



*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



VOL. 13 No. 2

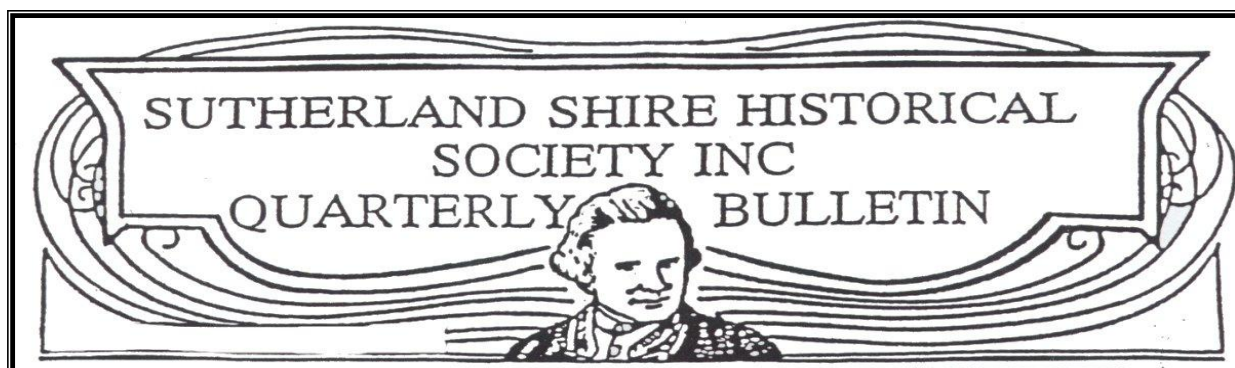
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May 2010 \$3.00



Petrol pump from the original service station at Taren Point

**REGISTERED AT THE GPO FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE POST AS
A PERIODICAL (CATEGORY B) NBH 2071 ISSN 1444 – 2930**



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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

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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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Society Publications are registered with the National Library, Canberra, in accordance with International Standard Serial Numbering.

The Society's occasional publications carry an ISBN number.

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The cover – a restored 1920s style petrol pump originally from Taren Point.

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



Welcome to another issue of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, Inc Bulletin. It is quite a mouthful when you say the full name, yet from the earliest years, the Bulletin has been a symbol of our Society. Some of the enduring art work was produced by one of our founding members Fred Midgley. Fred and his twin brother Alf were descendents from one of the earliest Shire families and their love of 'the Shire' and their commitment and interest in its history were part of the key factors that helped the Society to thrive and prosper when other societies flared into life, struggled for a while and then died.

The Bulletin is a place where experienced writers and novices alike can pen a few thoughts on their story, their history, which will be read and enjoyed by many and live long after we all have moved on. So come on, grab a pen and write a few words. Whether it is serious, silly or sad, we would all like to hear.

This last month or so has been another time of mighty works and projects. First there was the Chopin recital. What started as a simple idea took on a life of its own. Those who were there to hear pianist Wojciech Wiśniewski perform would agree that listening to a fine recording of a great artist is good, but listening to one in person is much better. What a talented person Wojciech is and what a pleasant fellow he is to talk to despite his enormous skills. Special thanks are also given to the Sutherland Music Club who joined with us for the event and allowed us to be the first to use their brand new piano. Special thanks also to Mavis Sourry who spent a lot of time and effort researching and presenting the story behind Chopin. To hear his music is one thing, to know something of his biography adds a whole new dimension. I am also very grateful to those who helped plan, organise and cater for the day. In a word it was awesome.

Then came Heritage Week and again our people were hard at work in two venues for two weeks running a display for the public. The highlight was of course the Chicken and Champagne lunch at which our former President Dawn Emerson gave a lecture on Macquarie and his journies of exploration. This was another well researched topic and despite computer gremlins that added to the tension, again brought a figure out of the history books and into our lives. After the excellent lunch Helen McDonald gave a very interesting talk on architects, designers and building development in the Shire. You could hear the people mutter as each site was presented - "I know that place".

I am nervous about singling people out for thanks because it really has been a team effort. But special thanks must go to Anna Estephan in securing Wojciech for the Chopin presentation and to Pat Hannan for catering and organising the Heritage Week lunch. Then of course there is Jim Cutbush and his tireless activity at the museum and Angela Thomas our Secretary who seems to be able to cope with the endless details working behind the scene keeping the whole machine running. Then there is John Risebrow whose calligraphy skills make our Certificates of Appreciation a work of art. In fact the whole committee pitch in as a team and make things happen.

To you all my special thanks

Andrew Platfoot

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS 2010

May 15th	Allan Murrin, President Botany Bay Family History Society. Speaking on Tracing your Heritage.
June 17th	Patrick Kennedy on his boom 'From Long Bay to Malabar'
July 21st	Greg de Moore on Tom Mills who captained our Aboriginal team in 1866 and helped invent Aussie Rules.
August 21st	Bob Smith on Vincent Smith, his book based on WW1 in England
Sept 18th	AGM and a picture show
Oct 16th	Beverley Earnshaw, President of Kogarah Historical Society. - to be decided.
Nov. 20th	Lesley Muir. Sydney's Garden Palace Scandal
Dec. 18th	Christmas Party. Show & Tell

From The Editor's Desk

This bulletin could be referred to as 'a collector's edition' as many of the articles are about collectors or collecting, housing collections or providing the environment in which collections can be nurtured. This emphasis is understandable as many members and the general audience express their interest in history in a tangible way. This may include collecting physical items from specific time periods as well as books, photographs and other ephemera. Several television shows including Antiques Roadshow and Collectors, attest to the popularity of collecting and appreciating aspects of the past. Our 'show and tell' segment in meetings is always well received and sparks a lot of interest.



It would be interesting to see this aspect of our activities expand. Our members are invited to notify us if they have a particular interest on specific matters. It could make an interesting story. It is also an established practice in many clubs to have a forum where items can be bought and sold or traded. If there is sufficient interest we could start a Buy/Sell/Swap section. Lets give it a go and see what (if any) interest the suggestion brings.

Our cover features an antique petrol pump that reputedly came from the general store at Taren Point when the punt operated. Many people would have passed by and some may remember it. I haven't yet seen an original photograph. Does anyone have one or know of the whereabouts of a photograph?

I've had the pleasure of attending the two recent functions organised and presented by the Society. Both were outstanding and demonstrate the level of entertainment that we can provide. The Chopin celebration was a sophisticated musical treat by a contemporary pianist performing Chopin's work, 200 years after his birth.

The other event was the recent Heritage Week seminar with a champagne and chicken luncheon. Good speakers, good food and good company – what else could one ask for?

This is a reminder to all our readers that that if you have a story, anecdote or relevant information that could be included in the Bulletin, contact myself or one of the executive. Also if you have memorabilia or ephemera (printed material) that may add to the Museum collection, contact Jim Cutbush or one of the museum committee members.

25% of Shire residents are now aged over 65. This is good news for the demographic that is attracted to an Historical Society. Naturally we'd like more people to hear what we have to say, to attend our functions and to become involved. Don't be shy. Invite a friend to come along to our meetings.

Finally, membership is from 1st July to 30th June. By our next bulletin you will be unfinancial if you haven't renewed. Perhaps consider giving a membership as a present. Membership forms are on the last page.

Bruce Watt

MEET THE EXECUTIVE

Anna Estephan

I was born and raised in Glogow, a small town in Poland. I have many memories of Poland and these memories I pass on to my children as my parents did theirs to me. History and heritage is something that has always been of great interest to me and my family. Every now and then or whenever the opportunity arises, it is normal and exciting for the family to sit around the table and sift through the many photos that represent a time in our family history that has now long passed. Those times I recall existed before modern technology's revolution of the earth as we know it now.

I came from a family that was very much into the early advancement of photography. We have many old black and white photos; developed in the bathroom, of the time, when one could be forgiven in thinking everything was actually black and white! Indeed, my mother once told me that she often dreams of those days in black and white. An example of the pictures that exist are of my grandparents in the time of the First World War, all big moustaches and intense looks, then of my parents during the Second World War, then of us as children in a war torn country and then later, as we became teenagers. From here colour started to find its way into these wonderful historical family documents.

My memories of Poland could easily fill a book, so I will tell you just some that come to mind right now...I remember clearly, that as a child I was playing amongst the rubble of war torn Glogow. My brother and I used to gather memorabilia such as gas masks and rifles, and stock pile them all in our attic. We think back and feel lucky that we never found a hidden land mine; there were many! I fondly remember my school years, my dear friends, my cousins, my admirers and those that would pull my hair! How I dearly love them all to this day. A few years ago, returning to Glogow I visited my school. I was touched to see, still hanging on the school wall a picture of my class and all my friends. My childhood was very much about family experience; my father was a lawyer and the Mayor of Glogow, my brother became a High Court judge, so it is of little surprise that I never grew up to be a law breaker! My mother and grandmother had significant influence on me, teaching me the traditional customs of Polish wisdom, cooking and sense of what being Polish means. As they say, the seasons came and went and I grew into a young woman, the pictures that were capturing these moments started to tinge with some colour.

I will never forget the Christmas snowy winters, the beautiful trees as they came to life during spring, and summer holidays by the sea...amongst my many other memories...

I arrived in Australia in the early seventies, in the prime of my youth, leaving behind all my family and friends in Poland. The enormity of this move is not easy to define. I was young and ready to embrace the world for all it had to offer. I felt my destiny out there, somewhere, and went chasing after it. I had heard about this beautiful country and potential future prospects from my girlfriend, with whom I was studying at medical school. She had relatives living in Australia, who were encouraging her family and her to join them. She would show me amazing pictures they sent of unusual and beautiful flora and fauna of this distant foreign country. They would write about 'the fair go' for everyone, especially for determined and hard working people. I was willing at such a young age to take a chance...

The International Air Terminal in Mascot back then was just a barrack. There was no Centre Point Tower built yet. Westfield Shopping Centre in Burwood and Roselands were the most highly

regarded modern shopping centres. Roselands that year had the most amazing Christmas decorations, like nowhere else in Sydney.

Sydney was a complete contrast to socialist Poland at that time; where corruption of party officials and lack of incentives, amongst other issues were demoralising the people at large.

Stories about the greener pastures on the other side, topped with the young person's imagination, made me give up my study to become a doctor, and using the first opportunity to travel I found myself on the assembly line in a telephone factory in Meadowbank, later AWA, Ashfield, and then STC Alexandria. Very quickly I learnt what many others also observe, that life is not meant to be easy, especially without knowing the country's language! Whilst assembling telephones during the day, I enrolled into an English Correspondence course, which I was determined to complete in the shortest time possible, which I did. I also was learning by translating articles in the daily newspaper; my first one was 'Storm in Sydney.'

The first year in Sydney was a very busy one for me. I worked very hard, got married for the first time, enrolled myself in Metropolitan Business College and got a new job in the office of David Jones in the City. I still did not speak English. It took some time before I could finally distinguish, and to remember the difference between the kitchen and the chicken and that ball is not a bowl.

David Jones I think was the first company in Sydney to purchase a computer. It is a great moment to remember; I among the other 500 employees found on our desks that memorable Friday afternoon, an envelope with a termination payment inside. It gave me the incentive to complete the business course full time and to find a better job.

My first marriage was short and stormy. It did not last long! Then I met my wonderful second husband, with whom I lived very happily with for 30 years until he passed away. This marriage produced two sons whom I adore very much for their high moral standards and many other good character qualities. We have always been a very close and loving family.

In 1977 we bought an apartment and moved to Brighton-Le-Sands. In 1980, when my younger son was born, we relocated to Dolans Bay, where I am still residing today.

My children started their school in Our Lady of Fatima, Caringbah. The Principal and the teachers of that school were nuns. When my older son moved later to De La Salle College, he was initially taught by priests. When my younger son enrolled in that College, things had already changed.

When we moved to Dolans Bay, all the houses on our street were one storey high, milk and bread was delivered daily. Today, where I can see from the window people walking their dogs, back then I could see people walking their horses. At the corner of my block, where today a modern two storey house stands, was a horse paddock. Most houses on my street are now modern, two storeys high.

Somehow, I never went back to my studies. I have worked in a senior costing position in an air-conditioning company, in Kingsgrove for 17 years. Presently I am employed in a fashion apparel company. My free time I spend reading and researching Australian and local history, looking after my garden, listening to all kinds of music and fulfilling the expectation as a Treasurer in the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

Thank you for taking the time to learn part of my history.

Anna Estephan

TWO GREAT MASTERS -- THE CONCLUSION

R.Osborne

Historical Societies are regarded by some as being unusual people interested only in cobweb-covered photos of bewhiskered and corseted couples standing in front of old buildings. To disprove this, a chance conversation between two members discussing the idea of a talk during a Society meeting developed into a packed hall enjoying a Chopin concert.

The concert's success was achieved by a lot of work by a combined team from the Sutherland Shire Historical Society and sister organization, the Sutherland Music Club. The key to the success was that contact was made with a Polish concert pianist, Wojciech Wiswniewski who was willing to perform.

With all arrangements made, the resident piano was tuned for the occasion, but the Music Club decided to take the opportunity to purchase a new item which arrived the afternoon of the previous day of the concert.

The concert commenced with Mavis Sourry giving an entertaining account of the life of Frederick Chopin from his birth in Poland in 1810 to his death in 1849, including him being considered a child prodigy and his departure from Poland at the age of 20. His life was involved and his partnership with the French novelist Aurore Dupin was made interesting in that she was better known as George Sand. He lived for a time in a stark cold cell in a monastery in Valldemossa in Majorca. Despite his bad health, the time in Majorca during winter is considered as one of the most productive in his life as his piano was sent from Paris. Due to his poor health his party left the island for Barcelona in Spain. George Sand had sold his piano to a French couple whose heirs are now the custodians of Chopin's legacy in Mallorca and of the cell room in Valldemossa now open for inspection. He died in Paris in 1849, just 39 years old.



Monastary in Valldemossa



Chopin 1810 - 1849

What is the significance of the occasion? This year and the month of March marked the 200th anniversary of his birth, an historical event, and all historical events, local or not, are worth commemorating. Not only was the concert a worthwhile exercise, it gave the Societies involved a lot of publicity and brought many people together to enjoy a polished performance by a young pianist who already has a list of credits to his name.

Local Studies Collection

Helen McDonald

The Local Studies Collection of Sutherland Shire Libraries offers a broad and wide ranging number of source materials which provides a wealth of information about the local area. From student to researcher the collection offers a window to the past allowing opportunities to explore the background to and formation of the identity of the Shire.

It is uncertain as to the exact point in time the Local Studies Collection came into being. Suffice to say however that it would not have had such a long history if not for the initial interest of former Chief Librarian, Mr Bernard Sargeant. Appointed as Chief Librarian in 1960, it was certainly in these early years that the value and benefit to the community of collecting and organising the history of the Sutherland Shire was recognised. Certainly they were humble beginnings with probably no more than a filing cabinet or so of information stored in the Administration area of the Central Library when located in Eton Street, Sutherland.

The format of the material held in the Local Studies Collection extends beyond those of traditional library collections. The principal aim is to ensure the depth and breadth of the information in the collection. Much local history can be found in formats which are not books or journals. Photographs, archives, plans, and newspapers have all been collected in addition to the compilation of historical files kept in subject order known commonly as the 'vertical file'.

The Library has spent much time indexing these resources over the years to ensure better access to information such as council minutes and local newspapers.

Above all the Collection could not have existed without the donations of photographs and material over the years by the local community. The collective memory of the Shire could not be maintained without this ongoing and enthusiastic interest and effort. The work of early local historians such as Alf and Fred Midgley and the historical society in general in this area has also been vital.

The Kirkby manuscript is another important source of information as it documents the early development of the Sutherland Shire as a Local Government area. David R Kirkby, former Shire Clerk compiled this work after he retired in 1963. Covering the first 50 years of Council the manuscript outlines the milestones of the Sutherland Shire based on material gleaned from council minutes and press clipping books.

An index for this manuscript which was compiled by Bernard Sargeant in the late 70s adds to the value of this resource. The index is incorporated into a card catalogue which also houses an index to the council minutes themselves. This covers post 1956 council minutes and early local newspapers dating from the end of the 19th century. This catalogue is located outside the Local Studies Room at Central Library Sutherland. The library is fortunate to have such a useful tool to access this information which benefits users such as family historians researching long lost local ancestors and local schools preparing anniversary celebrations and anyone requiring more detailed information about people, places and events.

In 1988 a number of bicentennial projects resulted in landmark additions to the Collection. First and foremost the Library initiated the "Hidden History" project which allowed for the dedication of a staff member who was responsible for further acquisition and organisation of information for the Collection. This included the beginning of the now, very large collection of oral history recordings. Some wonderful pioneers from all areas of the Shire were interviewed spanning many decades of local history. This work is fortunately continuing today utilising the skills and talents of other society

members and local residents. The Life Albums project involved a number of nominated members of the community writing their life stories in special books which prompted recollections of daily life and important family events. The natural environment of the time was also recorded photographically in a register of significant trees and features. In addition an Aboriginal Living Sites Survey was undertaken which resulted in the Library receiving a set of slides and mounted photographs of important aboriginal heritage.

As we go further into the digital age many existing resources are being converted to an electronic format. Local Studies material is extremely well suited to this medium for both access and preservation. A large proportion of the photograph collection has now been added to the online catalogue and can also be viewed on the library's website. This work will continue and it is hoped to post more images into the future. It is not however without its challenges as formats need to be migrated to new and changing technology. The exciting outcomes however include the potential to view more of the Local Studies Collection online and from the comfort of your own home.

It is impossible to mention all the valuable people of the past and present who have made the Local Studies Collection what it is today. However the users of the Collection today and into the future benefit from such a concerted and cooperative effort.



A house name from the 1920s. The house at 7 Richmount Street Cronulla was recently demolished

Did you know?

Our Museum is open on the **first Saturday** of every month **from 10 am to 3 pm**, or else, by appointment at any time by arrangement with Jim Cutbush, curator. He can be contacted on 9521 3721

Donations of materials with a local provenance are welcome.
Volunteers to assist in staffing and maintaining the exhibits are welcome.

On Collecting

Bruce Watt

Apart from a few species of animals such as bower birds, squirrels and magpies, humans have developed a unique characteristic. They collect things. Our superior intellect and our sedentary lifestyle which allows us time and space to organise, categorise, store, study, display and appreciate our collections has no doubt been influential in nurturing this habit. Increasing affluence allows more leisure time to be spent in the pursuit of hobbies and interests. Higher disposable incomes create the means by which collections can be accumulated. It also allows a market to develop for items that can be traded. A healthy secondary market where collections can be bought and sold has seen this sector of the market boom in recent times. Auctions, ebay, books, magazines, the internet, museums, galleries, clubs and retail stores enable people to view, buy, trade and gather information about their hobbies and collections.

Readers of this article may have a natural interest in history and some will have collections of artifacts, ephemera or literature that reflects their interests. However, collecting is not restricted to history buffs. So we must pose a few questions. What is a collection? Who collects and why? Are there different types of collectors?

A collection is a group of things gathered for a specific purpose. It may be of a similar type or be from a particular era or genre. A person is a collector when they bring items together into a group. People collect a huge variety of different things and for lots of reasons - - including that it is fun! Collecting is a great hobby because it can be different and unique for everyone. Each 'found' item has its own 'story.' In the process of collecting, one continues to learn. As you build any collection, you apply skills in identifying, selecting, discriminating, evaluating, classifying, eliminating and arranging items. Whilst some may collect in isolation, the joy for many is in showing and sharing their collection with others.

Those who view collecting as trivial or a waste of time, miss the connections that it has to life styles and occupations. Collecting provides an interest and in some cases, the thrill of the chase is an intoxicating elixir. Scientists collect things; they gather information, data, and samples. Museums and libraries are public collections that are gathered to educate and to preserve cultural identity and physical artifacts. Many people make their livelihoods by collecting and disposing of items. In fact, all of us go through our lives collecting and discarding things around us.

Development of collecting

Collecting is as old as civilization itself. The library at Alexandria is said to have contained a huge number of books. Modern collecting took root in the 18th Century. Scientific discoveries began to challenge conventional knowledge and religious beliefs. No longer was the earth seen as the centre of the universe with man as the pinnacle of God's creation. The earth was coming to be seen as a small cog in the immense machinery of the universe. A scientific rush began to study and classify all manner of living and physical systems. The sciences of biology, anatomy, geology, physics and astronomy began to develop. The emphasis was on collecting specimens, categorizing them into groups and displaying them in museums. One can imagine the huge interest that this burgeoning area of knowledge and display had on public perception. The British Museum opened in the mid 18th Century and grew in time to house a vast quantity and variety of items.

James Cook was sent out to Tahiti in 1769 by the Geographical Society to study the transit of Venus and to gather other scientific information. Joseph Banks paid his own way on this voyage. His interest was in gathering botanical specimens of hitherto unknown species. He became as well

known as Cook and it was upon his recommendation that Botany Bay was suggested as the site of the first settlement of Australia by Europeans.

The Victoria and Albert Museum was another institution set up in the mid 18th Century whose collections came to span a huge variety of items which augment British heritage.

Collecting as a hobby

The hobby of collecting includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organising, cataloguing, displaying, storing and maintaining whatever items are of interest to the individual collector. Some collectors are generalists, for example, accumulating stamps from all countries of the world. Others focus on a subtopic within their area of interest, perhaps 19th century postage stamps, packing case labels from Tasmania, or first edition books.

The items collectors collect may be antique or simply collectible. They may be valuable or have no intrinsic value. Antiques are collectible items at least 100 years old; collectibles are not necessarily antique, and may even be new. Collectors and dealers may use the word vintage to describe older collectibles. Most collectibles are man-made commercial items, but some private collectors collect natural objects such as birds' eggs, butterflies, rocks, and seashells. Recently on eBay a bag of 'belly button fluff' was auctioned on-line. Its unique nature afforded the seller a substantial profit! Other unusual collections include pet rocks, barbed wire, lawnmowers and banana stickers. Items which were once everyday objects may now be collectible since almost all those once prolific items have been destroyed or discarded. Some collectors collect only in childhood while others continue to do so throughout their lives and usually modify their aims later in life.

Collections often invoke nostalgic memories of childhood or of the recent past. Older collectors who have lived through the 1950s, 60s, 70s or even 80s may not be attracted to memorabilia from those periods. However, a new batch of younger collectors may find items from these times collectable because of its colour, function, technology or accessibility.

Some novice collectors start purchasing items that appeal to them, and then slowly work at acquiring knowledge about how to build a collection. Others (more cautious or studious types) want to develop some background in the field before starting to buy items.

Help for collectors

Collectors' magazines are one of the most popular means to learn more about the field. Attending collector's fairs and shows is another way for a collector to familiarize him or herself with the possibilities. Television shows such as The Collectors and Antiques Roadshow educate viewers about value, style and traps for consumers including fakes.

A collector may find and join a local club for people who collect specific items. Collector publications frequently list the location, date and time of club meetings and collector's fairs. Collectors who have already narrowed their collecting horizons to the creations of a particular producer may want to join a club that focuses on this producer's work, for example Shelley or Brownie Downing. A potential collector may wish to chat with collectors with similar interests in specialized forums via the Internet. Fellow collectors are usually very happy to share information with new collectors; this includes information about where they have been successful in acquiring their collectibles, where they have struggled and what they are looking for. Collectors' forums allow for an open exchange of information, sometimes with experts available to answer questions and offer guidance. In addition, web-sites specializing exclusively in the selling and trading of collectibles such as eBay and The Trading Post help collectors manage their items as well as compare, connect, and trade directly with others.

Cataloguing

Collectibles experts tend to agree that a collector should begin keeping a record as soon as they start collecting, of all details of purchase and price. Provenance, the proven (preferably written) link between an item and a person, location or event can be vital to its value. For example, if it can be proved that 'this pen was used to sign the surrender document in 1945' then it adds considerable value. Without this information, prospective buyers and insurance appraisers may not take the collector's word. It is also recommended to take a photograph or video of each item or groups of items where each may be easily identified. Records can be made in a format suitable for the collector, from a simple spiral notebook to a computer software program designed for collectibles. In addition to the information the collector records, it's a good idea to keep all written material and certificates that came with the collectibles—receipts, flyers and stories, care and handling instructions, etc. They will help to document a collection for resale or replacement in the future.

Insurance

When it comes to insuring a collection, the first step is generally to check one's present homeowner or renter's policy to find out how extensive coverage may be in the case of fire, burglary, or other risk. Some policies carry a fairly high maximum payment for items such as collectibles, while others offer very little of this type of protection. Compare the amount of coverage available with the value of the collection. If the homeowner's policy is deemed inadequate, collectors have the option of contacting insurance companies that offer special policies for collectibles. It is essential as well that one determines how the value of items would be assessed by an insurance company: on replacement value, purchase price, or some type of "depreciated value."

Maintenance

Caring for a collection requires two main tasks: security and cleaning/maintenance. Display valuables out of reach of children and pets, and in environments where heat, humidity, and sunlight are controlled. Avoid fire hazards, and make sure there are sufficient smoke detectors in good working order. Collectors with extensive holdings may want to consider an alarm system with sensors and electric eye equipment — especially if they are living in a crime-heavy area or if the home is well known as one that contains many valuables.

Secondary market

The retail price of a collectible is valid only at the moment it was purchased. Once the collectible comes into the buyer's possession, its value is linked to what is called the secondary market. Once a collectible is purchased, most of the costs associated with the retail price (i.e. advertising, production cost, shipping cost, etc.) must be deducted from the retail cost to determine the object's immediate value on the secondary market, thus, retail cost is not equivalent to secondary market resale value. Depending on several different factors, individuals, auctioneers, and secondary retailers may sell a collectible for more, the same, or less than what they originally paid for it. These factors include, but are not limited to, condition, age, supply, and demand.

There is no secondary market for an item unless someone is willing to buy it, and an object's value is whatever the buyer is willing to pay for it. Industry leaders believe that the secondary market is important for several reasons: primarily to allow experienced collectors to upgrade their collections, to stimulate the market and encourage new collectors, and to provide a means for monetary appreciation. To upgrade a collection, a collector may wish to dispose of things they no longer enjoy to produce the capital to buy other things.

A source of information about antiques are the annual price guides books such as 'Carters'. Prices quoted though are usually retail through dealers. Buyers or sellers wishing to trade outside this established market place may pay or receive possibly a third of retail price.

Sources of collectable items include retail shops, collectables fairs, garage sales, flea markets, collector's clubs, swap meets, the internet, word of mouth, newspapers, magazines and auctions (both physical and on-line).

As well as private collections there are many public collections. A few of those in NSW includes:

Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Botanic Gardens Trust, Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art, Powerhouse Museum, State Library and many regional galleries and museums.

The list of collectable items is endless. The following list represents a small selection, some quite quirky.

Air Sickness Bags	Antiques	Art
Autographs	Breweriana	Books
Bottles	Cars	Buttons
Cameras	Clocks	Coins
Coca Cola	Computers	Corkscrews
Comic books	Disneyana	Dolls
Dinnerware	Ephemera	Fans
Enamel signs	Kaleidoscopes	Guns
Fishingtacklelures	License Plates	Lighters
Glassware	Militaria	Marbles
Knives	Paperweights	Photographs
Lighting	Gramophones	Pencil sharpeners
Matchbooks	Radios	Pins
Music	Sea Shells	Rocks and minerals
Garaginalia	Sports	Smoking memorabilia
Seeds	T-Shirts	Stamps
Snowglobes	Telephones	Thimbles
Tractors	Tools	Toys
Vending machines	Typewriters	Writing instruments

Hoarding

Hoarding is another variant of collecting. Hoarding can have a less pleasant connotation. It is generally associated with gathering large amounts of items and hiding them away, possibly for monetary gain but not exclusively so. Some of the great finds from antiquity are referred to as 'Hoards'. These may include gold, coins, silver or other valuable items. Perhaps accidentally lost or purposely concealed and subsequently mislaid. Hoarding may have a useful purpose in, say, times of war when severe shortages are likely to occur. At other times it may mask psychological behaviour associated with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. From time to time, media stories identify situations where householders fill their homes and yards to overflowing with seemingly worthless 'rubbish'.

Reference Wikipedia

One man's passion

Barry McKay – a local collector

Featured on the front cover of the bulletin is a hand operated petrol pump from the original service station / general store at Taren Point. At the time, travellers used a punt to cross over from Sans Souci.

It represents a significant part of our early motoring history.

Barry McKay bought the pump in poor condition and restored it. Barry was a collector, restorer, raconteur and knock-about bloke who helped to save and pass on a lot of our early history. Sadly, Barry passed away last year after a short illness at the age of 63

Barry left school at the age of 14, which wasn't unusual in the 1950s. He left home and hitchhiked up to Longreach in Queensland where he worked for several years as a jackaroo on a cattle station. After this he travelled to New Zealand and worked in the mines for a few years. He then travelled to England in the 1960s and worked in pubs and toured around.

Barry returned to Australia in 1966 and worked in the building industry as a brickies labourer and other roles. He married Sue (nee Wiley) in 1968. Sue's family had moved to the Shire after the war and had bought a block of land in Gannon's road. Sue's father had been a pilot throughout the war and flew Mosquitoes in bombing raids over Germany.



In 1973 Barry and Sue moved to Sutherland and later settled in Sylvania. In 1983 he began working at the Caltex refinery at Kurnell. From 1993 he was self employed, doing lawn mowing and maintenance. Being practical by nature, Barry enjoyed working with his hands, building and restoring items, usually of some historical interest. It is to people such as Barry that other collectors and historians and future generations owe a debt of gratitude. So many items of historical value or social interest have been lost, especially in the last 20 – 30 years. A more disposable attitude to material possessions, less space to store items, regular council recycling and rubbish collections and changing tastes, fashions and technology have resulted in a great deal of pre- mid 20th Century items disappearing.

A hand cranked air raid siren

An early petrol pump



Over time most collectors recognise that they need to refine, contain or dispose of parts of their collections to fund future purchases, to avoid running out of space or simply to accommodate new directions as tastes change. Barry became a keen trader in old wares and regularly attended garage sales, swap meets and markets as both a buyer and seller. Barry had a regular stall site at Caringbah markets and at Kirribilli.markets. His stall was a magnet for buyers of old wares. Barry also revelled in the contacts that he was able to make. Many of his purchases were from browsers who made a

chance remark about some old wares in their shed or who had made enquiries about whether Barry would be interested in buying some items. Naturally Barry obliged!

Though not interested in old cars he would regularly attend car swap meets. There is a cross over in interests in old car enthusiasts and collectors of more general interests. Many old car buffs search far and wide for elusive parts and in doing so, come across lots of other unusual items. Barry would attend swap meets at Cessnock, Bathurst and Goulburn and on occasions he would visit the really big ones at Bendigo and Ballarat in Victoria. Such is the passion of the true collector.



One of many old radios

Barry enjoyed all old things but he had some special interests that he pursued more systematically. He was a keen fisherman and he loved old fishing gear, especially reels. He was very proud of his collection. He also enjoyed collecting and restoring old wood-working tools.

He also collected scales, lamps, bikes, model boats, signs, garage items, gramophones and toy pedal cars. In fact he enjoyed collecting anything that he could restore. The petrol pump

featured on the cover of this bulletin was one that he bought as a wreck and carefully restored.

It has significant local provenance as it stood at the general store on the Sutherland Shire side of the Georges River when the only crossing was by punt. It dates from the 1920s and would have filled many veteran cars (pre 1919), vintage (1920 – 1929) or classic cars (1930 and after).

It is often said that every man needs a shed. Barry was a shed man. He loved a few beers in the late afternoon up in his shed but he could always be found tinkering away on some project. No doubt, Barry's collecting gave him immense joy and companionship. He loved life and chatting to people.

In common with many collectors he loved the challenge of finding the next item and of getting that 'fix' that true collectors experience when they come across a rare item. He was not a reader of novels however he did regularly consult his extensive reference books on antiques and collectables as well as books that reminded him of the bush.

Barry was one of those genuine, knock-about 'blokes' and a real character.

Do you have a collection or an interest that you would like to share with others? Our members would be interested in your story. Let us know and you could display some of your collection or talk about it at one of our meetings.

An Extraordinary Tale

Angela Thomas

Sometimes it's better to travel down the byways of history, rather than the highways. Amidst the overwhelming details of past battles, treaties, migrations and achievements we can lose sight of those bare essentials of life which made civilisation possible.

Take the button for example. Where would modern man be without the manufacture of the button?

And where would the button be without the buttonmaker?

Down this particular byway comes a unique character from the eighteenth century, his story vividly described in his diary.

Benjamin Saunders (1763-1852) was born in the age of magnificent buttons which increased in size, number and variety on the dress of gentlemen during the eighteenth century. Gentlemen wore large buttons on their tailcoats, multi-coloured buttons on their waistcoats, buttons on the knees of their buckskin breeches as well as buttons on their gaiters. English fashion copied the French male mania for lavish and extravagant buttons which made well dressed men into walking picture galleries.

The Comte d'Artois wore a set of diamond buttons, in each of which was set a miniature watch. Fabric buttons were hand embroidered in multi-coloured silks and fetched high prices. Louis XV had his own button maker to ensure the perfection of his buttons.

And this is when Benjamin Saunders extraordinary story begins.

Born near Birmingham, at the hub of the industrial revolution, he was apprenticed to a London tailor for seven years. Dealing with the beau monde, his quick wits launched him on his adventures.

His first invention was the 'ventilator' or circular spring which he fitted into the seats of tight breeches. This enabled men to bend and dance more comfortably. At the end of the eighteenth century Robert Southey describes the predicament of fashionable men. 'Everybody wore leathern breeches which were made so tight it was a good half-hour's work to get them on the first time...they could not be buttoned without the help of an instrument. Of course they fitted like another skin; but woe to him who was caught in the rain in them! – it was like plucking a skin off to get out of them.'

Benjamin had firmly established himself with wife and family and a thriving business when, in 1792 at the age of 29 he decided to emigrate after considering he had been deceived and denigrated by a nobleman.

The Saunders family set off for America. Nowadays a journey of less than a week by sea, then it took them six weeks and three days. Pirates plagued the seas and several times the ship had to run off course to avoid capture. For centuries Algerian pirates had hunted in the Atlantic, captured travellers were ransomed and if not rescued sold as slaves. There were said to be 800 European slaves in Algiers in 1788. *"Oh my God it's an Algerine cruiser! Our captain put his ship on her favourite tack and crowded all sail he could. Another gun with ball whistled and dropped very near us...we could perceive the enemy come up notwithstanding all our Captain's exertions; this was a most alarming crisis. The boatswain was at the helm, he had not been there long before he cried out, 'Hurrah! Hurrah! Its all gone. We could see that the Algerines masts were all gone overboard to the the unspeakable joy of us all. My wife felt more uneasiness on this occasion than she did in the late great storm (captured women were the property of the crew till they could be sold at the slavemarket)."*

Arriving in New York he set up business as a fashionable tailor and buttonmaker but poor health dogged him. Yellow fever was rampant and continually arriving on the slave ships from Africa, cutting a swathe through the population.

Despairing of unhealthy New York he moved into the country and set up a business manufacturing leather from raw skins. It was successful but when a friend's baby died of yellow fever he feared for his children and sold the business. Having heard from his wife's sister that Copenhagen was a

healthy place they set sail across the Atlantic again in 1795. This time dodging the French, in fact intercepted once but treated with great courtesy by them and the ship allowed to go on its way.

In Copenhagen he made suits for the nobility and started a silk manufactory; success finally seemed to have arrived. Devoted wife, healthy children, beautiful home, faithful dog (note the dog) he became a pillar of society and a wealthy business man.

Not for long. In 1807 Britain invaded Denmark and he was ruined. He escaped but his wife and nine children were imprisoned by the Danes and his beautiful house used as a stables and all destroyed. The British Army besieged Copenhagen for two weeks and bombarded it on the 2nd September 1807. Hundreds of red hot shells and Congreve's flaming rockets set it ablaze until the Danes capitulated.

Reunited with his family he set sail back to England. Here I quote from his diary. *'we had a boat to take our removables to the ship 'Melbourn' it turned out a most tempestuous day and with boat, after going a very little way, began to let in water, we all thought we should soon perish but, fortunately a worthy captain, who saw our perilous position, sent his boat and took us and baggage out of the Danish boat into his own ship'*

In fifteen years Benjamin had been a successful tailor, factory owner and businessman..... and then failed in three countries; had nine children, been chased by the pirates, captured by the French, nearly killed by the Danes, almost shipwrecked and then:

'Soon after we arrived I had occasion to go into the City before breakfast; on my return we were sitting together, when in came my dog, whom we have often lamented. To see him come in with expressions of joy and gladness was wonderful, he jumped and licked the children's faces, while we were amazed and overjoyed at his finding us out.'

How did the dog get over to London from Copenhagen and find them?

Between 1807 and 1813 Benjamin turned his inventive ability to manufacturing buttons with the help of his son Benjamin who was a clever toolmaker. In 1813 they took out his first patent for a method of making cloth-covered buttons by machine. He used a series of metal cylinder dies for consolidating the various parts of the button and presses to thrust the substances of which the button was made into the dies. Before button-makers had been handicapped by lack of efficient presses. This patent of 1813 laid the foundation for the rebuilding of his fortune.

Ref. The Extraordinary Adventures of BENJAMIN SANDERS Bromsgrove Buttonmaker by Alan Richards, published by the Bromsgrove Society.

Book Review

Lennie's Ride. Small Endeavour Publishing. Author Mary Small. Illustrations Marion Wilcocks. Publication date May 2010 RRP \$14.95

Lennie Gwyther, a nine year old farmer's son, rode his pony, Ginger Mick, 600 miles from Leongatha in the Gippsland region of Victoria to Sydney to witness for himself the celebratory opening of the Harbour Bridge on Saturday 19th March 1932. During his journey, newspaper reports of his progress made him so famous that he was invited to take part in the Grand Procession after the official opening. The stuff of legends, Lennie's Ride is the story based on family records of a remarkable young Australian. This book written for children but also of interest to adults is the result of a close collaboration between Mary Small's sister in law Marion Wilcocks, an established artist who lives in England and Sydney based Margaret Knowlden, a long time friend who provided her skills with editing, book design and typesetting.

Visit Mary Small at: www.marysmall.com.au

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first recorded move to found an historical society began when John Nobbs moved a Notice of Motion in the Legislative Assembly, late in 1898, that the Government's early historical documents be housed in a fireproof compartment of the library building proposed to house the David Scott Mitchell Collection. He also mentioned the need for the arrangement and indexation of documents for the use of history students.

John Nobbs, Rev.W.H.Yarrington and Edward Dowling visited David Scott Mitchell (after whom the Mitchell Library was subsequently named) at his home on 30th November, 1898. They discussed the idea that an historical society might be one way in which historical records might be preserved, and decided to ask Sir Mathew Harris, Lord Mayor of Sydney and avid collector of Australian, to convene a public meeting.

As nothing eventuated they tried other avenues the following year. Dr.Andrew Houison, Sydney physician and historian, was their only supporter.

When a public dispute arose over the uncertainty of the date of the laying of a foundation stone at Philips Church, Church Hill, Sydney, the fiasco highlighted the inadequacies of the keeping of records.

Letters were written to the Sydney Morning Herald about properly processed records, which the writers were afraid were disappearing.

The Herald of October 22nd 1900 followed up this concern by drawing attention to the loss or destruction of important documents and therefore urged the formation of a Sydney Historical Society. It also encouraged those with personal knowledge of the past to provide such a society with recollections, for the sake of the historians of the future.

On October 30th 1900 the Lord Mayor made a room available in the Sydney Town Hall for a meeting which was presided over by Dr.Houison. and attended by five men interested in supporting an historical society. Over the next few months rules were drawn up. David Scott Mitchell agreed to become Patron, provided the title was The Australian Historical Society (after 1918 it was known as the Royal Australian Historical Society). Finally, on 15th March 1901, the rules were adopted. The Patron, President, Three Vice-Presidents and a Committee of seven were elected. This meeting was accepted as the Inaugural Meeting of the Australian Historical Society. Dr.Houison was elected the President; Alfred Lee, Norman Selfe and the Rev.W.H.Yarrington, Vice Presidents.

In the Society's first Annual Report the President, Dr.Houison, wrote 'that the two principal keystones of the "Historical Arch" which is proposed to be erected over the events of Australian history, were the collection and preservation of artifacts, all forms of written and printed records and the compilation of interesting Australian events, chronologically arranged and authentically located.'

The Society's members began involving themselves in a variety of activities promoting the awareness and learning of Australian history. They established their Journal in 1906., organised excursions and erected plaques at historical sites. Historical exhibitions were organised. So impressed was the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald with the Society's achievements that he wrote, 'they have made the past present, brought the distant near.....the Society has greatly widened the appreciation of Australian history'.

Gradually the interest in preserving and highlighting the past came to the fore when on the 8th March 1910 at 2.30pm the David Scott Mitchell Library was opened. His collection of 60,132 volumes including 1,140 manuscripts would now be safely kept for future generations. It was the first library in the world to concentrate primarily on Australia and the Pacific region.

On the 21st October 1929 William Dixon's collection of paintings, books and manuscripts was also safely housed in a gallery of the new wing of the Library.

By now Australian history was being celebrated on the outskirts of Sydney – Parramatta proudly held their 125th anniversary in 1913 and later that year they established their Historical Society. The Manly Warringah & Pittwater Society was formed on August 21st 1924; Clarence River on 18th

November 1931; Newcastle on 5th February 1936 and the Richmond River Historical Society also in 1936.

In 1940 the Royal Australian Historical Society moved into their own premises at 8 Young St. Sydney with room for artefacts and meetings.

Further progress in the formation of historical societies now had to wait until well after 1945, due to WWII. One example was the Sutherland Shire Historical Society which was formed in 1966 – Mr.R. Harrison was the first President and founding members were Mr R Dallimore, Mr D Kirkby and Mr.G.Heavens.

As you will note from the Bulletin's date we are now in our 44th year.

NOLA WATT

References: Australian History in NSW 1888-1938 Brian Fletcher (pub.1993)

A Source of Inspiration & Delight. The building of the State Library of NSW since 1826 David J.Jones _(pub 1988)

BULLETIN FILES AT OUR MUSEUM

We have been trying to establish a complete collection of The Bulletin issues at our Museum, together with indexes of reference, to enable us to check our records on the spot when visitors make enquiries. The following is a list of missing issues of our journal and should older members have copies of these, we would appreciate them either donating them or allowing us to scan them for our collection.

Pre-September 1968

All of 1969

April or May 1970

April or May 1972

MERLE KAVANAGH

DOWN MEMORY LANE

At our recent seminar it became obvious, over lunch, that half the pleasure in the afternoon was the meeting and exchanging of memories.

“Who kept the Post Office...” – “What happened to Mr.??” etc., questions were asked and opinions exchanged in a very lively fashion. The gist always being – what life was like when we were young!!! So next year we may introduce a meeting where everyone can get together over sandwiches, a cup of tea or a glass of wine and exchange those valuable recollections.

Perhaps if we call it....”When I was Ten”...that will set the ball rolling and jog your memories...

WINDSOR EXCURSION

Merle Kavanagh

With Terry McCosker in the driver's seat, we set off in an almost full community bus on a warm autumn day, 27th March, for Windsor, one of the five towns declared by Lachlan Macquarie on 6 December 1810. Macquarie began his appointment as Governor of the colony of New South Wales on 1st January 1810 and his bicentenary is being observed this year.

Terry's knowledge and expertise as a driver and dispenser of historical knowledge ensured that we received interesting snippets of information on places through which we passed. The five towns designated by Macquarie were Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce and Terry ensured that we learned this. It is interesting that of these five, the two major towns, Windsor and Richmond, have flourished whilst small communities like Castlereagh have not achieved what was envisaged for them. Approaching Windsor we stopped briefly at Tebbutt's Observatory, John Tebbutt having discovered (what else but) Tebbutt's Comet on 13 May 1861. Twenty years later he would discover another "great comet".

We arrived at Windsor a little early, so Terry gave us a tour of the town before conveying us to the Museum which, unlike our Museum, was obviously run by paid staff. The uncluttered lay-out ensured that easy changes could be made from time to time, with corners and central groupings dealing with different aspects of the area's history. My particular interest was Castlereagh and in the Museum I found an 1830s map showing the two land blocks owned by my ancestor, John Lees, who built the first Methodist Chapel in Australasia on his land in 1817. I also found that there had been a small hospital in Macquarie Street, Windsor and hopefully this was where my mother was born in 1904, as the birth certificate only states she was born in Macquarie Street and I would hate to think she was born in the street! There were other focuses on local history, especially the devastating floods suffered by the townspeople and it was good to learn that the display included many items collected by the local Historical Society.

About lunch time we had the option to be let off in the Mall to buy some lunch and to browse the shops, notably the book shops for some, or sit by the mighty Hawkesbury River. I chose the latter and from the picnic area on the high bank, it seemed a long way down to the river. It was almost impossible to imagine the water flooding over those high banks but Windsor has been vulnerable to flooding over many years. Some floods reached over 32 feet (almost 10 metres) above the high water level there and between 1799 and 1965 there were 41 major floods. The 1817 flood necessitated a rescue for some by the local ferry service but a father and son who missed the punt floated to safety in a washing tub and pig trough. But for us, that day, it was very peaceful by the river, sitting in the shade of the trees, eating lunch and reflecting on the town's history.

Before leaving Windsor we saw Macquarie's statue in the park, studying a map, then moved on to St. Matthews Anglican Church, an amazing building designed by Francis Greenway, the corner-stone being laid by Macquarie on 11 October 1817. During the ceremony he deposited under the stone the rim of a Spanish dollar (the middle circle cut out and both used as currency then). However somebody stole the money and the corner-stone had to be relaid on 13 October 1817, the money at that time being deposited by the Rev. Robert Cartwright. However this coin was again stolen, the suspects being some of the indigent convicts employed at the Public Works! The church was consecrated and opened on 18 December 1822 by Rev. Samuel Marsden. Around the Church is an extensive cemetery and the size of the Tebbutt family vault is notable in this historic graveyard. We returned to the bus for the trip home, a little weary but happy to be suffering from an overload of history.

Thank you Terry for arranging this interesting trip and for the safe journey there and back.

Museum report

I would first like to give a big thank you to all those members that helped during Heritage Festival. We were able to overcome the problem of having to man two exhibitions at the one time for everyday of two weeks, a big task that some did a number of times, both at the Rainbow Room (in the Entertainment Centre) and at our museum, answering lots of enquiries and being told interesting, and at times, unknown facts about our Shire. In one case we had a visit by Mr Colin Lobb from Queensland wanting to know about his ancestors in Sutherland and the location of Lobb's Hall. Within half an hour we were able to provide copies of family members and a photocopy of Lobb's Hall which proved the worth of our computers, photo records and facility. Thanks to David Overett at the controls.

The museum had a total of 396 visitors during the festival and I am still trying to find the record book for the Rainbow Room. But numbers were less than we had expected at the Entertainment Centre.

Thank you to Terry McCosker for giving a talk to the Engadine National Seniors (Evening Branch) at Engadine Bowling Club on April 28th. Another talk from avid collector, Mr Doug Archer will be given to Cronulla Uniting Church Ladies Group on Friday 11th June. His subject will be Royal Crown Derby plates and paper weights.

Our collection keeps growing. I hope you all admired the new colour photograph collection of local businesses that have been donated by a number of amateur photographers from different clubs in Sutherland Shire, headed up by Mr John Cole. Both the Society and the Local Studies area of Sutherland Library will benefit from this wonderful collection. More on a public presentation is yet to be arranged.

Thank you to the museum committee for their valued assistance. In particular, thank you to Angela Thomas, David Overett and Nola Watt for their attendances at the 'Museums and Galleries NSW' meetings. Merle Kavanagh is continuing to index and record our collections. This is a very time consuming job which I know she is enjoying. Thank you Merle for this very valuable job..

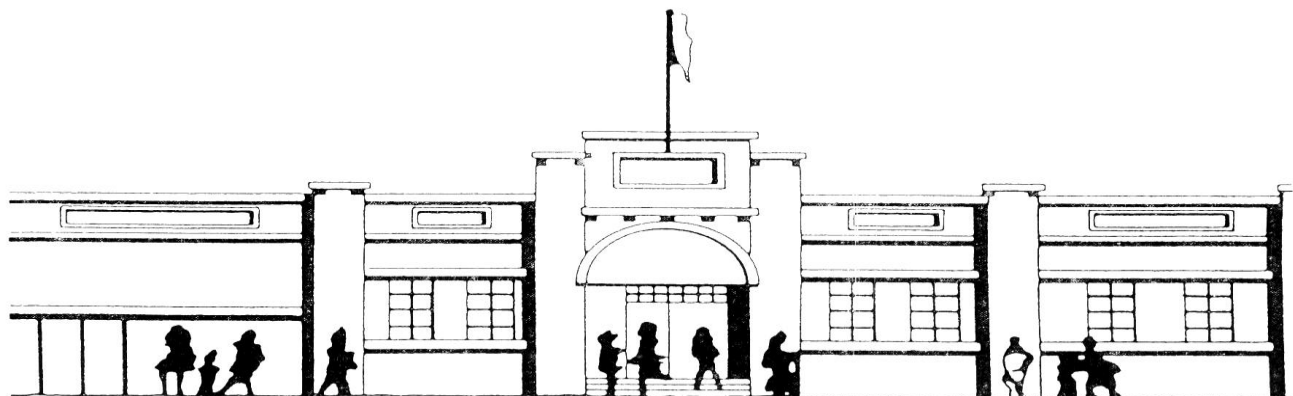
Thank you to the Sutherland Shire Council for help given from: Helen McDonald, Local Studies area, Sutherland Library, Planning and Events Department and the staff of the Entertainment Centre, both during the year and particularly during Heritage Festival.

Congratulations to the Shire Music Club's launch of this year's Heritage Festival 2010.

I will close now with a reminder that this continues to be a very big year for the museum and I can't see it stopping. So why not give our regulars a hand!

Jim Cutbush

Curator



An outline of the history of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts

Niall Petit-Young –

(formerly in charge of the Local Studies section of the Sutherland Shire Council Library - written in 1986)

Although the School of Arts movement in Sutherland dates from the late 1890s, it was the First World War that renewed interest in a School of Arts for Sutherland. It was thought that a memorial to the men of 'C Riding' who volunteered for the War would be best served in a School of Arts. There is evidence that at least one meeting was held, but because of the aftermath of the War and the peace celebrations, nothing was really done until late January 1920. A meeting was held in Lobb's Hall Sutherland, [on the opposite corner to the Masonic Hall] where it was decided to 'secure a larger allotment (land) in East Parade.

It appears from the scant evidence available, that interest in the Memorial School of Arts waned after August, 1920. It was not until eight months later, in April 1921, the members of the School of Arts carried recommendations aimed at raising money, by way of a loan, for a building.

The Building

The building was designed by Esmond B Wilshire, to be built at an estimated cost of £1700. It eventually cost £2500, of which £1500 was still owed at the time of opening. (This debt was to cause problems in the future). The land was bought with money raised by Charles Diston, and the builder was Ralph Brinsley of Sutherland. On Saturday, May 12, 1921, the Foundation Stone was laid by the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. On this occasion, as on previous ones, (the later to be notorious) Thomas J Ley, MLA, was prominent. (It is interesting to note that, with all the pomp of the ceremony, the actual cost of the ceremony to the School of Arts was £3.)

The building was completed by late February – early March 1922. We know that on the 18th March, a two day carnival was held 'in the School of Arts new building' and that the last payment (to the plumber) was made the previous day. Later in the month, officers were elected. At this stage the building was not officially opened. to members. The latter happened on the 10th April, 1922.

The Official Opening

A large audience attended the building's official opening on 5th August, 1922, by the Minister for Education, A Bruntnell, assisted by the Minister for Justice, Thomas J Ley. The speeches emphasized the memorial aspect of the hall and an honour roll, made of panelled Queensland white maple, bearing the names of 97 (93?) men (seven of whom were killed) from 'C Riding' who had volunteered for the War.

Mr Ley's speech dealt with the activities he hoped the hall would be put to over the years. He stated that 'In the past the young people had no place where they could gather , but now they had a place for social evenings and where they could play billiards. They would also be able to avail themselves of the library, where much knowledge could be gained.'

Social life

The social life of the School of Arts is portrayed in the various records remaining. (a) accounts book 1920 – 1942; (b) Letter book 1939 – January 1941; (c) Minutes books 1936 – October 1944; (d) Diaries and newspaper cuttings (in bad condition) 1939 – 1950.

1922 - 1936

The social life of the School was centred around billiards. In fact, the School declined when the popularity of billiards waned. The game was played every week. There were regular tournaments in

which no expense was spared. It is evident from the letters of the 1930s that local politicians, especially C.J. Monro, donated prizes for these tournaments.

A librarian was paid from December 1922 (£5 per month) to look after the 400 plus books, but apart from the occasional mention of a lost book payment, nothing more is evident. The Accounts book shows that rooms were also rented out during this time, but there is no mention as to who rented them or for what purpose.

One interesting matter gleaned from the Accounts book was the popularity of Euchre. From 1926 to late 1928 there were Euchre tournaments held in the hall, first once a month, then twice a month. Billiards was still very popular, so a month would consist of billiards tournaments and Euchre tournaments. However, Euchre disappears in 1929.

The only aspect of life the Depression did not touch was the use of the hall for billiards. The hire of the hall declined, the bank balance dropped, and more importantly, the Council subsidy was reduced. From late 1933, the social life began to improve, but the same cannot be said for the political scene, which was anything but smooth over the next ten years or so of the School of Arts.

1936 – 1949

The activities of the School of Arts during this time are well documented and appears to be the apex in the life of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts.

The library finally gained a prominent place. During 1936 “240 new books have been put into circulation, and there is yet a growing demand for popular authours...” Books were regularly bought or swapped with other Schools of Arts. Later, the State Library sent regular bulk loans of books.

A “Ping Pong” table was bought in 1936 and this, as well as tennis and cricket, were popular games.

Billiards was still popular, and regular championships were organised with games almost every night. A member of the School of Arts, Les Manglesforf of Cronulla, was the State Champion for both billiards and snooker during the mid-1940s. The World Champion, Horace Lindrum, played an exhibition in the School of Arts hall in January 1944. (Undoubtedly, Horace Lindrum, along with his uncle, the unstoppable Walter Lindrum, was responsible for the decline in the popularity of playing billiards... the rules of billiards were changed to counteract the brilliance of the Lindrums, thus making the game less attractive).

Diverse groups in the Sutherland area hired the hall for various reasons. Many organisations had their monthly meetings in the hall .e.g the Sutherland Ex-Services Men’s Club; Sutherland Red Cross; Sutherland Happiness Club; the Australian Labour Party – are but a few of the groups. Regular dances were also held. In fact, 1st Jannali-Como Boy Scouts had dances every Friday night and various other groups had dances on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Weddings and 21st Birthdays were also catered for. It appears that something was going on every night at the School of Arts.

The hall was also used for public meetings, for example, on the 26th June, 1939, a protest meeting was held on the subject of re-location of Sutherland Railway Station. There were also various patriotic meetings such as a hospital fund raiser. Finally, the hall was used for various health programmes such as diphtheria immunisation.

1950-1970

Unfortunately, coupled with the decline of the School of Arts is the associated lack of information. (The only source is David Kirkby’s history of Sutherland Council 1906-1956, which only mentions

the School of Arts in passing). It can be assumed that the decline was gradual till the mid-50s, at which stage three causes for such decline can be deduced.

Firstly: the post-war population was a young expanding family-oriented group with no time to participate. The population was also mobile – not fixed to one location, therefore people could go elsewhere for their entertainment. Secondly: education was taken over by increasing State education, and the library came under the auspices of the local council. Lastly: the extension of radio and (later) television, provided an alternative entertainment source. And the popularity of billiards declined.

The School of Arts continued in a subdued manner, having various public meetings, celebrations, and even markets. In the end, the School survived on “house games”. The building at this stage, 1970, was falling into disrepair. Moves were made to have the Sutherland Shire Council move in and take over the School of Arts.

Council involvement

The Shire Council had been involved with the Memorial School of Arts from the beginning. It was at times a tempestuous relationship. The Council started by subsidising the School of Arts with the sum of £50, which was later increased to £250 per annum. This subsidy was to help the debt payments. The subsidy seemed to have dwindled to approx £100 in the early 1930's. Funding finally stopped in 1938-39 due to extraordinary circumstances.

The February 1939 elections in the School of Arts seem to have split the School into factions, with one faction gaining the support of the Council, because of alleged improper election procedures. The Council promptly stopped the subsidy. A “Stand-off” ensued with neither party conceding.

By mid-year (1939) the subsidy did come from Council, but the School of Arts Committee told the Council that “...owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the subsidy had been paid, our Committee refuses to recognise your representative (to the Committee) any longer, and desire that another representative be elected.” It appears from the Minutes of the School of Arts that meetings between the representatives of the School and the Council managed to somehow patch matters up though the School still had, in the future, to prompt the Council for the £100 subsidy.

The following year (1940) the council used the matter of the £1500 building debt incurred in 1922, against the committee. Again letters were sent, but by June the problem was solved. The Council then confined itself to using the hall only for matters of public concern, for example War Bond drives, immunisation, and public meetings.

In late 1969, a move was made to dissolve the School of Arts and give the assets to the Council. This was stopped by a general meeting, and the Council responded by stopping the subsidy (which covered the Rates). The School then took as tenants a drama group, hoping to raise revenue. This state of affairs continued spasmodically until 1973, when the Handicapped Children's Centre applied for use of the premises as a temporary shelter whilst awaiting a new building. Finally, by 20th January 1975, the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts was “declared dormant and the assets to be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Dormant Funds Act, 1942”

(NOTE: in fact, the Handicapped Childrens Centre was led to believe that it was to be the recipient of the whole building when it could no longer function any longer as a School of Arts. Though this could not have been substantiated had it been pursued through the Commissioner for Dormant Funds, Council resolved, after many, many meetings and discussions with the parties involved, to pay to the Handicapped Children's Centre a sum of some \$35,000 to assist it with the cost of its new building, since it had been its intention to sell the Memorial School of Arts to raise funds for that purpose.

This, with the permission of the Commissioner for Dormant Funds, left the Council as the owner of the thoroughly run down building.)

At one point in these latter stages, it was intended that the whole building become a museum for the Sutherland Historical Society, but such was the state of disrepair that no authority would pass it for use.

Then, in 1984, Sutherland Shire Council resolved to bring the building back into use. Working in stages, it was expected that the renovation might take three to four years, however, with the use of \$63,000 as a CEP (Community Employment Programme) Grant, and \$341,000 Council funds – the whole project was brought to fruition in eighteen months.

Note: J. E. T. recorded this on 8th August 1986

‘At the time of the official opening of the renovated Memorial School of Arts by Shire President Councillor Kevin Skinner, on Saturday, 9th August, 1886, the building houses a theatre for 200 people, with a display foyer and kiosk, and an exhibition room which will be maintained by the Sutherland Shire Historical Society as a museum, as well as a meeting room for the latter. As well there is a number of other ancillary rooms and equipment.

The Memorial School of Arts was originally brought into being by the people for the people. Through the good auspices of the Sutherland Shire Council, the building is being returned to the people, in a very handsome state of repair and equipped to fulfil a community purpose well into the next century.

By Council resolution of 4th August, 1986, a Management Committee has been appointed under Section 527 of the Local Government Act, 1919, comprised of local citizens nominated by the following groups: Sutherland Shire Arts Council; the Cultural Advisory Committee; Sutherland Theatre Company; Sutherland Shire Historical Society; Georgian Singers; Australian Theatre for Young People; St. George & Sutherland Youth Orchestra; the Miranda Musical Society, and two Sutherland Shire Council Officers.’

(See plan of the building on the following page)

Old Friends

As the years roll by there are some members we don't see at our meetings and we wonder if they have moved away so it was a great pleasure to meet Stuart Hansman recently at the Meeting of Two Cultures ceremony at Kurnell. Stuart had sailed in on the Endeavour which was moored out in the Bay...taking part in a truly historic occasion. Two hundred and forty years have elapsed since Cook first raised the flag on this continent. This occasion was even more memorable since a descendant of Cook's brother was there in the official party. James Cook's children all predeceased him hence his brother carried on the proud name.

Stuart is back in the area now and in fact can be contacted on 9522 3238 should anyone require the services of a JP. Twice a week he is up at the courthouse in Sutherland.

If you have enjoyed reading our publication, consider joining our Society or encourage a friend or colleague to join. An application is on the last page.

The Society offers a friendly, stimulating environment with multiple levels of involvement depending on interests.

As well as the Bulletin, members can attend excursions, talks and social events or actively participate in the museum, heritage events, research or the committee.

Sutherland Shire Historical Society
Membership application or renewal 2010/11

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 2010/11 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: -----

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