

NUMBER: 196 — AUGUST 2015



MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.shirehistory.org.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back more nearly 50 years and is an entirely volunteer and not-for-profit organisation. Over the years the Society has taken on the responsibility of recording and preserving local history so that Shire residents can learn more about our past.

WRITING FOR THE *BULLETIN*

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

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

BULLETIN

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

COPYRIGHT

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

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, 25 East Parade Sutherland (half way between Royal Hotel and the Club on East/ SUS Club) – just north from the pedestrian crossing..

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, Clive Baker (9521-6515).

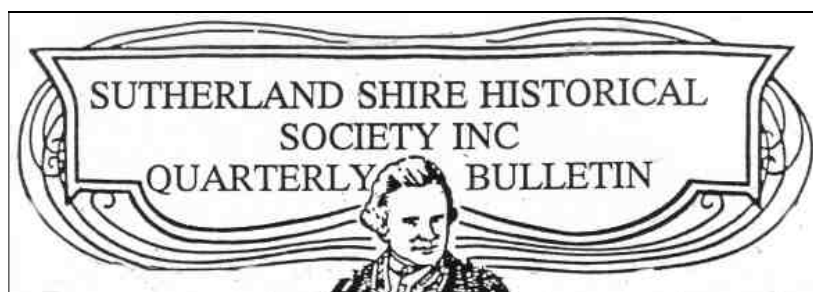
DONATING MATERIAL: If you have items of historical significance for Sutherland Shire, we welcome their donation to the museum to keep for posterity. If you do not wish to part with items, we would appreciate being permitted to copy documents and photographs. Cash donations and sponsorships assist us to improve the museum and perhaps you can keep the Society in mind when planning your estate.

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

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

THANKS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

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



CONTENTS

SOCIETY COMMITTEE	2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT Bruce Watt	3
SECRETARY'S REPORT Angela Thomas	4
EDITOR AND CURATOR REPORTS Clive Baker	5
SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS CALENDAR	6
VALE JOAN MORISON Clive Baker	7
SHIRE LAND GRANTS Laurie Burgess	8
WORLD WAR ONE REPORT Clive Baker	9
MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MAN John Campbell	10
DAROOK PARK, DARUG, JIMMY LOWNDES Bruce Watt	11
THE HOME OF BIDDY GILES Greg Jackson and Pam Forbes	20
DEATH OF CLAUDE MARQUET Pat Hannan	23
A MIXTURE OF ITEMS Various	24
AGM: REPORTS	25
AGM: FINANCIAL DETAILS	25
AGM: ELECTION OF OFFICERS	27
MILITARY MATTERS Clive Baker	28

Front cover:

Ferry on Port Hacking, by J. Lawler

(If any reader knows of J. Lawler, please contact the Curator – we have another of their paintings)

Back cover inside:

Ideas and Ideals, James 'Jim' Slade Collins, 1940.

Back cover outside:

The new Lone Pine monument, Woronora Cemetery, August 2015

Some of the 2,277 crosses made by the children of St Patrick Primary School.

SOCIETY COMMITTEE: 2014-2015 ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	9523-5294	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Ineke Nieuwland	9524-9226	ineken10@gmail.com
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	Angela Thomas	9528-6251	a.badger@optusnet.com.au
HONORARY TREASURER	Leanne Muir	0409-225-696	leannemuir31@hotmail.com
MUSEUM CURATOR	Clive Baker	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
RESEARCH OFFICER	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	jcmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
EXCURSION OFFICER	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	
EXCURSION BOOKING CLERK	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
PUBLICITY/WEBSITE OFFICER	Andrew Platfoot	0404-038-090	andrew_platfoot@yahoo.com.au
BULLETIN EDITOR	Clive Baker	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	George Miller Joan Tangney Helen Rosner	9521-3454 9523-6774 8539-7707	Maurie Beaven 9521-6360 Ann O'Connor 9531-1645
BOOK REVIEW EDITORS	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	Elizabeth Craig 9528-4707
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari	AUDITOR	

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	jcmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
BULLETIN PROOF READER	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	merle.kavanagh@gmail.com
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	Clive Baker Bruce Watt	Andrew Platfoot Pat Hannan	Bruce Gill Ian Kolln Noel Elliot
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	Clive Baker	9521-6515	warbookshop@bigpond.com
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Bruce Watt	Pauline Curby	Elizabeth Craig

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OUR AGM WILL BE HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2015.
DETAILS ARE AT THE END OF THIS *BULLETIN*.

IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO 'AMBUSH' PEOPLE AT MEETINGS AND
EMBARRASS OR PRESSURE THEM TO JOINING A COMMITTEE.

AT THE SAME TIME WE DO NEED 'NEW BLOOD' TO BECOME INVOLVED SO,
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STANDING FOR A POSITION, LET THE
PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY KNOW BEFORE THE DAY.

SO, COME IN 'SAFETY' AND VOTE FOR A COMMITTEE OF YOUR CHOICE.

REMINDER
TO VOTE YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL
MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE FOR RENEWAL ON 1 JULY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

Welcome to the third *Bulletin* for the year and the last before our AGM in September. It is a bumper issue with some ground breaking articles. The Society is in as good a position as it's ever been, with growing membership and a range of initiatives already happening as well as those in the pipeline.

The Society has launched a local history prize for Year 6 and Year 10 school students with total prize money of \$1000. It is the inaugural Margaret Simpson local history competition in honour of Margaret's extensive work in environmental and Aboriginal education. She bequeathed to the Museum, her collection of Aboriginal artefacts used in teaching and it is now proudly displayed. Details of the competition are on our website www.shirehistory.org and were featured in the *Leader* on 9 July with the Mayor, Kent Johns, Deputy Mayor, Carmelo Pesce, Ron Simpson and Bruce Watt. Entrants can respond to a photo stimulus in a number of ways including traditional essay, imovie etc. Winners will be announced on 21 September and their entries will be on display in the museum. Encourage any eligible children you know, to enter.

The museum is developing an initiative with Primary Schools to commence next year. Up to 60 students per visit will be involved in a range of practical learning activities about lifestyles in the past. John Rayner, CEO of Sutherland Shire Council and Mayor Kent Johns have been consulted on a plan to build an all-weather cover in the northern garden area at the museum. A club grant has been applied for to help fund the initiative.

More than 80 people attended the Lawrence Hargrave memorial centenary lunch at Stanwell Park Surf Club on Sunday 6 July. Nine Society members attended the well organised event hosted by Michael Adams. The Society supports the push to have the Badgery's Creek airport named the Lawrence Hargrave International Airport in recognition of his important role in developing the principles of flight.

On 9 July I attended a spectacular NAIDOC Week celebration at Gunnamatta Park in brilliant sunshine. Speakers included the deputy mayor, local member Mark Speakman, Deanna Schrieber, from Kirrinari Aboriginal Corporation and an elder from La Perouse. An Aboriginal dance group, 'Decendance' provided entertainment and cultural relevance.

The museum continues to receive donations. An interesting 'illuminati' (in the style of mediaeval illustrations) has proved interesting. It was drawn by Jim Collins in 1940 before he joined the army. He was captured and spent his war years as a prisoner on the Burma railway.

The Australian War Museum has many of his POW sketches and others are featured in a book, *Kura*. He lived in the Shire for more than 40 years (see page 28 for more detail).

I'm saddened to witness the destruction of ancient artefacts in Syria, at Aleppo and Palmyra, sites that have existed for millennia and are the repositories of a peoples' culture. It's a crime against all humanity as it destroys the thread that weaves the story of all of us, just as does all wars. This year we celebrate the centenary of Gallipoli, itself a small part of a much bigger conflict. The physical destruction was enormous but equally the human loss of life, both military and civilian was devastating and on a scale never seen before.

That life is ephemeral is obvious; we live, we die but history is enduring. It is the essence of humanity. I was reminded of this in looking at photos of the Society's 25th anniversary held in 1991. Some of the faces were familiar; a young and dashing Andrew Platfoot, resplendent with black hair and moustache. Others sadly are no longer with us, having passed into history. What is enduring are the records that are left behind, in photographs, written histories and physical evidence. I am proud of what the Sutherland Shire Historical Society has done over the last 49 years.

2016 is the golden anniversary of the Society. A luncheon at Club on East is planned for Wednesday 20 April – more on that later. Next year is also the 30th anniversary of the Museum's opening. Beating us by 10 years is the Tram Museum which is holding its 60th celebration on 23 August this year at 11am.

This year's Christmas party is to be held at the Museum – Memorial School of Arts, 25 East Parade, Sutherland – on Saturday 21 November. Hope you can all join us.

'There was movement at the station for the word has passed around that the [Society]...' was the place to be seen and to be heard (apologies Banjo – what a great Australian poem!).

I won't do the traditional thank you's just yet but there are some outstanding people and initiatives being undertaken that make me proud. With the AGM coming up some newer members may consider becoming involved in the many activities of the Society. Ask what and how at our meetings or call one of the executive.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

ANGELA THOMAS

This has been a momentous year of change – of loss and gain. Whilst our Society has forged ahead we have had to manage without the input of pivotal people. We wish two of them, Jim Cutbush and Terry McCosker, all the very best and look forward to seeing them back with us shortly.

The Museum is our flagship and everyone will agree Clive has displayed Jim's collection of many years in an exciting fashion. Other reports will cover this aspect of our society; my report deals with the secretarial side and first and foremost I must thank Carol McDonald for her wonderful support and innovative ideas.

At our monthly meetings the time is very limited and, after opening up the building and setting up the room, there is an avalanche of immediate calls on the committee's attention. After dealing with current committee business, preparations have to be made for the speaker and members' questions answered. In the space of a few hours our society is brought up to speed for another month. So, as secretary, I really do appreciate all the support that is provided during that busy time.

Leanne has her own world of finance managing – treasurers should really be appreciated by us all. She does so much else besides – her ability to find fund-raising events is endless and now that she has moved from the area we really thank her for still making the journey to be with us.

Gloria's cheerful greeting as she approaches with the attendance book is always a tonic, and so is the triumphant tone in her voice when she rings me up with the attendance numbers – for the record, they steadily climb from month to month.

We are grateful to Helen Rosner for taking on the liaison role for the Heritage Festival committee as it is an important event in our calendar. Also we are very grateful to Joan Tangney for her generosity.

Many thanks go to our vital band of caterers who organise the tea, Nola Watt, Ann Steward, Beryl Davies, Mary Small and Ann O'Connor provide a spectacular food table every month. Never failing we have a great afternoon tea and it adds so much to our meetings and we thank them for their contributions in many other ways, their talents are appreciated.

We should not forget Andrew Platfoot who maintains our website and his son, Jared, who developed the site originally. Finally, I must thank everyone else who donates time and effort to make meetings a success.

New ideas have dominated the year – Glen Stelzer has joined us and his ideas on school involvement and the Margaret Simpson Memorial History Prize will strengthen the ties between the community and the society.

Then there has been the SMART fund initiative and also Noel Elliot's innovative programme of walks supported by Michael Jordan driving the bus. We were delighted that Pat Hannan was honoured by the Senior Citizen's Achievement Award; also the awarding of The Community Arts & Services Grant for which Elizabeth Craig oversaw the paperwork.

Sadly though we have a few empty seats and really miss Joan and Bruce Morison. Joan had given us a vibrant talk about her life only a few months before her illness. Also John Risebrow is missed, a quiet man who contributed much in his years with the society.

The highlight of our meetings has of course been the speakers and unusually we had a majority from our own ranks, eager to share their research and own particular interests. We started the year with Michael Adams speaking about Lawrence Hargrave and later in the year he gave another talk on local bushrangers. Then we had a talk from Nola on the Strand Arcade, with a Powerpoint presentation by her granddaughter. Carol McDonald told us about the dinosaurs – encountered on her journey around Australia and that was followed by Heritage Week and Clive Baker on Gallipoli. In May Beverley Earnshaw spoke about her five books on history targeted at primary children and in June we had David Overett speaking about John Mystery, July saw Julie Evans talking on Cockatoo Island and at the time we go to press, Mary Small is talking about The Unknown Australian Soldier.

Elizabeth Craig is still researching the book on the history of the Society, to be launched in 2016 for the 50th anniversary.

Now we look forward to another 12 months with the added highlight of the anniversaries of the Society and the Museum's 30th year.

EDITOR'S SAY

CLIVE BAKER

As we come to the end of another year and with the AGM looming, it is time to look back on what has been achieved.

It was an interesting 12 months of stories in the *Bulletin* and the acclaim must go to those who wrote the material that we published. Local history just keeps being written and the many new tales of the past emerge to fascinate us.

Readers will be aware of my policy to give local stories priority and use 'outsider' articles second ranking. I hope that this thinking has been acceptable to our vast readership.

After all we are the SUTHERLAND SHIRE Historical Society!

I can't conclude without recognising the fine work done by my colleague, Merle Kavanagh, who has read most pages before publication and done so willingly – without pay!

I should also thank the ladies at SSC Print Room who have repeatedly turned out a quality product for us.

There are plenty more stories out there so get your pens out and send in more articles.

MUSEUM REPORT

CLIVE BAKER

The year has seen much activity at the Museum but despite what has been achieved, there is much that remains to be fixed and updated.

Bruce Gill, another willing worker, has assisted in renovating ploughs, tools etc. The emphasis has been on the Shire Farm Yard and the updating of the Salt Room facilities. He usually makes himself available on a weekly basis for a morning's work – thanks Bruce.

Also to be thanked are Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald who spend a day a week on average as they learn how to use the new computer and record the hundreds of photographs and documents that we hold.

Others playing important roles are the Supervisors: Ian Kolln, Andrew Platfoot, Bruce Watt, Bruce Gill and Noel Elliott and the many Guides: Dorothy Dalyell, Maurie Beaven, John Campbell, Elizabeth Craig, Pauline Curby, Anna Estephan, Pam Forbes, Greg Jackson, Carol McDonald, George and Marie Miller, Ineke Nieuwland, Ann O'Connor, Bob Osborne, Helen Rosner, Joan Tangney, Angela Thomas, John White and Cheryl Spencer (hope I did not miss anyone). You all done good!

The main Museum room is needing an update and the next year should see a change in the look of the room. A massive change-over would be an effort that we are not in a position to undertake in the foreseeable future.

We were hoping that Sutherland Shire Council would approve our proposal to roof the paved

area in the North Courtyard to protect from the weather, the school children visitations that we are expecting. It would also have given us a covered area for our own functions on pleasant summer nights.

Regrettably, even before the cost and had been assessed, we have just been advised that no further movement on the idea is to be made on the grounds of expenditure! Perhaps when we know the cost, a solution to finance might be found.

We have also asked permission to build a small hut (approx 4 x 5 metres) behind the spring cart that can be 'dressed up' to show the style of earlier Shire dwellings. No word has yet been received on that idea.

We do need more Guides for our open days and you need no detailed knowledge as we can help you to learn about the various 'pods'. Thanks to Bob Osborne who is now dropping out of Guide work due to other commitments.

When the school groups start arriving, we will need mid-week helpers so anyone who likes to work with kids, please make yourself known – see elsewhere for more details.

Approximate visitors for the year were: 700

I can't finish this report without mentioning Jim Cutbush whose wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the collection are missed. Get well soon Jim – we need you back!

SOCIETY NEWS

SAD NEWS

Andrew Plattfoot lost his father who passed away recently and, on behalf of all members, we send condolences to Andrew and the family.

SICK LIST

Doug Archer, despite bouts in hospital has been attending meetings and looking in good health. Jim Cutbush is on the improve with his hip but is still on chemo. His 'husky' voice is nearly fixed. Noel Elliot is shortly to join the double-bionic club with a second new hip but Mary Small claims to have three bionic hips!

NEW MEMBERS

Angela Egan of Woollooware
Bill Heather of Cootamundra
Creo Moore of Cronulla
Peter Moore of Cronulla
Fred Moss of Evans head [ex-Woronora]
Doreen Noonan of Woronora [rejoined]
Graham Saunders of Taren Point
Ernest Snell of Sylvania

Welcome to you all and please do not be shy to get involved in your new Society

[illegible]

WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN 2016

Our new and enthusiastic member, Glen Stelzer, is trying to have local schools visit and use the Museum. If he is successful, we will need the help of people who enjoy kids:

The program will target students from kindergarten upwards with groups of up to 60 expected. They will be split into three 'classes' of 20 and will need a teacher and one of our Guides from the Society to work with them.

Volunteers will be asked to attend on weekdays – on a roster basis – from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

You will be placed with one of the three classes, to talk about items in the Museum and, their role-playing and hands-on activities.

Glen will organise training lessons for volunteers and assist with obtaining the clearance for you to work with children.

If you are able to give time on a rotation basis next year, contact the Curator who will send your details to Glen.

It will be nice to pass on your own experiences and knowledge to the Shire's youth.

MONTH		EVENT	SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: 2016
SEPTEMBER	5	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	12	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	19	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	19	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	AGM: election of committee and 'Show and Tell'
	26	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
OCTOBER	3	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	10	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	17	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	17	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	SPEAKER: George Cotis on Gogerley's Cottage in RNP
	18	GARDEN PARTY	Nola Watt's open day – details below
	24	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	24	EXCURSION	Tour of Stanwell Park area including Hargrave's house
	31	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
NOVEMBER	14	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	14	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	21	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	21	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	CHRISTMAS PARTY: at the Museum
	28	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm

NOLA WATT'S GARDEN PARTY: 18 October – 54 Flora Street, Kirrawee–near Oak Road roundabout.
Arrive 11am – bring your own wine and lunch–other drinks provided.
Competitions will be held including best 'Garden Hat' creation. Nola has a very nice garden for socialising.

CLIVE BAKER

As was revealed in earlier *Bulletins*, both Bruce and Joan played a very big part in the advancement of canoeing in Australia – Bruce received his OAM in 2009.



Joan's coffin being carried through an avenue of raised canoe paddles to the chapel.



The Morisons spent most of their lives together and left this world within months of each other.



They will both be missed

00

On a personal note, the Morisons and I brushed shoulders in the late 1950s but we could not remember each other.

They were in the Canoe Club of the Youth Hostels Association (and about to start a family) while I was in the YHA Camping Club.

Joan often brought in items from her collection revealing my part in the YHA and reminding me of those early years.

About three years ago, Joan asked whether she was too old to do the Kokoda Trail trek. I don't recall my answer but, knowing Joan, she would probably have made it!

LAURIE BURGESS

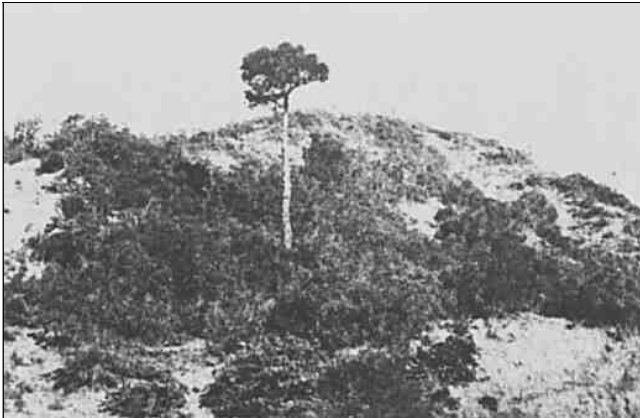
WAR REPORT: AUGUST 1915

MORE BAD NEWS

FROM OUR WAR REPORTER: CLIVE BAKER

It is now four months since Australian, New Zealand and allied troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula to clear the Dardanelle Straits of Turks and open the way to Istanbul – the news is all bad!

There have been major attacks along the heights and particularly at the crest called Chunuk Bair. Last week saw the fighting at a location that the men call “Lone Pine” which began on 6 August and only ended (in failure) on the 12th.



The pine that gave its name to the battle site.

Meanwhile the British and French have had little success at the far end of the Peninsular at a place called Krithia.

The Straits were seen from Chunuk Bair but our men and their Kiwi mates, due to fierce resistance from ‘Johnny Turk’, could advance no further.

In one action at a place the boys call “The Neck”, a Light Horse unit (their horses were not with them) charged across a narrow space no bigger than a tennis court and lost 40-percent of their number,

With over 2,400 Australian casualties we have to ask how this tragic campaign can succeed.

SHIRE CASUALTIES: KILLED IN ACTION

We have received sad news that several of our local recruits have fallen while serving overseas:

O'DONNELL Private Ewart – was a man who was working on the local railway at Waterfall when he joined up. During a Turkish attack on the 2nd Battalion trenches, Ewart was hit in his right leg. Despite medical treatment he died and was buried on 28 May on Mudros island.

PREECE Private Henry – who is thought to be from Ozone Street, Cronulla, had earlier served in the Royal Australian Navy but ended up in 4th Battalion infantry. He was killed on 1 May at Gallipoli but exact details of his death are unclear

MISSING PRESUMED DEAD

KENNETT Private Archibald – had lived in Cronulla before joining the army and reached Gallipoli in June. He was in 2nd Battalion during the Lone Pine attack and later could not be found – serious concerns are held as to his whereabouts.

POPPLEWELL Private John – formerly a farming lad of Bangor, has been fighting with 3rd Battalion.

Jack was at Lone Pine when he was assumed injured around 10 August.

When a shell exploded near him, he was seen to fall into a trench and, at the time of writing, his body has not been found.



OTHER CASUALTIES

PRICE Private Walter – after serving in the British army in the Boer War, Walter migrated to Australia and ended up in Cronulla. He was sent to German New Guinea with the Expeditionary Force but was struck down by uraemia. This form of kidney affliction has little treatment and he died in hospital to be near Rabaul.

URGENT TELEGRAM.	
STATION FROM, No. OF WORDS, AND CHECK.	
Radio W.F.M.O. Subanal 26 18/10p 21st	
Defence Melbourne	
A 1st March 21st regret to report death of 444 Private	
Walter Price P.O. in hospital Subanal this morning cause of	
death uraemia next kin wife Emily 39 Ashdown Road Kingston	

Walter's death announcement

IRONS Private Herbert – who hails from England but now lives in the Shire, was accidentally shot in the foot at Gallipoli on 28 June. He is now in hospital but it looks like his war is over. He has family living in Gympie Bay Road.

UPDATES SINCE MAY

Gordon Dall of Caringbah is still in hospital with a gunshot in the back – he is expected to live.

Bill Cliffe of Caringbah was reported in the last issue, as missing in action. No new information has yet been received as to his whereabouts.

SOURCES:

Handley & Hewitt. *Service & Sacrifice*. Self published. 2015
SSHS *Bulletin*: November 1989.
NAA war records: Price.

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MAN

JOHN CAMPBELL

A story was published Australia-wide in 1949 under various titles and with contradictory information. I came across it whilst researching about Jannali in 'Trove' (National Library of Australia digitized newspapers).

A small selection of newspaper headlines for the event listed below:

LIBERAL TURNS UP

UNABLE TO REMEMBER

SHOCK BROUGHT BACK MEMORY

PARTY ORGANIZER MISSING

RAIN RESTORED MEMORY

MYSTERY OF MISSING CANDIDATE ¹

UNABLE TO EXPLAIN DISAPPEARANCE

The tone of the headlines may reflect the political persuasion or compassion of the reporter.

It was a real exercise to sift through various news reports and sort the 'wheat from the chaff' – a task known to all researchers using old information.

The unfortunate man was named in the newspapers as "Liberal Organizer for the Werriwa Electorate" and was named as Reginald Eaves of President Avenue, Sutherland (or Kirrawee).

This led to a lot of wasted research and dead ends because, his actual surname was in fact EVES. The *SMH*, the only paper to get his surname correct in their Sunday edition, reverted to Eaves on Monday!

Research revealed that he was a builder by profession and had served in WW2. Although he was reported to be 53 years of age in 1949 he put his date of birth on his enlistment as 1900. This would have led authorities to believe he was 40 instead of 44 (quite old for soldiers in WW2). It was common for men to reduce their age to join up in both World Wars – my own grandfather did the same in WW2 although he had served in the Boer War and WW1 in the Merchant Navy.

Reginald Eves (NX65449), was living at Earlwood NSW and enlisted at Paddington to join the Australian Army in 1940.

He was in a LAD (Light Aid Detachment) whose task it was, to service guns and other equipment.



In that capacity, he served with the 2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment and was captured in Malaya. POW records show him to have been in Thailand and in *Tid Apa*, he is said to have sailed to Burma on one of two Japanese ships described as, "decrepit vessels"² and probably worked on the infamous Burma Railway where so many of our servicemen died in barbaric conditions.

To survive at his age says much about his constitution but, at the time of his disappearance, he was being treated for blackouts brought about by his wartime experiences.

Although there was an extensive search by police and civilians including his candidate for Werriwa (Mr R. Watson, who interrupted his election campaign), there was no sign of Eves until he appeared at a Jannali phone box on Sunday evening and rang for a hire car.

He was hatless and asked the driver to either take him to a doctor or Sutherland Police Station and he was taken to the latter. Some reports said he refused to state where he had been but most agreed he couldn't remember.

It was believed that a cold rainstorm had shocked him and restored his memory. After the unsuccessful police interview he was conveyed to St George Hospital and treated for exposure and exhaustion. None of us can understand the horrors this man had gone through in life.

Sifting through reports of the event it was found:

- * He was the President of the Sutherland Branch of the Liberal Party.
- * His son had died during WW2 although it was not reported if it was war related.
- * He had a daughter who was described as "spastic".

At this stage I have found little other information on Reginald Eves.

ENDNOTES:

1 He was not a candidate.

2 Smith. *Tid Apa*. Hist 4th A/T Regt. MostlyUnsung. p 112

DAROOK PARK, THE DARUG AND JIMMY LOWNDES

BRUCE WATT

The origin of the name Darook Park, a reserve on Gunnamatta Bay at the south-west end of the Cronulla peninsula is uncertain though its Aboriginal derivation, like other local names is highly likely.

The whole of the peninsula south from a line through the present Surf Road (originally Yowie Avenue) to Gunnamatta Bay was set aside as a government reserve for fortifications in 1861 and remained relatively untouched. This was the south-eastern boundary of Thomas Holt's South Botany Estate that he began to acquire from 1861 onwards (he later renamed it the Holt-Sutherland Estate).

In 1868, this reserve referred to as Gunnamatta Point was described as:

*Beyond the Reserve Paddock [current Cronulla] is Gunnamatta Point, a block of 300 acres forming the entrance to Port Hacking River which is reserved by the Government for fortifications. This is nearly all barren land growing a coast scrub so thick in places it cannot be ridden through.*¹

In 1895 the peninsula was put up for auction with seven reserves ultimately established. Surf Park (Cronulla Beach), Gunnamatta Park and seven acres of land reserved at Hungry Point for defence purposes (later established as a fisheries research centre in 1902) and an 11.5 acre reserve adjacent to the future fisheries site on Gunnamatta Bay were gazetted on 28 September 1895.

The latter site was eventually named Darook Park. 'Goonamarra' (Gunnamatta) was recorded as the Aboriginal name for 'beach and sand hills about Port

Hacking' in 1896² though map references to Gunnamatta can be traced to at least 1843.

The Shelly Park reserve was created on 26 November 1898 and Oak Park-reserve number 29969 (originally Cronulla Park) was established on 7 October 1899 along with reserve number 29970 – a large reserve around Glaisher Point. This no longer exists. When and why that reserve was rescinded is subject to further investigation. (see following map)

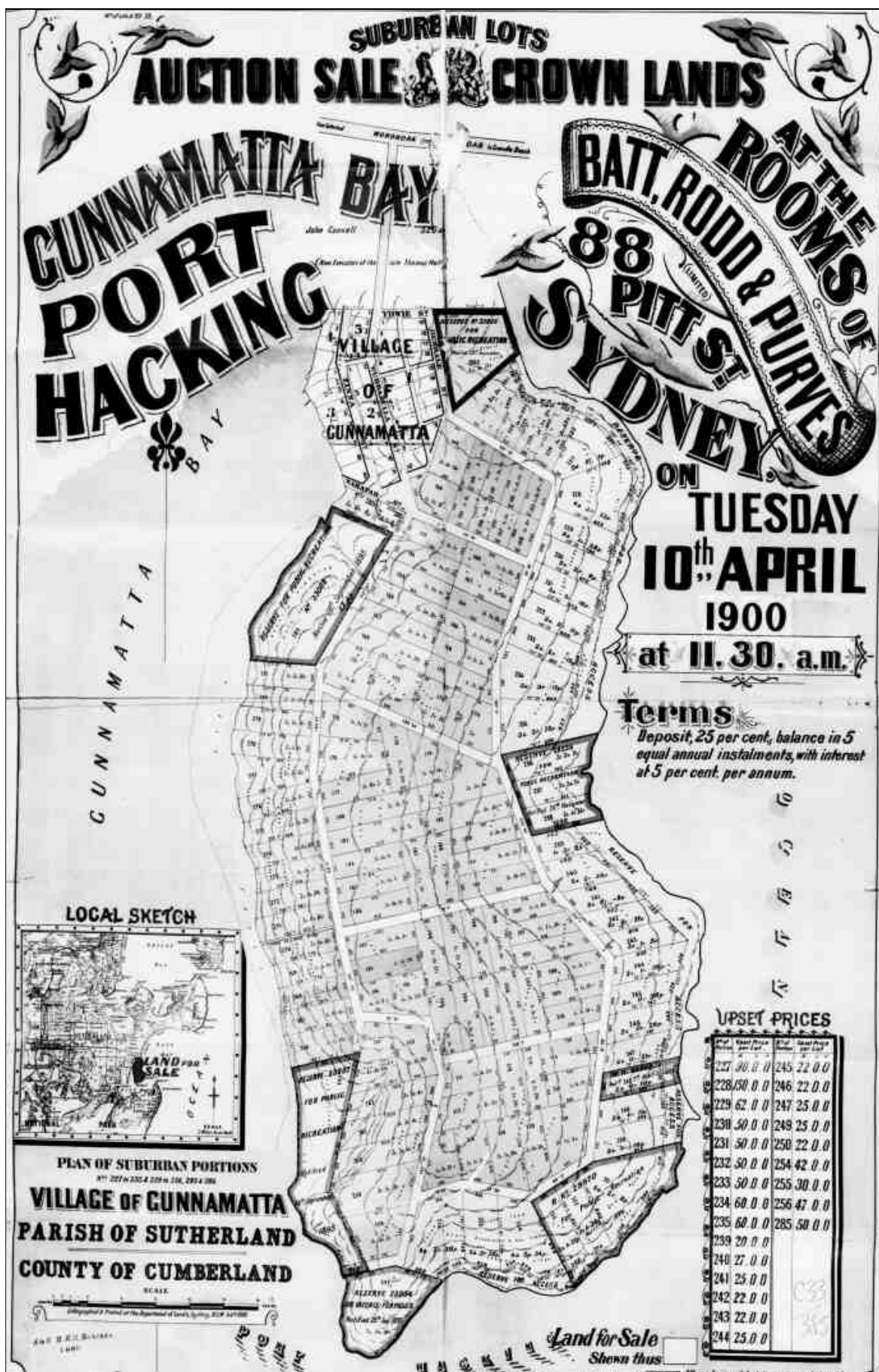
The Sutherland Shire Council website listing names of suburbs etc, provides the following explanation:

DAROOK PARK: Presumed to be named after the Darook (Dharug/Daruk) tribe of Aborigines. Further research has indicated that the tribal area did not extend to that locality but was located around Western Sydney (near Parramatta) and may have been mistakenly assigned. The name of the South Botany tribe was the "Gweagal", their country being known as "Gwea".

DHAR'ROOK: It is estimated that in 1788 approximately 250 separate languages and 600 dialects were spoken throughout the Australian continent. Many of these languages are extinct and between 1788 and 1900, only piecemeal attempts were made to record the dying languages and their geographic extent. Pioneer ethnologist / anthropologist / linguist, R H (Robert Hamilton) Mathews and M (Mary) Everett published 'The organisation, language and initiation ceremonies of the Aborigines of the South East Coast of NSW'. (1900).³



Gunnamatta Bay looking south about 1900



Land sales and existing reserves, 1900. Note: reserve 29970 (Glaisher Point), no longer exists.
(Local Studies - Sutherland Shire Library)



Joe Monro, real estate agent and politician looking across to Jibbon from Glaiser Point reserve number. 29970 – (that no longer exists).

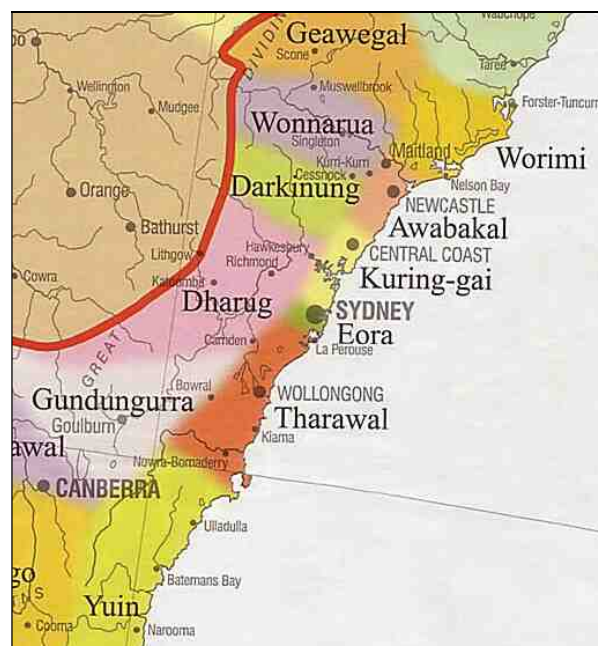
In describing Gundungurra grammar, Mathews and Everett said in 1900:

*The Gun'-dung-ur'-ra is one of the principle dialects used in the area ...[in western Sydney out to the Blue Mountains and south to a line through Crookwell and Yass]... the Dhar'rook dialect, very closely resembling the Gundungurra, was spoken at Campbelltown, Liverpool, Camden, Penrith and possibly as far east as Sydney where it merged with the Thurrawal [Dharawal]. A very old Dharrook blackfellow, named 'Jimmy Lownds' [sic], only recently deceased, informed us that the Gundungurra and Dhar'rook natives could converse with but little difficulty.*³

It is instructive to note that Mathews was referring to the Dhar'rook language group and implying that its use extended to the coast.

As the 1996 Horten map opposite shows, the three Aboriginal language groups merge around the Camden area. Mathews believed that the Dharruk / Dhar'rook and Thurrawal languages had the same structure though different vocabulary.

Precise language boundaries need to be viewed with caution. Traditional Aboriginal pre-1788 'country' boundaries would have been radically compromised by the devastating epidemic of 1789 where up to 70-percent of the local Aboriginals died. Following this there would have been mixing of remnant groups, complicating attempts by early linguists to establish vocabulary, grammar and relationships.



Extract from Horten's map 1996 showing the language groups of the Sydney region

Whilst Horten shows the Darug to occupy the western Cumberland Plain and as far north as the Hawkesbury River, there is ample evidence to suggest that it is associated with the Georges River down to Botany Bay and even Sydney. Mathews implied that the language spoken at Port Jackson was Dharug. The coastal dialect around Sydney has been referred to as Lyora (also spelt lora, Eora), which simply means 'people', while the inland dialect has been referred to as Dharug, (also spelt Darug, Dharuk, Dharruk or Dharrook).

**THE FOLLOWING TABLE INDICATES THE WIDESPREAD GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION
OF THE DARUG LANGUAGE GROUP ⁴**

BAND	LANGUAGE GROUP	LOCATION	BAND	LANGUAGE GROUP	LOCATION
Gadigal	Dharug (Eora)	Sydney	Kurrajong	Dharug	Kurrajong
Wangal	Dharug (Eora)	Concord	Boo-bain-ora	Dharug	Wentworthville
Burramattagal	Dharug (Eora)	Parramatta	Mulgoa	Dharug	Penrith
Wallumattagal	Dharug (Eora)	Ryde	Terramerragal	Guringai	Turramurra
Muru-ora-dial	Dharug (Eora)	Maroubra	Cammeraigal	Guringai	Cammeray
Kameygal	Dharug (Eora)	Botany Bay	Carigal	Guringai	West Head
Birrabbirragal	Dharug (Eora)	Sydney Harbour	Cannalgal	Guringai	Manly (coast)
Borogegal-Yuruey	Dharug	Bradleys Head	Gorualgal	Guringai	Fig Tree Point
Bediagal	Dharug	North of George's River	Kayimai	Guringai	Manly (harbour)
Bidjigal	Dharug	Castle Hill	Gweagal	Dharawal	Kurnell
Toogagal	Dharug	Toongabbie	Norongerragal	Dharawal	South of George's River
Cabrogal	Dharug	Cabramatta	Illawarra	Dharawal	Wollongong
Boorooberongal	Dharug	Richmond	Threawal	Dharawal	Bong Bong
Cannemegal	Dharug	Prospect	Tagary	Dharawal	Royal National Park?
Gomerigal-tongara	Dharug	South Creek?	Wandeandegal	Dharawal	
Muringong	Dharug	Camden	Ory-ang-ora	Dharawal	
Cattai	Dharug	Windsor	Goorungurragal	Dharawal	

It has been speculated that the Port Jackson Aboriginals (later referred to as Eora were in fact Darug). John Rowley, an Aboriginal who lived around Botany Bay and interviewed in the 1870s said that the Dharug language 'was spoken by the Aboriginal people from Botany Bay ... to Appin'.

Respected Aboriginal writer and archaeologist, Val Attenbrow ⁵ produced a map of the language and clan groups in the Sydney region. Darug (hinterland or woods' people) and Darug (coastal) groups; the latter occupying land west of Botany Bay and adjacent to the Georges River.

Clans or bands (called 'tribes' by Europeans) within Sydney area belonged to several major language groups, often with coastal and inland dialects, including Dharug (Darug), Dharawal (Tharawal), Gundungurra and Guringai (Kuring-gai). ⁶

Aboriginal people were recognised by the country from which they came and that country was identified by the language spoken there. Even before the first contact between the inland Dharug / Darug and white colonists, smallpox or 'Galgala' had spread from the settlement at Sydney in 1789 and decimated many Darug communities.

The Darug (Dhar'rook / Dhar-ruck) suffered early losses to their tribal identity as settlers, restricted in their expansion over the Blue Mountains until 1813, colonised the relatively fertile country in the west and south-west of the Cumberland Plain and the Hawkesbury. White settlers removed many traditional food sources, resulting in a severe food shortage. Competition for resources and conflict escalated.

Pemulwuy, who lead guerrilla warfare against early settlers in this area, was born near Botany Bay on the northern side of the Georges River and spoke a dialect of the Dharug language. He was one of the 'woods' tribes or Bediagals (Bidjigals). He united the different clans of the Port Jackson (Eora), Dharug and Dharawal people who joined his campaign against settler incursions and as payback for white atrocities.

He was hunted down over a 12-year period after spearing John McEntire, Governor Phillip's gamekeeper at Cook's River and leading attacks on settlers. He was killed (and decapitated) in 1802. His son Tedbury, who continued the struggle until 1810, was also killed.

That conflict existed between blacks and whites is apparent. In 1801 Governor King issued an order that 'a large body of natives resident about Parramatta, Georges River and Prospect Hill ... are to be driven back from the settlers' habitation by firing on them'. The 'Appin massacre' in 1816 was a retaliation ordered by Governor Lachlan Macquarie for guerrilla activities by Gundungurra and Dharawal Aboriginals.

John Macarthur was the largest landowner in the area and historian King noted:

*It was long before the days of fenced grazing paddocks and every flock had an attendant shepherd who each morning drove his sheep out to graze on natural herbage, and each evening drove them back to the folds to be guarded from predators during the night. But there were no guards for the shepherds...*⁷

In March 1816 Elizabeth Macarthur wrote regarding:

*...concerns about our distant farms at the Cowpastures, having been disturbed by the incursions of the natives. The savages have burnt and destroyed the shepherds' habitations, and I daily hear of some fresh calamity...*⁸

She described how a faithful old servant and a woman had been barbarously murdered two years previously and that currently, three of her people were missing. Governor Macquarie issued the following orders shortly afterwards on 10 April 1816 in response to settlers' concerns:

In the event of the natives making the smallest show of resistance ... the military parties have been authorised to fire on them to compel them to surrender; hanging up on trees the bodies of such natives ... in order to strike the greater terror in the survivors.

It was a show of force to intimidate and an attempt to drive them west over the ranges away from settlers' properties. There appears to have been tacit approval for settlers to take the law into their own hands in defending themselves from Aboriginal attacks. Until the 'Myall Creek' massacre in 1838, no whites were prosecuted for killing 'blacks'. Deaths occurred on both sides but far more Aboriginals were killed in the 'Aboriginal Wars' (c1790-1816, though extending well beyond then).

An estimate of about 200 Aboriginal people were living in the Georges River / Port Hacking district in 1788. By 1820 it was reported that there were only 20 Aboriginal people left in the Georges River and Botany Bay areas. Syphilis and influenza added to the list of introduced diseases that physically devastated the Aboriginal population and began the breakdown of traditional practices and culture.⁹



Local Aboriginal group from the 'Ellesmere camp' that was at the bottom of Endeavour Street on Kogarah Bay. L-R: Jimmy Brown, Joe Brown (possibly Jimmy's brother), Joey and Jimmy Lowndes. Biddy Giles- front.
[Taken by James Robinson of Carlton c1887]

The composition of the five shows the mixing of different groups at this time following disruptions brought about by European occupation of traditional Aboriginal country. Jimmy Brown was from Western Australia, Biddy Giles (and her brother Joey) are Dharawal and Jimmy Lowndes was Dharug. An Aboriginal Protection Board report listed 'Joey and Jimmy Lowndes (sic) received clothing, hat, shirt and trousers at the camp'.¹⁰

JIMMY LOWNDES

In 1805 John Macarthur was granted 5,000 acres on the Cowpasture Plains which at that time was only 'a wilderness inhabited by wild blacks and wild cattle'.¹¹ Over time he bred his merino flock 'while fighting drought, isolation and wild blacks who murdered their shepherds'.¹² He eventually became known as 'the father of the Australian wool industry'. In the 1830s the Camden Park Estate had expanded to 28,000 acres and was the greatest and most advanced farm in New South Wales. It boasted a merino stud, 700 cattle, 100 horses and the Colony's best stallions.

Macarthur received many convict assignees. In the 1822 General Muster of New South Wales, James Lowndes was listed as a convict arriving on the *Recovery* in December 1819. He had been given a seven-year sentence and was assigned to John Macarthur at Parramatta. In 1824, Macarthur recommended him for a ticket of leave. He may well have been working on the Macarthur estate at Camden.

Jimmy Lowndes was born around Camden on the Macarthur estate in the 1830s, to a white father and spoke the Dharug (Dhar'rook) language.

That Lowndes was of mixed race is not surprising for the time. Of the 80,000 convicts arriving in New South Wales between 1788 and 1842, 85-percent were male and 15-percent were female with little likelihood of males marrying above their station in life. In the 1828 Muster, the colony's population of 35,900 consisted of 27,953 males and 8,334 females. Even in the total 'new free' category, males outnumbered females by two to one.

Procreation with female Aboriginals was common. Jimmy's mother's name is not recorded. William Macarthur 'discussed the number of mixed-race children born on his father's sheep grazing Camden estate during the 1820s, from relationships between local Dharawal women and the estate's staff'.¹³

A question that obsessed the British was 'How did local Aboriginal people accept such children or did they kill them instead?'. Macarthur mentioned that one child, Jimmy Lowndes, had been protected by Budbury, a senior Dharawal man, who had hidden the child to save him from danger.¹⁴

Young Lowndes grew up within this community where 'he spoke his own Dharug language and became familiar with neighbouring groups of Dharawal and Gundungurra people'¹⁵. He died in 1900, just before Mathews and Everett published their findings on south coast Aboriginal languages and customs. He was to play an important role in the pre-Shire era.

Jimmy Lowndes travelled extensively and worked for a time as a stockman on the Castlereagh in western New South Wales. For many years from the 1860s he worked on Thomas Holt's estate. Holt had extensive cattle runs in Queensland and had hoped to use the Holt-Sutherland Estate to raise sheep or cattle. At this time he owned over 12,000 acres between the Georges and Hacking rivers.

Geography and Holt's system of land tenure that only allowed leasehold rather than freehold tenure restricted white settlement and remnant Aboriginal groups were said to have outnumbered whites. Aboriginal groups moved around fluidly reflecting traditional patterns of mobility, often living and travelling along the Georges River.

Lowndes was described as being very athletic and was often remarked on by white settlers as an excellent horseman, bullock handler, lassoer and a deadly shot. Nugent recorded:

During the 1860s, when Jimmy was working on the Holt properties, he lived in the Aboriginal labour camp, near what is now Sylvania and developed extensive contacts with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents of the [Georges] river ...

*He married Betsy, an Aboriginal woman from Liverpool, who brought her children with her – including her daughter Emma (1842-1916), who later married George Timbery the fisherman from La Perouse.*¹⁶

Emma herself was of mixed race being the daughter of white farmer, Hubert Walden. Emma was a Dharawal speaker. The Timbery name is still prominent in the Aboriginal community in La Perouse. Emma was referred to as 'Granny' or 'Queen Emma' indicating a high status.



Emma Timbery 1895
Her 'royal' status came from her links with
the Timbery family name.
(National Portrait Gallery, Canberra)

She became a well known shell worker, a non Aboriginal craft picked up from the Christian missionaries with whom she was actively involved at La Perouse. She sold her wares to tourists and exhibited at the Royal Easter Show.

Timbéré or Timbery (1784-1840) was a Dharawal leader from the Five Islands (Illawarra) area south of Sydney. Members of the Timbery family are said to have been present when James Cook – and later Arthur Phillip – dropped anchor in Botany Bay, and are said to have directed both captains to fresh water sources and fishing spots. In 1816 Governor Lachlan Macquarie named him 'King of the Five Islands' at a gathering of Aboriginal people in Parramatta.

His breastplate, lost for 90 years, turned up in an excavation site at La Perouse in 1929 and is now in the Australian Museum, Canberra.



Timbere, a pencil crayon drawing by Jacques Arago, 1819. Louis de Freycinet expedition. [National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.]

Reference is made in a newspaper article in 1876 to a boat being supplied to a group of 'natives' in the Illawarra to assist them in fishing. One native mentioned is his Majesty, King Timbrey. (son of the original King Timbery?) The boat was launched with some ceremony and named 'Queen Emma of the Illawarra', after his wife. ¹⁷

Few local Aboriginals from the 19th century period are recorded by name, however, it was for his knowledge of traditional Gundungurra, Dharook and Tharawal language, customs and culture, that Jimmy Lowndes came to the attention of R.H. Mathews and Mary Everett whilst researching and recording Aboriginal languages at the end of the 19th century. Goddall recorded that, "Rare as it is, this mention points to the key role Lowndes was able to play as he looked back over his journeys in the months before his death in 1900." ¹⁸

DAROOK PARK

'Darook' (as in Darook Park), is not an English name or term and an Aboriginal derivation seems highly probable. The Cronulla peninsula contained extensive evidence of Aboriginal occupation and many examples of rock art and stone tool workings. ¹⁹ Darook Park contained a massive shell midden and an Aboriginal watering hole and the area immediately to the north of the park was called Wahgunyah Cliffs which contained examples of this rock art. A gunyah is an Aboriginal term for a small temporary dwelling made of bark and tree branches. Wahgunya is a town in north-eastern Victoria on the southern bank of the Murray River opposite Corowa, New South Wales. The name is believed to be an Aboriginal phrase meaning 'Big Camp' or 'Big Shelter'. Another meaning is 'a place where crows are found'. ²⁰

Whatever its derivation, there had been extensive occupation and use of the peninsula and waters of Gunnamatta Bay.



Darook Park looking south, 2015.

It is pleasing to see so many Aboriginal names preserved locally though some such as 'Dharawal' are anglicised versions more easily pronounced by English speakers. In its many alternative spellings including Thurrawal and Tdthurruwal the 'dth' implies a guttural 't' or 'td' sound not found in English so the easier or softer 'd' or 'dh'(Dharawal) is used. So too, 'Darook' is possibly a simpler spelling or more phonetic pronunciation. (of Dhar'rook / Darug). ²¹



A rock shelter at Darook Park, Gunnamatta Bay.



*The White Gynyas cliffs to the north of Darook Park 1889.
[Sutherland Shire Council historical photographs]*

The area immediately to the north of the park was called Wahgunyah Cliffs which contained examples of this rock art. In the early 1960's, archaeologist Ian

Sim recorded engravings in the Darook Park area, along Darook Park Road (adjacent to the Wahgunyah Cliffs).

Some of these engravings probably still exist, but are now on private property. ²¹

The Wagunyah estate was sub divided in the 1920s.

In the early 1960's, archaeologist Ian Sim recorded engravings in the Darook Park area, along Darook Park Road (adjacent to the Wahgunyah Cliffs). Some of these engravings probably still exist, but are now on private property.

In 1889 Joseph Springall built the Oriental Hotel (one of four on the present site of North Cronulla Hotel) but it was very much off the beaten track.

The Springall's were the only permanent residents and there were only three people on the electoral roll in 1890. ²²

Sporting shooters and recreational fishermen were virtually the only visitors to the area and Springall's business venture had failed by 1893 due to lack of patronage. Three auction sales on the peninsula in 1895, 1897 and 1900 took place but there was no sudden influx of residents.

In 1900 there were still only about 100 people living at the village of Gunnamatta. The village of Gunnamatta, gazetted in 1899 was renamed Cronulla in 1908.

In 1895, the reserve, named Darook Park and the La Perouse Aboriginal reserve were both gazetted. As an Aboriginal settlement, La Perouse had grown from the 1870s as disparate groups had drifted north and in from the west looking for work, government rations and a place to live.

In 1883, the Aboriginal Protection Board was established which followed a more isolationist and protectionist policy. The Board established reserves, which effectively segregated Aboriginal people from white Australians throughout New South Wales.

By 1885, seven acres (three hectares) of land at La Perouse had been officially declared a 'Reserve for the use of Aborigines' the only one in Sydney. ²³



Aboriginal residents of the mission at La Perouse 1890s. ²⁴



Estate sale, Cronulla peninsula, 1921, with Darook spelt with double 'r' – closer to Mathews' spelling of Dharrook.

It is only speculation, however, given Lowndes' long association with the area and the fact that his language, spelt Dhar'rook (not Dharug) by Mathews and Everett who worked with Lowndes just prior to his death in 1900, then it's possible that the naming of Darook Park was linked to Lowndes influential presence and of others such as his step daughter, 'Queen' Emma Timbery in the area over a long period. Also contrary to the Sutherland Shire Council's website reference to the location of the Darug group occupying a location in western Sydney around Parramatta, it is clear that the Darug language was spoken extensively across the Cumberland Plain and specifically on the northern side of the Georges River, providing another direct link.

This account links many of the big picture concepts of Australia's past –traditional Aboriginal culture, language, racial conflicts, exploitation, land alienation, convicts, squatters, colonial life, inter-racial marriages, place names and naming conventions, and events and personalities that shaped the southern reaches of Sydney up to the twentieth century before the large scale influx of white settlement.

Who named Darook Park and why is uncertain but it is tempting to link its naming with the language spoken by Aboriginal groups living and moving through the country at the time.

SOURCES:

- 1 Sutherland Estate Report. Robert Cooper Walker 14 April 1868
- 2 Thornton, G 1896 Illawarra Mercury 24 March 1896. In Organ, M (compiler) (1990) A Documentary History of the Illawarra and South Coast Aborigines 1770-1850, including Chronological Bibliography 1770-1990. Aboriginal Education Unit, The University of Wollongong,
- 3 Journal and proceedings of the Royal Society of NSW
- 4 J.L. Kohen and Ronald Lampert 'Hunters and Fishers in the Sydney Region' , in D.J. Mulvaney and J. Peter White: *Australians to 1788*. Sydney, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon, 1987, p. 351
- 5 Sydney's Aboriginal past. Investigating the archaeological and historical records. UNSW press 2002 p22
- 6 Barani Sydney's Aboriginal History A. Heiss and M. Gibson
- 7 *Elizabeth Macarthur and her World*. Hazel King Sydney University Press 1980 p 73
- 8 Elizabeth Macarthur and her world. et al p 73
- 9 *The Shire: A Journey Through Time*. Bruce Watt 2014
- 10 *Rivers and Resilience Aboriginal people in Sydney's Georges River*. Goodall and Cadzow 2009 p85
- 11 Camden Park Estate 1795:1965
- 12 Camden Park Estate 1795:1965
- 13 Rivers and Resilience et al p 83
- 14 Rivers and Resilience et al p 83
- 15 Recorded by Everitt and Mathews in the 1890s
- 16 M. Nugent 'Emma Timbery' Australian Dictionary of Biography
- 17 Queen Emma. *Illawarra Mercury* 12.9.1876 (Trove)
- 18 *Rivers and Resilience* p 86
- 19 *Port Hacking, Cronulla & Sutherland Shire*. F. Cridland 1924 p144
- 20 *Aboriginal Words and Place Names*. A.W. Reed Literary Productions Ltd 1982
- 21 Cronulla Fisheries site. Recommendations for future use. David Harley 2012
- 22 *Pictorial History of Cronulla*. Curby 1998 Kingsclear Books p18
- 23 *La Perouse* Julia Kensy 2008
- 24 *A history of Aboriginal Sydney* University of Western Sydney

THE MILL CREEK HOME OF BIDDY GILES

GREG JACKSON AND PAM FORBES

A local Aboriginal lady, Biddy was born around 1820 into the Gweagal group of the Dharawal people and named Bi-yar-rung. She spent her entire life on her ancestral lands and stands out as an aboriginal whose life spanned both the indigenous and European worlds. She moved between and interacting with, both societies – a rare achievement for a 19th century aboriginal.

First married to an older Gweagal man, Cooman or 'King Kooma', Biddy left him to marry Paddy Burragalang (also known as Paddy Davis) and moved from Botany to his country of Five Islands (Wollongong) in the southern part of Dharawal country. Here she had two daughters, Rosie and Ellen and lived there for about 20 years. [Goodall and Kadzow 2014].

Her husband Paddy died around 1860 and Biddy moved to the Georges River with a new partner, an Englishman called Billy Giles. They lived on the western bank of Mill Creek (Gurugurang) in a farmhouse they acquired after the murder in 1854, of absentee owner, Dr Alexander Cuthill. An extended family lived with them including two aboriginal children. They had quince trees, goats, honey, oysters, wallabies and fish from the river.

During the 1860s shooting and fishing parties came from Sydney to the Little Forest/Mill Creek area and Biddy and Billy acted as guides. They shared their knowledge of the river and its wildlife, telling stories and sharing bush tucker meals like Goanna or black bream prepared by Biddy.

This can be seen as an early version of eco-tourism, long before it became trendy [Goodall and Kadzow 2014]. Accounts of some of the trips with Biddy show visitors marvelling at her unfailing ability to find fish, her control of her hunting dogs and the skill with which she could rustle up a delicious meal from local produce.

MILL CREEK

Mill Creek rises behind today's Menai tip and flows north through a long estuary into the Georges River. Why it was called Mill Creek remains a mystery as it never had a mill. I am indebted to Bruce Howell for pointing out that the Scottish botanist Robert Brown, who travelled with Bass and Flinders on the *Norfolk* to Tasmania in 1798 called it 'Mill Creek' in his 1803 diary [Brown 1803] so it may have been named by him or possibly by Bass and Flinders on their 1795 trip up the Georges River in the *Tom Thumb*.

In 1803 there was no requirement for a mill on the Georges River and no supply of wheat to grind. It may have been simply identifying this creek as a potential site for a future mill. The long estuary would make it suitable for a tidal mill, a type common on the Hawkesbury River system. Only after torrential rain does Mill Creek have sufficient fresh water flow for a conventional mill.



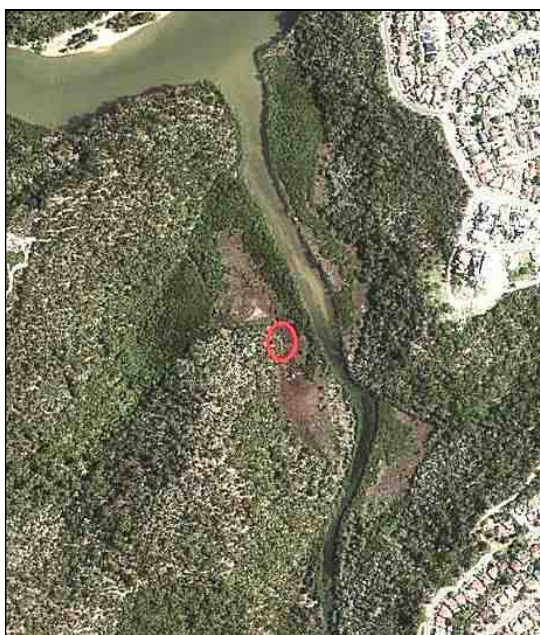
Aboriginal workers on the Holt Sutherland Estate 1880.
L-R: Jim Brown, Joe Brown, Biddy Giles, Joey, Jimmy Lowndes.

A fanciful article in the SSSH *Bulletin*, November 1983, describes this non-existent stone water mill in considerable detail as does an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 8 August 1870. It is not surprising that this mill myth continues.

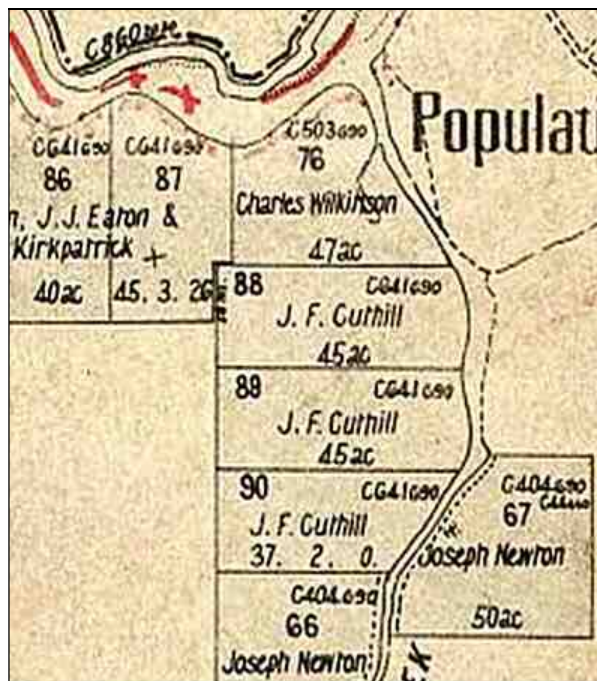


Above: A small agricultural brick dam built by the Mayman family of Menai in the 1930s that is regularly put forward as 'proof' for the existence of a mill. [Pam Forbes]

Below: The Mill Creek estuary, with the suburb of Alfords Point on the right – the probable remains of a farm were found at the location circled.



The location is on a cleared elevated spur of land overlooking what is now salt marsh – probably fertile agricultural land at the time of the Giles' occupation when the sea level was at least 200mm below the present levels. (Australian Government Department of the Environment).



This parish map shows the location of Cuthill's 3 land grants on Mill Creek. [Map 140414, 1899 Parish of Holsworthy, NSW Lands and Property].

The site is on the northern extremity of Cuthill's grants and has remnant dry stone fences/walls running around the site. A nearby large, man-made trench, would have collected fresh water for the occupants and animals. Field stones have been cleared from flat land and placed in heaps on the property. A cleared area in the centre of the site contains a pile of field stones and is the probable location of a slab hut, long destroyed by bushfire.



Biddy Giles in 1880.
[Goodall and Cadzow 2014]



Above and below: A rubbish dump below the house site, at the edge of the marsh, contains the remains of several bottles; glassware and stoneware visible on the surface. The thick bases, the colour of the glass and the method of manufacture are consistent with a mid- to late 19th century date.[Both Pam Forbes]



After the death of Billy Giles in the mid-1870s, Biddy moved down river to live at Joseph Holt's property at Sylvania with her brother Joey. The work camps and oyster beds of the property provided a living for a number of Aboriginal people, both from the Georges River and elsewhere. Biddy also visited the Aboriginal camps at Kogarah Bay and Botany Bay at different times and died at Sylvania in the 1890s.

Her daughter Ellen, with her husband Hugh Anderson later lived at Ogilvy Street, Salt Pan Creek (Peakhurst) from around 1911 until her death in 1931. Their freehold property in Ogilvy Street (not far from her mother's Mill Creek house) became the nucleus of a large indigenous community [Ghosh et al].

The names of very few aboriginal people stand out from the 19th century, as they were generally marginalised, deprived of their ancestral lands and living in camps on the edges of white settlement.

Only an archaeological excavation can determine whether the ruins on Mill Creek are indeed the remains of Biddy Giles' home.



Above and below: Remains of the walls around the Giles' farm site. [Both Pam Forbes]



SOURCES:

Brown R. 1803, *The Diary of Robert Brown in Australia, 1801-1805* (Compiled by T G Vallance, DT Moore & EW Groves, 2001), Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra, Australia.
 Australian Government Department of the Environment, nd, *Sea Level* <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/climate-science/climate-change-future/sea-level> accessed 27 January 2015
 Ghosh D, Goodall H, Donald S H, 2009, *Water, Sovereignty and Borders in Asia and Oceania*, Routledge Abingdon USA
 Goodall H, Cadzow A, Giles, Biddy, *Dictionary of Sydney*, 2014, http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/giles_biddy, accessed 1.2.2015
 NSW Land and Property Information, nd, *Parish and Historic Maps* http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/mapping_and_imagery/parish_maps accessed 3.2.2015

THE DEATH OF CLAUDE MARQUET

PAT HANNAN

Claude Arthur Marquet was a cartoonist and was born on 8 May 1869 at Moonta, South Australia. He married Ann Jane Donnell on 16 June 1891 and they moved to Kurnell around 1903-1919 and both contributed to our local history when they built the first house there.

Of French descent, Claude attended a grammar school and his first job was in the mines. Later, as a printer's compositor, he acquired a sound knowledge of newspaper work including process engraving. By the time he married Ann, he was a proficient, self-taught black-and-white artist.

In 1897 he was appointed cartoonist to the weekly Adelaide magazine, *Quiz*. By 1900 Marquet was having work accepted by the *Bulletin* and in 1902 he left Adelaide for Melbourne.

Next year he submitted a cartoon on the Victorian rail strike to the Labor newspaper, *Tocsin*, and the cartoon was purchased.



Self portrait

During this period, Claude also drew for *Table Talk* and *Melbourne Punch* but his big opportunity came when he was invited to Sydney as staff cartoonist on the *Australian Worker*.



Marquet drew in pen and ink in traditional style.

The first of his cartoons with that paper appeared on 25 October 1906 and in the years before his death, Claude was delivering up to four very detailed drawings each week. He was also prominent with cartoons during the big conscription debate of WW1 -- see opposite.

On 19 April 1920, there was a drowning tragedy on Botany Bay and one newspaper reported:

Despite a thorough search the bodies of Claude and [Harry] Palmer, who were drowned in Botany Bay, on Saturday afternoon, have not been found.

Marquet and Palmer had been to Botany for provisions, and [were] returning to his home at Kurnell, on the other side of the bay. Marquet discovered that they had forgotten to procure meat for Sunday, [so] they returned to Botany and were coming back to Kurnell the second time, when a heavy squall came up.

No great anxiety was felt for their arrival on Saturday night [as] it was thought that they had remained at Botany for the night owing to rough seas, but visitors from Botany next day stated they had left in a sailing boat alive on the previous evening.

Thereupon a general alarm [was] called. Kurnell residents were out searching the beaches. First some clothing was washed ashore, and then the boat was discovered floating upside down; and it is presumed that Marquet tried to save his male friend got into difficulties, as, Palmer was unable to swim, while Marquet was a fairly good swimmer.

The deaths are regretted by all, as a cartoonist, he was in a class by himself. Keen sympathy in expressed for the wives of both the deceased.

In July 1920 a memorial book was published in Claude Marquet's honour with proceeds of the sale given to his widow.

Many of his friends including Henry Lawson, then living in the Sutherland Shire at Como, penned memorials in the book.



A MIX OF ITEMS



Leader 16 November 1960.

THE 'TRIANGLE' SOLVED

We asked some time ago, what was the purpose of the triangle on the landscape near Wattamolla?

Thanks to serious research by Judith Carrick and other enthusiasts, the 'great triangle mystery' has now been solved. Here is a summary:

The 111th [anti-tank] Regiment WWII diaries describe the excavations at the vertices of the Triangle as "haulage pits", suggesting the use of target sleds cable-hauled by fixed motors or truck-mounted winches in the pits ... 2-pounder and later, 6-pounder artillery pieces were used on the range, along with sub-calibre tracer-firing Bren guns – for sighting-in purposes. The guns would have been placed at firing points on the northern side of the shallow Curracurrong Creek valley on or above the 80 metre contour ... Firing would halt to afford safe passage for coastal shipping. Strictly 'solid-shot', non-explosive ordnance was deployed to minimise damage to range infrastructure ... The Wattamolla Triangle was quite possibly the first of its type built in Australia and is now the only such range extant in the world.

If you would like a full report, contact the Editor for a copy.

OUR OWN KING?

DAVID ROBINSON

The Powerhouse Museum in Sydney holds a breastplate bearing the inscription "David King of the Woronora Tribe".

Breastplates of that type were given to local Aboriginal leaders in recognition of their co-operation with the colonial administration. I have located no information about David.

...in 1835 the area which was later called the District of Liverpool was officially named "The Hundred of Woronora", so he was not necessarily connected to the Woronora River valley. The museum dates this artefact 1810-1821, but this dating is problematic as I have found no reference to the use of the name 'Woronora' before 1831.



1964

ON AGEING

Ita Butrose. ABC-TV interview. August 2015

Age is just a destination in your life ... not everybody does get to be old ...if you do get old, that's fantastic. Life is here to be lived – at what ever age you are.



1946



2015

This house, 53 Flora Street, Kirrawee, is where the husband of Nola Watt grew up and she now lives next door.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ABN 17 083 299 572

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Commonwealth Bank - cheque account	4,035.82	-
Commonwealth Bank - Term deposit	11,470.33	-
St George Bank - Term deposit	<u>8,483.47</u>	<u>-</u>
	23,989.62	-
Fixed Assets		
Projector at cost	1,997.00	1,997.00
Accum Depreciation	<u>(1,997.00)</u>	<u>(1,997.00)</u>
	-	-
Total Assets	<u>23,989.62</u>	<u>-</u>
EQUITY		
Retained Surplus	(1,295.99)	-
Current Year Earnings	<u>1,368.88</u>	<u>(1,295.99)</u>
Balance as at 30 June 2014	<u>72.89</u>	<u>- 1,295.99</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 2015, 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.

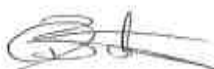
The financial report has been prepared for the distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the association's officer's financial reporting requirements. I disclaim any assumptions of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person 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 2015 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 8 July 2015

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ABN 17 083 299 572

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
INCOME		
Member subscriptions	3,900.00	3,441.00
Donations	2,007.75	2,296.70
Sales	841.00	942.00
Excursions/outings/functions	2,011.00	3,741.10
Grants	<u>1,931.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	10,690.75	10,420.80
Interest received		
CBA Cheque account	0.37	0.29
CBA Term Deposit-06225950137585	366.43	452.68
St George Term Deposit-000 0392092599	-	337.63
St George Term Deposit-000 0348275021	<u>269.20</u>	<u>220.73</u>
	636.00	1,011.33
Total Income	11,326.75	11,432.13
EXPENDITURE		
Museum expenses	1,501.37	2,301.24
Bank fees	12.50	1.80
Marketing	281.96	1,987.59
Equipment Purchases	1,920.00	-
Excursions / Functions	2,130.90	4,963.88
Rent	934.00	632.50
Printing & Stationery	810.44	296.05
Licences & Fees	211.00	214.00
Insurance - Personal Acc/Public Liability	499.40	492.80
Printing of placemats	225.00	231.55
Bulletin colour cover printing	1,431.30	1,255.80
General expenses	-	517.30
Grants	-	5,040.00
	<u>9,957.87</u>	<u>17,934.51</u>
Net surplus (deficiency)	<u><u>1,368.88</u></u>	<u><u>(6,502.38)</u></u>

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)

THE AGM AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2015-16 WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER [COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM]
21A STAPLETON CENTRE, SUTHERLAND

AGENDA

- 1: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
- 2: CONFIRM AND ADOPT MINUTES OF THE 2014 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 2014-15 FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS	VOTED IN
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	
6: APPOINTED POSITIONS TO FILL	
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	1: CURATOR (AUTOMATIC)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	2: ARCHIVIST (AUTOMATIC)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	3:
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	4:
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	5:
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	6:
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	7:
BOOK REVIEWER	
BULLETIN PROOF READER	
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [1]	
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [2]	
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE [3]	
7: AGM GENERAL BUSINESS	

MILITARY MATTERS

CLIVE BAKER

THE LONE PINE MEMORIAL

Last week, the new Lone Pine memorial was unveiled at the Woronora Cemetery south gate.

It was officially commemorated on 6 August by the NSW Governor, Sir David Hurley and his wife, on a clear but cold and windy evening at 4.30pm.

In a quite impressive event, the army band played as various generals and prominent local people spoke of the losses and sacrifice 100 years ago.

On that day in WW1, Australians had attacked Lone Pine on Gallipoli and two local soldiers were killed in the battle that followed.



Society member, Les Bursill, OAM, gives the Welcome to Country address.

A Wollemi Pine and Lone Pine seedling (from the original Gallipoli tree) were presented to a Turkish representative and Father Knight gave a blessing.

General Hurley became emotional when speaking of how the deaths of so many would have devastated the family members in Australia

Eric Barton, DFC, who had flown Lancaster bombers in WW2, gave the Ode.



A bugler playing the Last Post.

At 5.30pm, the ceremony ended and three blasts of a whistle symbolised the signal that, at that time – 100 years earlier, had sent 2,244, men to their death in four days of fierce fighting.

[more images on back cover]

CORPORAL JAMES 'JIM' COLLINS

(NX 65538 – 8th Division)

PRISONER OF WAR AND ARTIST



As mentioned earlier by Bruce Watt, we were fortunate to be given a piece of artwork painted by Jim Collins in 1940 and donated by his son Wayne – see opposite. Jim and his wartime artwork will feature in the Museum when we uncover his full story. If you have any information about Jim, please contact the Editor. For now here is a brief profile:

Born in 1916, he was 24 when he joined up and found himself in Malaya at the time that the Japanese invaded.

Like so many others, he ended up in a Japanese prison camp and later worked on the infamous 'Death Railway' to Burma.

While incarcerated, he created some wonderful images of his fellow prisoners and many are now in the Australian War Memorial archives.

He survived captivity and was discharged in 1946 and then moved to the Shire in 1950. Before his death in 1993, he had lived at Caringbah and Lilli Pilli. His ashes are resting in Woronora Cemetery.

