

VOLUME 17–NUMBER 4: NOVEMBER 2013



MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back 47 years and is an entirely volunteer and not-for-profit organisation. Over the years the Society has taken on the responsibility of recording and preserving local history so that Shire residents can learn more about our past.

WRITING FOR THE *BULLETIN*

Since its beginning, the Society has fostered the skills of local writers and their work is recorded in the *Bulletin* – copies of which can be accessed in Sutherland Shire Library Local Studies room. Members and non-members are invited to submit material for future editions and although we give local history priority, we are happy to accept stories on Australian history generally. We ask that you quote your sources and acknowledge any material used as well as obtaining permission from authors.

The *Bulletin* 'style-guide' is available from the editor: Clive Baker. 13 Veronica Place, Loftus. 2232. warbookshop@bigpond.com. Make sure to include your contact details and/or email address.

BULLETIN

Copies of this publication are free to all Society members and are also distributed to all Shire council libraries, the Mayor, Shire General Manager, all Councillors, the Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust of NSW, NSW State Library, National Library of Australia, University of Sydney, University of NSW, State Rail Authority, Australia Post Archives, Sydney Water Board Historical Research Unit and Shire high school libraries.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright for material appearing in this publication remains the property of the individual writers and, apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the author. All inquiries should be made to the Secretary.

REGISTRATION

Apart from the *Bulletin*, other Society publications are registered with the National Library of Australia in accordance with International Standard Serial Numbering and usually have an ISBN number.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held on the THIRD Saturday of each month at 1.30 pm (except December) – at Stapleton Centre, 3A Stapleton Avenue, Sutherland (near the library). We welcome your company to hear our guest speakers, mix with local history enthusiasts and share afternoon tea and a chat.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM

Our museum is located in the School of Arts, 21 East Parade Sutherland (a short walk north from the pedestrian crossing and corner of Adelong Street).

Aside from the Christmas–New Year period, the Museum is open on each Saturday from 9am to 1pm and contains some gems of Shire history and a fine collection of old photographs. For schools and other groups requiring a special tour at other times: contact the Curator, Jim Cutbush (9521-3721).

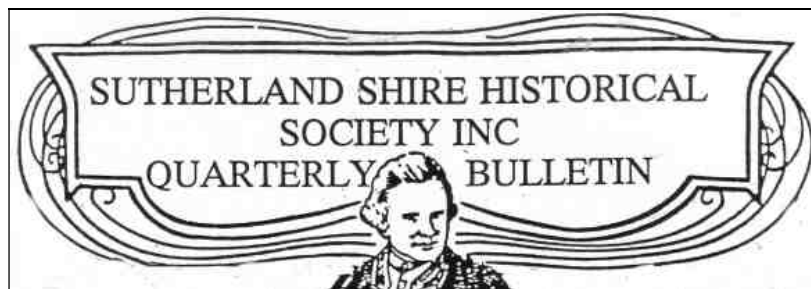
DONATING MATERIAL: If you have items of historical significance for Sutherland Shire, we welcome their donation to the museum to keep for posterity. If you do not wish to part with items, we would appreciate having copies of documents and photographs. Temporary loans for specific periods are also welcome. Cash donations and sponsorship assist us to improve the museum and perhaps you can keep the museum in mind when planning your estate.

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

All correspondence and membership enquiries should be addressed to The Honorary Secretary, Sutherland Shire Historical Society. PO Box 389, Sutherland, NSW. 1499 or a.badger@optusnet.com.au

THANKS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

The Society is most grateful for the on-going support from the Council in printing our *Bulletins*.



CONTENTS

YOUR COMMITTEE		2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	Bruce Watt	3
COMING EVENTS		5
EDITOR'S SAY	Clive Baker	5
MUSEUM REPORT AND SCHOOL OF ARTS POEM	Jim Cutbush & Merle Kavanagh	6
THE CROMLECH STONES	Angela Thomas	7
THE MUSEUM LAUNCH	Angela Thomas	8
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD	Elisabeth Craig	9
EDWARD THORNE OF SOUTH CRONULLA	Laurie Burgess	13
BUSH BANK MILL	Pam Forbes & Greg Jackson	17
LOCAL WAR HERO	Clive Baker	19
SUTHERLAND LIBRARY	Bernard sergeant	20
	Jan Morison	21
POOR BUT BLESSED POEM		
HOLSWORTHY	Laurie Burgess	22
XMAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG	Bruce Watt	24
NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL	Bob Osborne	25
THE LAMBS' HOUSE	John Campbell	26
THE OPINIONS OF VISITORS	Charles Darwin	27
THE <i>BULLETIN</i> REVISITED	Marjorie Hutton Neve	27
THE BATE BAY MYSTERY	Bruce Watt	28
CRONULLA THE LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR	Clive Baker	29
LOOKING BACK ON 2013	Clive Baker	30
SHIRE MYSTERY	Clive Baker	31
SHIRE THEN AND NOW AND THE BOOK SHELF	Clive Baker	32

Front cover: The Cromlech Stones in Parc Menai, 2013

Back cover: Mrs Giddings shop (c1910) and the 'Reserve' at Cronulla (early 1900s)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To ensure that you continue to receive the *Bulletin* and enjoy our functions, those who have not done so, need to renew their membership soon. At this time we have about thirteen people who may miss out on the next issue.

THE SSHS COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

PATRON:	Shire Mayor		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	9523-5294	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Ineke Nieuwland	9524-9226	ineken10@gmail.com
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	Angela Thomas	9528-6251	a.badger@optusnet.com.au
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol Macdonald	9528-5122	jcmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
HONORARY TREASURER	Leanne Muir	0409-225-696	leannemuir31@hotmail.com
MUSEUM CURATOR	Jim Cutbush	9521-3721	0407-028-088
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST	Clive Baker	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
MUSEUM ARCHIVAL RECORDER	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	Bruce Watt Maurie Beaven Ineke Nieuwland Carol Macdonald	David Overett Pat Hannan Mike Fernando Angela Thomas	Joan Tangney Clive Baker Mina Whybourne
EXCURSION OFFICER	Terry McCosker	9542-1137	tmccosker@ihug.com.au
EXCURSION BOOKING CLERK	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Leanne Muir	0409-225-696	leannemuir31@hotmail.com
BULLETIN EDITOR PROOF READER	Clive Baker Merle Kavanagh	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	Clive Baker	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Bruce Watt	Pauline Curby	Elizabeth Craig
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Mary Small George Miller Terry McCosker Ian Kolln	9522-9917 9521-3454 9542-1137 9528-3094	Maurie Beaven 9521-6360 Elizabeth Craig 9528-4707 Bob Osborne 9525-2929
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR	Bob Osborne		bv Osborne@bigpond.com
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari	AUDITOR	

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome two new members:
Bruce and Lynda Gill of Kirrawee. We hope you find good
company and invite you to become involved in our activities.

W. D. CRIDLAND
Surveyor
"Morning-side," Elizabeth Place,
CRONULLA
Phone Cronulla 409
City Office, 129 Pitt Street,
Phone B 2759

THE S.C.A.M., SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1940.

Australorps Only. Est. 1902.

DAY-OLD CHICKS

We are now booking orders for Day-old Chicks and Day-old Pullets from our heavy Winter Layers—June 1st to September 30th delivery.

Unsexed Chicks. Pullets.

10/- per 12; 20/- per 25. 21/- per 12; 42/- per 25.

32/0 per 50; 57/6 per 100. 65/- per 50; 48/- per 100.

All Eggs and Chicks Guaranteed to be Produced from Our Own Blood-tested Stock. 10% deposit with order, balance 7 days before delivery.

Custom hatching 1d. per egg. Minimum charge 2/6.

Inspection cordially invited at all times.

Ventura Poultry Farm
E. W. PHILLIPS & SONS, PORT JACKING ROAD, MIRANDA.

NO DEPOSIT
Drive Yourself Cars For Hire.
1940 V-8 De Luxe Saloons and Sports
Cars from 12/6 a Day.

Cronulla U-Drive
and SERVICE STATION
90 Curranulla Street, Cronulla

Petrol, Oils, Repairs, Service.
Your Patronage is Solicited.
**UNDER ENTIRELY NEW
MANAGEMENT.**
Phone: Cronulla 151.
Service FORD Sales.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

2013 has been a monumental year for the Society with the opening of the new museum. We now have a much more focussed product and it has been an important catalyst for change and many more members have volunteered to assist. The museum committee has resolved to open the museum weekly from November between 9 am and 1 pm to more effectively showcase it and to justify the efforts involved. Previously it was only open one day a month and at other times by appointment. Of course, there is no point in opening more often if no one knows about it. Our new publicity officer, Leanne Muir has been developing new strategies and avenues for publicising the Society to a much broader audience. Members continue to conduct tours of the museum and to deliver talks to school groups and community organisations.

The Sutherland School of Arts building has never had an actual street address and it has been difficult describing where it actually is. Council has now been approached about this and soon this will be resolved with numbers and signs.

Carol McDonald has joined the Society this year and brings a lot of talent. Carol is a recently retired high school teacher and has become an understudy to Angela Thomas in the Secretarial role and has planned the list of guest speakers for next year.

Many people comment on the role that our monthly meetings play in the enjoyment of the Society's activities with the interesting and varied speakers and the social nature of the informal chats over afternoon tea. In many ways it is this activity which helps to build the heart and soul of the Society and our thanks once again go to the members who provide a wonderful afternoon tea.

They say that "a man is not dead whilst his name is still spoken". Given this, the pages of our *Bulletin* have, over a long period of time, kept the names and the memories of our predecessors very much alive. Through our band of writers and the expertise of Clive Baker, our editor, much 'new' history is being written and recorded - not just a regurgitation of old stories. Pauline Curby and Elizabeth Craig are developing a powerful social asset with their oral history project that records the life and experiences of Shire residents.

As I write this report, some of the most severe bushfires in the State's history are ravishing large sections of the Blue Mountains and Hunter region. Bushfires are a natural feature of the Australian landscape and the eucalypt is naturally adapted to periodic burning.

We had the hottest day ever recorded in January and then, September was the hottest month on record. Whether this is evidence of a changing climate regime is open to debate, however it is predicted that hotter and drier conditions for large parts of the continent will occur. But what we take to be the normal Australian bushland is a relatively recent phenomenon. Aboriginals have occupied the continent for at least 50,000 years (or 3,000 generations), beginning when the country was wetter and the vegetation was more luxuriant. The eucalypt regime was an adaptation to a drying continent that gradually evolved. Over the whole continent, Aboriginals employed 'firestick farming' as a management tool which resulted in a different landscape than what we have now. It's estimated that up to ten-percent of the land was burned each year.

Fire was regularly used to burn undergrowth throughout the Sydney region and the fresh regrowth attracted more animals which provided an additional food source. Governor Hunter however believed the fires were lit "to clear that part of the country through which they have frequent occasion to travel". For people who wore no protective clothing this may have been sensible. Cook commented on the "park like" appearance of the land. Governor Phillip described the country as having trees growing from 20 to 30 feet from each other and with underwood only where the soil was stony and very poor. Surgeon Peter Cunningham described three regimes of vegetation:

...the land immediately bordering the coast is of a light, sandy nature, thinly besprinkled with stunted bushes, while from ten to fifteen miles interiorly (sic) it ... is thickly covered with our usual evergreen forest timber and underwood. Beyond this commences a fine timbered country, perfectly clear of bush, through which you might generally speaking, drive a gig in all directions, without any impediment...

By 1848, surveyor Major Mitchell observed that the forests around Sydney were not as open as they had been when he first arrived in 1827. He believed this was because the Aboriginals had stopped burning the grass and young saplings. He observed that "...formerly, a man might gallop without impediment, and see whole miles before him." It is likely that prior to the disruptions to Aboriginal lifestyles brought by European settlement, a deliberate land management system of regular burning produced a mosaic of bushland and open grassland across the Sydney region.

Ironically, this thinning out of undergrowth creating a gentleman's park made the plains country ideal for sheep grazing further alienating the land from tribal Aboriginals. As the their population had been decimated by the small-pox epidemic in 1789 and other introduced maladies, traditional practises ceased soon after European occupation and the landscape that we now know developed.

Another Aboriginal matter has recently come to my attention. The Dharawal were the Aboriginal 'mob' that occupied the local area. Were they the 'cabbage palm people'? The cabbage palm's botanical name is *Livistona australis* and its Aboriginal name is Dtharowal. Its wood was displayed at several international exhibitions from the 1850s. The accepted spelling of Dharawal is only one pronunciation. Aboriginal phonetics don't translate well into English so the term 'Dharawal' has been spelt in many different ways including D'harawal, Tharawal, Turuwal, Turruwul, Turawal, Thurrawal and Tdthurruwal.



Captain Cook first described and named the Cabbage Tree and had his men cut them down and boil the heads as a dietary supplement. The leaves of the palm were used for insulation in Aboriginal shelters and for making hats. First recorded in 1799, the hats were worn by convicts, shepherds, poets, explorers, larrikins and the well to do. They became a characteristic head dress of men in the bush in the 19th century and later, the larrikins of Sydney's Rocks area were also marked by the hat and were known as the 'cabbage tree mob'. Amongst the large inventory taken on the Burke and Wills expedition of 1861 were 30 of the hats.

The palm, once so prolific in the Illawarra region, is closely linked to Aboriginal occupation and to the development of the Australian character.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I must announce that Daphne Salt is permanently leaving the Shire and moving north. Her family goes back to the pioneering days of the Shire in the late 19th century. Daphne has been a prolific writer, researcher, publisher, collector, repository of local knowledge and generous friend. She was collecting and digitally archiving materials long before other local historians and many current writers have been recipients of her generosity by delving into her treasure trove of archival material. Her two seminal books are *Gateway to the South first stop Sylvania* subtitled an intimate insight into the origins of the Sutherland Shire published in 1987 and *Kurnell birthplace of modern Australia* published in 2000. The *Bulletin*, published since 1966, was scanned and digitally corrected by Daphne and is now an important research tool. This process involved over 500 hours of her time and was initiated and undertaken independently by her. Daphne is an eminently worthy Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Many of us have followed Daphne's outback travels, the most recent of which was her 13 month, around Australia trip by caravan and four-wheel drive. She travelled alone to many remote places, reporting back along the way in her own informative and amusing way. Not only is she technically brilliant with computer skills but she is so practical, capable and resourceful. Gone but by no means forgotten, the Society owes Daphne a debt that can never be repaid. On leaving, she has generously donated her extensive collections to the Society. Beyond all this, is my lasting impression of Daphne's wicked sense of humour. But if this is sounding like a eulogy it certainly isn't. We wish Daphne well in her new adventure and will be keeping in close contact.

Looking to next year, 1914 was the year that the world changed forever and its centenary will provide opportunities to mark the outbreak of 'The Great War' and the subsequent changes that it brought. The Sutherland School of Arts was built in 1922 as a memorial to those who took part in the war from C Riding. It is also the bi-centenary of Governor Arthur Phillip's relatively obscure death in Bath, England. His place in history has finally been recognised and his remains are to be reinterred in Westminster Abbey. No higher distinction can be bestowed on a person.

Finally, as this is the last *Bulletin* of 2013, I wish you all well for the coming Christmas and New Year period. We will be celebrating it with a BBQ in the museum and its gardens during our normal monthly meeting.

EDITOR'S SAY

CLIVE BAKER

ALL COMPLAINTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: warbookshop@bigpond.com

First may I thank the membership for re-electing me as *Bulletin* Editor.

Others have written of our past year and the achievements that were obtained but at the back of this issue, you will find a summary of the more outstanding events of 2013.

In the coming year we need more articles and a variety of subjects trying to publish 'something for everyone'! With that in mind keep the stories and recollections coming and we will publish them as space allows. The Heritage Week motto for 2014 is 'journeys' so perhaps some stories along that line will fit the theme: journeys to war, journeys to holidays, journeys through life...

On a visit to the local museum at Taralga, we found it in a an old church. We were told that

the building and the plot of land it stands on, had been bequeathed to their society in the will of a local history enthusiast.

As we all approach that final 'cliff edge', perhaps we could provide a lasting memorial to our family name by leaving items of interest or part of our estate to the Museum.

On a personal matter, I would appreciate assistance with information on the boom net that was across the Hacking in WW2. Also backgrounds on soldiers and their families in the Shire and stories of murder and mayhem for the forthcoming book.

To all our readers – all the very best for 2014 and keep in good health.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: 2013-2014

MONTH		EVENT	NOTES
DECEMBER	7	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	14	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	21	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm [last for the month]
		Meeting/Excursions	None
JANUARY	4	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	11	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	18	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	18	Meeting: 1.30pm	Guest speaker: Greg Jackson on the Lucas flour mills
	25	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
		Excursion	To be advised
FEBRUARY	1	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	8	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	Meeting: 1.30pm	Guest speaker: to be advised
	22	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
		Excursion	To be advised
MARCH	1	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	8	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	Meeting: 1.30pm	Guest speaker: to be advised
	22	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
		Excursion	To be advised
	29	HERITAGE WEEK	Museum open daily until 5 March 9 am–1 pm

MUSEUM REPORT

JIM CUTBUSH

As 2013 comes to a close, after a huge year of work for the Museum Committee and other Society members, all I seem to say and write is, "Thank you all" – and I really mean it.

Since we re-opened, special visits have seen a total of nine groups for the year so far, with three more booked for the beginning of 2014.

Work continues in our overflowing garage storage but with shelving now installed, it will soon give us better area. As new archivist, Clive baker is working his way through the collection, boxing up and listing every item.

From the beginning of November, the museum has been opening EVERY Saturday from 9am to 1pm and a fine group of volunteers have put their hands up to be guides. If we get sufficient members of the public coming through, this will be a permanent arrangement.

Others will have mentioned our Honorary Life Member, Daphne Salt, and the very generous donation of her history collection, compiled over many years.

It is extensive and after Pat Hannan has listed it all, it will need special storage facilities to be found or made for it.

Daphne has always been very supportive of the Museum and the Society assisting in all areas of our activities. I add my big thank you to her and in doing so, I am sure I speak on behalf of all Museum Committee members.

Our next big exhibition will be Australia Day 2014 (26 January, 8.30am to 2.30pm) which, as usual, is located in the Cronulla Central building (near the library). Those willing to help are welcome.

In closing, I wish a Merry Christmas and Good Health to you all.

OUR SCHOOL OF ARTS

MERLE KAVANAGH

A hundred years ago you were a simple little room,
A place to meet and talk, perhaps to read
Of milking cows and fresh-laid eggs, of market doom and gloom,
Of orchards and the price of poultry feed.

Your book collection grew in time, though shelves weren't choc-a-bloc.
Your borrowers could burn their midnight oil,
And though the service varied, it was not 'around the clock',
But no one minded – they were men of toil.

And if a stray musician passed and chanced to give a show,
A politician with a pretty speech,
You'd open doors and borrow chairs as **everyone** would go,
What didn't entertain perhaps might teach.

You blossomed in the twenties, billiard tables were the draw,
Though pubs were not deserted in the rush,
And local stage shows kept the ladies coming through the door,
But dramas that would never make them blush!

Then movies broke upon the scene and some of you kowtowed,
The locals loved the 'flickers' on the wall
But in the forties when the air raid sirens screamed aloud,
In blackouts movie-goers left the hall.

Despite the movie inroads, still you catered for us all,
And concerts, parties, socials, fetes and shows
Were held whenever needed in your large or smaller hall.
You filled a need as everybody knows.

Girl Guides and Scouts held socials under strict security
And many bonds were made in 'Spin the Plate',
Within your halls I'm sure that others met their spouse to be
At dances or at meetings – it was fate!



The passing years revealed the changing face of Monarchy,
As kings have come then vanished from your walls,
We've watched the queen mature, celebrate her Jubilee,
Will Charlie hang in your historic halls?

Though some of you remain in use, restored to former glory
Theatre here, a Museum there, in town.
Still one I heard was knocked down and is buried, goes the story
Beside a monumental Shoppingtown!!

THE CROMLECH STONES A TALE OF TWO MENAIS

ANGELA THOMAS

On Saturday 19 October, we had the good fortune to welcome Vera Wilson to our meeting. As Dawn Emerson, past president, explained:

Vera was instrumental in sending us the Cromlech Stones, at her own expense, to cement the bond between Menai in NSW and Menai in Wales. When Parc Menai was constructed they became a visible sign of the bond between the two Menais. The stones themselves are two columns and a crossbeam, symbolic of the ancient cromlechs such as would be seen at sites like Stonehenge.



The Parc Menai circular garden with the Cromlech Stones mounted in the centre, 2013.

Dawn mentioned, that there were some who considered the residents of Menai were being rather upmarket 'trying to look French' with the word 'Parc'. But that is a Celtic word and completely appropriate.

I would like to add some personal observations – when Vera told us that they came from the Penrhyn Quarry my mind went into overdrive. Those two words brought back a memory which has lived with me over many years.

Penrhyn Quarry is enormous – not just big – enormous. It is 1.6 kilometres across and 370 metres deep. Slate was quarried there in the early 1700s and it had its own Penrhyn Quarry Railway by 1798, making it one of the first in Britain.

On the day I visited mountain climbers were scaling the relentless surface, practising for mountaineering expeditions in Europe and Asia. Nearby is Penrhyn Castle and the entire land belonged to Lord Penrhyn and is now National Trust.

This was a world of slate and it was used everywhere in the magnificence of Penrhyn Castle, even a slate four-poster bed in which Queen Victoria had slept.

It looked magnificent and imposing – but the truth

was revealed to me when I visited the modest museum housed in the old quarry hospital.

This museum had on display, simple aids needed for treating accidents and there must have been many. In slate mining, dynamite was vital, so life and limb would have been in constant danger.

The most chilling item in this grim building was a letter pinned to the wall and written by a Harley Street surgeon.



I do not remember his exact words but it said something like, "Contrary to rumour the dust from the quarry is beneficial to the lungs, the minerals being conducive to health". What a shocking lie and what an example of the exploitation of working men.

I asked Vera more about the Penrhyn Quarry as her family had been connected to it for many years and she told me there are still people in the area who will not go near Penrhyn Castle because of bitter memories.

Lord Penrhyn was Anglican and most of the workers were non-conformists so when they lined up for work, preference was given to those he approved of. Dissatisfaction was rife and, as the men sat in their cabins (shelters where they gathered during dynamiting), they became vocal in their grievances resulting in two monumental strikes for more money and safer conditions. In 1896 the strike lasted for eleven months and one that started in 1900 lasted for three years – the longest strike in UK history.

People were starving and many migrated to the USA, but Lord Penrhyn would not be moved. He finally broke the strike and the miners had to go back to work.

Vera Wilson has gifted us a valuable piece of history, certainly of Celtic origins but also important in reminding us that in today's world – never think exploitation is a thing of the past.

THE MUSEUM 'GRAND LAUNCH'

ANGELA THOMAS

At the end of August we held the launch of our refurbished museum and after a year or so of planning and work we were certainly ready for a party. Well over 150 people came – representatives of clubs, societies and schools and filled the School of Arts in Sutherland. We had organised an afternoon of entertainment, museum displays and plenty of food and drink.

We were pleased to welcome the Mayor who gave the museum its new name 'Sutherland Shire Museum' and performed the launch. Three councillors and two members of State Parliament also participated.

Guests were welcomed with wine and light refreshments, then we were entertained by Merle Kavanagh who gave us a most evocative poem which she had written about the School of Arts.

A dancing group followed and this added a touch of youth to what could be rather a 'senior' gathering. After we had enjoyed those delightful dancers we had the main formality and the mayor needed to speak first as he had other engagements so the launch came earlier than planned. The rest of the speeches followed, with President Bruce Watt and Curator Jim Cutbush both speaking.



Jim Cutbush makes his speech.

Floral presentations were made to Merle Kavanagh, Joan Tangney, Pat Hannan and Angela Thomas.

It was an afternoon of celebration, with everyone so happy that we had achieved our goal to open our renewed museum to the public.

The air was filled with laughter and chatter as we enjoyed our afternoon tea and several visitors remarked on the general atmosphere of friendliness and good cheer – so the committee felt that the work of the past year had certainly been repaid by the obvious appreciation of our new museum.

We have the assurance that Sutherland Shire Museum now ranks amongst the best small museums in NSW. Let's hope there are many more years to come when visitors make a 'Journey through Time'.



Joan Tangney and Bruce Watt during the presentations.

A note from Museum Advisor, Lynn Collins

In my own capacity and as a representative of Museums & Galleries of NSW, I was very pleased to be at your impressive Launch on Saturday and to feel the good vibe emanating from the museum: terrific that both State and Federal Members could attend along with the Mayor and three Councillors amongst possibly 150 other folk...I think they would have noted the enthusiasm of the attendees and taken in the most interesting and positive address Bruce delivered ... and the absorbing museum. I hope you go from strength to strength hereon-in ... I managed to catch up with most of the people who developed The Shire - A Journey Through Time and learned of the good responses to the show and some of the plans for the Society. Thank you for your kind invitation and your acknowledgements during the Launch. Bravo! Best Regards, Lynn



The day the Bushwakers Band paid a visit.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

ELIZABETH CRAIG

If I walked around the streets of many of the world's cities at Christmas time, I would see signs of festivities everywhere. In Sydney, London, New York, Rome and other western cities, streets are aglow with fairy lights and shop windows are adorned with colourful decorations, nativity scenes, flowers and Christmas trees.

As Christmas traditions are often blended with local cultural ones, customs vary around the world. In Amsterdam, on 5 December (the eve of St Nicholas Day), St Nicholas, wearing red bishop's robes, arrives in town by boat with his servant Zwarte Piet (Black Peter). They mount a white horse and lead a procession through town to the palace where they are greeted by the Queen. Tradition has it that Black Peter keeps a record of the children's behaviour. The good ones get presents and the 'naughty' ones are chased with a stick. That night children (good and bad, I believe) leave out their clogs or shoes to be filled with presents. Orthodox Christians in Russia greet each other with: 'S Rozhdestvom!' (Happy Christmas!) on 7 January, as they follow the Julian calendar.¹

In the Congo, a deeply religious country, Christmas presents are rarely exchanged, but Christmas Eve is a musical evening, followed by a very long nativity play, starting with the creation and the Garden of Eden and ending with Herod killing baby boys. According to reports, they really ham it up with Herod and the soldiers portrayed as figures of fun. In Palestine, bagpipe bands parade through town on Christmas Eve – a tradition from British Army occupation between 1920 and 1948. The streets and main square are decorated with lights and people dressed as Santa Claus hand out sweets. In Jamaica, Christmas is celebrated with feasts and processions of strolling singers and performers. Women dance to gourd rattles, fifes, triangles and tambourines. Men wear masks and elaborate headdress while performing plays. Since performers were required to be licensed, a 20th century regulation, such processions have declined in much of Jamaica.²

Music has always been an important part of Christmas celebrations all over the world, but Carols by Candlelight is an Australian tradition which has spread to other countries. In Moonta, South Australia in the 19th century, Cornish miners gathered on Christmas Eve to sing carols with candles stuck to the brims of their safety hats. But the idea was popularised in 1938 by Norman Banks, a radio announcer with 3KZ in Melbourne, who had been inspired to organise large gatherings of people to sing carols by candlelight after seeing an elderly woman sitting up in bed one night, her face lit by a candle, singing 'Away in a Manger'

along with a radio broadcast. The first Carols by Candlelight was in Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne and attracted 10,000 people.³



*Carols by Candlelight, Adelaide, 2012.*⁴

Even in countries like Sri Lanka where only seven percent of people are Christian, the Christmas season is heralded with cracker night on 1 December, followed by street decorations, large Christmas trees in public spaces and partying. There are few Christians in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, but people flock to the Cathedral in the city centre to throw confetti and admire the street and department store decorations – a legacy of French occupation in Vietnam. Less than ten percent of Egyptians are Christian (mostly Coptic), but Christmas is celebrated as a secular holiday there, with all the commercial trimmings of a western country. The Japanese, mostly non-Christians, exchange gifts and cards at Christmas.⁵

From the Fourth century when European Christians adopted 25 December as the time to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, celebrations incorporated many much older non-Christian customs, many to do with the festivities surrounding the winter solstice. The Romans honoured Saturn, the God of Agriculture at this time with revelry and gift giving. The Norse in Scandinavia celebrated Yule by feasting while they burned large logs in their fires to acknowledge the eventual return of the sun. German and Celtic houses were decorated with clippings of evergreens as a symbol of fertility. In Mediaeval times, European Celts danced in a circle singing fertility songs. Christians adopted the idea of singing carols to celebrate Christmas.⁶

Because of this association with pagan traditions, Christian authorities have tried to ban Christmas festivities at various times over the centuries.

It was cancelled in England in 1645, and outlawed in Boston from 1659 to 1681.⁷ But the tradition not only survived, it has become more widespread. Christian and pagan traditions have a lot in common, argues one American online writer, as they address a universal need in all of us. In ancient times they helped cope with fears about the darkness and cold of northern winters and to celebrate the return of the sun. "The real need behind all of these traditions," she suggests, "was to find a source of joy, happiness, hope, goodwill and generosity."⁸

—0—

At the Society Christmas meeting last year, members spoke about their memories of Christmas when they were young. Others read from written recollections of Christmas by Australians from an earlier time. It's interesting to note that while everyone acknowledged that the traditional northern cold-climate Christmas celebrations do not suit our hot climate, most hung on to those traditions as best they could, and even relished the idea of tucking into a baked dinner and Christmas pudding in 100-degree heat.

Christmas was a traditional one at Nell Bentley's Bangor home early last century. "A special treat was the big ham, which Mrs Bentley cooked in a large pot over an open fire, and it required meticulous attention, having to cook slowly and not be allowed to come to the boil. Poultry was killed and prepared for the meal, along with other traditional treats ... On exceptionally hot days the tables were set up outside, and Christmas dinner partaken under the cover and shade of a magnificent Muscatel grape vine a few yards from the front door."⁹

Andrew Platfoot's godfather worked for Henry Berry, a food provider, and he was able to supply a duck for Christmas each year. "We had a full-on English Christmas dinner every year. We'll all trail around [to his godparents' place] in the blazing heat," recalls Andrew. "As you walked into the house you'd go from a hot outside into a furnace ... The heat pouring out of that place with the cooking was unbelievable."¹⁰

But even in the late 19th-century-Australia, some had thrown tradition out the window. In 1896, Nat Gould describes a Christmas in Sydney. "There is no busier time of the year than Christmas, and a roaring trade is done in hampers and all picnic necessities. And what picnics they are! Monster organisations, some of them, others of a more modest scale, the harbour resorts are besieged, and picnic-parties camp so near to each other that the wonder is they do not amalgamate and combine the contents of their hampers."

And here is a strong protest against tradition probably published in the *Hurstville Propellor* in December, 1929:

*Until now thousands of women have spent long hours over a hot stove in the kitchen. They prepared savoury Christmas dinners just because their mother and grandmothers were accustomed to such fine foods, in a totally different climate and totally different circumstances. But thank goodness, we in the lovely southern suburbs in 1929 are beginning to think for ourselves, casting away much that is useless and embracing that which will be a benefit to us. So why not this Christmas take a cold dinner and travel from Sutherland station by steam tram to Cronulla 'where cool waters will entice you', and have your dinner on the beach in the lovely fresh outdoors.'*¹²

Other cultures have incorporated their own food preferences into their Christmas tradition. In contrast to the British roast beef or goose, followed by Christmas pudding and mince pies, the Indians eat pork vindaloo and special pastries dyed red and pink. In Hungary, fish and cabbage and a poppyseed cake called Beigli forms their Christmas meal and in Argentina it's a barbecued or roasted turkey or pork followed by puddings of Pan Dulce and Panetone. After fasting on Christmas Eve, the Russians eat kutia, a porridge of wheat or rice and served with honey, poppyseeds, berries and walnuts. All at the table eat from one bowl to symbolise unity. Then on Christmas Day it's sauerkraut with cranberries followed by fruit pies, gingerbread and honeybread. They drink Vzvar ('boil up'), a sweet drink made from dried fruit and honey to celebrate the birth of children and also of Jesus.¹³

No Holly or Mistletoe?

While the Indians use red Poinsettias to decorate their home at Christmas and in Costa Rica they use tropical flowers, in Australia we turned to Christmas Bush and Christmas Bells quite early in our Colonial history. In 1844, Mrs Charles Meredith wrote:

*For some days before Christmas, in our drives near the town, we used to meet numbers of persons carrying bunches of beautiful native shrub to decorate the houses in the same manner that we use holly and evergreens at home ... Sometimes a horse approached, so covered with the bowery load he bore, that only his legs were visible ... carts heaped up with the green and blossomed boughs came noddingly along, with children running beside them, decked out with sprays and garlands, laughing and shouting in proper Christmas jollity.'*¹⁴

Nell Bentley's family gathered Christmas Bush a century ago to decorate their Bangor home for Christmas:

*Menfolk had combed the bush for miles around for Christmas Bush and brought in large amounts of native flowers before Christmas. They would sit in a shed and make up attractive bunches, much of which would be sold. The children and the womenfolk used some of it to decorate the house. The verandah posts were attractively festooned with Cycad palms, while some of the palm leaves hung from behind wall pictures.*¹⁵



Jim Cutbush recalled his Christmas trees of Sheoak or gum tree branches, as there weren't too many pine trees in Sutherland Shire then.¹⁶

In India the Mango or Banana tree takes the place of the traditional Christmas Tree.¹⁷

'Christmas Belles'. Young ladies collecting Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia grandiflora*)¹⁸

Christmas Pudd

Jo Saunders remembers her family leaving their Oatley home early in the morning to take their boat up the George's River to her grandparents' place at Fairfield. Her grandmother baked several Christmas puddings each year and hung them from the ceiling in the walk-in pantry. "Never never did you have the recent one," says Jo. "You had last year's ... I often wondered what the recently-made ones would taste like."¹⁹

And at Nell Bentley's house:

*The pudding was made a number of days previously, when all the girls had a 'stir' of the mixture. After boiling for a few hours in a large iron pot, the pudding, wrapped in calico, was hung up. Threepenny bits [coins] were mixed in the pudding and proved a delight for the children to find in their servings.*²⁰

Coins in the Christmas pudding is a tradition begun in England in the 16th century. It was believed to bring wealth to a person who found a coin in their serving.²¹

Mavis Sourry recalled a hot humid Christmas

Day at Airdre, her great Aunt Nell's house at Morton Bay with a magnificent view over the Bay. When it came to Christmas pudding, Mavis was already full:

I was struggling, really struggling ... All of a sudden my teeth struck something hard. Now, I don't know whether it was common then, but there was only one coin in the Christmas pudding, and the person who found it was supposed to have a lucky year. So I was the lucky person.

The pudding tradition at Andrew Platfoot's family Christmases was slightly different. The coins, some threepences and sixpences, included one 'two-bob bit' [two-shilling coin]. They were boiled up in bicarb, wrapped in greaseproof paper and mixed in with the pudding. He recalls one Christmas, biting into the pudding despite being absolutely full up with duck. "I remember biting into the pudding and getting this big lump in my mouth, and out came a two-bob bit."²²

Gifts

A strong theme to emerge from the recollections of Christmas by Society members last year was that gifts had become much more lavish, but less appreciated. In 1979, Nell Bentley recalled the Christmas gifts of her childhood. "Gifts were simple in those days, the commercialised business of today being unknown. Nothing lavish was chosen. A small gift expressed a big loving thought." But, depending on the season, some years were better than others. "One Christmas made a memorable impression on the children," recalled Nell. "Fred Bentley, the eldest son, brought delight to his sisters and other family members when he placed an Edison gramophone on a small round table in the dining room and began to play cylinder records. The children sat on a sofa awed by the wonder of the instruments [being played]."²³

Joan Morison, who was born in the Depression years, put out her pillow slip to be filled with presents each Christmas. "One wonderful gift I received one year was a Shirley Temple Doll and a pram. 'Shirley' was special. She went on to be played with by my children, then my daughter's children. She was knocked around and eventually discarded. I was the only one who was sad, as the meaning was lost to all those many children who played with her." Merle Kavanagh put out a pillowslip, too, hoping it would appear filled in the morning. "We got things like books, lollies in jars, and occasionally a commercial stocking which was out of this world."²⁴

Bruce Watt's family was not poor, but he does not remember getting a lot for Christmas,



"We boisterous boys had managed to break some of the toys by the afternoon, but other presents like 'Test Cricket' and Monopoly were around for years."²⁵

One special present Jim Cutbush got one year was a putt-putt boat made in Japan. When you lit a candle and put it underneath the rudder the boat putt-putted its way up and down the swimming pool. He had it for years until his brother, who loved crackers, put a bungler under it. Years later, in 1987, Jim was in Tokyo on business and visited the 'world's biggest toy store'. He drew a sketch of the putt-putt boat and asked the storeman if they had one. A gentleman who could have fitted the bill as Santa's helper appeared from a gloomy room through a half open door. "He had an apron on, thin rimmed spectacles, grey hair. He'd have been about 80," recalls Jim. "He spoke good English and said he'd visited his son in Australia and loved it". When he discovered what Jim wanted, he disappeared back into the gloom and returned ten minutes later with two boats, one for Jim's son and one for his nephew. "Happy Christmas," he said.²⁶

Christmas Carols

Christmas carols were sung in the evening after Christmas dinner at the Bentley household. Fred led the singing from his Moody & Sankey 'Sacred Songbook' while playing the mandolin or concertina. And in homesteads around the farming village of Bangor (now Menai) the families of Mayman, Jones, Dawson, Midgley

and others would celebrate the birth of Christ in much the same way as the Bentleys.²⁷

As Nat Gould commented in 1896, "If ever there was a place where peace on earth and goodwill towards all men ought to reign supreme, it is in Australia at Christmas."²⁸

ENDNOTES:

- 1 www.whychristmas.com;
www.thehistoryofchristmas.com/traditions
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carols_by_Candlelight
- 4 www.salife7.com.au/adelaide/places/historical/looking-back-on-carols-by-candlelight
- 5 www.whychristmas.com; www.nationencyclopaedia.com
- 6 'The History of Christmas and Its Pagan Origins: Christmas from a Non-Christian Perspective', by Jennifer Claerr, www.voices.yahoo.com/the-history-christmas-its-pagan-origins
- 7 www.christmas.com
- 8 'The History of Christmas and its Pagan Origins', op.cit
- 9 'Marie Frost's interview with Nell Bentley, 1.2.1976. Published in the *Bulletin* as 'A Bush Christmas' in November, 1976, and read by Ian Kolln at the SSHS Christmas Meeting in November 2012.
- 10 From recollections at SSHS Christmas Meeting in November, 2012
- 11 'Christmastide in Australia', by Nat Gould, from *Town and Bush*, 1896, read by Clive Baker at the SSHS 2012 Christmas meeting.
- 12 'Christmas Dinner 1929', may have appeared in the *Hurstville Propeller* in December, 1929, quoted in December 1979 *SSHS Bulletin* by Athalie Ivers.
- 13 www.whychristmas.com
- 14 www.whychristmas.com: A report of Christmas in Sydney by Mrs Charles Meredith, from 'Notes and sketches of New South Wales', 1844. Read by Leanne Muir at the SSHS Christmas Meeting in November, 2012.
- 15 'Marie Frost's interview with Nell Bentley, op.cit.
- 16 From SSHS members' Christmas memories recorded at the November, 2012 meeting.
- 17 www.whychristmas.com
- 18 *Illustrated Sydney News: Christmas issue 1886*
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/christmas/>
- 19 From recollections at SSHS Christmas Meeting in November, 2012
- 20 Marie Frost's interview with Nell Bentley, op.cit.
- 21 en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas [accessed 26/10/13]
- 22 From recollections at SSHS Christmas Meeting in Nov, 2012
- 23 Marie Frost's interview with Nell Bentley, op.cit.
- 24 From recollections at SSHS Christmas Meeting in Nov, 2012
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Marie Frost's interview with Nell Bentley, op.cit.
- 28 'Christmastide in Australia', by Nat Gould, from *Town and Bush*, 1896, op.cit.



Good advice seen in a Buddhist monastery in India, 2013.

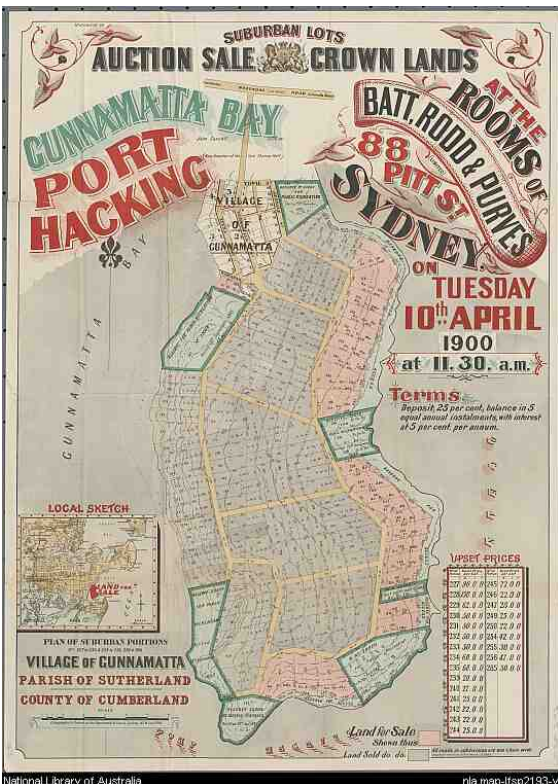
EDWARD THORNE OF SOUTH CRONULLA

LAURIE BURGESS

Merle Kavanagh covered the history of many of the early commercial boatsheds in the *Bulletin* (Vol 13-4, and Vol 14-1,2) but there is another that may warrant inclusion, and that is Edward Thorne's boatshed and jetty at Salmon Haul. Whilst no information was found on the operations he conducted at the boatshed, other interesting details have come to light concerning this early resident of South Cronulla.

On 19 August 1898¹, Edward Thorne applied to purchase several parcels of land, which had been passed in at the auctions of 21 January 1897² of the Crown subdivisions in the Suburban Lands of the Village of Gunnamatta (later Cronulla). They were adjacent portions 214, 215, 216, 220 & 221 for which he paid a total of £59 when his application was approved on 21 September 1898.

When further parcels were auctioned on 10 April 1900³, he paid a total of £139 for portions 246, 247, 249, 250 and 254. The first four were located on the north and south sides of 'The Oaks' – the Crown reserve of Oaks Park (now Oak Park) was excluded from the sales. The fifth parcel (portion 254) was above Salmon Haul.



Auction sale plan, 1900.

(Courtesy of National Library of Australia)

It is not clear when Edward Thorne built 'Cronulla House' and began living in the area. Perhaps he even used one of the 'weekender' cottages he built



This 'Village of Cronulla' map, c 1920, shows Thorne's land purchased pre-1900 and a special lease about 1918 near his boatshed/jetty,

on the land. It appears that he had local, possibly commercial interests, and became Honorary Secretary of the South Cronulla Progress Association, which was involved in turning Cronulla from "a purely holiday resort to a thriving commercial and residential centre."⁴ He held a short term appointment as a member of the trustees of Cronulla Beach Park⁵ (now Cronulla Park) from February 1906 until June 1907, when that Crown reserve was re-proclaimed and the trusteeship transferred to newly-formed Sutherland Shire Council.⁶

A report in 1904 indicated that, "Mr. Edward Thorne, Hon. Secretary of the Association, owns two attractive cottages, 'Gibbon' and 'The Oaks' ...[which are amongst]...about a dozen available and well-furnished cottages at Cronulla, which are let for terms suitable to the requirements of visitors."⁷ In 1908, Thorne was one of a deputation to the Minister of Public Instruction, deploring the lack of a public school in the area. Thorne and Whipps [another member of the deputation], "pointed out that applications from people for furnished cottages often came to nothing when they realised that there was no school in the area."⁸

Improvement of the transport routes into Cronulla was also of concern to Thorne, as it would undoubtedly mean that more people would visit the area. He spoke at The Sutherland-Cronulla Tramway Enquiry in 1908, no doubt supporting the proposal, but bemoaning the failure of any action on a previous scheme to improve access to the area by dredging Woolooware Bay and an

old canal known as 'The Drain' (originally cut by Thomas Holt many years before) to allow for the conveyance of building materials.⁹

Around this time, Edward Thorne decided that the time was opportune to subdivide much of his large land holdings and accordingly hired surveyor Louis A. Curtis to prepare a subdivision survey of all of his land, with the exception of portion 254. The survey was completed in October 1907, but required amendments in January 1909.¹⁰

A copy of the plan prepared for Hardie and Gorman, auctioneers, is held in the Local Studies Area of Sutherland Shire Council Library.¹¹ Of interest is a large block of two acres two roods and 36¼ perches designated as Lot 11 in Section 4 of the subdivision. On it is marked a villa, two wells and lawn, which could be the location of Cronulla House. Further subdivision in 1916 (surveyed by Louis Curtis) saw Lot 11 reduced to one acre, three roods and four perches, mainly fronting Harbour Street, with access also to Ewos Parade.¹²



He may have struggled to sell so many parcels, of land, as this aerial photo of the 1930s shows many undeveloped blocks.

Sutherland Shire Council recognised Edward Thorne's interest in the local area by appointing him in August 1918, along with Arthur Rogers, of Cronulla, as custodians of three beachside parks: Shell Beach Park [now Shelly Park], Oaks Park [now Oak Park], and Darook Park.¹³

News that the North Coast Steam Navigation Company was interested in commencing excursions to Port Hacking had spurred the Progress Association to persuade Sutherland Shire Council to erect a wharf at Salmon Haul Beach. In a meeting between the Progress Association and

Council in March 1916, Edward Thorne, who still owned the adjoining property (portion 254) promised to give the necessary land to make a suitable road to the proposed site, as an addition to the £100 already subscribed by the Association for the project.¹⁴

This also provided the opportunity for Thorne to begin another commercial venture. The ocean wharf was completed near the end of 1918 and in December of that year he applied for a Special Lease for a boatshed on the Crown land fronting portion 255 at Port Hacking near the wharf and close to his adjacent portion 254.¹⁵ He would have expected some trade from the steamship excursions every Saturday afternoon which many South Cronulla residents could use as transport from Sydney business houses on Saturdays.¹⁶ His application was approved in July 1920 for Special Lease 1918-14 Metropolitan from 1 July 1920 to 31 December 1927 for the purpose of Jetty (boatshed for boat letting) at an annual rental of £15.¹⁷

Unfortunately for Thorne and other locals, the steamship *Orara* used for the excursions to Port Hacking failed to tie up at the new wharf, and the steamship company eventually terminated its excursions in 1924 after never making any profits from its venture.¹⁸ So, quite possibly, Thorne's boatshed would not have been very successful from a commercial standpoint, but that did not stop him from applying to extend his lease, the application being recorded on 3 February 1928.¹⁹ No record has been found that this application was approved, and it is likely that it lapsed. The next record found years later in March 1940 indicated that Special Lease 1918-14 Metropolitan had expired, but had no date as to when that had occurred.²⁰

Edward Thorne and his daughter, Mabel, sold their interest in the Cronulla House on 30 June 1928,²¹ but that could have been to another member of the family, as Thorne was apparently still residing there, or had returned there, in the last days of his life.



*The Oaks, Mr. E. Thorne's Cottage, South Cronulla, 1904.
Courtesy Mitchell Library.*



The roof of Thorne's boatshed can be seen in Salmon Haul Bay, c 1920s.

When Edward Thorne died on 22 April 1931 at Marrickville, the funeral notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* recorded:

*Edward Thorne, Cronulla House, Cronulla, and late of Newtown, beloved husband of the late Annie Thorne, and loving father of May, Ethel, Stanley, Edith, Mabel and Ella. Privately interred at Rookwood, April 23. Resting.*²²

It may be that Thorne was lucky to have lived that long. Unless it was a remarkable coincidence of names, an Edward Thorne "a well-known resident of Newtown" was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 9 March 1908, as surviving "a narrow escape from drowning" after being carried out in a rip off Cronulla Beach, fortunately rescued by a lifeguard and resuscitated.²³

The Remaining Estate

Thorne's Portion 254 was transferred to some of his children prior to April 1920 when it was surveyed for subdivision with the names Edith Thorne and (indistinct but possibly Ethel) Thorne appearing as owners on the dedication of roads and reserves.²⁴

Edward Thorne may have also been involved in the purchase of nearby Portion 217 on the corner of Ewos and Nicholson Parades as he is attributed as owner in July 1915, being "prepared to give eight feet at the corner of Nicholson and Ewos Parades to widen the corner,"²⁵ but it was certainly owned by his daughter Ella Thorne when the 38 square feet were dedicated later that year²⁶ and when the land was subdivided and sold in 1921.²⁷

When Thorne purchased his properties in South

Cronulla, the roads provided in the Crown subdivision were not named.

What is now Ewos Parade was commonly known as the Ocean Road but was renamed to honour the NSW Minister for Works Mr **E. W. O'Sullivan**. Oaks Street (originally shown as Oak Street) was a wooded area, which also gave its name to Oak Park.

Thorne's cottage 'The Oaks' was generally in that area and may indeed have contributed towards the name. Thorne's other cottage 'Gibbon' [or should that be Jibbon?] and Jibbon Street are another likely pairing – Jibbon is an alternative spelling of Deeban, local aboriginal name for Port Hacking. Jibbon Street was one of the new streets created in Thorne's subdivision in 1909 as were Harbour Street and Beach Street, the names of which are self-explanatory. That leaves only Rose Street, another new street created by Thorne, where the origin of the name has not been found. No mention of any family member of that name, or a Rose Cottage or any large rose garden on the estate, so who was this mysterious Rose amongst Thornes? I will leave that well and truly in the air!

POSTSCRIPT: In a recent *Bulletin* (Vol 15-2), was the story of the *Tuggerah* shipwreck in 1919 wherein it was mentioned that survivors were taken to Cronulla House after landing at Cronulla Beach. The *Advertiser* (Adelaide) of 19 May 1919 gives a slightly different version of the events, seemingly eye-witness, which would indicate that the survivors, in fact, landed at the ocean wharf at Salmon Haul, were taken to Cronulla House and then on to Cronulla Hotel.

Survivors in the ship's lifeboat after abandoning their search for any others recounted:

We then left the scene and pulled towards the coast. It was at first intended to try and effect a landing at Wootamolle [sic], but tremendous seas were dashing along the beach in that locality, and the boat was headed north for safety. With the wind and sea in our favor [sic], we managed to get round Jiboom [sic] Point, and landed just after dark at the Cronulla Wharf.

The report continued:

Mr Tait and his men had an exciting time landing at the wharf, owing to the rough seas, but once ashore, they were shown every kindness by Mr Edward Thorne and the residents of Cronulla House. Subsequently they were taken to the Cronulla Hotel in motor cars, and then on to Sydney.²⁸

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The Village of Cronulla is courtesy of Lands NSW.

The 1930 aerial photo courtesy of Sutherland Shire Council.

The picture of Salmon Haul Bay is courtesy of Sutherland Shire Council library collection.

ENDNOTES

1. NSW Government Gazette No 824 of 21.9.1898 fol 7553
2. NSW Government Gazette No 918 of 14.11.1896 fol 8167-8
3. NSW Government Gazette No 103 of 3.2.1900 fol 9874. Curby, P. *Cronulla Public School: The Early Years*, undated, p. 8
5. NSW Government Gazette No 107 of 24.2.1906 fol 1364
6. NSW Government Gazette No 70 of 12.6.1907 fol 3261 and No 73 of 19.6.1907 fol 3423
7. Referenced as article in the Sydney Mail in 1904, vide . Hutton Neve, M, and Midgley. A & F, *A Short Authentic history of Cronulla*, Southland Historical Press, 1970, P. 5
8. Hutton Neve, M, and Midgley. A & F, *A Short Authentic history of Cronulla*, Southland Historical Press, 1970, p. 5
9. Kavanagh M, *The Sutherland-Cronulla Tramway Enquiry*, Sutherland Shire Historical Soc Vol 10 No 2 May 2007, pp. 20-30
10. Land Titles Office, *DP5414*
11. Sutherland Shire Council, Local Studies, *map SU-2230-M6 (4)*
12. Land Titles Office, *DP8670*
13. NSW Government Gazette No 107 of 30.8.1918 fol 4392
14. Midgley A & F, *History of Road Transport in the Sutherland Shire* published. as Sutherland Shire Studies No 7, Oct 1993
15. NSW Government Gazette No 164 of 20.12.1918 fol 6553
16. Midgley A & F, *History of Road Transport in the Sutherland Shire* published. as Sutherland Shire Studies No 7, Oct 1993
17. NSW Government Gazette No 137 of 23.7.1920 fol 4432-3
18. Midgley A & F, *History of Road Transport in the Sutherland Shire* published. as Sutherland Shire Studies No 7, Oct 1993
19. NSW Government Gazette No 15 of 3.2.1928 fol 627-8
20. NSW Government Gazette No 71 of 10.5.1940 fol 2164
21. Land Titles Office, *Dealing B693483 (DP181621)*
22. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27.4.1931, p. 8
23. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 9.3.1908, p 7
24. Land Titles Office, *DP10823*
25. *St. George Call*, 10.7.1915, p. 6
26. Land Titles Office, *DP952386, Dealing A235663*
27. Land Titles Office, *DP10542*
28. *The Advertiser* (Adelaide), 19.5.1919, p. 7



Left: Anne O'Connor (L) and Mary Small (R) – two of the ladies who provide the afternoon teas and add to the friendly atmosphere at our meetings.

Below (left): Angela Thomas in the Museum courtyard and (right): Museum Advisor Lynn Collins with Joan Morison.



BUSH BANK MILL

PAM FORBES & GREG JACKSON

Greg and Pam recently took part in an archaeological examination of a site in the Kiama area and discovered more history of flour milling in the early years:

—0—

*My price is fair, my rights are just,
I keep no clerk, I give no trust¹*

The *Empire* newspaper announced on the 26 March 1856 the imminent opening of the Bush Bank steam mill just south of Kiama on what was then the main road. The builder was miller John Sharp. Today the mill is a romantic ruin about a kilometre below the modern road south.



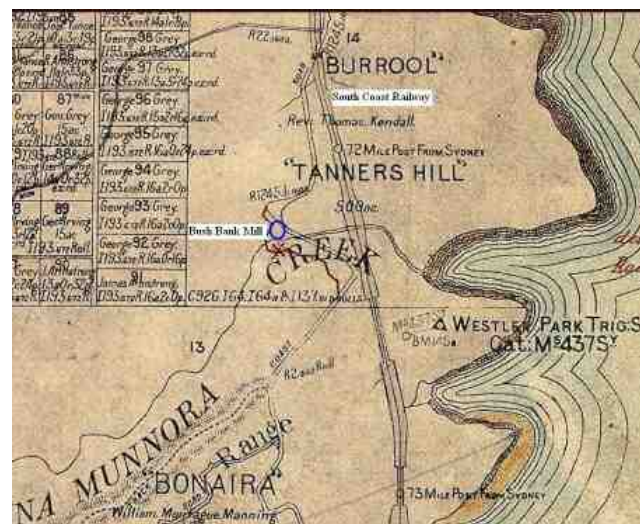
*The Bush Bank mill at GPS coordinates:
56 H 0302352, 6157979.*

This mill, owned by the local council can be visited by the public along a public foot path on private land along what was once the old South Coast Road (above). The road is almost as interesting as the mill, sunken into the hillside, a testimony to the many bullock wagons bringing cedar logs to the port of Kiama.



*What is left of the Old South Coast Road,
showing a section near the mill site, 2013.
(Pam Forbes)*

The road has evidence of drill and blast work and 200 metres north of the mill are substantial bridge footings across a creek. The *Kiama Independent and Shoalhaven Advertiser* on 7 June 1898 announced the closure of this road but the 1902 parish map (below) still has it as the only road south.



*Parish of Kiama, drawn 1902
(<http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm#>)*

Before the wheat rust disease arrived in 1864 the coastal area around Kiama was a prime wheat growing area and the Bush Bank mill and the Woodstock mill at nearby Jamberoo, both ground wheat for the local farmers.

John Sharp was an ambitious miller and the *Kiama Examiner* on 12 March 1861 announced the opening of his new, Kiama Steam flour mill in Tomerong Street Kiama.

The Bush Bank mill, together with the attached farm and pastures had been offered for sale in the local papers and *Sydney Morning Herald* on 2 October 1860 but with no buyers. The mill was then described as a flour and timber mill, the machinery to be removed by John Sharp, presumably for his new mill. It seems John Sharp had over-reached himself as, on the 27 May 1862, the *Kiama Examiner* announced a mortgagee auction of the Bush Bank estate and in addition, the *Empire*, on the 15 November 1870, describes Bush Bank as the property of Mr William Miller.

The mill was ambitiously described in the sale notice of 1860 as a three-storey building and 40 feet by 17 feet – no doubt real estate salesmen talk.



The Bush Bank steam mill building in 2013.
(Pam Forbes)

The mill site is located about seven metres from the old main road and is two-storeys high with two small gable ends. The construction is mostly mortared field stones with quoin stones at the corners and openings. Some wooden lintels still survive and repairs appear to have been done in brick. Walls are in a ruinous state and the inside is full of fallen masonry.

The Bush Bank mill was part of John Sharp's Bush Bank farm and remained as such until recently.

Although the original farm building was destroyed by fire c1910 the property contains many of the original buildings including a stone men's hut c1850 and a farm house from 1912.



*This engraved stone faces the road:
"Bush Bank Steam Mill erected AD 1856".
(Pam Forbes)*

This attractive farm, which is clearly visible from the highway, has been extensively renovated and operates as a delightful B&B and provides convenient access to the mill.

The mill and old road are sadly neglected. The council appears to be disposing of the mill by neglect; many walls are dangerous and before too long this important building will collapse. Although signposted from the highway they have fallen down and the mill is not advertised in any official web sites.

If you are looking for a delightful short walk with an historic flavour, stop and stroll the old coastal road to the Bush Bank mill, it may not be there too much longer.

Alternatively, you can do what we did and stay in the historic Bush Bank farm B&B.

ENDNOTES:

1 Announcing John Sharp's Kiama steam flour mill – *Kiama Examiner*, 12 March 1861.



LOCAL WAR HERO
FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT WILLIAM 'RON' CUNDY, DFM, DFC, MID
CLIVE BAKER

Ron Cundy joined the RAAF in 1940, aged eighteen and after training went to the UK where he flew with a RAF squadron. He was later posted to the Middle East flying Hurricanes and then Kittyhawks and in 1942, over El Alamein, he shot down a German Messerschmitt fighter followed by another later that year.

By the end of his service in the Middle East he had destroyed five German aircraft and there were also some unconfirmed 'probables'.



At one point in the war, in Cairo, Ron met up with his father who was serving in the army. That would have been a rare occurrence for families serving at war.

One day Ron was chased by a German fighter that he could not shake off:

...he kept at me, every now and then pulling his nose in a little tighter and opening fire.

*Every time he did this a funny tingling feeling ran up and down my spine ... eventually he either ran out of ammunition or patience and disappeared from sight ... then there he was again, level with me and not far off my right wing ... he nodded, saluted and disappeared. What a relief. I could hardly believe I had survived.*¹

In later years Ron discovered that he was probably attacked by Hans-Joachim Marseille, one of the Aces of the Luftwaffe who shot down over 150 Allied aircraft. Ron did have a lucky escape.

With the Pacific War raging, he took the opportunity to return home, arriving in Fremantle on his 21st birthday.

He then flew with 452 RAAF Squadron out of Darwin but, by that stage of the war, the Japanese airforce was being pushed further north and he saw no serious action.

Ron and his wife Gwen came to the Shire after the war and now live in Cronulla. In recent years when he wrote a book about his experiences, he had to be pressed to reveal more detail of his exploits as he was too modest to 'brag' about his war record.

SOURCES:

1. Cundy R. *A Gremlin on My Shoulder*, p 90

DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL

"In the course of numerous operational sorties over enemy territory, Flight Lieutenant Cundy has shown fine qualities of leadership, keenness and determination. On a recent occasion he displayed great skill in the destruction of an enemy aircraft which attacked a fellow pilot. Undeterred by difficulties and hardships he has participated in various operational duties with outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty."

Citations for Ron Cundy's awards, announced by the Department of Air, 1943.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.

"In November, 1942, this officer made an exceptionally daring attack on an enemy lighter in the vicinity of TOBRUK. Undeterred by damage sustained by his aircraft from heavy anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Cundy displayed great coolness and determination, bombed the ship which was set on fire, and destroyed it. Many troops were on board the vessel at the time.

This officer has exhibited outstanding tenacity and gallantry on numerous operations. He has taken part in many operational flights and escort duties and in bombing and machine gunning enemy targets.

Since September, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Cundy has destroyed two enemy aircraft, bringing his total victories to five."

SUTHERLAND LIBRARY 1960-1965

BERNARD SARGEANT

On page 32 of the February issue of the Society's *Bulletin* there is a profile of a new member, Laurie Burgess. This I found most interesting, particularly on account of his service with Sutherland Shire Council and his deep interest in matters historical pertaining to the Sutherland Shire.

However there is one error on which I have to comment and offer fuller information. In the second paragraph it is stated that "in his youth he ... remembers the old Council library (now the Peace Park) ..." One has to assume that this reference to the "old Council library" means The Sutherland library that was located in the former doctor's surgery and residence across the parking lot and garage area from the OLD Council Chambers. By early 1960 the only three Libraries operated by the Shire Council were Sutherland Library, Cronulla Library (located in the School of Arts premises in Surf Road) and the Miranda Library (also in a School of Arts building located in Kiora Road, Miranda). It was not until 1965 when the Sutherland Library was designated as the Central Library.

Recently – in another context – I wrote the following which is pertinent to this matter. "In the middle of the 1960s the Shire Council had the "new" Council Building erected. This was opened at some time in 1965. It was named the David R. Kirkby Building in honour of David Randolph Kirkby who was Shire Clerk from 1929 to 1963. That New Council Building then housed all Council departments including the Library. The Sutherland Library was located on the lower ground floor, which had been originally intended as a car parking area for staff cars/official cars, or so I was told. The original Sutherland Library had been housed in the former doctor's premises in Eton Street alongside the "old" Council Chambers. That Library building was – at that time, prior to 1965 – situated where the architect planned to build the entrance steps to the "new" Council Building. When this was realized it was proposed that the car parking area become the Library premises. There was a prolonged tussle over this proposal and over the size of the new Library area and its subsequent funding.

Today when one walks down the path north of the Council building entrance steps from Eton Street itself to the Sydney Credit Union (S.C.U.) Offices – in the frontage of the former Library Premises – one walks under a few large trees

which I like to think were all there in 1960. Thanks to the issue of Sands Sydney Directory for 1932-33 we can even find out the name of that Sutherland doctor – it was Dr. E.A. Sanbrook, medical practitioner. This name has been confirmed by Miss Betty Naughton, sister of Sid Naughton (Deputy Shire Clerk 1966-1983). Betty, like her siblings, was born in the Wigzell House in Linden Street, Sutherland, and lived most of her life in that location in Sutherland. When I asked Betty recently if she remembered the name of the doctor in Eton Street, whose premises became the Sutherland Library, Betty immediately replied "Dr. Sanbrook" before I had an opportunity to tell her the name that I had found in Sands. At the same time Betty reminded me again of Bill Collins' birth in Eton Street, Sutherland – which is also confirmed by Sands with the name of Michael Collins, as the named resident on the corner of Eton Street (east side) and Flora Street, and confirmed, less specifically by Wikipedia!

Since the "Peace Park" is located north of the Sutherland Entertainment Centre and south of the Council premises, we have been searching through our memories and photos to establish just what was fronting onto Eton Street prior to 1965. The "old" Council Chambers was on the corner of the then Princes Highway and Eton Street – Sands in 1932 gave the address of the Shire Council as Princes Highway.

Then after 1953 there was the Sutherland Library, formerly Dr Sanbrook's premises. Next door was the "old" Masonic Hall, followed by Kay's Cottage. (There are at least two photographs of Sutherland Library Staff in 1960-1961 in the back garden of the Library premises – in the background one can see the north side of the Old Masonic Hall.) Approximately on the site of the Entertainment Centre was the Sydney County Council building. This was presumably built at some time in the 1950s (architecture-wise) after the Shire Council's Electricity Department was passed over to the Sydney County Council. That transfer led to some redesigning of premises' functions and the creation of a new Council Chamber (Council meeting room) with its public entrance off Merton Street, and together with the creation of a number of committee meeting rooms and a new Shire President's office.

As I said to Betty Naughton, we were fortunate in the 1960s that Dave Kirkby had the foresight to invest in Eton Street east frontage land in the earlier period – say between 1935 and 1955. Then when the Shire Council had to build a new building for all its functions, all the necessary land was Council owned. Presumably the “old” Masonic Hall was purchased when the “new” Masonic Hall was built on the corner of East Parade and Moore Street, (west) Sutherland. We can remember that the Council staff Christmas parties were held in the “old” Masonic Hall for many years and the Council Staff Amateur Dramatic Society (maybe that is not what it was called or named!) would perform their pieces there for us.

Kay's Cottage does not get a mention in the 1932 Sands in terms of the name of a resident, neither does the Old Masonic Hall.

But everyone who worked for the Shire Council before 1965 knew where Kay's Cottage was – south of the “old” Masonic Hall – and this was Council property.

In the early 1960s it was used by the Town Planning Department for storage of files, and we in the Library also used it for storage purposes. I am not sure if the Council Records Section also used Kay's Cottage for storage, maybe to file the *Government Gazette*, Electoral Rolls, etc. Like the Sutherland Library all these other council-owned premises quickly disappeared at the time of the building of the “new” Council building and later of the Sutherland Entertainment Centre.

It is hoped that this explanation of the location of the Sutherland Library from 1953 to 1965 will make sense to all who read it!

Poor But Blessed.

We met and we married a long time ago,
 We worked for long hours, the wages were low.
 No TV, hot water, we worked pretty hard,
 Just a wireless, cold water and "loo" in backyard!
 No holiday abroad, no carpet on floors,
 We had a wood & coal fire, and didn't lock doors!
 Our children arrived. (No pill in those days),
 And we brought them all up without any State aid.
 They were safe going out, to play in the park.
 And old folk could go for a walk in the dark.
 No valium, no drugs, and no LSD,
 No deaths due to heroin and no ecstasy.
 We felt we were rich with a couple of bob,
 There was always a chance of getting a job.
 People were happy in those far off days,
 Kinder and caring in so many ways.
 Milkman and paper boy would whistle and sing.
 A night at the pictures was our one mad fling.
 We all had our share of trouble and strife,
 We just had to face it - that's the pattern of life.
 We never got counselling, nor heard the word stress,
 If things got too bad I would buy a new dress!
 Now all alone I look back through the years,
 I don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears.
 I remember the Blessings - our home and our love.
 And that we shared them together .. I thank God above.

Authored by Anon
 (via Joan Morison)

Shire Pictorial, 1960.

HOLSWORTHY

THE FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT OF OUR PRE-SHIRE

LAURIE BURGESS

Settlements were an early requirement of NSW Governors to locate the land granted after that time, and one area that was established in 1793 around the settlement in the Liverpool area seems to have been named Holsworthy, a name which persists till today.¹

Under Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the Colony at the Town of Sydney was spreading out and at the end of the first decade of the 19th century the outer areas were being described as the 'Several Districts of the Hawkesbury (main town Windsor), Town of Parramatta and its Several Districts, and the Several Districts of George's River' (main town Liverpool).²

When it became necessary to define the boundaries of these Districts for administrative purposes, the task was handed to Surveyor-General John Oxley. No district was proclaimed over the area which later became the Parish of Sutherland, this being loosely administered from the District of Botany Bay, which later became the Parish of St George.³

Oxley did however notify on 26 September 1821, the boundaries of a *District of Holsworthy*, much smaller than the later Parish of Holsworthy, as follows:

*Holsworthy: bounded on the north and west side by George's River, on the south by an east line from the Entrance of Bunbury Curran Creek to the southern arm of the River and thence by that Arm.*⁴

"The southern arm of the River" refers to the Woronora River, and the District included the areas along the southern banks of George's River which are now known as Sandy Point, part of Menai, Alford's Point, and part of Illawong.

The District of Holsworthy was made redundant when the Parish of Holsworthy was proclaimed in 1835.⁵

Where was a Policeman when you needed one?

In those early days of the 19th century, any policing of the southern shores of Botany Bay and George's River east of Woronora River would have fallen to the constable in the District of Botany Bay on the northern shore of Georges River, who would have had to row or sail across to attend to the matter.

However, west of Woronora River, in the District of Holsworthy, any landholder could appeal to the local constable stationed at Liverpool. In a Government Notice of 20 May 1820⁶, it advised:

In order to give the fullest Publicity and Authority to the several persons legally appointed to act in the Police Department, His Excellency [The Governor] is pleased to order and direct, that the following List, containing the names of the Chief and Petty Constables, and Pound Keepers, throughout the several Districts of the Territory, be published for general Information and Guidance ...[two of those named were]... In the District of Holsworthy — Murtah O' Hoarne, Constable and Pound Keeper [and] In the District of Botany Bay — Andrew Cunningham

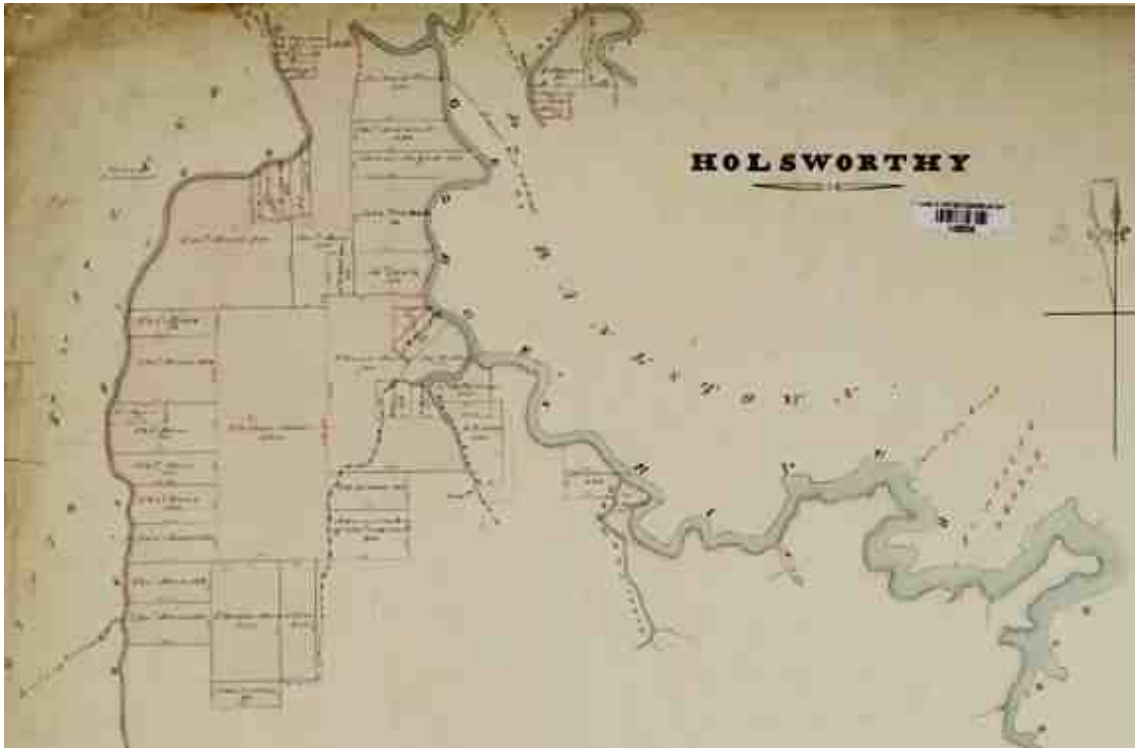
Constable O'Hoarne was also previously mentioned in the Government Notice of 21 August 1819⁷:

His Excellency approves of a Pound being established forthwith in the District of Holesworthy [sic]; and that Murtaugh O'Hearne [sic], Constable of that District, be Keeper of the said Pound.

So, the Guernsey for the first policeman in what was to become Sutherland Shire should be awarded to Constable O'Hoarne!



The heading on an early Parish Map – image courtesy of Lands NSW.



What's in a name?

Apart from the obvious difficulties the newspaper compositors had with the name of the constable, the 'sounds-like' spelling of Holsworthy as *Holesworthy*, was symptomatic of a whole era of incorrect spelling of the name of that area.

Holdsworthy also competed with the correct name – right up to the present day. Even the map makers had problems

Holsworthy is the recognised correct spelling, named after the English village in which Governor Lachlan Macquarie married his second wife in 1807⁸.

ENDNOTES:

1. www.gnb.nsw.gov.au. The following notation appears on the Geographical Names Board web site against the name *Holsworthy*: A settlement district that appears to have been established in 1793 to locate the land granted after that time. In "Legal Aspects of Boundary Surveying" (Hallman, 1973. p.3), it says: "(Governor) Phillip, for the purposes of his administration, had divided the early settlement into districts, the names of which today still persist".
2. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 18.1.1812, pp.2-3
3. <http://img.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/Hurstville-City-Timeline.html>
4. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 27.10.1821, p.4
5. NSW Government Gazette No 168 of 23.5.1835 folios 331-334.
6. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 20.5.1820 p.1
7. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 21.8.1819. p 1
8. www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.

CRONULLA — NATIONAL PARK — AUDLEY



Adults 5/- Ret. WED.—SAT.—SUNDAY. Child 2/- Ret.
Ferry leaves Cronulla 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
 The most delightful 20 miles of River Scenery in Sydney.
 Ferries leave for Bundeena from Cronulla hourly each day.
 Make up a party during the Jubilee Celebrations for a moonlight cruise.
PHONE Cronulla Ferry Service Pty. Ltd., LB5181 for details.

XMAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG

BRUCE WATT

Well, 'dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh' wasn't exactly my experience of Xmas when I was young. I grew up on a wheat/ sheep farm in the central west of NSW. Summer temperatures were often around 100 degrees F but fortunately it was a dry heat which didn't sap energy like humid heat.

Like all kids I'd look forward to the long summer break. But unlike other kids who went on holidays, we had work to do; dagging sheep, cutting Bathurst burrs or watching out for bushfires. I was about sixteen before I ever saw the ocean.

We weren't poor but I don't remember getting the amount of presents that kids get now. What was worse is that my birthday is on New Year's Eve so the invariable thing was "Well, you just got some presents."

I loved my Nanna who lived in town and always came out for Xmas lunch. We four boys would always know what gifts we were getting though. It was socks or underpants or hankies! Thanks Nanna.

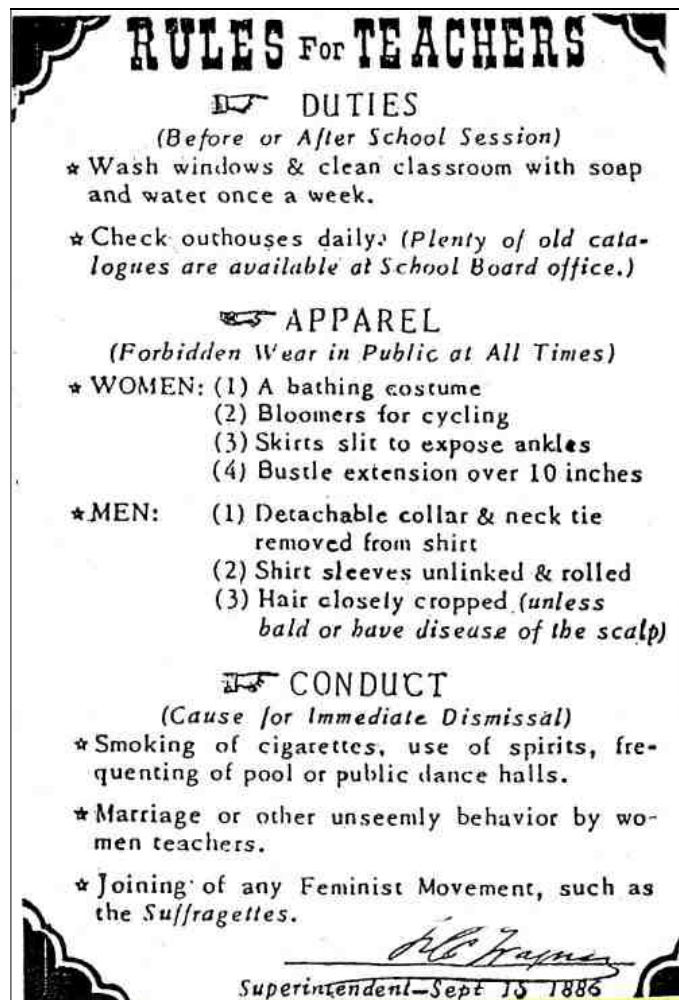
Xmas lunch, even at 100 degrees was the traditional English roast turkey and beef and vegetables with all the trimmings and Xmas pudding with custard. The home-made pudding had been hanging in a bag on the laundry door for a few months. Finding the threepences inside was always fun.

There were always loads of Christmas cards from relatives and friends. These days email is quicker and I don't think that

people bother with cards much any more.

We boisterous boys had managed to break some of the toys by the afternoon but other presents like 'Test Cricket' and 'Monopoly' were around for years.

One other thing I remember about Xmas was the Aussie salute—brushing flies away!



1886 rules for teachers.



St Patrick's Catholic School, Sutherland, 1930

As there is inadequate room for full names only surnames are listed :

O'Jala, Boyles, Gorey, Elliotts,
Wright, Handley, Holloways,
MacNamara, Semler, Mullins,
Dwyer, Conyards, Naughton,
Tate, Miles, Cavanagh, James,
Batterbury, Russack.

NAVAL AUXILIARY PATROL: 1942-1945

PORT HACKING DIVISION

BOB OSBORNE

Although the Naval Auxiliary Patrol (NAP) Headquarters Base was at Rushcutters Bay in WW2, there were several outposts. One was the Port Hacking base, which originated as a division of the Volunteer Coastal Patrol.

Regular NAP patrols began in the area in March 1942, operating on security work and port examination service and later, when armed, went on anti-submarine duties. This division also worked closely with the nearby Cronulla artillery gunners and various other military units located in the area – some for training purposes.

Mock attacks on the port and troop landing tests were carried out, with one exercise carried out in co-operation with commandoes, training in the port. On one exercise the NAP transported up to 250 commandoes across the bay. The NAP vessels also dropped and serviced targets for artillery shoots and later operated as picket boats.

All craft in the Division were used to chart depths at the entrance to the bay for military map making and boom location.

Vessels and Crews

1] The *Dolphin* (No 65) was a raised deck cabin cruiser, fitted with depth charges and armaments. It operated between Cape Banks and Stanwell Park on patrol/ naval duties, carrying a White Ensign.



Crew: Sub-Lieut RANR H.P. Clarke – Skipper and Naval Officer in Charge of Port Hacking.
G. Hamilton – Acting Mate.
Cadets: I.R Rankin and W. Rodgers.

2] *Miss Patricia* (No 194). Crew:
E.H. Caldwell.

3] *Miss Evelyn* (No 128) speedboat. Crew:
A.J. Moran.

4] *HTS* (No 163) Crew:
A.J. Hannan – Acting Skipper.

5] *Meldawn* (No 196)
W. Beat – Acting Skipper.
P. Denning – Acting Mate.

6] *Mouette* (No 199) Crew:
R. Freeman – Acting Skipper
W. Watson – Acting Mate

Submarine Alerts

After the attack by Japanese midget submarines in Sydney Harbour on the night of 31 May 1942, five 'mother' submarines went to a position just off Port Hacking to wait for any survivors to return. The *M24* was the only midget to escape out of the harbour and has since been discovered off the northern beaches in 2006.

Between 3 and 11 June, six Allied ships were attacked by the 'mother' craft and they were able to sink three between Toulkey and Narooma. The eastern suburbs of Sydney and then Newcastle, were shelled by the same Japanese submarines.

On 6 June 1942, at 1930 hrs, NAP vessels *Dolphin* and *Miss Patricia* proceeded to sea to search for a possibly disabled submarine bombed by aircraft. A night-long search failed to find any wreckage or an oil slick.

On occasions, too numerous to mention in detail, patrol vessels went to the rescue of disabled craft and brought them back safely to port. An example occurred on 28 March 1943, during a very bad gale, when a launch with three men aboard was towed to safety off Jibbon Head near the bombora rock outside the Port. Considering the conditions, the damaged launch would not have lasted long and the gale would have either swamped it or driven it onto the rocks with almost certain loss of life.

For four hours the party battled heavy seas, nearly losing one man who was washed overboard, and twice were nearly carried onto the rocks by the 30-foot waves.

During bushfires in the area in December 1944, burning on both sides of the Hacking, NAP craft placed at strategic points were used to ferry firefighters and police to the scene of the fires.

By war's end, operations carried out by the Port Hacking Division had involved about 57,000 crew-hours and over 26,000 miles travelled.

THE LAMBS' HOUSE

JOHN CAMPBELL

The unique house that once existed at 69 Sutherland Road, Jannali was built in the 1950s and was demolished in 2013.

It was situated in the middle of the large block that stretched from Soldiers Road to Sutherland Road in Jannali. It was almost invisible for several decades due to the density of the trees and bushes that the Lambs had lovingly planted or retained when they built. My memory of them was people who loved the Australian bush.

Tree clearing prior to demolition fully revealed the house and brought back childhood memories.

It was a little unique for its time, due to the unusual and striking feature of a completely flat roof that was only accessible by external stairs.

As a child it was a great adventure to go up

on their roof and gaze over Jannali and towards Botany Bay.

The home was of full-brick construction also fairly unique in the early 1950s and they had one of the first septic tanks in the street – a rectangular above ground brick affair – built before the later round pre-cast types.

Vic and Marge Lamb were family friends and used to take my sister on some of their adventures to places like the Jenolan Caves. They loved camping and once drove out to Cameron's Corner in the family car – well before it became popular with four-wheel drive vehicles. In his younger years Vic had ridden his push bike out to Bourke on roads that would have been very rough.

The Lambs have passed away now. The Jannali they knew is slowly changing, with the large land blocks we grew up with, being subdivided for medium density housing.



The Lambs' house with its septic tank revealed.

THE OPINIONS OF VISITORS

When Charles Darwin came to Australia in the 1830s, he travelled widely but was not too enthusiastic about what he saw.



His forecasts of our future have since been proved well and truly wrong:

The rapid prosperity and future prospects of this colony are to me, not understanding these subjects, very puzzling. The two main exports are wool and whale oil and to both of these productions there is a limit. The country is totally unfit for canals, therefore there is a not very distant point, beyond which the land-carriage of wool will not repay the expense of shearing and tending sheep.

Pasture everywhere is so thin that settlers have already pushed far into the interior; moreover,

the country further inland becomes extremely poor.

Agriculture, on account of the droughts, can never succeed on an extended scale: therefore, so far as I can see, Australia must ultimately depend upon being the centre of commerce for the southern hemisphere and perhaps on her future manufactories. Possessing coal, she always has the moving power at hand.

From the habitable country extending along the coast and from her English extraction, she is sure to be a maritime nation.

I formally imagined that Australia would rise to be a grand and powerful country as [is] North America but now it appears to me that such future grandeur is rather problematic.

SOURCE: *Australia Brought to Book*. Harman Kaye (ed). Boobook Publication, 1985. p 20.

THE BULLETIN RE-VISITED

JANUARY 1969

Marjorie Hutton Neve's optimism was premature when she wrote this article about 45 years ago:

OUR OWN LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM ?

The Society is delighted with the allocation by the Shire Council of a site in Waratah Park (Sutherland) for the erection of a Local History Museum. Enquiries are now in hand as to the economic and structural possibility of moving the 'Punt House', the 100-year-old stone cottage at the approach to Tom Ugly's Bridge. The Punt House was built between 1862 and 1864 on Holt land to house the puntman operating the Government hand-punt between Tom Uglys Point and Horse Rock Point, this providing a line of overland travel to Wollongong via the Great South Road.

A number of localities, both in NSW and other States, now have their own Local History Museums, some being more pretentious than others, depending on local co-operation. In those areas where municipal or shire councils have realised the local publicity value, the museum is a strong tourist attraction, eg: Port Macquarie, Parramatta and Randwick's museum at Bare Island. Parramatta & District Historical Society are responsible for lovely 'Hambledon Cottage', and the Lancer Barracks have established a unique Military Museum ...

Individual members of our Society are holding quite a number of interesting items for display, and the Society has been promised various donations of all types, including a wide collection of old photographs once we have a museum for them.

Many Shire records of historical value have already been destroyed – old publications (books, newspapers, land-auction brochures), pioneer furnishings (who today has a laundry scrubbing-board, flat-irons, doorstep boot-scrapers, butter and cheese churners, skillets, kerosene lamps?) all everyday items in the pioneer cottage.

Have you any pioneer object which is unwanted? Do you know of any such articles stored under the house or in an outbuilding? 50 years ago the attic room was a treasure-trove of family history.

Please let your Society's executive council know ...[if you have items for display in]... our Local History Museum-to-be.

—0—

NOTE: The Waratah Park building site came to nothing, the Punt House was demolished and we are still looking for display objects that can be DIRECTLY connected to the Shire.

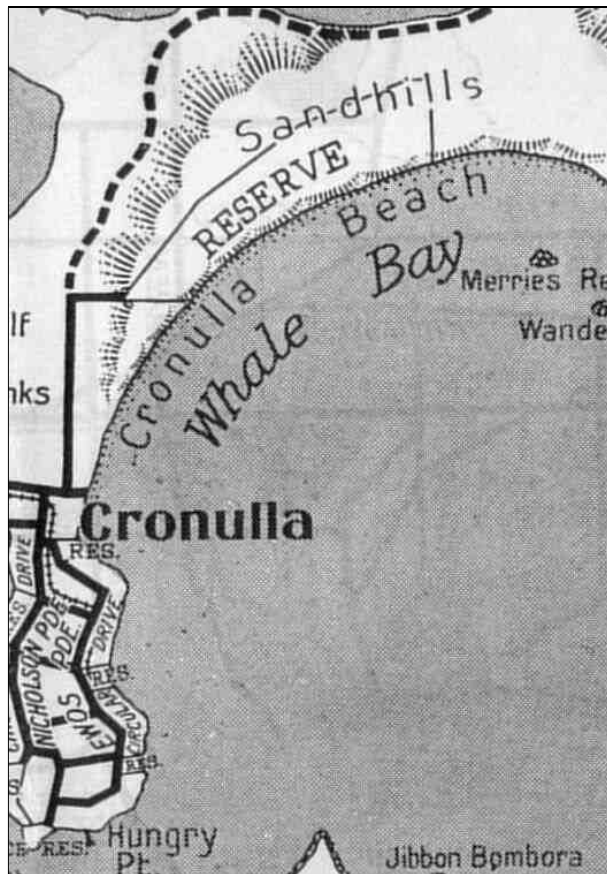
THE BATE BAY MYSTERY—SOLVED!

BRUCE WATT

Bate Bay is the large stretch between South Cronulla beach and Boat Harbour. On some early 20th century maps it is marked as 'Whale Bay'.

Captain Cook had reported very large numbers of whales along the east coast and early convict ships were licensed to hunt whales after delivering their human cargo. Until the 1830s whaling was the colony's largest export industry. Rock engravings of whales along the coast, also testify to their significance in Aboriginal culture.

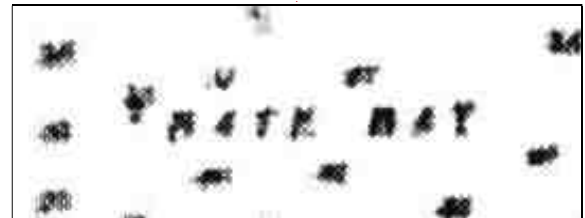
James Birnie, who was granted the first portion of land at Kurnell in 1815, had intended to establish a whaling station there. Whale numbers have increased since the early days and there is now a significant whale watching industry in the Shire.



Published in Frank Cridland's book, 1924. ¹

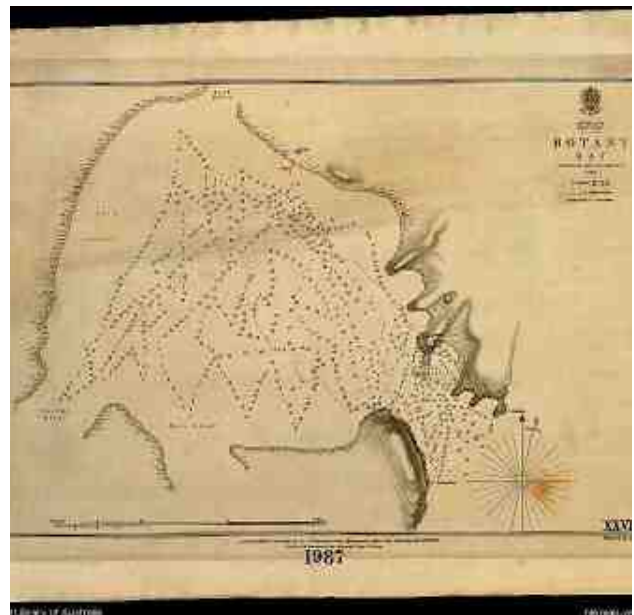
The first map showing Bate Bay appears on a British Admiralty hydrographic chart of Botany Bay and Port Hacking in 1871. An earlier map of the Bate Bate area in 1850 doesn't name Bate Bay, however incised on the edge is the notice:

London. Published according to Act of Parliament at the Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty Feb 16th 1850. Sold by R.B. Bate Agent for the Admiralty Charts 21 Poultry.



First known map to show Bate Bay, 1871.

Robert Brettell Bate (1787–1847) was a maker and retailer of scientific, optical and surveying instruments including microscopes, telescopes, drawing instruments, sundials, barometers, sextants and planetariums. He was appointed optician to King George IV and Queen Victoria.



This hydrographical chart, has the annotation: sold by R.B. Bate Admiralty Chart Agent, 1850.

He supplied the surveying instruments used by Sir Thomas Mitchell during his three expeditions in Australia from 1831 to 1846. His firm traded from No 17 Poultry, in the City of London from 1807, moving to larger premises at No 20 in 1820.



An Inclining dial – Robert Bretall Bate, in the Royal Museum Greenwich.

He was appointed sole Admiralty chart agent in 1830. He was co-publisher of the *Nautical Magazine* during its early years, and he wrote and/or published navigation books and some dozen handbooks concerning apparatus that he sold. He died on 27 December 1847 and his widow ran the firm until 1850, closing it down shortly before her own death in 1851.



Reflecting telescope

John D. Potter was appointed Admiralty chart agent after Bate's death. On the 1871 chart of Botany Bay and Port Hacking, Potter Point is marked. This is evidence that chart agents had a say in naming geographic features and points to the likelihood of Robert Bate naming or having the bay named after himself. On the same chart, Glaisher Point at South Cronulla is named. This is likely to be after James Glaisher (1809-1903), an English meteorologist.

ENDNOTES:

1 *The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and the Sutherland Shire* (1924) Cridland.

CRONULLA–THE LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR

CLIVE BAKER

That great source of time-wasting, TROVE, revealed a series of early Shire dramas – that I was not actually looking for. Beware Cronulla visits!

DAMAGE IN THE SUBURBS

(November 1922)

During the height of a thunder storm yesterday ...[it]... was felt with severe effect at Cronulla, much house property suffering considerable damage. In the main street a roof covering a grocery shop was blown completely off and fell on the tramline, holding up the service for about twenty minutes. Telegraph posts and wires were rendered useless, besides minor damage to buildings.¹

MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

(November 1922)

Whilst driving along Cronulla Road, Cronulla, yesterday afternoon, Ross Kennedy, married, living at Miranda ... was struck by lightning. He was found by Constable Macpherson, of the Cronulla police, about half an hour later unconscious in his car. The St George Ambulance conveyed him to the Kogarah Hospital, where he was admitted in a state of coma.¹

No report was found regarding his final outcome.

TERRIFIC TORNADO–SURFER KILLED

(December 1938)

During an electrical storm, which struck Sydney at 2.30 p.m. yesterday, a tornado, lasting not more than five minutes, tore across an area, of about a square mile, causing damage estimated at about £200,000. Joseph Partridge of Auburn Street, Sutherland, was struck by lightning and killed while surfing at Cronulla, and in the storm area eighteen [other] persons were injured, one seriously. At least 140 houses and factories were unroofed or destroyed by the wind, which, it is estimated, exceeded a velocity of over one hundred miles per hour over a narrow strip.²

LIGHTNING STRIKES CRONULLA HOTEL

(December 1935)

At the height of a violent thunder storm which burst over Cronulla, lightning struck the Hotel Cecil. There was a vivid flash about 2.30 o'clock, followed by peals of thunder ... the shock was felt in the hotel and caused some alarm, but no one was injured.³

ENDNOTES:

1. SMH, 22.11.1922.

2. *Geraldton Guardian & Express* (WA), 24.12.1938.

3. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 13.12.1938.

OUR YEAR IN RETROSPECT

THE YEAR 2013 HAS BEEN A BUSY ONE – HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

JANUARY



Disorder as the old museum is dismantled


FEBRUARY

Cronulla book launch

A PERSONAL history of Cronulla by former Sutherland Shire resident Jim Heather will be launched by former Cook MP Bruce Baird.

The book – *Cronulla and Beyond, 1939 to 1956* – describes "life as a kid in the rural seaside village of Cronulla".

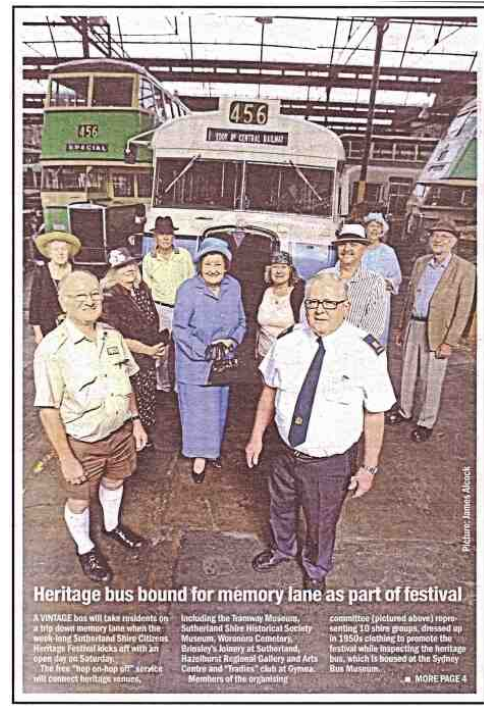
The book is being published by Sutherland Shire Council with the assistance of funding through the 2012 Heritage Publication Grants program.



The book will be launched at 2pm, Saturday, February 16, at Stapleton Community Centre, 3a Stapleton Avenue, Sutherland.

Member book launch

MARCH



Society members in Heritage week advertising

APRIL



A visitor at the re-furbished Museum

MARCH



Lynn Collins offers Museum advice.

AUGUST



Merle Kavanagh at the Museum launch.

World War II bunker found

WORKMEN completing the refurbishment of Dunningham Park at Cronulla have uncovered a relic from World War II – a bunker underneath the concrete on The Esplanade between Cronulla and South Cronulla beaches.

On closer inspection, initials and identification numbers of soldiers were found etched into the walls.

Cronulla Returned Services

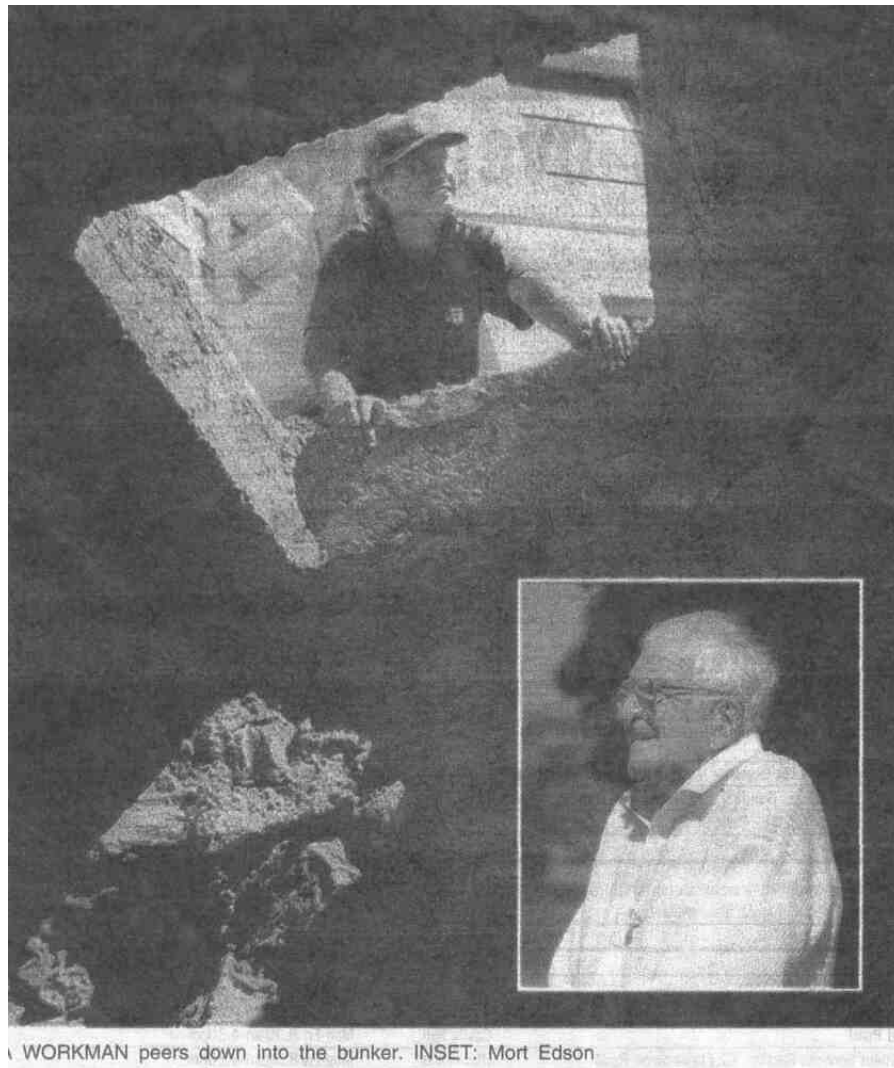
League Sub Branch member Mort Edson patrolled the shores of the beach during World War II, but had never heard of the mystery bunker. Sutherland Council and the Heritage Council were also unable to provide any answers.

Mr Edson was a member of the St George Regiment of 45th Infantry Battalion that was ordered from Ingleburn to Cronulla on the eve of

the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbour.

“We were stationed there until about 1942 but I don’t know of any bunkers being built at this part of the beach,” he said.

Mr Edson said he would like to see the bunker opened to the public in recognition of the local war effort. Work in the area has been stopped until its origins are discovered.



WORKMAN peers down into the bunker. INSET: Mort Edson

The man featured in this *Leader* article (c 2005), the late Mort Edson, is the same man who provided the detailed account of the ‘Bill Wentworth Raid’ of 1942. That mock attack had been an attempt to show that the Shire defences were not adequate and is now the subject of a forthcoming book.

The question is – where is this bunker located and what was actually found inside?

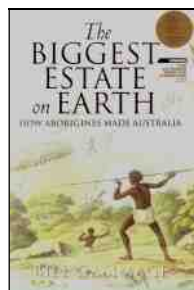
As Mort commented, it is a shame that Sutherland Shire Council cannot find a way to have it opened so that interested people can visit the WW2 structure.

THE SHIRE: THEN AND NOW



Not all historical artefacts are man-made: these trees (L) on Lady Carrington Drive at Gibraltar Rock are angophoras in the 1890s and one remains today (R) – broken but still there.

THE BOOK SHELF



THE BIGGEST ESTATE ON EARTH Bill Gammage

This book explodes the myth that pre-settlement Australia was an untamed wilderness. In fact it was a complex and

country-wide systems of land management used by Aboriginal people.

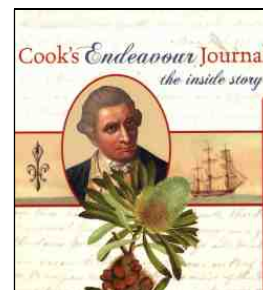
Early Europeans commented again and again that the land looked like a park. With extensive grassy patches and pathways, open woodlands and abundant wildlife, it evoked a country estate in England ... this was because Aboriginal people managed the land in a far more systematic and scientific fashion than many realised.

The book uncovers an extraordinarily complex system of land management using fire and the life cycles of native plants to ensure plentiful wildlife and plant foods throughout the year.

When Aboriginal people were no longer able to tend their country, it became overgrown and vulnerable to the hugely damaging bushfires we now experience. And what we think of as virgin bush in a national park is nothing of the kind.

*Still in print: review from publisher:
Allen and Unwin. Sydney. (2013)*

COOK'S ENDEAVOUR JOURNAL: THE INSIDE STORY



This book brings to life the record of one of the world's most famous and daring expeditions – the circumnavigation of the globe by Lieutenant James Cook aboard HMB *Endeavour*.

It is a timeless story of courageous exploration – the charting of New Zealand and Australia's eastern seaboard – and of high adventure: a stand-off with a hostile Brazilian army and a near-shipwreck that almost brought the voyage to a premature end.

The voyage of the *Endeavour* helped make sense of the eighteenth-century world and opened up new lands and found new people.

This account, told in Cook's own words and in historical detail, will help you understand how he succeeded so well.

*Still in print: review from publisher:
Allen and Unwin. Sydney. (2013).*

GARAGE SPACE NEEDED: Clive Baker is looking for long-term paid storage for his book stocks and if any member has an empty garage or shed available for rental please contact him: 9542-6771

BOOKS FOR SALE

Clive Baker holds stocks of the following books.
Part of the purchase price goes to the Society:

	<p>WIND BENEATH HIS WINGS MICHAEL ADAMS LAWRENCE HARGRAVE'S TOOK HIS LARGE FAMILY TO STANWELL PARK IN 1893. HE BEGAN EXPERIMENTS IN WING DESIGN IN THAT REMOTE PLACE BUT THE TERRAIN WAS NOT GOOD FOR DEVELOPING AN AEROPLANE. HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THE GOOD WIND IN THE AREA TO MAKE KITES THAT CARRIED A MAN. [142 PAGES]——PAPERBACK \$20 (\$22 MAILED)</p>		<p>BEYOND BULLI MICHAEL ADAMS THIS IS AN ACCOUNT OF 60-70 FAMILIES WHO PIONEERED THE DIFFICULT TERRAIN OF THE NORTHERN ILLAWARRA BETWEEN 1820 AND 1888. THEY LIVED BETWEEN THE NARROW COASTAL AREA AND THE ESCARPMENT AND IT WAS OFTEN THE ECCENTRIC OR DESPERATE THAT CHOSE TO TRY AND TAME THE RUGGED AREA. [186 PAGES]——PAPERBACK \$20 (\$22 MAILED)</p>
	<p>LITTLE BULLI MICHAEL ADAMS THIS EXPLORES THE CREATING OF ILLAWARRA, PHYSICALLY AND ALSO THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF THE ABORIGINES. THIS HAS ONE OF THE FIRST ACCOUNTS OF ABORIGINES REACTING WITH SETTLERS IN THE AREA. [210 PAGES]——PAPERBACK \$20 (\$22 MAILED)</p>		<p>CRONULLA AND BEYOND 1939-1956 JIM HEATHER JIM SPENT HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD AROUND THE CRONULLA DISTRICT AND IN LOCAL SCHOOLS. HE HAS GIVEN US VERY DETAILED RECOLLECTIONS OF THOSE TIMES – THIS BOOK IS A NOSTALGIA TRIP FOR THOSE OF THAT AGE. [206 PAGES]——PAPERBACK \$25 (\$38 MAILED)</p>
	<p>TABLE MATS WHY NOT GIVE A SET OF OUR SOCIETY TABLE MATS AS A GIFT FOR A FRIEND. THEY ARE A NICE REMINDER OF OUR COLOURFUL PAST: WE HAVE SEVERAL THEMES TO CHOOSE FROM: \$4 EACH (SIX FOR \$20)</p>		<p>MY WORLD WHEN I WAS TEN VARIOUS A GROUP OF PEOPLE GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO THEIR LIVES GROWING UP IN THE 1920s TO 1940s – A GREAT MEMORY JOLT IF YOU WERE THE SAME AGE. THEIR STORIES GIVE FUTURE GENERATIONS A WINDOW INTO THAT LONG AGO ERA. [206 PAGES]——PAPERBACK \$15 (\$18 MAILED)</p>

SHIRE HISTORY BOOKS: Contact War Book Shop for a **free** list of new and second-hand Shire and NSW titles: if we do not have a particular book – we can search for a copy. CLIVE BAKER: 9542-6771

Stocks still available: purchase at meetings or \$20 mailed



INK FROM THE BOTTLEBRUSH

LAUREL DUMBRELL (ED)

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ABOUT 50 LOCAL WRITERS, REVEALING DIFFERENT FACETS OF OUR LOCAL HISTORY.

[160 PAGES]——PAPERBACK

[== FIRST PUBLISHED: 1987 ==]

ADVERTISE WITH US AT A VERY REASONABLE COST

