

NUMBER: 197 — NOVEMBER 2015



MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.shirehistory.org.

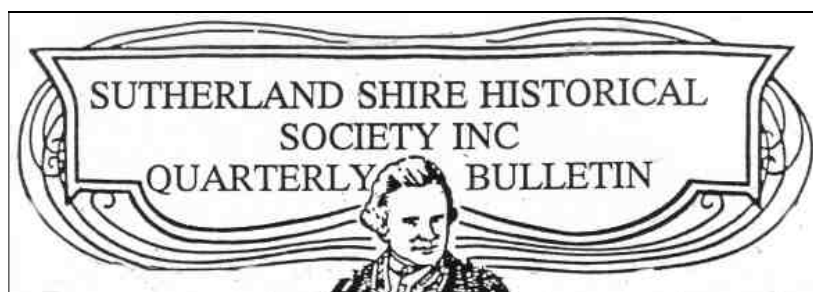


J.I.C. Cosh.

Above: Gunnamatta Bay, c 1912

Below: Untitled – probably the mouth of the Hacking and Jibbon Point, c 1912





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- Front cover:** Impression of Sutherland School of Arts area, 1988. [painter: Steve Shearer *]
- Front cover inside:** Scenes of Cronulla area – owned by our Museum.[painted by J.I.C. Cosh] #
- Back cover inside:** Society activities – detail within this *Bulletin*
- Back cover:** Above: the first church in Menai, c 1907
Below: painting of the same church – artist and date unknown⁺

(*) If anyone has knowledge of Steve Shearer, please contact Clive Baker

(+) Information on the church painting welcomed.

(#) Artist is uncertain but probably John Cosh (1873-1946) investigations on-going.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back 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.

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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, 25 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, 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 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

THANKS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

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

SOCIETY COMMITTEE: 2015-2016 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
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HONORARY TREASURER	Anna Estephan	9525-6441	annaestephan@gmail.com
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MUSEUM ARCHIVIST	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
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EXCURSION BOOKING CLERK	Lynne Sams	0429-000-848	sam.lewis4U@gmail.com
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS	George Miller Gloria Hans	9521-3454 9589-0251	Ann O'Connor 9531-1645 Helen Rosner 8539-7707
BOOK REVIEW EDITORS	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	Elizabeth Craig 9528-4707
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari	AUDITOR	

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Angela Thomas	9528-6251	a.badger@optusnet.com.au
WEBSITE MANAGER	Andrew Platfoot	0404-038-090	andrew_platfoot@yahoo.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
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	Glen Stelzer	0416-461-384	
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	To be appointed		
HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Bruce Watt	Pauline Curby	Elizabeth Craig Clive Baker

NEW MEMBERS:

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS DURING THE LAST QUARTER:

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

As we round out the year and contemplate the next there is much to reflect on and to anticipate. My thanks and gratitude must go to the many members, guests, friends, institutions and executive who have contributed so energetically throughout the year. 2015 has been a year of growth and consolidation. If I am the leader of this erstwhile group then I am a leader amongst equals. Executive members are encouraged to contribute to discussions, take the initiative and be entrepreneurial. As a result, many ideas have come to fruition.

Napoleon understood that 'an army marches on its stomach'. As a teacher I learnt that the real power brokers in schools were the secretaries and administrative staff. They always knew what was going on and how to get things done. Our catering committee are the quiet achievers who make our meetings a great social occasion around the well-stocked tables of goodies and refreshments. Our thanks go to Nola Watt, Mary Small, Anne O'Connor, Ann Steward, Mavis Sourry and Beryl Davies. Our thanks go to Gloria Han who maintains our meetings attendance book.

Membership has grown and some have assumed roles in the executive, providing succession for some of the longer term members. My thanks go to Angela Thomas who has stepped aside as secretary after many years and who has acted as 'wise counsel' and a steady hand. Angela is staying on as assistant secretary. Our congratulations go to Carol McDonald who has stepped up to the role. Lynnette Sams has taken over the role of Excursion Booking Clerk. David Jordan is doing a great job as our excursions bus driver. Noel Elliot needs to be congratulated for organising many walking excursions. Pat Hannan, along with Carol McDonald has been busy scanning and archiving materials for a day a week in the museum. This is an enormous job and will prove so valuable in the future. Our thanks go to Maurie Beaven who stepped down from the Executive at the AGM after his many years of service. Maurie continues to volunteer in the museum.

The museum opens each Saturday between 9am and 1pm with a successful roster system operating. Attendance varies and many residents remain unaware of the museum.

Marketing in general remains a priority. The collection continues to grow and much effort has been expended by our volunteer members in cataloguing the collection. The office area has been expanded with much useable storage for photographs, books etc. Some thought has gone into expanding the name to the Sutherland Shire Museum and Gallery as we display many photographs and have some local artwork on display. This may widen the focus of the collection and increase the public appeal.

Other museum volunteers are Noel Elliot, George Miller, Helen Rosner, Andrew Platfoot, Carol McDonald, Anna Estephan, Bruce Gill, Elizabeth Craig, Dorothy Dalyell, Clive Baker, John White, Ineke Nieuwland, Bruce Watt, Anne O'Connor, Joan Tangney, Ian Kolln, Angela Thomas and Pauline Curby. We hope to run a museum orientation program for our volunteers and new members in the new year.

Following the restoration of a spring cart from Illawong by the Menai Men's Shed, the museum has expanded into the northern garden area of the School of Arts with a growing display of rural artefacts. Bruce Gill has assisted substantially.

Since the establishment of the SMART fund – the Sutherland Museum Acquisition and Restoration Trust fund – financial donations and several fund raising activities have begun to swell the fund.

We receive donations of materials and artefacts for the museum but sometimes an object may have some intrinsic value or it may not reach the museum through normal channels. We haven't come across that 'must have' item but the fund enables us to direct specific funds. I must thank the many individuals who bring items to us at the museum. Don Rothnie has become a friend and member of the Society. He was the initiator of the spring cart donation and restoration and recently brought along some large sheets of fibro. This will be used in the garden area as a base for a large rural scene painting. Our newest member, Jan Etteridge, painter from Oyster Bay is investigating. Watch this space.

Plans are underway to extend visits to Primary School students to the museum in 2016 with an emphasis on practical activities suitable for that age group. We are being assisted by Glen Stelzer, a new member who recently retired as a Primary School Principal.

Not as successful was our schools' essay competition. Despite considerable promotion the response was poor. However, we will continue next year with a new approach.

The *Bulletin* maintains its high standard of presentation and original research. Thanks to Clive Baker for continuing in this important role. Thanks also to the many writers who make the copy interesting. It must be one of the best examples of a local history journal in NSW.

Recently the Society and the Local Studies Librarian signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a substantial collection currently stored in the Sutherland Library. The physical collection along with many thousands of negatives was given the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. Lack of suitable storage resulted in it being housed in the library. Recently it was noted that the negatives may be becoming unstable. Next year a joint program will be mounted to scan these negatives and store them in a refrigerator to prevent further deterioration. It is a priceless record of Shire life in this formative period and will be used by present and future researchers. They also hold a collection of the *Pictorial* newspaper that operated in the Shire in the 1950s to the 1970s.

A very pleasant garden party was hosted by our member, Nola Watt at her home in Kirrawee. Nola's garden looked superb and a relaxed and interesting day was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Andrew Platfoot, the keeper of our website. A New Year's resolution is to help Andrew with more content and assistance.

Our Christmas party is being held in the School of Arts building so members can enjoy the museum and a pleasant garden setting. We have to pay to make a secure booking of the building.

During the year, successful raffles have raised money towards the venue hire. Members have been generous and there have been many prize winners!

The society will host the opening of Heritage Week at the School of Arts in Sutherland on Friday 16th April 2016. Our thanks go to Helen Rosner who is coordinating Heritage Week activities. The theme for 2016 is 'Discovery and Rediscovery'. Next year we are shortening our opening days during Heritage Week to the Saturday and Sunday (17th and 18th) and the following Saturday as we felt that the volunteers were being asked to do a lot by opening all week. We acknowledge and thank the sponsorship of Olsen's Funerals for assistance in our annual photographic display during Heritage Week.

2016 will mark the Society's 50th anniversary and, during Heritage Week, we will also host a Golden Anniversary lunch at the Club on East. This will be on Wednesday April 20th from noon to 3 pm. This is very close to the date of the inaugural meeting of the Society in 1966. The cost will be \$50. To mark the event, one of our members, Elizabeth Craig, is writing a history of the first 50 years called *Caretakers of our Past*. We are planning to launch the book at the luncheon.

Other planned publications are 'suburb profiles' – about 10 suburbs are being planned in a brochure format. Another initiative will be 'The Sutherland Shire history series'. Much material has been published over the 50 years of the *Bulletin*, providing a rich source. Aboriginal heritage, transport and suburbs are areas that have already been collated. The book, *The Shire a journey through time*, launched in August 2014 is nearly sold out.

August 2016 also marks the 30th anniversary of the opening of the museum in the School of Arts and activities are planned for that.

Overall, the Society is as vibrant and active as it has been. The executive is proactive and members enjoy the speakers at the monthly meetings and the range of excursions. But we are not complacent. There is much to do, we've begun the ride and it's exciting.

WANTED

Older classic cars or motor bikes, preferably in good condition. Also car and garage memorabilia and signs.

Enquiries to Bruce 0405 493 187

EDITOR'S SAY

CLIVE BAKER

Thanks to the votes of the AGM members, I have again been allowed to maintain the high standard of the *Bulletin* from earlier years. Of course as Bruce wrote, it is the "...many writers who make the copy interesting".

Delving into past issues gives great clues to matters of interest and provides background material on people from our dim past. I have been able to feed information from the files to various people with special interests. If you need help, don't hesitate to contact me.

Many ideas also come from archives when articles of nearly 50 years are combed through and strange facts emerge.

Next year, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Society, I intend to bring out a fifth *Bulletin* for 2016 – a Bumper Edition that will highlight stories from the past.

Some of our writers will be asked to comment on the events described back then and how they turned out today. If you have a favourite *Bulletin* story from the past, get to work writing a 'what-happened -since' comment – we have the original text so no need to re-type it all. Just quote the issue that the original is in.

The *Bulletin* staff send their best wishes for Christmas and New Year and ask that you stay healthy – we need the patronage!

MUSEUM REPORT

CLIVE BAKER

First I must say how much I enjoyed being one of the many Museum volunteers over the past 12 months.

The coming year is the 30th anniversary of the Museum's opening so we will be celebrating with some special events – not to be confused with the Society's 50th year celebrations in April. More information in later *Bulletins*.

The listing, displaying and preserving of our many artefacts – particularly in the 'Farm Yard', has proceeded over the last year but the next 12 months will see that task moving to conclusion.

The matter of a replica colonial hut and an awning over the Farm Yard has to be revitalised as the Sutherland Shire Council was unable to act because of finances. Unfortunately, they did not allow a plan to be drawn up so that we can assess just what money is required and to perhaps gain grants to help pay for it. With school groups expected to use the Museum for educational purposes in 2016, it is essential that we have a cover to allow outdoor activities.

More WW1 anniversaries will be highlighted as the Diggers of 100 years ago, moved to France after the Gallipoli debacle. Shire soldiers were in France in 1916 and their experiences and destinies will be revealed in later editions.

Jacob Mark of Grays Point is studying at Sydney University and we are providing him with some meaningful work experience to help him fulfil his history course requirements. Hopefully he will be one of the Society's 'new breed' in future years.

Pat Hannan, Carol McDonald and I are starting to sort our mass of files into SUBURB and SUBJECT folders so that visitors can browse their local area etc. That resource is also there for all society members to use, so feel free to come up the Research Room and wade through the files. They have lots of hidden secrets and long-forgotten events. Saturday mornings 9-noon is a good time.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to have several new people who have joined the Society.
Please make them welcome:

Alan Powditch of Taren Point
Jan Etteridge of Oyster Bay
Don Rothnie of Illawong
Floriana Camper of Bonnet Bay

David Wesley of Woollooware
Bill Heather of Cootamundra

SOCIETY NEWS

ANOTHER SAD PASSING

We received the news that our long-time member, Mina Whybourne, has died. Dawn Emmerson::



Cliff and I went to have lunch with Mina today (24.10.15) ... when we got there, the police, ambulance, and her son and his wife were at her apartment.

Mina had passed away peacefully in her sleep during the night.

Mina has been a stalwart supporter of the SSHS and a true friend. Although we were on opposite sides of the political spectrum, I could not have asked for a more loyal and supportive friend.

She was a most efficient and capable secretary to me when I was Shire president ... she believed and observed her religion with complete faith and endured her long bout with cancer with stoicism and patience. Mina believed wholeheartedly in all working together for the common good, regardless of a person's personal philosophy.

Farewell dear friend. She was beloved by all, and we cherish her memory dearly. Her God has her in his keeping; we have her in our hearts. Fond regards.

SICK PARADE

As we reach the end of the year, some of our walking wounded are improving while others are being struck with problems:

Michael Adams, who was with us at Stanwell Park only a few weeks ago has been inflicted with a double stroke.

Colleen, his wife, advised that he had been treated for the first one and was improving when a second one occurred. He was still in intensive care at RPA when we went to press.

Jim Cutbush is walking much better with his new hip and his chemo effects are under control.

Noel Elliott was looking very spritely just two weeks after his replacement and one theory is that the crutches were only for the sympathy vote. He is now walking like a man in his 20s.

Pat Hannan had a nasty accident while playing tennis. She needed stitches in her head but I can report that there is nothing wrong with her brain. She has had to stop playing for a while as a neck problem has now arisen from the fall.

Anna Estaphan was losing a lot of sleep with a painful 'nerve pinched' shoulder or similar problem but she is on the mend.

		EVENT	SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: 2015
NOV	28	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
DEC	5	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	12	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	19	Meeting	None this month
	19	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	26	Museum	CLOSED
JAN	2	Museum	CLOSED
	9	Museum	CLOSED
	16	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	SPEAKER: Carol McDonald: A Photographic History of Como
	23	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	30	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
FEB	6	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	13	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	20	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	SPEAKER: Colin Burgess: Australians in Colditz Castle
	27	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm

CONGRATULATIONS TO LILY DEWBERRY

THE WINNER OF THE WRITING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
LILY ATTENDS LILLI PILLI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HAS DONE A GREAT JOB WITH THIS ENTRY.

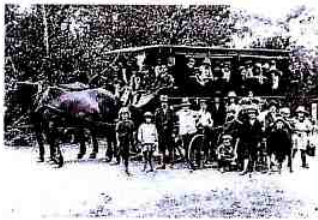
The Sutherland Shire Herald

Editor Lily DEWBERRY

GREAT news for Sutherland Shire Children.

The arrival of the new horse drawn bus will bring relief to the tired little feet of school children in the area.

The new school bus is drawn by two horses and can seat up to 40 students. Mr Clive Dale has kindly donated his time to drive the bus and to stable the horses. He only receives an allowance to feed the horses. Mr Dale said, "I love the horses and the kids look happy not having to walk to school." Mr Dale also runs the bus two times a day from Sutherland to Cronulla for mums and Dads who need to travel through the shire.



Before the bus started most school children had to walk to school. Some children were walking more than 5km each way with bare feet. Over the years this has resulted in numerous injuries to little feet and has been a disruption to their learning.

The local school teacher Mr Ed. U. Kate said, "The number of children at school has increased with the new bus service. The excuses for not being at school have stopped. The bus picks the children up near their home and makes sure they get to school safely."

The only person who doesn't think the new bus is a good idea is the shoe shop. Mrs. Lace said, "It would be better to spend the money on shoes for the kids. They are still running around without shoes. It's a disgrace for kids to be in school without shoes. What sort of education is that?"

It looks like the new bus service is here to stay, and the large horse

drawn carriage is the way of the future for transport in the Sutherland shire.

A letter from a local mum and dad sums it up the thoughts of most parents. I am writing in about the local bus that my son and daughter catch everyday for school. I understand that the bus is getting there early enough for the kids to get ready for school and that the service is very kind and looks after the kids in there responsibilities until at school. I also understand that the horses are very nice and protect the children. Many kid used to ride their bike to school which is about 1km or 2km so on behalf of the town I am very grateful for this thank you. Mr & Mrs Robinson.

Arnott's Living Pictures.
ENTERED TRADE MARK FOR THE ARNOTT'S MILK
BOYS OF THE ARNOTT BRIGADE

ARNOTT'S FAMOUS MILK ARROWROOT BISCUITS
FOR GROWING CHILDREN.

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**THIRD AUSTRALIAN
HOSPITAL.**

DR. A. M. CUDMORE.

Dr. A. M. Cudmore will leave South Australia tomorrow with the other members of the staff of the Third Australian Hospital. The other South Australian doctors who are on the staff are Drs. Russell, W. T. Hayward, and De Crespiigny. This hospital will have 32 medical men, and 1,500 beds. A recent cablegram suggested that the third hospital would go to Europe to supplement the Australian voluntary hospital, and make it up to 1,500 beds.

'Miss' BRASSO
On Her Metal!
With the help of Miss Brasso, tarnish disappears, and metal shines as brightly as the sun.
Made in England.

"SILVO" for Silverware

GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.
Head Quarters, Government House, Sydney, New South Wales, 26th July, 1914.

THE Male Convict Transport Ship, *Sentry*, which arrived in this Harbour from England on the 25th instant, having brought a malignant fever of a very infectious nature, of which the Master, first Mate, and forty other men have died during the voyage, previous to the arrival of the ship in this Port, His Excellency the Governor has deemed it expedient to use every possible precaution to prevent the danger of the contagion extending from her to the population of the Colony; and with this view he has given Orders to institute the most rigid Quarantine Regulations in respect to the ship herself, and all persons on board of her, until such time as the fever has entirely subsided, and the people now on board are recovered.

It is therefore His Excellency's most positive Orders, that no Person whatsoever (for Medical Quarantine Officers and their Attendants excepted), shall have any intercourse or communication of any kind with the said ship, or the persons now on board of her, until such time as she is released from Quarantine, which will be announced in Public Orders; and the Governor further directs and commands, that no Person shall visit, or have any intercourse whatsoever with the Military Detachment, Sailors, and Coxswain, who are about to be landed from the said ship on the North Shore of Port Jackson; where they are to remain encamped under strict Quarantine Regulations till further Orders. There will be a Guard on board the ship *Sentry*, and also on the North Shore, to enforce these Orders; and any Person detected in disobeying to act in disobedience of them will be punished, and shall severely punished.

By Command of His Excellency
The Governor,
J. T. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

COMO IN THE PAST VIA JOHN CAMPBELL

SAD FATALITY

*An elderly man named David McCarthy was killed while trying to cross the iron bridge at Como on Thursday night. The night was dark and the deceased stepping off the wrong portion of the stone abutment; fell, it is supposed, against the railing of the traveller [?] and from thence onto the rocks below. The dog of the deceased guarded the body and refusing to leave it and was conveyed with the body upon a trolley to Hurstville.*¹

DUPLICATING COMO BRIDGE

Although the railway bridge had only been operating for 22 years there was a strong movement in the Shire to have the bridge duplicated as this 1907 article revealed:

*Mr Varney Parkes M.L.A. introduced a deputation to the Minister for Works, who asked that the railway bridge at Como should be duplicated, and that at the same time some provision should be made for vehicular transport across the river.*²

Those living in the Shire will know that this subject was an ongoing saga but the new railway bridge took another 70 years until it opened in 1972. There were many suggestions for the use of the old bridge including a one-way vehicular bridge which would be reversed at peak times. In 2015 there is still no vehicular crossing at Como. The benefit of the old bridge for those living in Como, Jannali or Sutherland was that it acted as an early warning. You could go to sleep on the train and the terrific noise from the bridge would wake you before your stop. I travelled the route for 14 years in the 1950-60s and it never failed to wake me.

TELEPHONE FOR COMO: 1908

*The thousands who, in the course of a year, use Como Station for the means of access to the many picnic grounds of the Woronora and George's rivers are to have the convenience of telephonic communication from that station. The charge for each three minutes conversation within the metropolitan network area has been fixed at two pence.*³

TWO-UP AT COMO: 1909

On January 17, police set up an ambush a quarter of a mile from Como Station. They were about to raid an illegal two-up ring set up in the

scrub, where there were about 50 participants. Constable Prior and other 'witnesses' rushed the two-up school at about 3.30pm. The participants scooped up their money and scattered in all directions ... William Errickson of Newtown, who had been seen in the ring, was caught after a half mile chase the other 49 or so apparently escaped.

*Errickson gave Constable Prior a false name and address and consequently it had been very difficult to serve the summons. Police persistence paid off and Errickson appeared in Newtown Court on 5th March. He pleaded not guilty and gave evidence that he was not participating in the game and had not given a false name. The Magistrate Mr Payten S.M. found him guilty and despite pleas to be let off on the First Offenders Act was sentenced to 14 days in jail with hard labour.*⁴

A 'DUKE' STEALS A BOAT AT COMO FIGHT AT DARK HOLE

In the Kogarah Court [1921] William Gibb was charged with stealing a boat at Como belonging to Wilfred Swifts Birks. Mr Birks testified that on the evening of September 20 he had rowed from his home at Green Point and securely tied up his boat at Murphy Boatshed. Mr Birks caught a train to the City to attend his lodge meeting. When returning at 12.30am he found his boat was missing.

Three days later he spotted his boat at the 'Dark Hole'. In a joking way he offered Gibb who was in possession of the boat ten pounds for the boat. Gibb offered to sell it for 25 pounds. Birks boarded his boat and was attacked by Gibb with a harpoon. Birks jumped out of the boat and a fight ensued for about 3-4 hours before the police arrived ... Gibb explained to the magistrate "that his real name was William de Burgh Tregear."

*Mr Gale S.M. exclaimed "Good gracious; you ought to be a duke, or at least a count." Birks claimed he found the boat drifting in mid stream and was claiming salvage rights. The magistrate found him guilty of theft and fined him 15 pounds in lieu of two months jail.*⁵

SOURCES:

1 Aust. Town & Country Journal. 12.6.1885,

2 SMH, 13.12.1907.

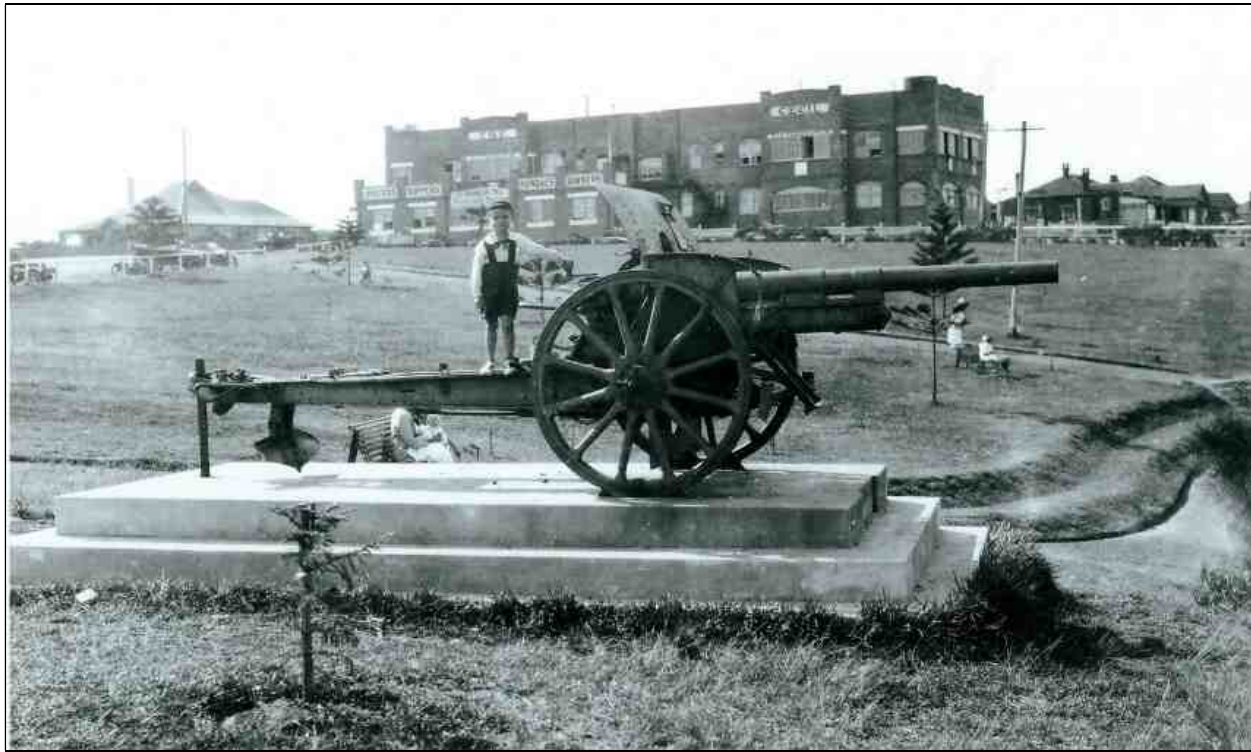
3 SMH, 10.4.1908

4 SMH, 6.3.1909

5 Recorder (Port Pirie, SA) 5.10.1921

THE LOST GUN

CHERYL SPENCER AND CLIVE BAKER



*Edwin 'Ted' Rayment, standing on the WW1 'trophy' gun given to the Shire.
Photographed by William Rayment, his wife Lena behind the gun, holding Ted's sister, Joyce, 1922*

In one of those curators' eureka moments, our Society member, Cheryl Spencer, produced this wonderfully clear photograph. The boy on the gun is her father and her grandmother and aunt are on the seat behind the gun.

This gun featured in an earlier *Bulletin*, when we asked where it had been dumped following a SSC decision to not restore it. We are still looking.

[NOTE: the gun was an 80-mm piece captured from the 317th Austrian Siege Battery – Billett. *War Trophies*. Kangaroo Press. 1999. p 78]

LOOK MORE CLOSELY

CLIVE BAKER



This sharp photograph is a classic example of what might be seen in the background



WAR REPORT: NOVEMBER 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 Turk forces. To date, the news is all bad!

In August, there were major attacks by the Anzacs, British and French along the heights and down at the tip of peninsula. All to no avail, as little progress has been made and with autumn approaching and then winter, there will be great hardship.

The British landing at Suvla Bay, intended to break the deadlock, has bogged down and consequently, the many lives lost in a diversionary attack at Chunuk Bair, were for nothing.

The mood of those commanding the ill-fated venture is now pessimistic and, with events elsewhere growing in importance, there are no longer enough new soldiers to adequately replace the many sick and weary men at Gallipoli. It is believed the those in charge have already considered pulling out completely.

GALLIPOLI

*Where did great Australian might,
Ever striving for the right,
Crush the Hun and Turk in fight.
Gallipoli, Gallipoli.*

*When in midst of smoke and flame,
On the battlefield of fame,
Did Australia make her name.
Gallipoli, Gallipoli.*

*Where did men from Moslem's Land,
Fear our brave Australian band,
Make their unavailing stand.
Gallipoli, Gallipoli.*

*In the crash of shell and ball
To the sound of bugle's call,
Where did General Bridges fall?
Gallipoli, Gallipoli.*

*What did England read with pride,
In the tale of those who died,
And the foeman's yoke defied ?
Gallipoli, Gallipoli.*

J. Lawson

SHIRE CASUALTIES:

We have received news that more Shire-based recruits have become casualties:

Irish born, Corporal William YOUNG, lately of Cronulla, has been in the thick of the Gallipoli action while serving with the 7th Light Horse Regiment. Bill is aged 43 but has wide military experience from his time in British units and active service in the Boer War.

He has received minor wound in two actions, including the massive attack at Lone Pine. His first wound occurred on 15 August and hardly had that healed when he was hit again on the 29th. He remained in camp so we can assume he is not seriously hurt.

MISSING PRESUMED DEAD:

No news has been received about Archie Kennett, Bill Cliffe and John Popplewell, who were reported 'missing in action' in an earlier *Bulletin*. Family and friends are expecting the worst unless these men have been captured.

UPDATES:

Herbert Irons has been returned to Australia as the wound to his foot has now made him incapable of further military service. Gordon Dall of Caringbah is still in hospital with a gunshot in his back – he should live.

RECRUITING MARCH

Our correspondent in the Illawarra reports that men in Nowra are soon to set out to march to Sydney and join the army.

They are to leave Nowra on 30 November and as they make their way up the coast, they hope other young men will join them.

They call themselves the 'Waratahs' and are expected in Sutherland on 15 November where Councillor Hyndman, Council members and Sutherland residents are expected to give them a civic reception and accommodation for the night.

SOURCES:

Handley & Hewitt. *Service & Sacrifice*. Self published. 2015
SSHS *Bulletin*: November 1989.

National Archives – service records.

Poem: *Great Southern Star* (Leongatha, Vic) 12.11.1915

HILL CLIMBS IN NATIONAL PARK

JOHN CAMPBELL

With an avid interest in motor sports I was impressed with Fred Midgley's article in the SSHS *Bulletin* (November 1980) entitled "Motor Car Hill Climbing". I did a little more research as we are a little bereft of motor sport history in the Shire. These are some extra details and photos to add to Fred's excellent article.

Royal National Park has been used for many purposes – many of them wild and weird – but in the period of around 1907-1925 Artillery Hill was often used for car and motorcycle hill climb events.

Photos of the hill climbs seem to indicate that they used the present road but there is another unlikely road in the bush – see below.



It is possible that the road used for hill climbs is this old military road that is still in the bush just to the north of the present road.

The course was 1,320 yards long and involved six turns – some quite sharp with gradients up to one in six. The competition typically started at about 2pm and up to 4,000 spectators watched on.¹

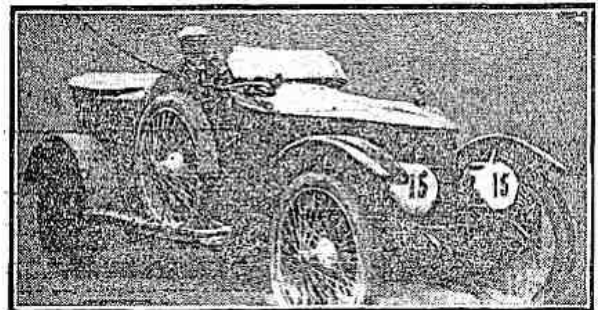
The cars drove off one at a time against the clock and were handicapped according to their weight and horsepower.

One rule allowed as many passengers as you wanted to put in the car. Of course that would further handicap the car due to the extra weight. That seems a bit dangerous as they were the days of no seatbelts and Armco fencing but there appears to be no record of carloads of competitors plunging off the cliffs. If you have walked this road you would see for yourself the potential danger.

Some brands of competing cars were, Minerva, Swift, Reo, Darracq, De Dion, Star, SCAT and, in 1907, the Lord Mayor of Sydney won one of the first hill climbs in his Talbert.

One of the most successful competitors was our own Shire President, C.J. Monro – after whom the park in Cronulla was named because of his public works.

Monro in his 1912 Prince Henry Vauxhall won and was placed in quite a number of hill climbs between 1913 and 1921. He even won the Brisbane hill climb in 1915 – one wonders if he drove it up there or shipped it by boat. In 1921 he did drive from Brisbane to Sydney in a Reliability Trial coming second with 32.94 mpg which is great fuel economy even today.²



CAR WITH A GREAT COMPETITION RECORD—MR. C. J. MONRO'S VAUXHALL.

When there was heavy rain the events had to be cancelled so, in 1924, the Royal Automobile Club gave the National Park Trust £50 to help improve the road.

One of the last hill climbs in 1925 was won by a Buggetti – which was more of a race/sports car. Recently a rare 1936 Buggetti sold for US\$30 million, setting a world record for a vintage car.

Perhaps because the National Park was becoming more popular and cars becoming more common, competitive hill climbs ceased about 1925. Because it was such an iconic course new models of cars would be driven by motoring experts up the hill and their times recorded and became selling features in advertisements. That occurred for some years and it was a real selling point if the new car could crest Artillery Hill in top gear.

The hill climb location was then moved to Waterfall. Not the steep hill coming up from the Royal National Park but a section of disused Old Princes Highway where it passes under the Freeway and finished at Garrawarra Hospital.



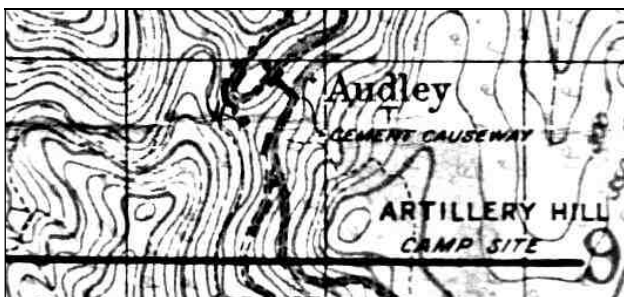
Above: cars waiting for the starter, 1911

It may have even been part of the Old Illawarra Road. That section of road would have been quite tame compared to Artillery Hill.

That section of road is still there but gated off by the Catchment Authority. In the 1980s we unofficially ran go-carts there, not realizing that it had been the site of intense competition many years before.

About 1937, the Artillery Hill road was being widened when workmen had an unpleasant surprise. They unearthed 92 plugs of gelignite from under the same section of road that motorists had been driving over for years. It was believed that it remained there for some years planted by previous work crews and forgotten.³

During WW2, land mines were laid by the Australian army along the road up Artillery Hill. That was in keeping with most roads that led from the coast that would be blown up at strategic points if there was a Japanese invasion. I hope the Army removed their explosives after the threat of invasion unlike the pre-1937 workmen.



AN EVENT IN 1911



Above: on the way uphill



Above: at the top

SOURCES:

1. *Referee*, 2.10.1907, p 6
2. *Sunday Times*, 25.9.1921, p 12
3. *SMH*, 16.4.1937. p 16.

THOMPSON BAY RESERVE

PAM FORBES & GREG JACKSON

With the coming of the railway to the Georges River at Como in 1885 and the half-day off for workers on Saturdays – came tourists.

By 1900 the Georges and Woronora Rivers echoed to the sounds of day-trippers on steam ferries, like the *Telephone*, private launches and rowboats. The tourists headed for the pleasure grounds that had multiplied on the river system with at least 12 grounds convenient to Como railway station vying for their custom.

Many of these grounds, like Parkesvale, Lugarno Pleasure Grounds and Como Pleasure Grounds offered picnic facilities, kiosks and dance halls. Breretons at East Hills offered a dance hall and a private zoo (Goodall, Cadzow. 2010. p 27) but some offered simple pleasures, grassy river flats for a picnic, a place to play cricket with the family and a place to fish.



Como Pleasure reserve c1890 with extant shop on the rise above Murphy's Boatshed (not visible).

Scylla Bay (right) is now playing fields and the boatshed and dance hall (left) which no longer exist belonged to Mr Press. Oatley is in the background.
(Sutherland Shire Library Collection)

The life of most riverside pleasure grounds was short with later generations discovering the motor car and beaches but some pleasure grounds like Como and Oatley Park are still functioning but a shadow of their former selves.

One low-key pleasure ground was at Thompson Bay on the Woronora River in the modern suburb of Illawong. It offered little infrastructure aside from a wharf and a grassed area with fire places for picnickers but its proximity to Como made it popular up to WW1.

Thompson Bay Reserve was first dedicated in 1884 and was originally known as 'Como Park' and sometimes as 'Mallby's Flat'.



Thompson Bay Reserve, circled, on part of Parish of Holsworthy map, 1899.
(NSW Lands and Property Information, 2012)

On the above map is written, 'Reserved for Public Recreation' and the star symbols in Thompson Bay denote a wharf or jetty. Readers with good eyesight will also note that on this map a wharf (now gone) was also located on the Georges River frontage of Thompson Bay Reserve, near 'Ovens Reach' and an extant stone wharf on Bottle and Glass Head.

Thompson Bay Reserve was an informal pleasure ground with the large stone wharf (now in ruins) and a grassed area used for informal cricket games.

As well as being used by pleasure craft this wharf was used for the delivery of large items by boat to this area which was otherwise not accessible by road traffic until the 1920s. Goods and building materials came by train to Como, boat to Thompson Bay then horse and dray to one of the large weekenders on 'Nobs Hill' as the posh isolated area north of Thompsons Bay was then known.

There is no evidence of buildings in the reserve but good quality stone walls and steps are evident as well as the remains of a track heading north up to Fowler Road.

Considerable rock has been removed from the area behind the wharf by drilling and blasting to create a turning area for the horse and dray and provide stone for the wharf, stairs and dam.



Above: Remains of the stone wharf on the western side of Thompson Bay Reserve, Como rail bridge is in the background.

*Below: A stone-lined well for watering horses.
(Both Pam Forbes)*



On a small creek in the reserve is this unusual drinking well for horses. It is well lined with dimensioned stone and is designed for watering horses with a sloping ramp so they can easily walk in to drink. A little further up the creek is another circular cistern for providing potable water for the picnickers. All the stonework in this reserve was completed by 1909.

Thompson Bay is now choked with mangroves but in the 19th century would have had a clear shoreline. Mangrove numbers in Sydney Rivers increased enormously in the late 20th century with the high nutrient levels from modern gardens. During the 19th century the trees were aggressively harvested and burnt to make alkali ash for soap manufacture.

The grassy river flat, once used for family cricket games is now a salt marsh due to a significant rise in sea levels in the last 120 years [Australian Government Department of the Environment]. Considerable amounts of old and broken glass bottles and some crockery litter the water's edge around the bay, remnants of the many picnics that have occurred there. The rock faces on both the east and west side of the bay contain inscriptions (graffiti) from the late 19th century through to WW1. They show names of people long gone and time has rendered many of them illegible.



Above: This inscription is one of many and shows the name 'Murphy' just visible.

*Below: This is the same image after a PTM application with spectacular results – the name 'Mal' (Malcom) has become visible.
(Photo P. Forbes)*



A new photographic technique called 'Polynomial Texture Mapping' (PTM) enables compromised images such as this to be enhanced. See the end of this article for an explanation and links to information about it.

History is silent on the identity of 'Mal Murphy' but the nearby Como boatshed was owned from 1883 by a 'James Murphy' so one of his relatives would be a possibility. It is also possible that given Australians penchant for using alliteration when choosing nicknames that 'Mal Murphy' is an alias for 'James Murphy'.

In the future, other inscriptions around Thompson Bay will be studied using this technique. One is on a large vertical rock face on the eastern side of Thompson Bay where an advertisement 'WEAR BOSS BOOTS' was drawn in tar by the owner of Gardener's Shoe Store in Sutherland. He was promoting his wares to the many picnickers, fishermen and boaters who passed by. The rock around the tar has eroded away and the words now stand in high relief. The letters are about 400-mm high and the last vestiges of tar have now disappeared. The word 'WEAR' has fared best as it is protected by the overhanging rock ledge.



*The 'WEAR BOSS BOOTS' inscription is still visible but no longer fully legible.
(Photo L. Hedges)*

Thompson Bay Reserve had a moment of fame on 20 February 1920 when probationary police constable, Leslie Worrall, murdered his wife with his police revolver and hid her body in the reserve. He was convicted, sentenced to be hanged but that was changed to life in prison.

Thompson Bay reserve is a remnant of one of the many pleasure reserves that once existed on the Georges and Woronora Rivers. It survives today only because of its dedication in 1884 as a public reserve. The archaeology there tells the story of the many picnics and family outings from the late 19th and early 20th century that it once witnessed.



Above: Thompson's Bay in 1955

Below: the reserve on a 1930 map



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Goodall, H, Cadzow, A. 2010. *The People's National Park: Working-class Environmental Campaigns on Sydney's Georges River, 1950-67*. Labour History, No. 99, Nov 2010: 17-35.

<http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=548891048938076;res=IELHSS>. accessed 13 May 15.

NSW Lands and Property Information, 2012. Holsworthy Parish maps. <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm> accessed 14 April 2015

Sutherland Shire Library photographs. www.photosau.com.au/sutherlandhist/scripts/home.asp accessed 15 April 2015

WHAT IS A PTM IMAGE?

FORBES AND JACKSON

Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM) images, also known as Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) are produced with a digital camera by photographing an object multiple times from the same location with lighting direction varying between images.

To produce Image A below, 25 photographs were taken and combined with free software into an interactive PTM image that allows the position of the apparent light source to be varied to any angle with a free PTM viewer.

The viewer can also apply various rendering to improve the image and it can be 'zoomed'. Typical applications are in archaeology where it is used to study worn stone inscriptions, coins and lithics. PTM images can also be used to study artworks and even botanical specimens.



*The authors creating a PTM at Thompson Bay Reserve.
(Photo L. Hedges)*



Image A



Image B

A PTM photo is interactive so cannot be displayed as a static image. Image A is a snapshot from a PTM of a survey mark from an 1843 survey by Sir Thomas Mitchell. For comparison Image B is an ordinary photograph of the same survey mark with the same camera. This triangle is located beside the Georges River in Delardes Reserve Illawong. While not true 3D imaging PTMs are often called '2^{1/2} D'.

The authors have used this technique extensively at the Sydney Quarantine Station, North Head for a Sydney University project recording the many European rock inscriptions.

For more information about the Quarantine Station project and the PTMs created there see:

<http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/quarantine/stories/innovations.shtml>

An article on creating a PTM image is available from Greg Jackson at:

<http://sydney.academia.edu.au/GregJackson>



1947

1947

HOW COOK'S LANDING AT KURNELL ENDED UP AT MERTON STREET, SUTHERLAND

LAURIE BURGESS

One of my enjoyable tasks is to try to find information to update Sutherland Shire Council's listing of the origins of street names in the Shire. Whilst engaged on some other research, I came across something that pointed to a likely origin of 'Merton' and it involved not only Midshipman Isaac Smith, reputed to be the first of Cook's party to step ashore at Kurnell in 1770, but also Mrs Elizabeth Cook (wife of Captain James Cook).

I must admit that these two personalities were a gap in my knowledge of the history of the Shire, so I collected some data off the Internet to follow the trail to Merton. Rather than try to rearrange the information, I found it more profitable to just transcribe the articles and add a few explanatory notes and pictures.

The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) of 9 February 1948 reported:

MEMORIAL TABLET AT KURNELL

A memorial tablet to Midshipman Isaac Smith, who is believed to have been the first member of Captain Cook's party to land at Kurnell in 1770, was unveiled on Saturday.



Midshipman Isaac Smith, c1770 as a crew member on Endeavour. (Painted by Richard Cosway 1740-1821)

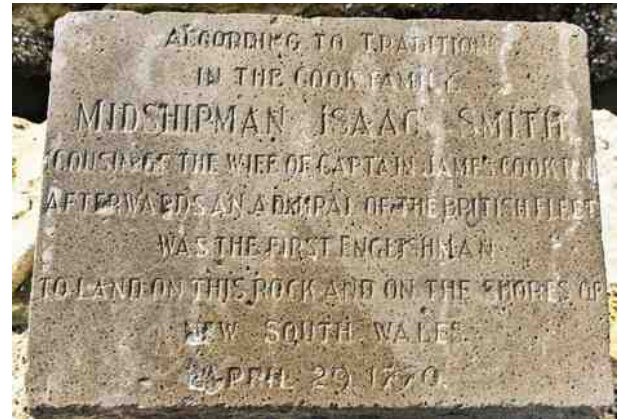
The tablet is on a rock on which the party landed.

Members of the Captain Cook's Landing Place Trust and of the Royal Australian Historical Society waited for low tide so they could reach the rock.

The tablet was unveiled by the retiring president of the trust, K.R. Cramp.



The memorial tablet to Isaac Smith at Kurnell.



The tablet reads:

*According to tradition in the Cook family, Midshipman Isaac Smith, cousin of the wife of James Cook RN, afterwards an admiral of the British Fleet, was the first Englishman to land on this rock and the shores of New South Wales. April 29, 1770.*¹

MIDSHIPMAN ISAAC SMITH'S SNUFF BOX

An Australian living in South Africa, had come across Smith's snuff box, had purchased this box, and forwarded it to the Governor General for presentation to the Kurnell Trust on an appropriate occasion ... around the circumference of this snuff box was an engraved message, "Midshipman Isaac Smith, to whom Cook said 'You go first'."

This alluded to the story, that when the ship's boat ran up on the beach at Botany Bay, with Isaac Smith in her bows, Captain James Cook told him to jump ashore first. Thus a humble midshipman, was in fact, the first white man to set foot upon this new continent in the southern hemisphere.

Our Midshipman of 1770, went on to become an admiral in the Royal Navy, and it is reported that both Elizabeth Cook and Admiral Isaac Smith were fond of telling their young friends how Cook on the point of stepping ashore said "Isaac, you shall land first."

There seems little reason to doubt this tradition they installed.

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO THE STORY

In a book written with Christopher Stewart, John Laws wrote:

...There are plenty of theories as to why James Cook allowed a 16-year-old seaman to precede him ashore at Botany Bay. It is possible that it was so that Smith could hold the boat steady for Cook to make a dignified and dry-stocking landing. Or it might have been in case the Aborigines again attacked with spears. Or perhaps it was because Captain Cook was so impressed with young Smith's drafting skills that he saw a lot of himself in the boy; after all James Cook had built a career on his success in surveying and mapmaking.

But the most likely reason Isaac Smith was first ashore was quite simply that Cook's wife, Elizabeth, had asked her husband to allow Isaac some special honour during their long cruise because he was her favourite cousin. In fact, Isaac was only on the Endeavour at Mrs Cook's request.

Laws also points out that when the then Admiral Isaac Smith died in 1831, it was at the gatehouse to Merton Abbey, a house he had inherited; and for 20 years — after he retired from the navy — Isaac Smith lived with his cousin, Elizabeth, who had been widowed when James Cook was killed in the Hawaiian Islands in 1779.²

SMITH'S MOURNING RING

A description accompanying an auction item belonging to Isaac seems to clarify the relationship:

Admiral Isaac Smith ... lived with his first cousin, once removed, Elizabeth Cook, at Clapham from about 1795 until 1827 when he inherited Merton Abbey Estate and they lived together there until his death in 1831.

At this point Elizabeth Cook went back to her home in Clapham. It is clear from Isaac Smith's will that his possessions remained at Clapham whilst they lived at Merton. According to his will dated December 28th 1827 "...to my dearest cousin Mrs Elizabeth Cook of Clapham in Surry (sic) 200 guineas for a Ring & Mourning & all or any part of my Effects in Plate, Books or Furniture at her house in Clapham she may chuse (sic) to accept as a mark of my great respect and regard for her knowing that she does not wish a larger legacy.

So there it is — a definite link between Isaac Smith, Elizabeth Cook and 'Merton'. The missing factor is whether this Merton was the location that James Murphy had in mind in 1882, when nominating the names for streets in subdivisions of the Holt-Sutherland Estate.

There are several of the street names at the time in the Estate which seemingly are derived from locations in the United Kingdom. The former village of Merton, with its Gatehouse at Merton Abbey (also included an estate of Admiral Horatio Nelson – Merton Place – where the admiral lived in retirement), would indicate that it is the location from which Merton Street gained its name.

ISAAC SMITH

The following is derived from Wikipedia⁴:

Smith was born in London in 1753, the eldest of seven children of Charles and Hannah Smith and cousin to James Cook's wife Elizabeth. He enlisted for naval service in 1767 at the age of thirteen, using his family connections to secure an immediate ranking of able seaman and a position aboard HMS Grenville under Cook's command, for a survey voyage off the west coast of Newfoundland.

On 27 May 1768, and still ranked able seaman, he transferred to his second vessel, Cook's Endeavour, at Deptford ahead of its expedition to the Pacific to observe the 1769 Transit of Venus ... On 28 April 1770 he became the first European to set foot on eastern Australian soil, Cook telling him "Jump out, Isaac" as the ship's boat touched the shore at Botany Bay.

A month later on 23 May 1770, Smith was promoted midshipman following James Magra's suspension on suspicion of having assaulted Cook's clerk ... Smith sailed again with Cook in 1772, as master's mate aboard the HMS Resolution ...[where]... He assisted first mate Joseph Gilbert in drawing Cook's maps and survey charts during the voyage,

In 1794 he contracted hepatitis, and his ill health gradually prevented him from performing his duties. In either 1804 or 1807 he applied for and received a promotion to the superannuated post of Rear Admiral and returned to England to retire.

In initial retirement Smith shared a house in Clapham with his cousin, Elizabeth Cook...

ELIZABETH COOK

Sutherland Shire is fortunate to have what was thought (in 1994) to be the only monument in the world to the wife of Captain James Cook, located in the E.G. Waterhouse Camellia Garden.



The memorial consists of a fountain and plaque and they were officially “switched-on” in February 1971.

It was added to in December 1994 with a plaque describing the life of Elizabeth Cook seen here aged 81.

THE ELIZABETH COOK MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

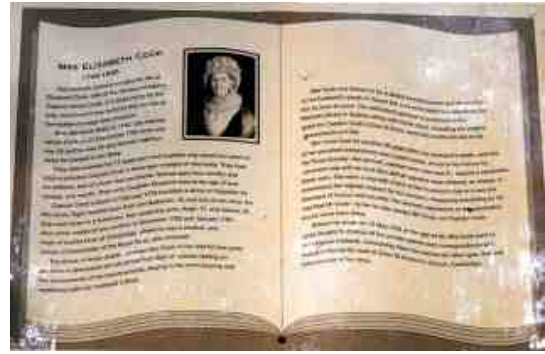


The 1971 fountain was donated by the Sutherland Shire Bi-centenary Women's Committee in memory of Cook's wife.⁵ The inscription reads:

*The Council of the Shire of Sutherland
ELIZABETH COOK MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
Switched On, February 27 1971 By Councillor (Mrs)
J.M. Manuel, Deputy Shire President, On Behalf Of
Shire Women's Organisations As A Tribute To The
Wife of Captain James Cook
A.G Hill, Shire Clerk, A.T Gietzelt, Shire President.*

ELIZABETH COOK MEMORIAL PLAQUE

In 1994, a book-shaped brass plaque was unveiled by Shirley Sinclair, the wife of the NSW Governor, Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair, in the E.G. Waterhouse National Camellia Garden on 13 December 1994.



The text reads in part:

MRS ELIZABETH COOK 1742 – 1835

This fountain commemorates the life of Elizabeth Cook, wife of the famous navigator, Captain James Cook. It is believed to be the only monument in the world to this woman of formidable courage and character ... Born Elizabeth Batts in 1742, she married James Cook on 21 December 1762 when she was 20 and he was 34 and already making a name for himself in the Navy ... They were married for 17 years but lived together only about four years in total in between Captain Cook's three epic voyages of discovery. They had six children, two of whom died as infants ... Her portrait, painted when she was 81, depicts a handsome, venerable lady with an oval face...

Before her death on 13 May 1835 at the age of 93, Mrs Cook went to great lengths to destroy all her private papers and correspondence with her beloved husband, considering them too sacred for other eyes. She was buried in the family vault at Great St Andrew's Church, Cambridge, between two of her sons.

In an article published in the *Canberra Times*, 14 December 1994, Shirley Sinclair, wife of the NSW Governor, supplied additional information:

THE CAPTAIN'S GOOD WIFE: MRS COOK

...it was suspected that their firstborn, a son, James, was murdered at the age of 31 ... After their wedding, Mrs Cook wanted only for her husband to be recognised as the greatest navigator the world has ever known ... Perhaps that was why she never travelled...

So there it is – a simple street name in Sutherland provides a link to several people – part of the fascinating history of the Shire.

SOURCES:

- 1 *Ahoy — Mac's Web Log* by Mackenzie J. Gregory (ahoy.tk-jk.net/macslog)
- 2 Laws and Stewart. *There's always more to the story*. Pan. Sydney 2004.
- 3 <http://www.dukes-auctions.com/Catalogues/pf290911/page13.html>
- 4 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Smith_\(Royal_Navy_officer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Smith_(Royal_Navy_officer))
- 5 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11.2.1971

BUS TRIP: AUGUST

LYNNE SAMS

This about our Sydney Botanical Gardens and our Scottish walk (29 August 2015):

Well it was what we booked for – but it appeared there was to be an added surprise by Noel Elliot – for we were also to visit the stately Lindesay House situated at Darling Harbour or 'Yarranabbe' as it was originally called by its first owners.

Our first stop was the grounds of McKell Park where the harbour and its history first began to be revealed to us. It is always great to see the harbour and this perfect day showed yet again a different aspect of the opera house and its hidden islands.

A short trek and we were at Lindesay house circa 1833-34, a Victorian Gothic Revival home built by Campbell Drummond Riddell. The home was built after access to the area was aided by a bridge over the rushcutters swamps.

The last owner was Walter Pye who's family had owned it from 1870 and gifted it to The National Trust Women's Committee.

We were treated to a brilliant guided walk through the house and grounds: beautiful architecture and amazing furniture.

Many hearts were stirred by objects remembered from long ago or passed down from grandparents.

The Botanical Gardens walk began at the Conservatory of music where the castellated government stable buildings once stood. Many original excavation sites and remnants are on display. We walked to where the Palace Garden Exhibition building once stood before it was razed by a huge fire in 1882.

Then came the upper walk to the conservatory where story boards give some of its history.

We trod Mrs Macquarie's original carriage road over the bridge to where the first farm was established at the cove (it supplied 26 acres of corn in its best days), down the avenue of tulip beds to the memorial of Joseph Gerrald who died in 1796 at age 35 (just one of the Scottish political prisoners to be transported) .

As well as being an informative source of our history the outings are also an invaluable way to get to know other members and build friendships.

Thank you Noel!

1840s NEW SOUTH WALES

LOUISA MEREDITH



1812–1895

This lady married her cousin, Charles, who was a Bathurst landowner and he brought her to Australia in 1839.

In her book she gives some amusing word pictures of the colony and its characters.

Her descriptions of wildlife will appear in later issues.

THE NATIVES

... (not the aborigines but the 'currency' as they are termed) ... are often very good-looking when young but precocity of growth and premature decay are unfortunate characteristics of the greater portion. The children are mostly pale and slight, though healthy, with very light hair and eyes – at least such is their general appearance, with of course many exceptions.

They grow up tall, the girls often very pretty and delicate-looking whilst young (although very

often disfigured by bad teeth) but I have seen women of 25 or 30, whose age I should have guessed to be fifty at least. They marry very young and the consequent 'olive branches' [*children?*] are extremely numerous.

The boys grow up long and often lanky, seldom showing the strong athletic build so common at home or, if they do, it is spoiled by round shoulders and a narrow chest...

THE DETESTABLE SNUFFLE

... what puzzles me exceedingly to account for, a very large proportion of both male and female natives SNUFFLE dreadfully, just the same nasal twang as many Americans have.

In some cases English parents have come out here with English-born children [*and*] these all speak clearly and well and continue to do so, whilst those born after the parents arrive in the colony have the detestable snuffle. This is an enigma which passes my sagacity to solve.

Meredith Mrs. *Notes and sketches of New South Wales*. Ure Smith. 1973. p 50.

INSPIRED BY 'BANJO'

VIA GREG KNIGHT

*I had written him a text
Which I'd sent, hoping the next
Time he came in mobile coverage
He'd have time to say hello.*

*But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,
So I emailed him from my smart phone,
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:
clancy@theoverflow*

*And the answer redirected
Wasn't quite what I'd expected
And it wasn't from the shearing mate
Who'd answered once before.*

*His ISP provider wrote it
And verbatim I will quote it:
'This account has been suspended:
You won't hear from him anymore.'*

*In my wild erratic fancy
Visions come to me of Clancy:
Out of reach of mobile coverage
Where the Western rivers flow.*

*Instead of tapping on the small screen,
He'd be camping by the tall green
River gums, a pleasure
That the town folk never know.*

*Well, the bush has friends to meet him
But the rest of us can't greet him:
Out there, even Telstra's network
Doesn't give you any bars.*

*He can't blog the vision splendid
Of the sunlit plains extended
Or tweet the wondrous glory
Of the everlasting stars.*

*I am sitting at the keyboard,
I'm too stressed out to be bored
As I answer all the emails
By the deadlines they contain.*

*While my screen fills with promotions
For 'Viagra' and strange potions
And announcements of the million-dollar
Prizes I can claim.*

*But the looming deadlines haunt me
And their harassing senders taunt me
That they need response this evening
For tomorrow is too late!*

*But their texts, too quickly ended,
Often can't be comprehended
For their writers have no time to think
They have no time to wait.*

*And I sometimes rather fancy
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:
Just set up an email bouncer
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'*

*While he faced an inbox jamming
Up with deadlines and with spamming
As he signed off every message:
clancy@theoverflow.*

PICK ANY NAME!

CLIVE BAKER



Jeenga Place is located off Amaroo Street, Sylvania.
This unusual name is an eastern states aboriginal word meaning 'sweet'.



Irrubel Road is in Caringbah near Woollooware golf links.
Another aboriginal word but from the language of the Hawkesbury river area and means 'opossum'

SOURCE: http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Council_The_Shire/About_the_Shire/Street_Suburb_Name_Origins

GOGGLEY'S TAME PORPOISE

JOHN CAMPBELL

After listening to the very interesting SSSH talk by George Cotis I decided to study more about the fascinating family at Gogerlys Point, Port Hacking. Note my sources all used the spelling: 'Goggley'.

In a series of articles in the *St George Call* published in 1907 entitled "A Reminiscence of the Sixties (1860s) a Trip to the Illawarra District in the Early days" there were quite a few references to Goggley. The author "One of the Old Sort" visited Goggley's cottage and was fascinated by the man and the legends. Here is some of his experiences:

Pat had got on the track of some horses and had followed them on to Port Hacking River — a point known as 'Pinch'. Here he had come across a Scotchman named Bell, who warned him to get back as soon as he could, and to be "vera careful" not to "licht any fires". Pat was somewhat tired and before returning took a slight rest on a sandy beach — and then the turning of the whiskers came about. Peacefully resting on the crystalline shore, his attention was suddenly aroused by an animate object afloat on the bright bay, some few hundred yards away. At first sight he thought it the spirit of his grandfather rising from very wave — for the object surely had a human bald head and whiskers; his thoughts then flew to Father Neptune — but it wanted very few minutes to convince him of the presence of a famous male member of the Port Hacking community — one Goggley — astride a porpoise (this he swore to be a fact).

His Scotch [sic] friend came back, seemingly a little surprised at what had frightened the very curl out of Pat's whiskers, and before Pat was about to turn back, invited him to a bit of damper — the last that the flour bag would yield. The cake was nicely cooking on the embers, when another stroke of misfortune struck Pat. A wild cow, supposed to be Goggley's, made straight for the fire, and, dipping down, hooked the damper from the ashes, on her horn. This exasperated Bell to such an extent that he loaded his gun and put two charges into the miscreant bovine, with the result that the cow went for many days after — even to her death — minus a horn. Seeing the plight Pat and Bell were in, Goggley offered a friendly hand, in the way of inviting the party over to his humpy for a bit of tucker, but as the romance of riding over the river attached to a porpoise seemed too much of a Jules Verne actor Bell, to say nothing of Pat, the last named was forced to journey back to the Gynea hut. 1.

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Another of Quondong's (a local Aborigine) fairy tales was about a school of tame fish, kept in a corner of a bay near the wharf named after the man himself — Goggley's wharf.

He told the story of this Goggley with a simple faith that he had a tame porpoise on which he used to ride about the bay and chase the fish up, into the corner. After being thus cornered the fish were netted in and fed from Goggley's own hands. The yarn wanted some swallowing, but Quondong would stand or fall on its truthfulness.

Billy Giles threw in his portion to the tale telling, and put a good one ... in which he figured as the hero. It seems that in those days Yowie Bay was well covered with a heap of fallen timber; Giles had gone down to the Bay after fish, and was accustomed to step from one log to another to reach a certain fishing point. His aboriginal wife was with him on this occasion, and noticing Billy moving along on what was apparently a log and he yelled out that he was drifting into the bay. What was Billy's surprise to find himself being carried out to sea on the back of a huge Wobbegong. I coughed slightly at this anecdote. 2

In the next edition:

The cottage was a four-roomed affair, built of slabs, and I fancy with a shingle roof; a stone chimney of goodly proportions, and the area enclosed with a rail fence, outside of which was a dense bush growth. Inside, the house gave one the impression that its owner was a man of cultivation and literary taste. A splendid library was encased in glass, and a unique collection of firearms were scattered about this room. We accepted the hospitality of our host for lunch, and then journeyed with him to see the tame fish. This was indeed a revelation — one big fish in particular — a blue groper, actually taking crabs out of the host's hand. We asked about Pat's porpoise, but were informed that he had gone out cruising, but would be surely back by nightfall.

Another curious incident was Goggley's control of wild birds ... here in abundance and to our surprise at a call from the host these birds would alight on his shoulders and take grubs and worms from his hands. It wanted the imagination of a Jules Verne to believe all this — but the proof was in the ocular demonstrations. When in doubt of any assertion Goggley invariably appealed to Biddy (Giles), and the same response was always at hand "My word, that's true Mr. Goggley."

Tame wallabies were also here, and under the same control. Many a sport had run a risk of being shot for attempting to snipe one of them. A peculiarity of the foreshores was a dividing wall, which kept the wild animals out.

I noticed a breach in this wall and on inquiring the reason, was informed that the Yahoo must have kicked it, (Pat thought it had been hit with a steam hammer).³

The articles and others, evoked letters from readers:

Harry Dent also showed me where Goggley kept his tame porpoise, which was in a large basin or lagoon near the property of the late Mr J.H. Want. We camped for the night at Goggley's Wharf, where one of the party landed an immense wobbegong — probably the one with which old Billy Giles had his sensational experience in Yowie Bay. I don't know whether old Goggley had any tame flying-foxes, but the night we camped there they were tame enough — or foolish enough — to allow themselves to be knocked down with short sticks.

Yours etc, Woolla-nora.⁴

In August of the same year another writer, 'Heathcote Red-Jack' suggested that Goggley's porpoise should form part of the proposed Sutherland Shire Coat of Arms. It appeared to be tongue-in-cheek as he also suggested that the Port Hacking Yahoo also be depicted on the shield. The Yahoo can be another fascinating article involving Goggerley.⁵

The reader can form their own opinion as to the veracity of Gogley's tame porpoise.

SOURCES:

- 1] *St George Call*, 13 April 1907, p 3
- 2] *St George Call*, 6 April 1907, p 3
- 3] *St George Call*, 20 April 1907, p 3
- 4] *St George Call*, 13 April 1907, p 3
- 5] *St George Call*, 10 August 1907, p 3

A SOLDIER'S HARD LIFE ON THE BATTLEFIELD (OF LOFTUS HEIGHTS)

VIA JOHN CAMBELL

Writing 1890, an unidentified officer described a hard day on the 'battlefield':

THE MORNING

"Are you awake, sir? Reveille has gone twenty minutes and here's your coffee."

"Oh! Eh! What! All right! I'll be up in a minute, just put the coffee on the camp-stool and pull up the door flap..."

...after making one or two ineffectual attempts to regain a comfortable position — these camp beds are the very deuce — I realise the wisdom of Wellington's remark that "when its time to turn, it's time to turn out".

Well, here we are on our feet at last and the work of the day is before us.

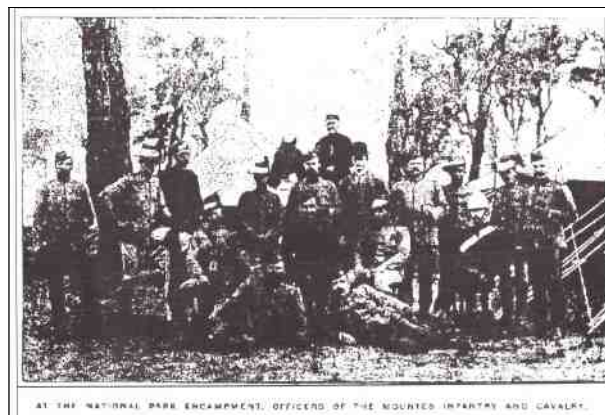
It's always a gay and animated scene when the different regiments are forming up and to-day is no exception to the rule. The bands are playing and the company officers are shouting themselves hoarse ... I wish we could get our fellows to part with their beards, which are inclined to be untidy and don't currently look tidy, but it's no use.

MEALS

The men's rations are simple but plentiful, consisting, for breakfast, of tea or coffee, chops or steak, bread and butter galore ... for dinner, soup, meat, vegetables and bread ... supper, much the same as breakfast.

Of course many of the men add luxuries of their own to this simple fare.

Breakfast is a famous meal in camp. After breakfast comes a pipe in some chum's tent and at 10 o'clock regiments are formed up



Troops on exercises in National Park, 1890

Dinner in camp is an institution and as such, should only be spoken of with considerable respect. Each regiment has its own dinner code of regulations more or less in harmony with and, in imitation of, the Imperial [British] service. No black bottles on the mess table, wine to be passed from left to right, indeed, one regiment has about seventy rules, most of which are very useful and tend to promote order and make things work smoothly. Dinner practically closes the serious business of the day in camp...

This is a far cry from my army reserve days with a run onto parade in the pre-dawn darkness for roll-call, sometimes a two-kilometre 'wake up' run and dehydrated meals out of a ration pack. Perhaps some things in the 'good-old-days' were much better! Ed

A STRANGE TALE OF THE WONNIE

DOREEN BOLTON

The late Doreen (Dixon) Bolton was born in the 1930s and grew up on the Woronora river.

In her book, *Woronora*, she tells of a man who was perhaps mad – or was he? Bill Bogart had been seen building a ‘humpy’ in the bush near The Crescent, Woronora and was often seen drunk and lying in the grass.

He was left to his own devices until.....

It was the first Sunday in April, around noon when Mrs Rasmussen burst into our kitchen, she was screaming hysterically, “Winnie! Fred! Quick! Look out your window. Old Bogart’s gone off his head! He’s wandering down the road stark naked!”

Everyone in our house raced to the front windows. “I ran all the way across the back to warn you!” gasped Mum’s friend. “Bogart tried to break into Vi Eason’s place But Vi

bolted the door when she saw him coming. Almost frightened the life out of her! She said he has taken out his false teeth and plastered his hair with black shoe polish. Says God told him to do it...”

Mum said to our father standing behind her, “Quick Fred. Go and ring the police!” Dad hesitated so Mum gave him a slight shove, “Go on Fred, he might be dangerous.”

“The poor silly coot.” Dad muttered, “I’ll get Bill Horsington to go over to Jordan’s and phone. I’d better follow Bogart and see that he behaves. You lot stay in the house!”

In a short time Bill Horsington called to Dad, “Fred, the cops said not to lay a finger on him. Just keep him in view until they arrive. They’ll get here as soon as they can, ‘bout thirty minutes.”

Dad nodded, “He swam over the other side of the river. See him? Near that gum tree.”

“Yep. That’s him. Oh no look at the crowd coming. Ruthy Ramsbottom must have broadcast it to the whole blinking neighbourhood.”

“That’d be right. The poor sod’s probably gone troppo. He’s just skin and bones.”

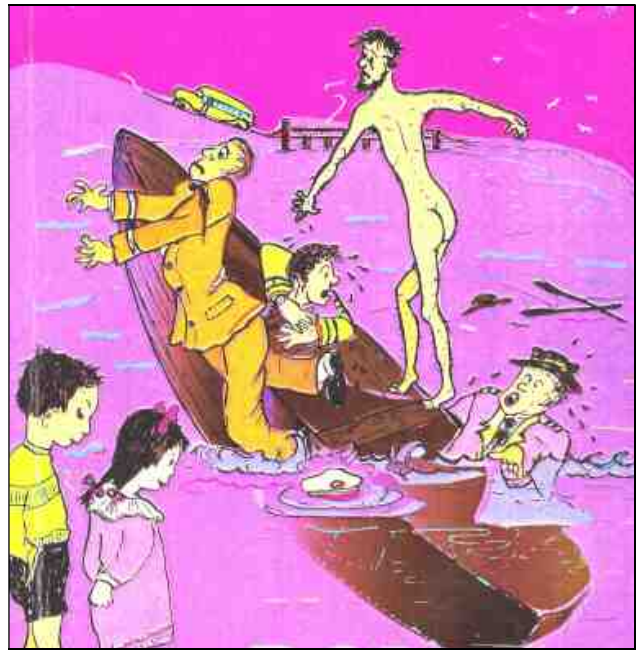
Everyone gathered along the riverbank. Finally someone called “Here comes the cops!”

As the police car came to a stop a voice whispered, “Geez they’re big blokes. Look at those stripes.”

“He’s over that side!” several onlookers informed.

The three uniformed policemen climbed into a nearby rowing boat, crossed the river, caught the fugitive, flung him into the boat and began to row back again.

As the rowboat reached the midway channel Bill Bogart stood up and made a dash to the side—from shore it looked like he might make a clean get-away, but the three burly policemen all pounced on him. The foursome hit the water



with a mighty splash—sending the boat windward, three peaked caps and four oars floated after it.

After what seemed a very long time, and with great difficulty, the waterlogged policemen floundered up the riverbank. Their heavy serge uniforms, normally dry-cleaned to perfection, were now shapeless and covered in mud from where the men had lain along the water’s edge, gasping for air and coughing, and spitting out salty water.

Bill Bogart was blue from cold, even though somebody had thrown a heavy army coat over his shoulders. Shivering pathetically he turned to my dad asking, “Yyyyoou-gottt-thee-makkkings-onn-yaaa-Fredddd?”

Dad pulled his tin of tobacco from his pocket, removed the lid and handed it to Bogart. “Sure, here help yourself,” he said. But after watching Bogart attempt to make a cigarette Dad took the tin back again and rolled a neat one.

With a smouldering cigarette firmly placed in Bogart’s bluish lips, Dad said kindly, “Don’t worry mate, you’ll be okay. They’ll take you where you’ll get a comfy bed, good tucker three times a day and clean clothes. You won’t have another care in the world.”

A smile twisted around Bogart’s cigarette and he tilted his head closer to Dad’s and whispered, “Don’t you think I know that? I’m not as crazy as you think.”

Astounded by Bill Bogart’s revelation Dad watched the four seat themselves in the car—three obviously uncomfortable coppers with water dripping continuously from their cuffs, hair and trousers and the fourth man winked slyly at Dad, drew deeply on the comforting cigarette and tugged the dry overcoat away from a puddle forming on the back seat next to him.

....

Woronora. Doreen Bolton.

Self-published. 2000. p 118-20

A copy is available for loan at our Museum Library, courtesy of Reg Bolton.

SHIRE SUBURB MARKERS



Contemporary design, acknowledging the Shire's Aboriginal heritage and conveying a sense of place have been the aims for the Sutherland Shire Council's three stage suburb signage project being implemented across the Shire.

A total of 35 suburb marker signs were installed in Stage 2, which focused on suburb boundaries along arterial and collector roadways, adding up to more than 50 signs having been installed so far as part of the project.

To recognise the Shire's Aboriginal heritage each of the signs includes the phrase 'Dharawal Country', a move that was supported by council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Where the Dharawal derivation of a suburb name is known it is also displayed on the signs.

Sutherland Shire Mayor, Kent Johns:

The suburb entry signage is one of many initiatives being implemented to improve the public place presentation throughout the Shire and create a consistent visual identity for suburb markers.

Including the Dharawal translation reinforces the Shire's strong links to its Aboriginal heritage. We know that suburbs like Woronora and Gymea have a Dharawal translation and it has been included on these signs.

Each suburb sign is located as close as possible to the suburb boundary ... the position of the signs takes into consideration sighting conflicts for residents, traffic and pedestrians ... providing the best exposure for the sign.

Stage 3 of the signage project will commence in August and will ensure that every suburb in the Shire will have a suburb sign displayed at a boundary or entrance. The final stage is expected to be completed in early 2016.

SOURCE: sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Council/News/New-Suburb-Signage-Acknowledges-Shires-Aboriginal-Heritage

MYSTERY ITEM



We have an umbrella in the Museum that was apparently owned by a Mrs Webb of Sutherland. The mystery is: how old is it, when was it donated, by whom and what does the inscription mean:

F. CANDY
from
SUTH. E.S.M. CLUB
For
Services Rendered

Any ideas about this club or Mrs Webb? If you can help, please contact Clive Baker

THE CABBAGE TREE HAT

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NATIONAL DRESS?

BRUCE WATT

What was life like in the early colony of New South Wales? In particular, what did people wear? The male population of pioneering settlers and ex-convicts had little concern for fashion. A great variety of coarse woollen garments, adaptations of those worn by English farm labourers were worn. One piece of attire, the cabbage tree hat became a distinctive feature of early Australian life and a symbol of the 'new chums' of early colony. Its manufacture became a cottage industry of some importance.

A cabbage tree hat (also known as a cabbage palm hat) is a kind of straw hat made from the leaves of the *Livistona australis*, also known as the Cabbage-tree Palm, or 'Dtharowal' by Aborigines. The tree grew around the Illawarra region of New South Wales.

It is known as the first distinctively Australian headwear in use. Seeking protection from the sun, early European settlers started to make hats using fibre from the native palm, which soon became popular throughout the colonies. The process involved boiling, then drying, and finally bleaching the leaves. The hat is woven and a natural straw-colour with a high tapering domed crown, wide flat brim with zig-zag border edges.



An example of the cabbage tree hat.

The cabbage tree hat remained the popular headwear throughout the 19th century.

For bush-living the costume evolved with a hat teamed with a serge shirt of red or blue, neck scarf, moleskin, duck or corduroy trousers and stout boots.

As is the case today, mobs, gangs or larrikins became a feature of urban life.



Goldminer wearing a cabbage tree hat, 1861.

Oil painting by J. Anderson

[Courtesy State Library NSW.]

The best known of these gangs was the Cabbage Tree Mob of Sydney, so called for their distinctive headwear. Operating in The Rocks and around Surry Hills, these 'pushes' were aggressive gangs of youths, noted for their tight clothes and pointed flashy boots.

The Burke and Wills expedition carried 30 cabbage tree hats amongst its supplies.

SIMEON LORD

Though hat making was a cottage industry with hats often made by shepherds during their down time, hat making became one of our earliest main industries. Simeon Lord (c. 28 January 1771 to 29 January 1840) was a pioneer merchant and magistrate in Australia. He became a prominent trader in Sydney, buying and selling ship's cargoes and he became one of Sydney's wealthiest men. He was at various times a retailer, auctioneer, sealer, pastoralist, timber merchant and manufacturer. He was also particularly involved in manufacturing on the northern side of Botany Bay and possibly in timber getting on the southern side..

Unable to import the goods he wanted in the early Macquarie period, Lord had launched an ambitious scheme of manufacturing. In 1826 he told Governor Darling that he had employed twenty convicts for 'upwards of twenty years' in tanning and currying leather and in manufacturing hats, cloth, blankets, soap and candles.

The hat-making had not begun until 1811 when Lord and Williams allied themselves with Reuben Uther, a Lord employee who had mastered the craft.

In 1813 the partners were seeking apprentices for weaving, spinning, pottery and dyeing. Next year Lord built a factory at Botany.

His emphasis was now on shoes, hats, harness but especially textiles. He was employing 60 convicts and milling and dressing cloth for the government.

In 1820 he showed Bigge samples of his textiles, hats, stockings and leather, which the commissioner estimated as a threat to British manufacturers. He also mentioned that he had produced shoes, candles and harness.

REQUEST TO READERS

BRUCE WATT

The museum committee is seeking artwork that depicts aspects of Shire life, past or present. Do you have suitable paintings, drawings etc, that could be donated?

A small collection of original watercolours and oils is currently featured but it hoped that in time, a gallery of artwork can be developed to add a further dimension to the exhibition.

If you can help, or know where items may be obtained, call at the Museum on Saturday mornings or contact the curator.

We recently retrieved material from Helen at the Library and in it were several paintings by J. Cosh. They were created at Cronulla in the early 1900s. More on this artist in the future – see inside front cover.

OUT AND ABOUT

CLIVE BAKER

Aside from the trip to the Illawarra and visiting the beautifully restored Hargrave home at Stanwell Park, members were also treated to another recent event when Nola Watt made her house and garden in Kirrawee, available for a function.

Not only does she have a very nice garden, full of greenery and flowers in various stages of opening but it is a very tranquil place to spend a few hours of relaxation.

Talks were given on the artistry of flower arranging (which probably went over the heads of most of the blokes) but was very well done.

There was also a competition for the most imaginative hat and varied were the offerings.

The opposite page gives some idea of the creations that were on display.

It should be noted that Maurie Beaven is not in the competition – that hat is surgically attached to his head!

Many thanks to David Jordan who does such a great job with the bus driving and to Nola who, more than once, has opened her garden for the pleasure of members.





*Visiting the Hargrave house, Stanwell Park, 2015
Bruce Gill with camera poised and the 'Jordanmobile' behind (L).
While Brian Saunders contemplates the floor boards, Michael Adams consults the 'keeper' of the house (R).*



Hats! Hats! Hats! – on display at the Watt 'open garden' function





Menai's first church

