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Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



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Port Hacking - watercolour - 1929

'MINDFUL OF THE PAST; FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE.'

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The cover – A Port Hacking watercolour
(see page 13 for details)

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

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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Meetings of the Society

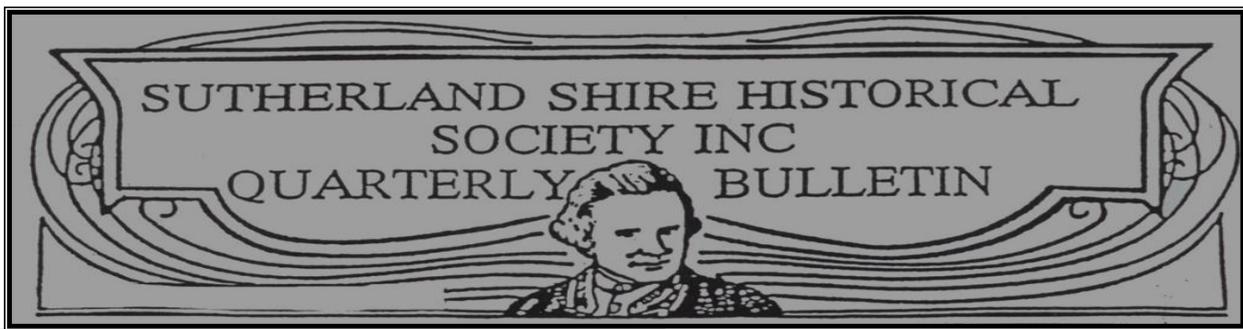
held on the third Saturday of each month at 1.30 pm at the Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

Visitors are welcome.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

Society Publications are registered with the National Library, Canberra, in accordance with International Standard Serial Numbering. The Society's occasional publications carry an ISBN number.



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President's Report

This bulletin is out a little early this time as I'm traveling to the USA in May and June. Along with several friends we will be travelling to Las Vegas, New York and the Caribbean. The high Aussie dollar is helping!

Our book launch at last month's meeting was a great success. Members like the interaction and variety at the meetings. Our thanks go out to all the organisers and to the large number of members (61) who attended. The book chronicles the memories of 30 people at or about the time when they were ten. It is a most enjoyable read and covers several decades and many locations. The Society is working on other publications.

When I look back at our Business Plan for 2010-2012, many of our goals have been achieved or are under way. The Society is dynamic and proactive. I do hope that members are enjoying their experiences and that membership will continue to expand.

Our book was dedicated to long term member Marj Blackley. The Society is hosting an essay competition funded by the Blackley family as a memorial to Marj. (see competition details on page 8) All Shire High Schools have been sent details and it is hoped that it will attract some quality entries.

At last we have a 'Meet the Members' segment. John Tyler is a new member. His Chess Club experiences are interesting. Let's see more of this so we get to know each others stories. Members name badges allow us to meet and get to know each other at meetings.

I've penned a piece called 'Towards a Sutherland Shire narrative'. It's timely as after I had begun it, news of the impending filming of a docudrama called 'The Shire' was announced. Some are upset as they fear that it will focus on the sensational: unflattering features such as heavy drinking and portray a 'bogan' impression of Shire life as did the docudrama 'Sylvania Waters' in the 1990s. Those who live here love the Shire however,

residents are often pilloried. I imagine that there is some truth and some envy in this appraisal. I'm not sure if my attempt to define the essence of the Shire is accurate but as the title suggests, it is an attempt 'towards' understanding the Shire. I'd be pleased to get any feedback.

One of the Society's 'living treasures' is Daphne Salt. She is slowly working through all the past bulletins and minutes to digitize them. This is very time consuming but in the future we will be able to access any articles from our 46 year history. Well done Daphne. The background to the founding of the Society and the first bulletin is published in this edition. It is published un- edited.

Pauline Curby and Elizabeth Craig are to be praised for their oral history research. A brief outline of their project is included as well as a history of the Love family of Oyster Bay.

Merle Kavanagh's work as Museum archivist and as a regular bulletin contributor is very much appreciated as is her efforts in proof reading the bulletin before publication. Her 'Coastal Shipwrecks' trilogy concludes in this edition and has received praise.

Greg Jackson is a regular contributor and his concentration on archaeological evidence of the early history of the western fringe of the Shire is to be commended. Well done Greg.

Can a Treasurer also be a 'treasure'? Leanne Muir is proving to be!

Don't forget the upcoming excursion to 'Wivenhoe' on the 26th May. (cost \$30) I must thank Pat Hannan, our booking clerk who also contributes in so many other ways. Of course the work of Terry McCosker, our Vice President and excursions organiser amongst many other things is also highly valued.

The Heritage Week festivities have once again been a success. Thank you to all those involved. More of this later.

Don't forget that membership fees are due after the 1st of July. Renewal forms are on the last page. Encourage a friend to join.

Bruce Watt

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS CALENDAR: 2012

Month	Date	Event
January	7	Museum open
January	21	Meeting - Sir Charles Kingsford Smith
January	26	SSHS display in Cronulla Mall
February	4	Museum open
February	18	Meeting - Bruce Shying 'Women and the sea'
March	3	Museum open –
March	17	Meeting and Book launch: When I was 10
March	28	Excursion: Telstra and Airport museums
April	14	Museum open – also during Heritage festival (14 -19)
April	21	Meeting Heritage Festival luncheon seminar. 'Amazing stories'
May	5	Museum open
May	19	Meeting James Bird 'Mercy ships'
May	26	Excursion: 'Wivenhoe' and Camden
June	2	Museum open
June	16	Meeting speaker – Peter Tyler
June	23	Local Heritage Walk: To be announced
July	7	Museum open
July	21	Meeting Colin Burgess – the history of space exploration in Australia
July	?	Excursion: to be announced
August	4	Museum open
August	18	Meeting Daphne Salt 'The Eternity man'
August	25	Local Heritage Walk: To be announced
September	1	Museum open
September	15	AGM Bob Osborne 'Nelson'
September	?	Excursion: to be announced
October	6	Museum open
October	20	Meeting James Bird 'Mercy ships'
October	27	Local Heritage Walk: To be announced
November	3	Museum open
November	17	Christmas party
November	?	Excursion: to be announced
December	1	Museum open
December		No meeting
December	8	Local Heritage Walk: To be announced

Excursions

SSHS first bus trip for 2012

Wednesday March 28th, a warm clear day, 21 enthusiastic people, and with our Terry, the amazingly knowledgeable driver, we were off to Bankstown to visit Telstra Museum, lunch at the RSL next door and then to the Australian Aviation Museum.

At Telstra we were greeted by four very enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, shown a 20 minute very informative video and then divided into three groups to learn more, and I am sure we all did. Telstra's Historical Collection includes a variety of telecommunications equipment, archival documentation, photographs, memorabilia and artifacts. The collection, accumulated over more than 50 years, contains items developed and used across Australia as part of the Postmaster-General's (PMG) Department, Telecom and Telstra, and is a valuable asset and rich resource for the Australian public. The volunteer groups continue to catalogue the collection. Telstra's origins date back to 1901, and Australian Federation, when the Postmaster-General's Department (PMG) was established by the Government to manage all domestic telephone, telegraph and postal services.

One of the highlights to see was George the talking clock. In 1954, 2 British made systems were installed in Australia, in Melbourne and Sydney. The mechanical speaking clock used rotating glass discs where different parts of the time were recorded on the disc. The voice brought back memories, Gordon Gow, an Australian actor, recorded the voice. Until George arrived, telephonists at the GPO answered the 1194 time call to customers. **Bo**

After lunch a short run to the eastern side of Bankstown Airport, to the Australian Aviation Museum, again the same story of volunteers,

friendly and full of knowledge. Back in the late 1980s, when Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's original flying school hangar at Mascot was about to be demolished, a plan was hatched to relocate the building to Bankstown Airport. The dream crystallised into the creation of a world class Museum at Bankstown Airport which could show and tell the history past and future of aviation, space technology etc., presenting this information in a visible, educational and entertaining way. The then Prime Minister the Hon. Paul Keating unveiled a plaque to officially launch the Museum Project in February, 1994. Sadly, now again moving west is a threat, the land



has been sold and factories will be built on the site. Besides the cost and work involved, many will be sad to see it go. An excellent informative excursion.

Our next outing will be a tour and lunch at "Wivenhoe" an historic house built in 1837 at Narellan, near Camden On Saturday, 26th May.

Cost \$40

*

Bookings

Departs MPC* 9am.sharp
(Multi Purpose Centre)

Pat Hannan

9528 8294

patricia.hannan@bigpond.com

Meet the Members

John Tyler

The Sutherland Chess Club

In 1986 I was planning my early retirement. I had finished working out my financial projections and thought interest rates would remain at about 15% . Ha Ha Ha. It is now 5%. It was not that important anyway. I believed in diversification. Safety first said I, no need to gamble.

The stock market crashed in 1987, a year before I retired or investedpew, that was close.

So, how would I spend my retirement?

I had many fields of interest. I had pursued classical music sufficiently and was being helped by a jazz musician to learn about chord progressions and improvisation. I enjoyed this but needed something else as well. Valma, my lovely wife. said “ you have always played chess why don't you join a club? ” A few weeks later we were at the Entertainment Centre to see a display of Shire activities. We found a table covered with chess equipment and an agreeable man named Neville Williams. He ran a chess club at “Craft Cottage” in Belmont St., Sutherland . The Spinners and Weavers and the Potters also shared the cottage free of charge, courtesy of Sutherland Shire Council.

I became a regular member and learnt how little I knew about chess. I was up against people who were or became a zoologist, lawyer, accountant, company executive, nuclear engineer etc AND they used chess clocks. These were two clocks mounted in one unit which recorded each players time and started and stopped by buttons on top. I was not quick enough. They all wanted to play “blitz” or five minute chess. That is right, five minutes each for the entire game. Gosh, that was fast. The pieces were moved quickly and then a hand came crashing down onto the clock button. Somehow most clocks survived.

I never ever could get used to that speed and was happy when it was time for the club to play in the inter club tournament. We travelled

all over Sydney to other clubs, some as far away as Rooty Hill. The time allowed was about two minutes per move. I was much happier.

Competition stirred me up and caused me to buy lots of chess books and computers etc. One competition night we had four visiting teams at Craft Cottage and one player was pointed out to me, ”that`s John Purdy the Family Court judge and former NSW champion and son of Cecil Purdy, former world correspondence champion.” I had played Cecil once in a match together with forty five other players. Yes he played us all at once. I lasted for forty moves and lost. Some chess masters can play a whole game or more, blindfolded. He was a lovely old man, he had great chess manners. He was employed in “military intelligence” in World War Two. Cecil published a monthly chess magazine. From memory it was named “Chess World”. In it he would often have a dig at his son`s legal career in a joking way. He also published a book called ‘Chess Made Easy’, of which every respectable player had a copy. Chess never does become easy.

Other nearby clubs were The Cronulla Chess Club and The St. George Chess Club. The St George Club was much bigger than us and boasted Australia`s only grand master at the time, Ian Rogers. The Cronulla Club met at the Cronulla School of Arts but now, I am advised, meet at one of the Shire`s RSL clubs. I saw Ian play when I visited St.George for a match. He was young then and had a mass of dense black hair which when at the chess board draped down to the table giving him complete privacy. I never did get a clear view of his face. Ian only played the top players and would have been more interested in beating Garry Kasparov, the world champion at the time.

The Council informed us that Craft Cottage was to be demolished and that we were to be transferred to Engadine with the other groups and we would now have to pay rent. OK, that should not have been a problem but membership dropped and we

had to look for another cheaper venue. Our top player, Ray van den Anker who just happened to be of Dutch descent secured us an activities room at Queen Juliana Village, Miranda. It was very nice there. The room was large and even had an organ and other equipment used for their social activities.

We continued for some years at both Engadine and Miranda but dropped out of the chess competitions. Eventually we were reduced to about eight members. Two of them were also members of St. George Chess Club and that took care of their desire for competition. We transferred our meetings to my home and by doing so reduced our costs to nil. These remaining players are my lifelong friends now and we socialise very happily.

I joined the Historical Society in 2011 and met Angela Badger through my dear friend Pat Hannan. My life was subject to multiple traumas at the time and Pat asked Angela to take me into her bridge club and keep an eye on me. Angela did this and a great deal more. She said “ John, I have a grandson named John who would dearly love to play chess with your group.” Does any brave person know how to refuse Angela`s requests? I don`t. John Badger joined our group and turned out to be a very promising player and able to fit in with older people in a creditable way. Besides that, he brings a wonderful plate of goodies made by his mother, Michele.

The computer and the internet have changed chess forever. We no longer need to buy a chess computer as they are available on line. We meet now to maintain the human element and to enjoy each other`s company. We may now play opponents from all over the world or we may play each other on line. Our top player, Ray, is spending a year in Canada (2012) and I am making daily moves against him and exchanging chit chat as well. I lose every game. All facets of chess are available including master games, problems, openings etc.

You too can play chess. Lessons are available on line. I refer you to chess.com.au and gameknot.com There are many more sites. Just google chess.

Quotes

‘History is not ‘was’. It’s ‘is’.
William Faulkner

‘Now he belongs to the ages’.
Edward Stanton, Secretary of War on
Abraham Lincoln’s death April 15, 1865

‘I’m too old to become famous. Now it would be much easier just to become infamous’.
Bruce Watt

‘Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it’
Oscar Wilde

‘We learn from history that we do not learn from history’.
George Wilhelm Friedrich. German
philosopher

‘The mediator between the head and the hands must be the heart’ (‘Metropolis’ -1927
German futuristic silent film)

Titanic – the unsinkable ship – sinks on its maiden voyage 100 years ago – April 15th 1912



LOCAL HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

This annual commemorative award is in recognition of the lifetime contribution to the education of students of the Sutherland Shire by Mrs Marjorie Blackley. The award is hosted by the Sutherland Shire Historical Society of which she was an honorary life member.

THE TOPIC FOR 2012 IS:

‘SUTHERLAND SHIRE IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD’

First Prize: \$300

Second prize: \$200

Third prize: \$100

Entrants are eligible to have their work published in the Sutherland Shire Historical Society bulletin. (copies of this are in your school library)

WHO CAN ENTER: Any high school student from the Sutherland Shire.

WHAT TO WRITE:— Entrants are to write an essay on an aspect of the history of the Sutherland Shire in the post-war period (since 1945). Entrants may choose their own topic focus. Suggestions include: surfing, sport, Shire culture, Shire personalities, important events or social trends, local industry, housing, art, transport, schooling.

LENGTH: Approximately 1500 -2000 words (not including bibliography or images)

CONDITIONS: Entrants are to submit a copy of the essay (1.5 spacing) which must include a bibliography and/or sources of information. Entries may be hard copy or emailed.

HOW TO ENTER: Entries must be submitted by Friday 20th July 2012 to:

**The Honorary Secretary
Sutherland Shire Historical Society
PO Box 389
Sutherland 1497
or
watto51@optusnet.com.au**

Towards a Sutherland Shire narrative.

Bruce Watt

A narrative is a story. Some stories chronicle the life and times of an organization and the characters that built it. Most families have stories about their past. ‘Great, great grandfather was a convict’ or ‘Aunt Maude married well’ It’s become popular to have a selection of songs that epitomizes an era (such as the Great American songbook). Do we have a story? Who are we, we the people of the Sutherland Shire? Will writing it down help us to understand ourselves? Will it help those who aren’t from the Shire? Will it be helpful for people fifty years from now? This article is an attempt to capture some aspects of the life and times of the Sutherland Shire. The views expressed are those of the writer alone.

It is said that Sydney is a collection of villages. Collectively these suburbs form the largest city in Australia with a population of 4.6 million. So how does the Sutherland Shire fit into the broader context of the city? What stories, facts, characters, anecdotes and characteristics have shaped the development of the Shire? What plausible profile can we paint? Is there a coherent narrative that adequately explains the historical development, geographic and environmental context, economic framework, social values, experiences and aspirations of its people?

The ‘Shire’

What is ‘The Shire’? What is it that separates the Sutherland Shire from the rest of Sydney and helps to build a Sutherland Shire narrative? The term ‘The Shire’ is universally used and immediately identifies the 220,000 residents as belonging to a discreet area which is wider than a suburban identification. This term is recognised across the Sydney metropolitan area and tends to give rise to a unique perception of the character of the area as a whole and its residents. Though at times

used in a deprecating manner by ‘outsiders’, residents are generally willing to accept the notion that they are somehow different from those in other parts of Sydney. Indeed it is seen as a proud point of difference.

**The Shire
is almost
an island**

The character of the Shire is to some extent dictated by its geographical location. The Sutherland Shire is almost an island. The upper reaches of the Port Hacking River to the south and the Woronora River to the west are only a short distance apart and the Georges River and Botany Bay separate the Shire from the suburbs to the North. National Parks to the south and west block urban encroachment and contribute to the sense of separation.

Cook, Phillip and the Dharawal

The Sutherland Shire has an historical link to old Sydney. A very brief visit to the Kurnell peninsula by the explorer, Lieutenant James Cook in April 1770 provides a starting point for the Shire’s European history and also that of Australia.

birthplace of
modern Australia

The Shire proudly boasts that Kurnell is the ‘birthplace of modern Australia’ and takes part in all re-enactment of European landings at Kurnell. Paradoxically the Kurnell peninsula is also home to several noxious industries which detract from its historic significance.

Cook’s arrival would in time prove disastrous for the indigenous inhabitants. Despite occupying this area for thousands of years, the record of Aboriginal occupation and culture for all practical purposes was largely expunged. Many Aboriginal place names exist though as a reminder of the existence of a previous culture. A glowing account of the area’s physical attributes by Sir Joseph Banks who escorted Cook on the voyage led to the selection of Botany Bay for a British penal

settlement. However, it was quickly abandoned in favour of Port Jackson when the First Fleet arrived in January 1788 and found it unsuitable.

A slow start

Virtually separated from the urban development of the rest of the city for the first hundred or so years of settlement, the Shire retained a rural, pioneering spirit until well into the Twentieth Century. Thomas Holt, a wealthy landowner, speculator and Member of Parliament had purchased nearly all of the available land in the Shire in the 1860s. His system of land tenure, at least up to 1900 when a special Act of Parliament enabled leasehold land to be converted to freehold, ensured that few free settlers took up ownership.

Apart from a punt it remained relatively isolated until a road bridge was completed at Tom Uglys in 1929. Its natural beauty led to the development of pockets of the Shire as holiday destinations at Cronulla, Port Hacking and Gymea. Other areas, including Miranda, were used for agriculture. The dedication of a large swathe of bush land to the south of the Port Hacking River as a National Park in 1879 ensured that further residential development could not occur. So the Shire's physical setting, framed by kilometers of salt and fresh waterways and National Parks fostered a healthy, out doors lifestyle. In 1906 when the first local Council was formed, the population was only 1,500. It grew to 20,000 by 1940 and 29,000 by 1947.

The big 'land grab'

Not unlike the western land rushes of the United States in the mid Nineteenth Century, the Shire was 'discovered' and largely populated in the fifty or so years after the Second World War. The population grew by 114,000 to 143,000 from 1947 to 1968, a five hundred percent increase. This fairly homogenous group of mainly white Anglo-Saxons came seeking cheap land to build on and raise a family. Pockets of affluence around some of the water frontages developed but an egalitarian spirit bound the residents into a

fairly likeminded community with similar shared values. Differences in household income though are apparent across Shire suburbs.

The land of the fibro tile

There are only a handful of examples of the very grandiose homes built elsewhere in Sydney during the boom years of the latter part of the Nineteenth Century. Some wealthy landowners had substantial holiday houses but the majority of the housing stock was utilitarian with timber or fibro as the main form of construction. In the post war period the Shire experienced a housing boom. Shortages of building materials and limited financial means of the new residents meant that many of the homes were modest in size and nature. Many struggling homemakers built garages first and lived in them while slowly building their homes as finances and materials became available. The largely fibro tile housing of that period is being replaced through renovation or demolition.

The 'insular peninsula'

Whilst many commuters leave the Shire for work and pleasure there is a perception in the minds of some that crossing the bridge(s) is something to be avoided. 'The insular peninsula' is a derogatory phrase sometimes leveled at Shire residences who it is felt don't interact with the wider city community or are content to largely stay within its borders. In the eyes of some there is a siege mentality whereby the incursion of new residents from outside the Shire, particularly those not fitting the racial stereotype, is to be avoided.

God's country

Another term is sometimes used flippantly to describe the Shire as 'God's country'. Religious observance aside, the term is used in a more secular way to describe a 'paradise'. By association some would view themselves as 'chosen ones'. Elitist and self satisfied thoughts such as these, however tongue in cheek, often inspires derision from outside the Shire. Whatever the nature of these concepts

may be, residents generally feel very happy about their local area and are justifiably proud.

A 'WASPISH' Shire

The term 'wasp' is an acronym for 'white Anglo Saxon protestant' and is used to describe a British demographic. Sydney is a multicultural city but the Shire does not represent the cultural diversity of other suburbs or regions.

78% of residents were born in Australia

78% of residents were born in Australia and 86% of residents speak English only. Of those arriving since 2003, the majority were from the United Kingdom (23%), followed by individuals from China (14%). Only 9% of Shire residents came from a non-English speaking background. Immigration continues to be predominantly from the United Kingdom and China, South Africa, Philippines, India and USA. So the current population mix of the Shire is more akin to pre-war Australia than the rest of the Sydney metropolitan area. Some significant demographic changes include the decline in relative percentages of age groups in the 5-11 and 25-34 age brackets and the rise in percentages of over 60 year olds. Housing costs may be deterring younger people from purchasing and raising a family. The increase in the percentage of older residents compared to other age groups shows the aging of earlier 'baby boomer' settlers and to some extent the desire of older residents to opt for a sea change retirement. An aging population will have impacts on the provision of services and housing types in the future.

A good place to live

The wealth of residents has increased substantially in recent decades. The Sutherland Shire local government area ranks 13th out of 43 local government areas in Sydney in terms of a socio-economic index. It also ranks well above the State average socio-economic index. Some diversity exists within Shire suburbs. The highest ranked suburbs in terms of socio-economic index include Kareela, Gymea Bay,

Illawong, Alfords Point, Lilli Pilli - Dolans Bay, Bonnet Bay, Grays Point and Woronora Heights. The second highest suburbs include Woolooware - Burraneer, Caringbah South, Oyster Bay, Woronora, Bangor and Como. Third highest ranking suburbs include Cronulla, Bundeena, Maianbar, Heathcote, Waterfall, Sylvania Waters, Taren Point, Menai, Sandy Point, Engadine, Yarrowarrah and Loftus and the fourth highest ranking suburbs include Caringbah, Kurnell, Miranda, Jannali, Sutherland, Kirrawee, Gymea, Sylvania and Kangaroo Point. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics SEIFA 2006)

Racist overtones

The 1980s film 'Puberty Blues' reflected the local surfing culture and the non acceptance of visitors encroaching from outside, especially 'westies'. Moving forward 25 years and the focus had become racial.

The so called 'Cronulla riots' in 2005 were an unfortunate, one-off incident though it may mask underlying cultural beliefs. A Shire monoculture may be a partial explanation. There is a perception amongst some of an unwillingness to embrace other cultures or values and/or a desire to have non resident visitors respect the social values and practices of existing residents. The incident had been fuelled by alleged inappropriate behaviour on North Cronulla beach over time by men of Middle Eastern appearance. This was followed by widespread text messages to a largely young crowd to come to Cronulla to demonstrate against this alleged behaviour on the beaches. The gathering, which subsequently turned ugly was met with physical retaliation on following days. It was widely publicised locally and overseas and for several years, impacted on local tourism. Patriotism is admirable but it is noticeable that the prominent display of the Australian flag, the "Aussie Pride" and 'if you don't love it, leave it' slogans used by some, is a reminder of a jingoistic tendency amongst some and an appropriation of the flag to a specific cause. It needs to be said that incidents or views such as these don't represent those of all residents.

Other matters

Government policy

A severe shortage of tourist accommodation, especially at prime tourist locations such as Cronulla, limits tourism mainly to day trippers. This planning lapse is unlikely to be addressed readily.

Following State government policy of urban consolidation in the 1990s, significant residential housing infilling was permitted by the Sutherland Shire Council. Larger blocks were subdivided and a variety of housing types including villas, townhouses and units were built. Areas around transport nodes, especially train stations were targeted for high rise development. Traffic congestion has risen as a result.

Work and travel

Four pockets of industry are located at Heathcote, Kirrawee, Taren Point and Kurnell. A significant proportion of workers travel outside the Shire each day for employment. Compared to the rest of the State the Sutherland Shire has a lower rate of unemployment.

Though over fifty years in the planning stage, an expressway through the Shire to the city hasn't been built. Duplication of the rail line between Cronulla and Sutherland has improved rail travel however a large number of residents leave the Shire each day by car.

There is a lower percentage of tertiary trained adults in the Shire than in the lower North Shore or Eastern Suburbs of Sydney however skilled trades people contribute to a relatively high household income. Residents could broadly be described as aspirational. A higher proportion of asset rich but income poor retirees exist in some of the more desirable areas such as Cronulla and Kangaroo Point.

Education

Thirteen State and several denominational High Schools and two TAFE Colleges provide the educational needs of students. While a

large number of Shire students travel outside the Shire to attend private schools, none exist in the Shire. Wollongong University provides preferential entry arrangements for Shire students.

Crime

When compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (SD), Sutherland Shire generally has much lower rates of crime. The Shire does not rank in the top 25 areas in NSW for any crime. However there are particular types of offences where the Shire actually has a higher rate than the Statistical Division Sydney, including offensive conduct or language and driving with prescribed content of alcohol (PCA). Malicious damage to property has gradually increased in the Shire since 2003, with the 2007 rate almost equal to Sydney. (State of the Shire report – Sutherland Shire Council 2009/10) Underage drinking is also a problem.

Some observations

The Sutherland Shire narrative is a sequence of events, experiences and characteristics that describe the broad character of the area. Though 'the birthplace of modern Australia', little of its colonial history is celebrated and Cook's landing place lacks gravitas. Though well recorded, much of its pre-war character is subsumed by recent urban and industrial development. Architecture and associated lifestyles have an impact on the lives of people who live in an area. Lacking colonial architecture of say The Rocks, Victorian architecture of say, Paddington or Federation architecture of say, Haberfield, or a mixture of past styles, the lives of Shire residents are largely influenced by post war period architecture. There is little over layering of housing styles before the 1950s. There are many very long term resident families in the Shire. However, the vast majority of Shire residents arrived in the post war period and that's where Shire family history and tradition begins.

Many suburbs are what could be described as dormitory suburbs where people go home to sleep. Urban development hasn't created a village atmosphere. The huge pulling power of

Westfields shopping centre at Miranda built in the early 1960s when residential growth was strong impacted on the viability of suburban strip centres. A café and dining culture has developed in some areas which has rejuvenated some local shopping centres. Somewhat lacking is a variety of nightlife facilities.

The Shire is largely modern and forward looking. Surrounded by a stunning environment, residents enjoy an enviable lifestyle. Distance from larger urban and cultural interests is no longer as detrimental as in the past. Advances in technology, transport and communication allow even distant dormitory suburbs to be linked to the wider regional and international community. Though perhaps lacking some of the social, architectural, financial and cultural influences of the broader city, the Shire is a confident community, satisfied with its natural assets and socio-economic place in the wider community.

Whatever happened to the *Endeavour* ?

When talk of a second voyage to the southern continent was discussed, the *Endeavour* had aged and was retired into obscurity, which was the fate of many craft in the British Navy. “For a few years she acted as a storeship to the Falkland Islands. Then she was sold and bought by a Frenchman, who converted her into a privateer when war broke out. She was far too slow for such work, so when she encountered a British cruiser she took refuge in the harbour of Newport, Rhode Island. There she slowly fell to bits. All that remains of her is a box which the novelist Fenimore Cooper made out of her timbers, and part of her stern-post, which still exists at Newport.”

(Lloyd, Christopher, *Captain Cook*, Faber and Faber Ltd., 1957, p.89.)

A Painting of Port Hacking.

The watercolour painting of Port Hacking (front cover) was painted by Peter Smith Templeton in 1929. Templeton was born in Glasgow in 1875 and travelled to Brisbane on the *Closeburn* with two older siblings and his widowed mother in 1889.

Templeton studied art under Godfrey Rivers and Martyn Roberts at Brisbane Technical College. He was later employed as senior artist in the Government Printing Office, Brisbane for thirteen years and whilst there befriended Lloyd Rees. Moving to Sydney with his wife Myrtle soon after they were married in 1920, he remained for twelve years. In Sydney, besides painting, he also taught music, coming from a musical family and did this from his rooms in Pitt Street. It was during this period that he met my great aunt, Elva who was one of his music students. Inviting Templeton to visit “The Port,” a home on Port Hacking, Templeton expressed his thanks in the form of a watercolour.

Templeton was a lithographic artist and did several travel posters both before and after his time in Sydney. Returning to Brisbane in 1932 he supplemented his earnings by playing organ in various churches. He also exhibited his watercolours with the Royal Queensland Art Society and up to 1960 contributed more than one hundred and thirty works. In recognition of his effort the Society made him a life member.

Peter Smith Templeton died in Brisbane on the 11th of June 1971.

David Overett.

Much of the above information was obtained from the Dictionary of Australian Artists Online, Glenn R. Cook, Author.

THE FOUNDING OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY [REPRINT]

The Foundation Meeting was held Friday 25th March 1966.

The First General Meeting was held Thursday 15th April 1966.

For some time previously the late Shire Clerk Mr. David Kirkby had been interested in the formation of an Historical Society; and knowing that local businessman George Heavens had been associated with the Shire since the early 1920s and was interested in its history-- and had also been collecting varied Shire records over that period — Mr. Kirkby would from time to time call in at George's shop to talk over the idea. The late Clr. Reg. Dallimore had also been interested in Mr. Kirkby's proposal, but unfortunately he died before the idea came to fruition.

The Shire President, Clr. A. Gietzelt, at Mr. Kirkby's request, sponsored a public meeting in the Council Chambers on Friday 25th March 1966, at which a number of senior Council Officers were present, including Clr. it. D. Harrison (Deputy Shire President), Clrs. P. Lewis, R. Thorburn and J. Manuel, and the Shire Librarian Mr. B. Sargeant: also present were Mr. L. Johnson, MHR; and Mr. Phillip Geeves, representing the Royal Australian Historical Society; and 43 residents. Unfortunately, these names were signed on a loose pad and apparently were not filed or otherwise included in the Minutes. However, most of the general public who attended this meeting became Foundation Members, as the No. 1 Receipt Book indicates.

At this inaugural meeting a formal resolution was passed: "That a Society be formed in the Shire and to be known as the Sutherland Shire Historical Society". A following resolution approved affiliation with the Royal Australian Historical Society. Mr. Phillip Geeves was introduced, and gave an Address describing the general interests of such a Society, its purpose and its management.

Volunteers were asked to nominate for a "steering committee" to formulate guidelines and basic constitution: it was also decided that the first General Meeting of the new Society be held in the Council Chambers on April 15, 1966.

At the first General Meeting, the Officers of the Society were elected: President; Clr. R.D. Harrison: Vice Presidents; Messrs. D. Kirkby, C. Law, C.O.J. Monro, J. Penbrook, Mrs. J. Thompson: Hon. Sec.; N. Horwood; Hon. Treasurer: D. Witcombe; Archivist: B. Sargeant; Publicity Off.: M. Hutton Neve; Executive Committee: Mesdames A. Griffiths, D. Cosgrove, I. Mowbray; Messrs. T. Cosgrove, J. Price, J. Walker.

For same time the Society's monthly meetings were held in the Kindergarten building in Merton Street; then, through the action of the late Mr. Kirkby and the courtesy of the County Council, the general meetings for several years were held in their auditorium in Eton Street. This location no longer was available after March of last year, and we were able to make arrangements to use the Presbyterian Church Hall.

Source: Original Minutes.

— M. Hutton Neve.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS OF THIS SOCIETY as at the first
General Meeting held in the Shire Council Chambers on April 15, 1966

(according to Receipt Book No.1)

Mrs. I. Alcott
Sister Alexius
Mr. G. Barter
Mrs. F. Beck
Mr. F. Beck
Mr. C. Bennett
Mrs. M. Boler
Mrs. C. Bennett
Mrs. E. Carmichael
Mr. N. Chinn
Mrs. Y. Connerton
Mrs. E. Corbett
Mrs. D. Cosgrove
Mr. T. Cosgrove
Mrs. N. Croaker
Mr. N. Farrelly
Mr. B. Flyne
Clr. A. Gietzelt
Mrs. A. Griffiths
Clr. R. D. Harrison (decd.)
Mr. K. Hewson
Mr. N. Horwood (decd.)
Mrs. C. Horwood (decd.)
Mrs. M. Hutton Neve
Mr. J. King (decd.)
Mr. D. Kirkby (decd.)
Mrs. - Kirkpatrick
Mr. C. Law
Mrs. V. Law
Mrs. - Lisle
Mrs. J. Manhire
Mr. J. Masters
Mr. F. Midgley
Mr. A. Midgley
Mrs. B. Morrison
Mrs. I. Mowbray
Mr. W. Mowbray
Mrs. B. Muller
Mr. R. Orr
Sister M. Paulinus
Mr. J. Penbrook
Miss M. Prescott
Mr. J. Price

Mr. R. Pair
Mrs. W. Philpott
Mrs. J. Rees
Mr. R. Russell
Mrs. N. Sanson
Mr. B. Sargeant
Mr. S. Simpson
Mrs. P. Sinclair
Mr. H. Sinclair
Mr. C. Spencer
Miss L. Stubberfield
Mr. J. M. Swan
Mrs. J. Thompson
Clr. R. Thorburn
Mr. J. Walker
Mr. D.J. Witcombe
Mrs. Willets

Current Foundation Members are:

Mrs. I. Alcott
Mrs. M. Boler
Mrs. G. Barter
Mrs. E. Carmichael
Mr. N. Chinn
Mrs. D. Cosgrove
Mr. T. Cosgrove
Mrs. N. Crocker
Senator A. Gietzelt
Mrs. a. Griffiths
Mr. A. Hewson
Mrs. Hutton Neve
Mr. C. Law
Mr. F. Midgley
Mr. A. Midgley
Mrs. E. Morrison
Mrs. I. Mowbray
Mr. R. Orr
Mr. R. Pier
Mrs. R. Russell
Mr. B. Sargeant
Mr. C. Spencer
Mr. R. Thorburn
Mrs. N. Whitaker (nee Willets)

FOUNDATION MEMBERS HONOURED

Foundation Member Badges: at the February Executive council meeting it was decided that, as a token of recognition of the Society's 10th anniversary, a "Foundation Member" badge be presented to those Foundation Members who are still financial members of the Society.

The presentation was made at the Annual General Meeting on March 12 by the President Mr. Harold Ivers, the recipients being those listed on page 35 . The badge has a white background with "Foundation Member" in gold lettering.

Hon. Life Members: under the Constitution the Society is empowered to create Hon. Life Members.

At the 10th Annual General Meeting Mr. George Heavens, in proposing this, stated:

"I feel it would be very fitting to bestow 'Birthday Honours' on four Foundation Members of this Society in recognition of their outstanding executive service to, the Society over the past ten years

"Mr. Cyril Law: he greatly assisted in the formation of the Society, and served two years as President. Mr. Law headed the deputations to the Sutherland Shire Council which enabled us to see where we were going wrong in 1971, and so enabled us to get on side again.

"Mrs. Aileen Griffiths: Mrs. Griffiths has had ten years continuous service on the Executive Council; first as a Committee member, then for some years as Honorary Treasurer, and now holds the important position of Hon. Secretary.

"Mr. Fred Midgley Fred has served six years on the Executive Council, and is a Vice President. He has produced three local history booklets. He has also served on the Publications Committee since its formation, and is the artist providing the drawings in our Bulletin.

"Mrs. M. Hutton Neve: Mrs. Neve has served eight years on the Executive Council; at one time a Vice President; is the founder of our Bulletin; and is a past Publicity Officer. She now holds the position of Research Officer well as being Editor of the Bulletin. Mrs. Neve has published four local history booklets, and also one written for the Society in conjunction with a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society.

"Mr. President, it gives me much. pleasure formally to move That these four Foundation Members, Mr. Cyril Law, Mrs. Aileen Griffiths, Mr. Fred Midgley and Mrs. Hutton Neve, be created Honorary Life Members of this Sutherland Shire Historical Society".

This was carried unanimously with acclamation.

The Hon. Life Membership badges will be presented at the "Tenth Birthday Anniversary" of the Society on April 9th.

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT.... Mr. R.D. Harrison

The Society suffered a grievous loss in October 1969 when the Founder President Mr. R.D. ("Dick") Harrison died suddenly from a heart attack.

From its inception Mr. Harrison had given all his energies to establishing the newborn Society and steering it through "teething troubles". His dedicated interest and enthusiasm did much to foster its initial progress.

Mr. Harrison came to the Shire in 1917, settling in Moira Street West Sutherland. He was a tailor by trade, serving as an union secretary for eight years. His life-long interest, however, was his involvement with the Methodist Church, in which he served as a Lay Preacher for forty-six years.

He was a Shire Councillor for Sutherland Riding from 1956 to 1968, and was Deputy President for eight terms. As a Councillor he had taken an active interest in promoting all sports as Chairman of

Council's Sporting Advisory Committee; and as well had chaired the Building Health & Sanitation Committee and the Parks & Playgrounds Committee. Thus, he was uniquely qualified to guide the Society in its early years.

Only some six weeks before his sudden death Mr. Harrison had been honoured by the presentation of the Local Government Association's Certificate of Service.

Death of Mr. D. R. Kirkby: the following year, in July, Mr. Kirkby, one our Founder Vice Presidents, died after a long illness. As noted elsewhere, Mr. Kirkby was one of the prime movers in seeking to establish this Society'.

He joined the Shire Council in 1928, retiring after 35 years' outstanding service. His administrative experience and his wide knowledge o f Shire affairs were of valuable assistance to the Society, but his long illness forced him to retire prematurely from active guidance of the Society in its early years.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Edited by:

M. Hutton Neve

Bulletin No. 1, September 1966.[REPRINT OF ORIGINAL]

Laycock Family of Burraneer Bay

The Laycock family -- father, mother and eldest son all have pioneer associations with the Shire.

Thomas Laycock sen. came. to N.S.W. in 1789 as a sergeant in the NSW Corps; In 1791 he was promoted to quartermaster., and later became deputy Commissary - general. general. He resigned this position in 1800.

In 1806 both he and his son Thomas (an Ensign in the Corps) were court-martialled for "using threats and language in. the public street's of the most mutinous tendency". Both were found guilty (and drunk at the time), and Laycock Sen. was dismissed from the Service; the son was apparently censured and allowed to continue in the Corps, for he later became 'a captain in 1811. The court-martialing of Laycock sen. did not, however, mitigate against his later becoming a magistrate.

Laycock Sen. died in NSW in 1808-9 while his wife was on a visit to England. On her return Mrs. Hannah Laycock petitioned Governor Macquarie' for a grant. of land -- she already had one grant of 500 acres on Cook's River -- and received 120 acres (today part of Bexley). The whole property she called "King's Grove", where she lived until she sold out to Simeon Lord in 1829. Simeon Lord also had connections with the Shire.

Thomas Laycock Jun: In 1809 Thomas jun. married-Isabella Bunker at St. Phillip's Church, Sydney, 1/6/1809, his rank being given as Captain 98th Regt., Isabella was the' daughter of one "Captain" Bunker, master of a sealing ship -- who liked to be known as "captain"; and when someone sometime tacked on "RN." he did not deny the added glory:

Isabella died in 1817, leaving six children including a newborn infant; and the "bereaved" husband then married three weeks later (again at St, Phillips), by special licence,. Margaret, daughter of John Connell. The reason given for this strange marriage was the urgent necessity of a foster mother for the infant: Margaret herself did not have her first child until over 12 months later -- so all was well:

At the time of this second marriage Laycock was resident at his property "Kelvin", Bringelly.. After this marriage. he built a house for Margaret Laycock on ,the west side of Burraneer Bay. `The stone, for the house was quarried on the property and 'convict-built'. It was. completed in 1821 and named

"Fernleigh!", with the date, carved in Roman numerals (MDCCCXXI) over the front door. This is substantiated by a statement in the "Wentworth Papers" (a Mitchell Library collection) that on Dec. 22, 1821, Laycock was assigned two convict servants . "for the sum of £4-11-0 due on Dec. 31, 1822".

Laycock had two children by his second marriage. He does not seem to have spent much time at "Fernleigh", leaving Margaret to look after them all. His Bringelly property apparently occupied much of his time, and he also had his duties as 'a local magistrate. I have not been able to trace any details of his life; at "Fernleigh".

After Laycock' s death 7/11/1833 at "Kelvin", Bringelly, his father-in-law John Connell was, appointed guardian of "the infant devisees" (Wentworth Papers). (N.B: until the Guardianship of Infants At 1886 no married woman could have the legal custody of her own children, the father's Will stipulating a suitable male guardian and trustee for his estate). Little, if anything, is recorded of Mrs. Laycock II and the children after the father's death.

So far, I have not traced any Sutherland grants-of land to Thomas Laycock jun. -- his father had none in the Shire, although he owned land elsewhere. John Connell owned several large blocks, but I have not yet traced a definite grant at Burraneer Bay. At the time "Fernleigh" was built, all Connell's lands were held on "Governor's Promise". In 1827 Oxley, Surveyor-General, instructed Surveyor Dixon to survey Connell's lands "which that gentleman had occupied for many years and for which he held the. Governor's Promise". It is obvious that Connell must have owned land at Burraneer Bay (or Laycock Jun. did), especially as Connell was at this time in partnership with Simeon Lord in trading ventures; they owned several small sailing vessels which plied between Burraneer Bay: and Sydney with timber cut from the great cedar forest then covering the western hills rising above the. Bay.

Contrary to a story featured some time ago in the "Leader" about "Fernleigh", the Laycock family did not have a "crest of a running horse", as they were not of the "landed gentry of England" nor is there any truth in their story that Laycock obtained his land by. riding a "fettered horse" around selected boundaries in one day.

"Fernleigh" is private property, having been purchased by Mr./Mrs. Errol Alcock nearly 30 years ago, together with some pieces of the original furniture. The home has been lived in continuously. since it was built, and so is in excellent preservation.; only a few minor alterations have been made to the property since 1821.

.....
BYEWAYS OF HISTORY

Sutherland/Cronulla Steam Tramway: August 3 marked the. 35th year of the end of passenger services on this line. The ,7 ½mile line was opened on 12 June 1911, and was the last such tramway built in NSW.. Although operated as a tramway, the line had been built to light railway .standards, thus enabling Government railway trucks to be conveyed to various sidings along the line -- an advantage to the market gardeners on the route. Unchecked competition from road transport led to the discontinuance of passenger services 3 August 1931, but goods services remained until . 12 Feb. 1932, when. the line was closed and the tracks dismantled. The route was from S'land Station via the Prince's Highway and Kingsway to Cronulla, then along Curranulla (now Cronulla) St., Waratah St. and Ewos Parade, terminating in a balloon loop in Shelley Beach Park.

Early Land Grants: When considering early claims to land, a clear distinction must be observed between the actual reception of the land and the of title. From the time of Governor Phillip, land was allocated to "free persons" on a "Governor's Promise"; the land was selected and roughly Marked out; and the portion noted in official records. This "promise" could sometimes be negotiated -- and often was -- although it was generally supposed to be a mandatory that the recipient occupy and improve it over a period of at least 5 years. It was many `years :before these "Governor's Promises" were surveyed

and legal title granted to the land. James Birnie, the 1st known settler in the Shire, was. "promised" land.. by Governor Macquarie in 1815 (700 acres at Kurnell), but title was not granted. until 1844..

Kurnell/Curnell/Connell: The origin, of the name 'Kurnell' is thought to have been an aboriginal corruption of the name of John Connell, 2nd settler in the Shire. According to a record in the Mitchell Library (article by A.G.' Poster, 1924, Newspaper Clippings Vol. 165) "The aborigines pronounced Connell as 'Kurnell' and quite 'recently the Government secured the engraving of the old cottage, and it is interesting to note that at the time the drawing was made* the name was spelt 'Curnell". This cottage stood on the present-day site of the house 'of the Trustees;' in 1841 Connell planted two Norfolk pines in front of his cottage --they still survive.

*1842.

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Some Shire Names: Cronulla is thought to be an European variation of the aboriginal, word "Kurranulla" -- "the place of the pink shells". Certainly, after heavy storms', the ocean beaches may be covered with a myriad of tiny pink-tinted shells;

Gynea was named after. the tall, red-flowered native lily.

Engadine was named after an old local estate -- which took its name from a place in Switzerland.

Como was named after Lake Como in Italy-- the resemblance having appealed to an early settler.

Highfields is the old-time name for Caringbah; there seems to be no definite record as to when this original name was dropped.

Macquarie Obelisk: in Macquarie Place, Sydney, there is a tall stone obelisk, designed by the convict-architect Francis Greenway at the request of Governor Macquarie, and erected in 1818, From this point all public roads in the colony were measured.

1853 Watch House, Balmain: the recently formed Balmain Association is very fortunate in having obtained the use of this historical building as the head-quarters and com unity centre; It is a two-storey stone building, roofed with slate; it is at present in a dilapidated state, although structurally almost entirely unspoilt. The Minister for Lands (Hon. T.L.Lewis) has agreed to its - preservation, with the National Trust as trustees, and they in turn have agreed to lease the building to the Balmain Association;, who will restore it to its original condition under the supervision of the Trust. There is a small block of land attached, and an adjacent area is being added, the whole forming a community reserve. The address of the Watch House is 179 Darling St., Balmain.

-- National Trust Bulletin, April 1966.

Aboriginal Relics of the Shire: at the August monthly meeting Mr. Ian Sim, of Guildford, gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with a selection of coloured slides, of some of the aboriginal remains in the Shire. There are some 10,000 rock carvings in the Sydney area, about half of this number being in the. Shire. Besides the rock carvings, there are a number of caves and rock shelters wherein are coloured paintings, mainly in. red and yellow ochre. Many display the various types of animals and birds familiar to the aborigines; there are some hunting scenes, and a few varied patterns. There are one or two Shire sites where collections of stones, placed in certain patterns, suggest they were of tribal religious meaning. Most of this aboriginal art is several thousand years old; some of it is deteriorating with time; a good deal of it --especially the rock carvings -- has been destroyed by indiscriminate or ignorant building and road construction, and also by the inevitable vandal. Consequently, most of these sites of native art are now not made public, so that they may be preserved as far as possible.

We extend our thanks to Mr.Jack Price, one of our Council members, for organising this interesting evening.

"The Parish at St. Peter's, Cooks River" (Church of England) was formed on May 27, 1835, and embraced the area between Cooks River and Parramatta, and included all the present-day area of Sutherland.

St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta: this is the oldest existing Cemetery in Australia; it has been in use since 1790, and occasional burials still take place. For about the first 20 years it was used as a general cemetery for residents of all faiths in the surrounding districts; but after that it was used as an Anglican cemetery only, The cemetery, about 3 acres in extent, was not officially granted to the Church of England until December 1857,

- Church of England Historical Society Journal, September 1966.

Editorial Memo: if members wish to keep these bulletins, it is suggested that they purchase a manila foolscap folder from the local newsagent; your Council has decided that a Society Bulletin shall be published each quarter.

THE "NEW ENDEAVOUR" 1970

The year 1970 will be the bicentenary of the voyage of Captain James Cook to the South Seas and his subsequent discovery and exploration of Eastern Australia. To celebrate this there is to be a re-enactment of Cook's arrival in a "New Endeavour". (see special announcement re speaker, Sir John Collins).

In 1769, the orbit of the planet Venus would cross the face of the sun, an astronomical event of major interest to the scientific Royal Society of London. As the South Seas provided the most suitable location for observation, the Admiralty was asked to provide a ship, equipped with the necessary instruments and, trained observers. A collier, the "Earl of Pembroke", 370 tons, was bought, fitted out and named the "Endeavour Bark"; Lieut. Jas. Cook, already favourably known for his excellent charting of the coast of 'North America, was appointed captain. The ship was officially registered as the "Endeavour Bark", for there was already a Navy ship named "Endeavour".

Cook sailed from England Aug. 26, 1768, and duly observed the transit of Venus June 1, 1769. His further instructions were to seek out the supposed land-mass of "Terra Australis Incognita", whose western coast it was known the Dutch had charted.

In his first southward run Cook missed Australia and so proceeded to New Zealand (already known from Tasman's voyagings), where he spent 6 months, charting and exploring. He reasoned that if the Dutch had charted the west coast of "Terra Australis Incognita", there must also be an east coast; so he set a westerly course from N.Z. 31/3/1770. On April 20 (Apl. 19, Greenwich Mean Time -- for which Cook had not allowed) the east coast of "New Holland" (as the Dutch had named it) was sighted; and sailing north, Cook entered Botany Bay on the afternoon of April 30 (GMT. Apl. 29) -----

BOOKS ON AUSTRALIAN HISTORY General Topics to 1850

This list is a selection of works available from the Central Library, S'land. Some lending books are duplicated at Branch Libraries; those which are in stock only at C/L may be borrowed through B/L. Some of the Reference Books listed are also located at B/L but those only at C/L may be consulted there. More titles will be advised in the next Bulletin.

- * THE DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA Andrew Sharp (1963): 994.01 SHA *
- SYDNEY COVE, 1788
- also "Sydney Cove 1789—90' & "S/C 1791-2". John Copley 994.02 COB
- *FOURTEEN JOURNEYS OVER THE BLUE MOUNTAINS George Mackaness 994.02 MAC
- OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1813-14 James Scott Q994.02 SCO
- # REMARKS ON A PASSAGE TOBOTANY BAY, 1787-92(A First Fleet Journal)
- # THE EMANCIPISTS FROM PRISON TO FREEDOM: Paul Edwin Leroy 994.02L ER

- The Story of the Australian Convicts
and Their descendents (2 vols.) .STACK
- # EARLY VOYAGES TO TERRA AUSTRALIS, R. H. Major (1859) 994.01 MAJ now Called
Australia
- ϕ SELECT DOCUMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, Manning Clark R994 CLA
1788-1850: & 1851-1900 (2 vols.)
- ϕ ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, R994.06.
Journal and proceedings, Vol. 43, 1957 to date
ROY (Cumulated Index Vols.1-42 also at C/L).
- ϕ A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA: Vol. I -- From theManning Clark R994 CLA
Earliest Times to the Age of Macquarie (lending copies of this ref. book available)
- * Recent Publications: # Reprints: ,ϕ Reference Books.

Members - Please Note: If you have any paragraphs of historical interest, especially relating to the Shire, they will be welcomed for the Bulletin; but please be sure your information is correct, and supply source of advice if. possible. Kindly forward to: Mrs. M. Hutton Neve, "Weaving", 26 First Av., Loftus.

‘Old age is an opportunity to have a second childhood’

TELLING IT AS IT WAS

Sutherland Shire Oral History Project

If you lived in the Sutherland Shire in the 1960s, chances are you'd have gone to McDowell's Department Store at Caringbah to check out the latest fashions for the upcoming season. McDowells, located on the corner of Kingsway and President Avenue, opened in 1961, and made the shopping strip the fashion capital of the Shire.



Up the road were two elite menswear stores – Kenrays and Brett Parkers, and Yvonne Delede's fashion house 'brought Europe to Caringbah,' recall Gordon and Lorraine Stone. It was the Stones' vision and energy that made McDowell's Department Store the centrepiece of Caringbah's fashion hub until it was taken over by Waltons in 1972.

In 2010 an oral history interview was recorded with the Stones for *Telling It As It Was*, a Sutherland Shire Council oral history project. Gordon, who was assistant manager of the store, and Lorraine, the store's fashion compere, staged frequent fashion parades that were often elaborate and theatrical. Emanating warmth and theatricality even now, this couple – whose whirlwind romance began at McDowells – relived the excitement of those fashion parades and the culture of service and formality reminiscent of *Are You Being Served?* "Every department store had a Mrs Slocum," explains Gordon, "with the bustle at the back and a full bosom, and very haughty." Lorraine remembers the 'Account Clients' who paid their account once a month. They would spend a whole day in the store with especially trained staff on hand to help them dress and try on shoes for a special occasion. "They demanded too much and often

didn't pay their account anyway," comments Gordon.

Gordon and Lorraine Stone

These first hand memories – or oral histories – give insights, colour and meaning to our iconic landmarks or a period of history. The excitement and emotion in the voice of someone who was there conveys a dimension to our understanding of the history that is simply not possible in documented history.

Telling It As It Was began as a contribution to the Sutherland Shire centenary celebrations in 2006. An initiative of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, this oral history project has been jointly funded by Sutherland Shire Council's Community Arts Grants and, in its first year, Caringbah Rotary Club.

Professional historian and Sutherland Shire Historical Society member Pauline Curby coordinates the project and professional historian, Elizabeth Adams conducted the initial interviews in collaboration with local studies librarian Helen McDonald. Former journalist, Oral History Association of Australia member and interviewer for the National Sound and Film Archives Elizabeth Craig joined the project in 2007, while Elizabeth Adams withdrew the following year.

The project aims to enhance the extensive oral history collection already in the Local Studies Collection at the Central Library Sutherland. Copies of interviews deposited there are publicly accessible and are widely used by students, researchers, family historians, a variety of other local residents and visitors to the district. A CD copy of each interview, a detailed log, a release form signed by interviewees and a photograph of the interviewee taken at the time of the interview are deposited in the library, along with other relevant photographs and documents.

In February each year the team meets Helen McDonald to discuss and prioritise a list of potential interviewees. Many nominations come



Doreen Perdrisat feeding a calf with the Price house in the background, c1940.

from Sutherland Shire Historical Society but we also hear of interesting long-term Shire residents from other sources such as the memory workshops Sutherland Shire Council organises in different parts of the Shire.

This is how we first met Doreen Noonan (nee Perdrisat) whose family moved from Forest Lodge to the Woronora River during the depression. Doreen still lives on the same block of land and, looking out on the river, she recalled a happy childhood, swimming from morning till night, but also taking on responsibilities such as milking the family's cow. It was a neighbourly community where a barter system operated amongst families struggling to make ends meet. A strong interest in politics was evident and Doreen's mother was a member of the local branch of the Communist Party. Since her teenage years the Woronora Life Saving and River Patrol Club, located directly opposite her home on the other side of the river, has played an important part in Doreen's life. She helped build the club in the early 1940s and remains active to the present.

Another fascinating interview was with Sutherland Shire Historical Society veteran Jim Cutbush. He recalled his early life as a child living at 30 Hyndman Parade Woolooware in a house his father had built himself. In the 1950s most people in that part of Sutherland Shire had gardens and chooks. One of the few farms left in

the area, run by the Lawrence family, was on Gannons Road. Jim was often sent to the garden and small orchard to buy produce and vividly recalls Mrs Lawrence's aviaries which kept him entertained while she got the order together. She always gave him two pieces of fruit to eat on his way home.

Other people in the area such as the McKenzies, who lived in Church Street off Castlewood Avenue, grew flowers such as dahlias. Jim and his good friend Ian Tetley – later his brother-in-law – earned pocket money working for Kenny Mackenzie. On Fridays they would go to the gardens where they cut flowers to be sold.

They put these in hot water and tied them with raffia. In the morning buckets of flowers were loaded onto a utility and taken to the markets. Jim recalled how, 'McKenzie's flowers were always sold in one hit.' In later years Kenny, 'a

Jim Cutbush



magnificent bricklayer' built houses for both Jim and Ian.

As the local population ages it is important to record the memories of residents so the collection is augmented with a variety of reminiscences that reflect the colour, diversity and varied lives of the people of Sutherland Shire. The *Telling It As It Was* interviews highlight some of the changes that have occurred within interviewees' living memory.

At this stage we have conducted a total of 54 interviews as part of *Telling It As It Was*. We have more in the pipeline for this year and hope to continue interviewing in future years. We would also like to investigate the possibility of producing a small publication based on the interviews.

Pauline Curby & Elizabeth Craig

The Love Family - Pioneers of Oyster Bay

Arrival of the Love Family at Oyster Bay



Robert and Rose Love arrived in Australia from England in 1910 as 'Ten Pound Poms'. In 1912 Rose entered a word jumble competition run by Arthur Rickard estate agents, and won second prize – the first instalment on a block of land in

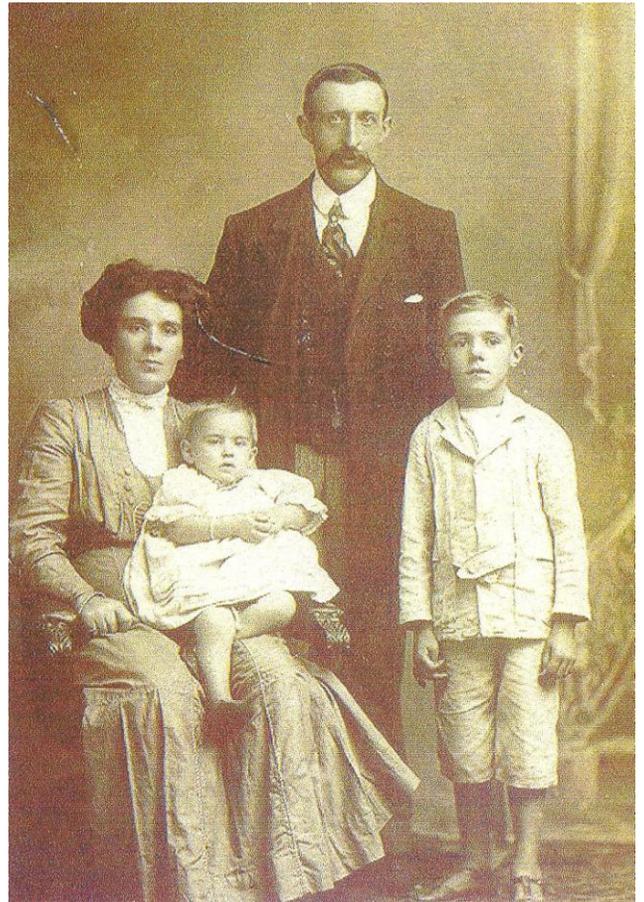
'By the Water Estate' in Como (which then encompassed Oyster Bay). The block was high on the hill, and they managed to swap it for one on the river. Their 26 acres was bounded by Carvers road, Phillip Street and a part of Oyster Bay Road down to Oyster Creek.

Rose, who had five children by 1917, found it difficult to settle down to bush life. "She came from London," explains Enid, "and thought this was terrible." But she settled down eventually. Initially, they lived in a whitewashed timber and tarred paper cottage with red painted woodwork. But after the war they began to build their family home at what became 2 Sage Avenue. Rose broke up the sandstone on the property during the day, and on weekends and after work Robert mixed the crushed rock with cement and made bricks in a mould he had bought at The Royal Easter Show for about three pounds. The cement was delivered on a barge at high tide, and Robert carried it up from the shore. The project took ten years. They named their home 'Deseret', a Book of Mormon name meaning 'a honey bee'. The original stone gate post still bears the name 'Deseret'.

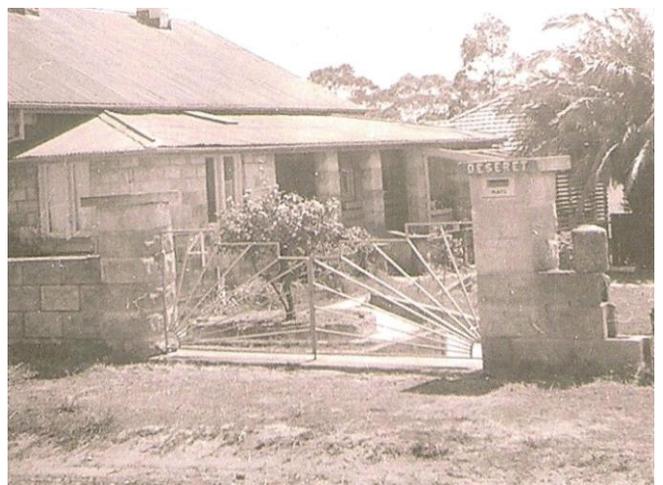
Enid Love was born to Oyster Bay pioneers, Robert and Rose Love, in 1915. She grew up in Sage Avenue, and after marrying Norman McGuire in 1943, raised her own family around the corner in Short Street. In May, 2009, with the help of her son Greg, I recorded an oral history interview with Enid McGuire, for "Telling It As It Was," Sutherland Shire's oral history project. She recalled the role of her own family, as well as that of other early settlers, and events pivotal in the shaping of the Oyster Bay we know today. This account is taken from that oral history, with some additions from Greg.

Sound recordings, photos and related documents of this and other oral histories of local residents are housed in the Local Studies Collection of Sutherland Library.

Elizabeth Craig



*Robert and Rose Love with their two eldest children around 1910**



*Deseret at 2 Sage Avenue, built by Robert and Rose Love**



Because of later development, 2 Sage Ave became 3 Sage Ave

Life on the Land at Oyster Bay

Rose was a keen gardener and grew flowers, while Robert looked after the vegetables and the orchard. At one time they had pigs. Robert planned to make a fortune out of his pigs, but they got pig fever and all died. Their jersey cow was a prolific milker. "Dad used to take her milk to about seven families," says Enid. Rose churned butter from the cream.

Greg tells of a rather sad ending for the family's horse, Don Muzzletoff. When he grew old, Robert gave him to a man for his children to ride. He was sold on and the next time Robert saw him, he was pulling the horse bus to Como. Don Muzzletoff later fell and died in harness at the bottom of 'Coulthard's Hill'.

The Loves also had poultry - one hen would raise anything - including geese and ducklings. With five rainwater tanks, the Loves usually had plenty of water. "When people did run out," says Enid, "they would do their washing down at Oyster Bay Creek." A spring running down to the river kept the creek from drying out.

There were no shops in Oyster Bay initially and the nearest medical help - Drs Tom and Eric Miles - was at Sutherland opposite the Saddlery. They did do home visits, but old wives tales were often counted on as remedies for ailments. "Mum was pretty good on home remedies," says

Enid. She recalls a neighbour asking her mother how to treat her son who had got sick from eating green oranges he'd pinched from Love's orchard. "Give him a dose of castor oil," advised her mother, satisfied that the foul tasting remedy was also a fitting punishment for the crime.

Robert and Rose believed in eating plenty of fruit and vegetables, but insisted they were picked immediately before eating so that the vitamins were still at their best. They used burning cow dung waved around on a shovel by their youngest, Alec, as mosquito repellent. Rose loved fish from the river, but if they weren't biting, she'd send the children down to collect periwinkles from the rocks. They used a chaff bag to catch prawns, too.

The Children's World

The Love children all had jobs to do. Enid fed the horse and helped her brother Alec gather sticks to start the wood fire every night. They played in the bush, picnicking on the rock where Oyster Bay School now stands. Enid's older brother, Len, would recite poetry in a tree which he had modified to serve as a rostrum. When electricity arrived, the neighbourhood kids would sit under a street light talking until the lights came on - a signal to go home for dinner. When the Como School of Arts began holding picture shows, the kids would walk up together to watch. "Walking was nothing to us because we did it every day to school," muses Enid. Until Jannali Railway Station was built in 1931 they would also walk to Sutherland's picture theatre. She remembers there was a bag of beans hanging up in the theatre. "We had to guess how many beans were in the bag, and the one who got the right number got a prize," explains Enid. "They gave away bedspreads and dinner sets and all sorts of things."

The Halls

Enid doesn't recall seeing Aborigines in the area, but across the river (now Kareela), there were lots of middens full of oyster shells. A member of another pioneering family, the Halls, wrote of

seeing Aborigines in Oyster Bay in the early days, but believed they had all left for Little Salt Pan Creek. The Halls were the first to live in Oyster Bay, and they all had big families. Enid recalls Grandma Hall, who lived halfway between Oyster Bay and Como, sitting on her verandah talking to her grandchildren as they passed on their way to school.

Fighting for a school

There was no school in Oyster Bay, and the children walked the mile or so along bush tracks to Como School. Once during renovations, Enid remembers classes being moved to the hall at the Como Pleasure Ground. "All the kids were in the one room," she laughs. "I don't know how they managed to teach us anything." The hall later burnt down. Up on the hill at the Pleasure Ground were little sheds where people would go on a hot day.

Robert and Rose pushed for many years for a school to be built at Oyster Bay. Rose wrote frequently to the Education Department arguing that it was too far for small children to walk to Como. They replied that they thought walking was good for the kids. Eventually the Education Department bought two acres from the Loves for 200 pounds, and a school opened in Phillip Street in 1943 – long after the Love children had grown up.



*The newly opened Oyster Bay School behind Enid's children, Frank and Carol, 1943**

Campaigning for the school was just one of Rose's projects. She was always busy, recalls Enid. She was secretary for the P&C and for fundraising for Sutherland Hospital. And at Christmas time, she would collect money to buy toys for the kids at Como School.

The Loves valued education, and all of their children were encouraged to aspire. Two became school teachers, and another two had their own plumbing businesses. Enid went to Sutherland Intermediate High School and did her final year at St George Business College. She didn't want to become a secretary, and convinced her Dad to show her how to solder. She got a job making wireless parts at Efco, which manufactured machine parts at its Arncliffe plant. "I was the first girl in the radio section," says Enid, "and we ended up with six. The rest were boys."

Managing work and home duties

Robert, a plumber, worked for Australian Gas Light Company, and managed to stay in work until the end of the Depression, so the family didn't suffer as much as others during the economic downturn. Because he would work on the house after coming home from a full day's work, he was always tired. "He'd sleep under the desk at work," Enid said, "and the men would give him a bit of a kick to wake him up whenever the boss walked in." He was particularly valued, however because he was willing to go down into the pits which were contaminated with acrid gas.

Spanish Flu

When Enid was still quite young, her father became very ill with what they believe was Spanish flu. He was kept in isolation. He became very sensitive to noise. "Mum used to send us out in the paddock to play so he couldn't hear us laughing," recalls Enid. Her older siblings went to school wearing masks. "We thought it was great fun kissing them goodbye through the mask."

Love's Post Office

Oyster Bay residents initially collected mail from a post office in Como. When it became very busy, Rose Love offered to look after Oyster Bay mail. She operated the local post office through a little shed near their front gate. "She'd be doing her housework, and someone would ring the bell on the door, so she'd run across and look after them," recalls Enid. While picking up their own mail, it was common for people to pick up and deliver mail to their friends.

During World War II, Robert Love personally delivered the dreaded telegrams notifying families of the death of a serviceman. Enid recalls him talking of one woman whose son, who was in the Navy, had gone down with *Sydney*. She refused to believe it until after the war because she said he was such a good swimmer.

The Progress Association Hall

The local Progress Association used to meet at Como School until three of its members – Robert Love, Freddie Sage and Herb Almond – pitched in and used their weekends to build a hall in Como Road. Robert only worked on Saturday as, being a Mormon, he didn't believe in working on Sundays. It was a bit of a ramshackle place, but they held functions there, including Christmas parties, when Santa Claus would arrive for the kids. Later they built a second hall a little up the road. That hall has since been rebuilt.

Doing the Shopping

There were no shops in Oyster Bay when the Loves arrived. The first was a general store opened by a Scottish couple, Jim and Annie MacMillan. Mrs McMillan, who had arthritis was unable to do very much physical work in the store, and she often spent her afternoons visiting Rose for a chat. The store was later replaced by one opened by Greentree and Voyce. It was larger, its produce including groceries, building supplies, cattle and horse feed, too.

Ice and bread were home delivered, and some goods were delivered from shops at Hurstville or Mortdale. Meat came from Dawes Carey's Butchery at Como. There were 13 Careys and since their father had died young, Dawes became the head of the family. "He looked after them and saw that they had good jobs," says Enid. Three of the Carey brothers became butchers. Joe opened a shop at Jannali and would replace any meat you weren't happy with – without argument. "They were popular, happy-go-lucky people."

One of the Halls, who worked as a fettler on the railways, supplied the local community with fish on the side. "He would put his net out at night and collect the fish in the morning," recalls Enid. Because Rose hated gutting fish he always cleaned hers before delivering it.

It was a very supportive community, Enid says. "If anybody died, everybody would be at the funeral. If anybody had a wedding, they'd all be there." And if somebody wanted to play tennis, for instance, the community would get together and build a tennis court. "It was a good time to be growing up."

The Mormon Church

Robert and Rose Love had become Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) before their arrival in Australia. There was only one meeting house for Mormons in Sydney at the time – in Enmore. "We used to walk to Como Station and catch the train to St Peters, and then walk to Enmore," explains Enid.

Later on, the Loves held a Sunday school at their home. Kids from all around attended. After children turned eight, baptism was offered. "When the kids went home and told their mothers that was the last we saw of them," chuckles Enid. They weren't allowed to be baptised into the Mormon Church. She doesn't recall any discrimination otherwise. Her lifelong

friend, Esther Larkin, who she sat next to on her first day of school, was a devout Catholic.



*Robert and Rose Love in later years**

Enid’s Marriage to Norman McGuire

While working at AWA, Enid and her boss, Norman McGuire, fell in love. They were married in 1943 by a Methodist Minister. Norman was not a Mormon, and the Mormon Church was not allowed to perform weddings. Their wedding and reception was at Enid's brother, Bob’s place at Ashfield, and her mother catered with cakes and sandwiches. Robert Love had given each of his children a block of land from his holding in Oyster Bay, and the McGuires built their house at Short Street. Norm erected a Hudson Ready-Cut timber home and clad it in ‘fibro’. He was no builder, and put the window flashing on upside down at first, but with the help of others he did a good job, and the house still stands.

An urban myth or surfing history? Pauline Curby

The Australian Dictionary of Biography is a marvellous resource, especially since it has been

The McGuires had five children: Frank, born in 1943, then Carol, Julie, Greg and Phillip. The intense lobbying by their grandparents had resulted in the opening of Oyster Bay Public School in 1943, initially a one-room building, and was attended by the McGuire children, who all grew up in Short Street.



*Norman and Enid McGuire on their wedding day**

Frank, the McGuires’ eldest son, also had his oral history recorded and deposited in the Sutherland Library for *Telling It As It Was*. His memories of living in Oyster Bay during the 1950s and 1960s will be published in a later *Bulletin*.

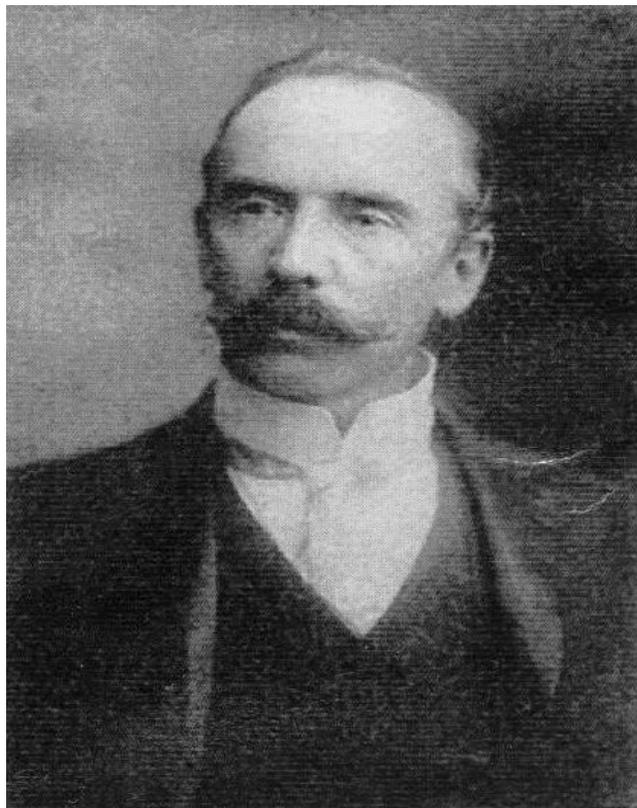
**Photos courtesy of Greg McGuire*

available on line. Written by a wide range of authors, entries sometimes require revision, as is the case with the one late UNE academic Bruce Mitchell wrote on William Henry Gocher, (1856–1921).

Described as a ‘pioneer daylight surfer’, Gocher has become part of Sydney’s surfing history. This is an honour he did not earn and does not deserve. He is said to have played a pivotal role in overturning legislation that hampered the emergence of Australian beach culture. I believe the story of Gocher’s role is little more than an urban myth, created with the help of his friend solicitor Frank Donovan.

The third paragraph of Mitchell’s article reads:

For some years Gocher wrote for John Norton’s Truth; when he inherited money in 1900 he moved his family to Manly and established a short-lived newspaper, the Manly and North Sydney News. Through this paper he staged the scene at Manly for which he is remembered. He determined to expose the irrelevance of the local government regulations which forbade sea-



bathing in daylight hours. The issue was one of public decency as there were no changing sheds and swimming costumes were rare. Clad in a neck-to-knee costume, Gocher in October 1902 swam at midday after announcing his intentions in his paper. Twice ignored by the authorities, he duly criticized their lack of zeal; on a third occasion he was escorted from the water and

interviewed by the police who brought no charges. In November 1903 the reluctant Manly council resolved to allow all-day bathing, rapidly growing in popularity, provided that a neck-to-knee costume was worn. Gocher claimed a triumph and in 1907 friends presented him with a gold watch and a purse of fifty sovereigns.¹

While Gocher may have performed this stunt, no contemporary record of his ‘exploit’ exists, nor did it have any impact on Manly Council’s decision to change its bathing regulations. Linking Gocher with this is erroneous. In addition, as Manly was not the first local council to change its regulations, its decision was not a ‘pioneering’ action.

Sydneysiders first heard about Gocher’s ‘triumph’ five or six years after the ‘event’. According to an article in the *Daily Telegraph* in January 1907, Gocher had challenged the restrictions on daylight bathing and initiated the ‘first decisive move in the direction of free and open dipping on Manly’s glorious beach in Australia’s brilliant sunshine’.² Apparently, on some unspecified date,³ Gocher swam outside of the prescribed daylight hours and unsuccessfully challenged the police to prosecute him, thus making a mockery of the restrictions on daylight bathing. This, it was claimed, led to the legalisation of all-day bathing.⁴

William Gocher (Courtesy of Manly Library)

Although most Manly residents were unaware of his ‘triumph’, Gocher was not a complete nonentity. He was involved in the Manly Progress Association, and had unsuccessfully stood for political office on a number of occasions. However, his attempt to enter local

Warning notice, 1901 (Courtesy of MWPHS)

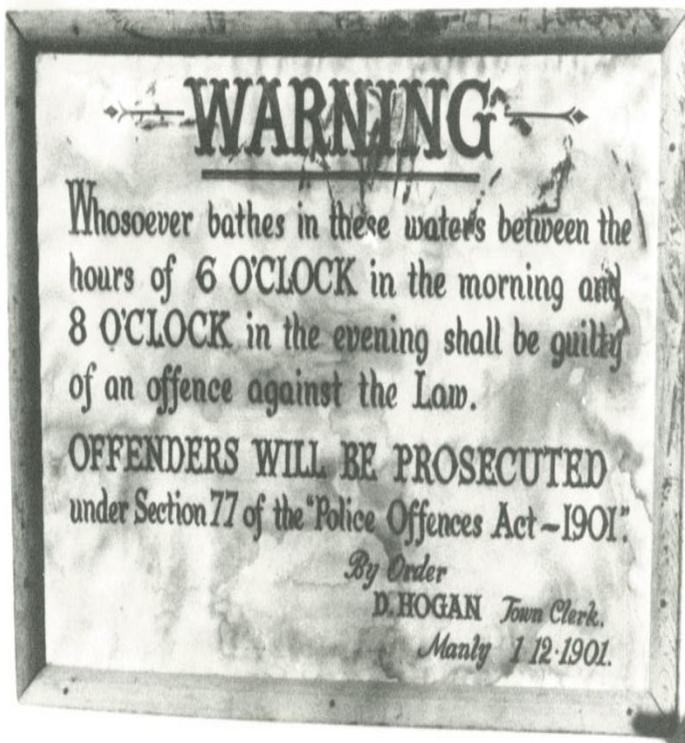
Warning notice, 1901 (Courtesy of MWPHS)

¹ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gocher-william-henry-6408> accessed on 25/1/2012

² *DT*, 7 January 1907.

³ Later accounts usually fix the incident as early in the swimming season 1902.

⁴ *DT*, 7 January 1907.



The *Daily Telegraph* article and one Gocher wrote in 1910 in *The Sydney Sportsman*⁵ are the only sources for what has become one of Sydney's urban myths; no account of surfing or beach culture is complete without it.⁶ In Gocher's account he placed himself beside *Truth* proprietor John Norton as a champion of freedom against stuffy morality. Manly Council was depicted as the villain in the piece in both articles, but more so in Gocher's later article, as the story developed.⁷

The real story

Swimming and surfing in daylight hours became legal in Sydney as the result of an incident on Bondi. As at Coogee and Manly, 'ocean bathing' had been popular there since the 1880s, so when two policemen unexpectedly appeared on the

⁵ *The Sydney Sportsman*, 9/11/1910, p. 2. His name was incorrectly spelt 'Goacher'.

⁶ See for example C. B. Maxwell, *Surf: Australians Against the Sea*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1949, pp. 14-16 & R. Quinn, 'Kelly and the Shark and other Memories of Manly' in the *Bulletin*, 29 September, 1943, p. 4.

⁷ Key details differ in the two accounts. See *MD*, 17 November 1910.

beach with notebooks in hand on 13 November 1902, regular early morning surfers were defiant.

This police visitation was a result of a complaint to Waverley Council that, 'unless they are properly and becomingly clad', bathers at Bondi were in breach of the Police Offences Act. Most of the bathers held back, but about 15 plunged into the water. Immediately the policemen began taking the names of those clad in 'small trunks'. As a local clergyman and several professional men were among the miscreants, a furore erupted.⁸

The police, however, were reined in. As a result of the commotion Inspector General of Police Edmund Fosbery wrote to Waverley Council putting his policy on public record. He stated:

So long as the bathers wear suitable bathing costumes and public decency is not outraged, I am unable to see that a practice permitted for so many years should be stopped ... Unless, therefore, I receive instructions from the Government to the contrary I do not see my way to take action beyond instructing the police that decency is to be observed.⁹

No one was going to be prosecuted as long as Fosbery was in charge of police.¹⁰

Ten days after this declaration, Randwick Municipality proposed allowing daylight bathing, the first to do so in NSW. Then in early December the Executive Council gave its approval for this by-law allowing male and female bathing in the sea in the municipality 'at all times and at all hours of the day' provided they be clothed 'from the neck and shoulders to the knees with a suitable bathing dress or costume'.¹¹

⁸ *SMH*, 14/11/1902, p. 4.

⁹ *SMH*, 15/11/1902, p. 7.

¹⁰ The Police Offences Act of 1901 reiterated the bathing regulations of 1838. *The Statutes of NSW passed during the Session of 1901*, Govt. Printer, Sydney, 1902, SLNSW, p. 60.

¹¹ *SMH*, 4/12/1902, p. 5. Waverley Council waited until 1905 before changing its by-laws to allow all-day bathing at Bondi and the other beaches of the municipality. Information supplied by Kathy Joss, reference librarian, Waverley Library, 2000.

A year later in November 1903 Manly Council also changed its bathing regulations, but only after three issues had been resolved. The first two, relating to ‘decency’ and surf safety were common to all Sydney’s beaches. As a Council by-law specifying neck to knee costumes was being ‘rigorously enforced’¹² and a Council-sponsored surf-boat would rescue, it was hoped, those in danger of drowning, it was considered prudent to make a change and allow surfing at any time. The third issue explains the timing of the regulation change. This was a purely local one involving the renewal of the harbour baths leases. The old lease had expired on 1 October 1903 and a new agreement was to be negotiated. As a result a three-year lease of the men’s baths for a significantly smaller sum than before was agreed in recognition of the fact their profitability would decrease with the introduction of all-day bathing.¹³

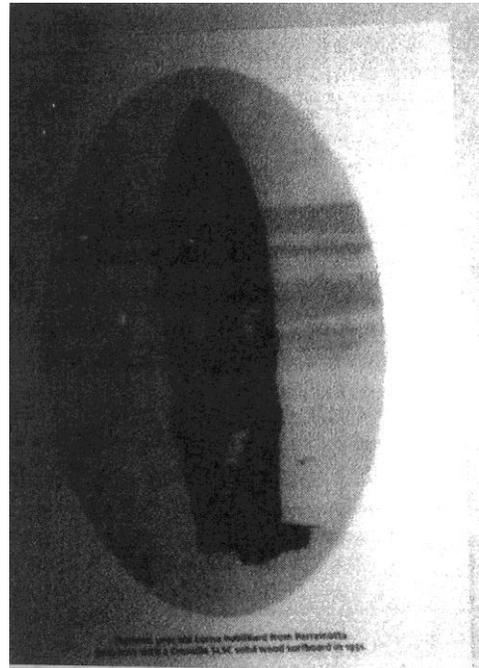
Down on his luck

Where does Gocher fit into this well documented story and why did he suddenly become a hero in 1907? At this time he seems to have been down on his luck and about to leave Manly. A few days after the *Daily Telegraph* article appeared, his friend, solicitor Frank Donovan, launched an appeal so a presentation could be made to him.¹⁴ Donovan’s action in ‘passing round the hat’ won Gocher an engraved watch, a purse of sovereigns and a place in history.¹⁵ Donovan’s motivation seems to have partly stemmed from the fact he was in dispute with a ‘backward’ Manly Council for its apparent lack of support for surfing. He cleverly manipulated this issue to further his career in local politics when Manly Surf Club was formed in August 1907.

As this story is part of our surfing history, it is important to know ‘what really happened’. The bathing regulations referred to were, however, only applicable to incorporated

districts. These had no relevance to local beaches because Sutherland Shire Council was not incorporated until 1906, almost four years after the Executive Council ruled that Randwick could allow all-day bathing.

This article is based on extracts from the author’s, *Seven Miles from Sydney, a History of Manly*, Manly Council, 2001. *Randwick* (Randwick Council, 2009), *History*, Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society, June 2005.



¹² *SM*, 7 January 1903, p. 25.

¹³ *MD*, 18 October 1907 in WCB1, p. 27.

¹⁴ *DT*, 7 & 12 January 1907.

¹⁵ *SMH*, 13 February 1907, p. 9.

ARCHIVAL ADDITIONS

Merle Kavanagh

In the Bulletin last year I documented my work as Archivist at the Society's Museum in East Parade. Since then there has been a regular flow of donations – objects, photographs, leaflets, book and clippings from local newspapers, these last items being regularly passed on to me by Doug Archer who is one of the group of dedicated workers for the Museum. I think it would be interesting to many members to show the variety of donations received in the last few months. Though some are not Sutherland Shire, they are worth keeping for their historical value.

Library

Capt. Cook Portfolio, Sun Herald
History Australia – National Trust
Colonial Australians (David Denholm)
Oatley, Working Man's Paradise
(Elaine Howard, Lions Club)
Journal of Philip Gidley King, Lt. R.N.
Sydney Cove books (John Cobley)
Sydney in 1848 (Joseph Fowles)
Anzacs at War (Dr. Peter Pederson)
Cronulla Story (Gary Lester)
Surf Life Saving Century
Illawarra 100 years 1888-1988
Rail Centenary
Romance of Australian Trams
(John Larkins/Bruce Howard)
Lennie's Ride (Mary Small)
Seek (Di Burke & Mary Small)
A Guide to Historic Dangar Island
One hundred & Thirty Years of Organ
Music (Ian C. Griggs)

Museum Items

Studio tape recorder
Film projector
Bark picture – Menai Cong. Church
Teaspoons – Suth. Hosp.
25th anniversary and Endeavour

Leaflets

Suth-Cron Railway Opening Booklet 1939
Hazelhurst brochure
RN.P. Visitors Centre – Opening 19.2.2012
Cron. –R.N.P. ferries timetable 1996
Engadine – Mitchells Furniture Store closure
Heathcote Herald Sept. 2011
Woronora Cemetery Forget me Not Cottage
Map Wetlands, S.S.Cl. draft
Kurnell Waterway Development Proposal
Pearl Oyster farm, etc.
Tanner, Bill, early Jannali Memories
Tape transcription
Atkins family, Miranda – memories of
Boatsheds, Commercial in Suth. Shire.
Cron. Fisheries closure – re fight against, 2011

Photographs

Georges River Bridge (almost finished)
Postcard titled "St. Georges"
Cronulla 1940s, Cronulla Beach 1955 P/Cs
Loftus Bushfire Brigade Field Day 1960s
Kurnell, Allan's Store 1947 (and family)
Woronora Dam area, hall & band etc.

D.V.Ds / C.DS.

S.S. Hist. Soc. old Minutes/M'ship lists.
Walker Report 1868
Heavens, Geo. Journals
Waterfall Sanatorium Electoral Roll 1936
Photographs – various
Gough, Rupert Collection
Brinsley, William April 2011 Interview log
Wor. Dam Construction.
Helensburgh Electoral Roll 1930
Extract of those with Wor. Dam address.
Dad Rudd M.P.

You can see the variety of collectable and interesting items donated – from Captain Cook to Dad Rudd M.P. via the Waterfall Sanatorium, Woronora Cemetery, Loftus Fire Brigade and other significant places in our Shire – a sort of Lennie's Ride through our history, you might say. All donations are treated with care and are very much appreciated. Have you checked in your cupboards lately?

COASTAL SHIPWRECKS off Sutherland Shire

Merle Kavanagh

1908 – 1923

1908 Galatea

This little ketch was built in Gosford in 1891, length 21 ft., beam 7.3 ft., and worked off the coast on a variety of jobs, towing and transporting goods. She carried firewood from Hawkesbury to Sydney for some years and was working south of Sydney on Monday 27th January 1908. With only two on board, she set off from Sydney, unloading a shipment of building materials at Port Hacking. She continued on to the Five Islands where she discharged her cargo and loaded up with sand grit.

On Tuesday afternoon the *Galatea* sailed for Sydney and that night the vessel began to take on water which the pumps could not clear. Some of the cargo was thrown overboard but this made little difference. In the morning Capt. W. Glover headed for Cronulla Beach as the little vessel was in danger of sinking. She was beached in a safe place and the two voyagers stepped out onto the sand and telegraphed the owners, Frederic Delahunt Rose and Walter Paul Rose of Pymont. Repairs were expected to allow her to get back into service. However, on Friday 31st January she was reported as 'breaking up' in a southerly wind and a heavy sea and was lost.

The *Galatea* had worked as a Government tug a year earlier and on one voyage she towed a lighter fitted with a steam winch and diving apparatus from Nelson's Bay to Newcastle. Unfortunately the lighter began to settle in the water off Port Hunter in a southerly wind and she quickly sank, but not before two men on it had jumped into the open boat and cast off. The lighter sank in deep water a mile or so from Nobby's but was recovered and appeared to be undamaged.

1911 Laura

A Peruvian bark, *Laura*, under owner and master, C. Gazzolo, was wrecked on the South coast in July 1911 while on a voyage from Vallao to Sydney. Wreckage

from the ship of 192 tons was washed ashore at Cronulla.

1919 Tuggerah

The collier, *Tuggerah*, built in 1912 for the Wallarah Coal Co. loaded 820 tons of coal at Bulli on 17 May 1919 then sailed for Sydney at 2.30 p.m. with a slight list to port. After passing round the reef there, they found the sea very rough. They had reached a point off Marley Beach, a few miles south of Port Hacking when they shipped a large wave, some on board estimating its height at 20 ft. Having taken on water already, this wave was to seal the fate of the *Tuggerah*. She heeled heavily to port and Capt. McConachie ordered the life boat launched. F.R. Tait, the 2nd Officer, rushed to obey before the ship heeled over on her port side. She floated bottom up for a short while before disappearing below the surface about 4 p.m.

The lifeboat under Mr. Tait quickly picked up as many men as possible, though the Chief Engineer, J. Davis was seen clinging to some wreckage before disappearing out of sight. Tait made a thorough search in the area but found none of six missing men who included Captain J. McConachie, Chief Office R. Finch, Chief Engineer J. Davies, Steward J. Pert, Cook H. Nevison and fireman F. Kerby.

Matron Ireland tended them before they were

The lifeboat headed for Port Hacking, the eleven survivors landing at Cronulla Beach at 7.30 p.m. They were taken to Cronulla House where moved to the hotel, proceeding to Sydney the following day. One man on board, William Taylor, had been shipwrecked twice before.

The local police, Sgt. Walsh of Sutherland Station and Constables McPherson, Worland and Brown, conducted a search along the coast. Some wreckage was found at Boat Harbour. The Federal Labor Party demanded an enquiry and a preliminary enquiry into the event began on 21 May 1919. Without the Master and Chief Officer, it was not easy to establish some details,

such as actual loading line, and what water was being taken on. They investigated what trimming of the coal had occurred, what hatches were secured before departure and what affect the lesser amount of coal had on the stability of the ship. The enquiry also considered two earlier losses of colliers, the *Myola* and *Undola*. When the hatches on the *Tuggerah* came under discussion, it was emphasized that they should always be fastened before departure.

Compensation claims were paid by the Wallarah Coal Co. Ltd. to Alfred Kerby (father of Frank Kerby, fireman), Jessie Pert (Widow of John Pert, steward) and Julia Nevison (widow of William Nevison, cook). An enquiry was opened on 20 October 1919 into the three lost colliers when it appeared that the load line was too high.

1923 Belbowrie

A violent storm raged along the N.S.W. coast in June 1923. The Manly ferry service was discontinued and vessels were dragged at their moorings in the harbour. On 26 June the coastal steamer *Belbowrie* was driven ashore by a fierce south-easterly gale with blinding rain. This vessel was engaged in coastal coal and general cargo trade for twelve years and was carrying about 25,000 ft. of timber for Sydney. It grounded on the night of 26 June, north of Cronulla, having sailed from Ulladulla the previous day. "The seas drove the vessel through the surf and lifted her clear of the huge breaking waves." The crew put the engines full speed astern but the vessel would not move. They sent up three red rockets and exploded a detonator to attract attention. In the morning the vessel was secured with lines and the crew brought ashore. They waited for the weather to abate before they attempted to refloat the vessel and meanwhile some of the crew walked to Cronulla.

The tug *St. Olaves* tried to reach the scene but was driven back by high seas. An attempt to reach the ship by land was unsuccessful as the place, near Potter Pt. was not accessible to vehicles, being three miles from the nearest road with sandhills in between the road and the ship.

When the weather moderated a few days later, salvage gear was dispatched to the ship and it was refloated at 11 p.m. on 1 July. Twenty thousand feet of timber was discharged and stacked on the beach. She anchored for the night, sailing for Sydney under her own steam the following day. There she had an undersea survey. At the subsequent enquiry damage was estimated to be £2000 (\$4000) and the Court found that neither the master nor the Mate, who was in charge at the time of the grounding, were to blame. The *Belbowrie* had previously been ashore at Ulladulla in the first decade of the century.

Some years later, on 16 January 1939, the *Belbowrie* met her ultimate fate. On her final voyage she left Balmain for Shellharbour to load blue metal. It was raining heavily and nothing could be seen from the bridge. The ship was doing 6½ knots in heavy weather but was well off shore, so Capt. Dixon went below. He was awoken by a crash, rushed to the bridge and found the ship on the rocks at Maroubra Pt. He ordered 'reverse engines' but the engine room was flooded. Distress rockets were fired and they endeavoured to lower the lifeboat but it was swamped in heavy surf.

A rope was secured ashore and the line was held by some Police as the crew of ten dragged themselves along the line to shore over the raging surf. A fireman was injured leaving the wreck and the last to leave was the Master who fell exhausted into the water, crying "I'm done!" He was rescued and with the crew was cared for at the Maroubra Ambulance Station. The *Belbowrie* was pounded, sank lower and became a total wreck.

Brignell, Trevor L., *Some Shipwrecks in the Randwick Municipality*, Randwick and District Historical Society Inc., 1987.

Loney, Jack, *Wrecks on the New South Wales Coast*, Oceans Enterprises, Yarram, Vic. 1993.
Trove.nla.gov.au. *Sydney Morning Herald*, various issues, 1907-1939.

Mill Creek

Greg Jackson

Mill Creek is a little known tributary of the Georges River, it rises behind the Menai Tip (Lucas Heights Waste Management Centre) and flows roughly parallel with Heathcote Road through land belonging to the Gandangara Land Council and into the Georges River opposite Cattle Duffers Flat.

The naming of Mill Creek must have been done in error. There has never been a mill on Mill Creek. The creek was probably mistaken for either the nearby Woronora River (originally called Woronora Creek) or Williams Creek both of which had mills belonging to John Lucas (AKA John the Miller). The Mill Creek Catchment Strategic Management Plan² prepared for the Gandangara Land Council page 27 states: *'The most notable "historic" location in the catchment are the remains of what is believed to be a flour mill dating from the 1920s (from which the creek got its name)...'*. The name Mill Creek was, in fact first used in the 1830's. On the 22nd August 1838 the 'Colonist' advertised 50 acres of land for sale on Mill Creek *'..at the confluence of Mill Creek and the Georges River..'* at 10 shillings an acre. A small brick dam on Mill Creek has caused the confusion. The dam was built by the Maymans, a local farming family in the 1930's and used for agricultural purposes. Family members tell us that a pump moved the water to a tank that still stands in the horse paddock beside the police dog training centre in Menai. Except in times of very high rainfall there has never been enough water flowing down Mill Creek to run a mill.

While researching Mill Creek I came across an interesting advertisement from 'The Sydney Morning Herald', Monday 11 January 1875 describing a property for sale along Mill Creek

174 Acres of Land on George's River at the Junction of Mill Creek

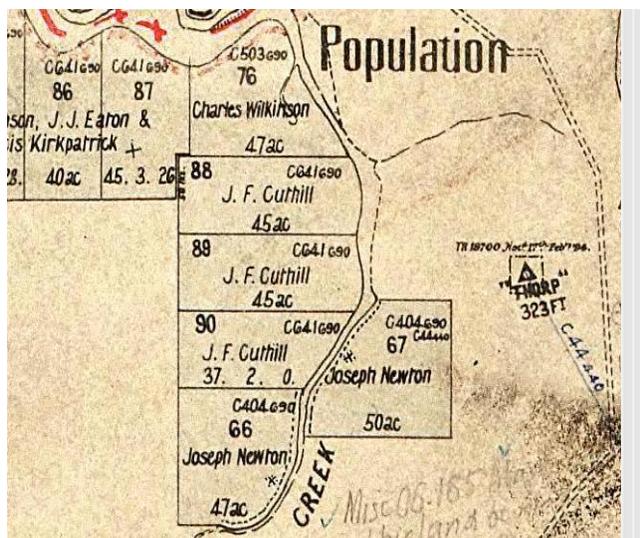
BOWDEN, MILLS and GORDEN are instructed by A.T. Holroyd. Esq. Master in Equity, to sell by auction, at the Land Sale Rooms on THURSDAY, the 14th January, at half-past 11 o'clock prompt, 174 acres of land at Mill Creek on George's River, said to have been selected by the late proprietor as coal land, with water frontage to the river. About 50 acres of FLAT ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS along the bank of Mill Creek, the remainder well timbered and abundantly watered.

There is a small dwelling on it; the occupants will give information to enquirers. Distance to Liverpool – about 8 miles by land and about the same by water from Sans Souci.

I knew of no old dwellings along Mill Creek, The land along Mill Creek appeared to have no agricultural value and I had assumed that the land grants on the creek had all been surrendered. The term '*Master in Equity*' is a senior legal position and the statement that the land was '*said to have been selected as coal country*' is not as impossible as it seems. The Hacking River, not so far distant from the Georges has plenty of naturally occurring coal at Calala picnic area on Lady Carrington drive, above the Audley weir; I took a piece home and burnt it in our wood heater to make sure. However I have never seen any coal in Mill Creek.

Searching for this 'small dwelling' I looked at old parish maps. Part of Parish Map 140414 for Holsworthy (1899) below shows the original land grants along Mill Creek (Georges River is top of map). There are no land holdings of 174 acres but if the properties of Charles Wilkinson and J. F. Cuthill are combined (or Joseph Newton and J. F. Cuthill are combined) we get an acreage of: 45 + 45 + 37 + 47 = 174 Acres. This was most likely the property offered in the

advertisement above. Somewhere on that property should be the remains of the ‘small dwelling’ described in this land sale advertisement. The ‘x’ on the lands of Joseph Newton usually denotes a wharf on parish maps and may give a clue to the location of the dwelling.

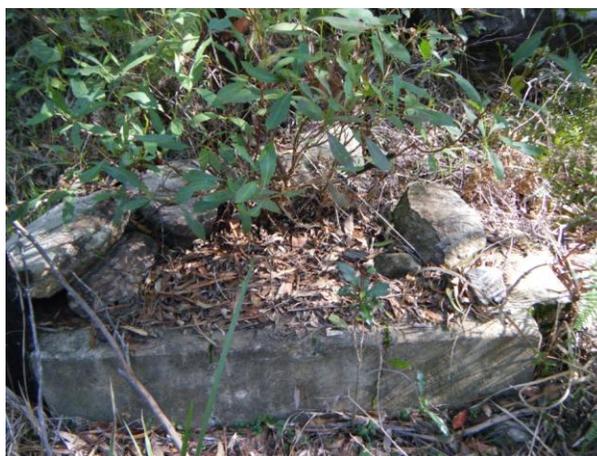


This area was searched and, remarkably the remains of a small dwelling were found at: S:33.99429, N:151.01471 on one of the flat alluvial plains beside the creek. This places the small dwelling on the southern most land originally granted to J. F. Cuthill.

The dwelling consisted of a single room hut approx 3.5 x 3.5 meters. A fireplace protruded from the rear of the dwelling with no sign of a stone chimney, it may have been of tin construction. The floor was of concrete with sandstone aggregate as was the hearth. The walls had been supported by rough wooden posts set in the ground two of which remained. The remains of a flat iron roof (or wall) were visible along with a much rusted steel drum. The dwelling appears to have been destroyed by fire. No exotic plants were found. A well (hole in the ground full of water) was located approx 55 meters north of the dwelling. This well had a drain to take any overflow away to the creek. Between the house and heading in the direction of the well was a large amount of worked rock. These rocks were roughly squared, some laid flat as paving and some as uprights for garden borders. The remains of a jetty was located on

Mill Creek about 15 meters from the dwelling (not the jetty shown on the parish map) and connected to the dwelling by a paved path. It was difficult to see how the resident(s) of this small dwelling earned a living. The land is boggy and salty so crops seemed out of the question and no fence remains to enclose stock were found. Old time residents at nearby Sandy Point suggested that the occupant, at least in the depression years, was a timber cutter. Cutting gum and casuarinas for fire wood he would take his produce by row boat down Mill Creek to the Georges River and off to market, this must have been a hard way to make a living but he would have been rewarded by a beautiful bushy riverside home. The photo below shows the fireplace in the small dwelling.

Much of the fresh water parts of Mill Creek flow through land now belonging to the Gandangara Land Council and a proposal is before the NSW State Government to develop approximately 3000 house sites and a large industrial estate. Much of this land is severely degraded by recreational vehicles but the areas along the creek lines are still pristine and contain many aboriginal features. Rock carvings, cave paintings and axe sharpening groves are present.





Above is a photo of an exquisite 'Birthing Cave'. This cave is in pristine condition and contains some rock art.

It is sad to think that this cave may soon be in the middle of an industrial estate. What protects heritage features, like this cave at the moment is the surrounding bush that ensures that they remain unknown to most members of the public. Even if this cave remains undamaged behind a protective barbed wire enclosure its visual impact and beauty will be much diminished. The area known as 'Little Forest' was a 700 acre land grant to David Duncomb in 1831³. This substantial grant covered parts of Deadmans Creek and Mill Creek behind the Menai tip. Part of this area has fertile shale soil and about 70 acres is now grass lands and was probably used for grazing stock in the 1960's. A 1955 aerial photo shows no grass lands so these paddocks are not those of David Duncomb although his more modest paddocks may have been in this area. Davis Duncomb would have been an absent landlord. He started as a manager on the farm 'Alpha' at Kurnell in 1822⁴ but became a career

public servant and probably obtained this massive grant because of his position as Chief Clerk in the Surveyors Generals Department⁵. In 1836 he was appointed Coroner at Windsor⁶ and in 1848 Sheriff bailiff at Goulburn⁷ where he died.

It would indeed be a find to locate Duncombe's cottage and outbuildings although they probably have disappeared beneath the modern fields.

1. Parish Map 14065001, undated, parish of Holsworthy the Department of Lands management Authority.

2. Mill Creek Catchment Strategic Management Plan, page 27, 2010. Prepared by Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd Narrabeen, NSW 2101

3. The Australian Friday 23rd September 1831. John Lucas' grant on the Woronora and John Alfords grant at Sandy Point are included in the same declaration. Duncomb may have taken up this land some times in the 1820's as land grants usually lagged behind land occupation. John Lucas occupied his Woronora grant in 1825.

4. <http://www.monaropioneers.com/bennett-je.htm> accessed Oct 2011

5. The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Wednesday 24 September 1828

6. The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Thursday 21 October 1841

7. Sydney Chronicle Thursday 24 February 1848

CAN WE HELP?

Clive Baker was kind enough to give me some photos showing a convict built wall on the Woronora River at the Needles. A similar photo is in Ron Seville's book 'Engadine 1825 - 2001' with the information that this is the relics of the convict road building camp of 1843 and is the remains of a stone warehouse or bakers oven. Do any of our readers know the location of this wall? Is it at the Needles or where the road crosses the river at the pass of Sabugal? If you have any information please contact Greg Jackson on 95436224 or email greg.jackson100@gmail.com.

Regards Greg Jackson

WERE YOU AT SCHOOL SUTHERLAND IN 1947?

If so, a young lad of about 75 is trying to make the contact with the people who appear in this photograph. Jim Wood (now living in Melbourne) grew up in a squatters camp in Woronora and attended the school at that time. The lad made good from that humble background – see attached story.



SUTHERLAND SCHOOL – FIFTH
CLASS, 1947

Rear L-R: Max LYE, Ralph HODGE,
Phillip NEWMAN (or NEUMAN), John
CROPP,
John GRAY, John BARNES, Terry
MILLER, Greg WEBB, ___?___, Phil RAY.

Second-rear L-R: Murray FRENCH, Ray
GLOVER (?), Lorry (Laurie?) SMITH,
Wilfred PIESLEY, Barry JENKINS, Les
WEBB, Kevin BURGESS, Brian
HENDERSON,
Bob FRY, Bob HOAR, Ross HEATON,
Ron HART.

Second-front L-R: Ray ALLEN (?), ___?___,
Frank EVERET (EVERIT?), Walter
DUNN,
Ray 'Boxer' BURGESS, Phillip ALLEN
(?), Jim ROGERS, Tom McALISTER, Jim
WOOD,
Lorry (Laurie?) BINDER.

Front L-R: Les NICKLES, Bob
MARSTELLER, Bruce TRACEY, Ron
HERBERT, ___?___,
Sam WHEELER, Ernie COLEMAN,
Chester GOULD, Gordon MESSITER,
Clive RATTENBURY.

If you can help – please phone Clive Baker
who will pass it on.
9521-6515 or 0424-235-885

Notice to members

The by-laws of the Society state that if payment for annual membership is more than three months in arrears then their membership is terminated. That means that membership fees should be paid no later than the end of September.

**Have you paid your membership fee?
2012/2013 fees are due from 1st July**

Friends of Sutherland Shire Historical Society

You can help 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**

****purchasing display equipment for
the museum***

Memorabilia?

Sometimes when we're moving house, downsizing, clearing an estate or just plain cleaning up, we come across items that have been put aside for many years for whatever reason. These days there's a tendency, especially from younger family members to just throw it out. Now not everything is valuable or worth keeping and a good clean out is often just what's required so you can get on with your life and function effectively.

But if you are in the position and are unsure if an item, book, map etc would have historical significance, especially in the local context, contact Jim, our museum curator or other members who may be able to research it, write about it in the bulletin, display it or save it for posterity.

This space could be yours!

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

Do you have historic photos that could be copied?

Perhaps you know someone whose story deserves to be told

If you have enjoyed this edition of the bulletin then let the writers know or show a copy to a friend or colleague who may also enjoy it. Become an ambassador for the Society

Overleaf is an application form. If you join now you will receive 14 months membership

Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Membership application or renewal 2012/13

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

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name: -----

Given name: -----

Postal address: -----

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

Please find subscription for 2012/13 enclosed

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

Signed ----- Date -----

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

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

TITLE: Mr, Mrs, Ms

Family name: -----

Given name: -----

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