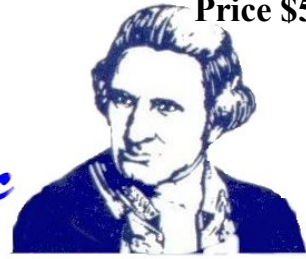


AUGUST 2012

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*Sutherland Shire
Historical Society Inc*
Bulletin



VOL. 15 No. 3

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Royal Doulton 'Loving Cup' The landing of Captain Cook, 1770.

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

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The cover – Ceramic cup. In the collection of Randwick Historical Society. See last page 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.

Note: the museum is currently closed for renovations.

Donations of materials with a local provenance are welcome.

Disclaimer

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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

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Meetings of the Society

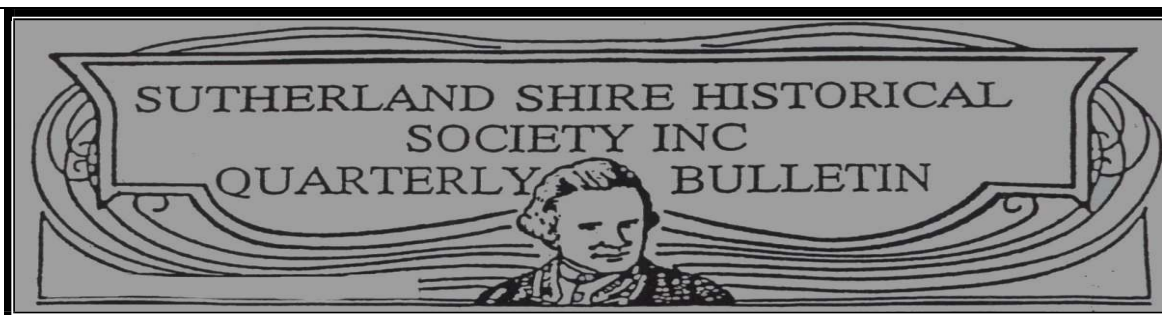
held on the third Saturday of each month at 1.30 pm at the Stapleton Communit Centre, 3A Stapleton Street, Sutherland.

Visitors are welcome.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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President's Report

I am approaching the end of my first year as President and it has certainly been an eventful one. In this fast moving world if you are standing still, you're actually going backwards. So one has to peddle fast to keep up with and move ahead of the flow.

It is a privilege to work with our current Executive. Like many similar organisations we represent an older cohort but that doesn't diminish the enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to try new ideas and ventures.

Earlier this year Pauline Curby and myself attended the first of a Family and Historical Societies forum network, South East, initiated by Heather Clarey and hosted at the Botany Bay Family History premises at Gannon's Road, Caringbah. There were many groups represented including Randwick Historical Society, Malabar, St Peters, Kogarah and Helensburgh Historical Society and Fellowship of First Fleeters to name a few. It's refreshing to share ideas and I was greatly impressed by the work that many of them are doing. It makes you want to double your own efforts. Some have dedicated premises. The First Fleeters bought the terrace they occupy in Woolloomooloo 30 years ago and Randwick was left a house that gave them finances to enhance their work. I was envious when visiting a local history museum to see the quality of some of the exhibits that in some cases had been purchased through the funds they had acquired. Botany Bay Family History group also has a large and active membership and prodigious output.

In 2009 our Society sought the help of Museums and Galleries to assist us in our museum organisation and presentation. Hampered by lack of space and changing perceptions of museum functions, consultants were able to give advice on how to move forward. This was the catalyst for some well needed changes. In 2010 we produced a business plan and action plan and a collections policy and our constitution was revised.

The action plan focused on four main areas: our operations, marketing, the museum and communication and many of the directions have been actioned. As a result, the Society is in a much better position to move ahead. The Executive can feel that change is happening and they have a very real say in how it is happening. (I hope members feel this too) I am deeply thankful for the help and support that they have given to me and indeed to each other. They are a 'team', not a self serving group of individuals seeking self aggrandisement. There is more forward planning, sub-committees now work independently to achieve outcomes such as book publishing and we are more proactive in seeking grants to assist our fairly meager income.

We have recruited members with important skills, have produced marketing materials, sought sponsorship and have an annual calendar of guest speakers. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of Angela Thomas, our Secretary who is such a hard worker but more importantly, a real thinker. Many of the great initiatives that have eventuated have come from her fertile mind. Thank you Angela.

Our website, for so long sadly neglected, has been revitalised with the expertise of our former President, Andrew Platfoot and his son Jarrad. Daphne Salt, our long time member and historian has digitised the entire 46 years of *Bulletins*. This mammoth task I am told involved about 580 hours of her time. This vast database can be accessed and searched on a CD and will be an invaluable resource. It will shortly be available for sale. Thanks also to Merle Kavanagh, another historian and Pat Hannon who are recording our museum inventory.

We have recently turned our attention to the museum. For the first 20 years the Society was without a place to house any collections and many important items must have been lost. Museums though take a huge amount of time and effort to establish and to operate. We have recently dismantled our museum exhibition and placed a large number of items in temporary storage. Our museum has been repainted and we are in the daunting stage of selecting themes for a much trimmed down display along more focused themes. Our

Curator, Jim Cutbush and a small team including David Overett, Terry McCosker, Merle Kavanagh, Bob Osborne, Doug Archer, Maurie Beavan and Pat Hannan do a great job given the difficulties. We expect that a leaner, more contemporary museum will rise from the dust of the storeroom floor. My estimate is that perhaps only 20 - 40% of the items that we have in storage will be displayed so a judicious cull is in order.

I would like to thank two new members of the Executive this year for their efforts throughout this time. Leanne Muir took up the Treasurer's position with little notice and has endeared herself in the process. She has performed in this role with distinction and nothing is too much trouble. Thank you Leanne. Clive Baker is an action man. Amongst his many talents is his book publishing skills and he already has another publication for the Society in his sights. Clive has also indicated his interest in working on the *Bulletin* and the time will come soon for the current editor to move over for some fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Our Business Plan had a 3 year time frame – 2010 – 2012 - so it's now time to look at fresh challenges and ideas as to how to grow the Society and make it a more enjoyable experience for our members.

A motion is to be put before the members at the next AGM regarding fees. Our fees have been set at \$22 since the year 2000 and it's felt that it's time that they were raised to meet our projected expenses. I feel that members are getting good value when one considers the range of social, educational and historical services that are provided, mostly through volunteer help.

For many, the monthly meeting is the most important aspect because of its social contact. Thanks again to Angela for organising the speakers and Terry for setting up the audio-visual equipment. Leanne competently takes care of finances, sales of items and so much more. I would like to acknowledge the great work done by Nola Watt, Beryl Davis, Mary Small and Mavis Sourry in providing the afternoon tea at each meeting. It is very much appreciated. Gloria Han is also a great help.

Our 2010 – 2012 action plan is coming to an end with many targets achieved or at least started. There is strong forward propulsion but we need to look now at the next 3 year plan to ensure that this momentum is maintained. I urge any member who is interested in being part of the Executive to make it known before the AGM. We need as many active members as possible. The work is rewarding and I can assure anyone that in the true sense of cooperation and camaraderie, the atmosphere is all positive. Do come and join us.

Once again, thank you to members for putting your trust in me. I would like to continue in the position. However I believe that new blood is the secret of rejuvenation and that these positions should be rotated every 3 years or so.

Our Society is growing. I would like to welcome these new members since the last *Bulletin*.

Mrs Jill Batty, Como West
Mrs Jocelyn Johnston, Cronulla
Mrs Carolyn McDonald, Bonnet Bay
Mrs Janice Priestley, Como
Mr Frank Purvis, Engadine
Mrs Anne Steward, Illawong

Our upcoming speakers are:

Aug 18 th	The Eternity Man, Daphne Salt
Sept 15 th	AGM Bob Osborne, on Nelson.
Oct 20 th .	Angela Badger on the Forgotten Arts
Nov 17 th .	Christmas party.
Dec.	no meeting
Jan 19 th .	Wendy Cornish on the Jessie Street Society.
Feb 17 th	Mercy Ships

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 closed for renovation
June	16	Meeting speaker – Peter Tyler
July	7	Museum closed for renovation
July	21	Meeting Colin Burgess – the history of space exploration in Australia
July	28	Excursion: 'Dutch House', Smithfield and Cabramatta Shopping centre
August	4	Museum closed for renovation
August	18	Meeting Daphne Salt 'The Eternity man'
September	1	Museum closed for renovation
September	15	AGM Bob Osborne 'Nelson'
September	22	Excursion: Lydham Hall and Hurstville Museum
October	6	Museum closed for renovations
October	20	Meeting James Bird 'Mercy ships'
November	3	Museum tba
November	17	Christmas party
November	24	Excursion: Garden Island Naval Museum
December	1	Museum tba
December		No meeting

SUTHERLAND SHIRE EXCURSION REPORT FOR 2012

So far this year we have had three of the five excursions planned. Usually the first is held on the Saturday after the general meeting in March and then on the same Saturday in May, July, September and November. This year the first was held on the Wednesday after the meeting because of booking problems but all others are on the Saturdays nominated. Because of the change to a Wednesday, parking was not available at the usual pick up location outside the multi purpose centre in Flora St., so we moved to the Sutherland swimming centre. All other outings this year are on a Saturday and commence at the MPC in Flora St.

The first excursion, on the 28th of March was to the Telstra museum at Bankstown. This is a museum of telephone equipment and systems commencing with a very worthwhile video of communications from the early days. The tour generated many questions and I had to get the whip out to ensure that the group was on time for lunch at the buffet at Bankstown RSL almost next door.

After a very enjoyable lunch we pressed on to the aircraft museum on the grounds of Bankstown airport. This venue contains a great array of aviation memorabilia both inside the building as well as the area surrounding the building. Many questions were asked and successfully answered.

The second excursion on the 26th of May, was to “Wivenhoe”, a lovely old country mansion owned by the Cowper family in its early days. Since the early 1900’s the property has been owned by the Good Samaritan Sisters who operate a special school adjacent to the house. We were given a guided tour of the building by volunteer guides and then came lunch, and what a lunch it was. Cooked on the premises by the Nuns and taken in the dining room, it was both delicious and generous. Everyone seemed quite satisfied.

We completed the day with a tour of Camden township and a visit to the local historical museum which made us feel like poor cousins considering the difference in apparent support from the local council.

The third excursion was a “mystery tour.” A lot of enquiries were made by members as to the mystery venues in the weeks leading up to the outing but I *think* the secret was kept intact. (maybe)

The first mysterious venue was a Dutch store at Smithfield called “Dutch House.” The facade was typical of an Amsterdam shop front and the store contained all sorts of Dutch goods from lollies to clothing to furniture and porcelain. Quite a few purchases were made.

As lunch was half an hour later than I thought we filled in the time by visiting the Fairfield city historical museum and gallery and again came away feeling very envious. Lunch at the Smithfield RSL was well received by the group.

The second mysterious venue was a stroll through the Cabramatta (Vietnamatta) shopping centre to see just how the suburb had been completely changed by the influx of Vietnamese migrants. After an horrific drive, fighting our way through heavy traffic and what seemed like dozens of double parked vehicles, to the high end of John St. the group was dropped off for the walk to be picked up 45 minutes later at the bus stop at the bottom of the street. I had to go almost to Canley Vale to find parking while waiting for the pickup.

By comparison to Cabramatta traffic, the drive home along Henry Lawson Drive was completely uneventful.

Two more excursions are planned, one to Lydham Hall and the Hurstville museum on September the 22nd and the other to Garden Island Naval Museum on November the 24th. Tickets for these outings can be purchased at the meetings.

Terry McCosker

The Bulletin Report

I have been reading over all the back copies of the bulletin since 1966. I am compiling a Shire chronology of dates and events that may appear in the *Bulletin* or even become another Shire history book. The big items of course are well documented in several Shire histories that we are now fortunate to have. However, I continue to be impressed by the breadth of topics that have been reported on over those 46 years in our own *Bulletins*. Future researchers have a solid base on which to build.

The later *Bulletins* especially reflect the increased sophistication of research and writing skills of the authors. Access to the internet especially has been extremely productive as it widens the sources of information available. The task of writing has also been made so much easier with word processors and digital imaging of photographs and other media.

Compiling an edition of the *Bulletin* isn't any less time consuming than in the past. Our *Bulletins* are considerably larger and contain more information and they are visually much more attractive and readable due to some colour reproduction and more and clearer images.

We're all quite proud of the part that we are playing in informing current and future readers about our past and also about our contemporary activities. I must also thank Sutherland Shire Council in supporting our activities, especially subsidising the printing of our *Bulletin*. To the staff in the print room I extend my sincere thanks for the professional standard of the final product.

This is a brief outline of the scope of our *Bulletins* since our last AGM.

November: The cover photograph of Bundeena House flagged the cover story of this amazing house which once stood on the other side of the bay. Congratulations to Robert Brown for such original research. 'Meet the Executive' and 'Meet the Member' segments, started some time ago were continued. Sadly, the current edition is the first one not to contain a member profile. Merle Kavanagh's excellent series on

coastal shipwrecks has filled an important research area of local history. Bruce Howell, a relatively new member but long time resident has come on board with reminiscences. Clive Baker's interest in all things military adds another dimension to our history.

February: The cover shot of the guys and dolls of the society dressed in their 1920s attire showed the social side of the society. This edition flagged the impending launch of our book, *'My World When I Was Ten'*. The success of this book has spurred the society on to initiate many other changes. Traditional history deals with established facts. However Gordon de L. Marshall's article on The Gympie Pyramid and Bruce Watt's article on Lope de Vega were fringe histories. That is, they were thought provoking but not conventionally accepted versions of our known history. Sometimes a little controversy is a good thing. Greg Jackson's regular contributions are well researched, documented and illustrated. Often the western end of the Shire has been neglected.

May: Another attractive cover shot of a watercolour painting of Port Hacking in 1929 enhanced the bulletin's appeal. Unfortunately, a launch of a local history essay competition failed to elicit entries from High School students. The competition will be re-advertised for all persons through the local media. With the impending docudrama, 'The Shire' set to be released, an honest but 'warts and all' article, 'Towards a Sutherland Shire narrative' was contributed by Bruce Watt. Pauline Curby and Elizabeth Craig are oral historians and share some of their research in 'Telling it as it was', a Sutherland Shire oral history project.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society *Bulletin* is recognised as one of the best of its kind in this genre. It's as good as the enthusiasm of the editor and editorial committee and contributing writers, the executive that backs it and the members that support it. It is a vital link in the chain of historical recording.' My thanks go to Merle Kavanagh as proof reader and to Elizabeth Craig who is taking over this duty.

Bruce Watt

Secretary's Report

This year has been a year of new projects rather than hosting events, which had been a prominent part of our activities during the previous twelve months. For this we should thank our President, Bruce Watt, who has a truly professional approach to our future with much attention paid to our Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Collections Policy etc., which is setting the framework for a very businesslike future.

With our Treasurer, Leanne Muir watching over our finances we are set for great things.

We have had the publication of *My World When I was Ten*, the first in our history series, with the setting up of the Publications Committee, Elizabeth Craig, Clive Baker, Bruce Watt and myself with Pauline Curby always available for advice. Then there was Marj Blackley's essay competition, the new concept of some advertising in the *Bulletin*, the setting up of our website by Jarrad Platfoot assisted by Andrew, the extensive indexing and digitising work of recording the *Bulletins* by Daphne Salt and Merle Kavanagh and last but certainly not least the complete clearance of our Museum prior to painting and re organising - a very large undertaking for our curator, Jim Cutbush. All these are works with an eye to the future.

Our monthly meetings have continued to be the focus of our Society and each month membership increases as word gets out regarding the interesting speakers and, not least, the excellent tea provided by Nola Watts, Beryl Davis, Mary Small and Mavis Sourry.

Variety is the spice of life and talks ranged from space exploration to the controversial pre - history of our continent. We started the year with Patricia Skehan from Concord Heritage Society talking to us about Charles Kingsford Smith. In February we had Bruce Shying speaking about Women & The Sea, and the following month we had Show & Tell when members brought items of interest (and we were very much entertained by Gloria Hans demonstrating the use of her mace from the days when she was a drum majorette leading the band). April was Heritage Week and our

Ploughman's Lunch, catered by Pat Hannan and her helpers proved a huge success, whilst afterwards we had a number of speakers talking of Inventions & Innovations in the Shire.

In May we had Patrick Dodds of the Sydney Harbour Trust who gave a most lively talk on historic sites around the harbour, stressing that we (the public) owned them. In July Rex Gilroy and his wife came from the Blue Mountains and he spoke to us regarding his theories about very early visitors to our shores. The following month we had Colin Burgess speaking about his books and his interest in space exploration, and finally will be having a presentation on The Eternity Man, provided by one of our members.

As you will see this is a busy year and as Secretary there is always much to keep in mind. In that respect I have been greatly helped by Elizabeth Craig who has been a meticulous assistant, dealing with the mail and also taking on the entire responsibility of issuing the *Bulletin*. Thank you very much Elizabeth. Also, a big thankyou to Gloria who is always there to help. She records the names of everyone at the meetings and she also assisted me at the re-opening of Audley visitors centre, when we had a stall and promoted our society.

Our year has been varied and extremely productive. Keeping track of the various projects is the work of the Secretary but in that it is the help of so many willing hands that make it possible.

Angela Thomas

Museum Report

The last 12 months have been extremely busy with exhibitions for Australia Day at Cronulla Central Library, Heritage Festival and two special outside exhibitions for schools and another at Forget-Me-Not cottage, Woronora Cemetery. These were all very successful and in most cases better attended than the previous year, even allowing for a mix up in bookings of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts that lost us 3 days including the main Saturday of the Launch and Vintage Bus Tour groups. Total visitors for all above was 2762.

Exhibitions on display for the above were:-
Photo & Memorabilia with collected family stories during the building of the Woronora Dam 1927-1941.

Photos and maps plus a painted mural of Donald Mackay's air surveys of central and north western Australia.

The Olympic Torch Relay 2000, through Sutherland Shire 11th & 12th September, memorabilia of the "Best Olympics Ever".

Photos & memorabilia of early vehicles of the Shire.

Requests for guest speaker from the Society was attended to by myself for two broadcasts on 2SSR – FM radio. I also spoke to the Probus Club of Oyster Bay on the 13th April for 48 persons and Probus Club of Caringbah for 64 ladies on the 9th July.

The Executive and Museum Committee held a special meeting to target an action plan to remove the replica home that was built in late 2004 in the lead up to the Council's 100th Anniversary in 2006 and disposal of surplus materials. This has been done by our members and Council's clean up crew, Thank you all. The Museum has been closed for the past two months to give us time to remove five large trailer loads of items into storage, thanks to our President Bruce Watt. Also our same crew of helpers have made our larger items more mobile and safe to be moved out to the main foyer to allow the Council's painters to freshen up the area in preparation for a better display of our Shire's heritage.

My thanks go to Helen McDonald of the Local Studies area, Sutherland Library, Merle Kavanagh, Angela Thomas, Daphne Salt and David Overett for help in recording, copying, signage and typing.

Thank you to all members of the most progressive Executive Committee I have served with. To my Museum Committee and Deputy Curator Terry McCosker, thank you for all the time given.

Jim Cutbush

Wivenhoe

On Saturday 27th May we had another of our delightful bus trips with Terry. He is a mine of information both historical and present day and keeps us all highly entertained. This time he took us out to Camden and the large estate of Wivenhoe.

The house itself is an 1830 Verge designed country home, owned since 1910 by the Catholic Church. It is an elegant, faintly bleak mansion; remote and imposing, dominating a vast empty landscape, with not another sign of human habitation in sight. Originally it would have stood alone, with just the stables, in its 400 acre estate. Not so today, a chapel and accommodation built first of all as an orphanage and now used for people with special needs makes up a thriving community.

But thinking back to 1830, the remote lifestyle must have been lonely and sometimes perilous. This was highlighted by the cedar shutters on all the downstairs windows which swung into place top and bottom and could be firmly bolted, making the house safe against bushrangers. Cedar doors, wainscots, rails and balustrades made every room a delight and took us back to colonial times.

If the house could be slightly severe, the welcome was quite the opposite and Sister Mary met us on the bus with great exuberance. It made one feel an honoured guest and you wondered if visitors were a rarity...quite wrong, a wedding was to take place at 2 pm and they had a full schedule of group visits, weddings, conferences and special lunches. Wivenhoe had come into its own and done a full circle from fashionable country mansion, doubtless enjoyed by the elite with its hunting, shooting and fishing lifestyle, then to an orphanage and now back to entertaining people like us...maybe not the elite but near enough.

We certainly had a special lunch too. Sister Mary had cooked it herself, lasagne and a chicken dish, followed by pavlova and apple pie and as much cream as you wanted. Served in the high ceilinged dining room, sitting on stylish Victorian chairs, looking through the floor-to-

ceiling glass windows with their original panes in them, this was a lunch to remember we all agreed. The most amazing aspect I felt was that 24 of us had trooped through Sister Mary's kitchen and stood there listening to our guide for quite a while. She hadn't turned a hair. Soon we were back on the bus and off to Camden enjoying a feast of historic houses and other buildings as Terry cruised around town.

The Museum was our other stopping place, extensive and very well maintained. Half an hour rambling round and then it was back on the bus and off for home....tired and very happy and grateful to Terry for our great day out.

Angela Thomas

The 1836 Census

The 1836 census shows just nine residents in the parish of Sutherland. This is not the same as the modern Shire of Sutherland as in those days the lands north and west of the Woronora River (Menai, Bangor, Barden Ridge, Illawong and Woronora) were in the Parish of Holsworthy. The nine residents were five adult males, one adult female and three male convicts¹. There were six Roman Catholics and three Protestants. It is interesting to speculate where they were living. Good candidates would be the properties shown on the earliest maps. The earliest parish map available² shows both James Burnie's farm 'Alpha' (1815) and John Connell (1821) farm at Kurnell. The aristocratic Gregory Blaxland owned 1280 acres at the head of Gwawley Bay³ but this was almost immediately transferred to his creditors. It is doubtful if any cedar getters or shell gatherers up the Hacking would have made it onto the census so the figure of nine may be an underestimate. The adjacent parish, Wattamolla had a population of just one free adult male and one female.

The low head count is not surprising as the first road in the Sutherland Shire was not started until 1843 and probably not completed till 1845.

Below is part of parish Map 14064901, Parish of Holsworthy, undated but probably just post 1843.* This map captures Mitchells Road completed as far as the grant of Merton Motiarty and about to cross the Woronora from Holsworthy Parish and enter the Sutherland Parish at the Pass of Sabugal. Lucas' 150 acre grant was deserted by this stage, his mill burnt and only his dam remaining. The population of Holsworthy was a healthy 104, serviced by the Macquarie town of Liverpool (1810) which was connected by road to Sydney in 1815.

Greg Jackson

***Note: Unfortunately the map was not able to be reproduced to a satisfactory standard. Ed.**

Quotes

"The triumph of evil requires only that good men do nothing" (Edmund Burke)

Strict justice often leads to greater injustice.(Terence -Roman writer born 170 BC)

It is better to be feared than loved.(Machiavelli)

It's the roots that make the fruits.
(Willie Dixon, Blues musician)

When a man is tired of London he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford. Samuel Johnson, 1777.

The first part of the previous quote was used in the closing ceremony of the 30th Olympiad (13/8/2012) held in London. This was the third Olympic Games held in London. The first time was in 1908 when London took over from Rome who was unable to stage it due the eruption of Mt Vesuvius. The 'Austerity Games' were staged in 1948, after the Second World War. The current games were a great success.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc.
will be held on Saturday, 15th September, 2012 in the
Stapleton Centre, Stapleton Street, Sutherland at 1.30 pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm and adopt Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 17th September, 2011
4. President's Report
5. Submission and adoption of the 46th Annual Report of the Executive Council
6. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for 2011 - 2012
7. Motions:
 - 7.1 That annual subscriptions for the Society be raised from \$22 to \$30 from the 1st July 2013.
 - 7.2 That the nomination of Angela Thomas as an Honorary Life Member of the Society be accepted.
8. Election of office bearers for 2012 – 2013
9. General Business: (pertaining to the AGM only)

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

Bruce Watt,
President

It’s only words...

I enjoy history and read a lot about different people and civilisations. Much of our history is written from the perspective of the dominant language of the time. Almost by accident, English has become the pre-eminent world language and we view our history through the prism of our own language and cultural beliefs. But Julius Caesar and Jesus Christ didn’t speak English, nor did Genghis Khan or Christopher Columbus or Napoleon Bonaparte. King George 11 of England didn’t speak English. He was German. Does the mother tongue and its cultural practices have any influence on an understanding of the past? Do we analyse the past from our modern perspective and fail to understand the context of the contemporary culture of that time?

There is a whole theory on this known as the Sphir- Whorf Hypothesis though I won’t refer to this. My thoughts are based on a gut feeling about whether the culture and times has an impact on the understanding of history and therefore on the spoken language.

Captain James Cook was a Yorkshire man as was Thomas Holt. Forby Sutherland, a seaman on Cook’s voyage and the first European to die on Australian soil was from the Orkney Islands at the top of Scotland. Their language, accents and cultural perceptions would have been very different to ours in the 21st Century. Hindsight has its advantages but it carries with it some prejudices. In paintings, journals or black and white photographs, people such as these can

appear to be stuffy old characters, yet they were the equivalent of today’s astronauts and visionaries. They were very modern for their times. I still struggle with the notion that the ancients were somehow more primitive than us. Yet this is based on the assumption that technology and knowledge makes us less primitive. By this criterion then, we will one day be viewed as primitive as compared to the more technologically blessed inhabitants of the future. But I don’t feel primitive and neither would Rameses 11 of Egypt in his new chariots or Thomas Edison after inventing the telephone. So I need to be careful in viewing history, not to interpret it strictly with 21st Century eyes and to try to understand it in its contemporary setting.

English
English is currently the pre-eminent world language. In previous times it was French and before that Spanish and Portuguese which took over from Latin and earlier Greek as the great international idioms of western thought. The Anglo-German Protestant Work Ethic implied that hard work, strict religious observance and denial of current personal pleasures would earn one a place in heaven. English then employs metaphors likening time to money whereas ‘manyana’ (it can be put off until later) is evident in some other cultures. We need to be mindful when viewing history that very different circumstances and beliefs guided peoples lives in the past. Here are some influences and possible impacts, especially on Western culture and the way that they would have been reflected in contemporary thought, practice, language and writing.

Influence	Impact on contemporary thought, language, practice and writing
Nationhood and allegiances	Nationhood is a 19 th and 20 th Century concept. Germany , Italy and many other nations were forged out of many minor States. Previously, allegiances were to a local ruler. People’s focus was very local.
The power of the State	The King was all powerful until parliamentary representation usurped this power. Dictatorial power of the State is still present today. Electronic control and surveillance is growing.
Morality	Church and God dominated people’s lives. Few of the individual freedoms including expression were available.

Master /servant relationship	Work, freedom of movement and speech, pay and conditions, skill, physical and social mobility were predetermined and limited.
Individual democracy	Still not enjoyed in large parts of the world. This was an extension of the nation state development. Enshrined in law in the 20 th Century.
Church and God	Up until the 19 th Century the established churches and their teaching on creation and the place of humans in the Universe dominated beliefs.
Race and supremacy	The great European powers imbued their citizens with a sense of economic and moral superiority. Coloured races especially were viewed as inferior and held in subservient roles.
Crime and punishment	Crime or dissent, especially against property and the Church was dealt with harshly including capital punishment.
Role of women	Subservient with no property or legal rights. Lack of birth control and sanitation caused many deaths. A male dominated society.
Status of children	The concept of the ‘teenager’ didn’t exist. Infant mortality was very high. Children moved from infancy to work at an early age.
Education	Not available except for the wealthy until the late 19 th Century.
Death	Life was short and brutal and death delivered the soul to a better place. Failure to adhere to Church doctrine damned the soul for eternity and bound the individual to the Church and its doctrine.
External stimulus	Many people wouldn’t travel more than 20 kilometres from their birthplace during their lifetime. Their knowledge and experiences were narrow. There were no newspapers, radio television or the internet to broaden their experiences. The unknown was to be feared.
Willingness to adopt new ideas	The Bible determined one’s lifecycle. Change is a function of enlightenment and opportunity. The Industrial Revolution brought change but at a personal cost.
Social status	Rigid social classification prevented social mobility.
Science and technology	Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution and many other discoveries overturned the conventional view of the world and changed the way that people lived, worked, travelled and spent their leisure time.
Spatial consciousness	Few conceptualised a world much larger than their neighbourhood. Early explorers feared dropping off the edge of the world.
Materialism v ascetics	Until the 20 th Century focus on mass marketing and consumerism, most people owned few possessions. Capitalism, assembly line mass production and management practices formalised the nature of work.

Is it any wonder that people living say three centuries ago would have a very different perspective on life and way of expressing themselves? Will people studying our society in the future understand the contemporary influences on our decision making?

But the language itself is changing.
There are about 600,000 words in the English language and about 5,000 new words are added to our language each year. Of course some words drop into obscurity. Consider the opening

prologue of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales written in Middle English in the 14th Century.

*Whan that aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of march hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne,*

We can get the general idea but words and spellings change. The invention of the printing press by Gutenberg in Germany in 1440 and the introduction of it into England in 1476 by Caxton no doubt helped to standardise spelling and promote literacy. It has been said however that William Shakespeare spelt his own name several different ways. On his marriage license it was spelt Willielmum Shaxpere. Dr Samuel Johnson produced the first 'Dictionary of the English Language' in 1755. Note though that it was only in the late Nineteenth Century that universal public education in Britain and Australia became the practice. No doubt phonetic spelling, with all its inherent variations would account for variations in language.

Amongst the most endangered 'species' of modern times are indigenous languages and dialects. Very few of the estimated 600 Aboriginal languages spoken at the start of the European occupation are spoken today and the pattern is being repeated throughout the world. Technology, including television and the internet are accelerating the trend. There is a very big language die off happening, possibly akin to any of the great extinctions in the plant and animal world.

I have no answers to whether the extent of literacy or the language that history is written in influences our general understanding. The saying that 'history is written by the victors' might be relevant, as English has become the dominant world language at the time of English speaking political world dominance. I would presume that history as a discipline is strengthened by the ability to have it recorded and documented.

Perhaps as powerful but limited in extent was the tradition of oral story telling. Histories, myths and legends were passed on faithfully over many generations. However without the written word, much of what we call history wouldn't exist.

How we spoke only a century ago is quite different. These words are considered quite antique:- ado, (commotion), gull, (trick), merriment, (laughter), shall, (will), twain, (two),

vex, (annoy), wax, (grow larger), wain, (grow smaller), whence, (from where), willful, (stubborn).

Technology plays a big part in introducing new words. Early last century, flivver, (a small car), newsreel and cobber were new. The 1920s introduced a lot of slang words, especially from the USA:- Big cheese, (influential person), jalopy, (old car), whoopee, (have a good time), razz, (make fun of), broad, (woman), and bump off, (to kill) were just a few.

Is this relevant to Australia?

At the turn of the 20th Century, most Australians were of British or Irish descent and their accents and perceptions would have been strongly moulded by their backgrounds. Young soldiers in the Sudanese, Boer and Great War were off to defend 'Mother England'. What language did they use? How would they have sounded? Also, what would the language be like at say a dance at a local hall in Cronulla in 1920 or in 1950 or 1970? What were they thinking about and what words or language were they using? It is interesting to try and picture historical events in a context contemporary to the times.

These words are from the glossary of 'Ginger Mick', a collection of short stories by C J Dennis, published in 1916. Dennis employed a style of writing that used slang and colloquialisms that perhaps represented or appealed to a working class element at the time and may not have been the way that the average person of the time spoke. Examples include:-

Biff, (to smite), bloke, (a male adult), bonzer, (excellent), chump, (a foolish fellow), clobber, (clothes), cove, (a chap), croak, (to die), dago, (a native of southern Europe), dial (face), dinkum, (honest), galoot, (a simpleton), lingo, (language), peach, (a desirable young woman), shickered, (drunk), sool, (to attack), squiz, (a brief glance), 'struth, (an oath), yakker, (hard work).

How do contemporary Aussies speak?

J.P. Davidson (Planet Word, Penguin 2011) states that in Australia ‘Today there are three broad layers of social accents. Cultivated British English, which is spoken by around 10 percent of the population (think of Jeffrey Rush); a broad working class accent (Steve Irwin); and general Australian, spoken by the majority (Kylie Monogue, Russell Crowe).

Australians have a particular style of speech, sometimes referred to as ‘Stryne’. This is because of our tendency to mash words or to shorten them. So ‘Australian’ becomes ‘Stryne’. Part of this language style may have been borrowed from the English Cockney rhyming habit. (Londoners of the lower social strata formed a fair percentage of early convict arrivals). Examples include: have a *Captain’s* (Captain Cook – a look), *dead horse* (pie and sauce), *septic* (septic tank – a yank), *Grundies*, (Reg Grundies – undies), had a *Barry Crocker* (a shocker) or *as dry as a Pommie’s bath towel*, or *an ankle biter*, (a small child). But even this style is rapidly dying out.

Australian’s love to shorten their words by adding an ‘ie’ or ‘o’ at the end of their words. Examples include;- cozzie, mozzie, sickie and quickie, blowie, coldie, also arvo and smoko. Other colourful descriptions of somewhat unworthy individuals include dag, galah, drongo, boofhead and ratbag.

Influences

This said however, the internet and cultural allegiances other than to Britain have seen the adoption of more American expressions including ‘see you later, dude’. Technology is providing an explosion of new words including social networking, cyberbully, tweet, texting, blog, facebook, helicopter parenting and carbon footprint. Texting, sending abbreviated messages

by mobile phone, has led to some notable abbreviations including GR8, (great), BRB, (be right back), OMG, (oh my God), TMI, (too much information) and JK, (just joking). When one remembers that the letters OK are one of the most universally recognised symbols in the world, there is much room for these to become universal too.

The language and accent that you and I use today are possibly quite different from what our parents and grandparents used and more so, it is different from what our grandchildren or great, great grandchildren will use. Australia is now multicultural so language influences are now more diverse. Influences from technology are profound. The manner in which we communicate is also very different. The only communication after the first settlement of Australia was by letter carried on a sailing ship. It could take 6 – 12 months to get a reply. Now communication is almost instant.

The military have satellite capabilities that allow pinpoint targeting of enemy installations from thousands of kilometers away. They also have ‘drones’ (aircraft without pilots) that can take out targets from long range bases. This is another way in which we communicate. How different may the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo have been if Napoleon had similar technology? Then again, if he’d won, how differently may history have been written?

All of this proves that language is dynamic and is constantly changing due to contemporary influences. To fully understand events in the past, we need to understand something of their social conditions and influence. How will future societies understand and judge the citizens of the early 21st Century?

Bruce Watt

1912 – 100 years ago in Sutherland/St. George areas.

Sharks

These were in the news in 1912 but were not the football playing type. The *Hurstville Propellor* initially called for water police patrols when drowning and overuse of the Georges River caused concern. Soon after that report a Mr. Mildwater (a suitable name in this instance?) caught four sharks off Tom Ugly's Point and the *Propeller* raised the alarm, emphasizing that the river was 'infested' with sharks. At that time the still waters of Port Hacking were the preferred swimming places for Sutherland Shire locals and visitors. A Surf Club had already been established at Cronulla, but very few people bathed in the surf because there were serious concerns about sharks. In 1909 during a surf carnival at Cronulla there was an incident with two sharks as the crew of the surf club boat turned the buoy well out to sea.

There had also been a tragedy late in 1909 when 15 year old Mervyn Allum was fatally mauled by a shark in the waters off Grays Point, while other swimmers were nearby. The report said 'with a gently shelving beach and still water, it was considered fairly free from sharks'.ⁱ Even Matthew Flinders recorded in 1796 that a number of sharks were in Port Hacking waters while they were fishing – 'But the sharks were so numerous that no other fish dare make its appearance. These sea monsters appeared to have a great inclination for us, and were sufficiently daring to come to the surface of the water, eyeing us at the same time with voracious keenness. The size of our vessel did not place us at a great distance from them.'ⁱⁱ

Postal facilities

Postal services for the Shire originated at Sutherland in 1885 when the railway connected with the area and the Stationmaster became a surrogate Postal Officer. From 1912 he forwarded to Cronulla and Caringbah on a 'free bag' by tram.ⁱⁱⁱ The previous year Sutherland

had been included within the area for 'penny rate' postage. To receive this 'concession' places needed to be within a 13 mile set zone from Sydney and the only other places in the shire to enjoy this at that time were Como and Sylvania.^{iv}

Also in 1912 the Postal Receiving Office for the then Ewey (Yowie) Bay was at the Ewey Bay boatshed. This appointment had resulted from complaints of letters not arriving at Ewey Bay. Originally the Postmaster General's Department had arranged for mail to be delivered via a portage service from Sutherland, carried out by R.W. Cook, the coachman. Following the complaints they had appointed Herbert Serbutt to operate the Receiving Office in 1912. Serbutt had taken over the Yowie Bay boatshed in 1911 and he operated it until 1916. Requests for a telephone service at Yowie Bay were eventually successful. However in 1916 there were complaints to the Department that the Receiver of mail at Yowie Bay was 'allowing private matters to receive publicity' and this was the likely cause of a change in Receiving Officers at the bay!^v

Water Shortage

A drought from 1909 had brought water shortages to the Shire and from 1912 onwards the six year old Council continually requested the NSW Water Board for a dam. They hoped to draw water from the Woronora River up the Loftus hill to a reservoir to serve the whole district. In the meantime Council petitioned for and received approval to take water for domestic purposes from the tanks at Miranda which serviced the trams. The dam did not happen.

Accidents/deaths indicative of the times

McGREGOR, Reuben. Died 19 March 1912.^{vi} Reuben was only 14 years of age, but in those days children of that age could work. He was employed at Newland's Bedding Factory in the city and after enjoying his evening meal with his parents at his home in George Street, Mortdale, he left, telling his parents he had to attend

compulsory training at Hurstville. It is assumed that he caught the 7.45 p.m. train from Mortdale and alighted on the wrong side of the train, a practice that was used by a number of young people at that time. Unfortunately he was struck by a train and seriously wounded. Dr McLeod was summoned and ordered Senior Constable Cross to transfer young Reuben to the Cottage Hospital. He died there three hours after admission and was buried two days later at Woronora Cemetery.

SAMPSON, Alfred Horatio. Died 13 May 1912. Mr. Sampson, aged 72, was well known for his association with the Freetrade League. He lived at Miranda but was moving to Cronulla so he hired a van, complete with horse power, to deliver a load of furniture to his new home. It was during the days of the steam tram and disaster struck when he met the tram at Nicholson Parade. The horse shied, overturning the van and Sampson was pinned underneath. He was extricated with difficulty and attended to by Dr Martell who had been on the tram. However he had suffered several injuries including a fractured skull and died a short time later.^{vii}

J. F Archibald at Burraneer Bay

Whether his initials stood for his birth names, John Feltham, or his fancied, romantic Jules Francois, J F Archibald, in a short few years, took his *Bulletin* newspaper to the forefront of popular ideals. It wasn't his politics or his viewpoint but it was his ability to promote a patriotic fervour amongst his readers. To do this he chose his writers well and had a passion. What Archibald gave Australia was a literary voice of its own. Henry Lawson, AB Patterson, Norman Lindsay, Louis Stone among others were given to us via the *Bulletin*

Although he also used great artists including Phil May and Norman Lindsay as illustrators, Archibald didn't really care about pictures for the *Bulletin* but would, under the terms of his will, provide funds for what has become Australia's most important art prize. His love of all things French, and the bond created between

the Australian forces and the French people during the Great War prompted him to leave a bequest for the construction of a fountain by a French sculptor. For these two things the Australian people, especially us Sydneysiders, will always be grateful.

From 1880 when the first edition of the *Bulletin* appeared, Archibald gave everything he had. More than thirty years later his nerves and general state of health took their toll on him. Now relieved from the pressure of his beloved paper he spent more and more time on the shores of Port Hacking.

He was the owner of "Burraneer Cottage" in Dominic Road now Dominic Street. The property was about five acres and had several buildings plus a boatshed and wharf. With a motor launch, Archibald went fishing. Naturally he invited his mates down. It is known that Henry Lawson spent some time recovering there and Norman Lindsay went down there too. Whilst initially visiting Burraneer Bay on weekends, Archibald later spent longer periods down there, with periodic visits to Sydney.

On the 01/01/1906 the wife of a Bertie F. Forrest of "Burraneer Cottage, Port Hacking" gave birth to a son. So we know that Archibald purchased the property after this date. Norman Lindsay has said that he was "...never any good at times or dates, unless some special event fixes them in my memory. Between the time when Archie left the asylum and when I went to England in 1909, we met mainly on holiday occasions going about in his car or out for the day in his fishing launch on Port Hacking."

Archibald was still there in 1911. The 1911 date is known from Archibald's papers in the Mitchell Library where a letter to 'Lucy' carries the name Port Hacking at the top of the letter followed by the date 17/9/1911. In his letter Archibald states, "When your telegraph came I was absent from Port Hacking and only returned on Friday evening." Unfortunately

these papers carry no other mention of his time at Port Hacking. There is also an article in the *Barrier Miner* that year which says in part:-

Mr J. F. Archibald, the founder and for many years editor, of the *Bulletin* has (says the Adelaide Critic) so far recovered from his serious illness that he is able to enjoy the “otium cum dignitate” that his life of hard work has so well earned. He lives mostly nowadays at Port Hacking, and spends much of his time in a motor boat , fishing...

In later years he had removed himself from Burraneer Cottage but held onto the property up until the time he passed away on 10/09/1919.

David Overett

Ashton, Cornwall, Salt, *Sutherland Shire a history*, A UNSW Press book, 2006, pp.64, 110.

¹ Matthew Flinders, *Narrative of Tom Thumb's Cruise to Canoe Rivulet*, ed. Keith Bowden, Brighton, 1985, p.8.

¹ Ashton, Cornwall, Salt, *op.cit.* p.73

¹ Maryanne Larkin, *Sutherland Shire a history to 1939*, *Suth. History Press*, 1998, p.160.

¹ Merle Kavanagh, *Echoes from the Bay*, Parker Pattinson Publishing, 2004, p.110.

¹ *St. George Call*, 23 March 1912.

¹ *St. George Call*, 18 May 1912.

The passionate and sceptical historian

Earlier this year I presented a one-day workshop at Temora in central western NSW. Called ‘Creative writing for history & heritage’, this was designed for community researchers of family and local history. At the end of a successful day I summed up with these words:

- Passion
- Imagination
- Respect
- Humility
- Scepticism

I wanted participants to apply these to their research and writing because:

Passion is a pre-condition of being a historian – amateur or professional. It would be impossible to sustain hours of research if you didn’t feel a sense of excitement and enthusiasm for your work. Passion translates into your writing and speaking.

Imagination helps you visualise a past landscape/streetscape very different to what we see around us. It also enables you to recreate the past skilfully and allows you to empathise with people living in different times, with different values. For example, just because a First Fleet officer referred to women convicts as ‘damned

whores’ does not mean they were – certainly not all of them. A First Fleet journal is a view of the world seen through the eyes of an 18th century British gentleman. The context in which a historical source is created must be taken into account when accessing its value and reliability.

Respect is essential, especially if you’re doing oral history. Oral historians need to remember a story belongs to the interviewee and that sensitive handling of material is critical. Respect is also needed when examining the work of other researchers/historians. They bring their own cultural values to their interpretation of history, just as you do. Remember when using older works that they may not have had the research tools available to them that you have.

Humility is an important quality for a historian. You may not have all the answers on your research topic. Other historians may not agree with your findings and some may do better work. It’s wise to be able to acknowledge this and to be aware of other people’s work. Try not to reinvent the wheel.

Finally **scepticism** is vital. History is an evidence-based discipline that requires you dispense with pre-conceived ideas and let the evidence speak to you. Keep an open mind. Remember, while good history requires

imagination, empathy and passion it also benefits from critical scrutiny by a sceptical intelligence. Keep your ‘bullshit detector’ finely tuned. For example, a strange looking rock may remind you of an Egyptian or Phoenician carving but is this likely, considering it is generally agreed these ancient people scarcely sailed outside the Mediterranean? Perhaps there is a simpler

explanation and this is just an interesting example of wind erosion. Keep the passion. Let it burn bright, but treat every source with a healthy dose of scepticism. You will be a better historian if you do.

Pauline Curby

The Watermills of John Lucas: Part 1

This is the first of four articles describing the history and archaeology of John Lucas’s two watermills, the Brisbane Mill 1822 and the Woronora Mill 1825.

History of milling in NSW

In the first years of the colony of NSW food production was problematic. The colonists relied on traditional farming methods and crops not always suited to the new conditions, rather than investigate local opportunities. This is evident in the food and associated technologies in succeeding years. (Farrer 2005:17) While the production of wheat was restricted by environmental conditions including climate, soil fertility and plant diseases, the conversion of grain to flour was largely influenced by the problems of technology transfer. These problems included adaptation of technology to a new physical and social environment and implementation of technology with restricted skilled labour.

Experienced millers and millwrights were in short supply in the early colony. (Pearson 1996:56) The First Fleet had arrived with four millstones but with no millwrights nor suitable millstream, the first grain was ground with 40 iron hand mills which quickly wore out and could not be maintained. (Farrer 2005:17) Their output was as little as a bushel in 24 hours. (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:27) As early as 1791 Governor Phillip suggested “a windmill has now become absolutely necessary,” although Lieutenant-Governor King believed stone querns

would be cheaper than iron mills and “prevent the erection of mills, which will be found a weighty job at present.” (Tratai 1994:14) Phillip sent several requests for skilled tradesmen but it was a convict called Wilkinson who eventually produced a treadmill in 1793 which achieved consistently only one bushel/hour with two men walking the boards. (Tratai 1994:19 - 22) Better treadmills followed with some still in use till 1825 as punishment. Horses and bullocks were also used to power mills such as at Cox's estate at Winbourne in 1836 and a mobile mill in the Hunter Valley also in the 1830's (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:32).

When Governor Hunter arrived in 1795 he brought designs and components for a windmill and by 1797 one had been erected at Miller's Point in Sydney. However Pearson (1996:56) has pointed out that mill technology is not easily implemented without the knowledge of skilled tradesmen who have learnt practical skills through their apprenticeships and experience. Carpenters were also working with new timbers whose properties they were unfamiliar with. Various other problems including storms, theft, inexperienced operators and an economy drive by the British government further retarded mill development. A second windmill, at Parramatta, was eventually built in 1805 (Pearson 1996:56) but by 1799 when Hunter left, only the Sydney mill was working and most milling was still being done by hand. (Tratai 1994:24-29)

Meanwhile, both the first watermill and the first windmill in the colony had been built in 1794 on Norfolk Island under the direction of Lieutenant-Governor King. King had more suitable timber and the use of Nathaniel Lucas, a convict who

was an experienced carpenter with some knowledge of millwrighting. (Tratai 1994:19,30)

When King returned as Governor, transfer of British mill technology to Sydney was still limited by the continuing lack of skilled tradesmen to implement the design and operate finished mills, as well as a lack of building materials and techniques, particularly suitable timber and strong mortar. The output of the one operational mill was only six bushels/hour, insufficient for the increased population and wheat production. (Tratai pp30-31) King brought in regulation to control the quality and price of bread and moved to increase milling capacity. Lucas prefabricated two post mills and quarried millstones on Norfolk Island. One was erected in 1797 at Miller's Point (Farrer 2005:17) and operated by the government. The other, erected in the Domain, was operated privately by Lucas and later Kable. (Tratai 1994:32) Government owned mills were immediately supplemented and quickly supplanted by private enterprises in this way (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:27). Lucas built several more mills which he operated privately and was followed into the milling and building trade by his son John. Nothing remains of the 19 post, tower and smock mills that were built in Sydney up to 1830

and featured in many early panoramas (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:34). The development of water mills was hampered by the Australian climate which is characterised by variable rainfall and consequent variation in river flow. Early attempts at Parramatta in 1779 and 1803 failed due to intermittent water flows and dam collapse, poor sighting, bad construction and a continuing lack of skilled labour. Even after repairs the output was disappointing (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:38) and much grain was shipped down to Sydney for milling. (Tratai 1994:35) However in the next 10 years, experience of the local conditions improved, designs changed and skilled labour increased. Successful watermills were built at Parramatta, North Rocks and in the Hunter and Illawarra. By 1815, with agriculture expanding west, there were 26 water mills on the Hawkesbury River. (Tratai 1994:35) Despite the problem of ensuring reliable water supply, by the mid century there were still over 20 watermills operating in NSW. (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:38)

In 1821 there were 11 mills, by 1830 46, and by 1840 100 with a peak around 200 before the start of centralisation in the 1880s. (Farrer 2005:18)



Fig. 1 Mills in New South Wales 1800–1900.

Growth of mills in NSW
(Farrer 2005:18)

The number of mills in the county of Cumberland decreased in the 1860s due to decreased grain production in the area and the opening up of new agricultural land. There was a massive spread of mills into expanding rural areas in the second half of the nineteenth century till the development of the rail system and cheaper transport costs along with more capital

intensive technology encouraged the concentration of milling in capital cities in the early twentieth century. (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:27) Steam power was developed in England at the end of the eighteenth century and was first implemented in Australian at Dickson's steam mill near Darling Harbour in 1815. They became common by the 1830s with 26 in Sydney

by 1840 and became the dominant type of mill from the 1850s. (Birmingham, Jack and Jeans 1983:45) From the late 1870s there was a gradual change to roller mills and increasing centralization. (Connah 1988:133)

History of John Lucas: a Colonial Miller and his Mills

John Lucas' parents Nathaniel and Olivia had arrived as convicts with the first fleet. Nathaniel had been convicted of theft and Olivia (Gascoigne) of 'gunpoint robbery'. They were transferred to Norfolk Island on the Supply arriving on the 6th March 1788. (Herman 2006-2012) Nathaniel was a carpenter and in 1795 constructed an overshot mill on Norfolk Island as well as supervising the construction of many of the island's buildings. *The Sydney Gazette* and *NSW Advertiser* reported his return to Sydney on the 17th March 1805 to take up the position of Superintendent of Carpenters in Sydney. With him on the HMS Investigator came two disassembled windmills and several mill stones fabricated on Norfolk Island and his eight-year old son John (Ancestry.com 2006-2012). The two smock mills were erected one above the Rocks and the other in what is now the Domain. The *Sydney Gazette* and *NSW Advertiser* on the 16th February 1806 described Nathaniel Lucas erecting an octagonal smock mill near the Esplanade of Port Phillip. This mill had a height of 40 feet with a base diameter of 22 feet and worked 2 pairs of Norfolk Island mill stones.

Nathaniel Lucas was offering boats for sale in Sydney in 1809 (Ancestry.com 2006-2012), a tradition carried on by at least two of his sons, Charles and James, reported in *The Sydney Gazette* and *NSW Advertiser* on the 17th March 1825 building the 60ton schooner Olivia in Port Dalrymple. In 1818 Nathaniel gained the contract for building St Luke's Church, Liverpool, designed by architect Francis Greenway. Greenway had previously quarrelled with Lucas over the building of the Rum

Hospital and now alleged that poor quality stone was used the foundations of the church, and that Lucas was a drunkard.

On 5 May 1818 Nathaniel Lucas' body was found in the Georges River at Liverpool, his death having "proceeded from his own act, owing to mental derangement". (Herman 2006-2012) Nathaniel is credited with building six mills and his son John learnt the building and millwright trades working with his father at Sydney and Liverpool from 1805-1815 (Ancestry.com 2006-2012). After Nathaniel's death *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* for Saturday 5 September 1818 advertised his wind mill in Liverpool for sale.

John Lucas had been born on Norfolk Island on the 21st December, 1796, making him a 'Currency Lad'. John married Mary Rowley at St Philip's Church, Sydney on the 10th March, 1817 (Ancestry.com 2006-2012). Mary was the daughter of Captain Thomas Rowley of the Marine Corps, a wealthy land holder who resigned his commission in 1802 to concentrate on farming. This marriage was not as socially unequal as it first appears as Mary was the illegitimate daughter of Rowley and his convict, de facto wife, Elizabeth Selwyn. When Rowley died in 1806 he left his estate in trust for Elizabeth Selwyn, his three daughters and two sons (Fletcher 2006-2012). John and Mary Lucas had 10 children. (Ancestry.com 2006-2012)

John Lucas built his first flour mill at Harris Creek in 1822 although his 150 acre grant was only confirmed in *The Australian Friday* 23rd September 1831. Lucas' and Rowley's grants are shown below on a portion of the Parish of Holsworthy Map 14065001 (undated) (Department of Lands and Property Management Authority 2010). Harris Creek on this map is now called Williams Creek. The unnamed creek on the left of the map is now called Harris Creek.

John and Mary Lucas were living at the Liverpool Mill with five of their children and nine servants (assigned convicts) at the time of the 1828 Census (Curby 2004). It is thought that two of these servants were actually working at Lucas' Inn in George Street Sydney which he is reported as owning in *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p2 on Saturday 24 February 1821. Life at the Brisbane Mill was probably comfortable. A garden was possible on the flat and fertile land and neighbours could provide support. Mary Lucas had her brother Thomas Rowley (junior) on the adjacent land, where the mill was built. The town of Liverpool with its garrison of soldiers was not far away in case of trouble.

An advertisement appeared in *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* on Thursday 1 April 1824, p4, two years after the mill was built.

BRISBANE WATER MILL,- The first Grant of His Excellency the present Governor of One Hundred and Fifty Acres of Land, for the Purpose of erecting a Water Mill, at Liverpool, has been completed by Mr, John Lucas , a native of the Colony. This Mechanic has finished the machinery, with the greatest accuracy ; and now the Dam is completed, the Public are assured that Flour will be Sold as at low Prices as in Sydney; and I can confidently say, this Mill will not stand still for want of Water, when once the Dam is full. As hitherto the Mill was worked undershot, this waste, added to the uncommon drought, has caused the Mill to stand still. In the mean time Mr. Lucas will receive good Wheat free from smut at the Liverpool Warehouse, and pay for the same as fair as the Settler can sell in Sydney. The following Goods he offers for Sale :- Hyson and Hyson skin teas, sugar, soap, calico, prints, checks, cloth and handkerchiefs, of colours; crockery ware of sorts; hand, pit and cross-cut saws; files and nails, of sizes; rum, gin, wine and porter, in quantities not less than five

gallons; with every other Sort of Good that is for Sale in Sydney. Orders punctually attended to ; and as cheap supplied at my shop.

*No. 72 George-street, Sydney.
S. Levey.*

N.B. – Good Bread for Sale, at the Brisbane Warehouse.

The advertisement mentions the 'Brisbane Mill', the 'Liverpool Warehouse' and the 'Brisbane Warehouse' but a check of the parish maps of the Liverpool area revealed no other property owned by Lucas or Levey, so it is assumed that these names all refer to the one establishment.

Solomon Levey was an emancipist, philanthropist and wealthy Sydney merchant. With his partner Daniel Cooper he owned the Waterloo Warehouse, a very large five storey building located at what was 72 George Street Sydney which would now be opposite the Queen Victoria Building. They had interests in other mills in the Sydney area and *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p3 Wednesday 26 July 1826 even describes the erection of a windmill on the roof of the Waterloo Warehouse. The fact that Levey is the author of the advertisement suggests that he had a financial interest in the Brisbane Mill and was using premises as an emporium for the sale of a wide selection of his goods to the settlers in the Liverpool district south of the Georges River. There was no bridge across the river to Liverpool until the building of the Liverpool Weir in 1836 (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2010).

Wheat prices varied considerably. A survey published in the Colonial Times (Hobart), p2 on Tuesday 5 April 1831 gives the average monthly price of wheat paid in Sydney in 1828. It varies between a minimum of 8 shilling 9 pence in January to 15 shillings in July per bushel. Wheat was also subject to duty. The Australian, p3 Wednesday 30 May 1827 gives the

duty on wheat as two shillings per bushel but this varied as *The Sydney Monitor*, p2 on Saturday 9 October 1830 gives the duty on wheat as two shillings and six pence a bushel. However the only customs enforcement until 1832 was at Sydney Cove. On Monday 24 March 1832 *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p2 announced the appointment of a Tide Waiter, Department of Customs in Botany Bay allowing duty to also be collected on wheat coming in there. By building his mills on tributaries of the Georges River and bringing in wheat via Botany Bay, Day (1992:182 - 184) suggests that Lucas escaped paying the duty on wheat. This gave Lucas an economic advantage over millers operating in Sydney.

Despite this economic advantage John Lucas was under financial pressure. He had been unable to pay cash for his mill stones for the Brisbane Mill in 1822, promising instead to pay in flour from his mill (NSW Colonial Secretaries Index for 1822 b). He was also on the list of defaulters in payment for assigned convict tradesmen in 1824 (NSW Colonial Secretaries Index for 1824) On Monday 8 September, 1828 *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p3 summoned John Lucas and all his creditors to a hearing of the Supreme Court to examine Lucas' bankruptcy. On Wednesday 17 September 1828 John Lucas was declared bankrupt in *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p1 with trustees appointed to wind up his estate

The following factors contributed to his financial problems:

1. Drought: John Lucas owned two water mills during the succession of droughts that dominated the 1820s. *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p2, Thursday 26 February 1824, p2, *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser* p2 Thursday 14 October 1824 and *The Australian*, p3 Thursday 6 January 1825 all describe the drought conditions in the colony. R. M. Martin talks about "...the

great drought of 1827..." (1839:129). Although the Woronora River drains a large catchment, Williams Creek, feeding the Brisbane Mill dam, has only a small catchment and is very susceptible to drought.

2. Loss of the family boat Olivia: On 19 November 1827, Olivia (named after Lucas' mother) was lost south of Twofold Bay (NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1995: C15). She was bound from Launceston to Sydney with a cargo of wheat, coffee and potatoes. Her eight passengers and crew reached the shore on a raft and walked overland to a station near Bateman's Bay. The ownership of the Olivia has been attributed to several members of the Lucas family. *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, p3 on Thursday 17 March 1825 for example describes the building of the Olivia in Launceston for Charles and William Lucas. It is certain that she was involved in the wheat trade bringing Tasmanian wheat from Port Dalrymple (Launceston) to Sydney and her loss would have been a blow. *Colonial Times* and *Tasmanian Advertiser*, p2, Friday 13 October 1826 and *Hobart Town Gazette*, p2, Saturday 23 December 1826, and many other shipping records describe her frequent voyages with wheat for Sydney. The wheat would almost certainly have been destined for John Lucas' two mills. At just 60 ton burden the Olivia would probably have been small enough to deliver wheat to the door of the Brisbane Mill (but not the Woronora Mill) as *The Sydney Morning Herald* December 6th, 1884, p10 describes colliers delivering to the later paper mill.

3. Failure of his dam at the Liverpool Mill: The Morawa District Historical Society web page (n.d.) on water powered flour mills in NSW states that the Brisbane Mill dam was badly damaged in a flood that appears to have occurred late in 1824 and this is consistent with the physical evidence at the Brisbane mill site. This would have reduced Lucas' capacity to store water in later droughts.

4. Competition from steam mills:
The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser, p2 on Saturday 3 June 1815 announced the arrival of steam power in Sydney with Mr Dixon's steam driven flour mill in Cockle Bay. *The Australian*, p4 on Thursday 7 July 1825 describes the arrival of a steam engine for Mr Daniel Cooper, the third steam engine to come to the colony. Two of the engines powered flour mills in Cockle Bay with a third at Parramatta. In general there was a move towards larger, centralised mills.

On Monday 5 November 1832 *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p4 documented the transfer of both of John Lucas' mills and associated land to Solomon Levey. Levey's connection to John Lucas is not known nor is it known under what terms the mills became his property. There is no mention of the Woronora Mill ever operating again. The introduction of customs presence in Botany Bay and decrease in the local wheat supply had reduced the mills' viability by the 1830s. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p3 14 March 1843 describes the Woronora Mill as "being burnt down some years ago" but the Brisbane Mill appears to have continued on in some capacity. On Levey's death in 1833 the Brisbane Mill passed to his partner Daniel Cooper. On Monday the 2nd December 1839 *The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser*, p2 announced that flour, bran and pollard were for sale at Coopers Brisbane Mill in any quantity. It is most likely that the mill buildings were being used at this stage as an emporium with the produce being processed by Coopers steam mills.

No other information was located on the two mills until the 1840s. In 1843 Major Sir Thomas Mitchell surveyed a road from Sydney to Wollongong passing within 250 meters of the Woronora Mill at the Pass of Sabugal. This encouraged Daniel Cooper and the descendants of Solomon Levey attempted to sell the mills. Many advertisements appeared including *The*

Sydney Morning Herald, p3 on Sat 9 November 1844, p3 on Tuesday 14 March 1843, p3 on Wednesday 15 March 1843 and p3 on Wednesday 25 June 1845, but they were unsuccessful.

John Lucas recovered from his financial problems thanks to his wife's considerable legacy from her father. He became a prominent landholder in the Burwood district. In 1842 John Lucas built the dam for the Sugar mill at Canterbury. (City of Canterbury (2011), Historic Photos). *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p5 on Monday 18 June 1883 reported that John Lucas had died on the 11 June 1883. John Lucas is remembered in the name of the suburb on the ridge above the Woronora Mill, known until recently as Lucas Heights. The name now applies only to the area around Australia's only nuclear reactor.

In the next article a description the archaeology of the Brisbane Mill will be covered.

Pam Forbes and Greg Jackson

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Keith was a quiet man. He had been an engineer, and they lived in Engadine and participated in many local organisations.

Keith and Valmai had known each other for 73 years, been married for 70 and everyone who knew them felt warmed by the good humour, laughter and love of that most blest marriage.

We send Valmai our deepest sympathy and feel we have been very lucky to have known such a modest, kindly man as Keith.

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