



*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



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ApolloGate – South Cronulla

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

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Disclaimer

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

President's Report

It is my duty to inform our Members that our long standing President and Honorary Life Member, Dawn Emerson, has resigned her position before full term, of her own free will.

Dawn has served this society for what would nearly be a record of continued service as President. Her dedication and service given over this period is to be admired and we all thank her for getting this Society to another level in its progress.

Dawn's husband Cliff also resigned from our Executive Committee, but remains a member. We all thank Cliff for his service both on the Executive and the Museum Committee which was very much appreciated.

Another position of resignation is "Book Review Editor", held by Honorary Life Member Dr. Edward Duyker OAM, who always found time for enjoyable and informative reviews for our Bulletin. This will be sadly missed.

Resigning his position on the Executive Committee is Research Officer & Archivist, Mr. Les Bursill, who over many years contributed his time and knowledge of indigenous Australia and other history in our Bulletin and to the general public. Our thanks go to you Les on this important work.

I would be lying if I didn't say all the above was not unfortunate, but this society has always had people willing to help and do extra to ensure the progress of this Society and its future.

Now it's time for some positive information!

After our last discussion with Council, it was agreed for Mr. Stephen Bourke to view our problems at the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts. This is the first time anyone has bothered and after inspection it has been agreed that the southern storage area (now filled with paint and odds & ends) be emptied by groups who put it there, will now be used as our preparation area for restorations & exhibitions.

After another meeting attended by Mr. Derril Greenway, Mr. Stephen Bourke, myself and Terry McCosker, relief was offered by council for storage of items in a disused hall, which we are checking for suitability, even though it could present problems with transport and movement of items to & from our Museum. This in no way stops the Society from our original and just claim, but it could help us in the immediate to review our items in the main storage area and record them more correctly onto our computer records.

On behalf of the Society I have accepted the industrial history of Parke Davis Caringbah, which is a very large & impressive collection. The biggest we have ever been offered of social & industrial heritage. I have been to the site 3 times. At the second visit myself, two members of the Executive and Helen McDonald of the local studies area of Sutherland Library, viewed part of the collection – 7 display cabinets full of items. My last visit was to pack movie film which will be stored in a safe environment awaiting checking – more on this at a later time.

The Museum has another collection that requires safe storage, The "Rupert James Gough" collection, which has been recorded but needs to meet our newer systems. We have also started recording and sorting the large lot of donated books, thanks to Merle Kavanagh.

The Society's Museum has joined the "Museum & Galleries NSW". Society representatives have attended 2 meetings so far and have been given guidance & documentation from the helpful and friendly people they met.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2009 : Cronulla Community Hall – Surf Road.

This exhibition was the largest photographic one we have ever displayed, which also included our DVD presentations that created a lot of interest. Overall a very successful day. Thank you to all those that helped with this well attended exhibition.

MUSEUM VISITS:

March 3rd - Port Hacking High School, 30 students.

March 9th – Jannali Neighbourhood Aid, 18 people.

May TBA – Another Group, 20 people.

Museum open day is the 1st Saturday of the month in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts, East Parade Sutherland, from 10am to 3:30pm or by prior arrangement.

Phone 9521-3721 for bookings.



HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2009: The theme this year is “Our Place in Space”. Our displays will start from Sunday 26th April and end on Sunday 10th May.
The Shires’ official opening of the Heritage Festival 2009 will be hosted by the Woronora Cemetery Trust, on Thursday 23rd April, at the Forget-Me-Not cottage café.

Our Society launch will be held at Sutherland Memorial School of Arts on Wednesday 29th April. The theme for the night is “Champagne with the Stars”, with our guest speaker Mr. Fred Watson, the patron of Green Point Observatory. The time is 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start and the cost is \$5.00 per person which includes drinks & supper. To book for this night please call Pat on 9528 8294.

MAIN FOYER DISPLAY – Green Point Observatory for one week starting 29th April.

SMALL EXHIBITION ROOM DISPLAY – “Navigators of the Pacific & their Charts”.

LARGE EXHIBITION ROOM DISPLAY – The Owen Jones Home in Depression Years.

SPINNERS & WEAVERS EXHIBITION – Main Foyer – Saturday 2nd May–10am to 3:30pm

SUTHERLAND MUSIC CLUB – Seniors Variety Concert – Sutherland School of Arts

1st Concert is at 10:00am on the 28th April with light refreshments.

2nd Concert is at 1:30pm on the 28th April with light refreshments.

The cost for each concert is \$6.00 per person and bookings can be made on **9521 3473**.

Our Society daylight meetings have made a huge difference in our attendances, with 60 people attending on 21st February to listen to Ken Humbley talk on Lauriston Park. We also gained 8 new members and growing. The Executive meeting prior to our general meeting has also met with success and we will continue this arrangement. All our general meetings will continue in daylight, starting at 1:30pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Stapleton Centre.

In closing we will require helpers for our Heritage Exhibitions. If you can help out please let Mina Whybourne 9521 5752 or myself, Jim Cutbush 9521 3721, know what days & times you are available so we can fill our roster. Thank you & have a great festival.

Thank you to all of you who have helped us get this Society to where it is.

Jim Cutbush

Deputy President/Museum Curator

Dates of meetings: 1:30 pm

Sat.	21st Mar.:	Les Bursill.	Dharrawal Stapleton .Centre
Sat.	18 th April:	Mary Small:	Lenni & Sydney Harbour. Bridge: Stapleton Centre
			Lenni’s ride. A 600 mile pony ride for Sydney Harbour Bridge opening.
Sat	16 th May:	Gordon Marshall.	Marine Archaeology in the southern sewas: Stapleton Centre

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society wish to acknowledge the assistance of Port Hacking High School in the publication of this edition of the bulletin.

From The Editor's Desk



Welcome to the first bulletin of 2009. I trust that you find it informative and interesting. With our former President, Dawn Emerson stepping down mid term, there have been changes to our organisation. Thanks to Jim Cutbush for stepping up as acting President until our next election. Jim is very capable and has our full confidence.

The Society is at a significant point in its development. However there are many, not insignificant challenges but I am very positive about the future. Our Secretary, Angela Thomas and I recently attended a seminar hosted by Museums and Galleries Australia. The Society has volunteered to participate in a year long Standards Program aimed at up-skilling the operations and management of participating museums / galleries. This involves assessing our practices against minimum standards, completing a self review and being assessed externally by members of M&G Australia. It is a program of self evaluation and external mentoring that will lead to a more professional outcome for our stakeholders. It will require significant input but it will lead to improvements in the organisation, operation and marketing of the Society and may ensure its survival in the longer term.

Of the 18 organisation that attended, most, but not all had received substantial assistance from their local council in terms of premises or funding for staffing. Representative from each organisation gave a brief account of their current position.

The Mayor of Hurstville opened the conference and affirmed Council's commitment to preserving cultural, artistic and historical heritage. Hurstville Council has recently reviewed their approach to museums. In any given area there is a diversity of cultural, artistic and age groups with differing social and information needs. By re-branding museums and libraries and combining some of their functions, Council could better meet the needs of their diverse constituents. The Hurstville City Museum and Gallery was achieving synergies in expanding public programs, pooling resources, combining a library and public gallery and providing facilities for family research groups and ethnic groups.

Hurstville's commitment goes beyond the notion of a local folk museum. They hoped to exceed community expectations by hosting and building a nationally significant collection of artefacts, paper and cultural items. This is a sensible approach and I would welcome discussions with our council where the aim was to combine several cultural entry points in the one location. Such a change needs a coordinated approach and a philosophical and financial commitment. I throw this challenge out to the Sutherland Shire Council.

Given that the previous point is just a germ of an idea, a more immediate issue remains. Museum space is still a vexed issue. The School of Arts where our museum is located was dedicated 'for the purposes of a museum' in the 1980s. We hold documentary evidence confirming this from the Land's Department. Despite legal representation to Council about this matter they remain intransigent. We occupy about 20% of the space whilst others have the use of the main hall. We continue to be given significant collections which must be stored off site. As the professed 'birthplace of modern Australia', the Shire needs a museum that can properly accommodate items of national importance. A permanent solution to this problem needs to be found.

Just a reminder that our web address is www.suthshirehistsoc.org.au or simply Google Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Bruce Watt

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2009

Dates: 23/4/09 - 10/05/09

- | | |
|---|--|
| 28 th April, Tuesday | Sutherland Music Club concerts at 10 am and 1.30 pm at the School of Arts. Featuring the organ, Loftus choir and other artists these concerts are friendly, sociable events. For tickets ring Basil 952 1 - 3473. |
| 29 th April, Wednesday | Champagne with the Stars, Fred Watson will be speaking on Captain Cook and the Transit of Venus. This evening will be hosted by our Society, Green Point Observatory will set up their telescopes etc., and our display of Navigators of the Pacific will be on view in the Exhibition Room. 6pm for 6.30pm, tickets from Pat Hannan 9528 8294. Supper will be provided and members are asked to bring a plate if it's convenient. |
| 2 nd May, Saturday | Spinners & Weavers exhibition from 10 am till 4 pm at the School of Arts |
| 3 rd May, 6 pm | Como Pleasure Ground. Symphony Under the Stars. (possibly the Silver Band). |
| 8 th and 9 th May | Botany Bay Family History Society Open Day, to be arranged. During the week the Heritage bus will be running, details of the Timetable obtainable from Angela Thomas 9528-6251. |

SPEAKERS

Dates 21/2/09 – 20/6/09

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 21 st February | Ken Humbley will give an illustrated talk on Lauriston Park, once a village in the suburb of Mascot, now under the concrete and bricks of the Virgin terminal. |
| 21 st March | Les Bursill, The Dharawal. Traditional Owners of Sutherland. A review of the writing and publishing of Mary Jacobs and his own work in collaborating on this book. |
| 18 th April | Mary Small on Lenni's Ride. Lenni Gwyther aged 9 rode his pony 600 miles to Sydney for the opening of the Harbour Bridge. |
| 16 th May | Gordon Marshall. Marine Archaeology in the Southern Oceans. |
| 20 th June | Dr. Anthony Howe. Fort Denison, history and research upon the site. |

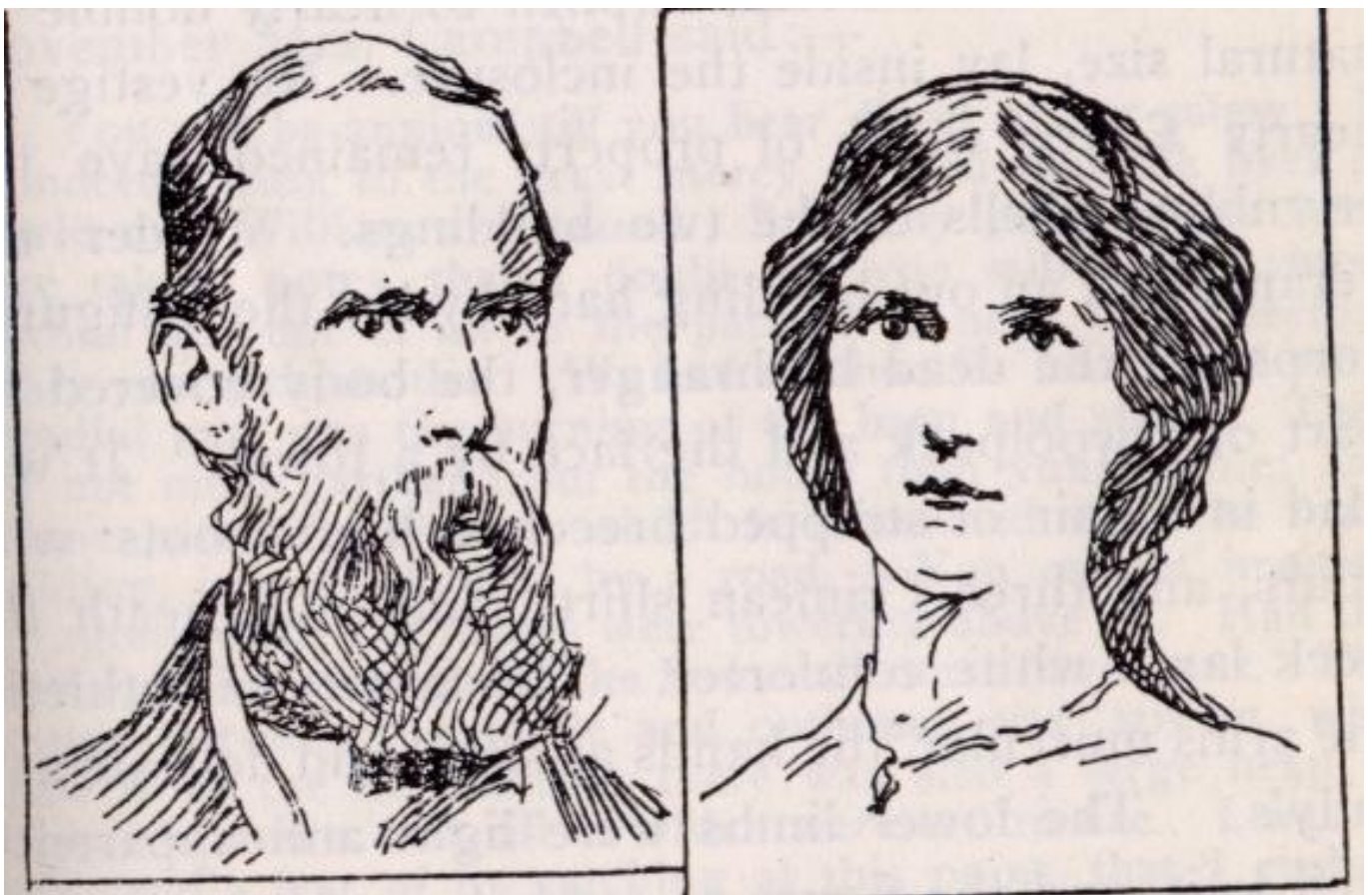
A Grateful Colony

David Overett

In view of the sentiments often expressed regarding the bushranger, Ben Hall, the following shows a sharper side to this man and those he went up against.

At around 8.45pm on Thursday, the 19th November 1863, in the Forbes district, the bushrangers, John O'Meally, John Gilbert and Ben Hall rode onto the property, Goimbla. All these men were well known at the time both individually and, for riding together. O'Meally was thought to have been responsible for the murders of at least two men. Johnny Gilbert had been at large for some time and had ridden with Frank Gardiner. Ben Hall, the leader of this gang, had also ridden with Gardiner and went on from here to become almost as famous as Ned Kelly, although not quite.

Goimbla, a station sixteen kilometres from Eugowra, was under the management of David Henry Campbell, who, along with his wife, Amelia, and his brother, William, was at the property when the three men rode in during the evening. Campbell was known for his hard stance against bushranging and had lead various sorties against these men. This is most likely to have been the reason the homestead was attacked. From newspaper reports¹ and other accounts there are certain facts which are consistent. The Campbell's barn was set on fire, David Campbell shot John O'Meally, William Campbell was wounded and Amelia Campbell risked her life in getting the arms and ammunition to her husband as well as running out of the house into the line of fire to plead unsuccessfully for help from the servants.



David and Amelia Campbell

As she returned to the homestead, Gilbert allegedly called out “Stop where you are or I’ll blow your brains out”.

In just two hours from the time the bushrangers had arrived, the Campbells’ barn, having been set alight by the bushrangers, was burned to the ground, the fire taking the life of David’s horse which had been locked inside. John O’Meally was dead, his body later found covered in sacking with a towel covering his face.

The attack on the homestead became celebrated mainly for being the first time the victims of bushrangers had decided to fight back. Most of the populace was overjoyed with possibly the only exception being O’Meally’s father. People may have taken a different view if Hall had been shot, but O’Meally had killed innocent people.

A public meeting was advertised for Wednesday, 2nd March 1864 which, although poorly attended, included those prominent persons mentioned and others including Saul Samuel M.L.A., later Sir Saul, prominent businessman and at this time member for Wellington. The meeting was chaired by Holt.

The first motion passed was that the meeting “express its admiration of the gallant conduct” of the Campbells. This was seconded by Samuel, adding that a subscription be taken up to compensate the Campbell family for their losses and to “present Mr Campbell with a suitable testimonial”. Holt proposed that subscription boxes be left at the offices of the Herald and the Empire. Other motions of similar sentiment were also made and carried. A committee was appointed.ⁱⁱ

On Wednesday, August 3, of the same year the Committee met at the Metropole Hotel, chaired by the Rev. George King who proudly announced that £179/01/00 (\$358.10) had been raised. The committee agreed that the sum of £150/00/00 (\$300.00) be used to buy “a silver centrepiece and candelabra”. The meeting went on to say that “The centrepiece will bear an inscription to the effect that it is a present to Mr and Mrs Campbell by the colonists of Australia as a token of admiration of their gallant conduct in repelling the attack of the bushrangers upon Goimbla on the 19th of November last”ⁱⁱⁱ



The silver epergne centerpiece mentioned was at “Mr Hardy’s”. This piece had been purchased by Samuel Hardy (II) from Smiley’s in London and had recently arrived in Sydney. Hardy’s son, also Samuel (III), was quite taken with the piece and enthusiastically wrote to his father, after the Committees meeting had been reported in the press, telling him that it was sold.^{iv}

On the evening of Friday the 7th of October 1864 the presentation took place at “the residence of Mr Campbell”. According to the Sydney Mail, Mr Campbell was presented with a gold watch, while Mrs Campbell was offered an “elegant epergne” and a silver plated coffee urn. The three presents were inscribed appropriately. If the Mail is to be believed the watch’s inscription carried 74 words. This is highly unlikely and would suggest that the watch was accompanied by a document being a separate “testimonial”.^v



Silver candelabra

The same would seem to apply to the epergne which does not carry the inscription suggested by the Mail. The Mail insists the inscription reads:- Presented to Mrs Campbell, of Goimbla, by the ladies of the Lachlan River and the surrounding district, in token of their appreciation of her intrepid conduct in assisting her husband during the murderous attack of the bushrangers, Gilbert, O’Meally, and Hall, on 19th November 1863, when her heroic and resolute efforts aided most materially in bringing the defence of their household to a successful issue.^{vi}

The inscription on the actual epergne reads:-

Presented by the Colonists of Australia to Mr & Mrs D.H. Campbell

In admiration of their gallant conduct in repelling the attack of the Bushrangers upon Goimbla N.S.W. on the night of the 19th November 1863.

It is almost word for word with the inscription proposed at the committee meeting on August 6, 1864.

Following this memorable event the Campbells left Goimbla the following year and took over “Cunningham Plains” station near Harden. Amelia Campbell, passed away six years later on May 28, 1870 after giving birth to twins. She was just 34 years of age.^{vii} David Campbell died on August 23 1885 whilst still at “Cunningham Plains.”^{viii} The Campbells’ son, Alfred, grew up to become a prominent neurologist, pathologist and research worker.

Today the silver plated coffee urn and two testimonials are part of the National Historical Collection. The gold watch is with the State Library of NSW whilst the silver epergne is currently in private hands. All of these items are worthy of the title “national treasures”.

A Greatful Colony has been adapted from an essay which was part of a private research commission undertaken by the author

¹ *Otago Witness*, Issue 628, December 12, 1863, p4 (“from the Herald’s Forbes Correspondent”)

¹ *The Sydney Mail*, March 5, 1864, p2

¹ *The Sydney Mail*, August 6, 1864

¹¹ Mitchell Library, Hardy Brothers Business Records, 1852 – 1910, 1953, 1863-1864

Letters Received (Locn No

MLMSS 6962/1) State Library of NSW

¹ *The Sydney Mail*, October 29, 1864, p5

¹ Ibid

¹ *Yass Courier*, June 3, 1870

¹ *Yass Courier*, August 28, 1885

THE TRAVELS OF DAPHNE

Most of our readers will know Daphne Salt, one of our vice presidents and long time member of the Society. A prolific researcher, public speaker and writer of local history whose latest work...

Como Hotel

1878-1996

from the ashes 2001

has been very well received and can be obtained at Como Hotel or through the Society. Well for those, and other members who have never met her we'd like to share her adventures with you over the two years she will be touring round our continent. Yes, two years. Daphne and her friend Leone are travelling around Australia in a custom built van and we have just received her first letter. We have only briefly seen this wondrous vehicle with Leone's 'witch' painting on the back, but we are assured there are all mod cons, air conditioning, fly screens and multiple storage fitted to Daphne's exact specifications. Daphne is a wondrous designer/engineer in her own right. She has fitted her own brakes to all manner of vehicles...even prams...she's repaired innumerable items, cars, boats, trailers etc., besides being a whiz with computers and excelling with her DVD recordings and displays. Our Vice President is a real 'hands on operator.'

Her first letter arrived just before Christmas and we'd like to share extracts with you.

'1st stop Balranald, we camped near the old bridge and dry river with millions of flies and mozzies, just out of town a big red semi played chicken with us as we moved further over the shoulder of the road he moved more over the double line and ripped our mirror off (bas ad) . I don't like red trucks.

Off to Mildura 45 degrees at 10 am and then a storm and 2 inches of rain.

The air conditioning wasn't working, got on to an aircon man who said the idiots who installed it didn't open any of the valves. He took about an hour and charged us just \$50 all up, it's nice to find someone who is honest.

Up at 4 am, because of thunder had to wait a few days to get the all-clear to drive the Mungo road. The Mungo road was very corrugated but the campsite fabulous. We were immediately surrounded by a dozen Apostle birds (ugly, cheeky, raucous, muddy brown flying rats). Kangaroos and emus everywhere, lots of space, red sand, saltbush and mulga. We did 70km around Mungo past the 'Great Walls of China'...coloured sand and clay with outcrops of pink, yellow and white pillars and then a 5 mile long mobile white sand dune.

No phone, electricity or drinking water, fortunately we have a solar panel on the van and can use the computers with either the inverter or the 12v power converter (I told you she was a whiz). The wind was very strong, it unrolled the toilet paper and spread it out like a streamer for about 200 metres across the salt bush and sand. One inch of rain, thunder, lightning and wind howling like a banshee. All roads were now closed and there is a fine of \$500 if you drive on them. The ground turned to clay and sucked our shoes in. The old footprints from back in Mungo 'man' days are still fossilized in the clay but the foot shape is different from ours.

Apparently we are famous because someone drove in last night from Menindee and came over at 7.30 especially to meet us. They had been told to look out for the 'witch ladies'.



After camping beside the Darling River we drove to Broken Hill where we were squeezed in a slot with woodchip instead of grass and only 4 inches between vans. The mozzies are really well fed here, I think I've donated a pint of blood. To ask anyone here directions to anywhere is a nightmare, first they tell you the story of their life, then get out about a dozen reference pamphlets and then get a bit of paper and draw a mud map which takes about 15mins. After all this we are none the wiser because it is so convoluted i.e. 'go up past where my grandmother used to live then past that shop that was demolished in 1956 then go a few corners down the road...etc.' Called in at Jack Absalom's gallery, he

talked at us excitedly for over an hour...he is an expert on camp sites and told us to drive into any track off the road with the wind blowing towards the road so you don't get traffic noise, stop where you can't be seen from the road and if anyone... police or prime minister objects...tell them you have been driving all day and are too tired and have to rest.

Next at Silverton we ate Quondong pie (like rhubarb) and had ginger beer spiders in Chuckle's café...at this point I dropped my camera on its lens (but naturally she soon repaired it)

At Mutawintji we saw wonderful Aboriginal hand blowings and carvings of kangaroos, emus, frogs, brolgas and lizards and wondered why Wilson from the Bourke & Wills expedition carried a tin of blue paint, paintbrush and turps to remove them and paint his name over the top...specially when there were plenty of undecorated rock overhangs.

But soon the clouds rolled in and the ranger told us that all roads were closed and the river rising quickly and gave us a mud map to get out via the Waterbag road. We found the road. About 1k along it was completely washed out and we had to reverse the van before we could turn. Then we found another washout and so turned round again and drove to higher ground. The ranger called us on the CB to see if we got onto the Waterbag and we told them it was impassable. They came along with a trailer and told us to turn again and follow them through the washout towards the Broken Hill road which had just been opened. By 4 pm we were still only about 50k from our starting point.

Back to Broken Hill for the night. Too tired to go further so stopped the night in Spud Park (sloping site) so chocked the wheels, cooked spud chicken for dinner. And gave a cheer to 1 Month on the road.

Next stop Wilcannia, population 700. Everyone very polite, big brothers watching littlies on their bikes and taking care they don't go in front of cars...everyone very polite but not many kids at school. Westpac Bank is also Centrelink, NPWS, RTA and NRMA. All of the historic sandstone buildings are boarded up. Wilcannia was once a thriving, affluent river port on the Darling River. 80% of the houses are now unoccupied and derelict. The whites seem to live in their own ghetto on the southern side of the river, which today, no more than a few waterholes. About 90% of the population is Aboriginal.

And then Whitecliffs, the opal mining town. Here the clotheslines and water tanks are chained to the ground with star pickets as stakes – it is so windy it would blow a dog off the chain. A massive dust storm came up as we called in at the Underground Motel at 2.30 for a meal as we hadn't had breakfast yet. We were told if we wanted dinner then let him know by 4 pm so they could defrost it, so we went to the pub but they had no meals and its byo grog there too at the moment! We found meat pies were \$5 each so went back to the van, had marshmallows, a glass of wine, cooked crumbed brains, sweet potato, spuds, peas, corn and lemon meringue pie and cream for dessert at \$5 each. Whitecliffs is a moonscape

Early morning driving into Cobar we were breathalysed, asked if we'd had alcohol that morning. Apparently the mine workers on night shift drink their breakfast before they drive home.

We stopped at a little pub/roadhouse/truckstop for breakfast. It was the one used in the movie, 'Wolf Creek'.

.....and now we await a second instalment from Daphne.

OUR SOCIETY MEMBER VAL PEARSE REMEMBERS HER UNUSUAL ANCESTOR.

Val vividly recalls her father saying that his great great grandmother smoked a pipe and kept some cattle down near the Tank Stream. So it was inevitable that one day Val would decide to trace her family history and uncover the story of a remarkable woman who did much to mould the lives of women in the early days of the Colony.

By 1818 New South Wales was experiencing problems housing their female convicts. On the instructions of Governor Macquarie a contract for the new Parramatta Female Factory was signed and the premises officially opened in 1821.

Accommodation could be found for 300 women. The rations were 7 pounds of bread, 3-1/2lb of fresh meat, 1 pound sugar and 2 ounces of tea per week. Two gallons of milk per day were provided for the entire population of inmates. The first superintendent was petty and insensitive so the decision was made to employ a married couple.

A law had been passed in England to ensure only qualified and responsible women were placed in Female Penitentiaries as Superintendents. So it was on the recommendation of Elizabeth Fry (the great reformer and champion of improved prison conditions for women) that Elizabeth Fulloon was appointed in April 1823 to the position of Matron/Superintendent and her husband would be Administrator.

Her maiden name was Azire and the family was of Huguenot descent. She was a School Teacher/Governess when she married John Fulloon, a schoolmaster with a "Commercial and Mathematical Finishing Academy".

Family history has it that she invested the proceeds from the sale of her jewellery in a partnership with her brother, Robert. They owned a gunpowder factory which was later destroyed by fire.

Elizabeth Fulloon sounds a remarkable woman and anyone would be proud to claim descendance from her. When they embarked on the ship, the "Brothers" with five of their seven children they were ill equipped for their new life. Possibly more to do with lack of money rather than any haste, as they had known for 7 months of their departure date. Sir Thomas Brisbane remarked 'On the day of debarkation they have always been dressed in their navy board clothing, the petticoats are so short, however, as to oblige them for decency to wear their own clothes underneath.' John Fulloon never arrived, succumbing to ill health and alcohol off the Cape of Good Hope.

On arrival Elizabeth immediately took up her position and her son John aged twenty became the Factory's administrator in place of his father. Unfortunately he was dismissed later in 1825. Elizabeth sounds a very able manager but was also a compassionate woman as for many years she tried, unsuccessfully, to adopt Mary Ann Long – the orphaned baby of one of the inmates, but this was continually denied her by officialdom. Later, even though occupied with her Seminary, she continued to serve on the Female School of Industry Board. The welfare of women remained of great importance to her.

In 1826 she married for the second time, her husband was Robert Raine, the ancestor of the Raines of Raine & Horne, the well known real estate company. The marriage lasted only two years as his body was found floating in the Parramatta River with marks of violence clearly suggesting murder.



The Women's factory where men sought wives and the gentry found domestic staff.

Following his death, as she had resigned her position at the Factory, Elizabeth and her daughters opened 'The Ladies Seminary' in O'Connell Street, teaching English Grammar, Arithmetic, History and Elocution and 'if any Gentleman wishes to perfect himself in the knowledge of book keeping, etc., he can have private lessons after 4 o'clock in the afternoon'.

In 1832 she married for the third time, Lt.Col.William James Speed, a widower later Commandant of the St.Vincent Rangers and formerly Commissariat at Van Diemens Land. This husband died after six years and its unlikely she had much support from him as records state he was a bigamist, con man and person of very dubious character.

Once again a widow she took up a grant of land comprising 5 acres in South Head Road (now including Grace Bros. Bondi Junction) but continued to reside in O'Connell Street, opposite the Seminary.

When Elizabeth died in 1842 she left her children a worthy inheritance and considering she arrived penniless and newly bereaved this is an amazing history of one woman's energy and determination.

Australian Courtship

The currency lads may fill their glasses
And drink to the health of the Currency Lassies
But the lass I adore the Lass for me, is the lass
In the Female Factory.

O'Molly her name and her name is Molly,
Although she was tried by the name of Polly
She was tried and cast for death at Newry
But the judge was bribed and so was the Jury.

She got 'death recorded' in Newry town
For stealing her mistresses watch and gown,
Her little boy Paddy can tell you the tale
His father was turnkey of Newry Jail.

The first time I saw this comely lass
Was at Parramatta going to mass
Says I 'I'll marry you now in an hour'
Says she 'we'll go and fetch Father .Power

But I got into trouble that very same night
Being drunk in the street I got into a fight
A constable seized me, I gave him a box
And was put in the watch house and then in the stocks.

O' its very uneasy as I may remember
To sit in the stocks in the month of December
With the north wind so hot and the hot sun right over
O' sure its no place at all for a lover.

'It's worse than the tread mill' says I 'Mr. Dunn'
'To sit here all day in the late of the sun'.
'Either that or a dollar says he 'for your folly,'
But if I had a dollar I'd drink it with Molly.

But now I am out again early and late
I sigh and I cry at the Factory gate
'O' Mrs late Mrs⁶
'O' won't you let Molly out pretty soon.'

'Is it Molly McGuigan' says she to me
'Is it not' says I for she know'd it was she
'Is it her she you mean that was put in the stocks
For beating her mistress Mrs Cox'.

'O' Yes and it is, madam, pray let me in
I have bought her a half pint of Coopers best gin
She likes it as well as she likes her own mother
O' now let me in, madam, I am her brother.'

⁶

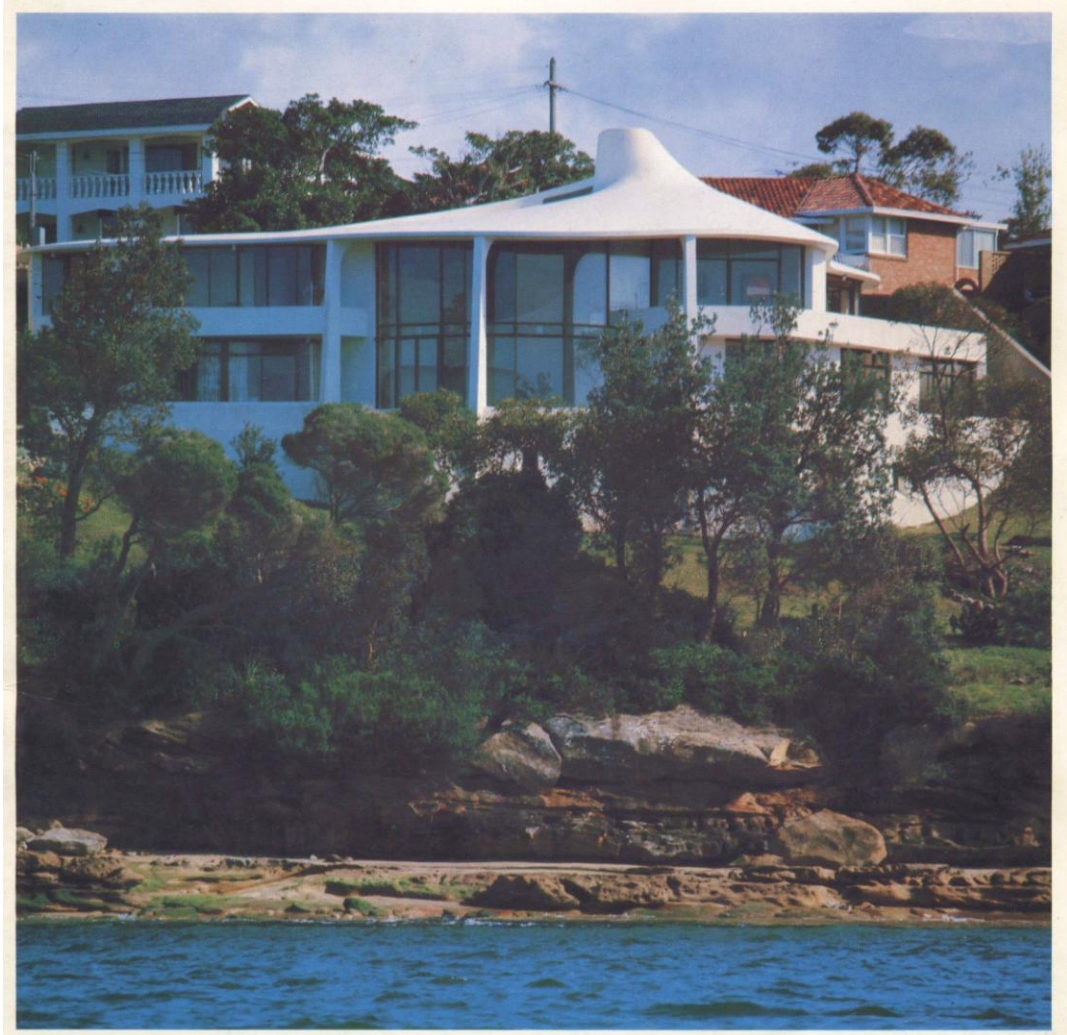
Mrs, Raine late Mrs. Fulloon

Thank you Valmai for sharing this story with us.

APOLLO GATE

Tom Breen and Bruce Watt

Featured in recent bulletins have been a few of the Shire's historically significant houses. Age can make a house significant as well as the residents who lived there, important events taking place or architectural style. With commanding views over Port Hacking, Apollo Gate, located on two blocks of land in Cowra Place, South Cronulla, is amongst a very few, truly unique housing styles of the 20th Century in the Shire or indeed in Sydney. For a number of reasons it has a place in the local history of the Shire.



A view from Salmon Haul on Port Hacking

Built by Tom Breen, (Managing Director of Breen Holdings), in the early 1970s, it was designed as the home for his young family, and completed in October 1973. He named it, "Apollo Gate", as in Greek & Roman mythology; Apollo was the patron god of light, truth and music. Music played and continues to play an important part in Tom's life, and his son, Ben Breen, is an accomplished New York based violinist. Tom is an active supporter of the performance of music in Sydney, and also each Spring arranges a concert and picnic afternoon in the gardens of the family's property at Mount Wilson. Tom is the son of the late Tom Breen Snr, who some 20 years earlier had purchased large tracts of land on the Kurnell Peninsula and founded Metropolitan Sand Company. The Breen family and Breen Holdings has had and continues to have a commercial and community involvement in the Shire spanning just on 60 years.

"Apollo Gate" was also so named and designed by Tom Breen to reflect its location, perched as it is on the hillside at the southern tip of the South Cronulla promontory, overlooking secluded Salmon Haul Beach and he conceived it as both a Gateway to the waters of Port Hacking, and as a gateway both to the future and to an earlier more classical time. Its design underscores a spiritual and architectural link to a Mediterranean village of whitewashed buildings clinging to the coastline, but its bold statement of

structural columns supporting the roof on the building's waterfront, Tom Breen comments, was inspired by the columns of ancient Greece & Rome.

The style of the house is futuristic and breaks from many of the conventional architectural forms. Tom and Marilyn Breen advised their architect, Reuben Lane, that they wanted Apollo Gate to create a sense of freedom, and that the design was not to be constrained by the usual square and rectangular shapes. Mr Lane took his clients at their word, and the result is that there are no true right angles in the house.

Sydney based architect Reuben Lane had worked in the 1960s as a junior architect with the leading international architects Le Corbusier and Oscar Neimeyer on the futuristic design of Brazilia, the then new Brazilian capital city. Twenty years earlier Le Corbusier and Neimeyer had designed the United Nations Building in New York. Thus "Apollo Gate" was at the "cutting edge" of 20th century building design and has a quite fascinating architectural pedigree.



The music room

It was completed in the same year as the Sydney Opera House and just as the latter posed building challenges, so did Apollo Gate. It consists of a freeform concrete structure on two steep blocks of land. The concrete roof is a freely flowing dome which was cast in three foot strips. The roof design was only finally perfected after it had been carved to scale 3 dimensions in timber, and this model then was used to obtain accurate measurements for the final cast curved concrete shell. Many of the interior walls, and the central fireplace and chimney complex, is free hand formed ferro cement that was laid on chicken wire. One of Tom Breen's aims was to create a circular music space where chamber music performances could take place in this central room. His son, Ben, as a very small boy, first played the violin in this room, and has subsequently performed in the Opera House and Carnegie Hall.

The construction of Apollo Gate was carried out by the firm of C H & C R Ellis. The house is large, with a floor space of over 700 m² and contains six bedrooms and four bathrooms, a study, sky-lit sunroom, playroom, a basement – hobby room and a wine cellar. The living room of two storeys in height, features a spiralling western red cedar ceiling, with a cedar timber floor that complements it, and which affords a large entertainment (or performance) area. A curved glass curtain wall provides uninterrupted views to Port Hacking and the Royal National Park. Also in this central room is a ferro concrete curved "sitting nook" and fire place, which continues to the dining room terraced above it. A curved travertine staircase leads down to this central area from the entrance gallery above, also paved in travertine marble. There are seven

paved terraces encircling the home. The imposing fence surrounding the property contains 60,000 bricks, rendered in the style of the house in a rough white pebble cast.



The dining room and unusual fireplace

The highly acclaimed photographer, Max Dupain, photographed Apollo Gate in the late 1970's. *The black and white photos featured here were taken by Max Dupain.* He also had taken the wedding photographs of Tom Breen Snr and his wife Charlotte in 1941.

The house was sold in 1978 to Evan Cardiacos. He lived in it until his death in 2008, and completed the surrounding fence and the garage. Evan Cardiacos was in the rug and floor covering trade and through this, had many overseas connections with China, Belgium, Egypt, Greece and Rumania. He was very hospitable. At one time he offered accommodation to the Peking Conservatorium String Quartet. In appreciation, they performed in the music space (on the lower level) thus continuing the dream of the original plans.



The open plan void with views over Port Hacking

Another event was a large fund raiser for the Sutherland Theatre Company. Other large groups that were hosted were the Greek Olympic Sailing Team who had their boats in Port Hacking and a group of Greek Scouts.

Like its contemporary, the Sydney Opera House, Apollo Gate, now 35 years old, is currently undergoing refurbishment.



These and other internal photographs of Apollo Gate featured in this article were taken by the iconic photographer, Max Dupain



MEDICAL EMERGENCIES and SERVICES

Pre-shire to c.1950.

Merle Kavanagh

Doctors, Nurses and Midwives

Early residents of the area we now call The Shire had few services that we take for granted these days and prime among them was medical help in accidents or for serious illnesses. They were virtually isolated by the Georges River, the nearest doctor/hospital being in St. George and if the need was desperate they took the patient over the river by the punt at Tom Ugly's. This was operating at least from 1860 and the Lugarno punt established in 1843, was closer for the few western area residents.

Records and the memories of residents show the difficulties they experienced. Sylvia Emmett, nee Sparkes recalls an accident to her brother Sid as a toddler. Father had left the axe at the woodpile and Sylvia was chopping sticks that her young brother put on the block and she accidentally chopped off his little finger. Mother Jemina heard the cries, came rushing, wrapped a napkin around his hand and hurried to grandma's, Mary Sparkes', who lived nearby. A neighbour there, Mr. Thorgood put his horse in the sulky and took them via the punt to St. George Cottage Hospital where they were asked had they brought the finger. But it had been forgotten and was back near the chopping block. Sylvia was under the house, crying, when her aunt came to retrieve and comfort her. The same family suffered the loss of their father, John Sparkes, who died whilst working, watering the road from the watering cart. Apparently his usual horse was not in the shafts and as he was getting into the cart, the horse shied.

There were occasions when it was necessary for doctors from Hurstville or Kogarah to make visits. Dr. Howse from Hurstville, travelled by horse to treat Richard Midgley in 1899, though he could not prevent his death some time after, said to be caused by ill health and the hardship of life in the 'wilds' of Menai. Capt. J. McClenahan, the Puntmaster at Tom Ugly's from 1886 – 1911, was in Kogarah Hospital in the care of Dr. Lannock in December 1906. Constable Lewis operated the 'Police Station' from his home at Sutherland from about 1893/4. He used a bicycle for transport and at one time broke a small leg bone when he had an accident on his bike. Dr. McLeod of Hurstville, treated the leg by splinting it. Lewis also did good turns, once taking Bridget Cain, a blind lady with a broken arm, from Sutherland to St. George Cottage Hospital in November 1906, presumably not on his bicycle.

Dr. Rooke was the first Medical Doctor to establish a practice in the Shire area at East Parade, Sutherland in September 1906. His home for many years, even after his death, was referred to as the doctor's house but has since been demolished. The doctor was an older, well-built man who had previously had a practice in Sydney. At Sutherland he employed Wilfred Meredith to attend to the care and harnessing of the horse to his four-wheeled carriage, and the driving for patient visits. Lily Dawson worked for him, cooking, cleaning and assisting when needed, having one day off a month. For the six months prior to her marriage to Arthur Midgley, she lived in. Dr. Rooke was said to have closed the practice due to unpaid bills.

Dr. Burchell had retired to Sutherland in 1923 from Canowindra and lived in President Avenue near Merton Street, though whether he practised there is hard to determine. He planted pine trees in front of his home, where St. Patrick's School now stands. His daughter, Mrs. Bennett had a dance band which was very popular during that period. George Heavens, a Sutherland shopkeeper remembers the doctor prescribing a mixture of lard and borax in 1938 to help sliding windows slide easily. It worked. 40 years later, George had drawers sticking and found the same old tin and it worked perfectly again!

When medical aid was not close enough, facilities across the Georges River were used. As a young lad of 14, Jack Meredith contracted meningitis and jaundice. No doctor being available locally, one was summoned from Kogarah. A friend went by launch across the Georges River to Sans Souci and then walked to Kogarah to obtain the medicine prescribed.

There were two doctors practicing in the Shire when the 1919 influenza epidemic began to take a toll here, Dr. Sanbrook at Sutherland and Dr. Sproule at Cronulla. The Yowie Bay Hotel had closed in 1918 and Council declared it an emergency hospital to care for the victims of the epidemic. The home of Mr. W.J. Chiplin, headmaster at Miranda School, was the Miranda Relief Depot where patients were treated also, and at Cronulla, both the cottage home *Myola* in Parramatta Street and *Cronulla House* on the shores of Port Hacking was a recuperation centre for mothers and children, some from the city. It was a busy time for the few doctors here.

Sanbrook lived in a house in Eton Street, Sutherland, on land now covered by Peace Park. It later housed the first Central Library, its floorboards creaking as readers browsed the shelves. On one occasion Dr. Sanbrook treated Granny Dawson after a sulky accident. Granny was a resident across the river at Menai and the family had a horse called Dolly. The horse did not enjoy being harnessed to the sulky and would often back up and reverse the vehicle. Grandfather decided that a few nails protruding from the bar behind the horse might deter Dolly and he did the job. Granny set off to Sutherland for some shopping and to make visits. At one home Granny pulled up Dolly but the shafts ran forward, giving Dolly a good sharp stab. She took off at a mad gallop, turning the sulky over and tossing granny out. Granny suffered a badly broken arm which was set by Dr. Sanbrook. Dolly's dignity was damaged but in the circumstances, her reaction was not unexpected!

One evening Dr. Sanbrook was alerted by a man running in and saying he'd been poisoned. The doctor found that the gentleman had arrived home a bit 'under the weather' and had an argument with his wife. She put salts in his meal and said she'd poisoned him. The doctor treated him by stomach pump!

Thelma Sawyer (nee Dwyer) recalled her sister Lily aged about four years old, cutting her eye badly in a fall while carrying a glass tumbler. She was loaded into a wheelbarrow and taken to Dr. Sanbrook, the mother hurrying ahead with the light and the other children running along behind crying. When brother Freddie cut his foot, the same thing happened.

In 1927 a young man, Leslie Byrne, was found unconscious in his small room at the Sutherland Electricity sub-station. As night watchman on a bitterly cold May night, he had lit a coke fire and succumbed to the fumes. Though he was revived by Dr. Sanbrook and transported to St. George Hospital by the St. George District Ambulance, he died a few days after admission. Some months later Findley Lack, an electrician, was working on a long ladder and touched a wire carrying 33,000 volts. He was taken to Dr. Sanbrook's residence and then to St. George Hospital, but died the same afternoon.

It wasn't just accidents that the doctors had to deal with, but infections and the complications of respiratory complaints. Dr. Sanbrook attended young Patty Wood who died of double pneumonia, pleurisy and meningitis while suffering the measles and therefore unable to be moved to hospital. Her brother Bill recalled 'She was like a little house on fire'.

Dr. Sproule had his share of misadventures. When four fingers were taken off by a chaff cutter, Dr. Sproule raced out to get the fingers and sew them on. This type of accident was not unusual in this period as wood-chopping and outdoor work was a daily occurrence. One child told his brother to put his fingers on the block and then chopped two of them off! The victim would often astonish strangers by putting the stumps of the fingers under his nostrils so that they looked like they were up his nose!

Tram accidents occurred during the period this service operated between Cronulla and Sutherland (1911-1931). In 1924 a very serious crash at Miranda left a mass of wreckage and the driver, Samuel Wyche, crushed to death. Wyche, had over 30 years experience as driver and conductor and had only been transferred to the Sutherland/Cronulla line a month before. This catastrophe brought all the doctors in the area to the scene to treat the injured. Drs. Miller, Sanbrook, Sproule and Broome attended and the St. George District Ambulance carried the injured to St. George Hospital.

Dr. R.J. Broome's practice was at Cronulla from 1921 to 1936 and over that time he was called to many parts of the Shire. There was a drowning early in 1922 in the salt water at Audley but he was too late to be

of any help. In October 1926 he treated a visitor to Cronulla Beach for sunstroke and even attended to a pilot whose Tiger Moth plane had crash-landed in the ocean. The pilot was plucked from the sea at Cronulla with a dislocated shoulder, abrasions and shock and then transferred to a private hospital at Cronulla. Dr. Broome recommended to Council in March 1934 that they purchase a 'Carbogen Respirator' for the Cronulla Surf Club and this they did. When he left with his wife in March 1936 for England and the Continent, they were farewelled in the Cronulla School of Arts.

Dr. Miller had a practice in a house in Surf Road, appropriately called *The Breakers*. Being Cronulla based, there were a number of ocean rescues and emergencies, and Dr. Miller attended one when fishermen in a converted lifeboat were dashed on the rocks beneath the Kurnell cliffs. Cronulla Lifesavers ran 4 miles (approx. 6½ kms.) along the beach in heavy rain, carrying belt reels, then clamboured 1½ miles (approx. 2½ kms.) over sandhills to help in the rescue and though some were saved, others drowned. In the late 1940s Dr. Miller's practice was taken over by Dr. McIntosh and he was joined later by Dr. Ken Vincent whose father had been a Pharmacist at Cronulla. Young Ken helped in the pharmacy, washing bottles, licking labels for citronella bottles and making small deliveries. Even though Dr. Vincent's G.P. experience was in the middle of the 20th century there were still many problems. Bundeena was only accessible by boat and it was preferred that patients be put on a boat and brought straight to doctor as early attention was imperative. Once a rowing boat was sent to collect the doctor but a storm sprang up and they were all drenched! Dr. McIntosh had been stricken by Polio and was paralysed in his leg and back but carried on in his profession, attending patients and confining expectant mothers, arriving in callipers for the their deliveries.

Dr. Eric and Dr. Tom Miles, brothers, began a practice at Sutherland around the 1930s and both are remembered with great affection. They were pioneering doctors, sometimes taking out children's tonsils on the kitchen table. Jean nee Taylor recalls that experience and also having him remove all her teeth while she was in her bed.

Bill Moran recalls the thoroughness of their examinations, following through on suspected scarlet fever, and hospitalising the child and Dr. Tom noting early eye problems in Bill's son. Bill himself had an early hospital visit with acute appendicitis and endured a sore arm after, which was an ulcer caused by a needle, but despite Dr. Eric suggesting an operation, Bill wanted to go to the pictures in Boyle Street! Bill bathed it with salt water, it cleared up and he was able to attend the picture show!

George Heavens related a curious problem with Mrs. Halliday and her pain relief. Mr. Halliday was a cripple, having had a full water tank fall on him. Consequently there was little work he could do and after he died, Mrs. Halliday relied on the Widow's Pension. She became ill with cancer and complained to George that her grocer would not sell her methylated spirits. George suggested another grocer, but she had tried them all – and the chemist. She had been barred by the police from buying it as she had been detected drinking it! She assured George the doctor had told her it would do her no harm. George checked this out and was told by Dr. Eric that it was unethical for him to talk about a patient – but it would do her no harm though he could not prescribe it.

So George supplied her with metho and when the Police visited him, he told them there was no law about selling metho. The police reaction was to say 'We'll see about that!' Mrs. Halliday declared George was well-named Heavens and told him she diluted it with water and it eased the pain. When she did not come in for her regular purchase he learned she had passed away. Dr. Eric later told him there was nothing he could do for her medically and had suggested whiskey, but she could not afford that.

With a growing population the doctors were very busy. There were a few midwives, the most well-known being Kate Lobb, who was 'well-loved' and worked together with Dr. Sanbrook at times. Wal Yardley recalls his son, Ray, being born at their home, as many babies were. Some time later there was an occasion when the baby became upset, crying constantly and his mother became very concerned. Wal set off from home between Kirrawee and Gymea to walk to Nurse Lobb's home on the corner of Merton Street and President Avenue, Sutherland, seeking advice. She said to him "Listen! Give him just a little spot or two of brandy but don't tell Dr. Sanbrook I told you!" It worked!

Another midwife who worked with Nurse Lobb was Sarah Jane Pattinson and her granddaughter, Mary Frater (nee Coulthard) recalls that her grandmother also took care of their injuries and cared for those who were ill during the Influenza epidemic. There was also a Mrs. Saunders who practised midwifery and no doubt there were others who had the duties thrust on them in an emergency. In the Caringbah/Miranda area Nurse Kensitt operated as a midwife, after Nurse Lobb, from the corner of the Kingsway and Port Hacking Road North, almost opposite the Sutherland Hospital site. She was said to 'like her wine' and at one time the house next door to her burned down due to a spark from the tram.

At Engadine prior to the building of the Sutherland Hospital at Caringbah, many babies were delivered at a tiny private hospital, San Gerard, at Engadine which was owned and run by Sister Nancy Taafe. It was very popular with mothers, some liking it to spending a ten day holiday, being spoilt and waited upon. It was situated on the Old Princes Highway opposite the water tanks at Engadine, prior to the opening of Sutherland Hospital in 1958. There is one mention in records of a Nurse Spinks Private Hospital at Sutherland, but no confirmation has been found at this time.

Hospitals and Ambulance services

In 1922 the ex-owner of the Cronulla and Port Hacking Ferry Company was seriously injured by his own motor car. It was early days for driving and easy to forget the essentials. After stopping he had left it, forgetting to put it in neutral. When he cranked it while it was still in gear, it started and ran over him, dragging him to the edge of a cliff, causing a broken ankle and internal injuries. He was taken to St. George Cottage Hospital but died a week later.

St. George Cottage Hospital operated from about 1892 and took the heaviest burden of cases, being supported both in the St. George and Sutherland Shire areas with much fund-raising during the early decades of the 20th Century. At the schools operating in the Shire, there were occasional 'Egg Days' and eggs brought to school by pupils aided this hospital. The number of eggs donated in 1913 indicated the proliferation of poultry farms in the Miranda area – Sutherland 300 eggs and Miranda School 1160 eggs! In 1914 there was a suggestion by the local M.L.A. that the St. George Hospital become the Illawarra District Hospital and a new Cottage Hospital be built at Sutherland.

Apart from the St. George Cottage Hospital, there were a number of small ones operating in that area. These included Brooklyn Private Hospital in Queens Avenue, Kogarah run by Matron M.C. Wuth, which moved to English Street in 1914 and into the ownership of Dr. John James O'Keefe, a Kogarah doctor. He had connections with the shire as Jill Dodds (nee Fletcher) was advised by Dr. O'Keefe that she was on the verge of Tuberculosis and she was kept home from school for 8 months. The Laurels opened about 1919 with Nurse Anderson in attendance. Primrose House, originally a Soldiers Convalescent Home known as Scarborough House from 1919 to 1921, later became an Annexe to St. George Hospital. In the 1930s Osterley at Carlton and Woodleigh Private at Hurstville were available. There were others. Amy, the first wife of C.O.J. Monro, a Shire President, died in a Hurstville Private Hospital in 1923. Facilities in St. George were utilised by patients on both sides of the Georges River.

A hundred years ago on the west side of Gunnamatta Bay, opposite Gunnamatta Park, was known as Hospital Bay. A large stone house there on the present site of the De La Salle College near Gunnamatta and Cros Roads, was considered as a hospital. However, because of its isolation, it was thought to be more suitable as an emergency quarantine station, though it is unknown whether it was actually used for these purposes. A flagstaff was on the grounds and there were baths and a boatshed on the shore where local surfclubs stored their boats. In 1912 the NSW Government built a T shaped wharf at the foot of the cliff face, the sandstone cliff providing a rock wall at the land end of the wharf. A staircase cut into the rock provided access to the wharf and these steps can still be seen there. At the same time, Bull's wharf and another wharf on the southern end of Gunnamatta Bay were built. From there, Captain Ryall ran a ferry service in the port, to Simpson's, Bundeena etc. and local ladies took the opportunity of a quick ferry trip to Cronulla shops, which at the time were situated in the area where the present Cronulla Railway Station stands.

Garrawarra Hospital at Waterfall was opened for consumptive patients in April 1909 and 230 male patients were transferred from the Liverpool Asylum. Women were not able to be accommodated until 1912 when 120 extra beds were provided. In 1914 the Hospital became the principal one for treatment of Tuberculosis

in the state and was named the Waterfall State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis. A cemetery was part of the complex and was well-used. In 1921 a total of 556 had been treated there and of these 190 died. As the disease declined, less patients were admitted and by 1957 when the hospital ceased housing consumptives, there were only 100 patients in residence. The Garrawarra Hospital then served as a hospital for the aged and chronically ill and in 1991 its title was changed to Garrawarra Centre for Aged Care.

There was a Red Cross Convalescent Home (Miss Piper's) in the Shire at Cronulla after World War I where servicemen were able to relax and enjoy the sea air and boat trips. A cottage hospital was also operating on the site of Woollooware Oval and it might be that this was the private hospital at Cronulla Heights at Woollooware, opened by Mrs. Vennard and Nurse Buckley in October 1918. Many years later (1951) there was an application to declare 'St. Olives' in Croydon Street, Cronulla a certified hospital. Doreen Bolton lived at Woronora and remembers her tonsillectomy operation... 'Mum, Norman (her young brother) and I travelled by bus to Sutherland, caught a train to Caringbah and walked to a white weatherboard house, which was the 'private maternity hospital.' This was probably the Jacaranda Hospital which was located south of the Kingsway in English Street. Doreen fled the hospital and ran up the street when the time had come but was coerced into returning (the threat of school the following day helped). After putting off the inevitable with claims she needed to blow her nose, she was anaesthetised and the job was done. When the ambulance pulled up at her home, Doreen tried to look 'as though she was dying' as curious school pupils were just alighting from the school bus. She was hoping one of them would tell her teacher not to expect her at school for a very long time!

The Jacaranda Hospital was a later arrival to the maternity hospital list in the Shire, having been first established in the home of the proprietor, Sister Irene Haxton in English Street, Caringbah in 1948. A small hospital in Cronulla had recently closed its doors and the post war boom was drawing young couples to the Shire. Sister Haxton had done her obstetric training at St. Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst and gained extensive experience in maternity work. At that time the nearest maternity bed accommodation was at Kogarah, a long way for Shire residents when babies decide to come early. Some months later it was imperative that she provide more beds so she took a loan and bought land for a larger maternity hospital, the real estate agent, waiving his commission because it was for a community service. It was some time before the hospital was built but it was finally opened in 1952 by C.O.J. (Joe) Monro, other speakers being Dr. Eric Miles and Dr. MacIntosh. Sister Haxton had planted Jacaranda trees up and down the street, and thought it would be a good idea to give the newborns a tree to commemorate their birthday. After she retired she made special visits to the top level of the Miranda Fair when the Jacarandas were in bloom. There she looked out at the view, noting with satisfaction the purple splashes scattered throughout the Shire.

The Ambulance Service filled a great need in the community. Mr. R.A. Dermott, the retired Superintendent of the St. George-Sutherland Ambulance Service provided details about the first ambulance services for an earlier issue of *The Bulletin*. "The first St. George District Casualty Service began at Kogarah in the 1880s when a hand litter was used – a stretcher on wheels, pushed by an attendant. In 1918 the first motorised Ambulance Service began operating from Rockdale and when required to transport patients from the Shire to the Kogarah District Hospital, would cross Georges River by vehicular punt."

There was a ferry accident one evening in 1927 at the Taren Point Vehicular Ferry wharf, this service having commenced in 1916. A car approached the Taren Point ramp travelling fairly fast at 9 pm. Onlookers guessed the driver had assumed the vehicular ferry was waiting, and shouted and waved as it was still across the water at Sans Souci. The car braked then skidded off the ramp and sank in about ten feet of water (approx. 3 metres). The driver escaped but a lady passenger was drowned. The ferry could not then approach the ramp so the St. George District Ambulance had to travel by way of Tom Ugly's ferry and through Sylvania to the scene of the accident.

In 1928 the St. George-Sutherland Shire District Ambulance Service first had a vehicle stationed on weekends and holidays on the corner of Princes Highway and the Kingsway where a motor repair garage stood, run by Bill Bulman around that period and into the 1930s. There were always long queues for the Tom Ugly's Punt and the possibility of accidents. A permanent ambulance building was erected at Sutherland, at the northern end of Merton Street and opened officially on 18 August 1929. There was a residence for a

full-time officer above the ambulance room and thus the first full-time service began in the Sutherland Shire. In its first year it transported 533 patients and casualties, travelling a total of 10,000 miles (approx. 16,000 kms.) and also provided a first aid service. The first two officers were Sidney Crispo and Richard Bryant who served for many years. There was a need for fund-raising and local people formed the Sutherland Auxiliary to carry this out. The President was Clr. J.W.H. Lawrence, Secretary Mr. H. Beach and Patron, Mr. E.W. Boyle of Boyle's Hotel. A First Aid Station at Gunnamatta was one of their early efforts and funds were boosted by events to aid the Ambulance Queen, Betty Pickering.

Bill Barnidge commenced work with the Ambulance Service just after the 1920s Depression, having previously worked there for no wages. He commenced at Rockdale but alternated between Rockdale and Sutherland. At that time there were 12 workers to serve St. George and Sutherland Shire, including Helensburgh. The work at Sutherland involved two men to an ambulance, Monday to Saturday. Then he worked with just a bearer until the bearer was cancelled and Bill served the whole of Sutherland Shire, all hours, six days a week, alone. He was asked to live on the premises, but refused as he would have had no time to himself or for his family. When his shift was finished he would put the phone through to Rockdale.

There were a number of officers who were honorary and who worked with him at Sutherland. He eventually became Station Officer at Sutherland and when the Caringbah Ambulance Station was built, he moved down there as Station Officer until he retired after many years.

He had a first aid case in the ambulance with a small amount of equipment, splints, etc. and he learned on the job under difficult conditions. It was a single road to Helensburgh and the accidents were 'unreal'. Cars had canvas hoods and there were many injuries and fatalities. Maternity cases were regular and Bill delivered many babies. Even suicides were part of the work, and many ways were used. Accidents to children were particularly upsetting. One traumatic day he attended three road accidents each with a young child killed. At 2.30 p.m. he phoned Rockdale and said he was going home. It was very hard to deal with such heartbreaking tragedies.

Access to some homes, particularly on the waterfront, was extremely difficult. Many times he rowed up the Woronora River to bring patients back by boat. At North West Arm he negotiated the track down the back of Acacia Road. The tide would sometimes cover the stepping stones, so a boat had to be used. Once, the chap in front gave him the wrong directions as to where the stones were and he went up to his neck in the water.

When operating alone, there was generally someone to help carry the stretcher, but there were problems and delays when he was driving with a patient in the ambulance as he was the sole carer/driver. He had to stop the ambulance to attend to the patient when they were physically ill or needed his help, delivering babies, etc. Bill served in the army on an ambulance in New Guinea and Borneo during the second world war, but he would have preferred to be in another section. He retired in 1973. Many older residents remember him collecting house to house for the Ambulance by pushbike. Bill was often approached by residents expressing their thanks for the help he had given them or their families.

With the Post World War II steady increase in population (the population was then about 28,000) the need for a hospital in the Shire was paramount. Over many years there had been attempts to establish a hospital in the shire, the earliest noted being in 1920. By 1925 the Grand Council of Progress Associations met to discuss construction of a local cottage hospital in Sutherland. Twelve years later, in 1937, Heathcote Progress Assn. urged Council to call a meeting regarding such establishment and in 1939 Sylvania Progress Assn. supported this.

The Board of Sutherland District Hospital was incorporated in 1944 and worked steadily towards the reality of a local hospital. The site was selected, once Lehanes' old paddock and the site of the Army lock-up during the war, on the corner of The Kingsway and Kareena Road. However, they were restricted to a ten acre area and the building plans had to be amended to fit. There was concern amongst supporters that increased accommodation would be required before very long and some thought should be given to acquiring more land now, even if it was used temporarily for amenities for staff. There were some who

considered the isolation of the Sutherland Shire would make it difficult to attract staff and such amenities as a tennis court might be an added inducement. By 1950 the population had grown to 50,000. Council agreed regarding the land and it finally became available in 1954 for hospital use as required. The Ambulance Headquarters was built on this part of the land, much to everyone's satisfaction.

The full story of our Shire hospital and the people who worked hard for its establishment, is not told here, except to say that it was opened in April 1958. However, a few days later, on 7th April, the Fire Brigade had a call that the Hospital was on fire. George Heavens was on the Sutherland unit which raced to the scene, the Captain's foot on the accelerator 'like a ton weight' and George, next to the captain, giving 'that siren hell'! They saw the flames from the site of the present GyMEA Technical College and arrived to find the unoccupied cottage on the south-east portion of the hospital grounds well alight. It was Lehane's old weatherboard and 'it made a spectacular fire!' In 1960 the population had risen to 120,00!

Sutherland Shire with its many waterways, beaches and bush has had to deal with particular types of medical problems – fire and axe accidents, and drownings. The latter problem generally happens so quickly that medical aid cannot reach the victim in time. Young people drowned in creeks and rivers.. and in the surf, despite the best efforts of our lifesavers. The North Cronulla group suffered a tragedy in 1950

It was a hot February day and the surf was popular. A girl, just 16, on a surf ski was swept from the southern end of the beach into The Alley, a treacherous rip, and three surf lifesavers swam out to rescue her. One was Jim Peryman, in the belt at the end of the line, and the other two were Bergstrum and Slade. The rip was pulling them all and to Bergstrum, Peryman looked tired so Bergstrum told him to release the belt. Jim, holding the girl, went under. Peryman struggled to the surface and Bergstrum again urged him to release himself from the belt. Slade went ashore to tell the linesmen to pull in the line. Peryman went under again, still holding the girl. As she separated from Peryman under water, Bergstrum clutched her hair and pulled her up, passing her onto the boat Captain who had paddled out a surf ski. She was taken back through the rough water to the beach to be revived. The rescue was over.

But the linesmen were having trouble with the line – it was dragging and difficult to pull in. When a dark swirling shape, a tangled mess of seaweed, was hauled from the boiling waves, it was suddenly realised that Jim Peryman was still in the belt at the end of the line, limp and covered in weed. They worked on him, an announcement was made for a doctor and Dr. O'Halloran hurried to them. An injection of adrenalin, Doc Drinkwater and others arrived. An ambulance was called and Jim Peryman was taken to St. George Hospital, siren screaming, in 12 minutes, Bruce Thompson still maintaining resuscitation. Dr. McIntosh and Jim's father arrived and went inside the ward where Jim was in an iron lung. Some time later they emerged and Dr. McIntosh said quietly 'Thank you boys, but we were just too late'. The Jim Peryman Memorial Pool and Peryman Place are a legacy from that hot February tragedy.

Sometimes there is little that doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and hospital employees can do, but in Sutherland Shire we have a wonderful history of devotion by a handful of special people to the care of others. We are also indebted to those who have worked earnestly over many years to acquire the modern facilities we now have, and are still working to improve medical services. Axe accidents are few and far between but fire and water casualties are definitely still with us.

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Woodward, Irene	Yardley, Wal		
Osmond, Val / Pullen, Sheila / Dodds, Jill (Combined interview)			

....Cutbush, Jim, interview re Hospital Bay

The following article was written by Sister Irene Haxton, the Matron of the Jacaranda Maternity Hospital where many shire babies were born in the post-World War II period. Permission to print has been kindly given by her brother, Mr. George Hooker.

My Obstetric Training Days

Sister Irene Haxton

After completing my general nursing in Cairns in 1927, I applied and was accepted as a Trainee Student in 1928 at St. Margaret's Hospital in Bourke Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney. St. Margaret's at that period was an old, in fact very old timber structure with high fences all around and a huge old wooden front gate which was always kept well locked.

The hospital was run by the Sisters of Mercy (a truly dedicated order) whose reason for this hospital was to care for the many unmarried mothers of that period. No girl was ever turned away, and in fact, sometimes there was not enough sleeping accommodation and the girls slept on the large old dining room table.

These unmarried mothers did all the housework, cooking and laundering around the hospital and were kept and cared for all through until their babies were born, and of course without pay.

Although we too were not paid any salary, we were always very well cared for. Two Nuns used to go daily to the markets in their old van, and it came back filled with all the left over vegetables and fruit – all for free! And I dare say – the meats as well. It was all good and nourishing and everybody looked well and plump. These were depression years and jobs and money were very scarce.

Likewise we student nurses received no payment either, and had to use our meagre saving from our previous general training to keep us through this period. We were fortunate in one way really, as the previous year of students had to pay a premium of £50. (This was discontinued in our year).

I really suffered the change of climate, moving from the warmth of the tropics. The freezing weather really shocked me!

Our quota of deliveries was I think about 10, and if it was your turn to deliver the baby, night or day, we used always to be yanked, mostly at night, out of bed by the old hurricane lantern flashed across our faces. No Second Call. Up you would get and to the labour ward. The birth was always supervised by a trained nurse as there were few doctors.

No one could afford doctors except a few private patients and there were no medical students at St. Margaret's. We did more deliveries than most other surrounding hospitals and it was good experience.

After the delivery was completed and your patient and baby sponged and back safely to a warm bed, it was your next duty to gather up all the stained bed linen and a long trek down a cold back yard to the laundry to wash all the linen in freezing cold water ready for the laundry staff to boil and sterilize the next day.

How I longed to get back to my warm bed. But it was near rising bell – no such luck! My poor fingers and knuckles and hands swelled, cracked and bled. Likewise my feet, I could just about shuffle around. But, no respite – just a dab of ointment and on with the job. Later I found out the misery of what was wrong – chilblains, that was it.

Every Tuesday 9.00 am sharp, the Christening bell rang, all the young babies were Christened. All the Catholic nurses would drop whatever they were doing, grab a baby with name tag attached to front, and run down to the chapel where the Priest would be waiting. It was like an assembly line of babies. One morning the young nurse standing beside me must have dropped the name tag, so when the Priest beckoned her to the Christening font, she cried out ‘Just wait a minute, Father’ and down she sat in one of the chapel pews and with great haste undid the big safety pin and then the nappy and said in a relieved loud voice “It’s a Patrick, Father, a Patrick!!” Poor girl, she was never allowed to forget this lapse of memory!

Every Thursday was Ante Natal Day and one of the young expectant mothers would be taken to this special clinic where a gynaecologist was our instructor. We all stood around in a large circle and the doctor called out to one of us at random to examine our young patient, e.g. the length of her pregnancy, approximate time of birth, listen to the foetal heart sound and the position of the baby. Once again, there being no medical students, we learnt a lot. Being young ourselves we were awed and impressed.

Not one of us liked the long hours of night duty, especially as the admissions would ring down from the front gate. The bell was so loud and shook the whole of the old building. It would wake all and sundry. Two of us would troop down to the old door (we were forbidden ever to go alone). First the small moving shutter was lifted and if it was an expectant mother, she was quickly ushered in the door which was then locked and re-bolted. This was the Darlington area of the 1930s and the razor gang time. Many a time the old bell rang and it was just the hooligans ringing – no patients.

A couple of months before our training was completed, we had to do our stint of district nursing. This meant visiting homes to confine the women at home – always again, two of us went together. I am pleased to say that none of us were accosted or abused. Our nurses uniforms and black bags assured us respect. The patients were very poor and just paid the hospital with the government bonus £4. One patient I remember had complications set in and the Nuns always provided us with money to ring a doctor in such events. On going out to the husband in the adjoining room playing cards with his mates “Go ring me a doctor and say we’re having complications and that the membranes have ruptured”, the poor man became agitated and said ‘Oh God, missus, can’t you patch them up?’

The time of study and training passed quickly and exams came and we all passed successfully and we went our different ways. I found myself at 22 years old with 2 certificates and no job. Not enough experience for the city hospitals, so I applied and was accepted at the small country hospitals where the matrons were so overworked and overtired. I would relieve and so gained valuable experience which stood me in good stead when I was able to start out on my own.

Australia Day 2009

As in previous years the Historical Society was once again asked to present a display of photographs from the Society’s collection now held by the Sutherland Shire Library. The venue was the Community Hall in Surf Road Cronulla.

A fine day greeted us and well before the opening time of 9 am the Society’s acting President and Museum Curator, Jim Cutbush, was hard at it getting everything ready. The display looked great and with the society banner out front, it wasn’t long before the first visitors started to arrive.

On hand to assist Jim were Maurie Beaven, Angela Thomas, Terry McCosker, David Overett, John Risebrow, Bruce Watt and Pauline Curby. The Cutbush family also made their presence felt with Marjorie, Jodie, Nathan and Graham turning up to lend a hand. Thank you everyone.

Another big thank you must also go to the council staff who transported the photos to and from the event.

As usual the display sparked a lot of interest from young and old alike. Besides the photos a DVD depicting 100 years of surfing at Cronulla ran continuously and proved very popular. Nearly everyone took a cardboard sunshade showing the Australian flag and many of the children took transfers.

One of the pleasures when presenting these displays is to hear the tales told of the Shire's early days by some of those coming through the door. It has always been a great way to discover more about our history. All the suburbs were well represented.

So another successful Australia Day both in visitor numbers and donations/sales. Once again thank you to all those who helped out and we will be back again next year.

David Overett



With an eye to history

Letters to the Editor

Dear Bruce,

I was wondering if you would like to include details of our exhibition in your newsletter.

It could be an opportunity for your members to have a look in the recently restored Brush Farm House.

Kind Regards

Suzanne Leslie

Secretary Eastwood Patchwork Quilters.

EASTWOOD PATCHWORK QUILTERS 2009 EXHIBITION

May 1 –3 10am to 4.30pm

A chance to see a spectacular display of traditional quilts made by the members of Eastwood Patchwork Quilters, while visiting historic Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St Eastwood.

Over 180 beautiful quilts made by our members will be displayed.

Located on bus routes 545 and 550 Chatswood/Macquarie/Eastwood/Parramatta.



Brush Farm House was built around 1820 by Gregory Blaxland, one of the first Europeans to find a route across the Blue Mountains. It is one of Australia's oldest and substantial houses remaining from the Macquarie era. It has been recently restored and renovated as an exhibition space by Ryde City Council.

We will also use additional exhibition space in the adjacent Corrective Services Training facility.

Refreshments, light lunches, and quilt and craft stores will be available.

Admission \$6

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society wish to acknowledge the assistance of Port Hacking High School in the publication of this edition of the bulletin.

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- ii *The Sydney Mail*, March 5, 1864, p2
- iii *The Sydney Mail*, August 6, 1864
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- v *The Sydney Mail*, October 29, 1864, p5
- vi Ibid
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- viii *Yass Courier*, August 28, 1885