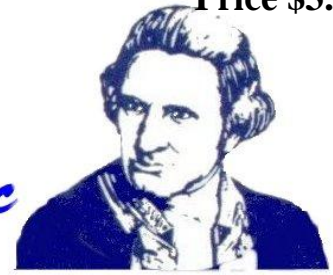


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Simpson's cottage Bundeena

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The cover – Simpson's cottage at Bonnie Vale

The Museum is open on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm and at other times by arrangement with Jim Cutbush, curator. He can be contacted on 9521 3721.

Donations of materials with a local provenance are welcome.

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society

held on the third Saturday of each month at 1.30 pm at the Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

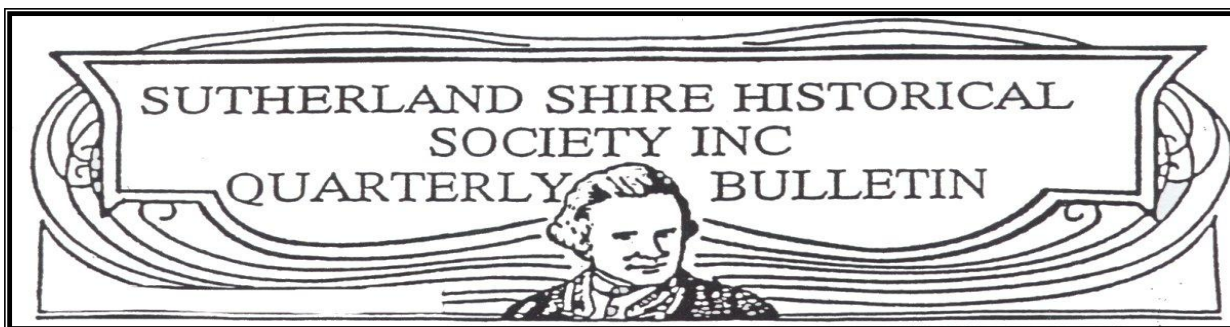
Visitors are welcome.

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President's Report

Welcome to the final issue of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, Inc Bulletin for 2010. This past year has been a wonderful time for the Society and I trust you have all enjoyed our time together each month and on the various trips organised by our excellent Excursion Officer, Terry McCosker.

Have you been to see our museum lately? Jim and his team continue to do a great job with the limited space they have available. If you haven't been then hurry because 2011 will see a big revamp in our display. It is open on the first Saturday of each month (except in January and on Public Holidays such as Easter). But don't just come along for a visit, why not offer to help out "minding the store". If everybody did just one Saturday a year, it would help spread the load.

But wait there is more ... as the famous TV commercial used to say. Instead of just sitting there watching the clock, you have a wonderful opportunity to poke around and peer at all the bits and pieces on display. Have you read some of the stories from George Heavens? Anyone who knew George will tell you he was a larrikin and a true blue Aussie. Some of the stories he told of his life would put any TV show to shame – and he was one of us: a member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

Next year sees us step a little deeper into the electronic world of the Internet. Some of our members have no interest but others have found it to be an amazing portal into a world of information and discovery that is almost limitless. I would encourage all our members to find out more, to learn how to use this resource to chase any thought or interest or idea as far as you care to go. Our Society has its own Internet web page where we publish information about ourselves and our history for anyone on the face of the planet to read whenever they like and wherever they like. We are now in the process of upgrading our web site so that people will want to visit us electronically on a regular basis – people we

will never meet or even know have paid us an electronic visit.

We will create a virtual museum so anyone who cannot visit our real museum can see our displays at any time and in any place. We will have virtual tours so that whenever we go out as a group, others around the world can join us.

We also will create a virtual library where back issues of the Bulletin and some of our older booklets that are no longer in print will be displayed as a source of research material and education for anyone with a computer and a link to the Internet. This is a wonderful time in human history despite all the noise and comments to the contrary that media bombard us with on a daily basis and you can all be a part of it. Every photo, every article, every story you give, will add to the richness we can offer the world.

I would also like to congratulate one of our members, Pauline Curby, a Professional Historian who has just won two major prizes for her work. The first is the NSW Premier's History Award in the area of NSW Community and Regional History for her Randwick book. The second award was a NSW History Fellowship. The Society is proud and honoured to have someone of Pauline's capability as one of our members.

As the year draws to a close and Christmas fast approaches, to each and every member and friend, I wish you every happiness and blessing for you and your families.

And to the Executive Committee who work so hard to make our Society work, my special thanks....

Andrew Platfoot

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Nov 20 | Mary Small – 'Lennie's Ride'. |
| Dec 18 | Christmas Party. Show & Tell |
| Jan 15 | Open Garden Day at Nola Watts
15 Flora St Kirrawee. 11am
onwards, a social event with
members' collections and a book
presentation (details -9521-7265) |

From The Editor's Desk

The last 'new look' edition of the Bulletin attracted a lot of comment.

At times, I ponder the role of the editor. Role statements rarely come with the job and generally one stumbles along for a while, hanging on the coat tails of the predecessor. A simple job description would be 'to compile a document that chronicles the activities of the organisation, notifies members and readers of upcoming events and provides some articles of local historical interest'.

Some organisations do this in pamphlet style proportion. Others, perhaps with salaried resources, produce glossy publications of considerable academic merit. Given our time and financial limitations, something short of this undertaking is realistic.

So then what is realistic, desirable and appropriate for our bulletin? I don't intend to answer these questions but I will pose some additional issues.

A 30-40 page bulletin is a considerable undertaking for volunteers every quarter. To maintain this volume requires a range of contributors willing to submit articles; not just the same few. A further question is should the articles be original research or articles previously published? The Walker Report is an example of the latter. As very few people had heard of the report, a decision was made to bring it to our reader's attention. Whilst it may not make riveting reading to the casual reader, it falls into the category of reference.

One suggestion regarding the bulletin has been to reduce the number to three instead of four. I leave this to members to comment on.

What is desirable is really what meets the needs of the intended audience. I have heard the retort: 'Oh I didn't read that. It was too

long". I can understand that. So does that mean that shorter 'folksy' articles are more appropriate?

Perhaps there is a budding editor out there

in the wings who shares that view. This editor favours more robust articles, perhaps using original research. I am conscious that we are not only filling time in the present. What we put down in words becomes the history of tomorrow. It is easier to access information now than in many years to come. The oral history project is a pertinent example. The bulletin index is a quick reference to articles written in the past. These are part of the web of history that we create. I welcome feedback on these issues.

For those looking for a casual social outing in January, can I recommend the garden party to be held at Nola Watts' residence, 15 Flora Street Kirrawee on the 15th of January. Come along and meet new people or reacquaint yourself with longer term friends in a casual garden setting. Cost will be \$5 a head.

Don't forget the Christmas party at the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts building on December 18. Show and Tell.

Finally, annual membership is from 1st July to 30th June. If you have not renewed as yet then you are unfinancial. Perhaps consider giving a membership as a present. Membership forms are on the last page.

Bruce Watt



Meet the Executive

- Elizabeth Craig

I am a product of World War II. Mum and Dad met in Mt Gambier, South Australia, on VP day, 1945. They were both in the RAAF, Dad a navigator and Mum, a telegraphist. They would never have met had there not been a war. Dad was a trainee accountant with the NSW Audit Department in Sydney when, in 1943 at the age of 18, he enlisted. Mum also joined up in 1943, aged 18. Her parents had migrated from England with six children in about 1920 and pioneered the land around Busselton in Western Australia. Mum was born four years later. Like her siblings, she felt destined to marry a local farmer. For her, the war offered an opportunity to change that.



In those heady, tumultuous days after VP day, things happened fast. Mum and Dad had a whirlwind courtship under the disapproving gaze of the RAAF authorities and became engaged within six weeks. They married in Busselton the following year, and settled initially in Sydney. They were both 21 and penniless. As we were growing up, my sister and brother and I often sat around the dinner table after our meal listening wide-eyed as Mum and Dad regaled us with stories of their youthful exploits in that period. Our lives seemed quite dull in comparison.

Money was tight and accommodation was scarce when Mum and Dad first moved to Sydney and they lived with Dad's widowed father in Denistone. When I was born in 1947, Dad was offered a job in Moree with a firm of accountants. He grabbed it. We

rented a cottage next door to the maternity hospital in Calgorm Street. I can still recall hearing the moaning of some of the women in labour. When Mum had my sister and brother there, she made every effort not to cry out!

I had one year of school in Moree before we moved to Perth in 1954. We caught the train to Sydney with all our belongings, and from there boarded the *Kanimbla* and sailed to Fremantle. While Dad looked for a job in Perth, the rest of us stayed with Mum's sister on her farm in Vasse, just out of Busselton. I loved the farm life, 'helping' with the milking, riding on the tractor, churning the butter and playing the lovely old organ in the living room. Every morning my aunt would light the wood stove and heat a big kettle of water, which was kept on the boil all day. She seemed to be constantly baking and I can still recall the smell of freshly baked cakes and biscuits wafting through the house. At night my uncle would pump the kerosene lamp which cast a golden glow over the dinner table. After dinner we lit the wood chip heater over the bath and cleaned off the day's grime. Sometimes we sat around the organ and sang while my aunt played.

I attended the one-teacher school in Vasse. Unlike WA, the policy in NSW was not to teach reading until the second year of school. I therefore had to repeat year 1. I can still remember the moment I realised that I was actually reading new words, not ones I had memorised. It was a Dick and Dora book.

When Dad got a job teaching accountancy at WA Technical Correspondence College, we joined him, eventually buying a block of land and building a two-bedroom asbestos house through a war service loan about a mile from the beach in Scarborough. I attended North Scarborough Primary School. The post-war baby boom was evident here. There were 60 pupils in my class, and some of us were bussed each day to another school until we could be better accommodated. I went on to Scarborough High School, the school attended by Tim Winton a decade later. I enjoyed English and History and was coping with Maths and Science, but left

school in a moment of rebellion the year before the Leaving Certificate to take up a job as a filing clerk for a firm of accountants. Education wasn't as high a priority for girls as it was for my brother, so my parents had not objected. I hated the job, but to save face I stayed with it, and spent the next few years studying Leaving Certificate subjects at night school. Later I landed a lovely typing job at the University of Western Australia, and stayed there until I had saved enough money to travel overseas.

Perth was a very quiet, relaxed place during the 1950s, more of a large country town than a city. People rarely locked their doors and we children roamed through the bush and were allowed to catch buses on our own from an early age. That innocence was shattered in the early 1960s when a series of murders shocked Perth residents to the core. The killings were random and there was no pattern to them. Some people were stabbed as they slept. Others were shot as they answered a knock on the front door. I remember dreading falling asleep at night, waking with a start at the slightest noise. Eric Edgar Cooke was convicted of eight murders and 14 attempted murders, before being executed on 26 October 1964. He was the last person to hang in Western Australia.

Happier memories include our weekend sojourns to the beach on Dad's old butcher's bike before we got a car. My sister and I sat on the parcel rack, my brother on the bar covered with a roll of blanket, the dog, with tail vigorously wagging was perched in the basket with the beach gear, and the boy next door ran alongside the bike. Mum waved from the comfort of the verandah. When we came to a hill we'd all dismount, and climb back on again at the top to coast down the other side. After a couple of hours in the surf, or in my case, getting dumped and dragged along the sand, we would return home. When we were older and walked to the beach alone, we'd sometimes go to the Snakepit to watch the bodgies and widgies jiving. Lunch at the beach was fish and chips wrapped in newspaper and a coke.

The highlight of the year for me was our Christmas holidays. We always went down to Busselton to stay with one of our three

aunts for a couple of weeks on their farm. I loved those holidays and always dreamed of marrying a farmer. I did marry a Queensland farmer, but he had determined that the land was no longer for him. He yearned for the city life.

I was 18 months into a working holiday in England and Europe when I met Ted Craig. We were queued to book into a youth hostel in Paris and he offered me and my girlfriend a lift to Nice the next day. We looked over at his new Volvo and accepted the offer. Ted grew up on a mixed farm at Swanfels, near Toowoomba in the Darling Downs. At 22 he had driven his Morris 1100 up to Darwin, sold it, and then island hopped across Indonesia to Singapore, working his way to India, eventually hitchhiking to England. When I met him, he had just bought a new Volvo on which, if kept out of England for three months, he could avoid sales tax. After the trip we kept in touch and eventually met up in Perth. I followed Ted east and we married in early 1972, settling in Sydney.

Ted discovered Kareela. I also liked the bushy tranquility, and there were affordable blocks of land with water views. We bought a block in Tradewinds Place for \$16,000 in mid-1972, paying it off at 14% interest. Our block was on a rocky slope covered in eucalypts and scrub, and we had lovely views across Oyster Bay and up the Georges River. The developers, Stocks and Holdings, had planned to put in a Marina in Oyster Bay (it never happened). A school was to be built on Freya St., the main road through the estate, and a shopping centre at its entrance at Bates Drive. We often visited our block on weekends, driving down Ringroad 3 from Hunters Hill where we rented part of an old house. We dreamed of the house we would build, if ever we could get a loan. We also noticed that other blocks in the street were selling at ever-increasing prices. We had bought at a good time.

We decided that the only way we could afford a house on our block was as owner builders. We had our plans approved by Council and then got in a back hoe to clear the house block. Ted managed the building of the house, sub-contracting carpenters,

brickies, tilers, the electrician and the plumber. All the internal gyprocking, woodwork, painting and fitting the kitchen and bathroom we did ourselves, most of it after we moved in in January 1977. It was a huge effort, especially as we also had our 15-month old daughter, Ann, and I was pregnant with our son, David.

Other houses were springing up in Tradewinds Place - mostly young families like us, and we formed a camaraderie with our neighbours which I greatly treasured. The kids in the street all played together, and we sometimes had street parties, setting up barbecues at the end of the cul-de-sac and blocking off the street to traffic.

When both our children were at school, I did an Arts Degree at Macarthur Institute of Technology (later University of Western Sydney) as a mature age student. I also worked two days a week recording and typing court proceedings for the Federal Attorney General's Department. Ted had an art auction company, Australian Art Auctions, and when we had sales, the whole family chipped in, helping to hang paintings



for inspection, selling catalogues and keeping things rolling at the auctions. The kids enjoyed their involvement and performed their roles with great maturity. In 1987 I landed my first editorial job, writing for a local magazine, *Southside Home and Lifestyle*, run by Jim Russell (the Potts cartoonist) who lived at Kangaroo Point. I enjoyed writing profiles of local identities such as Bill O'Reilly or about iconic landmarks, such as the Como Hotel. Later on I worked at *Choice Magazine* as a

researcher, and in 1994 joined *Readers Digest Magazine*, where I worked for a decade as a researcher, editor and writer, before retiring from full time work.

I have always been interested in the concept of oral history. Oral recollections of how individuals personally experienced historic events adds another dimension to the meaning of the events themselves. I enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Local and Applied History at the University of New England and joined the Oral History Association of Australia. I also began recording the oral histories of TV and radio current affairs journalists for the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

I am thoroughly enjoying contributing to the local oral history program, *Telling It As It Was*, an initiative of Pauline Curby. Interviews of local residents who have witnessed historic changes in the Shire during their lifetime are recorded and deposited in the Sutherland Library. Local history researchers (and anyone else) can listen to these recordings now and in the future, for a first hand account of the Shire's social history. Now that I have been elected assistant secretary of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, I am looking forward to taking a more active role in the society's activities.

The most important area of my life is of course my family. Our daughter Ann, a GP living in Gerringong, is married with two sons. My husband and I mind them for a day every week. Our son David, an accountant, is married to a Melbourne girl and lives in the Dandenongs with their little daughter. We have worn out at least one set of tyres on the Hume Highway on our visits to see them. My 86-year-old parents still live in their lovely two-storey home in Perth, and are as devoted to each other as ever. We manage to see them 3 or 4 times a year. In between our commitments, my husband and I like to travel the world.

Simpson's cottage

Bruce Watt

A picturesque sandstone cottage set on 1500 square metres of land overlooking the Port Hacking River at Bundeena has recently been extensively renovated to a high standard, utilising the expertise of heritage consultants.

Rescued from a near derelict state in 2003 by the current owners, Simon and Monique Corah, it underwent a three year conservation period and it is currently being used as a Holiday Rental. Prior to sale, the house had not been occupied for some years.

It was built around 1864 by George Simpson and apart from Gogerley's cottage, further up Port Hacking River, it is one of the oldest dwellings in the Shire.

Simpson's cottage and Simpson's hotel are an important part of the early history of the local area.

So who were the Simpsons?

The Simpsons of Bundeena

George Simpson was born in Belfast in about 1815. He married Mary Bell at Cleator (or Cleta Moor) in Cumberland, England in 1839. His occupation was stated as a miner and he was about 24 and Mary was 25 years old when they married. George and Mary migrated from England around 1840 and a son, William was born in Sydney soon after on the 7th or 9th June 1841. Their other children included Bridget Susannah (born 1843), Mary Jane (or Mary Ann (born 1846), George, (born 1850) and John (born 1853).

William first came to the Port Hacking area with his father at the age of 7, in 1848. They were thus pioneers of Port Hacking as the area had been largely ignored in the first 50 years of European settlement. Perhaps they had visited earlier as it is reported that George's wife, Mary, had planted one of the Norfolk Island pines at Kurnell in 1845 on the spot where Cook first landed in Australia. Perhaps George worked Connell's land at Kurnell.



Mary also planted Norfolk pines at Bonnie Vale, which are still in existence and at Sans Souci.

Pioneers of Port Hacking

Early land holders in Port Hacking were Owen Byrne, 1822 and 1826, George Newcombe, 1841, Thomas Lord, 1846, Charles Gogerly, 1854, Marmaduke Constable, 1859 and George Simpson in 1863, though Gogerley and Simpson were the only ones to settle on the land. The Bundeena area was originally known as Byrne's Bush.

Shell gathering was an early pioneering endeavour in Port Hacking. Shells, from aboriginal middens and other sources were taken by schooner to Cook's River for lime burning. Lime was an important ingredient for mortar in the building industry. Other pursuits included fishing, market gardening, timber getting and sly grog distilling.

Simpson's cottage

George Simpson built the cottage himself in about 1864, using sandstone that was quarried nearby, perhaps with help from his son William, who was aged about 23. It is a symmetrical 4 roomed cottage, surrounded on 3 sides by a flagstone verandah. Some cast aluminium lacework is on the underside of the verandah beams with the name 'J Simpson' impressed in it. Apart from the wrong initial, this material is likely to be a contemporary addition.

Simpson had been granted 50 acres of land on Nov. 5th 1863 in what is now known as Bonnie Vale. Under the Crown Lands Act, the land should have been surveyed within a year however it wasn't surveyed until 1867. It was then discovered that a mistake had been made.

‘Applicant was under the impression that he was building on Crown Land, and went to considerable expense in erecting a substantial four room stone cottage, with necessary outbuildings and cleared a large portion of the swamp but unfortunately for him’ He had built on a portion of Owen Byrne’s land.

The value of the improvements was estimated at £150. George Simpson was described in correspondence as being ‘a farmer’.

George died at a relatively young age of about 52 on 17th March 1866. On the condition that he looked after his mother and sister, the deeds were transferred to William and this came into effect in 1874. Mary Simpson died on the 23rd August 1892. Presumably she remained in the house until then, probably sharing the house with William and his growing family.

William Simpson had married Susannah Tindall (born in Liverpool on 29th January 1841) on the 26th June 1866. His occupation was given as farmer and his age as 25. They had 8 children. One son, two year old Edward Sidney, drowned in the lagoon at Bonnie Vale in 1886.

William became a full time resident in the area in the 1870s and his entrepreneurial exploits established his name as an influential pioneer. Extracts from his obituary in the St George Call (28-1-1918) state:

‘The death of Mr William Simpson of Port Hackingremoves from our midst one who held fair claim to be designated The father of Port Hacking. He was well known and universally respected throughout the district.

*‘...he took up residence with his father in the neighbourhood of Port Hacking when that now favourite resort was the happy hunting ground of the aborigines.
Bill Simpson, for by that name he was familiarly known, (first) took to market gardening and would sail round in his own boat, the **Blink Bonnie**, with the produce grown in his own gardens. [presumably Bonnie Vale was named after the boat] After a*

short period as a market gardener, he left Port Hacking and took up his abode at Sans Souci for a few years and engaged in contracting for road work.

Returning to Port Hacking in the early seventies he engaged in work peculiarly to his liking. As guide for sporting parties, on shooting and fishing outings, Bill’s services were invaluable..... The opening of the accommodation house (Simpson’s Hotel) dates from about that time and has been a popular resort for tourists and shooting and fishing parties ever since.

*It was here that the greatest part of his life was spent. He was instrumental in the securing for the people, that beautiful area (National Park), through influential visitors going out to Port Hacking for sport and seeing the natural beauties of the district.
He was one of the first trustees, together with the late FSE Holt, to have the road cleared and formed from Sylvania to Tyreel Point.[Lilli Pilli]*

No one knew more of the old aborigines than the late Mr Simpson did and many were the interesting tales he could tell of the time when he dined with King Koomah, the last Georges River King.’

National Park

Impetus for parks began in the 1870s. They were seen as ‘lungs of the city’, providing ‘clean air and space to counterbalance the necessary evils of industry and urban living.’ The National Park was established on 31st March 1879 and added to in 1880. This was only the second of its type in the world after Yellowstone in the USA. The Park was located adjacent to Simpson’s 50 acres.

The following is a partial account of the first official inspection of the Park by the Governor, Sir John Robertson and Trustees on 1st November 1879.

‘...they sailed from Circular Quay to Jibbon Beach. (in the Government steamer Thetis) They steamed up to the home occupied by Mr William Simpson.....The following day they

returned to Simpson's house where some horses were available and the party headed inland for a long day of inspection.'

At this stage it is clear that there was no hotel at Simpson's but merely a house and some stables for horses. A survey of the National Park conducted in 1884-85 showed Simpson's house but as yet, no hotel buildings.' This is further evidence that George and his growing family shared the house with his mother until the hotel was built.

Simpson's Hotel



Simpson's hotel c1899.

Around 1887, William Simpson was granted a liquor licence and at this time he built Tyreel House (variously known as Simpson's Hotel or Port Hacking Hotel) which became an extremely popular landmark, particularly with honeymooners and families.



It was a large house with attics in the roof,



built on the waterfront on a grassy knoll overlooking Cabbage Tree Point at Bonnie Vale. It was also separate from and at the bottom of the stairs from Simpson's cottage which was at the top of the hill.

Simpson also built a substantial wharf and ferry services ran to Tyreel Point from the 1880s until 1920 when shifting sand made it inaccessible. Following that, a wharf was built at Bundeena. The decline of the hotel was inevitable.

Simpson's Hotel with boat on beach c1899

Simpson's activities, his personality and his location were significant influences on the orientation and development of early settlement patterns in the district.

Transport

Before the rise in popularity of ocean bathing, the Cronulla area was largely uninhabited. In fact, George Simpson had been offered land at Cronulla but considered it to be too barren.

The initial central spine of the shire therefore developed around the road that William Simpson and F Holt had surveyed and built from Sylvania to Tyreel Point. Naturally this road became known as Port Hacking Road and the district around Lilli Pilli, though not a suburb, became known as Port Hacking.

Before the train line was built in 1886, which allowed visitors to reach the Park via Audley, the most direct access to the park was via road to Lilli Pilli and across the narrow waterway via boat to 'Simpsons'.

Several significant houses from that era were built at Lilli Pilli including 'Moombarah.' It was built in 1881 by Richard Cornelius Critchett Walker who was a very influential Public Servant. He held the position of Principal Under Secretary in the NSW Parliament from 1869 and a National Park trustee from 1889.

Moombarah was his 'fishing resort' where he 'invariably spent his Sundays.' Port Hacking was the playground of the Shire rather than Cronulla.



Simpson's Hotel. Side and rear view

Decline

Simpson leased the hotel in 1905 and he moved to a house called *Wildfell* at Tyreel Point. The hotel became known as the Marlborough Sands Hotel though it reverted to Simpson's Family Hotel in 1906.

With the onset of the Depression in 1929, Bundeena underwent a change in land use from a resort to a shanty town. Many shacks sprang up at Bonnie Vale. The hotel licence was eventually terminated in 1935 and it was converted into furnished flats and a store. In 1947 it was purchased by National Parks and in 1955, it burnt down.



Simpson's Hotel wharf c1920

At this stage it is unclear when Simpson's cottage passed out of the Simpson family.

Patrick Bell moved to a neighbouring property in 1972 and recalls a family called Jervis living at Simpsons. They had been leasing it for many years, possibly since the war as they had a rent controlled tenancy. Around this time, a Mr Mills purchased the property. Mills was a service station proprietor, possibly from Gymea. Rent controlled tenants had their tenancy protected which usually meant that they couldn't be forced to move out of the property. Mr Bell's recollection was that the tenants were moved to another property whilst Simpson's cottage was being fixed up. '*Mr Jervis would grumble about the length of time it was taking to do it up and he eventually moved on.*'



Simpson's Hotel ferry service early 1900s

The vendor in the last property transaction was Mrs Coral Mills who, it is presumed, was deceased. The property had been vacant for some years. A son currently owns a neighbouring property.

Congratulations must go to the current owners who have sympathetically restored a home of very significant local history.



Three generations of Simpsons

The baby in this photograph is Bill Simpson of Cronulla who is aged 97. He is with his father Will and grandfather William, who opened Simpson's hotel.



Simpson's cottage in 2010



Simpson's cottage

Simpson's cottage, at 8 Simpson Road Bundeena is currently for sale.

References:

- Simpson Cottage conservation management plan. Rappoport Pty Ltd Conservation Architects and Heritage Consultants
- Conservation management plan for Simpson's Hotel precinct. Royal National Park
- Jan Proud, Simpson descendant
- Sutherland Shire Historical Society bulletins
- Sutherland Shire Council Local Studies Collection
- Monique Corah – current owner
- Patrick Bell – 12 Simpson Road Bundeena

There's an Elephant in the House and I Think His Name is Andrew

Andrew Platfoot

Perhaps one of the most interesting buildings in the Sutherland Shire is St Andrew's Anglican Church in Cronulla. Over the years, its curious style has evoked all sorts of comments and names. But perhaps the best known name is The Elephant House because of the similarity in style to the famous Indian Elephant House in Taronga Park Zoo. But where did such an unusual design originate?

Details pinpointing when Christian ministry first commenced in the area are scarce, however, it is believed there were visits by clergy to the tiny settlement of Bottle Forest (now Heathcote East) in the 1840's. In 1896 the Rev. John Wilson, Mission Curate of the Missionary District of Helensburgh, began travelling to homes in the Sutherland, Sylvania and Cronulla areas. In 1901 Archbishop Saumarez Smith created the Parish of Sutherland which included Cronulla, with Rev. W Bowers being the appointed Curate-in-Charge. (It is thought however that Rev. Bowers who was based in Sutherland (St. John's Sutherland?) was travelling to Cronulla to take services prior to 1901). From 1905 the Rev Hillhouse Taylor took over as Curate-in-Charge. In 1909 he was joined by Rev Phillip Anderson. Details on how these two managed the ministry are not known.

In 1910, the Rev. Isaac Armitage was appointed Curate-in-Charge of the Conventional District of St John's Sutherland. It is understood that Rev Armitage held fortnightly services at Cronulla and monthly services at Audley, Bundeena and Menai. For Cronulla Anglicans at that time, "church" meant a service held under the trees near North Cronulla Beach. Sunday School was held once a month out in the open with the children seated on an old log. On occasions they also used the family home of either John Mills or the de Lawrence family, presumably when weather made outside Sunday School impractical.

This continued on until 1911 when the parishioners purchased a dance hall in Nicholson Parade. It is said that the Rev. Armitage was in the habit of taking a morning swim. About 7:30 on March 11, 1910, he was on his way home when he noticed a "For Sale" sign on the dance hall which was owned by a Mr. W.H. Carrick. It is said that he immediately harnessed his horse and sulky and drove to Sutherland to meet the owner. Since others were apparently interested in the property, Rev. Reeves paid a £1 lien (holding fee) on the property. This was quickly followed by a deposit of £50 to secure the property. Mr. Nathaniel Bull, Mr. H Short and Rev. Armitage guaranteed £500 and the £200 balance was advanced by the Church Building Loans Fund as an interest free 5 year loan.

At this stage it is still not clear when the name St. Andrew's was given to the Church but it is not likely to have been before a formal building had been obtained. So perhaps Carrick's Dance Hall became St. Andrew's Church Hall at that time. The exact location of this Church is a little uncertain but an early map suggests it was on the corner of what is now Laycock Avenue and Nicholson Parade which at that time were connected.

The galvanised iron roof was replaced by redwood for £50, a small removable platform was built in front of the hall stage and home-made communion rails added. Over time a bell, pulpit, lectern, proper communion rails and a communion set were donated by parishioners. To assist in raising funds, the hall was rented out at £2-0s-6d a night. Through the efforts of the parishioners who sacrificed and worked hard at fund raising activities, the debt was finally cleared in 1918.

The first formal service for Cronulla Anglicans was held on 18th February 1912. History records the collection that day was £1-6s-1d. Initially services were held at 9:00AM and 7:30PM. Later the morning service had to be moved to 10:30AM to cater for the growing holiday population of the area that participated in the booming Cronulla guest house trade. The first recorded marriage at St. Andrews was on 20th April 1912 between William Brown 21 and Clarice Anderson 21.

With the coming of the steam tram in 1911 and the influx of settlers into the region, the small converted dance hall rapidly became inadequate to handle the growing congregations. In peak holiday seasons, congregations would swell to over 560 due to the large number of visitors to the area. From almost the first service, the need for a larger church building became increasingly critical. In 1919 due to a Council decision to widen Nicholson Parade, the land the church stood on was sold to the Council and the Church building was moved (by a horse team) up Gerrale Street to a new site in Ocean Grove Avenue.

In 1919 Rev. William Rutledge-Newton, formerly minister and Curate-in-Charge of Bankstown, took over from Rev. Armitage as Curate-in-Charge of the conventional district of Cronulla with Sutherland. In November 1920 the Standing Committee of Synod of the Diocese of Sydney recommended “the formation of the conventional district of Sutherland with Cronulla into a parish”. In 1921 Rev. Rutledge-Newton was appointed Rector of Cronulla with Sutherland. In 1922 Sutherland was separated from the Parish of Cronulla and made into a provisional district.

Where there’s a Will ...

In 1911 just prior to his death, Nathaniel George Bull, a wealthy barrister and parliamentarian who owned large parcels of land in the area, left a bequest of £2,500 in his will for the building of a new church. (His estate when he died 7 November 1911 was valued at £80,802-10-3). In a codicil he also left a parcel of land in Burraneer Bay Road for the new building. However, fierce controversy broke out over where to build a new church. The existing Church was in the main part of town whereas the land from the Bull estate was some distance away “out in the bush”. (Since this original parcel of land was close by the present day church property, such a controversy would seem silly today wouldn’t it?)

The dispute raged all through the 1920’s. In 1926 an application to the Church Land’s Committee to vary the terms of the will failed. It would seem “people from Burraneer Bay” opposed any church on land other than that

provided for in the Nathaniel Bull will and in time honoured fashion the Committee resolved the dispute by doing nothing.

Times were very hard for the Church and its ministry during the Great Depression and the need for a new church was no less urgent than before. Perhaps fearing the total loss of the bequest, agreement between the factions was finally reached. At a Church meeting on 25th June 1932 a letter was tabled signed by Messrs Goddard, Beer, Howcroft and Lee stating that:

“although many of the Burraneer Bay residents in past years opposed any alterations to the will of the late Nathaniel George Bull as affecting the bequest and respecting the sum of money left by him for a memorial church, they were now ready to offer their assistance in any way that might help the parish to obtain the bequest”.

In 1933, a special ordinance was passed by the Anglican Synod authorising the sale of various properties and the acquisition of the current site. The bequest by this time had grown to almost £6,000 so the procrastination and delays resulted in an unexpected benefit. One could almost say all things had worked together for good.

By this time Rev. Rutledge-Newton had left the Parish. Despite his wife and daughter being quite sick, he had steered the Church through all the controversy and division and had overseen the start of the project. He was replaced in November 1933 by the Rev. Arthur Reeves.

Rev. Reeves was involved in a number of building projects during his ministry. He built the Rectory at Newnes where he lived for a short time with his new bride. (It is said the roofline of the Rectory bore a striking resemblance to Arthur’s boyhood home at Picton). He also built St. David’s church. In fact when he first moved to Newnes the church was just a simple tent and the Bishop asked him to put his planned marriage on hold for over 12 months while he worked to build his new church. Later he would also build the Rectory and Church at St. Stephen’s Taren Point.

It was during his time at St. Andrew's that the present church was built. Early thoughts of moving the old church hall yet again to the new site and renovating it were dismissed as impractical and unlikely to be approved by Council. (Amusingly it was moved again almost 30 years later to a new site at Kurnell where it still stands today as St. James Anglican Church, Kurnell). So an architect, Mr. Albert Richard Saunders of Cronulla, was invited to design a suitable church capable of seating 300 to 400 people. But what led the architect A.R. Saunders to use the Byzantine style as the basis of his design?

From his personal papers, we know, Rev. Reeves had a photograph of Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. If you look at pictures of Rachel's Tomb, it is a "squarish" building with a dome at one end. It definitely has a faint resonance and feel for the basic outline of St. Andrew's Church. But then one could ask what caused the Rev. Reeves to consider Rachel's Tomb for a model?

It has been suggested that Nathaniel Bull, having seen the rolling Cronulla sand hills which in his time were far larger and majestic than the pale shadow they have become after years of relentless mining, had suggested that a church with an "Eastern flavour" might be very appropriate for the area. However, to date, no documentation supporting this suggestion has come to light. Since Nathaniel Bull had died more than 20 years earlier, it is extremely unlikely he ever met Rev. Reeves. Further, the grandchildren of Rev. Reeves maintain the final design caused such great consternation to Bull's family that Mrs. Reeves had to visit and placate the family.

The Elephant House

A.R. Saunders worked for most of his career for a prominent Sydney architectural firm. In all that time neither he nor his employers ever used a Byzantine style. Indeed, neither A.R. Saunders nor his employers ever designed a church.

In an article in the professional magazine *Building* dated September 12, 1935, the architect A.R. Saunders and the builder W. Strahan discussed the new church under the

title St. Andrew's Church Cronulla, NSW – A MODERN INTERPRETATION OF THE BYZANTINE STYLE. The authors write:

"Gothic architecture or modifications of that style has become in the minds of most people – (particularly those who have not had the opportunity of travelling and seeing the other great styles of church architecture) – synonymous with the church; they are unable to visualise the religious edifice in any other manner.

Sir Christopher Wren when the old Gothic St Paul's was burnt down, was confronted with similar conservatism in the minds of the people and it was only after overcoming considerable opposition that he was able to proceed with his Renaissance masterpiece; a style incidentally, which the protagonists of the Gothic regarded as barbarian"

They go on to say

"The architect for St. Andrew's Cronulla has had the courage to do this ..."

One can sense in these words that the authors are applauding the bravery of the design and yet distancing themselves from the design.

Could A.R. Saunders have been the one who developed the unique design of the church? If the outside appearance is unique, A.R. Saunders states quite clearly that internally the Church follows the traditional Latin cross structure with the nave flanked by a transept on either side. Even the traditional three stairs leading up from the congregation to the sanctuary is mindful of the traditional Western model where Christians symbolically climb the hill of Calvary to reach the altar to take communion. The heavy use of carved wood work for the altar and reredos, pulpit, lectern and prayer desk hark back to an earlier age in Western church design. Even the *art deco* motifs and the large internal dome do not detract from the traditional feel. Perhaps this explains why some people in response to what they saw as a derogatory nickname have pointed to the interior style and tried to present St. Andrew's as the Shire *cathedral* church. For others, the prominent dome reminds them of the famous pachyderm home at Taronga

Zoo. This structure, along with the top entrance and lower entrance at the Zoo, were designed by George McRae around 1915. McRae, who arrived from Edinburgh in 1884, was appointed Government Architect in 1912. Given George McRae's prominent position and the Government building program in place at the time, it is highly likely he would have had a large impact on building design trends and philosophy. Some have suggested Saunders and McRae collaborated on the design of St Andrews, but to date no evidence has come to light proving that McRae and Saunders ever met. While the article in *Building* does not suggest any lack of Christian belief, it is highly unlikely that in that era between the wars when "going to church" was the normal Sunday activity, that anyone would base the design of God's house on an elephant shelter. So any link to Taronga Elephant House seems to be tenuous and without any supporting evidence. There is also considerable difference between Byzantine and Indian architecture.

In suggesting A.R. Saunders did not claim the design as his own, one cannot dispute his commitment to the project. A.R. Saunders was very mindful of acoustics when specifying the proportions of the building, and the *Canec* acoustic plaster with which he coated the walls. He also made allowance for maximum natural light including the use of stained glass windows and a well lit dome. He also notes with a wry comment that the grounds around the Church (which he refers to as God's acre) will be used

"in its more beautiful and proper purpose than a repository for the departed."

But the Church was not just a Byzantine skin on an older traditional Gothic Latin interior. The church design includes a number of architectural *art deco* devices. The use of terrazzo flooring and decorative corbels on horizontal beams and at the top of the main structure outside, beneath the dome were quite modern in the 1930's when the Church was designed. Comparison can be made with the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and the ANZAC Memorial Building in Hyde Park Sydney, both of which have more than a

passing resemblance to the Church in terms of exterior ornamentation.

This has led some to suggest that the design is not Byzantine but *art deco* and point to these components of the design as strong evidence. However, the article in the *Building* magazine by the architect does specifically acknowledge the concept of a Byzantine style.

So it is reasonable to believe that while A.R. Saunders did have a significant input to the design, he was not the one who proposed the unique Byzantine exterior. A.R. Saunders also designed a Rectory in an architectural style that complemented the Church, although this time he did not include any domes. A.R. Saunders' fee for his work was £215, of which he returned £100 as a donation to the Church.

And So it Begins

The Foundation Stone was set in place 22 December 1934 by Archbishop Howard Mowll. Behind the Foundation Stone a small oyster bottle was placed as a time capsule. In this bottle was placed

- a copy of the Order of Service,
- the December 1934 edition of the Church newspaper known as *The Chronicle*,
- a short history of the Church and
- a halfpenny.

Appropriately the opening hymn was

The Church's One Foundation ...

The Church was finally completed in 1935 and the official opening took place on Wednesday 3rd July 1935 at 8:00 PM. In accordance with the provisions of his will, the Church was named

Nathaniel George Bull Memorial Church of St. Andrews, Cronulla

The bequest from Nathaniel Bull was insufficient to cover all the work. Even after all surplus land had been disposed of, there was still a shortfall in the budget. So a loan was taken out with the Diocese. In addition other generous bequests from the estate of parishioners such as William Pickersgill, who left £300, ensured the Church was properly

furnished and equipped with an organ. Church members and groups again worked tirelessly to raise funds, with the Women's Guild contributing £500.

But his efforts took a fearful toll and in 1942 Rev. Reeves suffered a stroke. He planned to retire after Easter 1943 but, owing to a shortage of clergy during World War 2, he was persuaded to remain as Rector. However his health continued to decline and on Thursday, 29th August, 1946 at 10.30 am, after having been unconscious for twelve days, he passed away quietly. He was replaced by Rev. Frederick John Camroux - but that is another story.

So who ultimately came up with the Byzantine style? The evidence is circumstantial but Rev. Arthur Reeves stands out as the prime candidate. The sand hills were no doubt part of the idea, but by the time the church was built, Nathaniel Bull was long dead and Cronulla had evolved and developed beyond anything Bull could have imagined. It is unlikely in 1935 that an architect could have proposed a radical design to a minister well experienced in church building programs, believing it would be automatically accepted. One can be sure Rev. Reeves would have had many discussions and significant influence on the architect during the early design period. He would also have had the authority and position to oppose any design he considered inappropriate or undesirable.

Then there is the photo in Rev. Reeve's personal papers of Rachel's Tomb. The photograph was quite possibly taken during the First World War Palestine campaign. This war had a powerful impact on Australians and a photo from the birthplace of Jesus Christ from a landscape reminiscent of early Cronulla may well have been too powerful an image to ignore. Although somewhat circumstantial, the evidence all points to Rev. Arthur Reeves being the one who came up with the design. More research is required and hopefully the reader may be able to supply some of the missing pieces to the puzzle. No doubt over time new sections will be added to the story which began so long ago with a morning swim, a generous bequest, a

courageous design and a series of men and women whose life long conviction reached out from an Elephant House named St. Andrew's.

References

The research behind this article is ongoing and any contributions will be gratefully accepted. This document draws heavily from many sources throughout the text. These documents include:

A Short History of St. Andrews Anglican Church Cronulla – G. Cole (prepared for the 50th Anniversary)

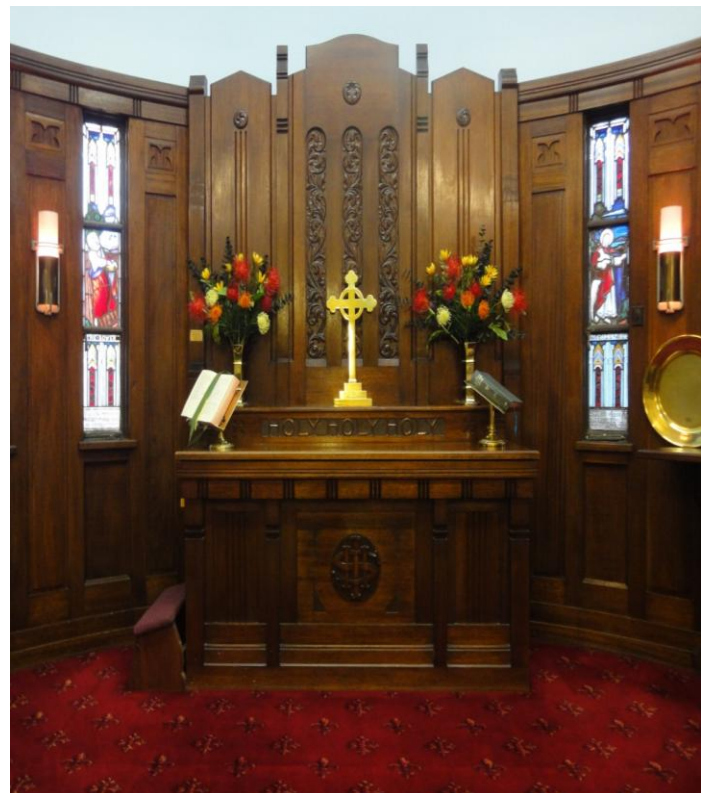
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Arthur Reeves – biography by his granddaughter Rosalind Torrent 29 June 2010

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Excursion Report

On Saturday 11th September 2010, 20 members of the Society set out in the Community bus to explore two famous Sydney churches. Terry McCosker was the tour leader, bus driver and, as usual, commentator as we drove along the Princes Highway towards our first destination. Amongst his many skills, Terry also has a quick wit and the humorous anecdotes with which he spiced all sorts of facts about the places we passed made the busy Saturday morning traffic disappear. Since we were early for our first destination, we had a quick detour through Enmore to see what Terry described as Sydney's smallest house. One had to agree, if this was not the smallest then it was a pretty good contender for the title.

The first church we visited was St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown. Based on a Gothic Revival design, this church was built between 1871 and 1874. It is a beautiful sandstone church designed by a famous Sydney architect, Edmund Blackett.

One of its interesting features is the fact that the minister in charge during the building, Canon Robert Taylor, was determined that the church construction would be financed through free will offerings and prayer and would not permit fetes and other standard fund raising activities. What is more, he declared that the stained glass windows would consist of geometric designs and not contain any iconography that may distract the worshipper from focusing on God during a church service. While he permitted families to rent their own pew, those who could not afford such an expense were allowed to sit without cost in the three front right hand pews rather than be forced to sit up the back. Since the area had a large working class population, Canon Taylor was determined they should not be

discriminated against on the basis of wealth and money.

After a talk on the history of the church, we were able to wander around the old grave yard while the church historian, Jenna Weston, told us of some of the history of the "residents".

After a nourishing lunch at McDonalds, we travelled to our second church – St John's Anglican Church, Darlinghurst. Constructed between 1858 and 1873, the original architects were Gould and Hilling. Later additions were designed by Edmund Blackett.

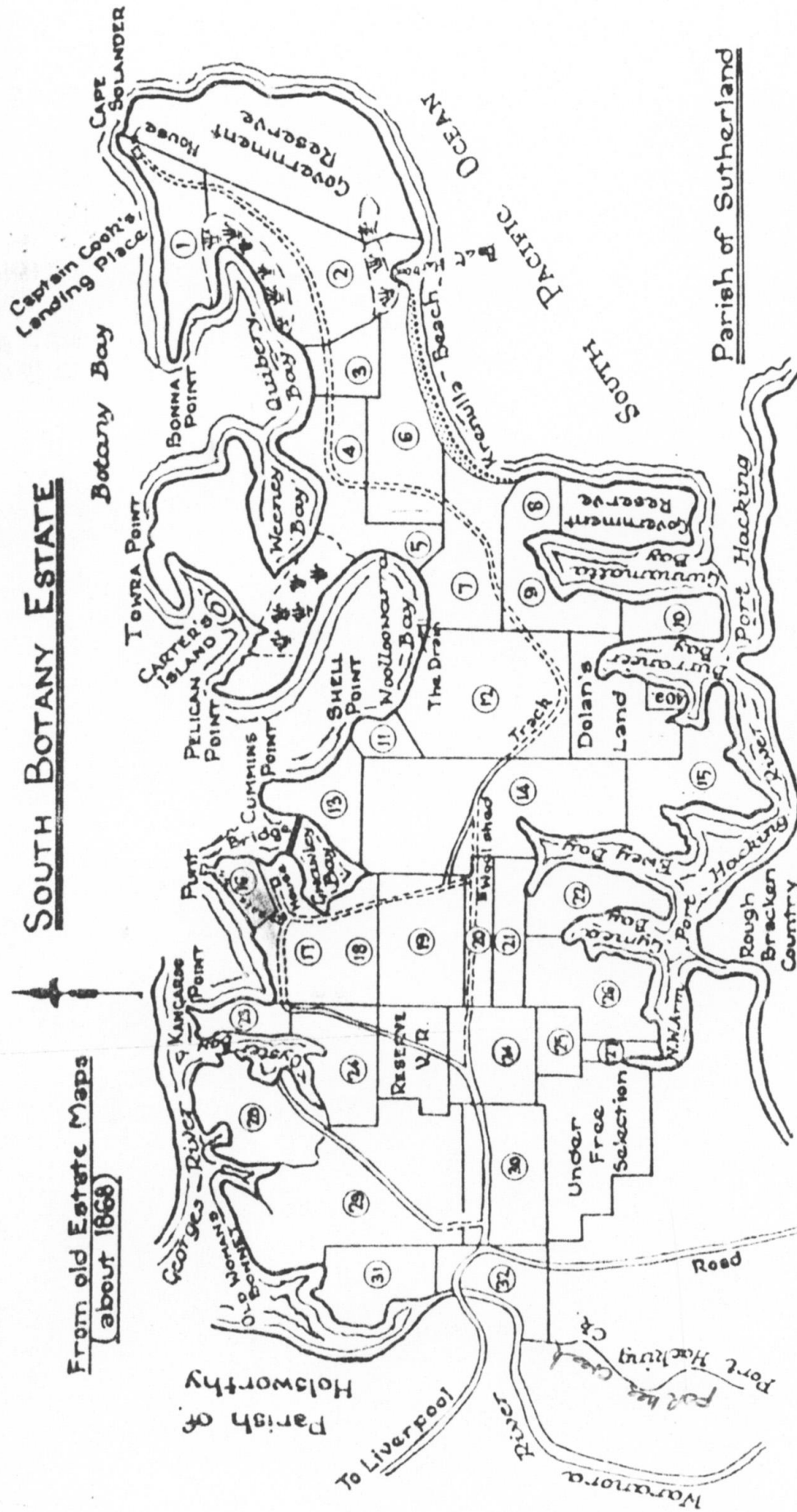
A key feature of this church is the beautiful Hill and Son pipe organ. We were fortunate that the resident organist was available and gave us a demonstration of the many sounds, tones and combinations such an instrument can make. Apart from the organ and the magnificent stained glass windows, the church is well known for the *Dunbar* memorial. Our tour guide and caretaker for St. Johns gave us a history of the loss of the *Dunbar* including the death of whole families, including children. He described it as Australia's *Titanic* – a tragically apt description.

The church also has a carillon composed of 12 steel chimes in place of bells. About 300 sets of chimes were originally made in England and, of these, about 9 sets are in Australia. The caretaker took the more adventurous of us up into the spire where he demonstrated the playing of these chimes. The skill and effort required was obvious and while a few "had a go," none could match his skill. Later, those who were brave enough, were taken up into the loft to see the actual chimes.

In all it was a magnificent day. At each church there were all sorts of things to look at, poke, read, fiddle with or contemplate and I am sure those who were lucky enough to attend had a marvellous outing.

SOUTH BOTANY ESTATE

From old Estate Maps
(about 1868)



Paddocks enclosed by rails, log, wire or brush fences

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Bonna | 9 Gunnamatta Bay | 17 Building | 25 Dent's Creek |
| 2 Boat Harbour | 10 Burramatta | 18 Gawley Bay | 26 Gympie Bay (162) |
| 3 English Grass | 11 Shell Point | 19 Old Farm | 27 North West Arm |
| 4 Weeney Bay Point | 12 Woollowarra (1 to 4) | 20 Wool Shed | 28 Green Point |
| 5 Cabbage Tree Flat | 13 Cummins Point | 21 Horse | 29 Double Bay (1 to 3) |
| 6 Sandy Flat | 14 Ewey Bay (1 to 5) | 22 Ewey Bay Point | 30 Gympie Ground |
| 7 Duck Ponds (162) | 15 Tyreel Point | 23 Kangaroo Point | 31 Waranora |
| 8 Reserve | 16 Homestead or Punt | 24 Oyster Bay (1 to 4) | 32 Outside Waranora
(6 Govt. Land) |

THE WALKER REPORT— JANUARY 1868

*(transcribed from the original hand written
account by Daphne Salt)*

**THIS IS PART 2 OF THE R. C. WALKER
REPORT FROM 1868.**

**IT COVERS THE MIDDLE SECTION OF
THE PRESENT SHIRE AS SHOWN ON
THE PRECEDING MAP.**

BURRAMEER POINT

Burrameer Point is opposite and runs parallel to Gunnamatta – it is a very pretty spot and commands a fine view of Port Hacking River. The soil is good, part being Ironstone soil, and towards the south end it is a good sandy soil – in places it is very Rocky especially at the point, but between the rocks the Kangaroo and other grasses grow very well and it is a fine point for grazing – The water round this point and in the Bays is of a good depth. [p26] and the Banks all round are high and steep and the Rocks rugged. It has only been scrubbed once in 1865. but has not been burnt with a running fire which requires to be done. There is a great quantity of dead timber and scrub laying on the ground, and when burnt will clear everything off and Kill some young scrub now shooting up. The timber is well Killed with ring-barking. There is no permanent water on this point the nearest place being the spring in Gunnamatta Paddock.

[p27] MARCH 1868 WOOLLOOWARA BAY PADDOCKS No 1 TO 4

Originally one large paddock and afterwards divided into four, bounded on the East by the Duck Ponds Paddock. North by Woolloowara Bay, West by Ewey Bay Paddocks, and South by a Government Road and Mr Dolan's Farm. The boundary lines of the Fence Run North & South, and are formed of a two Rail Split Fence with wire, and the bottom secured with large logs. But a considerable portion on each side, was burnt during the late fires and has been repaired with strong Brush Fence at 1/6 per Rod, and the heavy Logs drawn by the Bullock team for the Contractor.

N^o 1 – No1 is formed by the line of a low brush fence running east and west, about half way to the Bay, and meets a line of light sheep

log Fence dividing 1 and 2 from 3 and four in a north and south line – This is a very good paddock for feed growing Kangaroo and other native grasses, but there are a good many broad rushes growing in it. The Timber is very thick, consisting of Iron Bark, Grey & White Gum, Mahogany, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood & Oak – all except ~~what has been~~ that reserved for use, is well Killed by Ringbarking. It has been scrubbed three times – 1st in 1862, 2nd in 1865, and the last time in 1867. This was a very bad part for scrub but is now well cleared of it. a portion of this paddock on East side was burnt at the end of 1867. The remainder will be burnt this Year. All this paddock is good Ironstone ~~Land~~ soil, and is high Land until you reach the North end, where there is a gradual slope of Loamy & sandy soil, running along the fence line of No2 about 3 chains wide, until it reaches ~~the~~ a Mahogany Swamp, at the N E Corner, which runs into No3 – There is a good supply of water from a [p28] small creek which rises near Dolan's and runs into the Swamp running thro' No 3 and 4 – There is also water in wet seasons, in the North East corner, in the Mahogany and Tea Tree Swamp. At the South East corner, adjoining Dolan's at the entrance to an old Sheep yard, there is a very bad Apple tree Ridge, where this scrub grows up very thick, but it only extends a short distance the Ironstone is very thick here and little or no grass on this spot.

N^o 2 -- is bounded on the South by No1. West by Ewey Bay Paddock & Shell Point Paddock; North by the Bay & East by No 4 – It has an Ironstone Ridge running thro' the middle. N.E. by S.W. towards the bay, of poor soil growing but little grass. on each side of this Ridge it is low loamy & sandy soil, swampy in wet seasons and growing a good deal of bushes and grass tree, but affording good feeding ground for Cattle. This paddock is not so good for feed as No 1 – tho' the Kangaroo and other native grass is spreading more over it since the last scrubbing. It has only been scrubbed twice. 1st time in 1863 – 2nd in 1867. before the last scrubbing this part was so thick with dead timber & scrub it was quite impossible to ride thro' it; but it is now about the clearest part of the Estate. The Timber is ~~very thick~~ was very thick being White & Red Gum and Oak, but the heavy fire owing to there being so much scrub, cleared off an immense quantity of dead and useless stuff, there ~~is~~ are very few

living trees left here – being ringbarked throughout. Along the Bay for about 10 chains wide, there is a saltwater Marsh, the greater part covered with Oaks, which [p29] could be reclaimed for agriculture, by draining and embankment. There has already been an embankment made, along the Bay, but is not sufficient to keep the water out.

N^o3 – Adjoins No1. It has been scrubbed twice – 1st time in 1862 - 2nd time in 1866. The timber is very thick, being Iron Bark, White & Red Gum, Mahogany and Oak – but a good deal of the iron Bark & Red Gum has been saved from the Ringbarking – the rest is well Killed. Along the top, or south side, there is a bad Ironstone Ridge, with very little vegetation, and what grass there is growing, it is very poor, growing also a nasty small low coast shrub, with grass-tree and fern: As you enter this paddock from No 1 by the Road, there is an old Sheep Yard, thickly covered with Couch grass, which is fast spreading the seed over the other parts. The bad ridge runs the full length of the paddock, but extends northward only about 6 chains, and at the end of this, you come upon a piece of good brown soil; thickly timbered with Oak, and Ironbark – this good land extends in a N.E. line, from the poor land, to near the fence line of No 4 paddock, and would make first class cultivation land if cleared. To the West of this the land is a poor white clay; some of it suitable for Brickmaking. And It grows a great deal of Grass tree and fern, and the timber is White and Red Gum. It is a very good paddock for feed – and on the good parts grows, Kangaroo and other native grass, which since the strong fire in [p30] ~~which since fire in~~ Decr last is growing up very strong. The dead scrub, Timber and rubbish was very thick in this part and could not be ridden thro' but the fire cleared off an immense quantity ~~but~~ though not so well as in No 2. In the N.W. Corner there is a large Mahogany Swamp which drains into a small creek running thro' No 4 into the Bay, ~~which~~ giving a plentiful supply of Water. About the Middle of the paddock towards the North fence, there is a very handsome Red Gum Tree, measuring over 20 feet in circumference, and capable of shading over 1000 Sheep under its beautiful curly branches. This was always a bad paddock for shrub, but the last fire ~~to~~ has

cleaned it well – it will however have to be watched and any saplings, and sprouts that come up should be cut down as speedily as possible.

N^o4 – Is next to the Duck Ponds and No 3. It has been Scrubbed twice – 1st time in 1863 and 2nd time in 1866. All low ground with exception of a rise at the N.E. corner at the edge of the Bay, being part of the Iron Bark Ridge in continuation from the Duck Ponds Paddock, and is very good soil. This is a very pretty sight for a house and is close to what is called the “Drain” – which is a small canal, cut out into the Bay, to afford a landing place, as the shallow banks, and the Mangrove trees prevent a landing at any other part of the Bay until you reach the points. The soil on the other portion [p31] of the paddock is not so good as the rise, growing a great quantity of Rushes, fern & cotton tree – it is watered by the swamp that comes thro' No 3 – but the water was scarce during the last Drought – ~~but~~ at a very small cost a water hole could be dug at the foot of the rise in N.E. Corner, which would hold water to supply all the Stock the 4 paddocks would carry thro' any season. The timber here is very thick but well Killed with Ringbarking, and the scrub and ~~de~~ fallen timber, was very thick on the ground until the last fire. The rubbish and scrub has kept the grass back here, but there is some Kangaroo and other native grass now shooting up strong and a little couch. The Saltwater Marsh mentioned in No2 Extends also along this paddock, and right round to Towra, there has been a low brush fence put up to keep the Sheep off, but the brush wood has become so perished that it will not stop the sheep now.

CUMMINS POINT

This is a very pretty point running out between Woolloowara Bay and Gawley Bay – and is opposite to Rocky Point; Known as Sans Souci. These two points form the entrance to the George's River – Cummin's Point ~~commands~~ commands a fine view, both of the River and ~~the~~ Botany Bay, and also over looking a great portion of the Estate; it is a high ground of Sandy soil, with a sandy Beach, and high rocks, but with several good landing places at the N.W. point. It would

make a fine building [p32] site. There are some very pretty Native Fig Trees growing on this part, but nearly all the other timber, except a few Red Gums; is destroyed by the Ringbarking. This is a very bad place for shrub, and has been done now three times. The 1st time in 1862 the second time in 1865, and the last time in 1867. and it was very heavy at the last scrubbing. ~~Which~~ The scrub with the dead fallen timber that on the ground, gave a strong body to the fire which passed over it last Year, and has made a great clearance to all shrub and rubbish.

There is a pile and slab Bridge over a ~~quarter~~ quarter of a mile long running across the entrance of Gawley Bay, which ~~enables~~ affords a communication between Sandy Point (the place of the homestead) and Cummins Point – and saves a distance of over 1½ mile, to any one going to the lower part of the Estate – at the end of the Bridge there is a two Rail split fence with wire, running across to Woolloowara Bay, forming a paddock of about 72 acres on the point – which is now used to keep the Rams in; being the most secure part for them – it is principally covered with blade grass, but the couch grass is spreading over it very fast, and there is some ~~some~~ Kangaroo and other native grasses growing. All Round the waters edge there are a great many rushes, and on the Woolloowara side there is a swamp, with a good deal of Teatree scrub, and Broad Rushes, both very difficult to get rid of. Outside the fence southwards it is very rough Rocky ground thickly timbered and sandy soil. Very bad for scrub, and broad leaf Drainwater rushes [p33] for some distance, making about 120 Acres;

When you come upon a low Teatree Flat running across from Gawley to Woolloowara Bay, at the End of which, from the head of Gawley Bay, up to Shell Point there has been an embankment formed, for the purpose of Keeping the salt-~~work~~ water off the Flat – but it does not do so. Some parts of this flat appear very good soil, but it is very thickly covered with rushes and tea tree, all the large timber has been cut down, but the timber is still on the ground except in some parts there the fire has carried off the lighter portion of it. The Teatree scrub is very difficult to get rid of; the fire destroyed a good deal, but there is a great quantity shooting up which should be cut

down again next year, so as to be well dried before the hot and dry weather, when it will burn well. Near Shell Point, there is a very bad patch of teatree, that should not be let get a head. Some of this flat, would if ploughed up and manured grow good crops, or would do well for Market Gardens & ~~some~~ other parts if well drained would do well for Lucerne patches.

SHELL POINT PADDOCK

This is formed by a two Rail & wire fence that divides it from Woolloowara Bay Paddock No 2, running N. & S. from the Woolloowara Bay paddock, until it meets a Brush fence running nearly E. 7 W. which forms the ~~North~~ South boundary [p34] fence of ~~Ewey~~ Cummins Point paddocks N. E. ~~and~~ this fence then continues in a N.E. line to the Bay and forms the N.E. boundary; and Shell point and the Bay itself, forms the Eastern Boundary. The Scrub in this paddock was very bad, it has been scrubbed twice – 1st in 1862 and 2nd in 1867 – and it was very thick with Black Wattle, briar, teatree, & oak shrub, when last done; but the fire which has passed over it since the last scrubbing, has left it now very clean. There is a large patch of Fine Timber left unringbarked in this paddock of Grey & White Gum, Mahogany, Appletree & Oak – this is at the North End – and where the heavy timber grows, the soil is very good – and continues on a slight Ridge for some distance, the rest of the timber off the ridge is all well Killed by Ringbarking – On the East side of the paddock there is a low flat, and a grass tree swamp, of white loamy soil, which drains into a small creek and gives a supply of good water – it grows ~~Kagoo~~ Kangaroo and other native grasses with the Common blade grass, and a few roots of Rib grass are beginning to show at the North end.

40 ACRES, ON EAST SIDE OF DOLAN'S, in Burrameer Bay. This is a block of very thickly timbered land, with a great deal of scrub on it, nothing has yet been done to it either, in Ringbarking or scrubbing. The soil is Ironstone clay, and sandy soil but very Rocky. There is a fine view of the Port Hacking River from it, and it would make a good building site.

[p35] TYREEL POINT PADDOCK NO 1

This is one of the best points on the Estate, both for feed and soil: The point runs out parallel with Burrameer Point, and forms the West shore of Burrameer Bay; which turns in North, from the Port Hacking River. All the South, and South East, portion of the point comprising about 100 acres, is first class grazing land, but it is in most parts Rocky: at the North end it is not so good, there being about 146 Acres of inferior Ironstone soil growing Rushes, grass-tree, and low coast scrub: the best portion grows the couch grass & Kangaroo & other native grasses most luxuriently [sic] – This paddock is bounded on the North by Dolan's farm for about half the length of the line and this boundary line is divided by a split three-rail fence, which is put up jointly with Mr Dolan.

The whole of the Point has been scrubbed three times. 1st in 1862 – 2nd in 1865. and the last time in 1867-8. but before this last scrubbing, the Scrub and vines were so thick, it was almost impossible either to Ride or walk thro' some parts of the paddock, or to get up or down the high banks to the Water, and the ground was so choked, with scrub and fallen timber, that there was little or no feed. It was burnt this time in the dryest [sic] season, just as the scrub had been cut down sufficiently long, for it to burn well; and it has made a wonderful clearance, and has improved the land immensely. The Rain came soon after the Fire, which gave a splendid crop of grass. all the Timber is well Killed by Ringbarking, and the point is now very clean. There are some very romantic little points at this place, [p36] there is one named Couch Point, on the East side of Tyreel in Burrameer Bay, where there are some pretty native Fig Trees; and a fine sward of Couch grass. there is also a similar point more at the South end, of good rich black soil, having one large Native Fig Tree, on the extreme point, from which it is called Fig Tree Point: There is also some good water there running down from the hill. This minor point forms the West Entrance to what has been named "Tiny Bay"; the opposite point on the East side, is called Crossing Point, being the place where the Port Hacking people land in their Boats, or swim their Horses across. These points command a fine view up and down the Port Hacking River; and towards the South West, there is another small point, called "Lilly Pilly Point", on account of the

Native Myrtles that grow there, in rich black soil. The Banks from the River, all rise up very steep, with rugged Rocks, which renders it difficult in many places, to ride up and down, but these points named, are easy of access. This paddock is supplied with water, by a spring which rises on the line of the public Road that passes thro' Tyreel, North & South; and runs into tiny Bay. If provision were made for saving this any quantity of good clear fresh water could be obtained. Just below Crossing Point there is a singular rise of sand in the Port Hacking River which runs out from the South Shore nearly two thirds of the distance across, forming a natural breakwater. Owing to the fine views there are from Tyreel, it is well adapted for building sites, and the soil would do well for garden land. No 1 is divided from No 2 by a bough-yard fence but it is now so dry and rotten that it has become useless –

[p37] TYREEL POINT NO 2

This is only divided from No 1 by a bough-yard fence, now too low & rotten to stop sheep; which runs east & West from Dolan's land, to a small Bay, dividing the main point into two parts, about the middle – No 2 is bounded on the East by Dolan's farm, and divided from it by a good two Rail split fence with 2 wires and an embankment under the bottom Rail. On the North side, there is also the same kind of fence, with only one wire and stones in some parts in place of embankment – it runs East and West from Dolan's, down to Ewey Bay – which forms the West boundary; or rather the No 2 point forms the East Entrance to the Bay. This has all been scrubbed three times – 1st time in 1862 – 2nd time 1865, and 3rd time 1867-68. it was very thickly covered with a nasty coarse prickly scrub, black Wattle, teatree & broom bush, with a great deal of low Appletree brush, which is so hard to destroy. It is thickly timbered with Stringy Bark, Crooked white Gum, Oak & Bloodwood – the saplings of the latter and the Stringy Bark, altho' well ringbarked; are throwing out a great quantity of shoots from the root, but when a strong running fire passes over it, a great deal of this will be destroyed. There is a small patch of timber near the bough-yard fence which has not been ringbarked.

The land in this paddock, is not like No 1, but nearly all poor Ironstone soil, some of a

white sandy nature; growing rushes, grass-tree, low coast Scrub, and very little grass. there is a beautiful clear stream of fresh water running into a small Bay named Billy Bay dividing the points, and a fine hole formed in the Rocks; which will supply any number [p38] of Stock, and it never fails: From where the Water runs down, the land suddenly rises with steep rugged Rocks, difficult to ride up; on the top of there is a table land, free from timber, but giving very little feed of any kind, the land being sour, and principally covered with Rushes, grass-tree & low coast scrub; but underneath this, amongst the Rocks by the Stream of Water, on the low ground, there is some good Kangaroo grass growing. From the table land, there is a splendid view of the Port Hacking country, the River, and many parts of the Estate. It would be well not to divide these two paddocks again, but throw them into one, as they contain only 425 acres, which is not too large for one paddock, and the poor land contains the best and most water, so it would be better to give whatever stock is put there the Run of the whole. The scrub is now laying very thick, and if it gets a good firing when the ground is quite dry, it will effect a great clearance, and allow the grass to spring up; but from the way the land has been choked, it has had no chance to grow. About 80 head of heifers have been put in these paddocks to eat off the long grass which is now very rank in No 1. after the burning: it will then be rested for a while, and some sheep will be put there: at present the sheep are on excellent feed, at Oyster Bay, and the Gynea Ground. The last scrubbing has only been finished this month (March).

[p39] EWY BAY PADDOCKS NO 1 TO NO 5

These 5 Paddocks are now all in one, the Boundary fence on the east side being a two Rail split fence, with wire, and logs under bottom Rail in some parts, and Embankment in others: and some parts, where it has been burnt by trees falling across, have been repaired by a heavy Bush fence. This East line extends North, from Tyreel No 2 to near Shell point in Woolloowara Bay - and adjoins Dolan's and the Woolloowara Bay Paddocks. They were divided by low Log & Brush fences, which were destroyed by the bush fires of 1865. 6 & 7. The West boundary fence, is

also a split fence of 2 Rails log & Wire, running from the middle of Ewey Bay, in a due North line up to the Old Farm, and is joined there by a few chains of Log Fence, forming the Wool Shed Paddock, which runs east & West, until it meets a 2 Rail Split fence with wire & embankment running North from the Old Farm into Gawley Bay.

N^o 1 Adjoins Tyreel No 2. having Dolan's property & Woolloowara Bay Paddock No 1 for the East boundary, Ewey Bay for the West boundary, and the North boundary was is the Log fence line, dividing it from No 2 Paddock; which runs due West from the East Boundary fence into Ewey Bay. Ewey Bay runs in from Port Hacking River, and at the head forms two narrow arms. The land in this Paddock at the South, and South West sides is poor; and similar to that described in Tyreel No 2 – but of the North End, & North East corner it is better land, and affords some good feed. [p40] All along the Bay the Banks are very high and Rocky, and the rocky ground extends back some distance. The timber here is thick and heavy, but mostly ringbarked and well Killed. Consisting of White & Red Gum, Bloodwood, Stringy Bark & Mahogany. It has been scrubbed twice – 1st in 1862 – 2nd in 1866-7. The scrub was very thick when last done, and only a portion of it has been burnt by the running Fire, the Rain stopping the Fire before it had all caught. Where it is burnt, it is free from Scrub, but at the South end there is a nasty block of Bloodwood & Stringy Bark Saplings, & low Appletrees, which have been ringbarked, but are shooting out strong again from the roots & branches. The next running fire will however kill a great deal of this as the middle stem is dead, and will light under a heavy fire, which will destroy the rest. The soil is principally a white Ironstone Clay, and grows a great deal of grass-trees, rushes, and low coarse scrub. There is a creek of good fresh water, runs down from near the junction of Dolan's & Woolloowara paddock to Ewey Bay – and a branch from this goes into Tyreel No 2. The grass is Kangaroo, wire, and blade grass.

No 2 Runs along the East boundary fence and adjoins No 1. The North boundary line running East & West from Woolloowara Paddock, to an old Sheep Yard on the main

Road-way, to Curnell. From the Sheep Yard, the West boundary, which was divided by a low brush fence, runs down to the [p41] North East Arm of Ewey Bay. This has been scrubbed twice, 1st in 1862. 2nd in 1866. and is pretty clean, there are a few seedling Oaks and Stringy Barks, shooting up, but if a heavy fire can be got to run thro' it ~~next~~ at the end of this year it will destroy most of them, but they would be better cut down and left ready for firing about November or Dec^r. There are also some Bloodwood, & Stringy Saplings which have been ringbarked, that are growing out, the same as in No 1 being of Brown Ironstone land – and grows some good feed, of Kangaroo, Blade and native grass. It is very thickly timbered, with Red & White gum Oak, Iron Bark, Stringy Bark & Mahogany – and all but the good timber is well Killed. The Iron Bark is on a rise of good land, which extends from the Sheep Yard up to the ~~East~~ East boundary fence, and along this portion, and at the Sheep Yard, the Rib grass is beginning to grow.

N^o 3 This Extends from No 2 along the boundary line of Shell Paddock, to the brush fence line, dividing Cummins Point Paddock from Ewey Bay Paddocks, which runs East & West from Shell Point Paddock to Gawley Bay. The ~~North~~ South End of this is good land, but there is a good deal of poor land at the North End; having a stony Stringy Bark Ridge running thro' it of White Ironstone soil and gravelly land – with very little grass growing on it – and in the North West [p42] Corner there is a large grass tree Swamp which drains into some Mahogany & tea-tree timber with marshy land, extending out into the Embankment which comes up from Gawley Bay – The timber is White Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood and Mahogany. At the North end it only grows blade, and wire grass, but at the South end there is some good feeding ground of Kangaroo, native and blade grass – and there is a great deal of grass-tree all thro' this land. It has been scrubbed twice the 1st time in 1862. and the second time in 1866: the greater portion of it was burnt with a running fire last year and is now clear of Scrub – only a few seedlings growing up in places –

N^o 4 Is divided from No 3 by the brush fence line, running from the old Sheep

Yard, due North, to the Brush fence line that divides Cummins Point paddock from Ewey Bay Paddocks; and is bounded on the West by the Old Farm Paddock, and divided from it by the 2 Rail split fence before described. It is a very good part for feed growing Kangaroo, blade, and other native grasses, and at the South end towards the Sheep Yard there is some rib & Rye grass growing in small patches - but very scantily. It is principally a brown Ironstone soil, but towards the North end it becomes poor and stony. It is thickly timbered, ~~but it~~ but the timber is all well Killed by ringbarking, except a few trees reserved. The timber is Red & White Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood, Oak & Iron Bark – The whole [p43] has been scrubbed twice, 1st in 1862 – 2nd in 1866. There are some seedlings springing up towards the North End, and there is a Stringy Bark and Apple-tree scrub Ridge, about the middle of this paddock, that is hardly worth doing anything to which is growing up thick again – this paddock has had no fire on it since 1866 – and if burnt this season, will remain very free from Scrub, but would be all the better for having the light scrub cut down before burning.

N^o 5 Is bounded on the South by Ewey Bay, on the West by the Horse Paddock, divided by a two Rail Log & Wire fence, on the North, by No 4 – and East by No 2. There is some good land at the North End, but as you go towards the Bay, it is very poor Rocky land and the approach to the Bay is very steep and Rugged. ~~and~~ On the Southern portion there is very little feed, being principally, grass-tree, rushes and low coast Scrub – but at the North end, where there is good timber, there is a good supply of Kangaroo grass, and other native grasses – in the North West corner there is a patch of young timber left unringbarked, consisting of Oak, Iron-Bark & Bloodwood. All good straight saplings, which have been left for the use of the Station. This has been scrubbed twice 1st in 1862. 2nd in 1866. and was burnt in 1866 - there are a few Bloodwood & Stringy Saplings shooting out from what has been Ringbarked and some seedlings showing up in patches, but on the whole it is free from Scrub – and continual Running fires will almost keep it clean.

[p44] THE HOMESTEAD

This is situated on Sandy Point at the entrance to Gawley Bay – close to where the Bridge Crosses over the Bay to Cummins Point. It comprises a neat four Roomed Stone built House with two attics ~~with~~ out Kitchen, and a Workmen's house at the back. The house is fenced in with a small paddock covered with a thick sward of couch & is on a very pretty site, commanding a fine view of the George's River Towra, part of Botany bay, and Sans Souci, and Koggerah [sic] Bay on the opposite Shore. There is a good 5 Stall Slab Stable, and a Store adjoining it, which is enclosed with a small yard: at the back of this there is a cart and plough Shed: ~~Forge~~ also a good Blacksmiths Forge, with everything complete in it. At the South West corner of the small paddock enclosing the house is a good Stockyard, Branding Pen, Cowshed & Calf pen, and Slaughter Yard. At the North end there is a small patch fenced off for a garden, and another small couch paddock adjoining: The House is supplied with water by a well at the back of the Kitchen. At the east side of the House running along Gawley Bay, to the end of the small paddock, was originally a swamp but it has been well drained into the Bay by a deep drain with a small floodgate to stop the tide from flowing in: this patch used always to be covered with the flood tides, which came over the Banks and continually washed them down, but a substantial embankment has now been made, the whole length of the paddock, and outside along the beach of Gawley Bay, it has all been laid with lose [sic] timber and the tops of heavy trees, to prevent the water from washing down the banks; during heavy gales. which has made a very complete job of it. The Banks have been planted [p45] with couch, which is fast covering the whole, and now makes a good piece of grass land of what was previously a useless swamp.

HOMESTEAD OR PUNT PADDOCK

Next to the small Paddock at the House is the Punt Paddock, which is used for Keeping the Work horses in, and is enclosed with a 3 Rail Split fence, with one wire on the South West Side & on the Punt side in the House paddock, the rest is surrounded with water. In this Paddock at the Extreme North point is a punt house, built of Stone, containing 4 Rooms & two Kitchens. The Punt belongs to the Government, and works from

the point mentioned, to Tom Ugly's Point, a portion of which, where the Punt lands, also belongs to the Estate. The Punt is for the convenience of travellers on the Main Road to Woollongong, [sic] but as there is no provision made by the Government for working the punt, and Insufficient traffic for anyone to lease it – the puntman is paid from the Estate 10^s/- per week, and he gets all he can make from the traffic. This paddock has been scrubbed three times – in 1861, 1864 & 1866 – and is now free from scrub; it is principally covered with couch but there is rib grass, Buffalo, & Kangaroo grass in with it, and it carries a great quantity of stock ~~on it~~ altho' only a small block. The soil is sandy and a good deal of rock all thro' the North & West sides. There is a well at the Punt House, and a small Waterhole at the West corner. All the timber is well Killed and ~~the~~ all the fallen limbs, are used as required for fire wood, which has cleared off a good deal. The ferns and Cotton tree grow up very strong here, and along the North beach, there is a bad bit of teatree scrub, difficult to keep under.

[p46] BUILDING PADDOCK

It was formed by a brush fence, running East and West, from Gawley Bay, until it meets a two Rail split fence with wire & Embankment, that runs due North & South, and forms the East boundary line of Oysterbay [sic] Paddock. – the North is bounded by the Bay. This is all sandy soil with some high ridges of Rocks, and gives but little feed – it was Heavily Timbered, with Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood & Mahogany, but a good deal has been cut down on the East side for fencing and other purposes. It was a very bad place for scrub, and has been scrubbed now 3 times – in 1861. 1864. & 1867. the last time has left it clean, but it now wants burning – badly, which will be done as soon as it gets a little dry, so that the fire will run properly. Along the East side where it has been ploughed for a few rod there is some couch, Buffalo and other grasses, growing well, but there is little feed on the other part, and a great quantity of fern and brickmaker rushes. There is a fine deep creek runs thro' this paddock down along the Brush fence on the South side, and for nearly the whole length of it. and is checked by a Dam at the Head of Gawley Bay – this never fails, and is excellent Water. Close

to the Dam is a large Boiler, a Sheep yard and a Dip; for Dipping the Sheep, to prevent the Scab.

CORN Paddock

This was originally a barren teatree Swamp and formed part of the Building Paddock, it is divided off by a heavy brush fence, and runs along Gawley Bay nearly the whole length of the East side, it has been well cleared, ploughed, drained [p47] and an Embankment thrown up with a deep drain inside, in the same manner as spoken of in the House Paddock, and continues from the Homestead. There is now a very fair crop of corn of about 6 or 8 acres growing on it, but it had a very bad season at the start which threw it back very much. With a little manure this will make a valuable patch for cultivation for the Homestead, there are some patches, in it not sown, as they have not been drained sufficiently long to ~~ever~~ get rid of the salt in the ground on the whole there is about 12 acres – and when in good working order would nearly supply the Estate with Hay & Corn.

GAWLEY BAY Paddock

This is next to the building Paddock the Roadway running thro' both up to the Old Farm – just as you pass thro' the Rails at the Brush fence forming the south boundary to the Building paddock, there is a second Dam across a creek of good fresh water, which runs into the ~~Dam Head of the Bay~~ Bay, and is called Gawley Creek, and comes down from Oyster Bay Paddock thro' the Old Farm paddock ~~and~~ affording a ~~good~~ never failing supply of good water to all the paddocks. The soil in this paddock is all very poor with the exception of a flat running along the Road, on the East side of the Creek – the rest is Rocky hilly country, and so stony in some parts nothing will grow on it, on the West side at the Boundary fence there is a high mound of Rocky ground ~~from~~ which overlooks nearly the whole of the Lower part of the Estate, and commands a very extensive view. There is very little feed in this paddock being nearly all Rushes, grass-tree [p48] and short scrub. It is very thickly timbered with all kinds of timber but the most of it is well ringbarked and there is a great quantity of dead wood on the ground. It has been scrubbed three times in

1861. 1864 & 1867, the last time it was thick, and on the South side there are some patches of apple-tree & Stringy Bark Scrub still growing which it appears useless to do anything to – a running fire will for the time check the growth of the shoots but they soon spring out again. This will all be burnt this Year as soon as it is dry enough to burn but at present the rushes and low scrub are too moist.

GAWLEY BAY

This Bay is situated between Cummins and Sandy Points, ~~and~~ the whole of the Bay is purchased, and belongs to the Estate, from the line of the Bridge where it crosses the Bay. The Water is shallow, and during the King tides, it is nearly dry at low water, there being then only a small channel left, which a man could wade thro' in any part. It is a splendid Bay for Fish & Oysters, and used to be the favorite [sic] resort of all the Fishermen. The Oysters are very fine and becoming plentiful, since they have been protected – there is a good fresh water creek called Gawley Creek, always running into the Bay, which makes it good for the Oysters. The banks all round are low and flat, and on the Cummins Point side, the flat extends over a good many acres. This Bay is admirably adapted for the formation of Oyster Beds; and owing to its being so close to the Sydney [p49] Market, would, if a small capital were laid out on it, furnish a considerable Revenue to the Estate, from the sale of the Oysters – it could also be made a preserve for fish by making an enclosure under the bridge, which would give an additional Revenue, from the fish ~~which~~ that could be taken out.

OLD FARM Paddock

This adjoins the Gawley Bay Paddock, and is bounded on the West, by Oyster Bay Paddock, east by Ewey Bay Paddock No4 - and part of the Wool Shed Paddock – and South by the Horse Paddock and Hut Paddock it is fenced all round with a two Rail split fence with wire in the middle and an embankment under the bottom rail – with the exception of about 5 chains along the Hut Paddock of the Old Farm – which is an old 3 rail fence. On some parts of this paddock the feed is very good, and it carries a good ~~deal~~ number of stock. The soil varies a ~~good deal~~ in different parts, the south, and south West End,

being the best, where there is some good soil, which would do for Cultivation or vineyards: a portion [sic] near the Hut has been cleared, about 10 acres, it was ploughed up some years ago but is now covered with couch – the Cleared land extends only about half way across the paddock.

There is some good forest timber in the paddock, consisting of Iron Bark, Oak, Red Gum, Bloodwood, Mahogany & large White Gum. The large and best timber, always grows in the best land and the good soil may be easily marked out by the line of the timber – there is a good deal of the timber here not ringbarked, and the grass will not grow well under them, especially under [p50] the Oak trees. The whole has been scrubbed three times – in 1861 –1864 – and 1867 and is now clean of scrub: only a portion of it has been burnt since the last scrubbing, but the remainder, will be lighted this year as soon as the grass becomes a little dry – it is principally covered with Kangaroo and other native grasses, but there is some buffalo, Rib and couch growing thro' it – in some parts there is a good deal of grass-tree, and rushes, and some wire grass – there is also a large grass-tree Swamp, which drains into a small Creek running into Gawley Bay – giving plenty of Water. Gawley Creek, also runs thro' this paddock. In the North West Corner there is a bad Stringy Bark and low appletree ridge – of Rocky Stony land, which is very bad, growing little else but grass-tree – at the edge of the grass-tree swamp, there is some good stiff white clay, that will make superior Bricks.

WOOLSHED Paddock

This is a small paddock of good land, and is a corner, with the Hut paddocks; taken out of the Horse paddock, and Ewey Bay paddocks – about half of it has been cleared and was ploughed up some years ago – ~~and~~ it is now well covered with couch, Kangaroo and native grass – the portion not cleared has been ringbarked, and most of the timber is Killed, but there is a young oak scrub – growing up strong, with other kinds, and it wants scrubbing badly – now it has been done twice before in 1862 & 1866 – there is also a small teatree swamp in it. The East ~~and~~ North & South boundary fence [p51] are a three rail split fence but very much out of repair – a subdivision of this paddock ~~has been~~ is made

by a low light log fence for the convenience of separating sheep at Shearing time. There is a good bark Woolshed on the hill at the West boundary fence, which divides this from the Hut Paddocks, ~~which~~ it is watered by a small water-hole close to the north fence.

HUT PADDOCKS OR OLD FARM

These are two small paddocks adjoining the Woolshed paddock, and forming part of the southern boundary of the Old Farm Paddock. There are two Huts here, but are both out of Repair, the Shepherd lives at one of them, and there is an old stockyard on the ~~south~~ north side of the paddock, it is however useless for putting cattle in – the land in these paddocks is good, and has been used for Cultivation, it is now covered with couch grass – there is only one small patch of timber on them near the Huts – they are divided from the Horse paddock by 3 Rail split fence. There is a small waterhole near the Stockyard ~~near~~ but it is not fit for drinking; and the huts have to be supplied from the Ewey Creek, which runs thro' the Horse Paddock about a quarter of a mile from the Huts.

[p52] HORSE Paddock

This lies at the back of the Old Farm – and is an excellent paddock for feed, with a good creek of fresh water running thro' it that never fails, called Ewey creek –it is bounded on the South by Gynea Bay paddock No1 – and Ewey Bay Point Paddock, on the West by Oyster Bay Paddock, and East by No 5 Ewey Bay Paddock. The whole of this land is thickly timbered, with Oak, Iron Bark, Grey & Red gum, Stringy Bark, Blackbutt, and White Gum. The soil is all good except a few acres, at the south east end, where it becomes stony and Rocky – As you approach Ewey Bay along the Creek the Land is high, and the banks rise up very steep and high, with rugged Rocks difficult of ascent or descent. A good deal of the timber has been left here unringbarked – some of it good for the timber yard. The land at the back of the Old farm would do for Cultivation, or if cleared would, make excellent grass land. The whole has been scrubbed twice, once in 1862 – and the second time in 1867 – at the last scrubbing it was very thick; and there is now a great quantity of dead scrub on the ground, which will make a good strong fire, when a running fire can be put

thro' it – this will destroy any young shoots that may come up and keep the paddock clean from scrub – for a long time. The North, East, and West lines of the fence are all 2 Rail split fences with wire and logs, and embankment under the bottom Rail – but the south line is only a low brush fence, out of repair.

[p53] EWEY BAY POINT PADDOCK

This comprises the whole of the point, between Ewey Bay, and Gymea Bay, which is secured at the north end by the Brush Fence, which forms the South boundary of the Horse Paddock; and a Brush fence running in a due North & South line, from the head of Gymea Bay, up to the Sheep Yard at the junction, of the Brush Fences on the North Line. Along the East Side of the point in Ewey Bay – there is a slope of good land, under the high Rocks, that extends to the end of the point, on which there is some very good feed of Kangaroo, and all kinds of grasses. But all the upper or table land, is very poor Rocky Stony Country, covered with low Coast Scrub, Rushes and grass-tree, with hardly any grass on it: The timber is bastard Stringy Bark, bloodwood and low White Gum, with a great deal of the low appletree scrub – it is watered by a small Creek, running into Ewey Bay, on the East side, and another that comes in from Gymea Bay paddock No 1. The whole of this has been scrubbed twice, first in 1862. and second time in 1867-8 – but it was not burnt before the Rain set in, and in consequence, the appletree and Stringy Bark shoots are showing up strong again, but the fire will keep them back, and kill all the young scrub that is showing in places – it may be possible to get a running fire to pass over it about the second week in April, when the grass gets a little dry. All the timber is well Killed by the ringbarking, and there is a good deal of rubbish and dead scrub lying on the ground to carry a good fire. The Water in the Bay is deep and is an excellent fishing ground.

[p54] GYMEA BAY N^o 1 PADDOCK

This is next to Ewey Bay Point Paddock, and divided from it by a Brush fence on the East side, and is bounded on the North by the horse paddock, and divided from it by a Brush fence; on the West side it is divided from Dent's Creek Paddock- by a two rail split fence, with wire in the middle and logged under the bottom rail – on the South side, is

Gymea Bay and Gymea Bay Paddock No 2 – which is divided from it by the continuance of the 2 Rail Split fence from Dent's Creek Paddock into the Gymea Bay - There is a Creek of good water, runs from Dent's Creek Paddock, in an easterly direction to the Bay. The land all on the North side of the creek, altho' very rocky is good and grows the Kangaroo grass well, affording some good feed: but on the opposite side it is all poor barren land, with very high rugged Rocks rising from the water, which in some places it is impossible to descend – and this portion of the paddock affords very little feed, growing rushes, grass-tree, and low coast and appletree scrub, with short curly White Gum, bastard appletree and Stringy Bark- Honeysuckle, Geebung and Bloodwood. It has all been scrubbed twice, first in 1862 and again in 1867 – now waiting for running fire which will clear off an immense deal of rubbish, and will give it a chance then for some grass to grow – it is clear of scrub now and the running fire will keep it back and destroy the seedlings before the spring of the Year – but where there is much Appletree scrub, the ground will never be entirely free from it, until the plough has passed over it several times – but this land would not ~~be worth it.~~

[p55] GYMEA BAY N^o 2 PADDOCK

Extends from the creek running down the South boundary fence of No 1: which waters both Paddocks – round the point forming the West side of Gymea Bay, and thence up the North West Arm, to a line of Brush fence, which forms the east boundary of the NW Arm Paddock - now destroyed –The North boundary was also a Brush fence line, dividing Dent's Creek Paddock – also destroyed by fire – which throws all this portion of the Estate open. The whole of this paddock is very high Land, and descends to the Water with ~~steep~~ precipitous Rocks, there being only a few places where it is possible to ride down. There is ~~a small portion of~~ good land running along the Gymea bay, which grows some Kangaroo grass, but the ground is very rough and Rocky: ~~all~~ the rest is only a poor barren stony ridge covered with grass-trees rushes, low coast Scrub and Apple-tree scrub. The scrub is not however very thick, as a strong running fire passed over it last Year, and Killed a great quantity. None of the timber

has been ringbarked, but a portion of it was scrubbed once in 1863. On the best part of the paddock near the water, there is some fine young timber of Blackbutt, Red Gum, Mahogany, and Grey gum – On the upper portion of the land the timber is low cutly white gum, bastard Stringy Bark, and Bloodwood.

NORTH WEST ARM PADDOCK

This is divided from No 2 Gymea Bay Paddock, by the line of Brush fence running down North and south from Dent's Creek Paddock, at the Old Sheep Yard, to the water in the North West Arm [p56] it has never been fenced on the West side, but is guarded by a deep Ravine, at the bottom of which Dent's Creek runs into the N.W. Arm & forms a boundary. The banks of this Ravine are in places quite perpendicular, and there is only one place near the middle of the paddock where it is possible to take a horse down. It is all poor Rocky Stony country, except in a few patches along the Ravine, and at the extreme point, but will not carry much stock of any sort. None of it has been Ringbarked or scrubbed, the timber is low white gum, bloodwood and bastard Stringybark – it is watered by Dent's Creek. The North boundary of this paddock, is ~~Dent's~~ the Brush fence line of Dent's Creek paddock, which extends down the Ravine until it crosses the creek a few yards.

FREE SECTION LAND AT N. W. ARM

After you cross the creek from the North West Arm paddock you come upon some excellent feeding ground, growing fine Kangaroo grass, and the soil tho very Rocky, is good; and the banks rise up in the same precipitous way as on the east side of the Arm – about 100 acres of this has been taken under Free Selection, Running out to the extreme point, that forms the West side of the Arm. Nothing has yet been done to this either in scrubbing or ringbarking, it would do well to feed quiet Cattle – but the Country is too steep and Rocky for Sheep. There are also four other blocks of country, of 40 acres, 140 acres, 40 acres, 170 acres taken under free selection – these run up Dent's Creek and extend [p57] in a zig-zag line from the creek, up to the South Boundary fence of the Gymea Ground Paddock – the lines meet, a few Rod on the

east side of where the west boundary fence of the Gymea Ground joins the Southern. Some of this land is good, and if cleared and scrubbed would make good grazing land, the best portion runs along the Gymea Ground fence – and the worst towards the South West end, where it becomes poor Ironstone Country. There are a good many Gymea's growing on this land, which are valuable for making paper. The whole is thickly timbered – consisting of Red gum, Iron Bark, Stringy Bark, Mahogany and White Gum, and there is a good deal of scrub on it. There are two small creeks of good water running thro' the land, in an easterly direction – none of this land has yet been fenced.

DENT'S CREEK PADDOCK

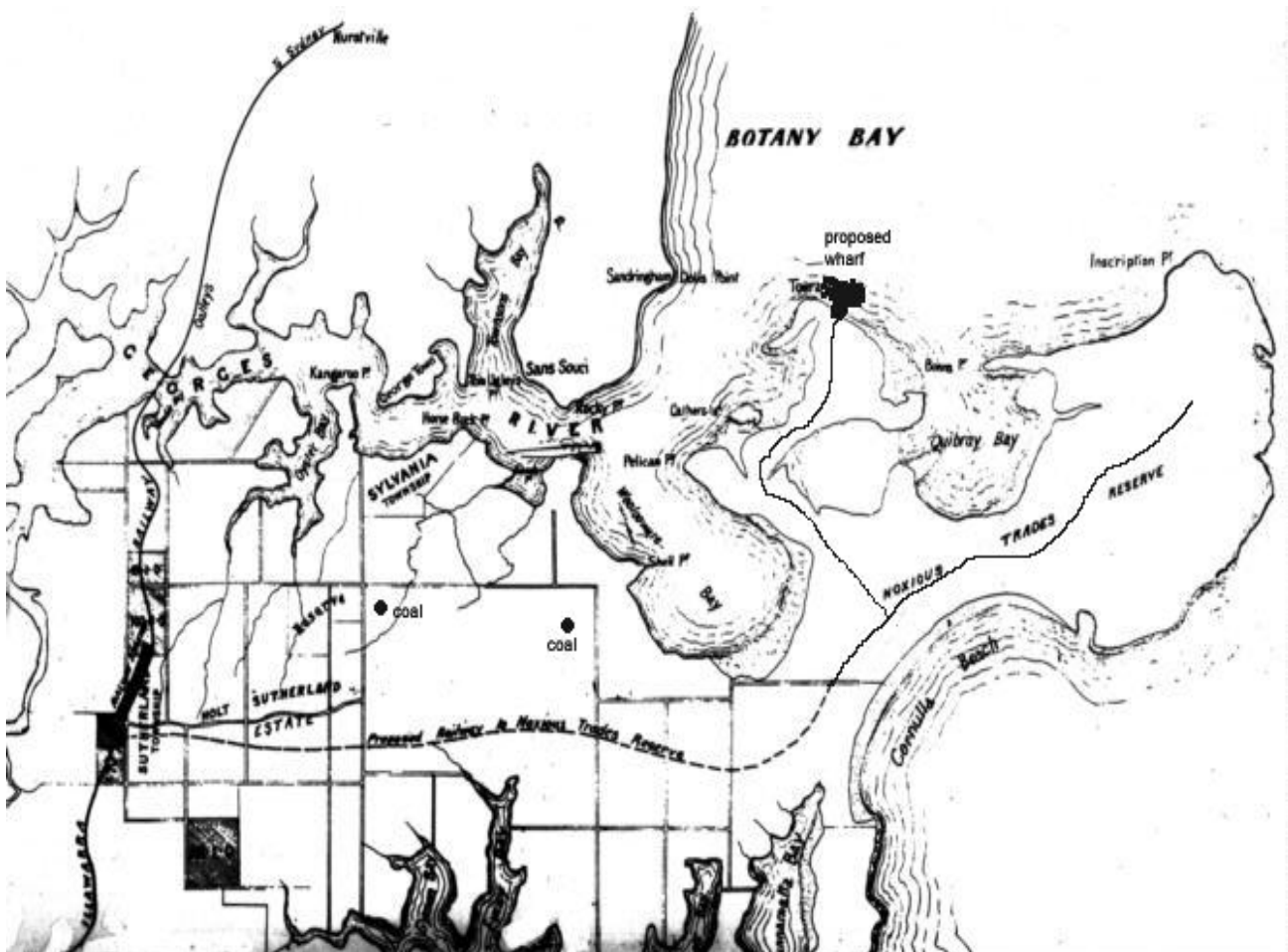
This is bounded on the North by Oyster Bay Paddock – east by Gymea Bay Paddock No1 – South by Gymea Bay No2 and N.W. Arm paddocks, West by four blocks of Freeselection land – the East & North boundary lines are 2 Rail split fences, with wire and log. But the South & West lines were Brush fences, burnt in 1865-6. the West boundary line runs parallel with Dent's Creek about one Chain wide, on the West side of it. It is a very good paddock for feed growing fine Kangaroo and other native grasses – the soil is good but Stony & Rocky in places – and on a line from the Old Sheep Yard at junction of N.W. Arm line of fence, to the edge of the Ravine there is a barren Ridge, of Apple-tree scrub, grass-tree, Geebung & rushes. In addition to Dent's Creek, it is watered by a creek that [p58] runs from near the Sheep Yard into Gymea Bay – altogether it contains about 190 acres of which about 80 acres were scrubbed and ringbarked in 1863, and since then nothing has been done to it. There is now a good deal; of scrub growing on it, although a heavy fire destroyed a good portion at the North East End – This paddock is well worth scrubbing and fencing – at present it is all open country to the North West Arm, and there is no stock of any kind belonging to the Estate running on it, as it would not do to put there unless it was fenced in – quiet cattle, that have been bred on the Run might be put out at N.W. Arm and Gymea No 2 without it being fenced. when the feed is good there and secure inside the fences – but at present there is no feed at all for the Stock without this.

What the Shire might have been.

The tracing from a plan of Holt Sutherland Estate Co – Sept 21 1887 – colour map show

2 seams of coal were found at GyMEA. It was proposed to transport the coal from these mines to Kurnell using the Government Noxious Trades railway, then via a secondary line to the Towra coal wharf at the approximate position of the 'Great Wall of Towra'. Towra Point in 1881 had a proposed wharf for shipping coal

However the coal was found to be uneconomical to extract and the plan never eventuated.



EARLY COMMERCIAL BOATSHEDS

Boat Building, Industrial and Hiring Pt. 1 Port Hacking

Merle Kavanagh

Burraneer / Little Turriell Bays – Simpson's.

William Simpson was one of the early arrivals in the Sutherland area, eventually involved with market gardening and then as a guide for sporting, shooting and fishing excursions. In November 1863 he bought 50 acres at Cabbage Tree Creek on the southern shore of Port Hacking, commonly known as Bonnie Vale, and built 'Tyreal'. Coaches travelled to the end of Port Hacking Road, at Turriell Pt. and a flag raised on the flagstaff that Simpson had provided, as a signal for his launch to cross the port and collect the new arrivals for his hotel. It is said that 'Tyreal' was destroyed in a bushfire in the 1890s but was rebuilt as the Port Hacking Hotel, more popularly known as 'Simpson's'. The hotel was sold in 1904 but was advertised as "Simpson's" in the Australian Country Life dated 25 September 1911, with Mrs. A.M. Kingham as Proprietress, noting 'Boats free to visitors'. William died on 4 January 1918.

With his son Harry, William bought up most of Turriell Pt., with five acres going to Harry, who set up a coach run to Sutherland then passed it over to his young brother, Alf. Harry then concentrated on boat hiring, building all the boats and sculls himself. In December 1908 the *St. George Call* reported that Harry Simpson's boatshed at Tyreel Pt. Port Hacking had a complete stock of new boats and gear at reasonable cost. Patrons were advised to take Simpson's coach right to the boatshed. In 1918, having heard the story told by Biddy Giles of the cave collapse on Turriell Pt. during a storm, killing a group of aborigines, Harry decided to investigate. He blasted the western end of the huge shelf of rock, splitting the rock down the centre and revealing many human bones. Harry retrieved a complete human skull which he kept for many years. The Maritime Services Board prevented any further investigations and Harry became ill, dying in November 1920, aged 46.

The family moved from there in 1925 to care for their grandfather, Elias Laycock.

In the 1940s a 'Simpson's Boatshed' was operating, a hirer describing the boats as 'varnished' and noting that they were clinker built 12 ft. or 14 ft. rowing boats, but 'often leaked like sieves'. Fishermen regularly arrived for a weekend 'sleep in' at the shed, then operated by Arthur Nissen.

Burraneer Bay, Bottle's Shed. c. 1940s.

Burraneer Bay, Three Pines Shed.

1947 – 1984. This shed was run by Errol Alcott for 37 years after he and his wife, Ivy, moved to Sutherland Shire, making their home at *Fernleigh*, where they established a private zoo. Errol not only fixed boats and engines, he also helped with the injured animals and birds. As there was no Water Police base south of Sydney during that period, Errol often answered calls for boats in distress, going alone so as not to endanger others. After his death in 1984, his ashes were scattered on Bate Bay by his family and members of the Port Hacking Royal Motor Yacht Club.

Burraneer Bay / Little Turriell – Digger's Shed.

This shed was upstream from Simpson's and boats were painted white in the 1940s. Boat hirers could also rent a holiday weekend on the property.

Dolan's Bay – Alexander's Shed, later Dolans Bay Marine

1926 – 1984. The shed was built in 1926 by Charles Alexander and in the mid 1930s other sheds and a residence were added. In the early 1940s Alexander's Shed was part of the 'Fisherman's Paradise' of Port Hacking. The Alexander family sold the property in 1946 for 4,600 pounds. In August 1984 the owners of the site, Kevin George and Glen McGuffie re-established all the services of the complex after a disastrous fire destroyed the boatshed, workshop and residence and began trading as Dolans Bay Marine.

Grays Pt. - Mr. Aiming.

He hired out boats from his shed at Mansion Point.

Grays Pt. - Con Gerhig

Gerhig was a bachelor and early settler in the area who had been a cabinet maker at Beales Pianos. He opened a boatshed for hiring at Mansion Point Bay, carrying his supplies on his back all the way from Sutherland.

Grays Pt. – ‘Pop’ Wilson, later Nation’s and Hughie Wilson.

c. late 1930s. A group of teenagers regularly brought ‘Pop’ Wilson a bottle of wine from Boyles Hotel at Sutherland, purchased by an older member of one of their families, which would cost them about fourpence each. They’d put the bottle beside his bed and he would tell them which boat to take out. After their fishing expedition they would return and put away the boat. The bottle would be empty and ‘Pop’ would call out ‘Come again next week-end’.

Nation’s established a boat hiring shed there, boldly painting their boats as ‘Nations Grays Point’.

About 1953 **Hughie Wilson** came to live at Grays Pt. He had a stiff leg as a result of being dragged by a horse and baker’s cart which had collided with a car. He lived in a small house near the road and had a special path made so that he could get to the waterfront where he hired out boats from the boatshed.

Gunnamatta Bay – John Hill (1858- 1931)

The Hill family boys were boat builders. At about the age of 18 John became apprenticed to the skipper of a windjammer, but his father persuaded him to have the indentures cancelled. The family came originally from Victoria and lived for some time in the western suburbs of Sydney where John worked as a builder before taking up residence at Cronulla. John’s father had been a ship builder and John leased land at the head of Gunnamatta Bay in 1906 for a boatshed. The family home was at the head of Burraneer Bay in 1903 and his children were attending a small school on the corner of Burraneer Bay Rd. and Gannons Rd. The family moved from Burraneer to Gunnamatta where a family home was built on the corner of Hill Street and Woollooware Rd. At least one block at

Burraneer was sold to Mr. Angeletta of Redfern.

In 1906 John was elected to the first Shire Council and used his expertise in many constructions for the community, such as wharves, bathing sheds, etc. He gave 16 years service as a member of Council. In 1908 he stated that he did not hire out boats, just built them. He said that there was a demand for small motor launches and that during the last twelve months he had built five as well as larger ones. Boats were built for Ernest Wunderlich and also the Solicitors Allen, Allen & Hemsley, Mr. William Boyce Allen owning the second block south of the Wonga Road wharf at Yowie Bay in the early 1900s. Boats and Ferries for RNP & La Perouse-Kurnell were built at Hill’s shed. He also built a sailing boat which he sailed in the first Commonwealth Regatta c.1900 on Sydney Harbour and won, but was beaten on a protest. Under the boatshed he installed a zinc (cool) room. John Hill’s son, who worked with his father, sailed a boat built by his father to the Solomon Islands.

The *St. George Call* of 30 March 1907 reported brisk business for John Hill with two whaleboats, one with 3 ½ h.p. engine, shipped to Lord Howe Island, being the first of the class landed there. Another for the islands was towed from the shed through Port Hacking heads by the S.S. *Erina*, then on to Sydney. From 1903 to 1927 the steamer *Erina* carried out a regular weekend passenger service from Sans Souci to Kurnell, calling into Brighton-le-Sands and Botany on the way. Mid week it operated between Darling Harbour, Woy Woy and Gosford, carrying cargo, mostly beer in casks and bottles. It was also hired out for picnics and regattas.

In September 1911 an advertisement for Hill’s business appeared in the *Australian Country Life* on page 36 stating ‘Pioneer Launch and boat building establishment’ and noting boats were for hire by hour or day and that launch parties were specially catered for. Boat repairs and cleaning and engine overhauls were also available. Hill’s boatshed was described in 1911 as entered by large folding doors with another pair of doors at the end, opening onto a slip running into Gunnamatta

Bay. The report said 'At high tide boats ready for launching are, without any difficulty, run straight off the stocks into the water'.

John Hill's public life included presiding on local committees, such as the Cronulla School of Arts and Cronulla Parents' & Citizens' Assn. as well as sitting on the Miranda School Board. He was also a trustee of the Cronulla Masonic Lodge and served as Worshipful Master of Lodge Shaw Stewart at Leichhardt. He was Commodore of the Port Hacking Sailing Club, Trustee and first President of the Cronulla Surf and Life Saving Club and he represented Cronulla district on the committee of the St. George District Hospital. He was a dedicated family man. He often took his family sailing on the port, traditionally to South West Arm. The girls and women slept in the boats while the men bedded down on the shore. John Hill died in 1931 aged 73 years. The shed was not operating after the 1920s and no longer exists.

Gunnamatta Bay – O'Neill's Shed, later Elias Laycock's.

This was said to be established in 1882, but it was definitely there in 1894. The O'Neills were living on Crown land at Gunnamatta Bay and eking out a living by letting a few boats to visitors and in 1894 it came to the attention of the Department of Lands. An inspector was sent out to investigate, the outcome being that they be allowed to remain and that a 'very nominal rental' be charged. O'Neill died early in 1900 and all boats were sold by Mrs. O'Neill in April 1901 to **Elias Laycock**. Elias was a champion sculler in the 1870s/1880s and visitor to the shed always noticed the winner's crossed sculls on the wall. The *Australian Country Life* noted in September 1911 on page 32 that sailing boats could be hired for outside fishing from Laycock for 10 shillings, 15 shillings and one pound, according to the size of the boat. A professional fisherman could also be sent along to manage the boat and show where the best fishing grounds were. Elias Laycock lost his son, Elias Connell Laycock in February 1916 at the age of 37 years, after a lengthy illness. The 1919 *Sands Directory* listed Laycock as a bee and boat keeper. The shed was situated at the end of Laycock Avenue at the head of Gunnamatta Bay, about half way

between Tonkin Park and Gunnamatta Park. Laycock died in 1938. After his death Mrs. Laycock, his widow, ran the boat shed, buying prawns from the markets, salting down and selling the smaller ones for bait and cooking the larger prawns for sale at the boat shed. The family lived well on seafood – oyster patties, lobster caught in pots and an abundance of fish.

Gunnamatta Bay – Excelsior Boatshed, Joseph Andrews later Robert Elliot.

c. 1900 onward. Andrews was a painter and boat proprietor, buying the boatshed at the end of what is now Excelsior Street about 1905 for 325 pounds, including 6 acres of ground and thirteen boats and a boat shed with three little rooms. He built a cottage with five rooms and a kitchen on the land. In 1908 he had fifteen boats and a small motor launch and claimed he had 'not half enough boats'. Two of his sons helped with the business at that time and he also noted that there were two other sheds – Laycock's and Mr. Rice. Robert Elliot was said to have conducted a boat shed at the lease of Excelsior Street when his son's family moved there in 1916, as Robert's son was due to depart overseas with the A.I.F.

Gymea / North West Arm – Pederson's, Warman's, later Horn's.

Warman purchased the shed from the original owner, Neil (Peter) Pederson c. 1911-12. Although Proprietor of the Gymea Boatshed at the end of Coonong Road at North West Arm, Warman was also driver and owner of the first horse bus from Gymea Bay to Sutherland. There were fishermen's cabins on top of the boatshed and a Post Office store attached, run by Mrs. Warman. Alf, their son, would swim in the bay before school and even continued when on leave from the Navy during World War 1. The Warman family left the bay about 1921/2.

Horns ran the boat shed after Warman's but it appears that Mrs. Peatson (Pederson?) took over the shop at the shed. During Horn's time it is recorded that some hirers did not return the boats to the shed which often meant that Phyllis, Milly, Myrtle or Joan Horn would have to go searching for the missing boats. To overcome this, a fee was introduced to encourage people to return the boats. At this

time there was also a large tidal swimming pool at Gynea Bay.

Lilli Pilli Pt. – Jim Beer’s Shed

Early 1900s+. The death of Mr. J.C. Beer, a retired Police Officer, at the age of 78 years, was reported in the *Propellor* in February 1934. He had been awarded a gold medal for capturing three burglars single handed in a jewellery robbery in Sydney. He was also credited with being one of a group of men who built the National Park roads. The report noted that he settled at Lilli Pilli after his retirement, taking a keen interest in the development of that part of the Port Hacking River.

Lilli Pilli – W.H. Newman

c. 1910. He hired out launches for 2 pounds per day, possibly from Lilli Pilli.

Lilli Pilli – Len Roberts

Early owner.

Lilli Pilli – Boffinger’s

c. 1940s.

Turriell (Tyreel) Pt. – Jones’ Shed.

Early 1900s.

Woollooware – Attwells Boat Brokerage, 321-323 Woollooware Road.

This was established in the late 1940s and was still operating in 1997. It offered boat servicing facilities, moorings, office accommodation for the boat brokerage business and a house. No mention of boat building as such but the Sutherland Foreshore Heritage study regards it as ‘An exceptionally fine commercial boatshed with continuous usage that retains its form and detail and is an important contribution to the waterfront and one of the last such sheds to continue in operation. Its continued use is seen as important to its high level of significance’. It also notes that ‘it is one of the last commercial premises operating along the waterfront giving the place high social significance’. In March 2009 it was part of a property listed for sale and in July it was sold for \$6.2 million to an unknown buyer, together with another property in Woollooware Road.

Woollooware – Lewis Brothers (Frank & Richie)

They originally built speed boats, runabouts, inboards and then changed to fibreglass. Shed no longer exists.

Yowie Bay – Blackwood’s Shed

Early 1900s. Blackwoods were then owners of the Yowie Bay Hotel. Blackwood’s subleased the hotel to W.S. Smith. The first shire rates in 1907/8 for the hotel property were charged to John Francis Murphy and he took over the licence in 1909 and held it until 1914. On 25 Sept 1911 the *Australian Country Life* advertised the hotel on page 34, noting boating, bathing and fishing.

Yowie Bay – Matson’s Shed

Matson had a shed on the southern side of Wonga Road in the late 1800s – early 1900s which was sold to a Sydney chemist in 1903 but it no longer exists. The site later became a general store operated by ‘Tarzan’ (Bill Lawes) who also provided a ‘shop by launch’ on the bay, giving his ‘Tarzan’ call to advertise his approach.

Matson’s also established their ‘Pleasure Grounds’ at the head of the bay in the early 1900s but as they also ran the boatshed at Audley for many years, the Yowie Bay business will be included in part 3 of this series, ‘Shire Rivers’.

Yowie Bay – Wonga Road, North side.

There were various owners, most of whom just hired boats out, although for a couple of years in the late 1920s **Horace ‘Shaver’ Goddard** managed the shed. As a boat builder he was reputed to have built many dinghies, rowing boats, fishing boats and launches as well as life-saving boats for Dee Why and North Cronulla Surf Lifesaving Club. In October 1934 the *Propellor* reported the launching of the North Cronulla surf boat (built by H.C. Goddard) by the President of the Surf Lifesaving Assn. Adrian Curlew, who was the son of Ethel Turner, the author of the classic *Seven Little Australians*. The North Cronulla boat was named M.J. Farrell II and was housed at Gunnamatta Bay until a new shed was erected at the surf beach.

Charles Diston ran the Wonga Road shed in the early 1900s. He was involved in a number of interests, being proprietor of a coach service from Sutherland to Yowie Bay in the 1890s, temporary licensee of the Royal Hotel, Census collector for the 1891 census and the first local funeral director. In 1907 he made the first valuation of shire land for the ratings and by 1913 he was an estate agent.

Other proprietors of the shed included **Herbert Serbutt**, the **Esplin family**, who built the Yowie Bay store (still standing), **Matthew Quinlan** who also ran the General Store in the 1940s and **William Ellis** in 1944. By the end of 1967 **Ray and Monica Goyer** were joint tenants until **John Levy** took over the boatshed as proprietor for ten years in the 1970s. His Waterfront Service carried out boat repair work, marine construction such as jetties, pontoons and moorings, pile driving and slipways as well as boat hiring.

Holidays at Cronulla

Jean Appleton (nee Paine) first came to Cronulla for holidays in about 1924. Her father's job buying fat stock had brought the family from Victoria to Sydney where they lived near the Homebush saleyards. Each year over the Christmas holidays they rented a house in Cronulla for a month.

The large Paine family (eight girls and four boys) would hire a parlour car for the journey



Jean Appleton, June 2010

from their home in Ashfield. Crossing the Georges River on the punt was the highlight of the trip. Jean remembers cars lined up for miles waiting to cross the river, as only five or six cars could fit on the punt at

one time. Holidaymakers often waited 30 minutes before their car was loaded and on busy days waiting times were much longer. Once over the river they drove to Cronulla where Jean's parents rented a house, usually near Shelly Beach in South Cronulla. There were no traffic jams or congestion there. It was a quiet place with many vacant blocks around Oak Park, particularly in Glaisher Parade. Jean has fond memories of these holidays, 'It was a great affair coming down here for a month at Christmas'. She recalls how when they arrived the Paine children, 'couldn't get into the water quick enough'. They swam in the rock pools and the surf. This was 'just marvellous'. Everyone swam – including her parents. Most children learnt to swim in Oak Park pool. The Paine girls wore patterned kimonos made of cotton over their costumes. 'You always wore something over your swimmers. You would have this wet thing dragging around you', Jean recalls ruefully, 'it wasn't the best'. At this time Jantzen had started manufacturing 'quite smart' swimming costumes that were all wool and featured a little skirt. Receiving a present of a pair of sandshoes for the beach had been exciting for the children, but getting a Jantzen costume for Christmas when these became the fashion was even more delightful. Jean's thick wool Jantzen costume was yellow with a thin stripe around the skirt. It did not dry quickly but, 'You thought you were very good in a Jantzen costume,' Jean recalls. Girls also wore rubber caps to protect their hair. While on holidays Jean enjoyed theatre productions at the School of Arts and borrowed books from the small library located there. Picture shows with holiday makers dressed in the latest fashion, especially on Saturday night, was one of the district's social highlights. She also remembers surf carnivals as her future husband, Roy Appleton whom she met at the age of 19, was a member of Cronulla SLSC. It was great to have a surf club boyfriend, to be going out with 'someone like that'. Roy and fellow 'clubbies' stayed at a camp at the back of the Esplanade off the southern end of Cronulla Beach, 'just off the little laneway'. Timber merchants Tanner and Middleton owned this, known as Tanner's camp. The boys bunked in there so they would not have to go home on Saturday nights. 'They were really into the surf club', Jean recalls, 'it was the main attraction.'

Jean remembers many other well-known institutions in Cronulla during the interwar years, such as the Cecil Hotel where, as a teenager, she danced on Saturday nights. The Paines would walk from Oak Park with the girls carrying their high heels so they would not stumble on the rough path. It cost four shillings to get in to the dance, but was worth the money. Jean comments, 'It was really beautiful there. You didn't realise how valuable it was - looking over the water'. Youngsters in those days wore 'quite good clothes – not hippy gear'. The girls and young women wore good 'summery' knee-length dresses, while men wore trousers, a shirt and tie and patent leather dancing pumps. Jean recalls wistfully how 'lovely' it was dancing with her boyfriend on Saturday night. She was quite a good dancer, as was Roy who could 'turn on a threepence'. Romantic waltzes were their particular favourites. She does not remember having lessons as generally people taught themselves to dance. They did not do the 'jitterbug', a frenetic dance of the late 1930s that Jean considers 'crazy'. Jean and Roy married in 1938. They wanted to buy land at Cronulla because of their happy holiday memories. 'We **had** to have land here', Jean recalls. Eventually they bought two adjoining blocks for £363 and their house was later built across these. Jean considers they were fortunate to get land in a good position in Nicholson Parade. They had been very keen on the Misses Thorne's land at Oak Park but she is glad they were unable to buy this as it is now 'very public', especially at the [Bass and Flinders] monument. It was some time before they could build. After Roy came home from his war service, 'you couldn't get a builder'. An architect working at the Maritime Services Board, Roy wanted a two storey house so he designed the house, where Jean still lives, her late husband's modern design that 'served us well'. In those days there were not as many big houses as there are now in Cronulla. Only a certain size house was allowed to be built because of a shortage of building materials. The Appletons had a good bricklayer and Roy worked on the house with Jean helping him. They did not take second best materials and never obtained building supplies on the black market, as many desperate Sydneysiders did at this time.

They eventually moved into their home in 1948 after years of 'waiting and waiting', but were there for eight years before the sewerage service was connected. When the 'dunny cart' visited their daughter Elizabeth, born in May 1948, wanted to know what the big truck with all the little compartments was. Jean and Roy had a septic tank installed, as did some of their neighbours. 'You were fortunate if you had a septic tank', Jean recalls. These had to be pumped out and 'did not smell terrible'. There were celebrations when the sewerage was finally connected. Jean felt this was even 'better than the phone'.

It was some time too before they had a phone service, but there were compensations. There used to be a public phone on the street corner which became a 'great gossiping point'. People would 'waste half the morning' when they went to make a phone call. It was a sociable time. Roy walked to the station commute to work and soon found a group of like-minded 'comrades' who travelled together in the same carriage. Like other young married women, Jean did not work outside the home. After her chores were done she enjoyed playing competition tennis.

One of the players in her tennis club was 'a nice person' called Margaret Whitlam. Jean and Roy were 'quite friendly' with Gough and Margaret Whitlam, residents of nearby Wangi Avenue. In fact Roy went with the future prime minister to the Western Suburbs the night he won pre-selection for the federal seat of Werriwa. Jean considers Gough Whitlam was 'well ahead of his time; he got Australia going'. Roy and Gough saw 'eye to eye' on issues.

Jean smiles when she recalls the Whitlams' different personalities. Gough was a 'man in a hurry' and on one occasion turned over a new Holden as he was rushing up Nicholson Parade past Gunnamatta Park. Margaret, on the other hand, did not hurry or let trivia, such as an overflowing washing machine, worry her. She would calmly finish her game of tennis and attend to such small details later.

To Jean Appleton, Cronulla was a 'marvellous place' to bring up a child in the 1950s and early 1960s. It was also the wonderful location of her childhood holidays. Now as an elderly resident of Nicholson Parade she looks back on these past days with many fond memories. Pauline Curby

OPEN COTTAGE GARDEN DAY

An invitation for members and their guests to treat themselves to a day of genteel relaxation and entertainment in a shady/leafy garden.

A garden party from 11 am at 54 Flora Street Kirrawee, in place of the normal meeting on Saturday 15th January 2011.

Display of items by Society collectors

Talk by Angela Badger on her latest book

Talk on the history of the garden

Refreshments

Entry fee \$5. – postponed if wet

Premier's history award to Cronulla historian

Professional historian Pauline Curby has won this year's Premier's History Award for community and regional history with her history *Randwick*. This 400-page book was commissioned by Randwick Council to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2009. At the annual awards ceremony held at the Mint in Macquarie Street on 26 October, Premier Kristina Keneally presented five history awards and three history fellowships. Ms Curby was also the recipient of the annual NSW History Fellowship valued at \$20 000.

The judges commented that '*Randwick*' sets a new benchmark for the writing and production of local history. The author has embraced all the topics one might expect to find in a municipal history ... and added others that often do not get explored eg crime, and the ongoing relationship between Indigenous residents and Europeans. These subjects are treated intelligently - in a manner that demonstrates the author is very familiar with contemporary historiographical debates. The style is crisp and very readable ... It is the use of illustration and the quality of the imagery chosen that particularly sets this book apart. The pictures are integral to the text - rather than decoration ... Randwick Council is to be applauded for commissioning and supporting such a project.

A former teacher, Pauline Curby has worked as a professional historian for almost two decades and has written histories of a number of local government areas such as Manly, *Seven Miles from Sydney*, and Kur-ing-gai, *Under the Canopy*, in addition to a range of other projects such as a history of Freshwater SC, *Freshie*. Her pictorial histories of Cronulla



Sutherland Shire remain popular with local residents and visitors. At present, Pauline is Sutherland Shire Historical Society's representative on the Council's Heritage Subcommittee and a member of the Society's executive committee.

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 at 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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