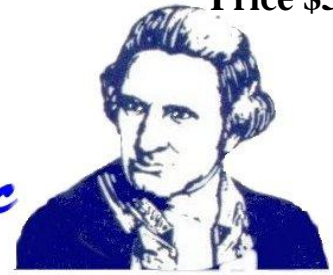


AUGUST 2011

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*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



VOL. 14 No. 3

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HEATHCOTE HALL
a grand Italianate mansion

‘MINDFUL OF THE PAST; FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE.’

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Membership renewal 2011/12

The cover – Heathcote Hall was built in 1887 by wealthy businessman Abel Harber who was bankrupted in the very severe depression of the 1890s. Creditors offered it as first prize in a lottery in 1896. In need of extensive restoration, it is for sale for the first time in nearly 70 years.

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.

Disclaimer

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

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Meetings of the Society

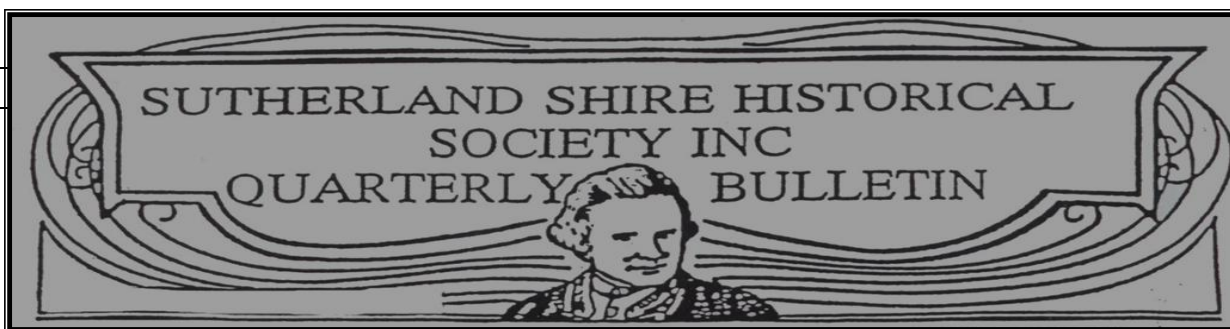
held on the third Saturday of each month at 1.30 pm at the Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

Visitors are welcome.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**The Honorary Secretary
Sutherland Shire Historical Society
PO Box 389
Sutherland NSW 1499**

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PRESIDENT:	Andrew Platfoot	9542 3386	
DEPUTY PRESIDENT:	Terry McCosker	9542 1137	
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Angela Thomas	9528 6251	
VICE PRESIDENTS:	David Overett	9524 8721	
	Bruce Watt	9523 5294	
SECRETARY:	Angela Thomas	9528 6251	
	email: a.badger@optusnet.com.au		
	P.O. Box 389, Sutherland, NSW, 1499		
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	Elizabeth Craig		
TREASURER:	Anna Estephan	9525 6441	
RESEARCH OFFICER & ARCHIVIST:	Merle Kavanagh	9521 1043	
BULLETIN EDITOR:	Bruce Watt	9523 5294	fax 9527 5294
	watto51@optusnet.com.au		
MUSEUM CURATOR:	Jim Cutbush	9521 3721	
MUSEUM COMMITTEE:	Terry McCosker, Angela Thomas, John Risebrow, David Overett, Maurie Beaven, Merle Kavanagh, Norma Jean Taylor		
EXCURSION OFFICER:	Terry McCosker	9542 1137	
BOOKING CLERK:	Pat Hannan	9528 8294	
PUBLICITY OFFICER:	David Overett		
PATRON:	Clr Phil Blight, Mayor of Sutherland Shire		
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR:	Bob Osborne	9525 2929	
	Email: bvosborne@bigpond.com		
OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	John Risebrow, Pauline Curby, Mary Small		
HONORARY SOLICITOR:	Michael Solari		
AUDITOR:	Andrew Cory		

President's Report

Sadly this will be my last report as President. So please indulge me while I reflect on the past few years.

I joined the Society in the late 1970's during the Presidency of Harold Ivers. In those days numbers were large and meetings well attended. However they were times of massive factional infighting. Different groups each with their own agenda and view of history tried to dominate the Society. AGMs were always well attended and usually a time of membership growth as different people invited their friends to join, and vote for them of course.

It was also a time when "village fairs" were popular. Gynea, Engadine, Jannali and Cronulla all had fairs and the Sutherland Shire Council would provide a Council float in the form of a replica of a sailing ship named the Good Ship Sutherland Shire. The Council even entered the float into the 1988 Bicentennial parade through Sydney. After 1988 public interest in history faded away and as a consequence the Society dwindled in size. However falling membership was not the only problem faced by the Society. As it tried to re-invent itself and find a place and purpose in "modern" Society it has had to deal with a number of new legal obligations and massive changes in technology as the world moves to electronic records and communications.

This is not a failure of the Society but a reflection of world that has changed significantly in the last 25 years. In 1988, economic meltdown by countries like Japan, Greece and now USA were beyond imagination. The destruction of the Twin Towers in New York, two Gulf wars and the Afghanistan war were not something people could have imagined especially in the aftermath of Vietnam. The unbelievable death and destruction by the great 2004 tsunami that was estimated to have released as much energy as 23,000 Hiroshima sized atomic bombs, the Global Financial Crisis, climate change, carbon taxes, the rise of China as a financial powerhouse have all occurred in this short time period. Historically significant events are occurring at an unprecedented rate and one

wonders what is next. While some might long for a quieter life, you must admit life is never boring or predictable.

If the world is changing then happily so is the Society. We are discovering new things all the time and the changes have been good. Our excursions have become popular again and are usually always fully subscribed. Our Bulletin looks very fresh and tidy and yet retains its urban (dare I say it amateur) style that has made it stand out from the crowd. This is not to deride our Bulletin or wish it would change. Indeed it has a look and feel that makes it stand out from the crowd. It is not full of advertisements, it is not full of articles only an academic would understand, nor are articles of a type only an academic would bother to read. In some unique way it captures the heart and spirit of our Society. Hopefully more people will contribute stories and articles and spare the Editor the inevitable angst he goes through as he looks for articles and stories.

Our meetings are also excellent with a growing number of people attending each month. Even the afternoon tea has turned from shop biscuits to quite a sumptuous affair. The question of course is why? Is it just that someone found the right formula for today? Personally I do not think so. I believe it is the growing number of people who step up and "do things". Whether it is being part of the Executive and the various committees that run the Society or just helping out at meetings putting out and restacking chairs, bringing some food to share or passing around the attendance book. Being involved in the Society and taking an interest is what has made it come together and work so well. No factions, no special groups as in the past, just people sharing in a bit of fun and a common interest in life, learning and history.

Sadly for me I have to step down as President. I have a new job which is likely to take me away to China for a while and consequently I am unable to be directly involved in the Society. It is not without a great sense of sadness that I leave for a while as it has been a lot of fun. (Of course if we do not get the contract, I will be back in September). But perhaps a new President is what is needed now. The Society needs to harness the changes it has made over the last few years and move forward as a Society and not just be an extension of its President and Executive. While there is stability and certainty when leadership stays unchanged, there is opportunity when change

is forced upon us. As in life there is risk in change. But in the turbulence of change comes opportunity as things mix and swirl and new ideas arise.

Thanks for all your support. I will be around for much of 2011 and then I expect to be away for 1 to 3 years. I might even heed my own advice and send a story or two from “over there”.

Andrew Platfoot

President's Annual Report

Looking back on this past year I am sure that you will agree with me that we have had another wonderful year. Our monthly meetings continue to draw good numbers and our membership is slowly creeping up. The garden party in Nola's beautiful back yard (now there's an Aussie term) was an excellent idea and a great way to invite friends.

Again we had an excellent range of speakers this year. I am always amazed that after all these years, we are able to find good speakers. I wish to convey my thanks to the members, the Executive and especially our tireless Secretary for suggestions on who we might invite to address our meetings. While sometimes I wonder about a topic beforehand, I never walk away thinking “That did not work”. Indeed some are so good I want to bring them back next month to speak again.

Last year we experimented with “extravanzas” like the Chopin recital and the launch of Mary Small's book *Seek* with real tracker dogs. (I must at this point note the sad passing of the co-author Di Burke). This year we were a little more down to Earth which is a good thing. Big extravaganzas take a lot of organising and create the pressure to do something even bigger next time. That situation is a recipe for eventual disaster and disappointment. Imagine the pressure Greece felt after the Sydney 2000 Olympics were dubbed the *best ever*.

However the year was far from boring. The garden party was different and a wonderful success. Then there was the Heritage Week lunch which was also different and a lot of fun. The idea of audience participation in which our members were invited to tell us their memories from when they were 10 was a

brilliant idea and went down so well. I think we could have gone on for another hour or two.

Our museum continues to be a heavy burden on our Curator Jim Cutbush and his team. Thanks Jim without you and your crew of regulars, it would cease to operate. I would urge members to think about giving just one Saturday morning a year to come and staff the Museum (and even poke around some of the exhibits). There will also be a need for some muscle power as Jim and the crew do some re-arranging in the coming weeks and months. It is good to note that others now come to us to ask our advice about running a museum.

I am also pleased to announce that the Collections Policy and Business Plan are moving out of the filing cabinet and into normal use as part of operations. Under the gentle urging of Bruce Watt who was the driving force, the Business Plan is being considered at each Executive meeting in an attempt to do what we say rather than just note down what we do. Part of this process has been to allocate a portion of our invested funds in projects that engage the time and talent of the Society members and hopefully return a modest income to the Society to assist in running costs. We had thought in partnership with the Council to reprint Maryanne Larkin's book. This unfortunately did not work out as we hoped. But the process and the ideas that arose have helped us see what to do next time. Specifically Daphne Salt, a long time supporter and member of the Society and well known author and historian has signed over her book on Como Hotel to the Society. This is a most generous gift and gives us the opportunity to explore the issue of publishing. Some of our members like Clive Baker have skills in this area and so together we have a venture that can engage the Society in a useful project that has benefit to the Society and the larger community. We are also looking at other ideas of seeking grants and contributing funding for a student to do some original research in some suitable historical area. Essay competitions and prizes are good, but helping to fund an interested student gets right to the sharp end of history. By stepping out in this way we become relevant and have a purpose and direction we can follow. As in the case of our mind and body, we can

exercise and use it, or we just shrivel up and lose it.

Finally my special thanks to Executive team that has really stepped up to the mark this year, striving to make the Society function as a useful and constructive part of our Shire and not just a monthly chat club. My special thanks go to our Honorary Secretary Angela Badger who despite health issues and other personal projects continues to devote her time and energy to the Society.

However in the end it is the members and their ongoing support that makes the Society what it is today. To you goes my deep appreciation for the opportunity you gave me 2 years ago when you honoured me with the role of Honorary President. Sadly I now step down and let others take on the role of President. It has been a lot of fun and personally very satisfying. I will be around from time to time and of course email is ever with us. Take care

Andrew Platfoot BhS

.....
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

August David Overett...life of the woman who produced the Australian Woman's cookbook
September 17th AGM George Heavens talk by Daphne and Merle

October 15th Scoundrels & Scalliwags Down Under.

November 19th Christmas party – 'back to the 20s – Nola Watt's residence'

December No meeting

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**Sutherland Shire
Historical Society
Excursions 2011**

* MPC (Multi Purpose Centre)

4.September Saturday 24th
Motor Museum at Kembla Grange
COST \$30.00
Includes bus, entry museum

and lunch at Master Builders Club Wollongong.

Departs **MPC* 9am.**

5. November Saturday 26th
Experimental Farm Cottage & Parramatta Tour

Cost **\$20.00**

Includes bus, cottage entry & city tour. BYO morning tea and lunch.

Departs **MPC* 9am.**

Bookings **Pat Hannan 9528 8294**
patricia.hannan@bigpond.com

From The Editor's Desk

Well here we are, coming up for our 45th Annual General Meeting in September. This tells us that we've been successful for a very long time and that the Society offers its members a worthwhile experience. To greatly simplify the objectives of the Society from our Constitution:- it is - for the love of history. Now this is the core reason why members belong and participate. Organisations need a unifying or core purpose for their existence. At Toastmasters it's to learn how to speak in public and at a bowling club it's to play bowls. But no matter what the organisation and its purpose, one of the main reasons for belonging is to socialise and communicate with like minded people. A more recent resurgence in interest in our society has been for that reason. Meetings are stimulating and provide an excellent social setting for people to talk, mingle and enjoy a satisfying outing. So the love of history is just the common bond and the excuse we need to socialise.

We continue to come up with interesting articles and angles to entertain, inform and maintain interest and it has been gratifying seeing new authors willing to provide articles. In the May edition we included a request for financial support for the Society in the form of museum donations or cash or bequests. The world's great galleries and museums, schools hospitals and charities benefit in this way. At the AGM, a motion is to be put to authorise the investigation of the process whereby donations could be made tax deductible. Our members work very hard to maintain the museum and other aspects of the running of the Society but much more could be achieved from additional financial assistance.

Our cover features one of the most significant buildings in the Shire. Sadly, after 125 years it is in a poor state of repair. Whilst no story accompanies the image in this edition, I challenge our writers to produce an updated account of this interesting house for a future bulletin.

Christmas is still a long way away but it will be as well to note there will be a few changes to our schedule.

Last year we found that as we have the

Christmas party on our usual

meeting date, the third Saturday for the month of December that brought us too close to Christmas Day and around that time a number of people had family gatherings and could not come. Of course this has always been the case but it was particularly noticeable last year and we realised it's always been a factor in the smaller numbers who come to the party...often attendance at Christmas is a bit disappointing.

So this year we are holding our Christmas party on November 19th.

This will be a garden party at Nola Watt's home in Kirrawee and details are included elsewhere in this Bulletin.

So there will be no meeting in December and we will start 2012 with a meeting on our usual date, the third Saturday of January. This will be a Show & Tell session. Everyone is asked to bring their favourite historical item...a book, a plate, a piece of jewellery, anything...and tell us all about it.

Finally, annual membership is from 1st July to 30th June. Please ensure that you remain financial.

Perhaps consider giving a membership as a present.

Membership forms are included in the bulletin.

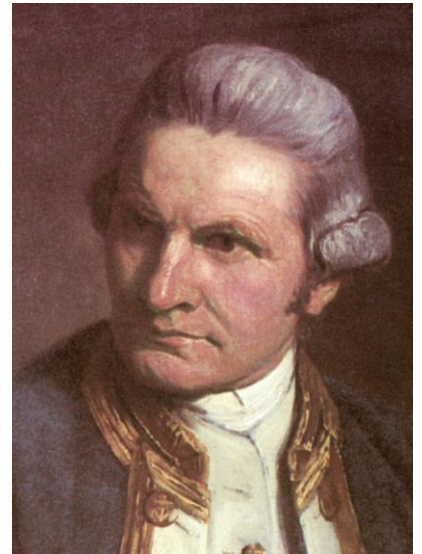
Bruce Watt



Sutherland Shire Historical Society

‘MINDFUL OF THE PAST; FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE.’

- *preserving the historical heritage of the Sutherland Shire for nearly 50 years.*
- *collecting and preserving, researching, recording and publishing aspects of our social and built heritage and developing and presenting educational materials through the museum and at heritage events.*
- *providing an educational and social context for members and guests and the wider public; monthly meetings, day trips to historical venues and the quarterly Bulletin.*



You can help too by

- **donating items or whole collections of significant local interest and provenance to our museum**
- **making a cash donation for our targeted projects**
- **remembering the Society when planning your estate.**

Donations and other bequests can be directed to:

**The Treasurer
Sutherland Shire Historical Society
PO Box 389
Sutherland NSW 1499
ph 9525 6441**

***HISTORY - AN EXCEPTIONAL GIFT
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS***

MEET THE EXECUTIVE



Maurice Beaven

My Father Walter Roy Beaven came from Yarramalong on the Central Coast of NSW. He worked on the Government Railways. My mother, Alice

Margaret came from Young, NSW and was working in Murrumburra where she met my father who had been transferred to Harden. My only sibling Marie Therese was born there in 1930; the family moved to Sydney early in 1933 to a rental house in Byer St Enfield.

22nd September 1933 was a very special day, two important events took place. Just a short distance from Byer st. is the local Henley Park, there is a plaque announcing the official opening of a new Olympic Swimming Pool, and my birth! How many people can boast their birth date is on a plaque in Enfield.

My father set up a great garden in the backyard with all sorts of vegetables. My favourite was the corn. One year it was so high there was no need to cook it, just eat it straight off the cob. Life was good. The garage was another favourite place. (we had no car) My best toy was a Laurel Kerosine tin box (kerosene was sold in a wooden box holding two 4 gallon square tins) it could be a horse and cart or whatever the imagination came up with.

In those days a lot of things were delivered by horse drawn carts, milk, bread, clothes props, rabbits and ice. From the local produce merchant, wood, coal and coke were delivered on a four wheel wagon drawn by two beautiful big white horses.

Christmas was a great time. One year I received a wonderful chain driven "Chrysler" pedal car, it had mud guards and a running board, I was the envy of a lot of local kids.

Not long after that World War 2 started. This changed our lives with food rationing, queues,

and charcoal burners on cars to help overcome the petrol shortage. We dug a deep hole in the backyard, built a timber cover which was covered with the excavated soil and clay and had an air raid shelter. Unfortunately after heavy rain the clay sides collapsed rendering it useless.

I started school in 1939 at Enfield PS where my sister attended. Part way through 1940 our mother transferred us to St Josephs, the local Catholic school, which we traveled to on the tram. About 3 weeks after starting at the new school, on the way home I jumped off the running board of the tram, slipped over on loose gravel and broke my wrist. I returned to Enfield PS and as I didn't enjoy my time at the convent. I thought it was worth the effort.

I gave up playing with the Kerosene tin box and started making things with the limited tools available. A Billy Cart, modified a few times but finished with ball bearing races on the front and cast iron on the rear, the "box" was hinged front and rear and sprung with coil springs in both places. It took many rolls of newspaper up to Leydons Butcher Shop and I was paid by weight.

The Movies "pictures" at the Savoy on Liverpool Road every Saturday afternoon was looked forward to. It cost sixpence to go in, a penny for an iceblock at interval, a penny left for a battered sav at Pandelises fish and chip shop on the way home.

I finished primary school in 1945, then to Croydon Park Junior Technical for three years, studying English, Maths, Social Studies, Science, Tech Drawing and Woodwork, I gained my Intermediate Certificate in 1948.

1949 I enrolled in a Carpentry and Joinery special Pre Apprenticeship course at Sydney Technical College at Ultimo. I started a 5 year apprenticeship in January 1950 with a building company, James Wallace and enrolled at Belmore Tech College completing the Lower Trade Course that year and the Higher Trade Course two years later.

In 1953 I had a year off Tech and did my National Service at Old Holsworthy Camp- 19th battalion D Company RAEME Corp. then 2 years in the CMF in a Light Aid Detachment attached to the 23rd Light Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery.

In 1954, I took up studies again at the University of Technology Sydney enrolling in a Building Foreman/Clerk of Works course which I completed in 1955.

I worked for the company I served my apprenticeship with, James Wallace for 13 years and was working as a supervisor when I left them.

After working for a number of builders for the next 5 years, I obtained a position with the Commonwealth Banks Property Department as a Clerk of Works, where I worked for the next 20 years. Then spent 5 years with the CB Officers Association and I retired from there in 1993.

I met my late wife in 1958 and we married in 1960, and we had three children, Michael in 1964, Suzanne, 1966 and Martin in 1967. I lost my wife in 2004 after a battle with Melanoma and my eldest son Michael in 2010 after a long battle with a brain tumour. I have 6 grand children.

Things I liked to do.

Going up to Yarramalong and Ravensdale, pre electricity days visiting grandparents and other relatives homes for holidays, rabbiting, spending time in the dairies, travelling to Wyong and back on the milk trucks. Spending time in the State Forest areas with the timber cutters, cutting down the trees with axes and hand crosscut saws. Dragging the logs down to the loading areas with bullock teams and loading them onto the timber jinker trucks which took them to the saw mills.

My maternal Grandmother lived on the outskirts of town in Young NSW and I really enjoyed the trip down in the steam train to visit gran. She had an old weatherboard house and no electricity.

The kitchen was an unlined timber framed structure with high walls and a corrugated iron roof. Originally separate from the main building with a walkway between, which was later covered in. An open fireplace and fuel stove with a large cast iron boiler on top provided hot water. Cooling for food was a Coolgardie safe and an in-ground cellar.

A ride in her neighbour's horse and sulky was always a treat, but we were not so sure about passing the Chinese market garden and seeing the men in the cone shaped hats.

Going camping with my family to Narooma or Tweed heads was a happy time. We all loved to camp and also trips away in the caravan with my wife and travelling to China and Bali with her.

I really enjoyed tripping around with the Land Rover Club included maintenance work on huts in the Kosciuszko National Park and tree planting in the Capertee Valley. I have also worked with the local Bush Care for the past 20 years.

Since retiring, tennis has been keeping me active. I play twice a week, and also walk my dog, Abigail every day.

Finally, my family history goes back a long way in Australia- I have at least nineteen convicts in my background, one of whom was 'Mary Wade' who was given the death sentence for a theft she committed at the age of ten. Fortunately the good 'Christian' king at the time commuted her sentence to transportation for life and as a result she came to Australia on the 'Lady Juliana' with the second fleet in 1789, arriving here age twelve. She had approximately 300 descendants when she died at the age of 83.

A generation which ignores history has no past and no future'.

Robert Heinlein, *The Notebooks of Lazurus Long* US science fiction author (1907 - 1988)

**Every Communist must grasp the truth: 'Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun'
Mao Tse-Tung , speech 1938**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Last year has been a year of steady growth for the Society, whereas the previous year had been punctuated by several major events such as the Chopin Bicentenary concert and our unforgettable book launch for Mary Small when we hosted around a hundred visitors and five tracker dogs at Stapleton Street, 2010/2011 was less dramatic and saw the increase in our numbers and work progressing on our Business Plan and Constitution. My own work has naturally increased over the months and I am greatly indebted to Elizabeth Craig who has taken on the role of assistant secretary. Elizabeth is an oral historian and her work takes her away at times but she is a wonderful support and her extensive knowledge is a great asset to the Society. And of course I am always grateful to Pauline Curby and Merle Kavanagh for their great knowledge of local history and archival material....so many queries are addressed to the secretary and my knowledge is limited. Our meetings are a bit like the ninth part of the iceberg! In three short hours we hasten through our business but a lot goes on unseen. Suddenly one is busy answering questions and dealing with matters and its then one appreciates help. Gloria Hans is always available – taking round the visitors book and keeping an eye on things, Thank you Gloria. And John Risebrow with his calligraphy skills is much appreciated, as each meeting our speaker is presented with immaculately printed certificates and we kept him busy at Heritage Lunch turning out name tags. Where would our gatherings be without Terry, Maurie, Bob and David fixing up the nuts and bolts...the microphone, desk, screen etc. And those lovely afternoon teas! Nola has the situation well under control and with the help of Mary, Beryl and Mavis everyone knows they are in for a treat. But please don't get the impression that we will not welcome any offers of help, any member who wishes to contribute their particular skill is most welcome, be it distributing material, assisting at the Museum or just contributing their ideas...only last meeting one member suggested a particularly interesting speaker she had just heard and I shall follow that up. So, ideas please!

Throughout the year we listened to some most excellent speakers, Beverley Earnshaw told us about the history of Carss Park and Lesley Muir kept us enthralled with Sydney's Garden Palace Scandal. We hosted the launch of Mary Small's book "Lenny's Ride" and listened with anticipation to details of Pauline Curby's forthcoming work on hangings in Sydney when she and Elizabeth Craig, who spoke on some of the interesting people she has interviewed, addressed us in March.

We are lucky to have members who like to share their interests,

Clive Baker gave a most informative talk about publishing, David Overett will shortly be telling us about the woman who started the Australian Woman's Cookbook, Daphne will be speaking about George Heavens and in July I told the meeting about the Cruise of the Ophir – so we have plenty of material to offer. Of course the highlight of our year has been the Heritage Festival event, taking place in April. Dawn Emerson, our past president, chairs this committee and all of us appreciate her guidance. This year the theme was 'Amazing Stories' and we decided, for maximum member participation to host a luncheon and highlight members reminiscences with a feature of "When I was Ten"...members should spontaneously recall their childhood and Elizabeth would record their stories for later production in a book. Pat Hannan gave us a memorable lunch, working with her excellent team she laid out an unforgettable buffet, ending with a choice of several desserts, and then as tongues were loosened, our team who recorded the stories went around the tables. We hope to produce this book in time for next year's Heritage Festival, and to give you a foretaste I include Marj Blackley's contribution in this Bulletin. We had the usual Show & Tell Christmas party and were lucky to have Janelle sing for us, Janelle is the daughter of the late Aileen Griffiths who was president for so many years. It's a privilege to be entertained by old friends and we hope to see her back again.

So we certainly kept ourselves entertained, and never more so than at Nola Watt's event in January when she invited us all to spend the day in her lovely garden. Items on display, books for sale, a short talk and best of all the company of friends under the canopy of trees

and amongst her collection of plants. We are most fortunate in our members. So no wonder our Treasurer, Anna, has been kept busy with those wanting to join. These last twelve months have been a pleasure and at every meeting I learn something more

and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members who have offered advice and opinions, all this helps so much to keep our society growing.

Angela Thomas, Honorary Secretary

'The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there'. L P Hartley

ANNUAL MUSEUM REPORT 2011

This year has been one of the busiest for outside exhibitions that I can remember, 7 in total, also visitor numbers continue to increase.

EVENTS

Australia Day 2011 – Cronulla Central Plaza
26th January

Once again this facility suited our exhibition of photos, DVD presentations and memorabilia, with local history books and table mats for sale. Plus our information/membership brochure handouts. We had lots of good comments and a total of 460 visitors an increase of 53 from the previous year.

Open Garden Day – Flora St. Kirrawee 15th January

Hosted by Mrs Nola Watt as a fundraiser for the Society. A modest photographic exhibition of general interest amongst a number of members memorabilia and collections in her lovely garden. A very nice afternoon tea was served while we enjoyed a talk by our Secretary, Angela Thomas, to end a wonderful day.

Heritage Festival 2nd-9th April at the Museum
Once again we had a mix up with bookings for the Memorial School of Arts so our exhibition was limited to one week, but on the bright side we did get very good exposure via the 2 stories on our Woronora Dam Exhibition in 2 editions of "The Leader" - our local paper, that helped give us a total of 457 visitors for the week.

Vintage Tram Festival 26th – 27th February
Loftus

Our exhibition over these 2 days was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sutherland to Cronulla steam tram lines opening; photos, maps and memorabilia were displayed. This event turned out to be the best

attended the tramways museum have ever had and we had great exposure as well. We estimate at least 8000 saw our exhibition and the tramways had a lot more than that number.
LGSA Tourism Conference 2011 11th March

Hosted by Sutherland Shire council – Engadine Community Centre

The Society was invited to mount a photographic exhibition the subject selected was 'early tourism of Sutherland Shire'. This was supported by a DVD presentation of "Surfing History of Cronulla" on a large screen TV, which were enjoyed by the 240 in attendance who came from all parts of NSW.

Special Exhibition "Forget Me Not Cottage"
9th April

Woronora Cemetery for Olsens, Sutherland. Model train and carriages of the type used at Woronora Cemetery in earlier times plus photos of early Shire tourism; a kind donation was made to the society for this.

Special Exhibition Jannali Public School 30th March

Photos and memorabilia of early Shire schools for teachers, parents, students night. This exhibition was enjoyed by all and went for 1-1/4 hours overtime.

Special Opening "Topp Tours"
Sydney 25th June

30 people enjoyed a visit to the Museum and Shire. A nice donation was given to the society.

Three Special Broadcasts on Society's activities and history of the shire during the year with popular announcer Brian Rose of our local 99.7fm station 2SSR (Sound of the Shire). Thank you all for your support.

Special Visit 25th May

Kogarah Historical Society executive members who inspected our museum then joined us for a discussion on progress and ideas for us both, a very enjoyable morning for all.

DONATIONS

- A number of photos, documents and memorabilia have been added to the Woronora Dam Exhibition/collections donated by many ex workers and their families. That is most appreciated.
- The Sutherland Shire Council has donated the Shire '2000 Olympic's Torch relay memorabilia which includes the ceremonial torch stand, Olympic torch, runners outfit and a variety of flags used on the runners route. A thank you letter has been sent to John Rayner, General Manager SSC.
- A number of smaller items including books that are too numerous to list. Thank you everyone.

Thank you to Helen MacDonald, local studies area Sutherland Library, who has given help and support over this busy time. Also the staff of Council's Planning & Events, the staff of Sutherland Entertainment Centre and the cleaning staff of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts.

To all the Museum Committee, Thank you for your dedication and assistance once again.

To our retiring President, Andrew Platfoot. A big thank you for guidance and support over the years that has helped ensure the success of this society and its museum. Good Luck in your new position.

Jim Cutbush, Curator.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with honour that I present my Treasurers Report to the Sutherland Shire Historical Society for the year 2010-2011.

During the year, the Society recorded a surplus of \$3193.90. However it is important to note, that this result was calculated after taking to account much appreciated Grant of \$2800 from the Sutherland Shire Council as a cost toward conducting Oral History Projects by our historians. Without inclusion of this grant, the Society operated at a profit of \$778.90.

We were also very grateful to have received from the Museum and Galleries the Grant of \$985 to purchase for our Museum, much needed Superlite Display.

We also greatly appreciate receiving from H.N.Olsen Funerals Pty. Ltd. ongoing sponsorship of \$500 per year for the next 4-5

years, to present a display at each Open Day at Woronora.

Our membership numbers are increasing. The number of new members joining the Society offset the members not renewing.

Our current rates of income and expenditure are relatively fixed.

Generous donations to our Museum offset our expense, which we incurred converting "Woronora Dam" prints and negatives into digital and CD.

The Balance Sheet remains strong with assets of \$28406.

I would like to thank our President, Secretary, the Committee and our Members for their continued support throughout the year.

**Anna Estephan
Hon. Treasurer**

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

P.O. Box 389,

Sutherland 2232

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT as at 30th JUNE 2011

INCOME

Member Subscriptions			\$1,892.60	
Donations			\$1,637.35	
Sales			\$717.00	
Excursions/outings/functions			\$3,003.00	
Grants/Subsidies			\$3,942.25	\$11,192.20
Interest received:				
CBA Cheque Account	\$0.20			
CBA-Term Deposit	\$544.71			
St. George - Term Deposit	\$287.83			
St. George - Term Deposit	\$52.07	\$884.81		
				\$12,077.01


EXPENDITURE

Museum Expenses			\$910.65	
Bank fees			\$2.70	
Excursions/functions			\$2,162.70	
Rent			\$525.00	
Donations			\$300.00	
Postage			\$666.85	
Printing & Stationery			\$331.15	
Licenses & Fees			\$434.00	
Insurance-Personal Acc/Public Liability			\$528.00	
Printing Table Mats			\$307.80	
Bulletin colour cover printing			\$214.50	
Website expenses			Nil	
General Expense			\$307.34	
Grants/Subsidies			\$1,526.75	
Depreciation			\$665.67	
				\$8,883.11
				\$3,193.90



A. Estephan.
Hon. Treasurer.

I Andrew Cory, certify that I have audited the above accounts and books and find they are a true and accurate position of the Society as at 30th June 2011.

 CPA

4/8/11.....

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 389, Sutherland 2232

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2011

ASSETS.

Commonwealth Bank – Cheque account

Statement balance	\$4,073.31	
Unrepresented Cheques	\$50.00	\$4,023.31

Commonwealth Bank – Term Deposit

St. George Bank – Term Deposit	\$9,623.12	
St. George Bank – Term Deposit	\$7,094.34	
St. George Bank – Term Deposit	\$7,000.00	\$23,717.46

Fixed Assets

Projector at cost	\$1,997.00	
Accum. Depreciation	\$1,331.33	\$665.67

Total Assets		<u>\$28,406.44</u>
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Equity.

Retained Earnings		\$25,212.54
Current Year Earnings	\$3,193.90	\$3,193.90

Balance as at 30th June 2011

\$28,406.44



A. Estephan
Hon. Treasurer

I Andrew Cory, certify that I have audited the above accounts and books, and find they are a true and accurate position of the Society as at 30th June 2011.

 CPA

4/8/11

‘Chop your own wood and it will warm you twice’

Henry Ford

‘Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children’. (Kenyan proverb)

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.
will be held on Saturday, 17th September, 2011 in the
Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland at 1.30 pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm and adopt Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 19th September, 2010
4. President's Report
5. Submission and adoption of the 44th Annual Report of the Executive Council
6. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for 2010-2011
7. Motions:
 - 7.1 That the revised Constitution of the Society be accepted
 - 7.2 That the Executive seek permission from members to authorise the investigation by the Society of the advisability and practicality of seeking legal status as a cultural organisation or gift recipient that would permit tax deductible gifts and donations to be made to the Society.
Furthermore this motion authorises the Executive to proceed in this way if it believes the reasonable costs and benefits are justified.
8. Election of Officers for 2011-2012
9. General Business: (pertaining to the AGM only)

On behalf of the Executive Council of
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.

Andrew Platfoot,
President

`Garden party and Xmas social event

Come to our last gala occasion for the year.

This is our Back to the Twenties Day and BBQ



Saturday 19th
November from
11 am at
54 Flora St,
Kirrawee

Get in the mood. Please come dressed in the period and let's have some fun!— prizes will be awarded for best dressed!

The BBQ is being provided gratis by the Society to thank its members and supporters and to usher in the festive season.

A donation box will be available and a plate of cakes is always welcome.

Members, husbands, wives, partners and friends are all welcome.

This is the last general meeting for the year. Music, photos and exhibitions of period items will add to the fun atmosphere.

To book, contact Pat Hannon on 9528 8294

Here are a few facts about the Shire, Australia and the world during the 1920s.

The Shire

The Great War (World War 1) had killed about 20 million soldiers and civilians. The Spanish flu which followed in 1919 killed up to 50 million world wide. In the Shire, depots were set up to inoculate residents and the old Ewey (Yowie) Bay hotel became an influenza hospital. Unemployment grew and public

works, mainly road building, were commissioned to provide employment.

The Shire's population grew slowly from about 6,500 to 11,000 over the decade, constricted by poor access. Piped town water was not available and electricity was not widely available. A telephone service had begun in 1924. The steam tram service continued to operate between Sutherland and Cronulla although motor buses were to put this service out of action by 1931. The opening of Tom Ugly's bridge in 1929 which replaced a punt, marked the beginning of easy access to the Shire.

A war memorial was built at Sutherland in 1920 from stone from the Holt Sutherland House which had burned down in 1918. Following a visit from His Royal Highness, Edward, Prince of Wales, the name 'Prince's Highway' began to be used.

Despite the widespread publicity when Phyllis Stroud was crowned Cronulla's Surf Queen in 1927, puritanical bathing standards remained. In 1929, Council passed a motion banning a new low backed female swimming costume. It continued to enforce a strict dress code of short trousers for men and kimonos for women.

Elsewhere

1920 The League of Nations (a forerunner of the United Nations) was formed. The US banned alcohol. Prohibition would lead to the gangster era (eg Al Capone). Crime and razor gangs led by Tilley Devine and Kate Leigh were to develop in Australia over the decade. A civil war broke out in Ireland and led to division into two countries. Insulin and the Lie Detector developed.

1921 Mussolini forms the Fascist Party in Italy, the BBC is formed and Qantas is established. Mahatma Gandhi begins a policy of non cooperation in India.

1922 Hyper (runaway) inflation hits Germany. The Mark becomes worthless as Germany prints money to pay for war debts. — prices were 1,247,000 times higher than in 1914. Adolf Hitler is gaoled for his part in an abortive coup and writes 'Mein Kampf' (his blueprint for political domination) from gaol. The Ku Klux Klan becomes active in the southern states of the USA. Tutankhamun's

tomb is discovered in Egypt by Howard Carter. First radio station opens in Australia.

1923 Lenin, the founder of Communism in Russia dies and is succeeded by Joseph Stalin. Compulsory voting begins in Australia.

1924 These are boom years in the US although the British economy shrinks. The 20s called the 'Jazz Age'. Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong, Josephine Baker and Al Jolson are popular artists. In fashion, Coco Chanel, Oxford Bags and hats for men and women became popular. Movies or Cinema are silent. The 25th million T Model Ford produced. Italy becomes a dictatorship.

.....

1925 General Strike in Britain. Television first demonstrated. Charles Lindbergh completes the first non stop solo trans Atlantic flight from New York to Paris.

1927 Charles Kingsford Smith completes the first trans-Pacific crossing between the USA and Australia. Walt Disney creates Mickey Mouse. British women over 21 are given the vote.

1928 Penicillin discovered. Germans built a giant airship, koalas openly killed for their pelts leading to near extinction, The Wall Street Crash ushers in The Great Depression.

Dating the Twenties Hemline



From 1913 the hemline had begun to show a little ankle.

Between 1916 and 1929 hemlines rose steadily, faltered then rose again.

In 1918 skirt lengths were just below calf length.

Calf length loose dresses circa 1918 compared with those of 1920 where the

waist has shown a definite drop, but the length remains steady around the calf area.

In 1919 skirt lengths were calf length.

Between 1920 and 1924 skirts remained calf length with fluctuations of an inch or two according to garment style. Skirts



were actually still rather long, but were designed to confuse.

The Elusive Hemline of the 1920s.

Gradually by degrees the skirt lengths on dresses gave the

illusion of being first long and then shorter with dipping, scalloped and handkerchief hemlines in floating fabrics. It was only in 1925 that skirts rose 14 to 16 inches (45 to 50 cm) from the ground making the shorter hemline we associate with the era.



1923-4, 1925, 1926

By 1926 skirts were at their shortest in the Twenties decade and showed the knee until 1928. The whole leg as far as the kneecap was revealed and this was the height of flapper fashion.

By 1929 uneven hems and asymmetric skirt hemlines again helped the transition to longer skirts. Longer sheer overskirts and semi sheer top skirts were worn over shorter linings. By 1930 the hemline was several inches below the knee.

The Masculine Silhouette of 1920's Females

After the First World War (1914-18) when women's dress became more mannish, each year seemed to get more severe in line which almost emphasised the feminine woman beneath. Female clothes became looser and more shapeless in fit. The bust was suppressed, the waist disappeared, the shoulders became broader and hair shorter and shorter. Narrow boyish hips were preferred. The silhouette emphasised a flattened chest and womanly curves were eliminated as the line became more simplified.

The Flat Chest of the Twenties

The slender flat-chested tanned body and face of a 15 year old became the desired silhouette of the bright young things of the 1920s. Health and beauty clubs helped women refine their silhouettes whilst getting fitter and healthier.

Short Hair

The 1920s saw a universal fashion for short hair. Hair was first bobbed, then shingled, then Eton cropped in 1926-7. Only maiden aunts and elderly dowagers avoided the severe shorter styles, but by the 1930s softer waved hairstyles were a refreshing change.

Sketches of the changes to the soft Bobbed hairstyle of 1922 to the severe Eton Crop of 1926. Hairstyles circa 1922, 1925, 1925, 1926



Cloche Hats

Women wore cloche hats throughout the twenties. They told everyone that you had short hair. It was only possible to get a close fitting cloche on the skull if the hair was cropped short and flat. The cloche hat affected body posture as it was pulled well over the eyes which meant young women held their heads at a specific angle in order to see where they were going. Foreheads were unfashionable in the 1920s.





tone shoes in white and tan, or white and black. Fringed tongues on Oxfords and brogues were seen frequently. Lace-up style shoes were most in demand.

Knickerbockers, later shortened to the popular term “knickers”, were popular casual wear for the well-dressed gentleman. Variations of knickers included plus-fours, plus- sixes, plus-eights and plus-tens. The “plus” in the term referred to how many inches below the knee they hung.

During this time the era of the baggy pants dawned. This fashion would influence mens wear for three decades. Oxford bags were first worn by Oxford undergraduates, eager to circumvent the University’s prohibition on knickers. The style originated when knickers were banned in the classroom. As the bags measured anywhere from twenty-two inches to forty inches around the bottoms, they could easily be slipped on over the forbidden knickers.

Men’s fashions of the 1920s

During this time, the sacque suit, which had become popular since the mid eighteen-hundreds, constituted appropriate “day” dress for gentlemen. (Edwardian etiquette commanded successive changes of clothing for gentlemen during the day.) With the suits, colored shirts of putty, peach, blue-gray and cedar were worn. Shaped silk ties in small geometric patterns or diagonal stripes were secured with tie pins. Black bowler hats completed the ensemble.

A tail coat was considered appropriate formal evening wear, accompanied by a top hat. Starched white shirts with pleated yokes were expected with the tail coat, although bow ties and shirts with white wing collars were also seen. Tuxedos were increasing in popularity but were not yet completely acceptable.

Black patent-leather shoes were very popular during this era and often appeared with formal evening wear. Casual clothing demanded two-

**‘Any fool can make history, but it takes a genius to write it.’
Oscar Wilde**

**‘The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page’
St Augustine**

LOFTUS HEIGHTS EASTER ENCAMPMENTS

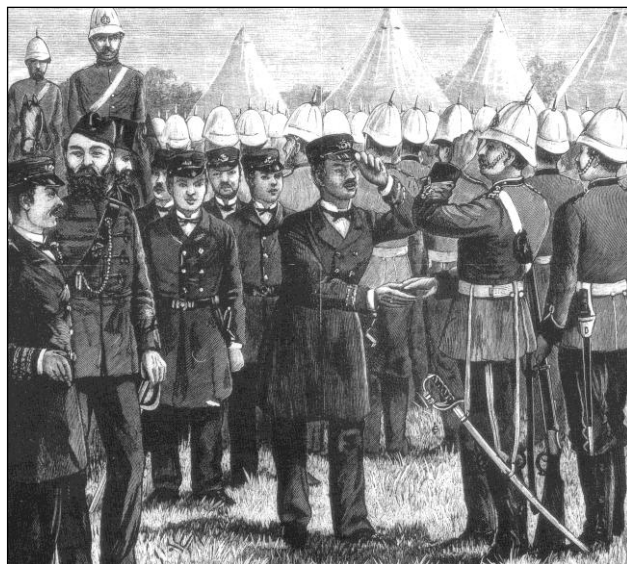
Clive Baker

Loftus military area was planned about the same time that the National Park was proclaimed and the Park's Deed of Grant gave the Trustees the power to allow the park to be used for a "...rifle butt or artillery ...[and]... exercise or encampment of military or naval forces.ⁱ

The army took up the area between today's Princes Highway and the escarpment above Audley and extended north-south from near today's Kirrawee residential area to Engadine railway station. Other areas within National Park and parts of Heathcote were also used as alternative training locations and for a firing range.

Clearing of the land began in 1883, with much of the work carried out by the NSW Government's 'Casual Labour Board', resulting in the level land beside Farnell Avenue being almost bare of foliage.

The first camp was organised for 26 April 1886 and coincided with the opening of the park station (now National Park tram stop). It was a big occasion with about 3,000 troops attending from all over the state; infantry soldiers, mounted cavalry and gunners from the artillery – some travelling from as far away as Wagga, Mudgee, Wellington and Molong. Among the guests were Japanese naval officers who met the Governor of NSW and one report says that returned soldiers from the Sudan were also present.



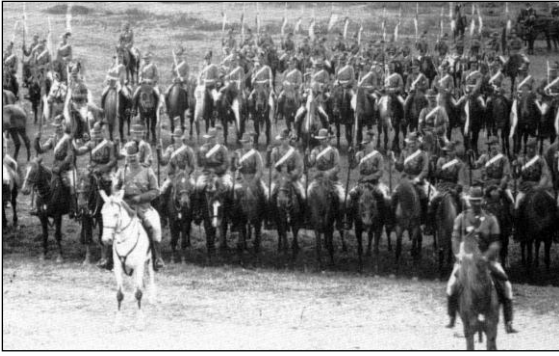
Japanese naval officers from visiting ships are greeted at the Easter 'Review of the Brigade' at Loftus Heights, 26 April 1886.

Following the success of the day, the NSW government permitted annual training camps to be conducted in the area until 1891 when finance became a problem and, for about six years, they stopped before recommencing in 1897.

The 1890 annual camp at Loftus saw men of the Richmond River Light Horse (E-Troop) journeying south to play their part. Before leaving, they were inspected on parade and the townspeople:

...asked the men to partake of some refreshments before starting. The men accepted and drank a toast to the residents. At the request of Mrs Mobbs, they 'wet the other eye' and drank her very good health ... by the time they had reached the Coraki Hotel [south of Lismore], they were thirsty enough to accept the invitation of Mrs Nolan to partake of some more refreshment and finally ventured on their way ... it was something to say for the mounted arm ...[that they]... showed in earnest that the troops possessed the right morale.ⁱⁱ

'An army marches on its stomach'
Napoleon



Men of E-Troop RRLH, on parade at Casino, 1892.

They needed a drink or two as these very keen volunteers had to ride their horses through floodwater, “often up to the saddle flaps and sometimes up to their knee pads” and then swim a flooded river. They arrived at Loftus on 11 April:

Hundreds of visitors from Sydney visited the camp for the review of the forces by Lord

Carrington. After the review the Governor and his party were entertained to lunch by the officers and during his toast to the ‘ministers of the New South Wales Parliament’ General Richardson said he hoped to satisfy the government that the money it provided was [being] appropriately expended to develop the forces.

Because of their stalwart resolve to attend the camp, the E-Troop men were given the honour of escorting the governor and as he left on his train, “Captain Fanning and the men of the Richmond River Light Horse, formed up beside the line and cheered the vice-regal train from the station.”ⁱⁱⁱ

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Clive Baker is keen to contact anyone who can assist with the military history of the Shire between the 1800s and today – including those who were Shire schoolchildren in WW2.
9521-6515.

‘There are no atheists in the foxholes’ William Thomas Cummings, sermon 1942

Bus trip of the 29th July

Angela Thomas

On Friday 29th members enjoyed another interesting day out organised by Terry. We are so lucky to have access to the community bus and even luckier to have our own driver and guide. Terry has a host of stories to tell, he knows all the back streets and always opts for the ‘off the beaten track’ highways and byways. At the very start of our journey, after we’d briefly paused to pick up John from Waterfall and then Doug and Joan at Heathcote, he detoured to the back of Engadine and showed us the very first house in that area belonging originally to the McAllister family. Well, many of us have lived in the Shire for years and years without being aware of its existence. The weather was magnificent and as we made our way along the coast we had a birds eye view of all the coastal beauty spots finally arriving at Woonona at

10.30 when we were expected at Janet’s Royalty Rooms.

You might mistake The Royalty Rooms as an average suburban home but you would be so wrong! Charles and Camilla are seated on the verandah ready to greet you and life size beefeaters guard the flower beds. We heard that Prince Charles had in fact planted one of the trees a number of years ago.

You were in regal company.

Janet quickly pointed out that she was married to Philip...well between them they certainly made us, and another community bus of shire residents, very welcome with a sumptuous morning tea with fruit cake and butterfly cakes in abundance.

Whilst half the visitors enjoyed a tour of the museum with Janet, the other half stayed with Philip and watched video clips from media appearances of the Royalty Rooms...segments by Burkes Backyard, A Current Affair.

ABC Collectors, the Today Show and the BBC kept us enthralled. Certainly her collection is unique, the biggest in Australia, possibly the world. All started when her mother gave her a coronation mug as a child and now she has 57,000 items and told us she dusts 3 shelves a day to keep the exhibits in their pristine

condition. A true collector and of course that rang a bell with a number of our own group who are a bit that way inclined themselves. There is a Camilla Room, a Diana Room and several other speciality spots but the main large room filled with glass and china memorabilia is quite beautiful in its own right, apart from the royal connections there were some lovely pieces of porcelain and silver though Janet expressed regret that the quality of the items she collected years ago had declined in latter years. Around the dining table sat the royal family, lifesize and memorable...and every available surface was covered with royal knick-knacks. If you ventured out to the toilet then you were seated on a real throne with a discreetly concealed 'royal flush' at the rear. I think that was the most endearing feature of the Royalty Rooms, with all their huge enthusiasm which must have driven them ahead over the years, Janet and Philip had a delightful 'tongue in cheek' approach whereby a single

minded determination to collect, collect and collect was tempered by a most endearing sense of fun and not taking themselves too seriously. So all voted the visit a resounding success and we can be sure over the years Janet's Royalty Rooms will be set to collect even more treasures.

Then we headed off to the Bulli Workers Club for lunch, a very sociable event with a couple of long tables and plenty of chatter throughout the meal.

Finally it was back on the bus for the trip home, once again meandering off the highway and having a look around.

Thank you Terry for yet another memorable day out and thank you Pat for all the organising you did. A great day out, relaxing, not too far away and whether you are a Royalist or a Republican the scope of the exhibition could only amaze and enthuse.

**'The past does not repeat itself, but it rhymes'.
Mark Twain**

'Imagination is more important than knowledge' Albert Einstein

A SOLDIER OF THIS SHIRE

**PRIVATE GEORGE
TARLINGTON
1914-2004**

Clive Baker

George was a resident of Cronulla after World War Two and the story of eventful early life falls into two different and dramatic parts:

Murder in Newtown

Born in the inner suburbs of Sydney, George soon found himself in minor trouble with the law and then, to escape a violent father, he began living on the streets. At one stage in 1924, he was sleeping behind a block of letterboxes on Central Station and using the 'men's' for washing and toilet facilities.

After a while he was sent to training schools for wayward boys and it was there that he straightened out his life and had his self-confidence boosted by some good men who took him under their wing..



*Darley Street, St
Peters where the
shooting occurred,
1938.*

Meanwhile his older brother Harold had fallen into bad company and one night at a party in St Peters, events took a turn for the worse. A man stole a woman's hand bag and Harold confronted the thief as George recalled:

"Well," demanded Harold, "Have you got Jean's bag?" The man removed his hand from his pocket and it was then I saw he was holding a handgun which he waved at Harold and myself, striking fear into me. There was silence as Harold and I both froze and then Harold, looking straight at the gun said "Boloney". A shot rang out and Harold staggered and fell.

The gun was then pointed at me, "Do you want it too?" I looked into this man's face and was terrified by what I saw. His eyes shone with a maniacal light which defies description and his face was contorted with loathing. I was petrified. He smiled then, enjoying my fear. Slowly I backed away and then turned and ran, expecting at any moment to feel the thud of a bullet in my back.^{iv}

Harold died later in hospital but amazingly the gunman was found not guilty which George, who had identified the man, never could accept.

SHOOTING IN HOUSE: VICTIM IN HOSPITAL

Harold Tarlington, 37, of Henderson Road, Alexandria, was shot last night at a house in Darley Street, St. Peters.

Newtown police received a call from a woman, and Sergeant Frost went to a house in Darley Street.

The interior of the house was in confusion.

There were bloodstains on the floor and tables, and a quantity of broken glass from vases and bottles had been littered about the floor.

Meanwhile, ambulance officers had found a man wounded at the corner of John and Darley Streets.

He was taken to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

A bullet had entered his thigh, and possibly his stomach.

The Western Wireless Patrol, under Detective-Sergeant Askeil, were still investigating late last night.

In the years following that drama, George married and was settling into a normal family life in the suburbs when World War Two broke out.

Shot at Kokoda

George enlisted and was sent to Syria where the fighting had already finished and it was a garrison situation for his unit. About then, Japan entered the war and his 2/2 Infantry Battalion was sent home to fight in New Guinea.

By October he was on the Kokoda Trail and finally saw his first action. The troops were 2,000 metres up in the ranges, cold and wet and an attack was about to begin:

... it was natural, though looking back, somewhat melodramatic, that we should seek each other [his mates] out, shake hands and wish each other luck – with a nagging feeling that we might not see each other again.^v



George in uniform, 1941.

He survived that encounter and a few weeks later was facing a Japanese position on a hill near Kokoda. George was a Bren gunner and firing at the enemy:

The machine-gun fire was intense ... bullets were whistling overhead as I tried to find cover. Then, while lying on my stomach, still firing the Bren gun, I felt an impact on my back. It was like being struck with a hammer ... I cannot recall my immediate reaction but apparently, regained my feet and stumbled back and fell....^{vi}

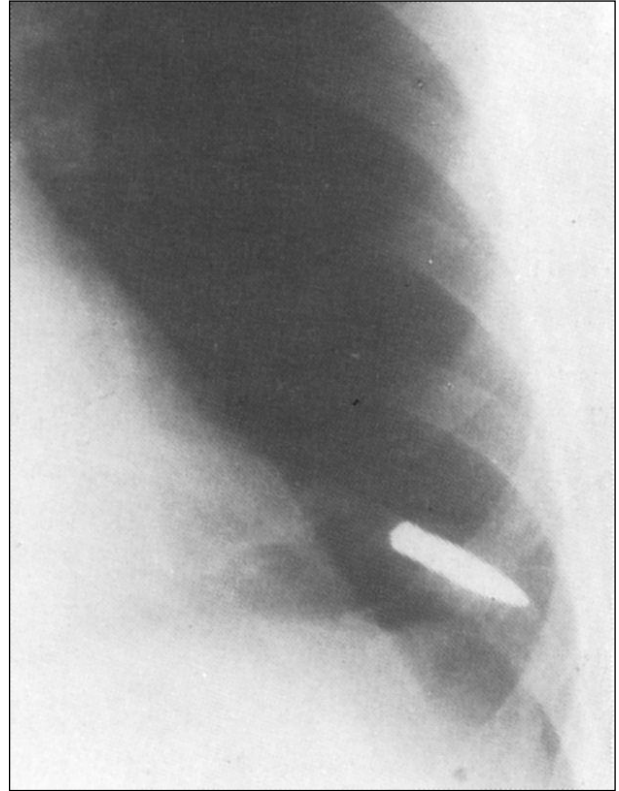
George got back to a safe area, was treated for the bleeding and as there was no 'exit' wound it meant the bullet was still in his chest. Because of a shortage of carriers, George joined the walking wounded and set off on foot to Kokoda airstrip, which was twelve kilometres away. He wrote later, "As you can imagine, our progress was slow, and as far as I was concerned, painful and with frequent coughing fits".

He had to wait a couple of days for flying conditions to improve and finally Dakota transport aircraft were able to land.

By the time he reached hospital in Australia, the bullet hole was healing and a specialist advised him to not accept an

operation as the missile was near his heart and he seemed little discomforted by it. He spent the rest of the war in a base unit and was discharged in 1945.

He went back to civilian life and for the next fifty years caused concern whenever he was X-rayed or went through a metal detector.



Then, in 1998, he required a heart operation for other reasons and at the same time, the bullet was extracted.

The surgeon's report is worth noting:

The bullet was readily found in the edge of the lateral aspect of the lower lobe with some overlying adhesions. It was quite interesting because there were several bits of almost certainly material [uniform fabric] that, encased in fibrous tissue, were freely floating around the pleural cavity. I presume these were bits of material brought in by the gunshot.^{vii}

George received some publicity in the *Leader* following this find and revelled in the attention.

He lived another five years and was in good health for most of his life.

The great irony is, that he was almost certainly shot by one of his own unit members, as the bullet they extracted appeared to be a .303 Australian calibre. In addition, he was shot in the back – while facing the enemy!

George was a lovely man who survived two shooting incidents and it was a pleasure to have know him.¹

CARRICK Judith *European History of RNP*. www.royalnationalpark.info/index.

¹ BUCKLEY Martin. *NSW Northern River Lancers*. Self Published. Lismore. 1991. pp 18-9.

¹ BUCKLEY. p 19.

¹ Tarlington George. *Street Kid*. p 95-6. AMHP. Loftus. 2001.

¹ Tarlington George. *Shifting Sands and Savage Jungle*. p 76. AMHP. Loftus. 1994.

¹ *Ibid*. p 84.

¹ *Ibid*. p 114.

Wolfe Seymour Fairbridge

David Overett

While there are many incredible people who have made their mark here in our local community it is sometimes the lesser known ones who are overlooked

Wolfe Seymour Fairbridge was a scientist and poet, who worked for the CSIRO at Cronulla. Born in 1918 in Cottesloe, a beach suburb of Perth, Wolfe was taken to England as a child and was educated at Christ's Hospital, a Bluecoat School. Returning to Western Australia he graduated from the University of Western Australia with a science degree later specialising in marine biology.

His father, Kingsley was a famous South African, Rhodes Scholar, poet and founder of the Fairbridge Farm Schools who left South Africa for Australia in 1912. His mother, Barbara who had accompanied her son to England wrote a book while there about the history of the Fairbridge Farm Scheme. This was published by Oxford University press who apparently took ten years to persuade her to write it. The cover design to this book was drawn by Wolfe's elder brother, Rhodes.

With his job at Cronulla, Wolfe built a home for his wife and himself in Yathong Road, Caringbah where he would hold Sunday gatherings with friends for poetry readings with a glass or two of wine. Unfortunately too soon after its completion

Wolfe contracted poliomyelitis and passed away on May 2, 1950. The home at Caringbah was recorded in one of his poems, *Consecration of the House*. This poem was one of two later to be included in *The Penguin Book of Australian Verse*, 1958. And I have included the opening stanza here:-

House you are done. . .
And now before
The high contracting parties take
Final possession, let us stand
Silent for this occasion at the door,
Who here a lifelong compact make:
That you were not for trading planned,
Since barter wears the object poor,
But are henceforth our living stake
- And hereunto we set our hand.
Be over us, be strong, be sure.

Wolfe's poetry was very contemporary and could often reveal his scientific mind in its imagery. It is felt that his poetry would have further developed if he had lived beyond the very young age of thirty two.

Besides his writing and his work, Wolfe was also an artist and sportsman and as with his other pursuits performed brilliantly in these fields as well.

The Penguin Book of Australian Verse,
Penguin Books Ltd., 1958.

The Penguin Book of Modern Australian Verse, ed. John Thompson, Kenneth Slessor and R. G. Howarth, Penguin Books Ltd., 1961.

COASTAL **SHIPWRECKS** **Off Sutherland Shire** **1840 -1869**

Merle Kavanagh

1847 Industry

On 7th December 1842 the *Industry*, a small cutter, left Port Jackson for Port Aiken (now Port Hacking) carrying a cargo of sundries. Off Port Aiken on 15th December she missed stays and having shipped 2 or 3 heavy seas, she sank within minutes. The crew, however, were able to launch the lifeboat and reach land safely.

1847 Flying Fox

A cutter of 14 tons (c.15 tonnes) bound for Shoalhaven 17 February 1847, hove to in a squall off Botany Bay, struck a reef and was lost. All members of the crew were saved.

1847 Maid of Cashmere

The Schooner *Maid of Cashmere*, under Captain Ellis, left Launceston on 11th September 1847 carrying 4000 bushels (c.145.5 kilolitres) of wheat, 1250 bags of flour, 100 bushels (c.36.5 kilolitres) and ten passengers. The ship was bound for Sydney and experienced very bad weather with adverse winds. On Saturday night 18th September a southerly breeze was blowing but it became very squally in the early morning. Captain Ellis came on deck about 4.30 a.m. and noticed that the 2nd mate who was on watch had steered the ship too close to land. He had hardly given the order to turn away from the shore than a sudden squall struck the ship and forced it onto a reef. Everyone on board was instantly aroused, the passengers working the pumps and the crew getting the boats ready. Quickly they climbed into the boats and reached the shore safely.

At first light Captain Ellis tried to board the ship to save what they could, but the heavy surf prevented any attempt. With his crew, the Captain watched the ship as it was pounded by the raging sea, saying they would see the last of her.

There were no cabin passengers, but the passengers who had sailed in her actually

walked into Sydney from where they had landed

– a little to the south of Port Aiken. The ship

was owned by Captain Gilmore of the steamer

Shamrock and Messrs. Reid and Thompson of

Launceston. The *Maid of Cashmere* was also carrying mail for New Zealand, Hong Kong, Calcutta, Madras, Ceylon, London via India overland, London direct from Sydney and Sydney.

The ship became a total wreck on the reef, which had not been shown on the chart though it extended a mile and a half or two miles (c. 2.6 – 3.2 kms.) from the shore.

It was reported that Messrs. Lord and Rowley of Botany and local fishermen had hastened to the area of the disaster and rendered assistance to Captain Ellis and the shipwreck survivors.

By Wednesday 22nd very little had been saved from the ship. 61 bags of flour and a few loose letters had been washed onto the shore and the schooner *Dolphin* picked up a box containing a number of letters off Shell Harbour (sic.) and handed these to Sydney Post Office. The mate and some crew remained at the site to watch over the flour and recover anything else that might float in.

On Saturday 25th the anchors, cables, sails, tackling, boats, spars, stores and whatever could be recovered from the reef was put up for public auction by Mr. Mort and bought by Messrs. Northwood and Buckland for £75.10s (c.\$150). However this did not appear to be the bargain it seemed as the Sydney Morning Herald reported on Saturday 2nd October that ‘some parties residing in the neighbourhood’ had stolen most of the beams and the keelson (variant spelling of ‘keelson’ which is a structure running the length of a ship, that fastens the timbers or plates of the floor to the keel). A quantity of flour had also been stolen but

was recovered and placed above high water mark on Coronalla (sic.) Beach. Other pieces of wreckage were seen along the coast for a distance of 100 miles to the south. The cargo of the *Maid of Cashmere* was insured in Van Diemen's Land for £1400 (\$2800).

1852 Black Duck, Wild Wave & Pioneer

The first two were ketches and the last a steamer. The Australian Encyclopaedia records that these small vessels were lost near Cronulla.

1852 Venus

This schooner was originally built c.1848 by Mr. Venn expressly for the wool and copper trade and was put up for sale on Saturday 14th February 1852. On Wednesday 24th March 1852 an advertisement advised that she would guarantee to land her passengers within 11 miles (almost 18 km.) of the (gold) diggings and that she would depart on or before Friday 26th March 1852. Interested persons were advised to apply to the Master on board, at the Union Wharf.

Three months later on Saturday 26th June, it was reported that the *Venus* would sail from Sydney for Morpeth, calling at Newcastle and Raymond Terrace on Monday 29th June, weather permitting. However, fate would step in and completely alter her schedule. She left Shoalhaven on 22nd June but would never arrive in Sydney. There was a tremendous gale on the voyage north and the *Venus* was driven ashore onto Cooranulla (sic.) Beach between Port Hacking and Botany Bay and all on board perished. It was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald that Inspector M'Cook, some constables and the Revenue Officer at Botany went to the scene of the wreck and found the vessel imbedded in the sand. They also noted that the whole of the cargo had been stolen by local persons and it was hoped they would be brought to justice. The wreck was discovered on Wednesday 23rd June but the Police were not advised until Saturday 26th, which left the cargo unprotected.

Two bodies had been washed ashore and lay there for three days, mutilated by native

dogs, then later moved to Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany for an Inquest. This was held at the Hotel and they were found to have been passengers on the *Venus* from Wollongong to Sydney. Both bodies had been found by Henry West, a resident of the area. The name of the female was unknown and the male was identified as Reuben Warner. The Jury under the Coroner's direction gave a verdict of 'found drowned'. A portion of the female's clothing was left at the Sydney Central Police Office in hopes that someone could recognize it and give a name to the female. She was supposed to have been a housekeeper to a gentleman in Wollongong.

1861 Cambrian Packet

This vessel, described as both a ketch weighing 35 tons (c.36 tonnes) and a schooner of 21 tons (c. 21 tonnes) was owned by Mr. Gasking. On Thursday 20th June 1861 it sailed through Sydney Heads at 2 p.m. with all sail set, bound for Bellambi on the south coast. At 4 p.m. she was off Port Aiken when a sudden S.W. squall struck her, throwing the ship on her beam ends. The ballast moved, the ship turned over and sank within ten minutes, taking with her a seaman, Frederick Pile, who had married a few months previously. The Master, Edward Jones and a seaman named Dalton clung to a plank and one of the hatches which kept them afloat until they were rescued an hour later by the ketch *Absolom*, heading south from Sydney to Moruya. They were extremely grateful to the Master of the *Absolom* for saving their lives.

1867 Albion

This schooner of 170 tons (c.173 tonnes), owned by Mr. J. Shoober, left Bulli at 5 a.m. on Thursday 28th March 1867 with a load of coal, heading north. There was a light southeasterly blowing on departure which continued intermittently with calm weather until Saturday afternoon 30th March when it became squally from the south with rain and 'dark dirty weather'. About 9 p.m. the Master, William Watkins, stood the ship off from the coast, trying to see the Sydney light and when he was unable to do so he ventured closer in. It was really too dark to

identify anything and as he moved his ship towards land it struck the reef near the south head of Port Hacking* at 10.30 p.m. As she began to break up, going stern first, the crew, hoping to stay with her as long as they could, gathered on the bowsprit until 11 p.m. when the bows parted and they were thrown into the water. Thomas Williams, Samuel Waters and a man named Jack, clung on to a piece of the bulwarks (an extension of the ship's side, above deck). They drifted out to sea and by 7 a.m. the tide had sent them inshore again. Jack had died from exhaustion during the night but

Thomas and Samuel survived. Those lost besides Jack were the Master (William Watkins), Charles Nelson, Charles Morgan and Christopher, (a Swede). They were all single men except the Master who had a family living at Millers Point.

* No longer known as Aiken.

Ref. Loney, Jack 'Wrecks on the New South Wales Coast', Oceans Enterprises, Yarram Vic. 1993.

Sydney Morning Herald, various issues 1842-1867.

www.nla.trove (newspapers)

'History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it' Winston Churchill



When I was ten

Pauline Curby

I turned ten in May 1959 during the school

holidays. We were having our annual fortnight at Evans Head – bliss for us kids and a rest from heavy farm work for Dad. For Mum it was an organisational feat.

We lived on a farm 5km from the small northern rivers town of Coraki, only a 40-minute drive from 'the beach'. Although in summer we went there most Sundays after Mass, to stay at Evans Head and not have to go home mid-afternoon to help milk the cows was a joy. At a time when many farmers never had a holiday, Mum was the organiser of this great adventure, not an easy task with eight kids and only one car. Dad used to say, 'Mum will work it out', and she did.

We were all kitted out for the holiday. Although it wasn't particularly cold we had new jumpers courtesy of Dad's brother who bought these practical presents each year when he had his holidays in Sydney, taking in the Royal Easter Show and the yearling sales. In our family money was tight: there weren't many trips to Sydney. But Mum organised whatever we needed for our trip to Evans Head, including that year a pair of smart new black shoes for 13-year-old Dorothy.

Every year Mum booked us into the CWA flats, a weatherboard semi-detached building, with a latticed concrete space below and two flats upstairs. It was a bit dilapidated, even for Evans Head, but to us it was heaven. You could hear the surf from the CWA flats. We loved the fact that there was no other building between us and the beach, just the road and a reserve. Dad and all of us kids swam every day, no matter what the weather was like. Mum sat on the beach. She could swim, having learnt in the river at Coraki, 'surfing' the wash from the riverboats, but after all those pregnancies she thought she wasn't slim enough for swimmers.

One of the first things we did after we settled into the CWA flats was to visit the small lending library in a back lane behind the main street. This was a private venture as country councils seldom provided libraries in those days. You paid to join and there was a small fee for each book borrowed. It was a ritual for us to troop in there on our first day. I liked to see if I could appropriate the latest Enid Blyton, while Mum and the older girls went for Agatha Christie. Dad liked Frank Clune and Ion Idriess and my little sisters grabbed the picture books. As my younger brother Owen was not a keen reader, despite my parents' efforts to encourage him, he was sometimes allowed to borrow a comic so he would read something.

That year it seemed it would be the usual happy holiday – reading, a surf in the morning, a drive and an ice cream in the afternoon; Dad having a beer at the Illawong Hotel before tea and washing up afterwards to give Mum a rest. Then one quiet afternoon when some of us were at a loose end, disaster struck.

I was giving Enid Blyton a rest and Dorothy, Owen and I were playing in the sand over the road from the CWA flats. Just for fun we decided to bury Dorothy's new shoes. Unfortunately we failed to mark the spot and when Dorothy decided she wanted to go home we couldn't find her shoes.

Panic set in and we dug and dug. It wasn't long before Mum was informed of our crime. She was furious and declared Owen and I would stay there until we found them. After much shifting and sifting of sand we unearthed one but as night fell, the other remained elusive. Retribution was swift. As Mum wasn't much into physical punishment it was decided our pocket money would be

docked. This was bad news for kids who were paid only five shillings a week. We had heavy financial commitments: cracker night on 24 May was fast approaching and we had a long-term savings plan for the Lismore Show in October. I argued that as we had found one shoe we should be docked only half the value of the shoes. This reasonable claim was met with a stony rebuff: Mum was immovable. I don't remember what Dad said: he would have left it to Mum.

It's funny but I can't remember if our pocket money was docked. I know the 'disaster' had little impact on Dorothy as, when I asked her recently she didn't even remember the incident. I don't think she liked those shoes in the first place. Now whenever we're at Evans Head and we're heading to the surf I always look at that patch of land opposite the CWA flats and wonder if there is still a smart black shoe buried there.

MAL DE MER (SEA SICKNESS)

Jim Cutbush **source, family history**

My father, Bill Cutbush, and his brother Neville owned a licenced fishing boat that took parties of 4 persons ocean fishing from Port Hacking on Saturdays and Sundays with some occasional public holidays included. This started in 1939 and finished in 1960, a continuous service with the exception of the 2nd World War period when all boats in Port Hacking were confiscated and taken to Audley in the Royal National Park for storage under guard until wars end. This was repeated all around Australia's coastline for home security reasons due to the risk of invasion.

Theirs was a successful business thanks to local knowledge and uncanny weather predictions, the only unpredictable concern for them was having one or more members of a fishing party getting seasick (motion sickness) known to mariners around the world

by its French name 'mal de mer' since the late 16th century. This problem was always mentioned to each new member of a fishing party and they were told if this happened to anyone at sea the boat wouldn't come back to port unless all members of a group agreed to return. This problem has been with us since we ventured anywhere on water, land or into the air, not forgetting the many amusement rides that abound. Medically we are told its to do with our middle ear, some of our greatest mariners suffered with it each time they put to sea including Lord Nelson.

From 10 years of age I was allowed on occasions to meet my father on Saturday afternoons to help clean the boat after the party had disembarked and I must say I witnessed many men (large and small) kiss the wharf, they were so glad to be back, their faces the colour of weathered timber. Strange as it may sound most, if not all, came back again, such was their love of fishing and I

don't know of anyone dying from this although some will tell you they were sure it was close.

The men who made up these fishing parties came from all walks of life including wharf labourers, judges, mechanics, doctors, etc., which made for some wonderful conversations and lifelong friendships.

During one of these conversations in 1951 Bill and Neville were asked by a research pharmacist if they would take part in tests that might help prevent motion sickness. This was agreed to and so from late 1951 to early 1954 field testing was carried out on volunteer members of their fishing parties, they became guinea pigs by taking one round yellow tablet approximately half an hour before going to sea. What they didn't know was Bill and Neville were given two bottles – brown and a clear bottle, one contained medicated tablets, the other sugar tablets, both yellow in colour.

They recorded on cards who had what tablet and the results by days end.

This information was passed on and over time the formula changed which resulted in a pill called 'Andromine' being released. This wasn't the complete answer to the problem but did help a great many people suffering with motion sickness. Of course today in 2011 we have advanced with the use of skin patches and wristbands (both medicated) that are even more effective over a longer period.

Thanks must go to the fishing party guinea pigs of Port Hacking and many other people who did similar testing on sea, land and air to help ease this problem that still haunts us today.

'It is better to live rich than to die rich' Samuel Johnson

WHEN I WAS TEN.....

Marjorie Blackley



I can recall when I was ten years old. I was in fifth class at school and was surprised when I got home one afternoon to be told that my Mother and I would be going to Rockhampton at the week-end for a month.

My Mother had arranged for a housekeeper to come in and look after my father and Mr Bragget (our boarder) while she recuperated from an operation in sunny Rockhampton with relatives.

I have some good memories of this trip – to go by ship was a real adventure and in Rocky we went to stay with my Uncle and Aunt on their farm in Wycarba. It was a dairy farm and I thought it wonderful.

I fed poddy calves and my Uncle saddled an old mare called Ruby to give me riding lessons. In no time I felt I was a proficient horsewoman and was allowed to ride Ruby to a neighboring farm to visit – my Mother went with my Aunt Louie in the sulky. Ruby spent the day in an enclosure and was saddled for

me as we set out for home. Now Ruby had this habit of puffing herself up when they went to tighten the girth. So when I was hoisted into the saddle she decided that home in a hurry – after being in a stockyard all day – was what suited her – so off we went at a canter. We hadn't gone a few yards before the saddle slipped to Ruby's side with me clinging desperately to it. I can still hear Mrs Inglehart screaming out "WHOA RUBY" quite ineffectually as Ruby's whole being centered on getting home to eat. I remember falling to the ground and my Mother rushing up in tears for fear of having lost her one and only. One day my cousin Ted drove us to the local hospital to visit a friend. We were in the sulky – Ruby's foal Bangle was in the shafts and we went along the dirt road at a merry rate. We came to one spot and my cousin said "Come and I'll show you something Marjorie" and we walked into the bush together when we came to a certain spot he said "Now look up" and there in the trees was a snow white koala. I suppose I was becoming a bit of a nuisance so it was suggested I go to the local school. I don't remember how I got there but two things I do remember learning. One was to spell *Ornithorinchus* – platypus being far too simple – and the other item was twelve times table.

We had to stand on the stool each morning and hit our buttocks (another new word) and recite twelve times table. I still am good at twelve times table. The children attending this school were nearly all kanakas – children of the labourers brought from the islands to harvest the cotton fields. They had lovely black curly hair. It felt like wire.

Time has slipped by and I lost touch with my wonderful country cousins and was surprised when I received a cutting from a Rockhampton newspaper with a picture of my cousin Ted. He had passed away at 103 years and had held the longest serving driving licence in Queensland. I know he still had his licence at 100. He drove a bus for 30 years – all manuals.

So ten becomes 90 odd and that is a lifetime .

What is this object?

What was it used for?



The last object was a mousetrap. It had four holes around the edges that mice could put their heads in to nibble a bait. Around the top it read ‘the four in one mousetrap traps the whole family’

‘If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon or make a better mousetrap than his neighbour, though he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door’

Ralf Waldo Emerson’

Crossing the Georges River

Greg Jackson and Pam Forbes

In the last bulletin we used survey SR5276¹ to trace Mitchell’s road from the Cooks River Dam to the Georges River, the second river the road had to cross on its way to the Illawarra. So far all traces of the original road have been obliterated by progress. On the banks of the Georges River however we can get a glimpse of the original road.

The Albert Delardes Reserve is a small reserve fronting the Georges River in Griffin Parade, Illawong. Without monuments or obvious ruins it nevertheless contains some of the oldest European history in the Sutherland Shire. History records cattle being driven across this narrowest crossing of the Georges River south to the Illawarra². West of the reserve is the landing for the Lugarno ferry that operated at this site from 1887 till 1974. What is not so well known is that there was an older ferry crossing and its scant remains can be found both on the northern side of the river and in Delardes Reserve along with part of the last convict built road in NSW. The hand operated ferry ran from 1843 till 1860. Survey SR5276 is on too large a scale to be of any use in looking for this site but old parish maps³ show the ferry clearly running from the western side of Edith Bay across the river. Thomas Mitchell proposed a bridge across the Georges River at Lugarno and his sketch⁴ of this proposed bridge is very informative. This proposed bridge was more in hope than anticipation as the site chosen, while being across one of the rivers narrowest points would have involved considerable rock work. For Mitchell this site had the virtue of landing, on the southern side of the river on one of his many land grants⁵. Today this would be called a ‘conflict of interest’.

Mitchell's sketch of the northern side of the river is shown below. The sketch has been cleaned, Mitchell's trigonometric construction lines erased and his handwriting transcribed (where it is legible). The sketch was obviously done at low tide as the mud flats in Edith Bay are shown on the right of the sketch. The notation on the road reads 'B???' unfinished landing place'. This is most likely Buddivent as George Buddivent, a ship builder from Balmain, was recommended by Mitchell as an applicant for the ferry license². (He was unsuccessful; the first ferry master was a Charles Roman). This sketch is undated but would have been drawn not long after 1843 as the ferry landing is described as still 'unfinished'.



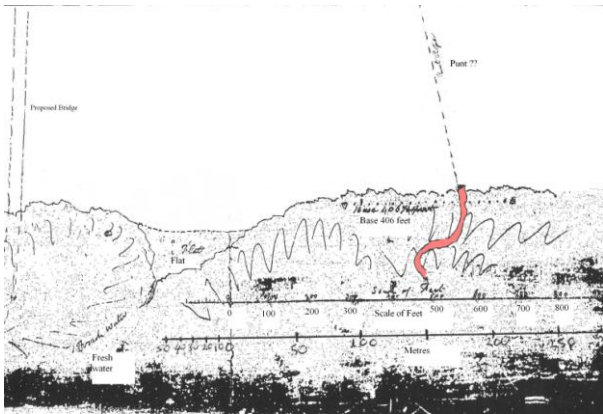
The photo (above right) shows the remains of the ferry landing. There is a line of roughly dimensioned stones providing an edge for the ferry to dock against and two lines of stones running towards the shore which are hard to see in the mud. These arms run a distance of approximately 4 metres towards the shore and each consists of approximately 6 roughly dimensioned stones. The 2 arms are roughly parallel about 2.8 meters apart and rise gradually from the waters edge. Possibly this was topped by heavy timbers or stone slabs.



On an outgoing tide the heavy steel hawser for the ferry would have rubbed against the large rock in the left of the photo above. This has left a score in the rock shown in the photo below, still visible after more than 150 years. All traces of the convict road leading north and the original ferry masters house immediately above this ferry landing have been destroyed by the considerable road works associated with the upgrading of Forest Road.



Although (following) is only a sketch Mitchell has set up a base line with survey marks on the southern (Illawong) side of the river and taken sightings to determine the river's width and sketched in the line of the ferry and the proposed bridge. Below is the southern shoreline as shown on the Mitchell's sketch. The old convict road, heading south to Wollongong, is shaded.



The proposed bridge is on the approximate line of the 1884 ferry. The fresh water creek is the one alongside Old Ferry Road and still empties into the river at the same point today as it did in the 1840's. To find any remains of the ferry landing and the convict road we searched for the western survey mark on Mitchell's 406 feet long base line. The distance from the northern end of the creek to the western survey mark can be estimated from the scale on the sketch and using a GPS to make the measurement we searched along the shore line. Amazingly an old survey mark appeared right on cue. A photo is shown below. The mark is quite faint with an old iron nail in its centre and luckily was not covered by dirt or grass. (This survey mark is at: S. 33.99332, E.151.04398 on my GPS)



The distance from the western survey mark to the old road was then calculated from the map's scale and once again

measured along the riverbank using the GPS. This located the old track shown in the photo below, looking up from the waters edge. It doesn't look much like a main road to Wollongong but it was built in haste by a gang of only 10 convicts and has not been used since 1860, except by a few fishermen.



There are also remains of the ferry landing. Two rows of rough heavy stones, the width of a cart's wheels apart are shown in the photo below at low tide. They disappear at the shore, a victim to the heavy hand of the Water Board, laying the sewerage line here in the 1970's.



The old road is on the same general line shown in Mitchell's sketch. The upper section of the track, above the grassed area in Delardes Reserve, follows the old convict road up to Clough Ave. It has been used in more recent times as access to a nearby abandoned house site and an old stone wharf located about 50 metres west of the old ferry landing. At

first we were mystified by both ferry landings as they did not resemble modern ferry ramps (like the one still at the end of Old Ferry Road). Instead of a sloping ramp they had an edge rising abruptly from the water. Photos of old hand powered ferries solved the mystery. They are built with blunt ends and a long ramp, raised when under way and laid down onto the stone landings on reaching the shore to allow access. The long ramps would be needed to compensate for a tidal range of up to 1.5 meters. A photo of an old hand powered ferry of this type is shown below. This photo (c.1890) shows the Lugarno ferry at its 1884 location with Illawong on the far shore. The 1843 ferry landing site in Delardes Reserve would be on the extreme right of this photo. The hand crank to power the ferry is shown on the near side of the ferry.



As a ferry service the earliest Lugarno ferry was a failure. A survey in the year 1860 showed the number of passengers was averaging a little over 1 a day². The lack of traffic is easily explained. Following heavy rains the road on both sides of the ferry was difficult, even on a saddle horse, and was impossible for wheeled vehicles. In any case the road did not yet have a descent to Wollongong for wheeled vehicles, so it therefore mainly served a few local farmers and the small settlement at Bottle Forest (Heathcote). It was not until 1871 that the first wheeled vehicle was able to travel from Wollongong to Sydney via Bottle Forest².

At the end of 1860 the ferry service was closed and was not recommenced at Lugarno until 1884. The rough landing places on both sides of the river and the steep roads leading to them must have presented problems for both people and animals.

History then passed Delardes Reserve by for many years but at the beginning of the 20th century this reserve, then known as Lugarno Park became a pleasure park, with large tourist boats arriving from Como Railway Station. Sixty years ago it almost became the site of a large coal burning power station. This more recent history might be the subject of an article in a future bulletin.

1. Available from the NSW State Archives.
2. We are indebted for this information and much other information in this article to a history of Lugarno, written by Graham Blewett, a local historian. Until recently this information was hosted on a National Trust web site, it appears to no longer be available to the public.
3. For example, parish map 140198, (undated), Parish of St George. Available from the NSW Land and Property Management Authority.
4. Survey Number SR 5282, T. L. Mitchell, not dated, *Trigonometrical sketch of site for bridge etc. across Georges River*. Available from the NSW State Archives.
3. Parish map 140649, undated, Parish of Holsworthy and Parish map 140414, 1899, Parish of Holsworthy. Available from the NSW Land and Property Management Authority.

We can be contacted at:
greg.jackson100@gmail.com

Roderic Quinn

Pauline Curby

I was researching in *The Australian Worker* when I found this poem on p. 13 of the 2 September 1925 edition. While I can't say it's my type of poetry, I thought it was interesting that this poet was sufficiently moved when standing on the wharf at Kurnell, gazing out over Botany Bay, to write about the experience

ON KURNEL PIER

Deep the water, deep and clear,
Underneath this wooden pier
Forward stretching from the shore;
Bay and beach with surf and swell,
Lit by early splendor, tell
Day has come and night is o'er.

Glad, in truth, seem land and sea -
Gleaming wave and dreaming tree -
That the night is overthrown,
Not a cloud is in the sky,
Ne'er a cloud, likewise, know I
As I loiter here alone.

Showing flashing tail and fin,
Where the ripples ripple in,
Mullets in the shallows leap;
Seabirds wheel across the blue,
For day's questing winged anew
By the mending power of sleep.

While the songs of feathered folk,
Rising up from gum and oak,
Tell that night and gloom have flown,
Glad am I alone to stand,
Watching Morning climb her throne.

Roderick Quinn

Born in Surry Hills, Roderic Joseph Quinn (1867-1949) was a popular poet, especially in the Sydney Catholic community. Writing in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Axel Clark comments that Quinn was 'appealingly modest' and spoke of himself as 'a pleasant minor poet'. Clark notes that his poetry 'belonged very much to the era in which he

was brought up, but owed little to the country in which he lived ... he set himself at some distance from contemporary bush balladists, drawing much more heavily on the language and imagery of later nineteenth-century English poetry and Irish poetry of the Celtic Twilight.'

What do you think? Have any SSHS members been moved to write poetry when looking out over Botany Bay?

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/quinn-roderic-joseph-8145>

This space could be yours!

Do you have a short story or anecdote that we could use in the bulletin?

Forward it to the editor.

Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Membership application or renewal 2011/12

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)

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Family name: -----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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Please find subscription for 2011/12 enclosed

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

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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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