines which were weakened strains of the infection which helped the body to build immunity, did more to raise life

expectancy of humanity than any other person. He developed a technique, known as pasteurization, in which harmful bacteria in beverages were destroyed.

Thomas Edison was a prolific inventor who patented over 1,000 separate inventions. Amongst the most significant were the phonograph in 1877 and the electric light bulb in 1879.

## **Global conflict**

### **1900 - 1950**

The start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century marked a break from the Victorian era. Women were agitating for the vote and political tensions between countries were emerging. Horse power was still the most important means of transport. A revolution in mass personal transport was about to begin. Military brass bands were popular. Though tensions were mounting, there was also great optimism.

Henry Ford did not invent mass production, but by adapting the principles of standardisation and the assembly line, he revolutionised manufacturing and in doing so, greatly increased living standards. In 1885, Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler invented the automobile. In 1896, Henry Ford had built one of his own but his early attempts were failures. He began the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and in 1908 his



famous T model caught the public's imagination. Eventually he produced 15 million of them. His marketing concept was simple. To sell at a low price he would need to keep his production costs low. He devised a set of efficient production techniques including interchangeable parts, division of labour and the assembly line which would bring the components to the workers. Ford pioneered time and motion studies in which the most efficient methods were studied to reduce time wastage. In 1908, the cheapest T model sold for \$825. By 1913 it was \$500, \$360 in 1916 and \$290 by 1926. A famous saying and one that illustrated his cost saving strategy was that you can have a T model 'in any colour you like as long as it's black.'

Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first powered flight of an aeroplane at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina in 1903. Their experiments began first with gliders. Their most important breakthrough came in



the discovery of wing aerodynamics that would provide sufficient lift. Propeller design and engines that provided sufficient weight to power ratios were important considerations.

Within a decade aircraft were being used in warfare and commercial flight reduced travel times.

## World War 1

The reasons for the outbreak of The Great War (1914 – 1918), later called World War 1 are complex but the initial catalyst was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria – Hungary in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. War spread like an infection due to the complex web of alliances between European countries that obliged them to defend their allies. Germany initially invaded France, expecting a quick victory. French defenses blocked the advance and both sides dug in. Trench warfare had begun. Heavy artillery, machine guns, hand grenades, the relatively flat terrain with little cover, the use of mustard and chloride gas, infection and disease lead to enormous casualties on both sides. In the battle of the Somme, fought between July 1 and November 18, 1916, death due to artillery bombing was staggering. On the first day alone, there were more than 57,000 British casualties. Many men were just listed as ‘missing in action.’ Large shells simply obliterated them or buried and reburied them until no recognisable body parts remained. Apart from the immense military casualties, soldiers developed trench foot from standing in freezing water for days as well as diseases spread by rotting corpses, rats, lice and fleas. Wounds turned septic and gangrene led to many amputations. Perhaps as bad as the physical injuries was a psychological disorder known as ‘shell shock’ caused by the constant exposure to bombardment, death and suffering.



Australia, along with other British Empire members quickly joined the war to defend ‘Mother England’. On a per capita basis, Australia suffered one of the heaviest casualty rates of any country. Australia and New Zealand operated largely under British command as the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp. (ANZAC). Gallipoli, in Turkey, was the first major battle in which ANZAC forces took part against Turkish forces. It was a military disaster which resulted in a withdrawal of troops for no tactical gain after several months. However, its significance was as a first ‘bloodying’ of Australian troops in defence of its allies. Despite other significant engagements in France during the rest of the war, the legend of ANZAC has gained a significant place in the Australian psyche. Anzac Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April, marks the landing of Allied troops at Anzac Cove in 1915, and is one of the most significant days on the Australian calendar. The United States of America did not enter the war until 1917. The injection of fresh troops and military equipment combined to end the stalemate that had resulted in a fairly evenly matched war of attrition. A truce ending the war was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. There were over 30 million military and civilian casualties as a result of the war. The Treaty of Versailles imposed severe financial penalties on Germany and set the scene for future conflict which would result in another world war in the next generation.

The burdensome ‘reparation payments’ imposed on Germany caused discontent and hardship. The German government found it hard to meet the payments and resorted to printing money. This was highly inflationary. In 1923, hyperinflation took over. Money was losing value so quickly that workers needed to spend their day’s pay immediately because by the next day it would be worthless. People’s life savings were wiped out. Others profiteered from the situation. Conditions such as these bred discontentment. A military coup occurred in 1923, but the agitators including Adolf Hitler, from a small right wing party called the National Socialist German Workers Party (NAZI), were gaoled.

## The rise of Fascism



Fascism is an ultra 'right wing' political philosophy which is opposed to Socialism and Communism but also capitalism. It was in a sense a 'third way'. Authoritarianism gained appeal after World War 1 as people were drawn to extremist politics promoted by ideals of national unity, strength, purity and patriotism. Italy, Germany and Spain were leading post war fascist states. German fascism promoted the concept of the purity of the Aryan race. Jews and Gypsies were brutally attacked and studies were produced claiming blacks to be racially inferior.

In Italy, Benito Mussolini seized power in 1922 and became a dictator. He promoted employment through public works but as in Germany, introduced strict censorship and state propaganda. In other parallels, his secret police or enforcers were the blackshirts whereas in Germany they were the

brownshirts. Mussolini proclaimed himself 'Il Duce' (the leader) and Hitler called himself der Fuhrer (the leader).

Whilst imprisoned, Adolf Hitler wrote a book called 'Mein Kampf' (My struggle), which outlined his political agenda.

During the depression years, the Nazi Party was able to seize power and Hitler was appointed Chancellor. He rapidly established a dictatorship and ruthlessly crushed any opposition. Hitler's aim was to restore the Fatherland to its former glory and beyond by military conquest to gain more living room. Britain and France didn't intervene initially when Germany rebuilt and rearmed the navy, army and airforce and then annexed, or overran Austria. In the words of the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, by appeasing Hitler they had achieved 'peace for our time'. Within a year however, World War 11 had begun.

## The Russian Revolution of 1917

The Russian revolution resulted in the overthrow of the Russian ruling monarchy and the establishment of a Communist dictatorship under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. At the start of the war, a well equipped and efficient German army attacked Russia and made rapid advances. Extremely heavy troop losses in the ill equipped Russian army caused widespread discontent. There were widespread food shortages. Czar Nicholas 11 had assumed personal control of the military and bore the brunt of much of the criticism. Even before the war, calls for political, social and economic reforms were becoming more strident. In March 1917 civil uprisings led to the abdication of the Russian royal family. The entire royal family was later murdered. An interim government was established. In November another uprising occurred in which the Bolshevik party, led by Lenin, seized control. Over the next four years, warring factions of the 'Red' (Bolshevik) armies and the 'White' (Nationalist) armies fought for control with the Leninist forces gaining control. The first Communist government, inspired by Marxist – Leninist ideals was established. Lenin died in 1924 and Joseph Stalin became leader. Russia was one of the poorest countries and Stalin sought to improve this through rapid industrialisation. Five year plans were established to modernise the economy. The government seized ownership of all privately owned assets and in the country side, farming was organised on huge state owned farms called 'collectives'. Opposition was brutally suppressed and as many as 20 million people were killed, starved or were sent to gulags or concentration camps in the following decades as the communist system was established.

## The Spanish Flu

Between March 1918 and June 1920, a particularly virulent and deadly outbreak of influenza spread throughout the world. Influenza is a common viral infection but for this particular mutation there was no immunity. Estimates of the death toll from the pandemic range from 20 million to 100 million or the equivalent of one third of Europe and more than double the number killed in World War 1. It may have killed more than the Black Death. Though called the Spanish Flu, it occurred first in Army camps in the United States. Massive war time troop movements aided its spread to Europe.

Particularly hardest hit were healthy young adults as the virus attacked the immune system causing the body's immune system to attack itself.

People without symptoms could be stricken within hours. Victims could be healthy in the morning and be dead by nightfall. Other major influenza outbreaks occurred throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century although the

affects were not as devastating. Increased travel and urbanisation however increase the risks of devastating pandemics.

## The Great Depression



The United States was a late entrant to the First World War in 1917 and didn't suffer the tremendous financial costs and loss of life that Britain, France and Germany had. The United States loaned a large amount to these countries. Repayments caused its economy to boom in the 1920s. The American Stock Market experienced a very strong speculative boom with many borrowing heavily in a surging 'bull market'. There was a general feeling of optimism in what's been dubbed the 'roaring 20s'. The period was also known as the 'Jazz Age'. Black American performers such as Louis Armstrong, ('Satchmo'), introduced a new and exciting style. Women's dress hem lengths are often an indication of the social values of the time. The short 'flapper' style dresses of the 20s were an

indication of flamboyant times. But in October 1929, the bubble burst. The Wall Street Stock Market crash which started in October would eventually see share prices fall by 80%. The slide started on October 19<sup>th</sup>. On 'Black Tuesday' October 29, share prices went into freefall. Consumer confidence plummeted and companies cut production which led to rapidly rising unemployment. Many businesses failed and up to one third of workers became unemployed. People lost confidence in banks and many sought to withdraw their money. This led to 'runs' on banks and in the USA, 10,000 of them closed, in many instances leaving investors with no chance of recovering their money. 1932 was the worst year of the depression.

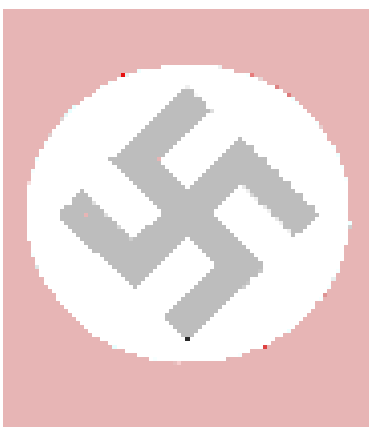
The American economy was so large that the contagion spread and it became a world wide depression. The adage that 'when America sneezes, the world catches a cold' was evident.

For those not affected by the economic circumstances however, the 1930s remained a glamorous time. 'Talking' movies were introduced in 1928. Motion pictures portrayed a glamorous lifestyle and cinema attendances were high. 'Art Deco' style influenced architecture and fashion. Big band 'Swing' music was popular.

Gradually, economic conditions improved towards the end of the decade, assisted in some ways by the rearmament being undertaken by world powers.

## World War 11 (1939 – 1945)

The Second World War was the largest war ever fought and was between the Axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan and the Allied powers of France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States as the major powers although many others were involved. Over 70 million people were killed, the majority of them civilian.



The seeds of the Second World War were sown in the emerging national tendencies of several nations, in the depression years and by the terms of the Versailles Treaty following World War 1. Germany had been stripped of land, heavy reparation payments were imposed and the people suffered a sense of national embarrassment. In Italy, Benito Mussolini seized power in the 1920s and hoped to found a 'New Roman Empire' under a fascist dictatorship. Japan's militarist regime was also intent on territorial expansion.

Hitler had risen to prominence in the turmoil of the aftermath of defeat. The German people were attracted by Hitler's rhetoric which promised to restore Germany's lost national pride. He seized absolute power in 1933. The promise of strong government and a powerful Third Reich which would last

for a thousand years was attractive. Hitler adopted a new title, the 'Führer', began public works which provided employment, adopted the swastika as the national flag and imposed civil obedience under the Gestapo who were a para-military police with coercive powers outside the normal rules of civil authority. Ferdinand Porsche helped design a cheap people's car or 'Volkswagen' in 1938. After the war, over 15 million 'beetles' were produced. Hitler was an effective orator who could stir public opinion. The Nazis used propaganda to influence public opinion and to persecute minority groups including Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals. The myth of a superior Aryan master race was created. Ethnic cleansing was to be the

solution. A 'Hitler Youth Movement' was established which operated along semi military lines and was to be a recruiting tool for military conscription.

European leaders were keen to avoid conflict and allowed Hitler to re-arm its military forces, contrary to the terms of the Versailles Treaty. They stood by as Germany invaded and annexed Austria in 1938.

However, when Poland was invaded, Britain declared war. In the first year of the war, Germany made



many territorial gains in Scandinavia, Poland, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France under its 'Blitzkrieg' or lightning strike policy. In 1940, Britain came very close to defeat but survived an intense aerial fight and bombing attack by the German Luftwaffe in what has been called the 'Battle of Britain'. Fortunately Britain had the use of radar which was a new invention capable of warning of approaching bombers. In a famous speech praising the Royal Air Force, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said that 'In the field of human battle, never has so much been owed by so many to so few.'

Winston Churchill rallied the resolve of Britain's by saying; 'We will fight on the beaches, we will fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender'.

In 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union despite having signed a peace pact with Russia. In time, opening up this large military front proved to be a costly mistake as it sapped Germany of manpower and materials. In December 1941, Germany declared war on the United States a few days after its ally, Japan had bombed the American naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

In 1942, Germany controlled more territory in Europe than had been controlled by any nation in history. However, after some crucial military defeats at El Alamein in Egypt and at Stalingrad in Russia, the German military fortunes began to wane. Bitter fighting continued for two years. On the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, a major Allied offensive known as D Day was launched with troops landing at Normandy on the French coast. It was a successful campaign that spearheaded a push to drive back German forces.

When Berlin was being overrun in April 1945, Hitler committed suicide in the bunker that served as his headquarters.

Italy's dictator, Mussolini and his mistress were killed towards the end of the war by an angry mob and hung upside down in the street by piano wire and pelted with stones.

During Hitler's years in power his regime engaged in the largest policy of genocide in history. A series of extermination camps, equipped with gas chambers for 'the final solution' were built and nearly 6 million Jews, Slavs, Gypsies, the mentally ill and the deformed were killed in the holocaust.

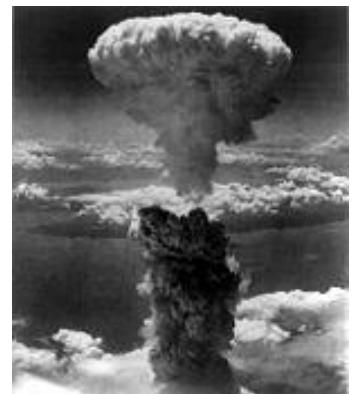
Japan's entry to the war was also influenced by its need for imperial expansion and within a short time of declaring war, its navy and army had captured large parts of the Pacific region. Japan had begun its military conquests in 1937 when it invaded Manchuria in China. Japan's attack on The United States ensured a global war. By the end of 1942, Japan controlled most of Asia. The British military garrison at Singapore had been quickly overrun in February 1942 by the Japanese and a large number of British and Australian troops were taken prisoner. The troops were mistreated and many of these were to die in prisoner of war camps at Changi in Singapore or in forced labour camps on the infamous Burma railway.

As Britain was occupied with fighting on the European front, it could not defend the Asian front.

The intervention of the United States of America was crucial to Australia's defense. A decisive naval battle in May 1942 known as the 'Battle of the Coral Sea' stemmed Japan's supremacy. Breaking a Japanese code enabled American forces to inflict a decisive defeat on the Japanese navy in the 'Battle of Midway'.

Japanese 'kamikase' (suicide) pilots inflicted heavy damage on Allied ships. Imbued with the old Japanese Samurai warrior ethic, many Japanese soldiers would prefer death, often by hari-kari (ritual disembowelment) than to be captured alive.

Between July 1942 and January 1943 a series of significant military battles were fought on the 'Kokoda Track.' The Japanese had been thwarted in the inability to capture Port Moresby, on the southern side of Papua New Guinea by their defeat in the Coral Sea battle. They devised a plan to march overland across



the Owen Stanley Ranges. Like Gallipoli in 1915, the successful defence of Kokoda by a largely Australian contingent has won it a place in Australian military history. In August 1945, America's decision to drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which resulted in the loss of over 100,000 lives, forced Emperor Hirohito to sign a surrender agreement. The largest war in history had finished.

## **Post World War 11**

The war had changed the balance of power. The superpowers that emerged were the United States and the Soviet Union and an uneasy truce based on mutual fear of military attack using nuclear weapons began. The 'Western' allies formed the NATO (North American Treaty Organisation) pact and the Soviet Union and its allies formed the WARSAW pact. The 'Cold War' era emerged. Dialogue between the Soviet Union and its allied countries and the West ceased and what Winston Churchill described as the 'Iron Curtain' came down between the two. Calls for a Jewish homeland had begun after Jewish support for the British was provided during World War 1. In 1948 the Jewish state of Israel was carved out of Arab Palestine. Throughout the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century disputes raged between Israel and displaced Palestinians and other nearby Arab states.

In 1949, Mao Zedong defeated Nationalist forces and set up a Communist state in China. There was a subsequent breakdown in dialogue between the East and West. The 'wall' between them was referred to as the 'Bamboo Curtain'. In the 1960s, China took part in a destructive policy called the 'Cultural Revolution'. Symbols of its historic past were destroyed and workers were sent to the countryside to work on communes. Following Mao's death in 1979, China began to adopt capitalist practices, though remaining communist. It is estimated that by 2020, China's economy will be the largest in the world. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, India was also industrialising rapidly.

The post war era ushered in a period of mass marketing and consumerism. Stable economic times, rising wages and the gradual rise of two income households allowed households to spend more on labour saving devices and luxuries. Refrigerators and vacuum cleaners became common household items. The one car family was replaced by the multiple car family. Standard house sizes increased at a time when household numbers were decreasing. The 'teenager', as a separate demographic group began to emerge as years of schooling increased their time within the household as a non earning family member.

For most of this period, major Western economies managed to avoid serious economic downturns. Major wars involving many countries were largely avoided. At the end of the Second World War, the United Nations organisation was established. Amongst its many roles is that of a peace keeping organisation. Throughout the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century there were many more wars, however most of them were civil wars involving factions within a country.

The radio, telephone, television, fax, mobile phone, internet and email were devices that fundamentally changed the ways in which people interacted. The rapid uptake of mass communication devices, especially towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, marks this era as separate. It is referred to as the Information Revolution.

### **1950s**

In the East, ideological disputes led to war. The USA became involved in the Korean War in 1950 to stem communist influence. After heavy losses on both sides a truce was signed. The only outcome for the US was the containment of communism.

Vietnam had gained independence from the French in 1954. Vietnam became divided in two. The north was backed by China and the Soviet Union and the south by the United States. The 'domino theory' was the justification of American involvement. This was that if one country fell to communism, then others would follow. A protracted, unpopular and costly war ensued. The first wholesale use of television to report on the war and the emergence of an anti-war movement in America helped to turn public opinion against America's involvement. In 1973, US troops pulled out of Vietnam in what was generally seen as a military defeat.

The 1950s were marked by significant achievements. Television as a form of household entertainment became widespread. In 1953, the world's highest mountain, Everest was conquered. In 1954, Roger Bannister became the first to run a sub four minute mile and Rock-and-Roll became a musical phenomena.



In 1957, several European countries signed the Treaty of Rome. The countries formed a group called the European Economic Community whose aim was economic and political union. By the end of the century, most European countries were members of the European Community. It had introduced a single currency called the Euro and trade barriers had been removed making it in effect, one large trading bloc. Many similar groups were established towards the end of the century, especially in North America and Asia, to promote more and freer trade. Britain's entry into the EU in 1972 forced Australia to seek alternative trading partners in Asia.

### **1960s**

The 'space race' came to dominate after the Soviet Union became the first to launch 'Sputnik', an unmanned spacecraft in 1957. In 1963, the popular American President, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas Texas.

His greatest legacy may have been the establishment of the Apollo Space Program which culminated in the landing of two astronauts, Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldrin on the Moon in 1969. Neil Armstrong's famous quote as he stepped onto the lunar surface was 'that's one step for man; one giant leap for mankind'.

The decade is also remembered for its pop music culture and the first widespread use of hallucinogenic drugs.

In the USA the Black human rights movement rose to prominence. In many southern states black African Americans remained segregated and were still treated as second class citizens. Martin Luther King's speech delivered at the Washington Memorial in 1963 inspired the movement. In part he said 'I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of the creed; that all men are created equal.....'. He was assassinated in 1968.

### **1970s**

In 1973, the first major oil shock hit Western economies. Oil producing countries increased the price of oil quickly. Rapid inflation and recession caused havoc in most economies.

In 1975, the Kmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot took over Cambodia's government. His regime sought to take the Cambodian people back to 'year zero'. About 2 million people were killed.

Japan continued its climb as the economic miracle of Asia. Massive relief and reconstruction of industry under the Marshall Plan had helped Japan to achieve its miracle status. With an emphasis on high tech, low cost automotive and electronic goods for the export market, Japan became the model for other 'Tiger economies' in Asia.

### **1980s**

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was first identified in 1981. By the turn of the century it had claimed about 25 million lives. Infection rates in Africa and Asia were particularly high.

In 1987, a severe stock market crash shook western economies. Economic management strategies that governments and Central banks had developed, including flooding the markets with liquidity, avoided a serious collapse.

By the end of the decade the Soviet Union collapsed along with several other Eastern European communist countries. In Berlin, the wall that had been built to separate East and West Germany was torn down. The end of the 'Cold War' had begun.

In South Africa, the white minority government had introduced racial segregation laws against the non-white population in 1948. The policy was known as apartheid. Blacks and whites attended different schools and were segregated on transport and in other areas. In 1962, Nelson Mandela was convicted of agitating against apartheid and spent 27 years in prison. International sanctions against South Africa eventually forced it to abandon all apartheid laws. Nelson Mandela who had advocated a non-violent approach to change was elected President of South Africa in 1994.

### **1990s**

Personal computers (PCs), internet and mobile phone usage revolutionised information dissemination. Trans National Corporations (TNCs) had become the dominant business force driving globalisation. Many of them had annual incomes larger than countries that they operated in.

During the 1980s and 90s, several Asian countries including South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia were developing strong economies based on industrialisation and the export model that Japan had pioneered. They were dubbed ‘Tiger’ economies. Large amounts of investment capital poured in. In 1998 a severe financial ‘meltdown’ crippled these economies as capital was suddenly withdrawn.

## 2000

Terrorist attacks on the New York World Trade Centre sparked a ‘war on terror’ that resulted in the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq.

A sudden increase in the price of oil caused economic disruption and a growing understanding of the consequences of global warming and the affects on climate change became a focus of public policy.

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## The Other Half of an Almost Shire Life:

### Joyce Jane Helena Duncan (nee Pierce), 1919 – 2005.

*Garriock Duncan*

Readers of the *Bulletin* would think I have a fondness for cryptic titles for my articles – probably rightly so. The “almost shire life” or to quote from the actual title of the article, a “well, not quite” shire life refers to my father, Robert Duncan. His story was told in the *Bulletin*(8[2], May, 2005, pp. 14-16). The “other half” obviously refers to my mother, Joyce Jane Helena Duncan, and her story can now be told.

However, before I begin her story, I wish to make two observations. The first concerns the writing of women’s stories. Joyce was symptomatic of women of her generation - the invisible woman. While discussing the order of her funeral service, the celebrant asked me her favourite colour, her favourite flower, even her favourite piece of music. I knew none of these. I had begun assembling some notes in late 2004, when I had begun preparing my father’s story. However, I had left it too late. My mother was not able to answer my questions, nor provide consistent accounts of family events I knew of. Hence, I am not really able to give my mother’s story with any confidence. What follows is my story of Joyce’s life not hers. So, let this be a warning to those of you with aged relatives, particularly female ones, and their secret lives.

My second observation concerns why my parent’s story deserves telling. In his “From the Editor’s Desk” (*Bulletin*, 9[2], May, 2006, p. 7), our editor makes the following claim, “The Shire has a rich history. However, most of the development and much of this history has taken place in the post-war period” He is, of course, referring to the fundamental changes which occurred in the Shire post 1945. After World War II, the Shire ceased to be largely rural, with an emphasis on dairies, piggeries and poultry farms, and, instead, became a dormitory suburb of Sydney. My parents were part of that shift.

Joyce Jane Helena Pierce was born on September 2, 1919, at Marrickville, in her family home at 19 Hill Street, to Francis (but called Dick) and Elsie Pierce. There is some family mystery already at work. As a child I always wondered why Joyce had two middle names. That mystery was solved on her death when I found her parents’ marriage certificate among her family papers - Jane was Elsie’s mother’s name and Helena the middle name of Dick’s mother, Mary. Dick and Elsie must have thought of Joyce themselves. Joyce was born into a large family. Family lore has Dick as being one of seven siblings. While the Pierces figured in anecdotes of my mother’s early childhood, the contact was not maintained and I have no memories of ever meeting any of these Pierces. Dick was probably the runt of the family. Joyce’s memories of her uncles were of large robust men. Dick was of slight build. He was, also, probably the youngest of the family. Since Dick was not quite twenty one, he needed parental permission to get married.



*Joyce as Cupid circa 1925*

Mary, his mother signed the certificate giving this permission. We can only presume that his father, Ernest, was already deceased.

Elsie had been adopted as a child by George and Jane Longmuir. Through the Longmuirs, Elsie became a much loved member of the O'Connor family. Thomas and Ellen O'Connor had five children and Elsie played the role of an aunt to them, though she was only five years older than the eldest. Consequently, the O'Connor children played a significant role in Joyce's life and unlike the Pierces, I have strong memories of the O'Connors.

Joyce's anecdotes revealed a happy childhood, with many mentions of grandparents, particularly at Queanbeyan. She must have meant only her grandmother, Mary Pierce, since the O'Connors had no connection with Queanbeyan. Yet, life would have been hard. When Joyce was born, her parents were very young. Dick had recently turned twenty one while Elsie was just eighteen. In fact, Elsie would periodically distribute family belongings to local families lower down the neighbourhood social scale.



*Reg and Joyce circa 1937-38*

Joyce remained an only child for eight years until her brother was born.

Joyce was a bit of a loner, always very comfortable with her own company - a trait that she never, unfortunately, unlearned and which she probably acquired during these eight years. Joyce did well at primary school. She mentioned awards and prizes, though Elsie sometimes distributed these, too, to the poor. Few high schools went beyond the Intermediate Certificate in those days. St George Girls High was one that did. Joyce must have been an excellent student, since she gained entry to St George Girls High for 1932. While my sister was not able to attend her mother's high school, it is of some satisfaction that both her granddaughters did. On their respective first day in Year 7, both wore Joyce's school badge.

Joyce's schooling was cut short by the Depression. Dick worked in the building trade, always susceptible to any economic hiccup. And perhaps, there were already signs of the war related illness that was to end his life,

prematurely in 1957. So, in 1933, at the age of fourteen, Joyce entered the workforce, a retail shop assistant at Mark Foy's, in the perfume department. Her only other job I know of was during the war years. She was a mechanic / machinist at WD & HO Wills. WD & HO Wills had a policy of instant dismissal for married women. So, she had to keep her marriage a secret. My sister was born in 1944 and I guess Joyce's obvious condition at some stage revealed her marital status and earned

her dismissal.

Photos of Joyce taken in her late teens show a young woman, tall and of robust build, surrounded by friends of both sexes. No doubt, she had an active social life, being engaged in her late teens to Reg Sillens, a tall strapping furniture salesman from the city. It did not last, perhaps due to Joyce's relatively young years. By one of those coincidences which make life so interesting, much of her relaxation time was spent at the fashionable seaside suburb of Cronulla, particularly at Gunnamatta Bay. Dick and Elsie, also, have had some links with the Shire, since, in a manner never explained, they managed to acquire a number of blocks of land in the Shire, in the Caringbah area and later built a house in Griffin Pde at Menai (later Illawong). The house has since been demolished because of foreshore regulations and the site is now a reserve.

Joyce's family home at Hill Street, Marrickville, was not far from Undercliffe, home to a vibrant Scottish community. No doubt Joyce's entree to that community was via her friend, Esther Duncan, who also lived in Hill Street. Hence, it was during the very early war years that a young Joyce Pierce was taken by Stan Taylor, one of the Undercliffe Taylors, to see a pantomime starring as Goldilocks an athletic young Scotsman, Robert Duncan.



*Esther and Joyce c. 1936*



*Joyce and Robert on the day of their Engagement 1941*

He was tall, too. My mother obviously had a predilection for tall suitors! It must have been love at first sight. For within the year, Robert and Joyce were married. The wedding took place on December 27, 1941. Most of my parents' male friends were overseas or at least in uniform. Beer was hard to get and it was as hot as ever - even the butter melted. The honeymoon was a day in Manly. Remember WD & HO Wills enlightened policy. So, it was back to work the next day for Joyce at W D & H O Wills. My parents lived with Robert's parents for a while in Juliett St, Enmore, before moving to Clovelly. In 1944, my mother became pregnant with my sister and complications forced them to leave Clovelly and move in with my other grandparents, Dick and Elsie, at Hill Street. Their first child, my sister, was born in 1944, the last girl in the family for thirty three years.

I arrived in 1948 and by mid 1949, the family had moved to a double fronted fibro and tile cottage in Chamberlain Avenue, Caringbah.. In 1949, there were only two shops in the Caringbah CBD and from the front porch of the house, you could see down to Botany. Life was difficult for my parents, and money was always short. My father was somewhat old fashioned and felt that a wife should stay at home and run the family and put her husband's tea on the table as soon as he arrived home from work. Robert's horizons in life were often framed by food. So, Joyce never worked again but devoted the rest of her life to keeping house for the family.

My parents spent nearly forty years at Caringbah. They formed part of a vibrant neighbourhood community supplemented by friends from their respective youths. After Dick's death, Elsie moved into a small flat near Caringbah Station and mother and daughter formed a very close bond - they saw or spoke to each other every day, virtually until Elsie's death some twenty five years later.

Life became a little easier when Robert acquired the first family car, a 1939 Oldsmobile. Previously, the family transport had been an Austin truck borrowed from Robert's employers, the firm of Silk Bros, in the city markets at Haymarket. Joyce quickly learnt to drive the Oldsmobile. It was a pleasant change from the work's Austin truck which previously served as family transport. The truck, you see, only seated three. So, one of us on family outings had to ride on the tray top. Surprisingly to say, I was a bit of a woos as a child and my sister usually scored the air conditioned seat. In the mid 80's, Robert and Joyce decided to downsize - Robert was then nearly seventy and Chamberlain Avenue needed too much upkeep. They moved to Macquarie Fields. This move had a number of bonuses, i.e. my two grandmothers, who by then were living in the Frank Whiddon Masonic Home at Glenquarrie, lived close by, and one of the O'Connor girls, with her husband, had moved to the Campbelltown area. Additionally, my sister and her family lived nearby. Yet, it was not the success my parents had anticipated. My father, if not Joyce, deeply regretted the move from the Shire.

Joyce always had an uncertain health and she was convinced of a premature death. However, she survived both her parents and outlived all, other members of her generation of the family. Declining health saw her move progressively through the tiers of age care. And in keeping with the family tradition of death (see *Bulletin*, 10[30, 2007, p. 10) Joyce died in the early morning of Wednesday, December, 28, 2005. However, the Shire link has not been broken. While the rest of my family have moved away, my family and I still live in the Shire. While I may not have been born and bred in the Shire - my parents brought me here when I was about ten months old - my children certainly have. All their lives have been spent in the Shire. If my parents and I represent the second phase of the Shire's development (albeit in the past), then my children certainly represent the next, i.e. the future.

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Joyce at Chamberlain Ave.  
circa 1960

## *One Teacher's journey Through Shire schools*

*By Merle Kavanagh*

*We had an enquiry during Heritage Week celebrations as to whether Roy Rhodes Wood, a teacher in the shire for over thirty years, was on our Bulletin indexes. When this proved negative, I asked for some details and said I would do some*

*research and this is the result.*

Roy Rhodes Wood was born at Dairymans Plain near Cooma in 1894 to Edgar G. and Fanny (nee Rhodes) who had married at Four Mile Creek, Cudgong out of Mudgee on 11 September 1889. At the time of his marriage, Edgar was a part time teacher at Curban, and their first son was born there. Edgar was then moved to Brightling Park and Iron Bark part time schools near Gulargambone and from there he wrote to the Education Department complaining about the appalling climate and requesting a transfer, indicating that the alternative was his resignation. However the climate at Cooma, to where he was next posted, proved to be equally appalling and after the birth of four sons there, including Roy, Edgar wrote again requesting a transfer and was appointed to the school at Joadja. The move was made when Fanny was pregnant and she remained behind to give birth to another son before joining her husband. Sadly the baby only lived for six weeks. Life can be very harsh, especially in the bush. Edgar eventually retired from Bosley Park school, whilst living at Fairfield.

As a young boy, Roy had meningitis and this possibly affected his growth, as he was not as tall as his brothers. All of the Wood sons became teachers, Roy qualifying at Ardlethan before serving in the army during World War I. After his return he married Leah Catherine Lyndon at Granville on 5 June 1919, Leah being born on 30 November 1895 at Taree to William and Ann J. Lyndon.

In no time at all Roy Wood was appointed to the first Cronulla Public School then operating on the northern section of the present Monro Park. He and his wife rented the house *Cairnsmore*, from July 1919 to December 1920, and this was then owned by Walter Chiplin, headmaster at Miranda Central School. At Cronulla interested supporters and teachers realised that the school needed more land and the Lands Department had been asked to donate the two adjoining lots, the remainder of the Monro Park site. However their request had been denied, claiming that "it was unnecessary for the children to have much playground when the beach was so handy for them to play on". These lots were finally acquired two years after the school was established. The tourist season also played a part in the need for larger premises, as visitors sent their children to school over the summer period swelling the numbers. When Roy was teaching there for a few months in 1919 the Principal, Henry Tonkin, was still agitating for additional classrooms. In 1922 the present site was purchased for £4000 though the new school building was not ready for occupation until three years later.

From 1920 to 1925 Roy Wood taught at Miranda Central School. In 1921 the Wood family purchased 212 President Avenue, Miranda for £700 and moved to their new home, calling it *Neeron*, the name of their daughter in reverse. A school at Miranda had been opened in 1893 with lessons held in a cottage rented from Mr. Douglas at Miranda, then known as Homewood. A new building was erected on the south-east corner of Kiora Road and Malvern Road, later to be known as the Kingsway, and the pupils moved there in January 1897. Mr. Henry Reid was the Headmaster and in 1904 he asked that the verandah be enclosed as "At present should any child leave his lunch about it is almost sure to be eaten by the neighbour's dogs; and the open room is an inviting place for 'tramps' to spend the night." Miranda became a Central School in 1906, and arrangements were made to transport children by horse buses from outlying areas to Miranda. When Roy began teaching at Miranda Central School, Mr. Walter Chiplin had been head teacher for 15 years. Due to the Influenza epidemic the previous year, the school had been closed for almost two months to all pupils except those studying for their Q.C. (Qualifying Certificate). Mr. Chiplin's home, *Cairnsmore*, on the corner of Wandella Road and the Kingsway was used as an emergency hospital and it must have been a harrowing time for the Chiplin family as Olga Chiplin, Walter's daughter, died from the disease.

During his time at Miranda Central School, Roy Wood acquired the nickname of

‘Splinter’. He is remembered by some of his students, Phyllis Rugless (nee Worswick), Sidney Green and Doris Barnidge (nee Porter). Sid walked to school without shoes, as many others did, and pruned the roses in the school garden because he had the tools to do so. He also recalls putting a spoon or nail on the tram line which ran beside the school, to flatten it, much to the annoyance of the tram drivers. Doris Barnidge remembers occupying sheds for classes at times, and during that period some classes were held in St. Lukes church next door. When Roy Wood moved on from Miranda School on 26 March 1925, he was presented with an Illuminated Address by the pupils which recorded their regret at his departure as they had benefited greatly from his teaching and his active interest in their sport. They also presented him with an entrée dish.

In 1925 Roy Wood joined the staff of Sutherland Primary School and remained teaching there for 25 years. Sutherland School had been operating since 1887, its early days littered with stories of death adders, unruly boys, measles epidemics and families unable to pay. During World War I overcrowding had forced the use of St. Johns Church hall across the road and later, the Congregational hall, Picture Theatre and Methodist hall. The year before he commenced teaching at Sutherland a new four-roomed building, headmaster’s room and two staff rooms had been erected, though ‘the existing buildings were the scene of a continuing war on white ants’. The local children were said to go home at lunch time for ‘bread and duck’ “Here’s a piece of bread – duck back to school”. In the early years of Roy Wood’s teaching there, Sutherland became a Superior Public School and in 1928 the Intermediate High School was opened on the adjoining land south of the Public School.

In the early 1930s Roy was one of 12 teachers, who made their tea on a primus stove. However, a collection enabled them to have a power point installed in the staff room when electric lighting and mains water were connected in 1932. World War II brought trenches to the Sutherland school playground which rapidly filled with water and once the initial danger was over in 1943 they were filled in. The school was declared an assembly point for evacuation in the event of enemy attack or invasion.

Splinter’ Wood was now a very experienced teacher and is remembered by his students, including Mary Parker (nee Campbell) and Edward Vormister. He was finally promoted and moved to Como Public School as Deputy Principal in 1950. During the time of Mr. L. McGrath’s tenure as Principal at Como, the school won the Sutherland Primary School Amateur Athletic Assn. Carnival in 1954. McGrath credited the school’s sporting success to his Deputy, Mr. Roy Wood and Mr. W. Byrnes, teacher of the intermediate class. Roy Wood still wore the name of ‘Splinter’, said to be because he ‘was as thin as a whipstick’ but no doubt because of the association with his name. His small physique did not seem to interfere with his promotion of sport at the schools where he taught.

In 1955 Roy Wood retired and four years later his wife, Leah, had a stroke and survived for only a few days. Roy in retirement lived on at 212 President Avenue until his death in 1979 aged 85. Phyllis Rugless (nee Worswick) recalled ‘ Mr. Wood lived to a good age’. It is agreed by his son that he was a good teacher, but very severe and this strict brand of teaching no doubt gained him the respect of both his colleagues and parents of pupils. He had worked with and influenced so many Shire children and made an important contribution to the betterment of our Shire.

#### References:

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*Birth, Death and Marriage Index, N.S.W.*

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*Oral Histories: Mary Parker (nee Campbell), Phyllis Rugless (nee Worswick), Edward Vormister.*

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 Cole, Megan, "Como Public School – A History of Two Schools. 1884-1885, 1921-1988."  
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 Thomas, Pam, "Sutherland School Centenary 1887 – 1987".

### Miranda Public School

Dear Mr. Wood,

We the pupils of the Miranda Public School, desire to express to you our regret at your departure from the Miranda School. During your stay at Miranda many of us have benefited very greatly by your careful and able teaching and we wish to assure you that we appreciate your efforts very much, as well as the active interest you have always taken in our sport.

In saying good-bye we wish you to accept the Entrée Dish as a parting gift from the teachers and ourselves as a pleasant reminder of the happy days at Miranda School.

We wish you and Mrs. Wood the best of good luck in the future.

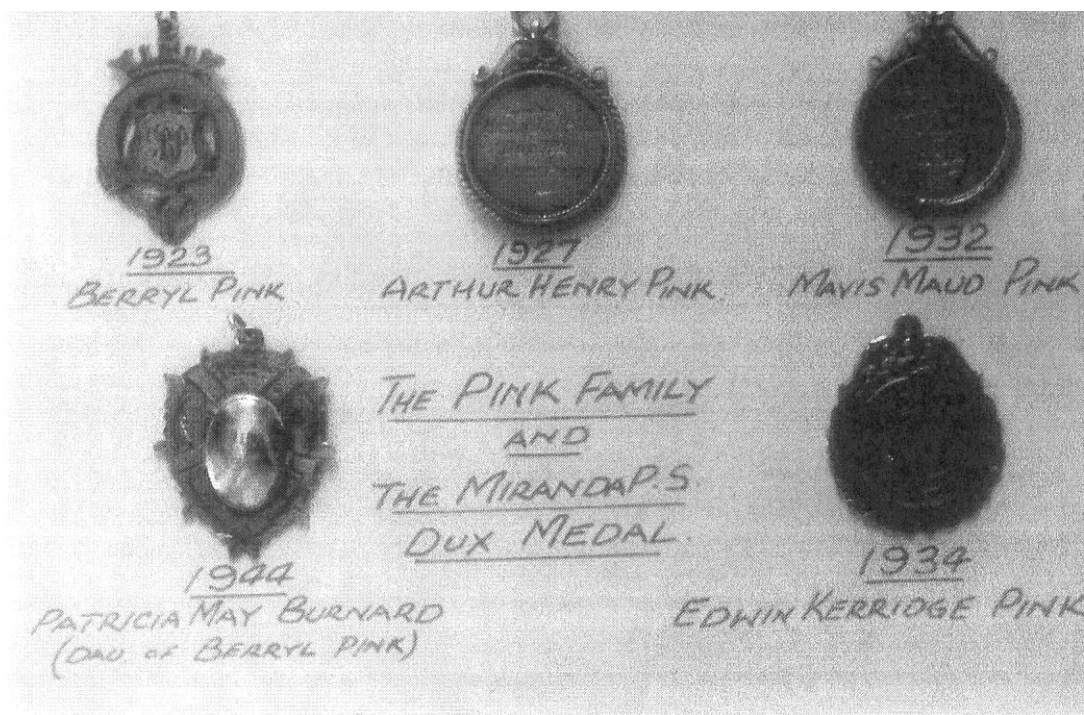
On behalf of the pupils,

Violet Hilder.

Jean Williams.

Daphne Smalley.

26<sup>th</sup> March, 1925.



## Membership applications or Renewals 2008/9

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

**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.**

**Note: This organisation is GST exempt.**