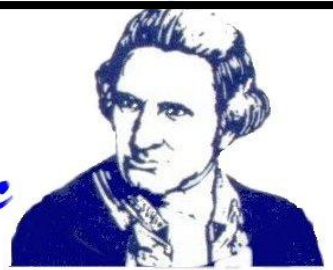




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Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



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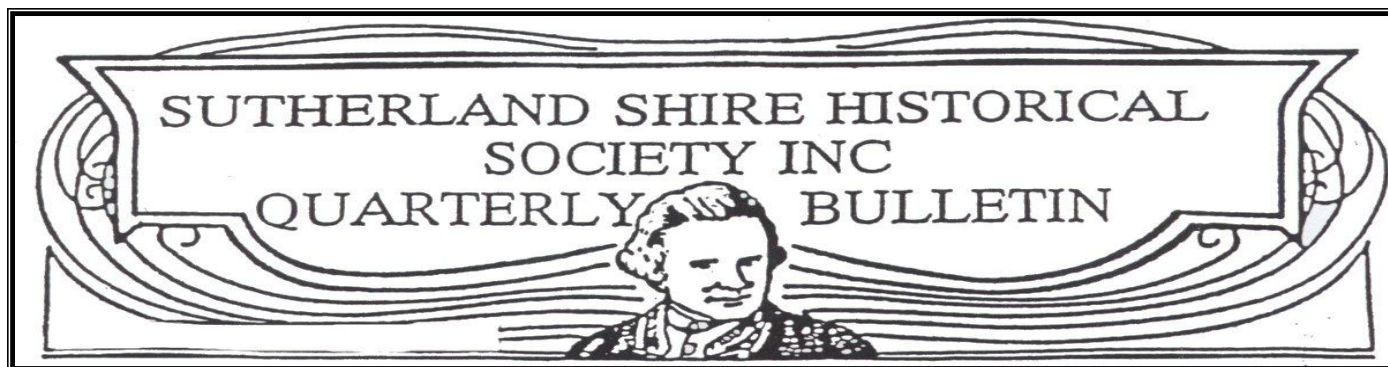
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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the third Saturday at 1.30 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 great pleasure to write to you as the Honorary President for this year. When I think back and remember some of the former presidents, it is clear the Society has enjoyed strong and dedicated leadership from the outset. They have set a fantastic example of commitment and effort that has made the Society what it is today.

In taking on this position, I would especially like to thank Jim who carried out this role for much of the past year. Jim's commitment to the Society goes back to its earliest days. I can still remember his young children (as they were then) crewing the Council's float known as the Good Ship Sutherland Shire. (Of course those kids are now grown up with children of their own).

We are also indebted to Jim and his team for their tireless work in support of the museum. Recently our Society joined the Museums and Galleries NSW. We have had two visits by staff from Museums and Galleries who have reviewed our collection of historical items, our presentation in the School of Arts and our management policies. While they were initially a little gloomy about the size of our premises and storage facilities, they have become much more positive about our museum and especially its collection of historical material. We will continue to work with them, adopting their advice and suggestions as the basis for moving forward. As a result, we have now been given our full membership certificate. We are just one of the 68 museums out of a total of 400 that have reached this stage. In partnership with the Museum and Galleries the museum committee has now developed a Business Plan for the Society and the future looks promising.

This is a major step for us as we attempt to engage more closely with Council in terms of funding, support and ultimately a museum and storage facility that suits our needs. In a recent meeting with Council officers it was made clear that any group (including Council's own departments) must have a business plan that meshes with Council's published objectives if it wishes to have funding and support. The ongoing development of our relationship with Council will continue to be a major objective for this next twelve months.

Another issue that should be uppermost in our minds is the capture of memories. We each carry a small time capsule, full of all sorts of experiences, memories and perspectives on events both great and small. Given we live in the information age, every effort should be made to record and publish those memories. As lovers of history we all know the impact of stories from an eyewitness cannot be replaced by even the most dedicated and exacting of researchers. We have an excellent journal and a web site both of which are ideal platforms for publishing those stories, anecdotes and memories.

This of course is not meant to denigrate our guest speakers. Each month we have the privilege of listening to the results of their research and enthusiasm. Sometimes their research has spanned many years and countless hours tracking down information which they present freely and gladly for our pleasure and education. Our Society is also most fortunate to have a number of very gifted historians. Their professionalism, research and their published works is a lasting memorial to their skills and a good reflection on our Society. I am sure we are all very proud of our Society.

Andrew Platfoot

From The Editor's Desk

This is traditionally the Christmas edition of the bulletin, marking as we do, the passing of the calendar year. But to some extent our year starts with the election of officers at the AGM in September.



At times, office bearer positions can be hard to fill. There can be many reasons such as time constraints, fear of taking on an unfamiliar role or not wanting to challenge the status quo. But a healthy organisation should encourage turnover and plan for succession. It was with considerable pleasure that we saw several new committee members stepping up this year at the AGM. They have injected fresh ideas and enthusiasm into an already reinvigorated executive. The year ahead is already looking exciting with some interesting speakers and new projects for the Society. It is our aim to make our organisation relevant, progressive and above all, a place where our members can share interests and have some fun. Many members share an interest in collecting. At future meetings we will have a section of 'show and tell'. For some this may mean displaying an object whilst others may want to provide an explanation.

I am encouraged by the number of articles submitted for publishing in this edition. Most are not lengthy. They illustrate how some interesting ideas can be turned into entertaining articles. One of our newest and youngest members has undertaken a research project for her University degree and offered the article for publication. Her article is on 'The New Guard', a civilian movement with political ideals that flourished briefly in the turbulent years of the 1930s. The organisation achieved prominence through the actions of one of its members at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. What hasn't been well known is that members were active in the Shire. The article pinpoints the area where they took part in training activities. As several of our articles deal with the 'coathanger', our cover features the icon nearing completion.

Thanks once again to Angela Thomas, our talented and industrious Secretary who pushed to have our meeting times changed. Judging by the roll up, it has been welcomed by our members.

Let's make our Society even stronger, friendlier and more enjoyable. Encourage a friend to join. Membership forms are on the last page.

A happy and successful Christmas and New Year to our members, supporters and readers.

Bruce Watt

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS 2009 / 10

19th DecemberChristmas Meeting at the School of Arts, 1.30 pm
'Show and Tell', bring your treasures to share with us.

**THIS IS OUR XMAS PARTY
IT IS TO BE HELD AT THE MUSEUM**

16th January 3 short talks by members

WELL EARNED AWARDS

2009 has proven to be a productive twelve months and it is with great pleasure that we note recognition by the broader community of so much achievement in the field of heritage. On Monday 16th November the 2009 Heritage Volunteer Awards were presented by the Hon. Kristina Keneally MP, Minister for Planning, at the Justice & Police Museum. Sue Duyker, who has spoken to our Society on several occasions, was honoured for her extensive work here and overseas, particularly on world heritage sites. Two Society members received awards - Museum Curator and previously Acting President, Jim Cutbush, was honoured for his dedicated work on preserving the history of our Shire, and member Les Bursill received his award for dedication to the Aboriginal community and preserving its heritage. Several members also attended the function and were gratified to note that out of 22 recipients, 3 came from Sutherland Shire.

November has been a busy month for Les who received an Excellence in Teaching Award for World Teachers Day on the 2nd of the month.

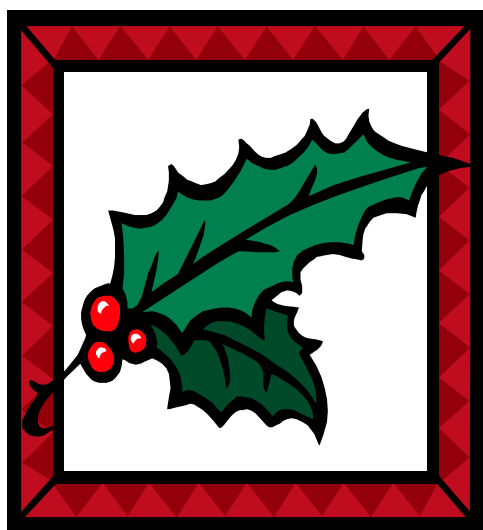
And Jim will be stepping up to the podium again on December 5th for his Cook Community Award. And Friday 13th did not live up to its disastrous reputation as David Overett and Angela Thomas journeyed out of the Shire and up to Gordon for the Museums & Galleries function at Eryldene, held in the beautiful Waterhouse Gardens. We were presented with our certificate for completing the Sustainable Community Museums Program which recognises our participation in all the workshops and field visits throughout the year, placing our museum as one of the 68 out of a possible 400 small museums and galleries in the State to be recognised as attaining that standard.

Congratulations! How wonderful to see all that dedicated work recognised by the community. If there are others out there who have been similarly honoured please let us know. Suffice to say that everyone who reads this Bulletin is interested in history and community events, so please contact us.

On Friday 20th November Bob Walshe was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award 2010, taking effect from Australia Day, January 26th 2010.

How delighted we are to have such an honoured member in our society, this is the second time he has been Citizen of the Year, last time was in 1995 and we believe he is the first recipient to have received this distinction. CONGRATULATIONS, BOB, FROM ALL YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS.

Angela Thomas



REMEMBER OUR XMAS PARTY

SCHOOL OF ARTS BUILDING

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER

1.30 PM

MEET THE EXECUTIVE

David Overett

My earliest memory is sitting with my sister on the back steps of our home in Chapel Street, Kogarah and waving to the nurses in the nurse's home at St George Hospital which backed onto our property. A few years earlier my father, an ex-POW from the Burma Railway, had bought a block of land at Caringbah. This was before the street was even there. We finally moved there in 1953 into a new house complete with street. I have lived there on and off ever since.

School days were a mix of good and bad times. Primary was at Caringbah Public and High School at Caringbah High. I enjoyed primary school but not High School.

While at primary my father died from his war related conditions and Mum became a War Widow. My sister and I became junior Legatees. I went a few times to Legacy nights at Hurstville and learnt to hate somersaulting and boxing. It is interesting to think that at the age of eleven, I was allowed to travel to Hurstville at night with just a couple of other boys the same age. I was also in the Cubs and later went into the Scouts.

Leaving school with a basic Leaving Certificate pass (four Bs) I went off to Sydney Tech. to do a Certificate course in Sheep and Wool which was really learning to become a wool classer. I passed, but apart from doing a little "shed work in the Snowy Mountains and in New Zealand, I never took to the life, although I can still throw a fleece and talk with authority to farmers.

Back in Sydney I ended up working for Dalgety & New Zealand Loan which was the largest stock and station agents of the time. Starting in the mail room I went on to be in the company's first intake of computer programmers. We wrote programmes in COBOL and they were punched onto cards which were fed into the computer. There were no screens then just masses of paper spewing out telling you where you went wrong.

From there I transferred to their Australian Head office as a senior accounts clerk and after a few more months left the company and moved to Melbourne.

This was in 1969 and the time of Vietnam moratoriums and men landing on the moon. I was into blues and jazz music so Melbourne was the place to be. Living near the city, just off St Kilda Road, I got a job with War Service Homes.

By the end of 1970 I'd decided to travel to England with a mate from work. We went by ship and six weeks after we set sail we arrived in Southampton via the Panama Canal. England was fantastic. We got ourselves an old American Ford Galaxie and with a couple of others drove around England and Scotland. Selling the car for scrap I was forced to get a job and ended up working in a rose nursery just outside of Wolverhampton. From this job I saved enough to go to France and found that the French they had taught me in school may as well have been Singhalese.

Back in Sydney by the end of 1971, I went back to the public service working for the Repatriation Department, later to become Veterans' Affairs. In 1972 I moved for a short while to Woolloomooloo and was publicity officer for the Woolloomooloo Residents Action Group. Jack Munday helped with the green bans and we succeeded in protecting the suburb from developers. After two years I went back to Europe visiting Greece during the colonels' regime. I had contacts there that were pursued by the military and it was all a bit cloak and dagger. One was a member of the local Communist Party and another, a journalist from Sydney. We were there when the Turks invaded Cyprus and all the tourists except a few of us left. The military were sent packing and elections were held. I then spent more time in England, this time working in a pinball machine factory for a while.

Back in Australia by the beginning of 1975, I returned once again to Veterans' Affairs. I stayed for another 3 years working mainly in ministerial and parliamentary liaison positions. Back to Europe in 1978 I was there for about eight months but didn't work. Most of the time was on Corfu plus visits to Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily. I stopped with a friend and his family in Belgium and while in England was mostly in Dorset.

Back to the public service for the next ten years where my work took me occasionally to Canberra. There I was writing for the Minister's Office or running the regional office at Civic. In between I had the odd trip to places such as Sri Lanka and New Zealand. In the early eighties I worked for 3 weeks at Mary Kathleen on the sale of the uranium mine. It was well paid but extremely hot and you got a half day off every week. This was followed by a similar job at Gunpowder, a copper mine halfway between Mt Isa and the Gulf of Carpentaria. This was even hotter with the indoor temperature reaching 48 degrees on many occasions. On both these jobs, I was an auctioneer's assistant.

Eventually I quit the public service for good and went back to Europe for one and a half years spending most of the time in Greece and England. I did the odd bit of work in a friend's restaurant washing dishes but otherwise just had a good time.

Back to Australia in 1990 I ended up as a senior tour guide at the Earth Exchange Museum then as a camp instructor on the Colo River. This led on to work as a corporate trainer taking me across NSW and Victoria. When these jobs ended I applied for and got a job as a tour guide at Fairfax Printers. While there I was selected to work as a host during the Sydney Olympics for Fairfax clients. As my work at Fairfax was casual I sought another casual position and landed one as an information officer at Bicentennial Park. This park was then taken under the wing of Sydney Olympic Park so I continued there. In 2004, Fairfax closed the tour Department and a year later the Olympic Park job also came to an end. I now contract to Media News Team and visit schools giving workshops on media and printing. Media News Team is also now involved in resuming tours at Fairfax. Over the last ten years I have done extensive traveling across Australia by 4 wheel drive, visiting remote communities and seeing some truly spectacular country.

This last eighteen months I have also done quite a bit of historical research on early Australian artifacts. I am also pursuing the life and work of my great, great, great grandfather who was an English artist and lithographer.

The last twenty years have flown by and it seems strange not to have been outside Australia now for eighteen years. The house at Kogarah is still there as part of St George Hospital and is now called Rose Cottage.

He tried Port Hacking after fish,
But only caught a cold.
He said "Atchoo! By jove, I wish
I'd done as I was told.
This is indeed a Hacking cough.
Good name it's got I'm sure!"
But next day he was right enough
Through Wood's Great Peppermint Cure.

Advertisement, *Star*, 3 June 1908.

NOT SUCH A BITTER PILL

Working at Parke Davis in the 1950s/60s

Merle Kavanagh

The donation to the Society's Museum of a range of Parke Davis items, brought to mind my seven years as a stenographer with this firm. It was January 1957 and I had just returned from six months in Queensland. I took a three weeks temporary position with Pelaco Shirts as relief for the Receptionist/typist on holidays. When Pelaco offered me the position permanently I had already made an appointment with Parke Davis for an interview as secretary to the Sales Office Manager which I secured. I often wondered what the Pelaco receptionist would have thought if she had returned to find me in her place!

The Sales Office Manager was Charlie Hill, a work-a-holic and nervous chain smoker who surrounded himself with a mostly calm staff, myself included. He soon learned that he didn't have to dictate every letter or tell me things twice. We worked well together. The office was open plan with the Managerial Offices on the north side where they caught the winter sun. I always looked forward to taking notes in winter, especially on a busy morning when the phone rang often and the boss had to answer it, while I lolled back in the sun. The Sales Manager had an office next door and the Medical Services Manager's office was on the far side. I always had the feeling that the bosses liked to have the prettiest secretaries, but most of them settled for ability not a beauty.

It was the only job I ever had where I clocked or Bundied in and out and the only one where I could take a free Halivol (fish oil) capsule every day. The desks were metal with a soft coating and were the best I had ever had in any job. There were locker rooms with a locker for each person and these rooms were often used to display objects an employee might have for sale. My mother used to make pretty half-aprons and every December I sold quite a number of these from the locker room display. Those were the days when women wore aprons regularly for housework.

The office building was separate from the factory/laboratory, which also housed the canteen where morning tea was available and an assortment of meals at lunch time. My oldest sister worked in the factory on a variety of jobs, labeling, boxing tubes etc. and would often give me an embarrassing shout if I came through to the printing section on an errand.

As modern as the office was, it did not have air conditioning, just air circulation which did not cope well with several days of over 100 degrees (37.8 Celsius). This happened during my time there and the office gradually warmed up after three days of high temperatures. The forecast for the fourth day was 113 degrees (about 45 Celsius) so only a skeleton staff was kept on, taking orders and dispatching them, but fortunately it did not reach that figure. The Order Room was near my desk and as Monday morning was a slow morning for my work but a very busy one for orders, I often helped out if needed.

When Parke Davis decided to computerize their accounting system it was necessary to place these in a controlled atmosphere. The computers were as large as refrigerators and housed in a glass-walled air-conditioned section, which was great for the staff using them and very nice to visit on very hot or cold days.

The Sales Office Manager dealt with all the strange correspondence. One gent wrote suggesting that the firm combine with Avis Rent-a-Car and use the term a "Parked Avis". We thanked him! On another occasion a telephone call came from the parent of a child who had drunk a 4 oz. bottle of Benadryl (cough mixture). He was advised that the child would be O.K. but would sleep for 24 hours.

There was a great interest from the staff when it was decided to raise funds for the Handicapped Children's Centre. Two activities were mentioned briefly in the August Bulletin – my friend Margaret and I featuring

in a concert showing the effects of Laxatives and Vitamins on the body by her skinniness and my fatness. The other was the football game by the female staff of the two office floors, with the Bottoms team wearing striped pyjamas and the Tops, shorts and some very odd bits and pieces. We raised quite a sum of money for a good cause and had a lot of fun but I cannot remember who won!

On another occasion I coerced my friends in the office to be part of a film my husband Alan and I were making in the Kurnell road sandhills, now sadly depleted. Called "Captive" it was about a kidnapped sheik. The filming of the sheik being washed up on the beach caused a little consternation amongst some surfies and fishermen, one of whom packed up rapidly and departed. There were suitably attired harem girls, courtesy of Parke Davis staff, and our neighbours found it v-e-r-y interesting when we filmed them in an open marquee in our back yard.

Christmas celebrations usually included a night out for the girls. Up to a dozen of us would dress up with hats and gloves (it was the 1960s) and head off to dinner in Sydney, more than likely at Valentines who were famous for their Chicken in a Basket!

The firm was very obliging, allowing staff to purchase items through its connections. One such item, an ironing board wedding gift for me, was taken home on the roof of a car and is still in use, when I cannot avoid it.

Parke Davis moved into the Shire from Rosebery in 1954, building a showplace laboratory and office with good facilities for its staff. It has since become an important part of the Shire's industrial history and its own history was told in *The Bulletin* issues of November 1993, February, May and August 1994. The Society is fortunate to have acquired a collection of significant items from the Parke Davis Company. Many Shire residents worked there and would have their own memories of their time there but most of them would endorse my statement - it really was a great place to work!

DIGITISATION of the SMH & ARGUS Newspapers

1. Sydney Morning Herald

The first digitised issues of the Sydney Morning Herald are now available. We have started from the first issue 1831 and are making our way forwards to 1954.

The first 20 years (18,000 pages) are now available as follows:

Sydney Herald 1831-1842

Sydney Morning Herald 1842-1852

Issues from 1852 - 1954 will be made available each week from now on through until early 2010. In early 2010 The Sunday Herald 1949-1953 will also become available.

We would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation who has given \$1 million dollars towards the digitisation of this title.

2. The Argus (Melbourne)

The Argus (and its previous title the Melbourne Argus) from 1846 - 1945 are now completed and available. The remaining 10 years (1945-1954) of the Argus will be made available in 2010 (mid to end of year).

Please circulate this message or its contents wherever appropriate.

To access the Australian Newspapers service:

<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/>

The Aussie slouch hat and rising sun badge

Nola Watt

The Australian Army's slouch hat, made famous by several generations of Diggers, has become a symbol, readily recognized by the wide – brimmed khaki felt hat with the left side cocked up and displaying the rising sun badge.

Pioneering squatters adopted wide-brimmed felt hats for protection from the harsh sun and several of Australia's colonial armies wore them for the same reason – the New South Wales Lancers, New South Wales Rifles and the Victorian Mounted Rifles. Usually the brim was turned down all around. During the Boer War this type of hat became almost universal headgear for British and Empire troops in South Africa – the reason being a critical shortage of cork helmets. However, when supply of the helmets arrived, Colonel Tom Price's Victorian contingent rebelled. They organized a mass raid on the British Yeomanry Regiment's 'bush hats' and wore them and then 'they were slouch hatted to a man!'

In 1903, after Federation, the slouch hat became standard headdress in the reorganized Australian Army. It appeared with the left side clipped-up to enable the rifle to be carried at the slope.

In WW1 It was also worn by the Australian Flying Corps. Since WWII the slouch hat came to the fore as the symbol of the Australian Soldier and has been in service since then.



Reference: Australian
Defence Heritage
Frank Doak 1988
Published Fairfax
Library
Broadway, NSW

The Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve

Nola Watt

This reserve is located in Manooka Place, Kareela in the Sutherland Shire and is accessed off Garnett Road.

A citizen's committee was the instigator for this garden as a 200th Anniversary tribute to Sir Joseph Banks who sailed with Lieutenant Cook on his voyage from England to the South Pacific in 1768 for the express purpose of collecting native flora.

The eight men who accompanied Banks, collected, recorded, illustrated and painted the native plants which grew in abundance along the east coast of Terra Australis or New Holland.

To preserve the plants during the long voyage Banks had purchased a 'job lot' of unbound copies of Milton's 'Paradise Lost'.

Unfortunately 2 artists died on the voyage and therefore it was Sydney Parkinson who completed 269 water colours of the more than 900 drawings begun, before he too died.

On his return to London, Banks employed 5 botanical artists, using recorded notes of colours, to complete the work. Eighteen engravers were then employed by him using the 'line' method on the copper plates (The 'striple method' was introduced ten years later)

This painstaking work took 13 years to complete. The plates were then wrapped in 18th Century paper and stored in the natural history section of the British Museum. They were taken out for printing 200 years later!

A London firm, Alecto, in association with the British Museum decided to take on what was considered the most complex printing in the world!

The entire set of 738 beautiful pictures were printed in book form as Banks Horilegium and the British Museum guaranteed that there would not be another printing from these plates for another 50 years.

The native plants known as Banksias, of which there are more than 50 species were named to honour Joseph Banks who gathered the first specimens at Kurnell in Botany Bay in April 1770.

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Leslie Lockwood
Jan Wilson
Murray Fogg
2. Vogue Living Magazine (Nov 1984)
Article by Brian Rogero
3. Flowers and Trees of Australia (1974)
Australian Information Service

The New Guard

Emma Ellis

This article is an original piece of work researched and written by myself in accordance with my Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Western Sydney. This article is based on the 1930s right-wing organization, the 'New Guard'. Although the New Guard was well addressed in the political arena, it generally distanced itself from political life, more so basing itself within military and social life. One of the most memorable moments of the New Guard was when Captain Francis de Groot slashed the ribbon at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 19 March 1932. This was in a bid to stop Premier Lang from opening the bridge himself. This article outlines some of the background and beliefs of the organisation.



Captain de Groot slashing the ribbon at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

Origins

The New Guard was an association which demonstrated many aspects of political, military and societal life. This article will respond to Gerard Henderson's remarks made in September 2007 regarding the New Guard.¹ It will also comment on the fact that although the New Guard did at later stages have somewhat fascist elements, it was not however created as a fascist movement. The New Guard technically operated from February 1931 until 1935, but due to the original aims and objectives as outlined by the New Guard in many of its publications, this article will respond to the New Guard only as a 'true' organisation from February 1931 until mid-1933. The reason for this is because post-1933, the leader of the organisation, Colonel Eric Campbell, strayed from original plans and started to take the organisation down political lines.

From the moment it was created by Eric Campbell in February 1931, the New Guard quickly gained speed and momentum, and by September 1931 it was reported that over 87,000 people had applied to join the invisible army.² The objectives of the New Guard included 'unswerving loyalty to the Throne', '[s]ane and honourable representative Government' within Australia, '[s]uppression of any disloyal and immoral elements', '[a]bolition of machine politics' and full liberty rights to the individual.³ This paramilitary organisation also made sure that it would work closely with other organisations which held the same values, in order to continue to promote the same ideas throughout society. Two key problems which the New Guard had to combat were the physical problem and the moral problem. In regards to the first— if an attempt to secure Parliament (outside of constitutional means) disrupted the state to an extent where the police and armed forces could no longer handle the state⁴ – then the New Guard would hold a meeting and only with a seventy-five per cent majority would they interfere and assist to defend the state from opposing forces.⁵ In regards to the second, more difficult problem, the New Guard believed in protecting individualism, and that 'the rights and liberties of the people should be maintained at all costs.'⁶ These rights and liberties were believed to be taken by Communists and Communistic elements within society and politics, including the Lang government. In order to dismiss the Government on a legal basis, it was posed in September 1931 to issue a petition for the people to dismiss the recently elected Parliament. All citizens would be

¹ 'The New Guard and similar bodies was (sic) one essentially Australian response to an essentially Australian situation. The New Guard was not a fascist organisation and it did not conspire to engineer civil war in New South Wales in 1932. Nor were its members 'the embodiment of fascist/Nazi evil'". (Gerard Henderson. 'All Quiet on the Civil War Front', Sydney Institute Quarterly, 31, September 2007, p. 6-1)

² National Archives of Australia: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871. See also 'Police View of the New Guard,' *Sydney "Sun"*, 21 December 1931.

³ NAA: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871.

⁴ NAA: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871.

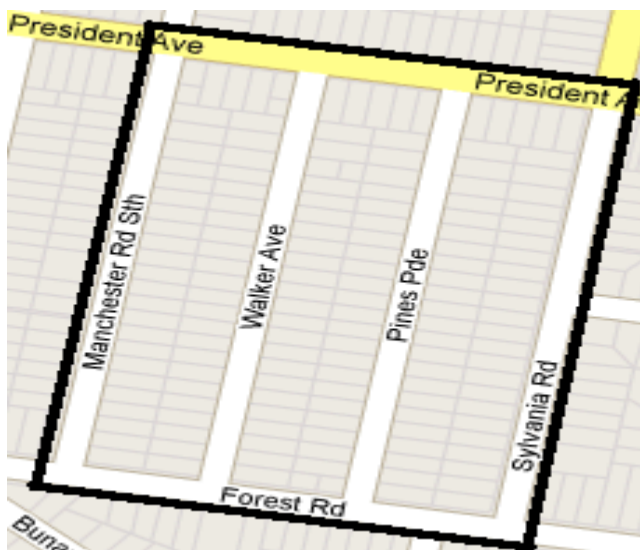
⁵ NAA: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871.

⁶ State Records NSW: NRS 10923, Police Special Bundles [10/1829 pt]

invited, thus Governor Game would have sufficient evidence of the opinion of the people of the State of New South Wales to dismiss Lang and his associates.

Organisation of the New Guard and links to the Shire

As a paramilitary organisation, the New Guard had zones, divisions and localities in order to define areas of New South Wales into bodies of troops. Along with the Metropolitan and Country Commands, there was also established an Air New Guard, a Harbour Guard, and a Sea New Guard efficiently covering all areas that may be needed when responding to the call of the Police. Personnel were divided into military and civil groups, and wore armbands and badges that defined rank. Robert Michael Derry of Gympie mentions in his memoirs that approximately four-hundred members of the New Guard trained within the parameters of 'President Avenue, from Manchester Road to Sylvania, taking in what is today Walker Avenue and Pines Parade' twelve months prior to the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.⁷ This is significant information, as little has been recorded of the New Guard in general, let alone its activities within the Sutherland Shire. The only other records indicate where and when meetings were held. This strong military organisation of the New Guard then proceeded to be extensively established in April 1932,⁸ after the famous antics of Francis de Groot opening the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Reconstruction of government

In 1931, Campbell announced, "We have to reconstruct."⁹ Australia was not the only one thinking this. In Germany, Hitler was already challenging Paul von Hindenburg, and two years later in 1933, America was implementing their New Deals. The New Guard was based on acting on their beliefs, not just sitting on the fence waiting for someone else to do the work for them. In Germany, Hitler saw his chance to take the Presidency, and, when the time was ripe, he acquired it. It has been said that if Australia had not dismissed the Lang Government in 1933, civil war would have broken out within moments,¹⁰ as the New Guard had similar ideas. These points alone present the idea that Australia was not alone in her situation, but rather another pawn in the field of the Great Depression. After

⁷ R.M. Derry, 'New Guard' [Vertical File] of Sutherland Shire Library Local Studies.

⁸ NAA: Eric Campbell; The New Guard and "The Association" 1930-1949, A367, C94121.

⁹ NAA: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871.

¹⁰ NAA: Attorney-General's Department; The New Guard 1931-1948, A432, 1931/1871.

1933, it is evident that Campbell started to stray from the initial New Guard belief system, keeping in very close contact with Germany and other fascist elements throughout Europe. This again points to the fact that Australia was not alone in her problems.

Fascist?

Throughout the first year of the New Guard's existence, documents were produced by the New Guard in order to discern their objectives, policies and solutions to the problems they faced. Although within these numerous documents there is evidence to suggest that the populace believed the New Guard was a fascist organisation, this does not determine whether or not the New Guard was *actually* affiliated with fascism itself. Fascism during the early 1930s was essentially a European phenomenon, unforeseen and unknown to the general Australian public. There is no evidence (open to the public) to suggest that when the New Guard was created it was created along the lines of fascism. Stephen D. Shenfield defines fascism in the 'general political discourse' as something which 'comes to signify the reign of unconstrained violence and oppression'.¹¹ The New Guard obviously did not portray these things. It is true that there were numerous occasions when the New Guard was found to have organised protests and skirmishes which attacked the Communist activities within New South Wales, but it could not be said (in this author's opinion), to be 'unconstrained violence and oppression'.

Violence in Bankstown

On 26 February, 1932, the Communist Party had taken a place in a carnival on Thompson Square at Bankstown. Here, approximately thirty-five to forty communists had gathered. Although the New Guard was suspected to arrive and create mayhem of sorts, there was not an adequate number of police patrolling the area. At about 9.10pm twenty-five to thirty men and youths appeared. Then, about twenty minutes later, another twenty-five cars arrived with another one-hundred and fifty men. These men all proceeded to the Communist meeting. After fifteen minutes of peaceful behaviour, a 'disturbance' erupted after someone called out "Are you in favour of the Union Jack or the Red Flag?" and also later after a young man 'speared a garden stake into the centre of the crowd'. For the next hour, police continued to break up fights between the communists and the New Guard.¹²

¹¹ S.D. Shenfield, "Defining Fascism" in R. Griffin, *The Nature of Fascism*, London: Routledge, 2004, p. 272-273.

¹² SR NSW: NRS 10923, Police Special Bundles [10/1829 pt]



The New Guard Auxiliary

APPLICATION FORM

In the cause of God, King and Country, and of the freedom of the individual, I heartily approve of and support The New Guard, its aims, objects and policy and the principles for which it stands:—

1. Unswerving loyalty to the Throne.
2. All for the British Empire.
3. Sane and honourable representative Government throughout Australia.
4. Suppression of any disloyal and immoral elements in Governmental, industrial and social circles.
5. Abolition of machine politics.
6. Maintenance of the full liberty of the subject.

I am a qualified elector in the State of New South Wales, and hereby apply to be admitted to The New Guard Auxiliary. I agree to do my utmost to promote the welfare and success of The New Guard

Name in full.....

Address.....

Occupation..... Telephone No.

Signature.....

Membership No. Issued Date.....

In conclusion

When the Lang government was dismissed by Governor Game in May 1932, the New Guard no longer had to fight against the Communistic elements of the government. Their key objective had been to resume a sane and responsible government in New South Wales, and this had now been somewhat established. Other than that, they were not a political body and had repeated numerous times this fact.

Although there is not complete evidence to confirm whether or not the New Guard was essentially a fascist organisation, it can be seen through the primary evidence available that there was enough general feeling amongst New South Wales in the early 1930s to substantiate the fact that there were fascist tendencies throughout its lifetime as an organisation. The simple fact alone that Campbell admitted to being a fascist without realising what fascism was¹³ shows that fascist qualities must have been apparent within the organisation.

The New Guard was evident in everyday life throughout the early 1930s, and as a substantial organisation it is a shame there is less evidence than could be acquired. It is thanks to citizens such as Mr. Derrey who contribute to local histories that it is possible to continually learn new things about the New Guard, its whereabouts and its activities throughout the 1930s.

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¹³ Moore, A. *The Right Road: A History of Right-wing Politics in Australia*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1995, p. 43.

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** Visited State Archives at Penrith on 23 September 2009.

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THE BOY WITH A DREAM

After the official, somewhat disruptive ribbon opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge by Premier Jack Lang on the 19th March 1932 there followed a pageant; a colourful parade of numerous extravagantly decorated horse and vehicular floats along with many groups of proud marchers representing their various achievements. Among them, ahead of a small group of Aborigines daubed with white paint rode a young boy on a pony. Who was this boy and how come he was riding in this spectacular procession?

Nine year old farmer's boy Charles James Leonard Gwyther, known as Lennie, had ridden his pony 'Ginger Mick' 600 miles [725 kilometres] from Leongatha in the Gippsland region of South eastern Victoria to see for himself this wondrous bridge, that had taken the best part of eight years to build. Lennie was enthralled by constructions. Back home, newspaper photographs and newsreels had kept him informed of the bridge's progress and its amazing two arches that began to reach high into the sky to be eventually linked together. In Lennie's mind, how could this possibly be done? An engineering marvel!

Lennie's father, Leo Tennyson Gwyther was a veteran from the battlefields of World War 1; injured and traumatized by his trench experiences but decorated by King George V with the Military Cross and Bar for bravery. He returned to Leongatha to the family farm but during the winter of 1931 fell and broke his leg and while recovering, Lennie, the eldest of four children took over his father's farm

duties. Along with his mother he ploughed and cultivated the land for crops of potatoes and onions. He also milked cows for the dairy factory. His father, amazed by what his young son had achieved offered him an award and Lennie, in spite of his young years asked permission to ride his best friend 'Ginger Mick' to Sydney. After initial hesitations his parents allowed him to go, reassured that along the way he would be offered accommodation where necessary. By the time he reached Sydney 33 days later Lennie and his pony were famous. During his ride newspapers had reported his journey. Arriving in Canberra he was invited to meet the politicians for afternoon tea in Parliament House then spent the weekend with the boys at Canberra Grammar School. Then, on arrival in Sydney's Martin Place a cordon of police had to protect him and his pony from a crowd anxious to see this brave boy.

During his time in Sydney Lennie stayed with family connections in the suburb of Campsie. His second award was the invitation to join the procession across the bridge. One can only imagine what would have gone on in this nine year old shy boy's mind that day.

Mary Small

A CONNECTION WITH 'NUTCOTE'

Francis Edward De Groot, forever famous for illegally slashing the ribbon prior to the official opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge by Premier Jack Lang on 19th March 1932 was a friend of James Ossoli Kelly, the husband of May Gibbs.

James, known to family and friends as J.O. had married May in Perth at Easter in 1919. After first renting accommodation in Neutral Bay, they then purchased a harbour side block of land in Wallaringa Avenue and requested the well respected architect B.J. Waterhouse to design a home suitable for their lifestyle. Named 'Nutcote', J.O. and May entertained guests with some style. Among these guests were Frank De Groot and his Wife Bessie who became a close friend of May's [A copy of May's portrait of Bessie hangs in the dining room at Nutcote.]

De Groot, Irish with a background of military activities during World War 1 emigrated along with his wife to Australia in 1920 and settled in Sydney where he set up an antique / furniture business and later a factory at Alexandria where 100 workers were employed to reproduce 'Queen Anne' furniture and the more popular William Hepplewhite style.

In early 1931 this hot headed individual, aware of the plans being set for the official opening of the Harbour Bridge became interested then involved with the 'New Guard', a royalist group formed on the 16th February 1931 by high ranking officers of the AIF in the Imperial Services Club in Sydney. This immediately popular volunteer membership consisting of mainly ex-service men recruited in a very short time 87,000 members. Aviator Charles Kingsford Smith was one of them. The New Guard, royalist supporters of King George V and his Australian based Governor General objected strongly to their NSW State Premier John Thomas Lang's plans to open the bridge himself. His government was Labor and communist orientated. However, as the day drew closer to the 19th March 1932 most members had decided that there was nothing they could do about it. Except for De Groot who managed to borrow an ex-racehorse, charge up, slash the ribbon and yell on behalf of the New Guard "I declare this bridge open in the name of the decent citizens of New South Wales!" The rest is history.

It is believed that Bessie was with May at Nutcote that day probably more than uneasy as to what exactly her husband was up to. It is not known where J.O. was that day.

Being one of the Nutcote's volunteers it adds to the wonderful story of May Gibbs's life to stand with visitors on the verandah overlooking Neutral Bay, point towards the west to the soaring arches of the Harbour Bridge and connect Nutcote with its historic opening.

Nutcote, at 5 Wallaringa Avenue, Neutral Bay is open to visitors Wednesday to Sundays from 11am to 3pm with the last admission at 2.30pm. Ferries run from Wharf 4 every half hour [except every 2 hours on Sundays] and a 2 minute bus ride or 10 minute walk takes you to Wallaringa Avenue.

Phone 99534453 or email: enquiries@maygibbs.com.au



If anyone would like to become a volunteer please contact
Mary Small 95229917
Mary Small

Nutcote, home of May Gibbs, author of 'Snuggle Pot and
Cuddle Pie'

A little more on de Groot

Of Frank (Francis) de Groot the simple facts are well known. He slashed the ribbon with his sword at the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening to thwart the Premier, Jack Lang who he saw as an anti-Royalist. After that, what else?

De Groot was a decorated soldier in the 15th Hussars on the Western Front in the Great War. His military background and political views drew him to the New Guard that was formed in 1931. Right across Europe, democracy was being questioned and more authoritarian political structures and State economic planning were being tried. Fascism was on the rise in Germany and Italy. As a Royalist, de Groot strongly opposed the political views of Jack Lang and was incensed by the fact that Lang would open the bridge rather than a Queen's representative.

In slashing the ribbon, de Groot could have been charged with 'subversive conspiracy' and gaoled, however he was simply fined. Later, de Groot returned to Ireland. De Groot's sword was largely forgotten. In recent times, Andrew Moore, the founder of 'bridge Climb', tracked down the sword which was in de Groot's nephew's possession and purchased it. It ranks up there with Ned Kelly's armour as Australian icons.

Ed.

Anzac War Memorial

Hyde Park Sydney

Nola Watt

At a public meeting in the Sydney Domain on the first anniversary of the Australian landing at Gallipoli at Anzac Cove (25th April 1915), a fund was launched for the purpose of erecting a memorial in Sydney to the Anzacs. By the end of the war in 1918, £60,000 had been raised, women playing a major role in the fund raising activities.

The community was in grief – in NSW 120,000 men enlisted, with 21,000 killed or subsequently died from wounds, gassing and sickness.

Discussions about the type of memorial revolved around its nature and function. A place of rest and recreation was called for as well as headquarters for an ‘organisation which will fight for the returned soldier’s fight’. However, the Anzac Fellowship of Women moved that the memorial should be a ‘sacred centre’ and they won the day.

In 1923, the NSW Parliament passed an Act, which consolidated the various Appeal Funds and trustees were appointed the following year. They applied to the Lands Department in 1928 for permission to occupy part of Hyde Park after other sites had been rejected.

The following year a design competition was announced, open only to Australian architects. An appeal for more funds brought a donation of £10,000 from the Sydney Council and £5,000 from the Unemployment Relief Council. The Government offered a labour force from the ‘dole queues’ to remodel the park.



One hundred and seventeen entries for the design were received and in 1930, Mr Bruce Dellit, a Sydney architect, won the competition. The following year, tenders were called for the construction of the memorial. It was to be a monolith building nearly 40 metres high, 30 metres wide on a massive podium, topped with a stepped ziggurat form. It was to be constructed of reinforced concrete clad in a pink/grey granite from Bathurst and was to be lined with white marble from Tarana.

Image courtesy of ANZAC Memorial , Sydney

By December 1933, the bulk of the construction work was completed. Another appeal for funds was launched for £15,000 to complete the monument. The appeal also sold 120,000 gold stars at two shillings each for the interior of the dome.

On the 24th November 1934 an estimated 100,000 people attended the opening ceremony performed by the Duke of Gloucester.

Bruce Dellit, the winner of the Australian Architectural competition for the Hyde Park War Memorial, conceived of his building almost as a sculpture and he was clear about the symbolic meaning he wished to convey- courage, endurance and sacrifice. Fortunately, Raynor Hoff was the most prestigious sculptor in Sydney, with a studio and assistants to facilitate the execution of such a project. The monument is the outcome of a wonderfully cooperative vision of architect and sculptor.

The whole is a fusion of the modern, classical and archaic styles for expressive effect. The exterior sculptors speak of the realities of war – the interior of transcendence.



Raynor Hoff's sculpture 'Sacrifice' at the centre of the memorial on the ground floor was conceived as a 'work from which all meaning radiates. Thousands of women, although not directly engaged in war activities, lost all that was dearest to them. There was no acknowledgement of them in casualty lists, of wounded, maimed or killed – in this spirit Raynor Hoff has shown them carrying their load, the sacrifice of their menfolk.' This 'Sacrifice' group is centred standing in a circle of bronze flames embedded in the marble floor. It is of a young man lying dead on his shield – in ancient Greece, i.e. Sparta, the mother handed a shield to her son with the words 'come home bearing the shield or lying on it' (i.e. not to forfeit it). His body is supported by his mother, sister, wife and child. His wife's hand tenderly supports his head and in her other arm is their child – the potential for life and the future.

Sacrifice – Raynor Hoff

This complete group is locked into a single column, the long lines of their robes are like striations on a column. On the first floor, in the Hall of Silence, one looks up at the Dome of Stars, then at the walls where the main amber glass windows are etched with the rising sun insignia of the AIF and the winged torch of liberty. In this Hall of Silence, as Dellit intended, one must 'bow one's head' when looking down, over the wreath-like carved marble balustrade, into the Well of Contemplation, at the Sacrifice group. On this floor are four wall niches each representing the major theatres of World War 1 and the floor of each niche is embedded with stones from those areas.

The architect conceived war as an intrinsically masculine experience and the memorial itself as a masculine structure. He said 'it must be strong, original and essentially masculine, for while women took part in the war and while women appear in Mr Hoff's sculptures, the conflict was mainly the concern of men'. This contrasted in Dellit's mind with the fragile lines of two rows of poplars, the feminine with nature, the technology of war with the masculine. Dellit's choice of four standing exterior figures, each four metres high, represents the Infantry, Navy, Air Force and Army Medical Corps. He wanted them to seem to be hewn from the building itself. The sixteen seated figures are functionaries of the Military and include a bomber, an air force mechanic, a nurse, a naval signaller and others. All are individually cast in granite, the seated ones as tough resting, contemplating the havoc of war.



On the outside of the memorial there are two, ten metre long bronze bas-reliefs depicting the 'Eastern and Western fronts'. They are placed over the eastern and western doors respectively. The foundation stones are inscribed, on one, 'that it was laid by a soldier', and on the other, 'laid by a citizen'. The men were in fact, the Governor of NSW, Sir Phillip Game (soldier) and the other, Sir Bertram Stevens, Premier of NSW.

Set in the midst of converging paths, symbolic poplars and the Pool of Reflection, the Anzac Memorial is a starkly powerful work. It is considered to be the most perfect sculptural monument in Australia.

Reference :

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Deborah Edwards
Sydney 1999

Note:

On the 25th November 2009 the Anzac Memorial was reopened after a year long, \$6 million renovation.

WORONORA CEMETERY

We would like to welcome Graham Boyd, the new Chief Executive Officer for the Cemetery and at the same time wish Ivan all the best for his retirement years ahead.

As always happens when management changes, there will be some different approaches and our Society is lucky to have the opportunity to become involved and, in fact, be able to apply our specialised knowledge in a real hands-on venture.

Graham has suggested that the resting places of any notable people might be identified and those in need of repair could be identified and where necessary restored.

This would of course involve working parties and we welcome the opportunity to fulfill this truly historic role. When more details about the plan become available we will be informing our members and in the meantime, if you know of the resting place of any person of historical or local interest let the Secretary know...and if you do not actually know the location but have heard they are 'at Woronora' as often happens after many years have passed, then inform us and we can locate the position.

A NIGHT NOT FORGOTTEN 1942

Jim Cutbush

This society has always had more than its share of members who quietly help when and where they can. Neville Martiensen, who passed away 12th September 2009 was one of them.

The story I am writing came about due to a request from Neville approximately 11 years ago after he heard me talking in our museum on a Saturday about artillery shells and damage in the First World War. He later contacted me and mentioned that he was having a problem with his application for a card from Veterans Affairs after a number of requests had been rejected and would welcome advice. When I asked how he got this problem he modestly told me during his service as a transport driver in the Australian Army. He was located at Newcastle. Part of his duties was to transport American troops, supplies and munitions back and forth via vehicular ferry to the American encampment on Stockton Bight on the northern side of Newcastle Harbour.

On the early morning June 8th 1942 at approximately 1.50am Neville had just dropped off some American soldiers at Stockton and was making a return to his base, slowly climbing up the western side of Fort Scratchley when he noticed some flares appearing over the harbour. By the time he parked his truck, others shells started to hit in the water below. He yelled to his officer 'what do you want us to do'? – At that moment another shell hit below and the shockwave knocked Neville off his feet, moved his vehicle sideways and threw him into the gutter. After regaining consciousness he was bleeding from one ear. Later the army doctor told him his eardrum was perforated, which went against him for the rest of his life.

I read Neville's letters to Veterans Affairs and the replies all refused his application for a card, due to him 'not being in a war zone'. Neville's last letter of request made mention of such things as an attack on Newcastle Harbour and also the force and damage a shockwave can do. Following our discussion and the submission of yet another request, Neville's card was granted and to my knowledge he was the only military casualty of this engagement.

Neville lived most of his life on the banks of the Woronora River and in the last years was well looked after at Goodhew Gardens Hostel – Woollooware Shores.

Valmai (nee Salisbury) and Keith Pearse

Meet two of our long time members

Pat Hannan

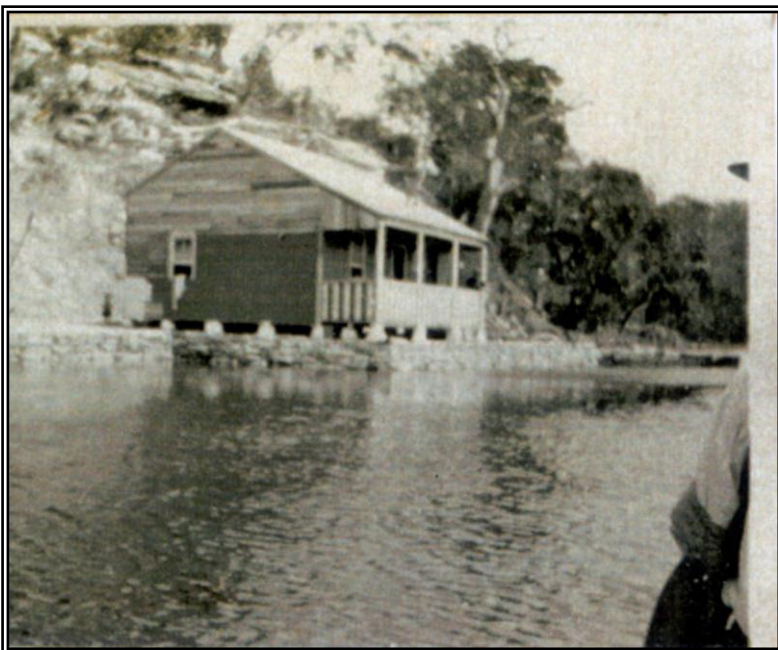
“My parents, Tom and Victoria (Vicie) Salisbury moved to Sutherland in 1906, to a small rented house at the southern end of East Parade, the last house where the funeral train cut across from the main line to enter Woronora Cemetery. At this time Vicie and Tom were newly weds, they chose Sutherland because “of the lovely fresh mountain air and the bushland.” Their first child, a daughter Esme, was born at East Parade in 1906.

Ronald their only son was born at Brighton le Sands, another daughter, Iola was born at Loftus Avenue, in a large weatherboard house surrounded by Pine trees. Maxwell their second son, sadly, died as an infant.

About 1915 the family moved to “Waverley”, Merton St Sutherland, where I was born. Next door to us was Nurse Kate Lobb’s home (well known and popular midwife) who attended the births of four of the five children of our family. Merton St in the 1920’s was a narrow dirt road. With the neighboring children we played ball games, skipping, marbles and billy carts.

Kate and Arthur Lobb owned a few blocks of land next to their home. Mr. Lobb erected swings and a tennis court for the children. It was a beautiful area many eucalypt trees, it was here that we became acrobats and skillful tennis players. Nurse Lobb had a beautiful horse and a shiny black sulky; she stabled the horse adjacent to her home. We were often wakened by the sound of hooves as Nurse was off to attend a new arrival in our town, dressed in a long black skirt, toque and veil on her head, blouse nipped in at the waist and a short cape.

First school for me I remember well, the Church of England weatherboard hall in Eton St. Miss Gough was my teacher. In that next 18 months I had a series of illnesses, and not much schooling. I do remember later enrolling at the Catholic School, a light grey weatherboard Church/ School near the corner of Flora and Robertson Sts. near the Cemetery gates and the caretaker (Mr. Smith’s) cottage.



From the Sutherland Railway's Gatekeeper's Cottage to GyMEA Bay.

Two Sisters of Mercy, traveled by steam tram everyday from Cronulla. When I was in 4th class the new Catholic Church/School was built in Belmont St. my teacher, Sister Cyril was the sister of Australian poet John O'Brien. We were well versed in his poems. One of the boundary school fences boarded my home, a squeeze through a gap in the corner, and I was home.

After my High School entry examination, I chose a secretarial course at Hurstville H.S., it was depression years and there was no cost. I won a scholarship to Chartres Business College, which completed my chosen career.

About 1917-18 our parents bought a “very bushy” waterfront block of land in Ellesmere Rd. GyMEA Bay. Their goal was to

build a week-end cottage but the Great Depression made this idea only a dream. After much hard work accessing the block, a foundation wall of hand hewn sandstone was built projecting over the high water level for about ten feet and filling it was a tremendous job.

The Gatekeeper's cottage at Sutherland was purchased, and with the help of builder, Samuel Brinsley the old home was demolished and transported to the site, accomplished by bending galvanized iron sheets into a chute and sliding building material down the steep hill.

Our home in Merton St was a small weatherboard and my parents planned to one day build on the Gynea Bay property. We had no electricity, sewage, and relied on tank water. We had kerosene lamps and candles in white enamel candlesticks. It was a regular thing to tap the water tank before we had our baths, we ladled water into the fuel copper to warm it, later we acquired a chip heater, and we used chips

from wooden fruit cases or rolled up wads of newspaper to heat the water. I was terrified of going to the pan toilet after dark, Iola always accompanied me on the 20 yard walk through a narrow dirt path, the pan toilets were a wonderful place for spiders— all species— Iola always was the spider killer.

In the 1930's our rent of fourteen shillings a week was paid to, Mr. Cook, monthly, the owner of the house was Mr. Hawkins, who was one of the original bakers in town.

On the corner of the Princes Highway and President Ave, lived the Cole family. Mr. Cole was a timber merchant and at the rear of the property was a covered well surrounded by blackberry bushes, in the season we picked them and ate them with sugar and cream.

"Granny Bell" had a small orchard nearby. The Shanahan family owned a small dairy, and hawkers walked the streets calling out there wares- "Bottle-O", "Fresh rabbits", "Clothes props", and even "fresh manure". The clothes props were about one shilling and the rabbits ten pence each.



Nearby lived the Collins family, I think they had one son Bill and two daughters. Bill was a National Park Ranger and very impressive in uniform astride his horse. He lived after marriage, at Annuli where his son also Bill, later to become well known as the movie "buff" was born.

I recall a lamp post on the corner of Eton and Flora Streets and a man lighting the kerosene light with a long taper at dusk, and the corner block next to President Avenue and Merton St. was known as "Boyle's Paddock".

At this stage I must miss a few years. Unfortunate, as this well documented 133 page booklet prepared by Valmai is full of the names and stories of early Sutherland and is a credit to her.

"In 1942, I married Keith Pearse, he was with communications and a member of the Volunteer Coastal Patrol and the 2nd Lines of Communication. He was

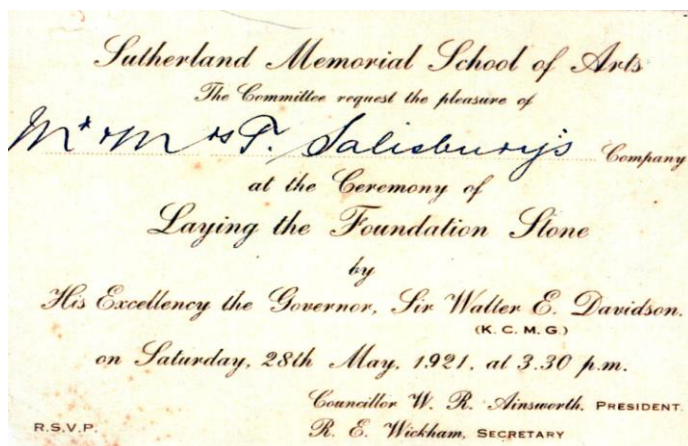
eventually released from his occupation and joined the R.A.A.F. We moved to Kogarah, and in 1943 our son Mark was born, in 1947 Wayne and Maxine, in 1950.

My parents still lived at “Waverley”, the old home, and I visited whenever possible. When WW11 ended in 1945 we lived at Penshurst. In 1982 we once again returned to the Shire where five of the fourth generation of Tom and Vicie Salisbury resided.

Tom died in 1950 and Vicie in 1962. They gave to others everything that was free in life. I do not think that as a family, we felt the pangs of the great depression as others did, we were never short of a meal of fish, and our enjoyment of the Port Hacking River was free.

My father, Tom Salisbury, was a gentleman, a humble man and as Arthur Lobb our neighbour of 40 years said at Tom’s death, he had never heard his voice raised in anger. He had no material aspirations and was happiest when surrounded by what nature had given him. “

Below: Tom and Vicie outside Sutherland Post Office. 1942



*Invitation to Sutherland Memorial School of Arts-
Laying foundation stone.
Now the home of Sutherland Shire Historical Society.*

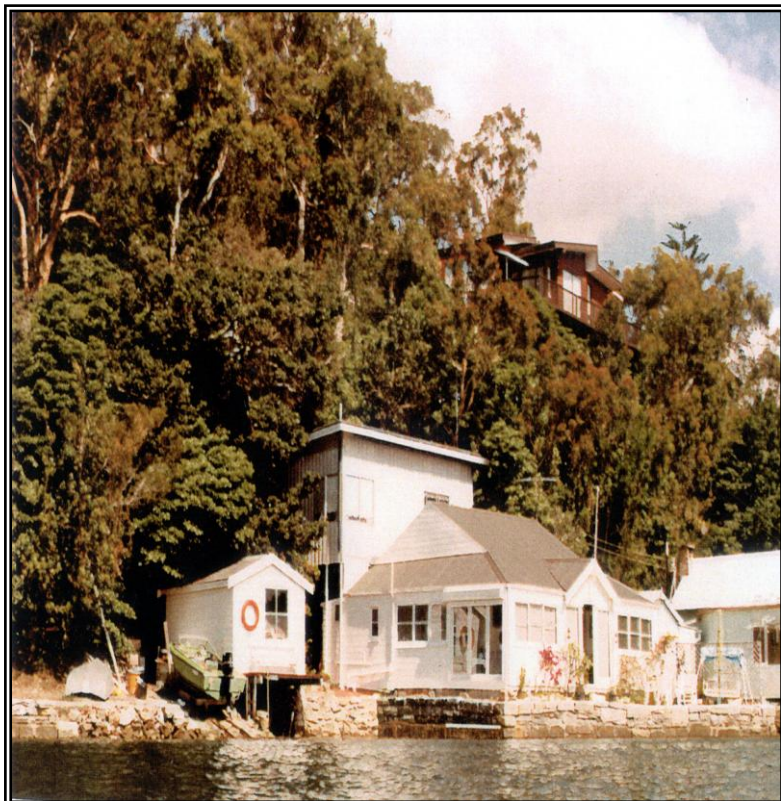
The village is different now with its multi-storied buildings and sprawling residential to that of my parents who chose the area for the “lovely fresh mountain air and the bushland”, thanks to our Royal National Park and the beautiful foreshores this will always stay.”

2009- It has been an honour to meet and learn about a small part of Valmai and Keith's interesting life. They are a remarkable, devoted couple, married for 67 years. They have traveled to many parts of the world, even to Red China, twice, with an educational group. Engadine is now their home with a beautiful garden tended by Keith who meets his former engineering work pals from the GPO for lunch each month. Keith's position was CEO Construction Branch PMG Engineering.



They are both involved with their local Probuss; Valmai plays bridge once a week and belongs to Botany Bay Family History Society Inc. and of course they are still members of SSHS and attend meetings when they can, always with a plate to help with afternoon tea.

Their family has grown from 2 sons and 1 daughter to, 10 grand children and 7 great grand children plus their in laws. Maxine, and her husband live at Burraneer Bay, they had 2 children. A daughter lives at Caringbah and has 2 children.



Mark, is farming now on two properties in NSW, but has bought a property on the Port Hacking, which has a small Heritage listed stone building on the waterfront which he is restoring.

Wayne is a retired school teacher who taught, and is still living in Canberra. He has 2 children.

This favourite and much loved cottage that has brought so much pleasure to so many over so many years at Gympie Bay is now owned and occupied by Peter Salisbury, son of Valmai's brother Ron, grandson of Tom and Vicie, but now with inclinator, electricity, sewerage, additions at the back and all 'mod cons'. Peter's plan is to keep it in the family for ever.

SCHOOL FRIENDS

Nola Watt

In 1987 the Sutherland Infants and Primary School celebrated its centenary.

Hundreds of former pupils including myself attended and all eagerly searched the class photographs on display to see ourselves as children. After identifying myself and others in the 1935 – 40 photographs I then looked around at the milling throng, just in case I could identify some of those pupils 'in person'.

Fortunately and delightedly, several; 'girls' from my classes recognized each other – we were , Gwen, Doreen, Lola, Valmai, two Maries and myself. We laughed at our memories of buying ice blocks from Whatley's shop; cream horns from the cake shop; of climbing the Jungle Jim (I never did get to the top) and of playing tunnel ball in the school grounds.

On Saturday afternoons some of us occasionally 'went to the pictures' in Boyle Street – sixpence to enter. Oh, happy days! With so much more reminiscing to do we decided to meet for lunch on a regular basis. Over time other classmates joined in, some with husbands, and three men and their wives also swelled our numbers. Today 22 years later we're still keeping our luncheon date. It has been a most interesting, pleasurable, and on occasion a sad journey, but definitely worthwhile. In those early school photographs we all looked such lovely little people, and I have to say without hesitation, that we've all developed into such lovely grown-ups!

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REPAIRS AND RE-PLATING A SPECIALITY.

From 'The Evening News', Saturday, May 7, 1910.

Sutherland Shire Historical Society
Membership application or Renewal 2009/10

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

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

Applications should be completed and handed to the Honorary Treasurer at the monthly general meeting or posted to the Society using the address shown on the renewal form. The new / renewal application should also contain the appropriate subscription fee.

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

Receipts may be collected from the treasurer at monthly meetings. If you wish to have your receipt posted to you, a stamped self addressed envelope must be included with your renewal form.

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

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name:-----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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

Please find subscription for 2009/10 enclosed

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

Signed ----- **Date** -----

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

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

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name:-----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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