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**VOLUME 17—NUMBER 3**  
**AUGUST 2014**



*MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE*

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**SOCIETY WEBSITE: [www.shirehistory.org](http://www.shirehistory.org).**

## **SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **THE SOCIETY**

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back more than 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](mailto: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.

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### **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 visitors 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).

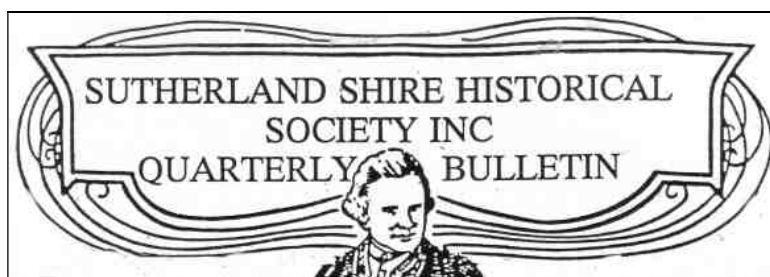
**DONATING MATERIAL:** If you have items of historical significance for Sutherland Shire, we welcome their donation to the museum to keep for posterity. If you do not wish to part with items, we would appreciate having copies of documents and photographs. Temporary loans for specific periods are also 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](mailto:a.badger@optusnet.com.au)

## **THANKS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

The Society is most grateful for the on-going support from Sutherland Council and the professionalism of the Print Room staff, for the production of our *Bulletins*.



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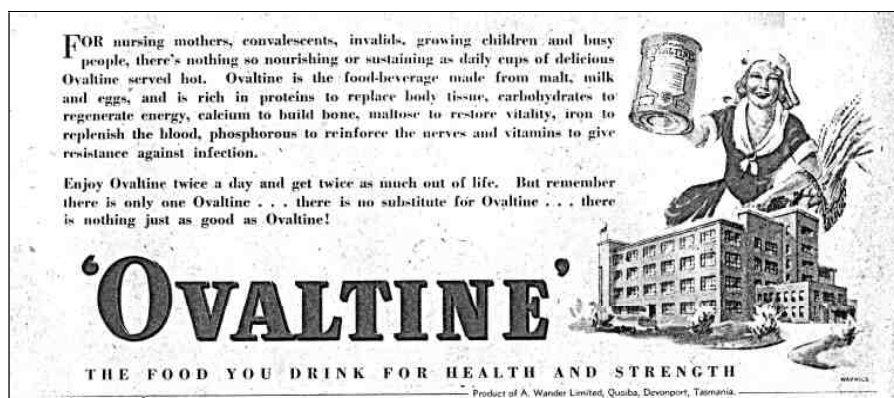
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### Front cover:

'Hilltop' situated on Rathane Road, Warumbul area, Royal National Park. Built before 1906, the house is now being renovated and there is talk of possibly renting it to holiday makers. On the right, 'Gogerly's Cottage' is being restored by heritage experts from Brinsley's, 2014.

### Back cover:

Dharawal artwork of the Shire, 2014. Top: Rock carvings on Jibbon Point, Bundeena. Bottom: Hands in a cave at Sandy Point and a six-fingered hand in a cave at Audley.



1947

## THE SSHS COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

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<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR</b>	Michael Solari	<b>HON AUDITOR</b>	Anne Bates, CPA

**GET WELL SOON** Some of our fellow members have been ill recently:

**Brian Morison** had a stroke and a stay in hospital. **Terry McCosker** had a fall and was treated in hospital. **Sharon Bowyer** and **George Miller** are both undergoing cancer treatment and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

**NEW MEMBERS** We are very pleased to welcome:

**Julie Fallon** of Loftus  
**Vivian Berney** of Cronulla  
**Marie Kirby** of Sutherland  
**Barbara Mason** of Heathcote  
**Cheryl Spencer** of Kareela

**George Coulthard** of Mudgee  
**Robert Brown** of Cronulla  
**Anthony Fallon** of Sutherland  
**John White** of Sutherland

**EXISTING MEMBERS:** If you have not yet rejoined, please act soon to keep receiving your *Bulletin*. You will find a form in the back of the last issue.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To new members, **Matt** and **Sharon Bowyer** who were married last June.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

It is almost a year since our last AGM and much has happened since then. We officially opened our refurbished museum at the end of August. Having such a fresh and vibrant display space prompted us to consider opening more often. Since November the museum has been opened every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. A roster of 20 odd members has spread the load. My sincere thanks go to these people who have pitched in to maintain this important part of the Society's function. When people knew that they had other commitments they arranged replacements. Overall, the roster has worked well. There are however changes looming that need addressing.

Two stalwarts of the Society have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election at the AGM in September. Jim Cutbush, whose involvement in the Society goes back many years, is relinquishing his role as museum curator. He has ably managed the museum for several years and over time has filled almost every position in the Society, as did his mother. Terry McCosker is also not standing again. He too, is one of four members who open the museum on a roster basis throughout the month. His role as excursion officer and bus driver/raconteur will be hard to fill. It is unfair though to expect some people to continue in certain roles year after year. As in any organisation, we need members to take on new responsibilities. This society is noted for its collegiality and the executive is welcoming and helpful. As well as existing members, we would encourage all members to bring friends and colleagues into the fold. We are not alone in this respect. Many similar organisations are examining ways to combat aging memberships.

Leanne Muir has very ably performed the roles of treasurer and publicity officer but, as she has moved out of the area, will not stand again. What a breath of fresh air, professionalism, common sense and good humour she has brought. We wish Leanne well.

At the next AGM, three members will be bestowed honorary life membership and Pat Hannan is one of them. Daphne Salt gave her considerable collection of photographs, books and ephemera to the Society, when she moved north last Christmas. Pat has taken it upon herself to catalogue the collection and it has been a mammoth task. Our museum and future researchers will benefit greatly from this.

The Society has produced a long line of feature writers and book authors. Over the last two years I have been writing a book that covers a large swathe of our history. Titled *The Shire a journey through time*, it is a history and a biography, a portrait and a sociological sketch. It is a love story but pulls no punches nor air brushes some of the less attractive or unsavoury aspects of our history.

The part that James Cook and Governor Phillip played in the discovery and settlement of Australia has given validity to the Shire's claim as 'the birthplace of modern Australia'. Given this, it allows the Shire's history to be examined as part of a much bigger picture. As such, the book is more than just a local government history. The inclusion of the chapter, 'This is Dharawal country', pays homage to our Aboriginal heritage.

The book concludes in 2014, the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. The Society launched the book at our regular meeting on 16 August. It is unfortunate that it had to be printed in China, where much of our products now come from; however, its production in full colour makes a handsome addition to our stock of local history.

Gogerly's cottage, the oldest building in the Shire and Hilltop which stands beside it, have been renovated and the Society was invited to a special viewing and to provide feedback. Charles Gogerly moved to Port Hacking in 1854 and made a living from shell gritting and fishing.

Both houses are on the southern shore of Port Hacking near the Anglican conference centre – an idyllic bushland setting overlooking the river. They are under the control of the Royal National Park which has restored them. Buildings need a contemporary use to ensure their survival so Hilltop may be leased for casual accommodation.

I would like to thank our members who continue to support us throughout the year. Monthly meeting numbers average 45 – 50. The women who provide afternoon tea deserve special mention.

Congratulations on a highly successful year to the many others who contribute.

## REMINDER

To all those that have not paid their fees, our annual membership of \$30 is due from 1 July – a renewal form was on page 31 of the May *Bulletin*. Why not encourage a friend to join?

## MEET THE COMMITTEE INEKE (OOMENS) NIEUWLAND

I was born in Eindhoven in Holland, (where Philips electronics originated) and lived through the war years as a child. I was very aware of the tensions of the times and remember being very indignant when the Germans took the clock from the church tower to be melted down for ammunition!



I also remember our Oomens family being scared out of our wits by bombing and the house being under surveillance after Dad had been interrogated by the Gestapo. He was the director of a hostel that sheltered about 125 young men – mostly budding Philips engineers. That enabled him to assist the Underground, by hiding the occasional man wanted for anti-German activities. By its very nature the work he did is still a great unknown.

My introduction to school life was a Montessori class and I still marvel at the foresight of the nuns to implement the new thinking in education.

### Our War Ended

Lucky for us the south of Holland was liberated in September 1944 while the rest of the country had to wait months for the Allies to take full control. Consequently, we were spared the widespread hunger that the north had to suffer in that winter.

After the war, my father was employed by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) as Principal Welfare Officer of a 'displaced persons' camp – some of which held 35,000!

### A Brush with Fame

Sometime after the war General Montgomery came to Eindhoven for the commemoration of the liberation (about 1946-47).



*Bernard Montgomery*

I rounded up some friends and on our pushbikes we went to have an 'eye-full' of this famous personality.

For years Liberation Feasts were held – after all we had been under occupation for five long years and needed to celebrate.

### A New Country

My parents brought me to Australia together with my three older brothers in 1951 – migrants who had to pay for the privilege to come.

We already spoke some English and truly wanted to assimilate, so learning the history and norms of our new country was part of it.

The Oomens family started our new life in Cronulla but accommodation was mostly holiday rentals and we had to move every eleven weeks or so!

By the time we came to Australia I had reached intermediate level and, in 1952, I went to study at Kogarah 'Tech'.

About that time, Molly Douglas introduced me to pottery/ceramics – she and Bernard Sahm had re-started pottery classes in Australia after the war. From that, my first job was working in Diana Potteries in Marrickville but it was at Martin Boyd Pottery that I honed my skills.

Over the years, I have followed my interest in arts and crafts by study and ultimately, teaching. These days my main interest is painting in all media.

Also around 1952, I met my late husband, John – a Dutchman – on a blind date and we clocked up 54 years of married bliss and produced four children, of whom I feel justifiably proud.

When our youngest child started school, I resumed my interest in pottery and attended Gympie tech. At the end of four years, with the encouragement of my teacher, I then taught pottery at the YMCA which lasted ten years.

Spinning and weaving have been another interest since mid-1970s and in latter years painting. Summer schools, workshops and the like, feed my need for improvement.

The historical society was brought to my attention by Angela Thomas, a bridge playing chum. History has always been a pet subject, so that appealed to me and a happy association it is.

I find it hard to forget people that I have met over the years, who with their professional or trade skills, have contributed to my life and the making of modern Australia.

## EDITOR'S SAY

CLIVE BAKER

ALL COMPLAINTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: [warbookshop@bigpond.com](mailto:warbookshop@bigpond.com).

I always invite suggestions and complaints but members have been most generous in not chastising me for several bad errors in the last *Bulletin*.

First, may I offer my apologies to those who turned up for the meeting that I had incorrectly shown as being on Saturday 26 July. I was suitably mortified at such a bad mistake and the trouble it caused some members.

I also had the front-page date incorrect – shown as February instead of May.

Be assured that a safeguard double-checking system has been put in place to avoid a similar problem in the future.

Anne Steward, new member George Coulthard and Nola Watt have all sent material recently and I will try to insert what I can in this issue or next. Thank you all for your efforts.

It is pleasing to see so many new members joining us in the last three months. Welcome to you all and do not be shy to send in your experiences and life in the Shire. If you are not confident in your writing, our extensive and highly-paid editorial staff is here to assist.

In addition, your photographs are a very welcome for the *Bulletin* and for the Museum archives. We can scan or copy items if you do not wish to donate them.

## SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: 2014

**NOTE:** BECAUSE OF TERRY'S ILLNESS THERE ARE NO DEFINITE BUS TRIPS PLANNED  
– IF ONE IS ORGANISED, DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A FUTURE MEETING

MONTH		EVENT	DETAILS
SEPTEMBER	6	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	13	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	20	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
3rd SATURDAY	20	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	<b>AGM</b>
	27	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
OCTOBER	4	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	11	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	18	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
3rd SATURDAY	18	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	<b>BOOK LAUNCH: Angela's, <i>The Hanging of Mary Ann</i></b>
	25	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
NOVEMBER	1	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	8	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
3rd SATURDAY	15	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	Annual Christmas Party
	22	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	29	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
DECEMBER	6	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	13	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	20	Museum	CLOSED
3rd SATURDAY	20	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
	27	Museum	CLOSED

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

THIS NOTICE IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION – BRUCE WATT (PRESIDENT)

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT THE AGM AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
WILL BE HELD ON

**SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM  
21A STAPLETON CENTRE, SUTHERLAND

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## **AGENDA**

- 1: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
- 2: CONFIRM AND ADOPT MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM
- 3: SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 47th EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:  
PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, MUSEUM, *BULLETIN* EDITOR.
- 4: SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013-14 FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET
- 5: MOTION: ADOPTION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

A: PAT HANNAN

B: BRUCE WATT

C: MAURIE BEAVEN

- 6: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/ PUBLIC OFFICER  
HONORARY TREASURER  
MUSEUM CURATOR  
RESEARCH OFFICER  
EXCURSIONS OFFICER  
EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK  
ARCHIVIST  
BULLETIN EDITOR  
PUBLICITY OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER: 1  
COMMITTEE MEMBER: 2  
COMMITTEE MEMBER: 3  
COMMITTEE MEMBER: 4  
COMMITTEE MEMBER: 5

- 7: APPOINTED POSITIONS TO BE FILLED:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MUSEUM COMMITTEE [1]  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE [2]  
MUSEUM COMMITTEE [3]

BOOK REVIEWER  
BULLETIN PROOF READER

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER  
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [1]  
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [2]  
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [3]

- 8: AGM GENERAL BUSINESS



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

ANGELA THOMAS

Our new year was ushered in by Jim Cutbush announcing at the meeting of 16 October, that the museum project had been successfully completed and thanking all those concerned. The museum would be open every Saturday and a roster had been completed. He had always aimed to have a committee in place and this was now the case.

Our speaker was Lorna Stone on the topic of the Memorial Tapestry at Sutherland Hospital and its extraordinary story. Also Vera Wilson from Wales spoke briefly – she had donated the shipment of the Cromlech Stones and a large number of daffodil bulbs for Menai Park. The Society thanked her for her generosity.

November brought our Christmas Party and we held a BBQ at our Museum being entertained by Margaret Bradford and our own Brian Saunders.

Bruce Watt told the society of the imminent departure of Daphne Salt and praised her lifelong efforts as an historian, writer, archivist, lifetime member and friend of the society. The smaller room has been renamed the 'Daphne Salt Room'. Daphne responded in her trademark, humorous way.

We started 2014 with a most interesting and informative talk from member Greg Jackson, on John Lucas' watermills. This was a busy month with our Australia Day presentation in Cronulla and plans being made for Heritage Week in April, the theme this year being 'Journeys'.

February saw a departure from historical matters, when Anne Turnbull spoke about WIRES and told us of their activities.

In March, John Oates of the Railway Historical Society gave us an insight into the Mortuary Stations, with a most interesting powerpoint presentation.

In April we had Heritage Week and Bob Osborne volunteered to organise a stall at Tradies and Jim mounted the photographic display at the Celeste Catering room with the assistance of David Overett. The Museum was open for a week and we held a seminar with Ron Ray of the Maritime Museum speaking about Bass & Flinders, then we had three of our

own members speaking about their journeys to Australia – Bob Osborne, Ineke Nieuwland and Clive Baker all spoke of their migrations.

We finished the meeting with Judith Carrick speaking about her book, *History of Royal National Park: 1879–2013*. The book was much admired and a number were sold. A full afternoon enjoyed by all.

In May Joan Morison spoke about her life and interests. She has fitted so much in, certainly her work for the canoeing fraternity has been ground-breaking.

In June, Lynn Cairncross spoke of the history of the Royal Botanic Gardens and showed us many images of the statues which are there. This was a stimulating look at our historical treasures and, in July we enjoyed a similar experience with Noel Elliott speaking about walking history when he took us through some of the streets of our city, looking at tucked-away monuments and beautiful colonial homes.

It's obvious our numbers are increasing, and unlike previous years we have found a number of speakers within our own ranks which bonds us more firmly into a successful society.

In August we will have the launch of Bruce Watt's book *The Shire* then in October there is my own novel *The Hanging of Mary Ann*.

Is there anything you would like to share with members? Perhaps a talk or an article for the *Bulletin*. Sadly our year ended with Terry McCosker and Bruce Morison in hospital and we hope very much to have them back soon.

Many thanks to Carol Macdonald for her support. The other names on my 'thank you list' are too numerous to mention, so may I say thanks to everyone who has helped, advised, corrected, distributed and generally made my work as secretary such a pleasure.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

ABN 17 083 299 572

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Member subscriptions	3,441.00	2,426.00
Donations	2,296.70	1,870.45
Sales	942.00	1,599.95
Excursions/outings/functions	3,741.10	2,230.00
Grants	-	9,440.00
	<u>10,420.80</u>	<u>17,566.40</u>
 Interest received		
CBA Cheque account	0.29	0.99
CBA Term Deposit-06225950137585	452.68	498.83
St George Term Deposit-000 0392092599	337.63	424.66
St George Term Deposit-000 0348275021	220.73	485.57
	<u>1,011.33</u>	<u>1,410.05</u>
 <b>Total Income</b>	 11,432.13	 18,976.45
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Museum expenses	2,301.24	5,968.02
Bank fees	1.80	1.65
Marketing	1,987.59	196.94
Excursions / Functions	4,963.88	2,144.88
Rent	632.50	582.00
Printing & Stationery	296.05	398.65
Licences & Fees	214.00	214.00
Insurance - Personal Acc/Public Liability	492.80	552.50
Printing of placemats	231.55	-
Bulletin colour cover printing	1,255.80	577.50
Bulletin postage		628.60
General expenses	517.30	502.70
Grants	5,040.00	8,505.00
	<u>17,934.51</u>	<u>20,272.44</u>
 <b>Net surplus (deficiency)</b>	 <u>(6,502.38)</u>	 <u>(1,295.99)</u>

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

ABN 17 083 299 572

**BALANCE SHEET**

As at 30 June 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	3,302.57	3,053.70
Commonwealth Bank - Term deposit	11,103.90	10,651.22
St George Bank - Term deposit	-	7,993.54
St George Bank - Term deposit	8,214.27	7,424.66
	<u>22,620.74</u>	<u>29,123.12</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Projector at cost	1,997.00	1,997.00
Accum Depreciation	<u>(1,997.00)</u>	<u>(1,997.00)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>22,620.74</u></u>	<u><u>29,123.12</u></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Surplus	29,123.12	30,419.11
Current Year Earnings	<u>(6,502.38)</u>	<u>(1,295.99)</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2014	<u><u>22,620.74</u></u>	<u><u>29,123.12</u></u>

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT****TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SUTHERLAND SHIRE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED  
ABN 17 083 299 572****Scope**

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of Sutherland Shire Historical Society Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2014, and the Income & Expenditure Statement for the year then ended.

The association's committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the association's officer's financial reporting requirements. I disclaim any assumptions of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the cash basis of accounting whereby revenue is recorded when received, expenses are recorded when they are paid.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report of Sutherland Shire Historical Society Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2014 presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.



Anne Bates CPA  
Honorary Auditor

Dated 29 July 2014



## TALES OF LAND AND ITS OWNERS

### MARMADUKE CONSTABLE

A LAURIE BURGESS SUPPLEMENT

Our unstoppable delver into Sutherland Shire Council and other archives, has found a man with a name that a modern pop star might use.

Laurie has written a detailed enquiry into Marmaduke Constable asking: was he the alleged 'Sydney hangman' who owned land at Maianbar or was he the man who purchased land at Taren Point but never lived there? OR are they the same man? Was there ever a hangman called Constable?

This intriguing story also involved the famous (in their day) Gougenheim sisters of Ireland who had a stage act. In announcing her funeral, the *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton) in May 1934 said of Josephine 'Joey' Gougenheim that she was, "celebrated among comedy actresses. After achieving great success in the United States and in England she came to Australia ... repeating her triumphs here..."

She married Marmaduke and stayed in Australia until her death.

Anyone wishing a free copy of the Supplement can contact Clive Baker.

*How land was sold  
at a Crown Auction in the early 1800s—  
Observations by a Passer-by:*

**LAND SALES.**—The Crown Lands of this Colony are supposed to be sold by public auction. The way in which these so called auctions are conducted would astonish a stranger. On Friday last as I was going through the Market-place I observed several persons assembled round one of the stalls, where were stationed Mr. Jacques, the auctioneer, together with sundry clerks of the Government. I stood still for some time in the hope of ascertaining what was going on, or at all events to learn what land was being sold. In this view I was disappointed. My ears were on the race but I could hear nothing. I saw, however, four or five persons standing close to the auctioneer, whose head kept bobbing from one to another of them, his lips moving at the time, but as far as I could learn nothing escaped them; however the motion seemed perfectly intelligible to the select few. I enquired of a bystander "what was going on?" He told me what I witnessed was a sale of Crown Lands by public auction. I again enquired of him "do you hear where the land is situated?" He replied he did not, and he thought no one else did but those who had determined on buying the land, and who had stationed themselves within almost two feet of the auctioneer's head. Such is the way in which these public auctions are carried on; in so far as publicity, so advantageous to the public, the land might as well be sold, with equal advantage to the revenue, in some back office in Macquarie-place. If land is to be sold by public auction, an efficient auctioneer, at least one who can be heard, should be appointed. — *Correspondent.*

[The Sydney Gazette and  
New South Wales Advertiser, 18.10.1838, p. 2]

**If you think you  
can buy good Land  
after this Bridge  
is opened—**

**Try it!**

**NEW SUBDIVISION  
Taylor Estate, SYLVANIA**

**Just Look Ahead!!!**

**A. R. Boyd & Esterbrook,**  
1401 FIVE STREET — BEACHTON  
Phone 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 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## ONE MAN'S WAR

*Anne Steward passed me the story of her great-uncle, Benjamin Beasley (born 1896) who, despite not being a Shire man, had an amazing war history. Here is a shortened version. [Editor]*

At age 17, Ben lied about his age and joined the WW1 British army as a bandsman. His wartime task was to be lead rider on the horses that pulled the artillery into action.

In France, his unit was cut off and it was decided that someone need to break out and try and get the wounded to safety. Ben took his horses and, pulling an ammunition limber carrying 24 wounded, charged across no-mans-land in the darkness.

His half-starved horses were shot at and then collapsed with exhaustion but Ben's empathy with his animals enabled him to rally them, "With a magnificent effort, the two front horses pulled themselves to their feet and stood panting with their heads down ... as Ben climbed onto 'Hero's' back, the horse's ears pricked up and he leaned heavily into the traces to lead the team off at a brisk trot..."



They reached the British lines but the horses hit the wire and the two at the front died of exhaustion. The wounded were picked up and went to hospital for treatment. Only two of the six horses survived.

Ben received no medal but was promoted to corporal and given ten days of leave. He survived the war and in the Territorials (British army reserve) between the wars became a sergeant.

As if he had not done enough he was sent to WW2 and was involved in the Dunkirk drama – now as a medical man. At one stage he left a truck to attend to some injured men and a few minutes later the truck was blown up, killing all aboard.

He finally found himself on the beach at Dunkirk awaiting evacuation and he was lucky to find a boat and reach England safely.

The army realised how old he was and he went from too young for WW1 to being too old for WW2. He was honourably discharged and headed home to find that his house had been bombed but his family was safe.

Ben survived his second war but died in the 1950s at the age of 60.

## GEORGE AND HIS WRITING

CLIVE BAKER.

Our recent new member George Coulthard is no longer a Shire dweller but did spend his childhood at Como. Amongst his other attainments he is a poet and has won 'International Library of Poetry' awards.

We will feature extracts of his work and his family history in future editions:

### FERDIE ROTH

*I remember when I met him  
He was tending to his vines  
His hands were all calloused  
And his face was full of lines  
But the smile that he gave you  
Made you like him right away  
And the stories that he had to tell  
Could keep you there all day.*

*He told me of his grandfather  
Who came across the sea  
And planted Mudgee's vineyard  
To help start our industry  
He told me of the good times  
And he told me of the bad  
And how he learnt about the vines  
When he was just a lad.*

*He learnt about apricots  
Pears and apples too  
And folks would drive from Sydney  
For the peaches that he grew  
Now Ferdie's gone and we miss him  
But I'd like to lay the odds  
That Ferdie's up in heaven  
Making nectar for the Gods.*



1911

# THE LAST POST?

MERLE KAVANAGH

In this age of fast communication with mobiles, telephones and emails taking much of the business from the Post Office and forcing a consideration to cut services, we might reflect not only on where it is heading, but also how it all began. One of the earliest services was operating in the Persian Empire under Cyrus and services of that type in Britain were usually run by Merchant Guilds or Universities from the Medieval period until the Renaissance.

During the Tudor period in England there was a form of postal service, and in 1591 Elizabeth I forbade mails to be sent overseas unless authorised by the Master of the Posts and this was extended to inland posts in 1609 by James I. The formal organisation of a postal service for the public was begun in 1635 under Charles I. A seamount across the channel from Dover to Calais was established in 1633 and a regular service between Harwick and The Netherlands in 1666. For the next 200 years the charging was based on a single sheet of paper.

What was established in England flowed on into Australia. In July 1803 a notice first appeared in the *Sydney Gazette* authorising a charge of two pence for each letter carried between Sydney and Parramatta, although Government mail was excluded! The following year Governor Macquarie officially approved a 'Post Office' to be established in Isaac Nichols' House. But it wasn't until 1809 that the *Sydney Gazette* reported the establishment of "an office at which parcels and letters addressed to the inhabitants of this Colony are to be deposited previous to their distribution, which office shall be under the direction of Mr. Isaac Nichols, Asst. to the Naval Officer." Perhaps this acknowledgement came about because complaints had been made that some individuals had boarded arriving ships to impersonate others and obtain their personal mail? It was a convict colony so that should have been no surprise!

In 1812 the Post Office was established in Tasmania. The Government messenger would walk with the mail from Hobart 193 kilometres to Launceston, returning the same way a week later. It would be 1828 before the messenger was finally given a horse for his journey.

In 1825 the first Postal Act was passed, effective 1828. Rates were fixed, mail routes approved and postmasters appointed. Towns involved were Bathurst, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Newcastle, Parramatta, Penrith and Windsor.

An overland mail service of coaches and pack horses began operating between Sydney and Melbourne in January 1838. It was also the year

when the first postmistress was appointed – Mary Ann Rutledge at Cassilis, NSW.

In England when Queen Victoria ascended to the throne of England in 1837, it was suggested that the cost of delivering a letter should be halved as this would mean more money for the Post Office. Such an outlandish idea appeared on the face of it to be impossible. This suggestion by Roland Hill was passed on to the British Parliament for consideration but also reached the Postmaster in Sydney, James Raymond, who took up the idea himself, having no parliament to consider it. He had an engraver, William Wilson, prepare a steel die, embossed some paper sheets with it and sent a sample to the Colonial Secretary to be submitted to Governor Gipps. The Governor approved and suggested that the price be 1-1/2 pence or one shilling and threepence per dozen. The Government Gazette of 14 November 1838 reported that letters prepaid with the embossed image would be delivered free. Should the postage money be collected by the postman from the recipient as was usual at that time, the cost would be two pence. Two years later the price of the new stamp embossed sheets was reduced to one penny. These were the first postage stamps to be issued in the British Empire and preceded the issue of stamps in Great Britain by two years.

The stamp design, about the size of our current 20 cent coin, had the words "General Post Office, New South Wales" around the face edge of the circle, with the Royal Arms and motto "Dieu et mon droit" and "Sydney". These letter sheets with impressed stamp were folded over and sealed with a wafer (a small disc of gelatine, flour and gum, etc., specially used for sealing letters), and they continued in use for 12 years. Adhesive stamps were first issued in NSW on 1 January 1850, but had to be cut from the sheet as perforated stamps were not available until 1860. Uniform rates of postage commenced in NSW and Victoria with the first adhesives: 1, 2 and 3 pence.



1888

The NSW series became known as the 'Sydney Views' (see opposite) and this caused a bit of controversy as the public expected such an important issue as the first in the country would feature the reigning monarch.





*Victoria chose portraits of Queen Victoria!*

Over the next few years other states began to introduce their own stamps and also to adopt the practice of pre-payment of postage.

In 1852 the first mail steamer, the iron screwed *Chusan* arrived from England via Melbourne and return voyages commenced, sailing to India and connecting with ships to Egypt. Mail and passengers crossed the desert then proceeded to England by sea. This halved the time that a sailing ship would take to go via the Cape of Good Hope. To cross the desert camels, 2-wheeled vans, horses and donkeys were used. Mail steamers began operating from Sydney to San Francisco in 1870 and the first stage of the Sydney GPO. was opened in 1874. Postcards were first issued in Australia at Sydney in October 1875 then in February 1879 Ned Kelly and his gang held up the Jerilderie post office and severed the telegraph wires. We can't blame convicts for that.

Each colony in Australia used their own postage stamps and it was not until 1913 that the Commonwealth took over this responsibility, issuing their first stamp that year, a kangaroo on the map of Australia. However the following issue that year featured the head of King George V to make sure there was no bad reaction from the community after the outcry in 1850, and the sixpenny kookaburra stamp was issued in 1914.



The next really big events involved planes! Our first airmail, 1,785 letters carried by Maurice Guillaux took place between Melbourne and Sydney from 16-18 July 1914. In December 1919 Ross and Keith Smith, J.M. Bennett and W.H. Shiers landed at Darwin carrying the first overseas airmail from England. Two months later that mail reached Melbourne! The first regular internal airmail service was between Geraldton and Derby in WA – 1,866 km. and it is sad to note that on this route a plane crashed killing the pilot and engineer. In 1922 Qantas began a similar service between Charleville and Cloncurry in Queensland.

In 1925 the first regular airmail service from Sydney to Melbourne began, transshipping at Hay. The Brisbane-Sydney service began in 1930.

In April 1931 the plane carrying the first experimental England-Australia airmail crashed at Koepang and Kingsford Smith flew there from Darwin to collect the mail. A few days later the first experimental Australia – England airmail departed from Melbourne, collecting mail at Sydney, Brisbane and Darwin. Kingsford Smith then flew to Akyab, Burma where he handed the mail on to Imperial Airways on May 3, the mail reaching London on 14 May. Other aerial services followed, including the first flyingboat airmail service from Sydney to the United Kingdom in 1938.

In 1942 the Darwin post office was destroyed by Japanese bombs, killing 10 staff and Sydney GPO tower and clock was dismantled following the Japanese midget submarine raid on Sydney Harbour. It was not restored until April 1964, in time for Anzac Day.

In 1957 the first Australian Christmas stamp was issued and Decimal currency values came into being in 1966. Nobody who lived through that time would ever forget the jingle - ♪ 'On the fourteenth of February 1966!' In 1967 the postcode system was introduced and the following year twice daily deliveries in the suburbs were abolished. Post Offices were closed on Saturday mornings from 1974 and there were no deliveries on that day. In May/June of 1975 the Post Office handled its biggest single mailing – Medibank cards! The rest of it you should have lived through so I won't go into that.

But what a history! However, the times – 'they are a-changing'. So those without computer or ipad, access to emails could feel the full effect while the rest of us will have to watch that we don't get neck problems!

## WALKING SYDNEY TO WOLLONGONG

PROVIDED BY DAVID OVERETT

The *Illawarra Mercury* of 15 April 1858, provides this tale of walking our coastline in those pioneering days with the writer giving us a very detailed description:

"Shortly before 10 o'clock on the morning of the 26th September 1857, two pedestrian travellers were seen to issue from a house on the Surry Hills, Sydney. Judging from their equipment they were bound for some distant place, for each carried a blanket and provisions and other requisites for a long journey through a wild and uninhabited tract of country. The two friends quickened their pace, and notwithstanding the heat they experienced from walking on soft sand of a sultry morning, they did not slacken their speed until they reached the high road leading to Botany Bay.

Having so far introduced the pedestrians to readers, we shall now allow them to give their own description of their adventures. Having refreshed ourselves at the 'Half-way Inn', we resumed our march and reached Botany at 11-30. The village of Botany, distant only about five miles from Sydney, is situated on the shores of the Bay of which it bears the name, and is principally inhabited by fishermen, a few gentlemen's houses only being seen here and there on the best sites. Were it not for the shallowness of the water on this side of the Bay, and the sandy nature of the ground, it would soon become one of our most populous suburbs, the view being most extensive, and its position salubrious and airy.

Having arrived at the Botany General Store, we overhauled the swags to see that nothing had been left behind or lost on the way out, and finding all right we merely provided ourselves with a few extra pipes and some matches, and set off to the beach to hunt up someone who would put us across to Kernel [*sic*], on the opposite side of the Bay. We soon found a person that we knew, and had partly relied upon for getting us across, but he and his family were busily engaged in taking the honey from a bee hive, and we had some difficulty in prevailing upon two of his sons to man the boat — the wind being southerly, and a seven-mile pull in a heavy net boat not being exactly what they believed in.

On nearing the beach we perceived several persons there, the majority of whom appeared to be ladies. We passed close to them, and our rigout caused a great deal of merriment amongst them. They had come from Rocky Point, on George's River, on a picnic excursion, and were apparently enjoying themselves immensely.

Having refreshed the inward man, we started for the sea-coast, and after an hour-and-a-half's walking through an uninteresting brush found ourselves at the northern extremity of Caronuba [*Cronulla*?] Beach.

As we had to walk along this beach, which is about five miles in length, we made a short halt by the side of a small streamlet and after a smoke and a glass of brandy and water, with new energies commenced our long and wearisome track...

For upwards of an hour we tramped along this tiresome beach, and at last had the satisfaction of standing again on hard ground. Finding plenty of wood and water we determined to make this spot our first camping place, and got as much wood together as would supply the fire during the night, boiled the pot, and before dusk were enjoying our evening meal. The fatigue we had undergone this day made us feel more inclined for sleep than conviviality, so we smoked our pipes, sipped our hot whisky in a very slow, dozy style, and before eight o'clock we were both rolled up in our blankets fast asleep.

Notwithstanding our having had to rise several times during the night to make up the fire, we jumped up at daybreak very much refreshed. Whilst the pot was boiling, we had a bathe in the ocean, which braced up our muscles for the day's exertion. After a sumptuous breakfast consisting of corn beef, with, tea galore, we again humped our swag and struck out through the bush for that part of Port Aitken [*Hacking*?] which we had been informed we could cross. The bush was so thick and scrubby, and the country so rocky, that it was with the greatest difficulty we could make any progress, and the heavy dew which we brushed from the scrub in our passage through, thoroughly drenched us. On issuing from the bush, we found we were a deal too near the mouth of Port Aitken; we strained our eyes in vain endeavoring to discover a house or boat on the opposite shore, where we had been told we should find one, to ferry us across. We had been resting for some time on the top of a high rock, consulting on our next course of proceeding, when we discovered three dark objects about two miles from us upon the opposite beach, apparently coming in our direction. We waited patiently until they had come directly opposite us. and then gave them a salute from our fowling pieces [*guns*]; although not more than a quarter of a mile from us they took not the slightest notice of our signal.

Certain that the crossing place must be higher up, we resumed our walk along the rocks so that we should not pass it unnoticed. We had to round a very deep bay, Gunamatta [*sic*], before we could make the next headland, and in doing so, our dog's feet got dreadfully cut with oyster shells, the tide being low and the rocks literally covered with oysters".



"As we approached the headland, we found we could not round it along the water's edge from the bluntness of the rocks, so we had to climb up on top through the thickest and roughest bush I ever encountered; it took us about an hour to cross over – a distance less than half a mile, and on our reaching it, another deep bay obstructed our passage.

A sailing boat was now in sight ... we fired several shots to attract her attention, but it was of no avail, she was too far off, and she disappeared soon after. It was now about noon, and the sun was very hot, so we sat down on a shady rock to smoke our pipes and rest ourselves, hoping in the meanwhile, that the boat we had seen this morning would appear again.

We again observed the men whom we had seen in the morning, and who were now proceeding towards the head of the estuary, evidently anxious to cross. We, therefore, watched their proceedings and saw them a couple of miles off wading up to their chests in water towards a rock in the middle of the river. It appeared, however, that there was deep water on the other side for they did not proceed any further, but commenced firing guns and cooeing at the top of their voices. After some time they attracted the attention of someone on shore, who put off and taking them on board steered his boat in our direction, and landed them near ... where we stood.

Our request to be taken across was kindly granted by the gentleman at the helm, who informed us that he was here with a party of men surveying for the Government, and was going out fishing, when he heard our signals of distress. Having put us across to Cabbage Tree [*Horderms?*] Beach, he wished us a pleasant journey. There being no road, path, or track, that we could discover here, we started in a south-easterly direction, the sun being our only guide, and had to climb to the top of the range through a very rough and thickly wooded country. The gullies about here are very similar to those of the Illawarra district, but the tops of the ranges next the sea are covered with a stunted scrub, from one to four feet in height, varied occasionally by large tracts of marshy country; whilst further inland a dark interminable forest of gum trees bounds the view.

On reaching the top of the hill one of the first objects that met our eyes was a large black snake coiled on the top of a rock, sunning himself; he laid directly in our line of march, and we gave him a charge of shot which completely severed his head from his body. After walking for about an hour on the top of the range, we thought we could get on more rapidly by keeping on the verge of the cliffs, the vegetation there being of less growth and in some few places altogether bare. We made Marley Beach at about five o'clock, and as we had been told there were generally lots of ducks and redbills in the neighbouring lagoons, we proceeded no farther on our way.

We were a long time in search of a suitable camping place, and after spending much time in finding one, we left it from fear of snakes, and bivouaced in a sandy gully near the beach. The swamp oaks around us were all overgrown with a thickly-matted vine which ... formed very comfortable beds, and kept us out of the sand.

As we were pitching into bread and German sausages, we were startled by the bark of the dogs, and observed a man coming towards us. He had been shooting all day, and seeing our fire as he was leaving, came up to have a chat. He gave us such a description of the road we had yet to go through as did not in the least raise our spirits, and narrated a circumstance of a man being lost and nearly starved to death, among the ranges we would have to travel next day – a pleasant prospect to go to sleep upon. Hearing some curlews during the night, we sallied forth to try and get a shot. By imitating their cry, we succeeded in bringing a flock about us, but, from the heavy dew that had fallen, our caps [*part of a muzzle-loaded rifle*] had become damp and unserviceable. Greatly to our chagrin we returned to our camp without a bird. We were up at daybreak and tried a shot at the ducks, but without success, the peppering they had got the day before had frightened them all away.

After having performed our ablutions and breakfasted, we buckled on our traps, and proceeded to cross a small creek which runs through the beach at the northern corner of Marley, and had a narrow escape of sinking in a quicksand which extended from the lagoon, from which the creek flows, to within a few yards of the sea. Having rounded this, and ascended a hill in our front, we found a cattle track which we followed for nearly two miles, and which brought us to a cattle camp at which it terminated; so we had to make our way to the next bay, Wattamolla, through, the most horrid rocky and scrubby country that can be imagined. Here we fell in with a large brown snake which was speedily treated to a killing dose of shot. Wattamolla is the most picturesque spot we had as yet seen, and we spent some time in contemplating its wild scenery. A cataract precipitates itself over a rock straight as a wall and of great height. At its base a large reservoir, separated from the sea by an embankment of sand, receives the foaming waters. Ascending, on the southern side of the bay, up a precipitous bank, we fell upon a cattle track which led us into a dense tea tree scrub. In some places we had to crawl through on hands and knees, and in others fight our way through, as a man elbows his way through a mob. So difficult was it to penetrate that it took about two hours and a half to make the next bay, although not distant more than four miles".

"This bay, although not so romantic as Wattamolla, is very beautiful. A large stream of water rushes through its centre over its rocky bed. A grassy plot clear of trees, forms a gentle slope on the southern side and, at the top of the clearing, a shelving rock, with its opening sheltered from the rays of the sun and the inclemencies of the weather by a magnificent fig-tree, offers a safe retreat, and was no doubt at one time the headquarters of a black's camp, for the inside of the cavern is completely blackened with smoke, while large heaps of shells around it, shows sufficiently it was once a favorite spot of rest for some of the coast tribes.

We startled a great number of quails and shot several. After a short rest, we again resumed our journey, following, as much as possible, the edge of the cliffs, to avoid the scrub. We had, however, a great deal of it to encounter and could only progress at a very slow rate. We met, as we went along, two very pretty streams throwing themselves into the ocean from a height of about 300 feet and, from a lofty hill close by, we had a good view of the road we had to travel. We could now see those long beaches, which extend nearly the whole way from Garee [Garie], or Jara [Era], to Wollongong, and could judge of the position of the town itself by the Five Islands, which were clearly visible.

We proceeded for about four miles through very heavy scrub, but keeping on at a good pace, although the perspiration was streaming from us as if we had just come out from a hot bath. We never halted to take breath until we had reached the summit of the hill which overlooks Garee.



Entirely new scenery was now before us. No more stunted gum-trees, banksia, or tea-trees vegetating on a parched rocky soil. Fine grassy patches opened out here and there, as if to throw out with better effect the luxuriant forest trees around them. The crest of the mountain on which we stood seemed a well-defined mark at which the Illawarra country commences, for under our very feet a dark forest of trees of a species we had not yet met with, all interwoven with vines, creepers, and parasites ... a barrier between us and the land of promise.

Skirting this brush, we tried in vain for a clear place through which we might wind our way down hill to the beach below. One place was as bad as another, and our best course therefore was to make as straight a road down as possible.

Pushing our way through saplings, cutting away vines, letting ourselves down precipitous rocks with the assistance of a tree or a vine, on we went regardless of scratches or bruises, until we emerged into a beautiful grassy spot, similar to those we had seen from above, with a stream of water meandering through its centre. A wallaby, startled by the noise we were making, suddenly shot across us, and was out of sight in an instant.

We limited our sport to a few parrots as food for the dogs. It was too late to go any farther that night, so we looked out for a camping place not too far from wood and water.

Having found one pretty conveniently situated, we were going back for our 'swag', when, to our dismay, four immense black snakes caught our notice. Three of them we shot, and despatched the other with a stick. It is needless to say that we got out of this place as quickly as possible, taking with us the largest of the snakes, and returned to the beach, where we made a gunyah of boards and other pieces of a wreck. Fortunately for us, the night was fine, and without any wind, or we should probably have had our frail dormitory rattling about our heads.

We were up at daybreak, and buckling on our swags, which by this time was considerably lighter, we again resumed our march. Although knowing our road to be over the Garee Mountain we had had so much of scrub bush that we determined to walk along the sea shore the whole way for, from what we could see from here, there seemed to be a long and nearly unbroken line of beach to the town of Wollongong.

For some distance we travelled pleasantly enough, but at length, to our great mortification, we perceived a range of bluff cliffs, at the bottom of which were strewn huge masses of rock. We had come too far to retrace our steps to the mountain, and on we went, scrambling over rocks and stones, sometimes so close to the sea that the spray washed over us, sometime obliged to climb up a fissure of the rock to avoid some unpassable place, and coming down the best way we could. In this way we advanced about three or four miles on our journey in about as many hours, until coming to a small bay, with a stream running down the valley at his head, exhausted and tired, we made a halt, lit a fire, and smoked our pipes while the pot was boiling.

Our provisions were running short, and it was absolutely necessary for us to make the town"

"either that night or next morning, or otherwise to fast longer than was agreeable, so we soon made another start. I need not describe the road we followed. Suffice it to say, that we had accomplished about five miles along a coast of a worse character than that I have already mentioned, when we were brought to a standstill.

A wall of rock, about 400 or 500 feet high, with deep water at its base, opposed our passage, and left us no alternative but to round it by ascending the hill. This we found pretty easy at first, but after attaining the height of some 200 feet the ascent became so vertical that it was only with the utmost labor of hands and feet that we succeeded in climbing up its side. Had a stone given way under our feet, or had we felt any sensation of giddiness on looking down below us, we must inevitably have been dashed over the precipice.

Having reached the top of this rock, we abandoned the idea of following the shore, and having found a well marked wallaby track, followed it for about 50 yards and found ourselves in a thick cabbage-tree scrub. Here we had the fortune to kill a pheasant. From this spot to the summit of the mountain the ascent, although very steep, became less difficult, the timber being of larger growth and not so entwined with vines. We had been climbing for nearly two hours, and had attained a height of 800 or 1000 feet, when we laid down on the grass, thirsty and exhausted, and without a drop of water to quench our thirst. We were on our feet again as soon as we got a little cool, and fortunately struck on a good cattle track, which led us on to a well-defined bridle path, and subsequently on to a very fair bush road, most probably that which is generally known as Sir Thomas Mitchell's.

We suffered very much from want of water, and drank eagerly out of the first puddle we came too although the dogs had rolled in it and made it so thick that we were nearly choked with mud. About 100 yards further on we discovered a running stream, with the pure water from which we succeeded in washing the previous drink down. The road we were now following laid over the crest of the coast range, through a barren, stoney, and uninteresting country, very much resembling the head lands of the north shore on the road from Balmain to Garry Owen, with the exception of two or three extensive swampy plains, looking like beautiful meadows at a distance, but, on close examination found to be covered with useless weeds.

At 5 o'clock we were near the top of Bulli Mountain ... we stopped here, alongside a watery course, to take a little rest, and were considering whether we should make a camp in the neighborhood or get on as far as we could, when a roaring noise to the southward, a cold blast of wind in our faces, and dark masses of clouds driving wildly above our heads, warned us

against a mountain camp during a 'Southerly Buster.'

We had to go at a jog-trot at starting to get some warmth in us and take the stiffness out of our legs, so cold had the atmosphere become of a sudden. In about half an hour we found the road struck down through a thick scrub or forest which sheltered us from the wind, but increased the darkness so much as almost to make us believe it was night from the moment we entered it. The descent from Bulli is very steep and rugged, and anything but pleasant by night with sore feet and weary limbs.

With the exception of one or two falls, we got over the worst part of the road very fairly. About half way down we met a man, who informed us that we were about seven miles from Wollongong, but that there was an inn about four miles further on, where we could put up for the night. About two miles further, we met three men returning from their work, or possibly from the public [*house*]; they also informed us that the town was seven miles off, but that we should find an inn on the roadside about three miles on.

It was satisfactory to find that, although the distance to Wollongong was not in the least lessened, we had, at any rate, got one mile closer to the Inn than when we met our informant on Bulli. What the distance really was, I shall not attempt to say but, that it was a horrid long and solitary road, I am prepared to maintain. Added to this, the rain which had now set in and was dashed in our faces by the strong 'Southerly' did not in the least, tend to raise it in our estimation – but the longest road must eventually lead somewhere, and in course of time, that is about 9 o'clock, we entered the inn, and, despising noblers [*a type of drink*] after long abstinence, called for glasses of brandy hot.

We had intended to reach Wollongong that evening, but good liquor and the warmth of the room made us feel so lazy, that we made up our minds to proceed no farther, especially on such a boisterous night.

We had supper, smoked the pipe of peace, and nearly fell asleep over a second glass of the elixir. Our travels were over, we had overcome all the difficulties of the road, over a track entirely our own".

**SOURCE:** Trove

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/136441566>



## SNIPPETS

### FEROCIOUS COWS IN SYLVANIA

It was reported in *The Howl*, 22 March 1919, that:

*Last Monday while Mrs White and Mrs Riley were out walking with their babies near Sutherland House (which is situated at the bottom of Belgrave Esplanade) a ferocious cow chased them and made a rush at Mrs White, who fell fainting to the ground.*

*The cow, however, charged away causing her no injury but she suffered from shock, and the baby was bruised from the fall.*

*It was felt that such animals as these should be impounded immediately, for they were a menace to the community. This district should not be made a dumping ground for cows from miles around. It was noted with satisfaction that Mr White has lodged a complaint to the people responsible.*

**SOURCE:** *Sylvania Back Then – Aspects of Local History.*  
Via Pat Hannan.



*The first 'history walk', Royal National Park.  
L-R: Cheryl Spencer, Clive Baker, Noel Elliot, David Overett, visitor, Pat Hannan, visitor, Maurie Bevan, Brian Saunders – Mike Fernando (kneeling).*



1928

### A 'RESIDENT' OF WORONORA CEMETERY



John Hargreaves was a familiar face in Australian movies and TV starting in 1969. He acted in more than 50 productions, the most famous probably being *Don's Party* and *The Odd Angry Shot*.

He was born in 1945 and was a school teacher before going to NIDA.

In 1994 he received the Byron Kenney Award:

*Not only for the brilliance and daring of his acting, but for his ability to inspire. When Hargreaves is around, everybody gives their best.*

He died of AIDS in 1996.



#### SOURCES:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Hargreaves\\_\(actor\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hargreaves_(actor))  
and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byron\\_Kennedy\\_Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byron_Kennedy_Award)

### WISE WORDS

Les Bursill wrote these thoughts in a 2001 *Bulletin*:

*Without argument and discourse we cannot hope to achieve any semblance of balance and truth.*

*For our Bulletin to become a vibrant and significant resource of this Shire it must carry valuable material that will some day be the very source for history for the Shire.*

*None of us can ever claim to know the whole truth of any issue and we must acknowledge our own prejudices. Open discussion gives the opportunity to uncover the greater truth.*

How true were his words – many of us who are undertaking research, first dip into the old *Bulletins* and then build on what was written by those earlier contributors.



# BATTLING THROUGH ENGADINE

CLIVE BAKER

As we recall the start of World War One – this article looks at the way Engadine commemorates – through its thoroughfares – the dramas of wars past (shown in chronological order):

## ACHILLES Road:



In the ancient and mythical Greek history, Achilles played a major part in Trojan Wars. He is believed to be the killer of Hector but was, in turn, shot in heel by Paris and died from his wound.

## AJAX Place:

This son of a Greek king was another mythological figure and is mentioned in Homer's Famous book *The Illiad*. After the death of Achilles, the armour of Ajax, was to be awarded to another hero but Ajax wanted it for himself. The situation sent him mad when Odysseus was given the armour and Ajax tried to murder his comrades ... he later killed himself.



## NELSON, VICTORY and TRAFALGAR Streets:

Probably so named to recall the famous victory by Horatio Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar.



In 1805 Nelson's ships attacked a much larger, combined French and Spanish fleet off the coast of Spain. From his flagship Victory, Nelson created one of the greatest feat of arms in history.

## SABUGAL Road:

When Mitchell surveyed the first road through the district he named his crossing of the Woronora River, the Pass of Sabugal. That location – behind today's Engadine – reminded him of a Portuguese location where (in c1808) he had fought against Napoleon.

## BISDEE Place and BROOKE Street:

Although a Tasmanian, John Hutton Bisdee is remembered in Engadine for his bravery in the Boer War where he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1900 he went out "under a very hot fire and in a very exposed place" <sup>1</sup> to save his wounded officer, Captain E. Brooke. A lowly trooper at the time, Bisdee went to WW1 and achieved a high rank and was awarded an OBE. <sup>2</sup>



## ANZAC Avenue:

When the army formations of the 1914 war sailed away to aid Britain, they were given the title,

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

The letters ANZAC have become part of our culture and the title is known to most people.



*The army badge used in WW1 & 2*

## GALLIPOLI Lane

The first campaign (in 1915) of the Australians was the well-known attack on the Turkish peninsula in attempt to capture the Dardanelles strait that linked Istanbul to the open sea.

## DUNSTAN Place

Corporal William Dunstan (a Victorian) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery at Gallipoli in 1915. Her and two others repeatedly



fought off a series of Turkish attacks until William was temporarily blinded by wounds. At the time of his brave act, he was aged 20 had only been in the AIF for ten weeks! <sup>3</sup>

He was discharged from the army in 1916.

## BUCKLE Avenue:

English born Douglas Buckle (#987), served at Gallipoli with the AIF and later in the engineers in Palestine with the Anzac Mounted Division. He appears to have been ill on and off for much of his service and also a bit of a fire brand. He received 56 days Field Punishment for using "insubordinate language to his superior officer – obscene language – and further language to the same effect". <sup>4</sup> He was discharged in 1919 as medically unfit but about a year later he was in Engadine. It appears that as returned soldier Doug was offered five acres of land in Woronora Road, stretching from Anzac Avenue to Achilles Avenue. He was still living there as late as 1954.

## NEWLAND Place:

Captain James Newland of Victoria was in action in France in 1917 when he led a series of attacks and defences against the Germans.

His award was for, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, in the face of heavy odds, on three separate occasions".

He served again in WW2 in Australia-based units and later in a Red Cross leadership role.



### JENSEN Place:



Danish born, South Australian, Private Jorgen Jensen, earned his Victoria Cross in France in 1917 when he:

*...attacked a barricade behind which were about 45 of the enemy and a machine-gun. One of the party shot the*

*gunner and Private Jensen rushed the post and threw in a bomb. Then, with a bomb in each hand, he threatened the rest and made them surrender. He sent one of his prisoners to another group of the enemy, ordering them to surrender, which they did, but our troops began firing on them, where-upon Private Jensen, regardless of danger stood on the barricade waving his helmet, and the firing stopped. He then sent his prisoners back to our lines.*<sup>5</sup>

### AMIENS Avenue and CHIPILLY Avenue:

In 1918, the Allies were ready for the final campaigns of WW1:

*Setting out from the positions of Villers-Bretonneux and Hamel, the Australian troops in two hours had accomplished all their objectives ... in just over three hours, the enemy's front line had been overrun. In total, the Allied forces captured 29,144 prisoners, 338 guns, and liberated 116 towns and villages. Ludendorff called 8 August "the black day of the German army".*<sup>6</sup>

During the same campaign, German guns were firing from Chipilly spur and a force of just six Australians, joined allied troops and charged to help capture the position.

### BULLECOURT Avenue:

There were two battles for Bullecourt and the first, in April 1917, was a disaster:

*Despite this a further attack across the same ground was ordered for 3 May. The Australians broke into and took part of the Hindenburg Line but no important strategic advantage was ever gained; in the two battles the AIF lost 10,000 men ... Bullecourt, more than any other battle, shook the confidence of Australian soldiers in the capacity of the British command.*<sup>7</sup>

### CAMBRAI Avenue:

The Battle of Cambrai, in late 1917:

*...was the first battle in history involving the employment of tanks en-masse ... the proponents of the tank were keen to prove its worth by mounting a massed raid on the German line west of Cambrai ... it evolved into a full-scale attack employing six infantry divisions, two cavalry divisions, over 1000 guns and 476 tanks ... the cost was approximately 45,000 British, and 50,000 German dead and wounded.*<sup>8</sup>

### DALZIEL Street:



Driver Henry Dalziel who came from Queensland earned his Victoria Cross in 1918 during the Battle of Hamel in France: *...when determined resistance was coming from an enemy strong-point which was also*

*protected by strong wire entanglements, Dalziel, armed only with a revolver, attacked an enemy machine-gun ... killed or captured the entire crew and, although severely wounded in the hand, carried on until the final objective was captured.*<sup>9</sup>

### VILLERS BRETONNEUX Street DERNANCOURT Avenue:

In the spring of 1918, the Germans launched a major attack across France, attempting to split the allied territory. Australians played a major part in stopping them:

*German forces continued to push on to Villers-Bretonneux. Instructed to halt this advance ... Australian troops were commanded to take position and to protect the vital areas of Dernancourt and Villers-Bretonneux from German capture ... by the time the Australians arrived, British troops had borne the brunt of the attack and the Germans were exhausted.*<sup>10</sup>

### VERDUN Place:

During the Somme offensive of 1916, in which the Australians attacked Poziers, the Germans were attacking Verdun:

*The massive German attack launched on the French fortress ... significantly reduced the French contribution, and the Somme offensive was partly intended to divert the German forces from Verdun.*<sup>11</sup>

The Battle of the Somme drew German forces from the town and it remained in French hands.

### CUTLER Road:

As Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler (later NSW Governor) was awarded a Victoria Cross. As a Forward Observer for artillery, for a period of 18 days, in 1941, he risked his life repeatedly to help protect infantry. He went out under fire to repair cut phone lines and also engaged a tank at close quarters. He was eventually wounded, had to wait 24 hours to be rescued and lost a leg. Discharged from the army he had many and varied high profile positions in society.<sup>12</sup>



**ALAMEIN Street:**

In late 1942, with Montgomery commanding the desert army, the Germans were finally turned back in North Africa:

*British and Commonwealth forces broke through the German and Italian line, forcing them to withdrawal. Alamein was a major victory for the Allies in North Africa and is widely considered as one of the turning points in the war.*<sup>13</sup>

At the Battle of El Alamein, the Australian 9th Division played a decisive role.

**SLADDEN Road:**

Private Reg Sladden was a local resident who served in WW2 with 6 Australian General Hospital.

Name	SLADDEN, REGINALD JAMES ERNEST
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	NX52026
Date of Birth	10 Jun 1917
Place of Birth	LISMORE, NSW
Date of Enlistment	1 Jul 1940
Locality on Enlistment	ENGADINE, NSW
Place of Enlistment	MARTIN PLACE, NSW
Next of Kin	SLADDEN, JAMES
Date of Death	7 Apr 1941
Rank	Private
Posting on Death	6 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL
WW2 Honours and Gallantry	None for display
Prisoner of War	No
Roll of Honour	Unknown

During the fighting in Greece in 1941 he was killed but at the time of writing, little detail is known.

**TOBRUK Avenue:**

The Siege of Tobruk took place in 1941 where a force of mostly Australian infantry held Rommel's 'Afrika Korps' at bay. The standoff lasted for months with supply ships only being able to operate at night. Australian navy small ships were vital for that campaign.

The infantry lived under very trying conditions with insufficient water, dust and heat. Lord Haw Haw (English traitor who broadcast for the Nazis) called them 'rats in a trap', thus providing them with a chance to become the 'Rats of Tobruk' which the Aussies adopted. There was much and constant bombing and shelling and the 9th Division casualties (April to October) eventually numbered 749 killed, 1,996 wounded and 604 prisoners.

**ARUNDEL Street:**

The Shire Library street name site says, "Probably named after Private C.J. Arundel a resident of Engadine who was wounded in WW2 (or else his family)".

If that is so, the name is possibly misspelled as his army records show:

ARUNDELL, CECIL JACK	
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	NX179210 (N464035)
Date of Birth	3 Jul 1925
Place of Birth	ERSKINEVILLE, NSW
Date of Enlistment	3 Aug 1944
Locality on Enlistment	ENGADINE, NSW
Place of Enlistment	TRG CENTRE, NSW
Next of Kin	ARUNDELL, CECIL
Date of Discharge	6 Nov 1946
Rank	Private
Posting at Discharge	2/28 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

This man is mentioned in his unit history (shown as Arundel) as being wounded in Borneo in June 1945.<sup>14</sup>

**SOURCES:**

[http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Council\\_The\\_Shire/About\\_the\\_Shire/Street\\_Suburb\\_Name\\_Origins](http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Council_The_Shire/About_the_Shire/Street_Suburb_Name_Origins)

**AND**

- 1 Droogleever. *War With Johnny Boer*. AMHP, Loftus, 2003. p. 337.
- 2 Wiki: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Bisdee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bisdee)
- 3 Wigmore. *They Dared Mightily*. AWM. Canberra. 1986. p. 59
- 4 NAA Records: Barcode 3161783
- 5 Wiki: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B8rgen\\_Jensen\\_\(VC\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B8rgen_Jensen_(VC))
- 6 AWM: <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/1918/battles/amiens/>
- 7 AWM: <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2007/04/03/the-battles-for-bullecourt/>
- 8 AWM: [http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event\\_151.asp?query=cambrai](http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_151.asp?query=cambrai)
- 9 Wiki: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Dalziel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Dalziel)
- 10 AWM: <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/1918/battles/dernancourt>
- 11 AWM: [http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event\\_158.asp?query=verdun](http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_158.asp?query=verdun)
- 12 Wigmore. *They Dared Mightily*. AWM. Canberra. 1986. p. 141
- 13 AWM: [http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/el\\_alamein/reading/](http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/el_alamein/reading/)
- 14 NAA: <http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?servicelD=A&veteranId=281864> and Masel. *The Second 28th*. Burridge. Swanbourne. 1995. p. 348



# WHAT WILL THE SOLDIERS DO WHEN THEY COME HOME FROM WAR?

## OYSTER FARMS IN SUTHERLAND SHIRE

LAURIE BURGESS

### Prologue

As discussed previously on the Soldier Settlement Schemes, poor planning and implementation of those schemes led to a high failure rate because it placed returned servicemen in isolated undeveloped locations, with little support and training for farming.

Another initiative met with more success – this was incentives for servicemen returning from the First World War to apply for oyster farms. Georges River was a well-established location for oyster farming, with a number of applications made for sites on the generally northern side of the river (Municipalities of Kogarah and Rockdale) and the southern side in Sutherland Shire. A couple of applications were also made in Port Hacking.

The leases were aimed at the traditional oyster lease periods totalling 15 years, being approved for the whole 15 years, or for 10 years with option of renewal for a further five years, or for five years with the option of renewal for a further two terms of five years. Payment of the annual rental was deferred over the first three years of the lease, and spread proportionally over the remaining years of the first term of the lease, but the lease could not be sold or transferred during that first term to any other person than an approved returned soldier<sup>1</sup>.

Most applicants for oyster farms under the Returned Soldier provisions did not live in the Shire, but resided amongst the majority of Georges River oyster farmers in the nearby suburbs of Dolls Point, Sans Souci and Sandringham. Some were members of families already well-established as oyster farmers, and some consolidated their holdings by obtaining farms from other returned men. Some were still operating their farms up to the 1950s.

It is known that many oyster farmers diversified their operations by having farms in other areas such as Hawkesbury River and Clarence River, but this study is nonetheless confined to oyster farms in or adjacent to the Shire.

### Who applied for a farm?

The first applicant was former Private Reginald Edward Murray who resided on the north side of Georges River and who applied for a farm at Kangaroo Point in February 1918. He did not receive approval, but instead commenced operations at sites he obtained on the north side at Jewfish Bay and Lime Kiln Head.



*View of Lime Kiln Bay, Oatley.  
(Courtesy of State Records NSW)*

He also took over sites from another returned soldier, Private Arthur Keeler, on the north side at Lugarno, and on the south side in Sutherland Shire at Little Moon Bay; and from returned soldier former Private Cyril Taylor Bond on the north side near Como Railway Bridge. As well, he purchased two privately-owned leases at Oyster Bay in Sutherland Shire. In 1928, he obtained a further lease at Jewfish Bay, and in 1929, another lease at Oyster Bay. He renewed his oyster farms as they became due during the 1920s and some in the first half of the 1930s, but the leases then lapsed or transferred to other farmers.

Next to apply was Joseph Mussellbrook Hogge Malby (rank unknown) of Hurstville who in July 1918 commenced two oyster farms in Woronora River, one fronting Thompsons Bay Reserve and the other near Bonnet Bay. He apparently used to live above Thompsons Bay Reserve<sup>2</sup>, which in those days was named Como Park but was known locally as Malby's Flat<sup>3</sup>. He was still working those oyster leases in October 1923 when he was granted two annual leases for cattle raising to the west of the Lugarno ferry with a total area of 750 acres, and described his address as Lugarno, via Peakhurst<sup>4</sup>. This new venture failed and he did not renew the lease at the start of 1924<sup>5</sup>. Sometime before 1933 he transferred his oyster leases to another returned soldier, William Eric Judd (more of him later).

In August 1918, former Private Leslie Peter Pickering, of Kensington (but later moving to Mortdale) obtained his first oyster lease at Bottle and Glass Head at the mouth of Woronora River and soon after a lease near Georges Head in Woronora River. He also obtained two other leases on the north side of Georges River, one



being west of the Lugarno Ferry. He may have moved into the area, obtaining a special lease for residence, pig and poultry farm of a property (portion 206) south of the Lugarno Ferry in 1925. While still listed as residing at Mortdale, he renewed in 1938 as a market garden and may have held it until 1951<sup>6</sup>.

He remained in the oyster industry for many years, renewing his leases in Woronora River several times up to the 1943, when, sometime before 1948, they passed on to other oyster farmers. He may have had family association with oyster farming, with the oyster leases held in Lime Kiln Bay, Moon Point, and Great Moon Bay by George Pickering in 1912, and by William Pickering at Oven Reach in 1927 (who took over previously-held leases of returned soldiers) and may possibly have had an involvement with the Pickerings living in that area, who reputedly had a whisky still above the creek and inlet to Woronora River known to oyster farmers as Inch's Creek, but nowadays glories in the name of Still Creek<sup>7</sup>.

Former Gunner James McRae, of Oatley, also commenced obtaining leases in August 1918 on the north side of Georges River for an oyster farm in Gungah Bay and then at Limekiln Bay. He also had approval for three farms in the Shire at Coronation Bay and Scylla Bay in Georges River and near Georges Head in Woronora River. He soon decided to get out of the industry. He transferred his two sites on the south side of Georges River to another returned soldier former Private William Fletcher Wiseman, who also didn't last long, forfeiting the farms before they had been operating for five years. McRae's other three sites had their special conditions cancelled after five years, and disposed of them to other oyster farmers.

Former Acting Corporal Edmund Phillip Peatfield made oyster farming a long-term business. Starting in September 1918, he applied for 6 farms between Wearne Bay and Thompsons Bay Reserve, on the Shire side of Georges River, and was approved for five of them. In 1933 he surrendered one of the farms and sold another, but gained approval for another farm east of Lugarno Ferry, and renewed his leases for the other two farms. All his farms were in Sutherland Shire, and he worked them till he died around 1948, with two of his farms renewed by his trustees and another by J.S.W. Peatfield.

During September to November 1918, several returned soldiers obtained leases. Former Private Cyril Taylor Bond received two leases, one on the north side of Georges River near Como Railway Bridge, and the other at Carters Island.

The first of these, as previously noted, was passed on to Reginald Edward Murray, while the second was transferred within the first five years to another returned soldier Roger Horatio Lyall Bligh.

He renewed the lease in late 1923, but in early 1924 successfully applied for the special conditions re returned soldiers to be cancelled and transferred the lease to William Percy Judd.

Former Private Reginald Grice received a lease at Carters Island, but shortly after transferred it to returned soldier William Eric Judd.

Another short-term oyster farmer was former Corporal Vivian Francis Alley, of Oatley, whose lease near Pelican Point was soon transferred to another returned soldier former Private Edward James Allen, who also transferred it to another returned soldier former Private Arthur Barton Humphrey, and then, after the conditional period expired after 10 years, transferred to another oyster farmer. It apparently was not a very successful farm as this last lessee surrendered the lease after a couple of years.

Former Gunner Norman Malcolm Hay from Mosman, was also not impressed by the farm he obtained near Carters Island and quickly transferred it to former Private Edward James Allen, who cancelled it after about three years.

Another applicant unhappy with farms in that locality was Hunston Francis Edman (rank not known) of Sans Souci, whose lease near Carters Island went to returned soldier William Eric Judd, who worked the site, renewing it for the next two periods of five years.

Former Private Harold Leslie Montague of Dolls Point apparently had no takers for his lease near Carters Island and cancelled it after two years.

James Hedley Robson (rank not known) obtained a returned soldiers lease of a farm on the north side of Georges River, which he transferred to another oyster farmer after the conditional period of 10 years had expired. He also dabbled in other oyster farms, gaining approval for a farm at Grays Point in Port Hacking which he surrendered after two years, and for a short term was a partner in an oyster farm at Moon Point.

Moving into 1919, Former Private Roland Conn Horton of Annandale never had a chance to try his hand at oyster farming. He obtained his lease near Pelican Point in May 1919, but died in June of the same year. The lease was transferred to returned soldier William Eric Judd. Former Private Sidney Leman must have second thoughts or had problems with his applications for three farms at Quibray Bay, as he never gained any approvals.

Lasting for only four years, former Private Thomas Roberts of Dolls Point had the special conditions cancelled for his farm at Quibray Bay and disposed of it to other oyster farmers.

Former Lance Corporal William Allman was unsuccessful in obtaining an oyster farm near Maianbar in Port Hacking.

Former Major Malcolm St John Lamb, of Sandringham, applied for three leases, but only one, near Towra Point was approved in November 1919. He later obtained approval for another lease at Carters Island, but did not remain in the industry, transferring his leases by 1927 to another returned soldier William Eric Judd, who later passed them on to Percy Bruce Judd, after the conditions re transfer to another returned soldier had expired.

One who had a slow start was former Private Edward James Allen, of Sandringham, who initially applied for four farms as a returned soldier in 1920 and 1921. One site near Carters Island was not approved and two others in the same area were forfeited in early 1922 because he *failed to mark the site as required*<sup>6</sup>. He continued with his remaining farm at Bonna Point, until the special conditions ran out in 1935 after 15 years, when he transferred it to another oyster farmer. During that time he had been looking for another oyster farm to operate and had long-term success with an oyster farm in Quibray Bay which he leased in January 1930. He had for a small problem when he surrendered it in October 1938, but then almost immediately re-applied and regained the lease. He eventually renewed the lease right through to 1958. In 1932 he also took on a lease in Woollooware Bay that had been operated for 10 years by another oyster farmer, but must have been disappointed as he surrendered it with the reason stated as *oyster culture cannot be carried out on the leased area with any reasonable hope of success*<sup>9</sup>. Finally, in 1936 he was granted a lease of an extra site in Quibray Bay and operated it for about 20 years until it was transferred to other oyster farmers in the mid-1950s.

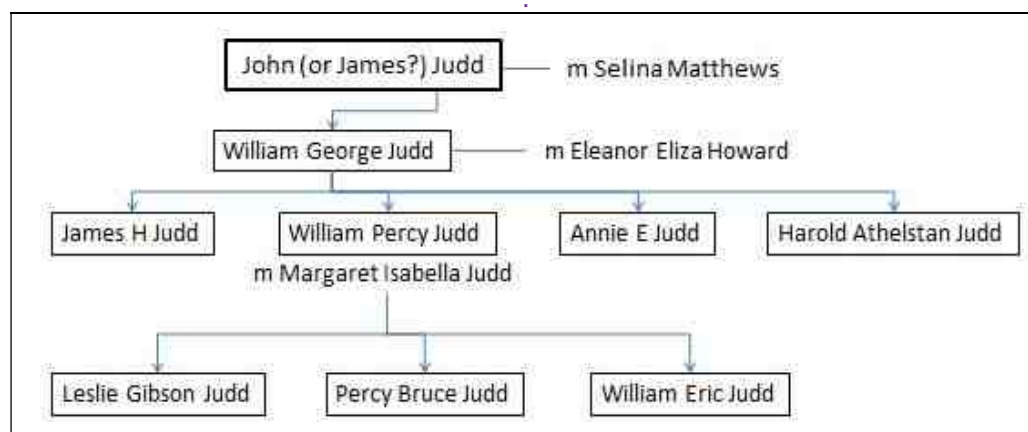
Former Private Arthur Barton Humphrey of Hurstville

had his introduction to oyster farming when he obtained a lease of a farm at Oyster Bay in November 1920. He renewed his lease in 1923 and 1928 but decided to surrender it in 1931. During that time he had also taken over an oyster farm that had been unsuccessfully run by two other returned soldiers (Alley and Allen as described above) and which he also held only until its conditions ran out, when he disposed of it.

### The Judds as Oyster Farmers

Throughout the above, the name of former Driver William Eric Judd occurs several times as a returned soldier who took over oyster farms originally allocated to other returned soldiers. Of course, the name of his grandfather William George Judd appears in many sources as the name of the first President of Sutherland Shire Council, but there is no mention in any of those sources of any Judd associated with the oyster industry, except an incidental mention in *Nature's Doorstep: The Bonnet Bay Story*, by Colin Burgess. It turns out that not only did William George Judd hold an interest in an oyster lease, but his descendants, including William Eric Judd, were deeply involved in oyster farming. The family tree is shown below.

But William George Judd was not the first person in his family to have an oyster farm. Starting in March 1904, his son William Percy Judd applied for two sites in Port Hacking, one of which was approved. Four years later he was taking over established farms in Woollooware Bay and by 1927 had 13 oyster farms operating in Georges River and Port Hacking. Although he surrendered his Port Hacking farm in 1931, he continued to renew the other farms through the years, until in 1939, all of his leases started being renewed in the name of Judd's Hurstville Brick Company.



*William George Judd's simplified Family Tree*

*Note: His father shown as John Judd in one source, but as James Judd in his Parliamentary record, and the maiden name of Margaret Isabella Judd was not found.*

Along with his father he was a director of that company (and was also a director of the St Peters Brick Company). He also had oyster leases in other areas of New South Wales, details of which have not been researched, but apparently did not confine his activities to bricks and oysters. In March 1926, he was a provisional director in the share float for the Green Taxi Cabs Limited<sup>11</sup>, and in 1930 was a director of a Great Barrier Reef Fisheries Limited, a company intending to launch a fleet of fishing boats to exploit the *inexhaustible supply of fish in the Great Barrier Reef waters* for which the Queensland Government *had favourably considered the granting of leases for a term of 21 years*.<sup>12</sup>

But it was not only the men of the family who were involved in the oyster industry. Margaret Isabella Judd, wife of William Percy Judd, was the holder of a lease near Pelican Point from February 1916 which was still being renewed in her name in 1946, after which it was transferred to William Eric Judd, eventually being finally renewed in 1961 by Percy Bruce Judd and Eleanor May Stone, executors of the estate of William Eric Judd.

When former Driver William Eric Judd returned from World War One, he did not immediately apply for oyster leases, but from around 1920 used his status as a returned soldier to take over several oyster farms that had been previously issued to other returned men. Those returned soldier oyster farms, other than two in Woronora River, were in the Woollooware Bay to Carters Island region favoured by his father. He remained in the industry, even taking over some of his father's farms, until at least 1956 when he began to surrender some leases.

By late 1922, Leslie Gibson Judd, son of William Percy Judd and grandson of William George Judd had joined the family business by obtaining 2 leases in Woollooware Bay near his father's oyster farms. He lived only another 10 years, when his farms were taken over by the partnership of his father, William Percy Judd, and brother, William Eric Judd.

Percy Bruce Judd was the last of the sons of William Percy Judd to move into the oyster growing, with his first lease approved in 1933.

By 1938, he was operating in partnership with his brother, William Eric Judd, but during the 1940s seems to have transferred his interest in the oyster farms over to that brother.

### What's in a Name?

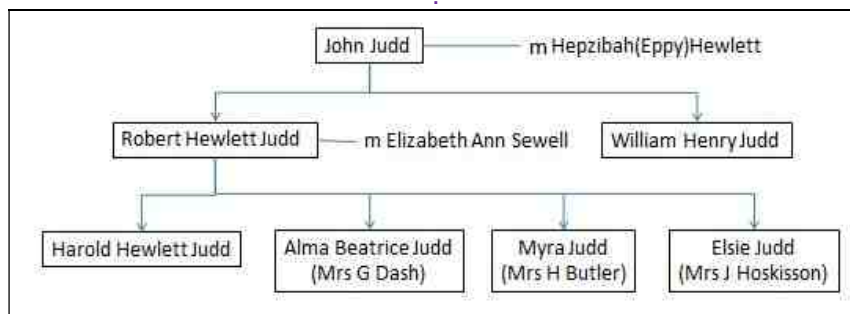
William George Judd and his family were not the first Judds to become part of the oyster industry in the Georges River. In 1899, Robert Hewlett Judd (see family tree below) and Percy Kelly Bowden had leases for two oyster farms approved, and in 1902, Elizabeth Ann Judd, his wife, also obtained a lease for an oyster farm. All three sites were on the northern side of Georges River and operational, as evidenced when, in July 1900, a certain Sydney Barden was convicted in Newtown Court of:

*...having on June 29 taken a quantity of oysters from lands within the limits of a leased area situated at George's [stet] oyster culture lease without the consent of Robert Hewlett Judd, the holder of the lease*<sup>13</sup>.

In what seems an extraordinary series of coincidences:

William George Judd as a storekeeper<sup>14</sup>, and Robert Hewlett Judd as a cordial manufacturer, both had businesses at St Peters<sup>15</sup>.

William George Judd was involved with local government as an alderman and later mayor of the then St Peters Municipal Council<sup>16</sup>, and, incredibly, Robert Hewlett Judd was also an alderman and mayor of St Peters Municipal Council<sup>17</sup>. Both continued a career in local government, William George Judd as alderman and mayor of West Botany (Rockdale) Council and later President of Sutherland Shire Council<sup>18</sup>; Robert Hewlett Judd as alderman and mayor of Windsor Council<sup>19</sup>.



*Simplified family tree of Robert Hewlett Judd*

There the coincidences finish.

William George Judd moved into a career as a valuer and auditor<sup>20</sup> in West Botany (Rockdale) before opening the brick and tile works, along with being elected to State Parliament.



Artist's impression,  
c 1986

Robert Hewlett Judd moved to Windsor as a hotelier<sup>21</sup> and later operated as an estate agent at Collaroy<sup>22</sup>, and was well-known as a breeder of prize poultry and dogs<sup>23</sup>. There is no indication that they were directly related, as the records show they had different parents (see family trees).

### And That's Odd

When describing sites for oyster culture leases, the Department of Fisheries insisted that the area of a lease was a linear distance of so many yards and half, thirds or sixths of a yard! What it meant of course was that the distance along the shoreline of the frontage to the lease was so many yards and parts of yards. And why use yards, when all the landlubbers used feet? Obviously the fisher-folk lived in a different world. But for the offshore leases the actual area was used in acres, roods and perches, the same as on land!

### But That's Patriotism!

The workers at Judd's Hurstville Brickworks took up at least 20 collections in the early years of the First World War and donated the money to the Lord Mayor's Patriotic Fund<sup>24</sup>.

**References:** NOTE: a large amount of the information in this article regarding the oyster leases was obtained from the issues of *the NSW Government Gazette*. The dates of these have been summarised at the end of the listing of specific references.

1. General conditions attached to gazettal of approved leases to returned servicemen.
2. Burgess, C., 1994, *Nature's Doorstep – The Bonnet Bay Story*, p. 7
3. Illawong P & C Association, 1982, *Illawong – A place of History*. p. 17
4. *NSW Government Gazette*, 26 October 1933
5. *NSW Government Gazette*, 29 February 1924
6. *NSW Government Gazettes*, 3 April 1925, 6 May 1927, 28 August 1927, 14 January 1938, 29 April 1938.
7. Burgess, C., 1994, *Nature's Doorstep – The Bonnet Bay Story*, p. 7
8. *NSW Government Gazette*, 26 May 1922
9. *NSW Government Gazette*, 17 July 1936
10. *NSW Government Gazettes*, 2 December 1908 and 8 June 1910
11. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March 1926, p. 14

12. *The Brisbane Courier*, 22 February 1930, p. 25
13. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 July 1900, p. 7
14. *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, Vol. 10 No 4, Nov 2007, p. 8-11 *Evolution of Sutherland Shire Council*, & McKinley, M. Hanley and Hewitt S., 2007, *Some Early Residents*, Cliff Lewis Printing, p. 77
15. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 February 1893, p. 2
16. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 August 1879, p. 2 (and mentions in several other issues)
17. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 March 1889, p. 6 (and mentions in several other issues)
18. McKinley, M. and Hewitt S., 2007, *Some Early Residents*, Cliff Lewis Printing, p. 77, (and in various other histories and newspaper articles)
19. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 February 1916 p. 1 and p. 7 (and mentions in other issues)
20. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 December 1929, p. 21
21. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 February 1928, p. 3
22. *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 23 September 1932, p. 3
23. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 February 1928, p. 3
24. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 February 1915, p. 10

#### Sources of Family Tree – William George Judd:

*Sydney Morning Herald*: 11 December 1929, p21; 27 June 1932, p. 9, 13 July 1932, p. 2; 18 November 1933, p. 21; 7 May 1937, p. 17; 2 November 1944, p. 8; 27 March 1952, p. 12  
State Parliamentary Member,  
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[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

#### Sources of Family Tree – Robert Hewlett Judd:

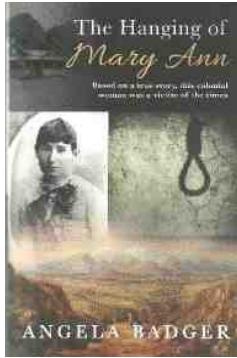
*Sydney Morning Herald*; 4 June 1912 p. 1; 3 February 1928, p. 14  
*Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 23 September 1932, p. 3  
[www.wikiworldbook.com](http://www.wikiworldbook.com)  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

#### Dates of NSW Government Gazettes referring to oyster leases:

5/9/1899, 22/7/1902, 29/3/1904, 27/9/1904, 12/8/1908, 13/4/1910, 8/6/1910, 11/1/1911, 24/7/1914, 6/10/1915, 18/2/1916, 1/12/1916, 8/2/1918, 12/4/1918, 17/5/1918, 24/5/1918, 31/5/1918, 7/6/1918, 21/6/1918, 28/6/1918, 5/7/1918, 12/7/1918, 19/7/1918, 9/8/1918, 30/8/1918, 13/9/1918, 27/9/1918, 11/10/1918, 18/10/1918, 25/10/1918, 1/11/1918, 8/11/1918, 15/11/1918, 22/11/1918, 29/11/1918, 24/12/1918, 7/2/1919, 14/3/1919, 4/4/1919, 11/4/1919, 2/5/1919, 16/5/1919, 30/5/1919, 4/7/1919, 5/8/1919, 29/8/1919, 12/9/1919, 3/10/1919, 14/11/1919, 12/12/1919, 6/2/1920, 19/3/1920, 23/4/1920, 6/8/1920, 10/9/1920, 12/11/1920, 24/12/1920, 24/6/1921, 2/9/1921, 21/10/1921, 13/1/1922, 20/1/1922, 26/5/1922, 15/9/1922, 23/9/1922, 15/12/1922, 29/12/1922, 9/2/1923, 27/4/1923, 6/7/1923, 13/7/1923, 27/7/1923, 21/9/1923, 5/10/1923, 19/10/1923, 2/11/1923, 9/11/1923, 21/11/1923, 5/12/1923, 8/2/1924, 28/3/1924, 4/4/1924, 11/4/1924, 18/7/1924, 28/11/1924, 9/4/1925, 10/7/1925, 16/10/1925, 30/7/1926, 10/9/1926, 29/4/1927, 20/5/1927, 30/9/1927, 7/10/1927, 4/11/1927, 11/11/1927, 12/1/1928, 9/3/1928, 5/4/1928, 10/8/1928, 7/9/1918, 4/1/1929, 15/2/1929, 31/5/1929, 1/11/1929, 31/1/1930, 20/6/1930, 17/4/1931, 22/5/1931, 7/7/1931, 27/11/1931, 24/6/1932, 1/7/1932, 23/9/1932, 21/10/1932, 20/1/1933, 10/3/1933, 24/3/1933, 31/3/1933, 7/4/1933, 12/5/1933, 9/6/1933, 22/9/1933, 15/12/1933, 5/1/1934, 12/1/1934, 9/2/1934, 2/3/1934, 6/4/1934, 11/5/1934, 3/8/1934, 7/9/1934, 25/1/1935, 8/2/1935, 15/2/1935, 7/6/1935, 6/12/1935, 24/1/1936, 21/2/1936, 27/3/1936, 17/7/1936, 2/4/1937, 27/10/1937, 10/12/1937, 3/6/1938, 26/8/1938, 30/9/1938, 11/11/1938, 23/12/1938, 22/9/1939, 22/12/1939, 14/6/1940, 15/11/1940, 25/7/1941, 6/2/1942, 3/7/1942, 20/11/1942, 16/2/1943, 26/11/1943, 17/5/1946, 24/5/1946, 31/5/1946, 19/3/1948, 25/6/1948, 27/8/1948, 24/9/1948, 11/2/1949, 4/3/1949, 5/8/1949, 26/8/1949, 25/11/1949, 17/11/1950, 7/3/1952, 22/10/1954, 28/1/1955, 26/5/1961.



**BOOK REVIEW**  
***The Hanging of Mary Ann***  
PAULINE CURBY



Angela Badger

***The Hanging of Mary Ann***

Brolga Publishing Pty. Ltd,  
Melbourne, 2014

Sutherland Shire Historical Society secretary Angela Thomas (writing as Angela Badger) has had another enthralling historical novel published. Set in the 1850s, mainly amongst the pastoralists and farmers of Bywong in the Goulburn/Lake George area, this novel also encompasses the world of middle class Sydney. It ably depicts the uncomfortable transition the heroine makes between these two disparate worlds.

Based on historical fact, it is the tragic story of young Mary Ann Guise (formerly de Guise) who, in 1855 at the age of 23 was executed for the murder of her husband George Brownlow. If ever an errant husband deserved punishment it was the arrogant, deceitful but good looking George. From the moment Mary Ann is first attracted to George when he holds her close at a country dance, the reader anticipates that it will not end well, especially when her grandfather, Richard Guise takes a strong dislike to the man. But is this just old world snobbery or does the elderly man sense something dishonourable about Brownlow? In contrast Mary Ann's father William is ready to give George the benefit of the doubt as he tells his father repeatedly, 'This is a new country with new ways'. Certainly Richard is living in the past, a recurring theme throughout the novel.

The de Guise family were French nobility who had fallen on hard times and migrated to NSW. Richard Guise, Mary Ann's 'Grand-père', tries to keep this memory of past grandeur alive with stories of the family's illustrious past. This works well in evoking the nostalgia of the migrant who finds it difficult to adjust to a new country and different way of life. While allusions to this French connection is also important in establishing the family's heritage and its sense of being in a different league to the impoverished Irish family who live nearby, I found the Marie Antoinette references less convincing. Grand-père, who as a young man was in service to Marie Antoinette, carries the impact of her execution to his new country and throughout his long life.

Regaled with stories of this grand connection from childhood, Mary Ann also takes this association to her untimely grave.

The image of the executed queen bookends the novel in the first and last two chapters as, facing her own execution, Mary Ann compares her fate to that of the French queen.

While this is a beguiling image I think realistically Mary Ann would have been more concerned about her three children rather than a long-gone queen who filled the stories of a much loved but probably self-deluding grandfather.

Pivotal in the book's themes of tradition, class and acquisitiveness is the loving relationship between Mary Ann and her grandfather. The one I found most moving, however was Mary Ann's attachment to and dependence on the old family retainer, Job. It is his sacking by her husband which is one of the key reasons Mary Ann finally sees through the man she realises married her for her rich inheritance of prime farmland.

Pan Macmillan Australia is keen to promote the historical importance of this novel describing *The Hanging of Mary Ann* as:

*A gripping story of power, deceit and passion, this historical fiction is based on the true story of Mary Ann whose case is said to have brought about the Married Women's Property Act.*

It is indeed an historically important case. Never was a wife more in need of protection from legislation such as the Married Women's Property Act than poor Mary Ann who sees her cavalier husband sell part of her inheritance with no reference to her despite the terms of her father's will which specifically prohibited such a scenario.

Ironically the severe judge presiding over her trial, Justice Sir Alfred Stephe, was a long-time divorce law reform advocate who would live to see the Divorce Amendment and Extension Act carried in the NSW parliament in the session of 1891-92 and receive royal assent on 6 August 1892.<sup>1</sup> While this was a boon for the women of NSW, it was too late to help Mary Ann Brownlow (Guise).

Mary Ann's case is also significant in the history of crime and punishment in NSW. Between 1855 when she was executed at Goulburn and Louisa Collins' hanging in January 1889 at Darlinghurst Gaol, only one other woman was executed in NSW.

Although a number of death sentences were passed on women during these years, all were commuted except Ellen Monks who was also hanged at Goulburn in 1860. Incidentally Louisa Collins, the last woman executed in NSW, Ellen Monks and Mary Ann were all convicted of murdering their husbands.

This is an absorbing book made more so by Angela's sharp observation and evocative writing. Who can forget the description of Sydney gossip Mrs McAllister's *modus operandi*?

This lady, 'gleaned the gossip and ground it down to the tiniest particle, only then did it waft around the city's tea tables'. (p. 42)

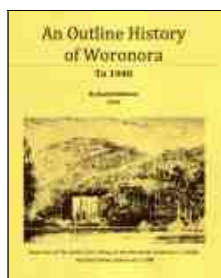
Angela Thomas can justly be proud of this book which I would recommend to anyone interested in historical fiction: it is well worth reading. Congratulations to our Sutherland Shire Historical Society secretary. I look forward to the movie version.

ENDNOTE: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stephen-sir-alfred-1291>, accessed 17 July 2014.

## NOT QUITE A BOOK REVIEW

### *An Outline History of Woronora*

CLIVE BAKER



David Robinson

### *An Outline History of Woronora to 1940*

Self published, 2014

Our new Society member, David Robinson, has put his ex-teaching skills to good use and produced a draft copy of a future and more detailed history that he is researching.

This is not quite a review because it is still very much a work-in-progress and he has much work to do.

What he has completed is a detailed study of the Woronora valley and its occupants since the first settler moved into the area in the early 1800s.

David's book covers:

Before 1788  
Land speculation to 1880s  
How the new railway brought visitors  
Prince Edward Park  
Sub-division and settlement after 1909  
A community evolves 1930 to 1940  
Floods, bushfires and drownings.

A 98-page copy of his work to date has kindly been donated and is in the Museum library.

Anyone have information, documents or photographs that might help David to make his work more complete, please contact him on his email: [daverobo@iinet.net.au](mailto:daverobo@iinet.net.au)

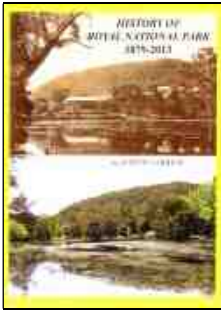
I look forward to reviewing the final book – sometime in the future.

## THEN-AND-NOW



'Moombara' a lovely old house (built 1881) at 17 Moombara Crescent, Lilli Pilli: 1906 (L) and 2014 (R) NOTE: The name is aboriginal for 'camping ground'.

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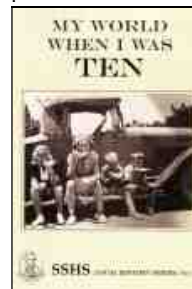
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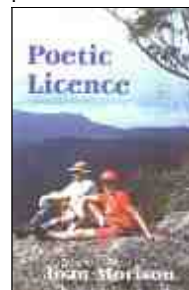
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