



*Sutherland Shire*  
*Historical Society Inc*  
Bulletin



NUMBER: 198 — FEBRUARY 2016



MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE



*Above: Upper Hacking River, painted by Norman Sheppard, date not known.  
(now on display at the Museum)*

*Below: Dawn at Gunyah Beach, Bundeena, 2015.*







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**Front cover:** Society members with the replica 'Maroomba' banner for the Waratah March re-enactment, Peace Park, Sutherland 2015. **L-R: Rear:** Dick Baker and John Campbell. **Centre:** Bruce Gill, Mick Fallon, Carol McDonald, Andrew Platfoot, Jeanesse Platfoot, Angela Thomas, Helen Rosner, George Miller, Bruce Watt, Clive Baker. **Front:** Finn Perryman, Abbey McDonald, Toby McDonald

**Back cover:** South Coast Waratah re-enact men group in Sutherland, 2015.

Float in the parade to celebrate Sutherland Council's 75th anniversary, 1981.

## **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](mailto:warbookshop@bigpond.com). Make sure to include your contact details and/or email address.

### **BULLETIN**

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

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### **REGISTRATION**

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

## **SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS**

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

## **SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM**

Our museum is located in the School of Arts, 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

<b>PATRON:</b>	Shire Mayor		
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<b>SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER</b>	Glen Stelzer	0416-461-384	
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<b>HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER</b>	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	
<b>PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE</b>	Bruce Watt	Pauline Curby	Elizabeth Craig Clive Baker

**DO NOT MISS THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME  
50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH IN APRIL**  
(SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS)

**THE MONTH OF APRIL WILL BE A VERY BUSY PERIOD  
AS WE SEVERAL EVENTS OCCURRING.**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO OFFER EXTRA HELP (SEE PAGE 7)  
PLEASE CONTACT CLIVE BAKER**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

2016 is going to be a big year for the Society. A very significant aspect of it revolves around the golden anniversary activities. In March 1966 a meeting was held with the purpose of starting a local historical society. The first meeting occurred on Friday 15 April of that year.

From the beginning there was strong support and guidance from the Sutherland Shire Council. Its president, Arthur Gietzelt and several councillors, staff, the librarian and State and Federal members of parliament were at the inaugural meeting. Politicians at all levels and persuasions saw the establishment of an historical society as a desirable outcome.

The Shire president (now called Mayor) was appointed patron and that protocol remains. So it is clear that the Society was established with the blessing of Council and other politicians. We value that on-going relationship. Forty three local residents also attended the inaugural meeting.

Elizabeth Craig's excellent book, *Caretakers Of Our Past, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, The first 50 years (soon to be published)* is a masterful account of the time. Over the past 50 years the Society has helped shape an understanding of who we are and where we came from. The book outlines the development, the personalities and activities that shaped the Society and is a (politically correct) though 'warts and all' account of the period.

There are very few of the original members still with us and those who came later have only glimpses and snatched accounts of the strong characters that ran and influenced the Society. All current and past members will be interested in gaining a copy of the book. Our thanks must go to Elizabeth for the many hours that she has spent in compiling this book and getting it ready to be published – a steep learning curve but there is a strong sense of achievement.

I urge all members to attend the 50th anniversary luncheon at Club on East to be held on 20 April. Tickets are on sale at the monthly meetings and through Pat Hannan (phone 9528-8294). The book will be launched on that day and Daphne Salt will also be attending. She is one of the Society's esteemed life members and benefactors and was recognised in naming our library/office/gallery in her honour. Daphne has produced a power-point presentation spanning characters and events over time to be shown at our lunch. Details are listed separately in the *Bulletin*. Don't miss it!

Of course, looming large in 1966 was the bi-centenary of Lieutenant Cook's landing at Kurnell in 1770. We are reminded that 50 years on, the 250 year anniversary is to take place at Kurnell in 2020. I have been invited to participate in a community reference panel for Kamay Botany Bay National Park. The panel will review landscape, facilities and understanding of cultural significance and advise on ways to improve park facilities, presentation and interpretation. This is in the lead-up to the 250th anniversary on 29 April 2020 of the landing of Lieutenant James Cook and his crew at the Landing Place.

On Friday 20 April this year, the Society is hosting the launch of Heritage Week at the Sutherland School of Arts, 25 East Parade Sutherland commencing at 6:30 pm. Heritage Week groups take it in turn to host the event and representatives of the 30 or so Shire groups involved will be in attendance. The Mayor, Councillor Camillo Pesce, will open the week's events.

The theme for this year is 'Discovery and Rediscovery'. A representative from the National Trust will speak on the broader significance of the festival. The Society has much to celebrate around this theme and I will elaborate on our interpretation and what it means for us.

Former Society president and chair of the Heritage Week celebrations, Dawn Emerson, will address and formally thank all those involved. She will be followed by refreshments in the foyer, a power-point display and an opportunity for everyone to view the museum and garden area. I request Society members who will be attending to please bring a plate. Thanks to our liaison lady, Helen Rosner, for attending planning meetings on our behalf.

The museum continues to evolve with new items being donated and fresh ideas on how to display them. We are gradually developing the 'gallery' theme in the Daphne Salt room with some donated artwork and a recently purchased item. Our SMART fund established last year is to be used in the circumstance where a significant item becomes available for sale. We are not the John Paul Getty museum – our means are very modest and most work is done by volunteers.



The monthly meeting raffle introduced last year has raised some money towards the SMART fund. Thanks to all who take part. There are no cars or trips to Hawaii as prizes but at least there are plenty of draws!

It's pleasing to start the year with a comprehensive business plan (2016-2018) that identifies areas that we are focusing on. We have a yearly planner with a full calendar of outings and speakers. Thanks to Noel Elliot and Carol McDonald for coordinating these. Our last meeting had a record 80 in attendance and several became new members. Joan Tangney is to be congratulated for her enthusiasm and hard work in her new role as publicity officer. Joan is an ideas person.

Some breaking news is that Otto Kuster has agreed to paint a local scene and donate it to the museum for our anniversary. This is most generous as Otto is a highly acclaimed artist, well known throughout Australia. Otto arrived from 'Bohemia' in the late 1950s and had the good fortune to be accommodated at the Hungry Point migrant hostel at Cronulla. He liked the area so much that he has lived at Kurnell since then.

Anna Estephan, our treasurer was called overseas unexpectedly to nurse her elderly mother in Poland. She may be gone for several months. We wish her well. Our thanks and appreciation go to George Miller for stepping into the treasurer's role. It is a testimony to the depth of talent within the executive that these positions can be filled.

Angela Thomas and Mary Small are sailing the high seas. Neither of them have been treasurers recently so we assume that their trips are self-funded! I too am holidaying in Malaysia and Sri Lanka so will miss the February meeting. Ian Kolln will be chairperson in my absence.

A reminder to bring a plate to the meetings please. This takes some pressure off the women of the social committee who prepare our afternoon tea. Your comments indicate that social mingling is an enjoyable part of our meetings.

On behalf of the executive I wish you all good things for the coming year.

# EVERYONE LOVES A PARTY!

Sutherland Shire Historical Society golden anniversary; 1966-2016

## A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM BRUCE WATT

We are celebrating this momentous event with a luncheon and book launch. Don't miss it!

WHEN: Wednesday 20 April  
TIME: 12 for 12:30 to 3.30  
WHERE: Club on East, 7 East Parade Sutherland  
(just down from our museum)

COST: \$50  
TICKETS: Pat Hannan (9528 8694)  
PARKING: Ample parking is available in the carpark behind the club.  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Three minutes from the bus and railway stations.

### PROGRAM:

1] Former Shire Council General Manager, John Rayner will launch *Caretakers of our Past* – Elizabeth Craig's, illustrated and excellent book. They will be on sale with Elizabeth to sign them.

2] Speakers: Carol Liston, President Royal Australian Historical Society and Emeritus Professor, David Carment AM, president History Council.

TWO COURSE LUNCH

3] Long-time members will tell humorous and intriguing stories about the past 50 years.

4] Entertainment, power-point slide show, displays and much more.

5] Plenty of time to socialise with other members.

The Society is proud of its achievements so please be there and enjoy this milestone in our history.

### IMPORTANT:

Please advise Pat Hannan as early as possible if you wish to attend so that catering numbers can be finalised.

Tickets available at the monthly meetings or phone Pat [9528-8294] to reserve a place. Why not organise a table of eight?



## EDITOR'S SAY

CLIVE BAKER

This *Bulletin* is a little 'patchy' as it comes hot on recent events that soaked up much working time.

Some of our regular writers are holidaying or otherwise busy at this time, so I was very pleased to receive an article in the email from Barry Johnson. He is not a member of SSHS and, after enquiring, it was discovered that he is 'moonlighting' from the St George Historical Society. We have no prejudice against those from the 'badlands' north of the George's and hope he keeps writing – thanks Barry.

Thanks also, to another contributor who jumped into the writing breach: Bruce Howell who is also writing articles.

As I chat to members, it becomes obvious that all of you have something interesting to relate. Think about writing it down and we will type it and 'polish' the rough edges.

One group of people that fascinates me is those who use the 'Marie Nagle taxi service'. Marie still drives and often takes out three friends who, have about 370 years of collective life-history in their heads (not to mention their photos and family documents). We would love to have some of their stories recorded for posterity.

Note: Several longer articles have been held over to the May issue.

## MUSEUM REPORT

CLIVE BAKER

Even before the Christmas hang-over had finally subsided, we were back at the Museum taking advantage of the three-week closure to alter some displays. You will see a few 'evolutionary changes' that give a different look to the place – so come and see for yourself.

We now have a 'shop display' that reflects the retailing trend over the years and our collection of signs from the Shire's past are now on a previously-empty wall in the south garden.

The Donald Mackay seven-panel mural has finally been installed where it was intended to go. Around 2009 the panels were donated to the School of Arts and the Society was given custody until they were fitted. That is now done and make a nice memorial to a Shire explorer.

Our new member Jan Etteridge, is busy painting a mural for the 'Farmyard' and a panel was prepared by Bruce Watt, who is managing the entire project, ready for her to start work.

That stalwart worker for the Museum, Bruce Gill, has been putting in extra working hours and some of the higher and heavier two-man tasks were made possible because of his efforts.

We are working on a minor re-arrangement of the Cook-First Fleet pod area of the main room and Bruce Gill is working on a Bass and Flinders cabinet, showing their voyages around the Shire.

The Salt Room dynamic twins, Pat and Carol, are still plugging away at the sorting and filing

with Pat also taking work home to keep ahead. All members are welcome to drop in and browse her 'Suburb' and 'Subject' folders for your interest or research.

At the last committee meeting it was resolved that the Salt Room will now become the display area for art work that either has the Shire as the subject or works by local artists. The changes will start soon.

At the recent Australia Day presentation, again held at the School of Arts in Cronulla, we had over 200 people drop in. These people in particular, played major and minor roles in a successful day: Jim and Carol McDonald, Angela Thomas, Bruce Gill, Ineke Nieuwland, Noel Elliot, Helen Rosner, George Miller, Pauline Curby and Bruce Watt.

Thanks to all who helped with the work and for making life easier and the day so successful. Thanks also go to Glen and Maria Townsend and Jim (their 'go-to' man) who allowed us to use their excellent facilities.

Next comes Heritage Week, Anzac Day, our 50th anniversary, the Museum's 30th anniversary and the *Bulletin's* 200th edition – never a dull moment!

**BREAKING BAD NEWS:** We have just been advised that the *Endeavour* ballast in the Museum is being recalled by the Maritime Museum – effective immediately. We can apply to have it re-issued at a later date.



## SOCIETY NEWS

### SAD NEWS

Our comrade in Society matters, Noel Elliot, lost his son to a sudden illness in December. All members of SSHS join the committee in sending their sympathy to Noel at this time.

### SICK LIST

Michael Adams is still improving from his stroke but is not able to drive at this stage.

Terry McCosker has apparently improved to the point where he is thinking of taking up 'light duties' at our monthly meetings – we badly need his setting-up skills.

Jim Cutbush is now well enough to return to the museum occasionally where his 20+years of knowledge is slowly being 'downloaded' from his memory. Good to see him back on deck.

Cheryl Spencer has recovered from her sudden illness and hospital spell and is now much better.

Anna Estephan had to drop all committee work and rush back to Poland to look after her mother who apparently had a bad fall.

One of our long-distance members, Jim Wood in Melbourne (previously from Woronora), has been suffering for some time with shingles. We wish him a recovery soon.

### CONGRATULATIONS

That stalwart of the Society and the Museum, Maurie Beaven, has other activities in his life. In December he received a 25-year certificate for working with Sutherland Shire Bushcare – congratulations Maurie.

MONTH		EVENT	SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: 2016
MARCH	5	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	12	Historic Walk: Noel Elliot	Redfern-Newtown area by train details 9521-8622 (after 5 June)
	19	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	<b>SPEAKER:</b> Pauline Curby: Aboriginal place names
	26	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
APRIL	2	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	2	BUS TRIP	Mystery tour of the southern Shire (guided by Clive Baker) that will include a few then-and-now locations.
	9	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	15	HERITAGE WEEK HOSTING NIGHT	Friday at the museum – arrive 6 pm for a start at 6.30. Please bring a plate of (cold) savoury or sweet 'finger food'
	16 17	Museum	Saturday and Sunday – special Heritage Weekend. Please visit us and bring a non-member. 10am–3 pm both days.
	20	SPECIAL SSHS ANNIVERSARY LUNCH	Thursday noon arrival: Club on East See page 5 for full details – BE THERE!
	23	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm — Special Anzac Day display
	23	HISTORY SEMINAR	Usual Stapleton venue: Talks on Discovery & Re-discovery
MAY	30	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	7	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	14	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm
	21	Monthly meeting 1.30pm	<b>SPEAKER:</b> Otto Kuster – Kurnell based landscape artist
	28	Museum	Saturday 9 am–1 pm

**NOTE:** THE 16 APRIL MEETING IS CANCELLED AND MOVED TO OUR SPECIAL DAY ON 23 APRIL



# SUTHERLAND'S FIRST PUBLIC HOUSE

BARRY JOHNSON

*All through Australia, in every class, it is  
not considered good form for a man  
to drink by himself.*

Finch Hatton, 1887

The influx of settlers to Sutherland in the late 19th century created opportunities for astute entrepreneurs. As labourers built railway lines and cleared tracts of land for development around the National Park, community centres developed, requiring services for a typical family – groceries, health care, schooling and entertainment. Business and land owners would quickly provide some of the comforts of England. One of the earliest – the public house.

At the same time as Hatton's statement, William Bramley established the Railway Hotel, the first in Sutherland. He'd initially planned to open a grocer's store but reconsidered after seeing the success of other hotels opening near the docks and work camps in the Shire. The Woronora Hotel was a popular example, frequented by labourers and fishermen living nearby. As these camps moved to Heathcote, then Helensburg, the hotel moved with them. The Oriental Hotel Cronulla opened in 1888 to cater to beachgoers and then the Royal Hotel in Sutherland began serving the tourists visiting the National Park or enjoying a holiday in the Shire.<sup>4</sup>

Bramley's hotel, only the fourth building in the suburb, also served as a general store. Whereas other hotels such as the Woronora were temporary structures, Bramley worked with a vision of creating a flourishing community. He was one of the founders of the first church in Sutherland (Congregational) and he petitioned the government to construct the first school, where 105 children were educated in 1892.<sup>3</sup>

## DEBAUCHERY, DRINK AND DESTITUTION

Being overwhelmed by the nightly drinking habits of local labourers was another motivator for Bramley. A visiting magistrate wrote a scathing commentary in the *Evening News* shortly after the hotel opened. His article, entitled 'Bacchanalian Riots', included passionate descriptions of the scenes of approximately 100 men outside the hotel in "proceedings of such a diabolical character".

A sight which the reader, "having not seen ... would not believe humanity's lowest type would be capable of ... disgusting and unwarrantable brutality, with some lacking hats, shirts or shoes, others with torn clothing, many dirty and bruised, with black eyes and broken noses". The police recognised them as "hopelessly dead drunk" with patrons at the bar "resembling madmen, sodden with drink".<sup>2</sup>

Bramley and the two residing police escaped the magistrate's scorn, citing the overwhelming odds. To cope with the situation, the police response was certainly pragmatic. They would wait for men to collapse from drunkenness, allowing fighting to occur but with a sense of 'fair play'. If the drunken men engaged in other "misdemeanours or bestiality", they were handcuffed and chained to the railway station fence for twelve hours.

Critic-commentators doubted the long-term success of the suburb, believing the grounds the labourers were clearing would simply become overgrown due to the site's remoteness and ill-use. The magistrate concluded with the deluded character of one of the labourers, aged 55, who described his colleagues as "blacklegs, thieves and dirty, drunk sweeps".

However, only two hours earlier, this same labourer was drunk, without shoes and attempting to fight other men. Others would buy drinks for each other, fight, then shake hands before repeating the cycle until eventually collapsing, drunk and wounded.

## FROM CAMP TO COMMUNITY

In less than a decade, the depression of the 1890s reached the hotel, forcing Bramley to sell to Alfred Kitt who, in turn, leased the building to Edgar W. Boyle in 1902.

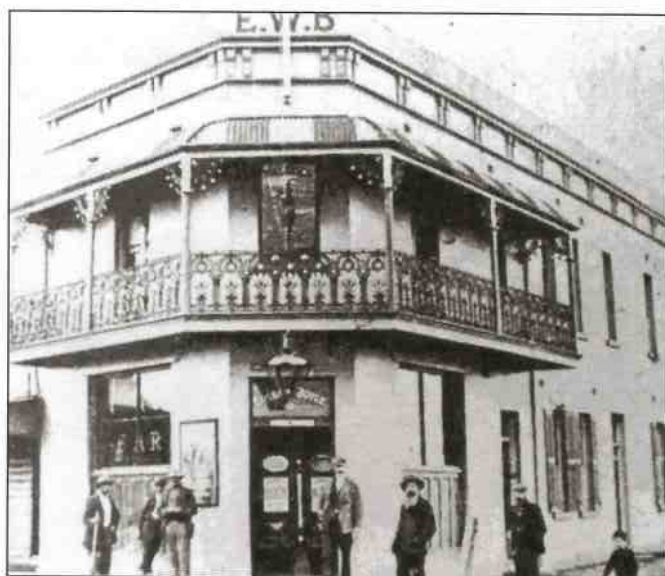
During the same period as the declaration of the Federation of Australia, land values increased, encouraging Kitt to actually sell the hotel to the largest brewer in the country, Tooth and Co, in 1910.



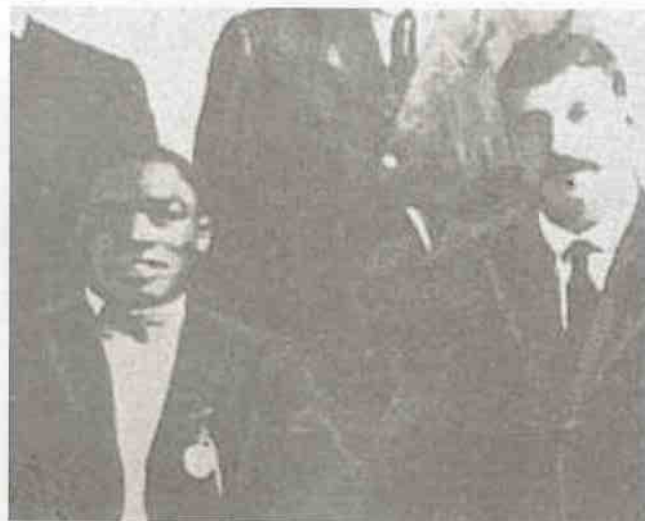
Edgar Boyle was a chemist's son, born and educated in England. Arriving in Australia at age 22, he worked for George Adams at the Tattersall's Club for nine years. He used this experience and a license to serve alcohol to lease the Railway Hotel. Adams' wealth grew more from the gambling offered to his patrons rather than alcohol he sold. The lotteries were unavailable to Boyle after they were prohibited in NSW, prompting Adams to continue his ventures in Queensland and then Tasmania.<sup>1</sup>

The new trade, tourism and construction flowing from the economic recovery allowed expansion of the hotel's functions beyond the pouring of a 'cleansing ale'. A future councillor, Boyle was dedicated to building a Sutherland community, using his oratory skill and hotel profits. He chose to support St Patrick's Catholic Church, host charity and civil functions and promote boxing, running, wood chopping, pigeon shooting, snooker and cycling events in Sutherland.

By 1911, he was elected to his first term of local government service, advocating for a tramway and overseeing road and footpath construction. In 1922, the praise for Boyle was gushing when he expanded Boyle's Hall. The Sutherland Shire Council President (the title used instead of Mayor prior to 1993), Cecil Monro, described him as "a most energetic and progressive man" and encouraged the audience to vote for Boyle in the upcoming council elections. It was another decade before he served his third and final term as a councillor.<sup>6</sup>



*Railway Hotel, 1905.<sup>7</sup>*



*Canadian boxer Sam Langford (left), considered "the greatest fighter nobody knows" with Edgar Boyle after a sponsored training session at the hotel, 1910.*

Despite the pessimism of the "visiting magistrate", Sutherland thrived, becoming a popular destination for visitors to nearby beaches and the National Park. Five years after the hall's expansion, it was leased to Marshall's Pictures for stage performances, dances and silent films.

During the stock market crash in New York which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s, Boyle's National Hall served as a soup kitchen for the growing numbers of suddenly unemployed families.

Across the road from the hall and fifty years after the first beverage was served at the Railway Hotel, it was rebuilt. For over 125 years, it has been a central part of the local community, now formally recognised by the NSW Government in the cultural heritage list for the Sutherland Shire.<sup>5</sup>

#### SOURCES:

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## CARINGBAH'S GO-CART TRACK

JOHN CAMPBELL



*The track in 1961.*

Once again in my pursuit to document motor sports in the Shire I found out that we have a unique claim to have probably the first purpose-built motorised go kart track in NSW if not Australia.<sup>1</sup> It was built in 1960 at Taren Point on Parraweena Road with boundaries on Cawarra and Atkinson Roads.

In January 1961 the first NSW Go Kart Championship was held at this site. Most of the carts were home made with skinny tyres that were more like wheelbarrow tyres than today's special 'slicks'. Most were powered by modified motor mower engines.

Interestingly, at least one Kart was powered by a Hurricane motor. Our first motor mower was a Hurricane and built locally at Sylvania.

Searching the internet there was little on the track but there is a Facebook site: "You Grew up in the Sutherland Shire so you Remember..." When someone on the site asked about the race track, I posted pictures and that evoked a lot of memories:

JOHN WOOD: "I think it was owned by Joyces, the people who owned Joyces Drug Store at Caringbah station. I remember Ray Morris used to race there, Bob Morris's father. Bob went to Caringbah High as well. Ray Morris had a mechanical workshop on The Boulevard opposite Burns Timber Yard, right where Caringbah High junior school is now".

DAVID OVERETT: "I remember, along with my mates, riding my bike down there and sneaking over the fence. The noise was awesome".

LYNN CARTER: "I remember it, as my uncle used to race there".

STEPHEN EDWARDS: "I remember going down to the track with my dad and our neighbours. We came home and my mate's dad started building us a go kart. It never got an engine but gave us great fun and dreams".

KERRY BERNASCONI: "I remember the go cart track and seeing Chuck Faulkner and Desmond Tester racing there".



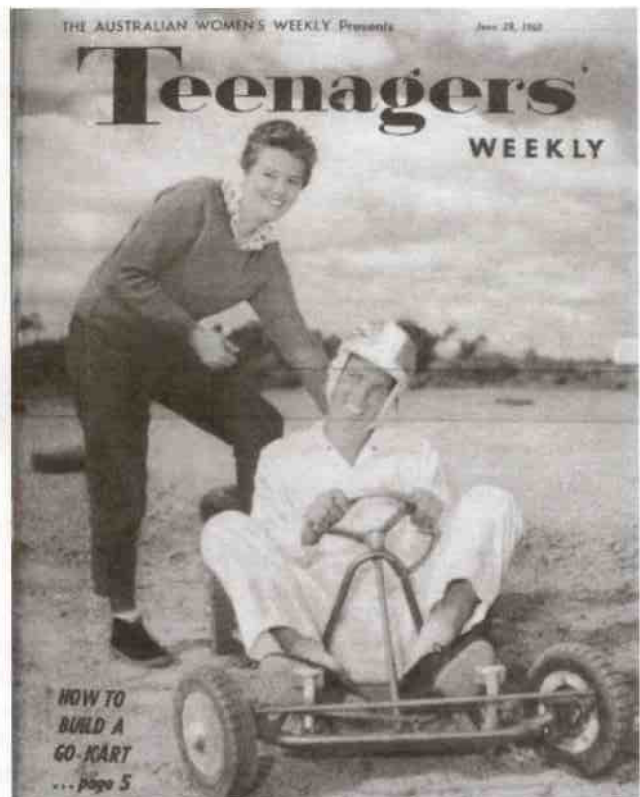


LAURIE TAYLOR has the final word: "... They used to race Saturday afternoon and if the weather conditions were right the buzz of the engines could be heard a few suburbs away. The champion Go Karter was Ray Morris, who owned an auto mechanic business on the corner of Parraweena Road and Taren Point Road (now Cronulla Carpets, I think). This business specialised in converting left-hand drive cars to right-hand.

I used to love when dad drove past and would try to look in the workshop to see what exotic American car was been converted. Bob, the son of Ray Morris, became a successful sedan racer and co-drove the winning car in the Bathurst-1000 one year".



All great memories from 55 years ago and for the record the first NSW Go Kart champion was Norm Chipperfield driving a Mermaid/Ace Kart.



**OUR COVER** shows that courting and karting go well together, with Gwen Morrison and John Gardner set for a day's sport at their local Sutherland Shire Club's track. They have just become engaged and spend most week-ends at go-kart rallies.

## POULTRY IS NO PALTRY MATTER!

CLIVE BAKER

As I was thumbing through my copies of *Poultry* newspaper of 1929-31 (as you do on a quiet Sunday morning) I was reinforced in a couple of beliefs:

Someone once said that no research is ever wasted – a concept that I embrace. Also, regarding our museum archives – never discard anything before a close look and assessment.

In the chook-raising newspapers I found illustrations of two mystery items in our collection and also, the location of many poultry businesses of yesteryear. Here are some examples:

**THE "RUSSELL" EGG GRADER**  
Also "Russell" watering cups, rustproof, 6/- each.  
From THE RUSSELL MANUFACTURING CO., Miranda, N.S.W.

1930

**DAY-OLD CHICKS**  
**BLACK ORPS ONLY** **HEAVY WINTER LAYERS**  
Now booking orders for May to September 30th delivery. All fine, strong chicks bred from proved heavy layers.  
Prices: Less than 100, 1/6 each.  
100 to 500 ... £5/10/- per hundred  
500 or more ... £5/- per hundred  
Freight extra. Packing free.  
All orders filled on date for which booked, deposit with order 10/- per hundred.  
Your success depends on you getting the right chicks at the right time.  
Book to-day  
"VENTURA" POULTRY FARM, Port Hacking Road, Miranda, N.S.W.  
(Phone: Sutherland 355)

1929

**Moxey's Black Orpingtons**  
WORLD FAMOUS AS WINNERS OF  
NUMEROUS EGG-LAYING COMPETITION PRIZES  
I am now booking orders for day-old chicks at £5/5/- per 100. Special quotes for lots of over 250. Freight paid in N.S.W. Prices for Stock on application.  
Phone: Sutherland 222.  
A. H. MOXEY, "Meadow" Poultry Farm, MIRANDA, via Sutherland N.S.W.

1929



## OUR TRAVELLING ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Pam Forbes and Greg Jackson have been missing from our ranks recently and doing archaeology work:



*View of the shipbuilding yard in 1827, painted by Augustus Earle. (First Ships Project website - Rex nan Kivell Collection, National Library Australia. pic-an2838528 NK12/137)*

In New Zealand in 1826 a permanent European settlement at Horeke on Hokianga Harbour (North Island) became the second settlement in New Zealand. It had the first boat and timber yard, accessing the surrounding kauri forests. Called the Deptford Dockyard, it was set up by a group of Sydney merchants to build ships and export timber back to Sydney, where it was used for furniture and flooring as well as boat building.

### THE DIG

A team of around 25 New Zealand and Australian archaeologist, including us, was led by maritime archaeologist Matt Carter, from La Trobe University, Melbourne. After historical research of documents and images and geophysical survey of the site, Matt chose potential targets for excavation.

We opened six trenches hoping to find evidence of the boat yard, slips and workshops, and the house used by the manager.



*Artefacts ('finds') at the managers residence (left) – identified with flags on kebab skewers. (Photos: Authors 2016)*

Over 10,000 artefacts were found, mostly fragments of ceramic, glass and construction materials but also

more exciting objects like clay pipes, trade beads, **gunflints** and muskets balls.



*As well as the above flints, other evidence of the maritime enterprise were uncovered – such as a keel bolt, copper sheathing and a range of copper alloy nails. Dividers, links of chain, iron spikes and dumps, all hint at boat building.*

The many fragments of pipes, crockery, window glass and bottles are evidence of peoples' lifestyle. Interestingly, we found a quantity of kauri gum – used for varnish, and worked like amber.



*In true 'Time Team' fashion, we made perhaps the most important discovery on the last couple of days of the dig. These posts and series of post holes gave evidence of the slipway infrastructure.*



*Left and below: these photos are Polynomial Texture Map images (PTM): described in a past Bulletin.*

*(Forbes and Jackson 2015).*



At the end of the excavation, all the trenches were backfilled. We may be back next year to continue excavation of the most interesting areas.

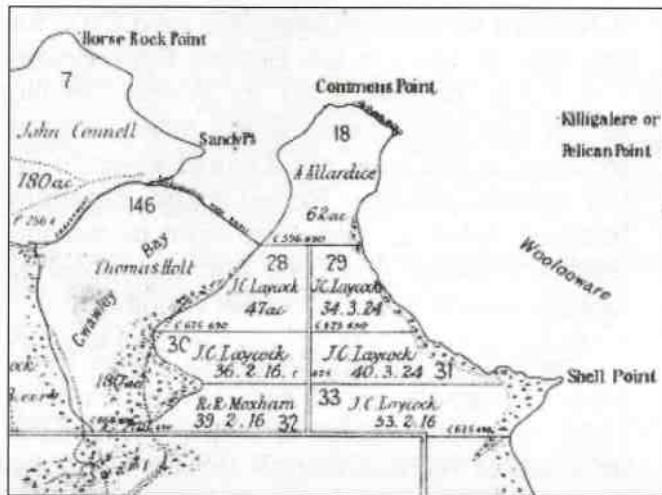
NOTE: The Authors' history of the ship yard and New Zealand kauri forests will appear in later Bulletins.



A NAME ON A MAP  
**RICHARD ROBERT MOXHAM**  
 LAURIE BURGESS

The Parish of Sutherland map below, shows R.R. Moxham as the original grantee of land, 19 July 1855, at Gwawley Bay in what is now Taren Point (39 acres 2 roods 16 perches – portion 32).

The full name of Richard Robert Moxham appears on other editions of the parish map.<sup>1</sup>



*Extract from historic parish map.  
 (Courtesy of NSW Lands)*

Moxham was not the first person interested in purchasing the property. Marmaduke Constable had originally attended the 24 January 1855 Crown Auction of land in that area. He paid a deposit after successfully bidding for that property and the other portions to the north and east.<sup>2</sup>

Constable did not proceed with his purchases, and forfeited his deposits on 30 March 1855.<sup>3</sup> That allowed Moxham to purchase the land from the Crown Lands Office for the balance of the amount of the original successful bid.

No information has been found as to why Moxham purchased the land and whether he ever visited or resided on the property. His ownership only lasted a few years as his property was bought up by Thomas Holt around 1861 as part of Holt-Sutherland Estate.

Holt apparently vigorously pursued purchases of land for his Estate and the only person who held out was Patrick Dolan.

Hutton Neve's book on Holt noted:

*By the end of 1861 Holt had bought out the two largest land-owners, John Connell Laycock and his uncle, John Connell, these estates totalling nearly 3000 acres. By then he had taken up all unalienated land as well as any other parcels already purchased but available for resale...<sup>4</sup>*

#### SO WHO WAS RICHARD ROBERT MOXHAM?

Whilst there is no conclusive proof, it is likely that Moxham was the same Richard Robert Moxham born in Ireland in 1814 – the same year as his wife Frances [nee Mack], whom he married in Limerick, Ireland 1838.<sup>5</sup>

They had a son William Joseph Moxham, born in Bradford, Clare, Ireland in 1838, and a daughter Eliza Jane Moxham, born in 1841<sup>6</sup> and, in 1845, a third child Susanna.<sup>16</sup>

The Moxhams and their two children came to Australia on the *Albatross* on 30 November 1841 amongst 285 bounty immigrants,<sup>7</sup> whose passage was paid by the Colonial Government. The scheme included a reward (bounty), paid to recruiting agents in Britain to find suitable skilled labour and tradespeople, and then ship them to the new colony.<sup>8</sup>

Richard Moxham is next mentioned as the principal 'turnkey' (warder) at the Parramatta Gaol. In September 1844, he was fortunate not to lose his life when attacked from behind by one of the prisoners wielding a raised hammer. He was struck on the head and right arm and was only saved by the intervention of another turnkey.<sup>9</sup>



*Parramatta Gaol in 1842.  
 (Courtesy of Parramatta heritage centre)*

There was also a Henry Moxham who owned land south of Parramatta<sup>10</sup> and Robert Henry Moxham, who arrived in Parramatta in 1836.



Robert Henry was a master stonemason who with his brother William D. Moxham established and operated a number of quarries to the north of Parramatta, although they had developed several businesses in the area before turning to quarrying.<sup>11</sup> Robert Henry is also noted as owning and living at the *Coach Inn* at Parramatta,<sup>12</sup> and for a time was the lessee of the *Beckett's Bridge Toll Gate*. It was located approximately at the intersection of Parramatta Road, Church Street and Dog Trap (now Woodville) Road.<sup>13</sup>

None of the other Moxhams seem to have had any family ties with Richard Robert Moxham.

On 27 May 1845 Richard Robert purchased three allotments in the Town of Parramatta of individual areas of 26 perches; 1 rood; and 38 perches,<sup>14</sup> the deeds for which were issued on 14 June 1845.<sup>15</sup>

In July 1848, Richard Moxham, was amongst a list of electors in the Borough of Parramatta supporting a candidate for the NSW legislative Council.<sup>17</sup> In February 1856, he was again amongst a list of electors in the Town of Parramatta supporting a candidate for the NSW Parliament.<sup>18</sup>

It has not been established when Richard Moxham resigned (or was dismissed?) from his position at Parramatta Gaol, but he apparently had problems with the governor, Thomas Duke Allen, a strict disciplinarian.<sup>19</sup>

That conflict culminated in the preferring of charges against his, "late [ie. former] superior officer — the governor of the gaol". When this occurred has also not been established but it "...continue[d] to occupy to some extent the attention of the sheriff", until it went to court in February 1857.

The nature of the action is not stated but it was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

*Correspondence of a very undecided character has taken place, the general tenor of which is that Moxham's charges have no foundation in truth: whilst on the other hand the decision is declared to be an ex parte one, and an appeal to a higher tribunal is talked of.*<sup>20</sup>

It may have been in this climate of dissatisfaction with his job as turnkey, that Moxham purchased the property at Taren Point in mid-1855, as a country retreat.

It seems that around the time he was pursuing his charges against the governor of Parramatta Gaol, he may have been suffering some family financial pressures. At the same time as his case was in court (late February 1857), he published a public notice delaring that: "Richard Moxham will not hold himself accountable for any debts contracted by his children from 25/2/1857."<sup>21</sup> This may possibly have had something to do with Richard's son, William, who had gained employment as a warder at Parramatta Gaol.<sup>22</sup>

A Richard Moxham in late 1857 paid £105 for the right to operate the *Broken Back Bridge Toll Gate*, on the road to Windsor.<sup>23</sup> No record has been found of any other Richard Moxham in the area, but it would seem to be too coincidental that Robert Henry Moxham had just failed to renew the right to run the *Beckett's Bridge Toll Gate* and was possibly looking around for an alternate venue.<sup>24</sup>

As mentioned above, Moxham's Taren Point property was acquired by Thomas Holt by 1861. Nothing more is reported of the activities of Richard Robert Moxham until he and his wife were reported to have both died in 1865;<sup>25</sup> there is no indication that they left the Parramatta area.

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**PRINCES HIGHWAY**  
NAMED BY A NEWSPAPER REPORTER!  
LAURIE BURGESS

**This is a summary of Laurie's six-page, detailed history of the highway naming. Anyone wishing to have a full copy please contact Clive Baker.**

I was amazed to find when undertaking some research that the name of the *Princes Highway* was accidental, and originated in a newspaper headline. It was almost the *Anzac Highway* ... *The Argus* newspaper in Melbourne contained the following article in its edition of 12 February 1917:

**ANZAC HIGHWAY**

*A suggestion has been made in the "Motor World" that an "Anzac Highway" from Perth to Brisbane, and linking up those capitals with Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney, would be a fitting memorial to the Australian soldiers who have fallen in the war...*

After much comment in many newspapers over the next little while, nothing ensued!

Within a lengthy article in *The Argus* on 23 January 1920, the following suggestion was made:

*We might well take advantage of the coming of the Prince of Wales to enter upon a much grander work. Nothing would give His Royal Highness a better insight into the rural life and ample spaces of Australia than a motor drive from Sydney to Melbourne...*

The next day in *The Argus* (24th) the suggestion had been taken up under the heading, "SYDNEY-MELBOURNE ROAD "PRINCE'S HIGHWAY" SUGGESTED". It is interesting, that nowhere in the article and other correspondence, is any indication that the name had been put forward by anyone other than the person who composed the heading.

The editor of *The Argus* must have liked the heading as, on 27 January, it reappeared, "...A number of leading Sydney residents ... spoke enthusiastically of the projected "Prince's Highway"...

Apparently the name "Prince's Highway" had become so popularly accepted that, in *The Argus* of 29 May 1920, "...The Premier has been asked to invite His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to accord his patronage to the road ... by allowing it to be named the 'Prince's Highway'."

After much discussion the change was agreed and the NSW official opening and naming was reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 October 1920 but it wasn't without incident:

*Soon after the naming ceremony, steady rain commenced to fall, and it was decided to abandon*

*the toast list at the luncheon, which was held in the open. The ladies sought the shelter of the cars, while the other visitors gathered under a spacious tree ... Mrs. Mutch, amid cheers, cut a piece of light blue ribbon which had been stretched across the road.*

Sutherland Shire Council officially renamed its sections of the highway by a notice published in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* on 21 October 1921, "...This thoroughfare extends from Dover Point Ferry to the boundary line between Sutherland Shire and Bulli Shire".

The renaming replaced the former names applied to the roads within Sutherland Shire:

- 1] "Illawarra or National Park Road" (Bridge at Horse Rock Point to Kingsway)
- 2] "Kingsway" (Gazetted 20.10.1916) (Kingsway to Eton Street)
- 3] "Railway Parade" (Eton Street to Rawson Avenue)
- 4] "Illawarra or National Park Road" (Rawson Avenue to Woronora Road)
- 5] "Illawarra Road" (Woronora Road to Heathcote Township)
- 6] "Heathcote Street" (in Heathcote Township)
- 7] "Illawarra Road" (Heathcote Township to Shire Boundary with Wollongong).

It also superseded some alternative names in use: "South Coast Road", "Main Illawarra Road", "Main Sydney and Wollongong Road."

So there we have it, the Princes Highway had been named but, when the time came, the Prince of Wales, did not travel along the road named after him.

The route has moved a little in places due to changes, as with the diversion along Acacia Road in Sutherland Shire, but the name has remained.

NOTE: the apostrophe was later dropped from the name to conform with the requirement of the Geographical Names Board, so it is now simply *Princes Highway*, although not "Princess Highway" which I have (arggggh !!!) seen in some official sources.



## CAYLEY OF CRONULLA

RESEARCHED BY CLIVE BAKER



William Cayley (1886-1950)  
Ornithologist and artist

Cayley was the son of an English bird-artist (also named Neville) which explains his own life-long interest. Young Neville was first educated at local public schools, before his family moved to Sydney and Cronulla about 1892-1894. His mother opened a guest house in Cronulla but details have yet to emerge.

He later attended art school and followed his father's example and painted mostly birds. His main medium was water-colours and his pictures were vibrant.

As well as painting, Neville was also a sportsman and played for a Shire cricket team around 1904. Fred Midgley in the February 1990 *Bulletin* commented, "What prowess at cricket by Neville is not known".

Surfing was also his sport and, in his 20s, he was involved in the formation of a life saving club when an informal meeting of swimmers was convened by Neville in the rock caves at the southern end of Cronulla beach in March 1906.

He was then a founder of the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club and a small wooden building for a clubhouse and casualty room was built following his overtures to Sutherland Council.

In later years, he was a member of the executive of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia and the Royal Life Saving Society.

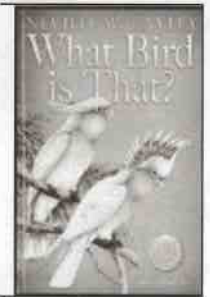
Despite his sporting ability he seems to have had health problems as this news snippet (*Australian* 27.4.1918) reveals, "Mr Cayley .. a many-times-rejected volunteer for active service, is a native of New South Wales, and a keen bird-student all his life".

In 1917, he married Beatrice Doust and the following year published his first booklet, *Our Birds*, and displayed art in a city art gallery.

Interested in ornithology, he illustrated birds' eggs for *The Australian Encyclopaedia* using partly mechanical methods.

His popular book *What Bird is That?* was published in 1931 and reprinted many times.

According to John Walker (*SSHS Bulletin* October 1968):



*Cayley [later] sold the copyright of What Bird is That? to the Gould League and that body has found its purchase an extremely lucrative investment. Much of the organisation's work in bird protection and other conservation activities has been, and still is, financed from royalties paid on sales of the book both in Australia and overseas. These royalties also pay 'The Neville Cayley Memorial Scholarship grants ... encouraging promising young zoologists to specialise in ornithology.*

WIKI rates his book highly:

*What Bird is That? was the first comprehensive field guide to Australian birds and included full-colour paintings of each species, setting the benchmark for all Australian field guides to come. It remained the only available field guide [from 1931 to 1960s] ... Rather than create another book for birding's elite, Cayley wanted to create one that was accessible to beginners. To this end, he organised the birds by habitat, which made them easy to find and identify, and included concise information on bird distribution, behaviour and breeding. The book became a classic, has been reprinted and repackaged in many formats, and remains in print to this day.*



His later books included:

*Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary* 1932)  
*Budgerigars in Bush and Aviary* (1933)  
*Australian Parrots* (1938)  
*The Fairy Wrens of Australia* (1949).

He was said to be "irresistibly attracted by the brilliant colours and elfin forms" of the wrens: the illustrations first appearing in the *National Geographic Magazine* (October 1945).

He did the colour drawings for *What Butterfly is That?* G.A. Waterhouse (1932) and Ellis Troughton's *Furred Animals of Australia* (1941).

His project covering all Australia's birds, their habits, nests and eggs was never completed, although he amassed over 500 colour illustrations.

His love of birds was an integral part of his life and he became:

Council-member of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW and president 1932-33.

President of Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union (1936-37)

President of the Gould League of Bird Lovers  
President of the Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia

Trustee member of National Park (1937-48)

He held several exhibitions of his paintings and, in 1932, had one presented to King George V.

There is one report that Cayley was good friends with Henry Lawson and Will Newton (*Bulletin* November 1990) wrote:

*Henry Lawson also had a long association with the Shire ... Megan Pitt of the Council library mentioned that Lawson also stayed, periodically, at Cronulla with another famous identity - his friend Neville Cayley .. and, it is just possible too that the bard was known to one or two of the Cronulla publicans.*

He continued to work until around 1947, by which time he suffered from chronic kidney disease and, following a series of strokes, was no longer able to paint.



*An example of the art of Neville Henry Cayley  
– a talent handed on to young Neville.*

Neville was married twice (he was widowed in 1927) and had two sons from his first marriage. His second wife Phyllis Linton, a divorcee he had married in 1944, giving two step-daughters).

When he moved out of the Shire was not discovered (in 1927 he was in Rose Bay) but at the time of his death he lived in Avalon.

He continued to work until around 1947 when he was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease and then began having strokes and was no longer able to paint.

He died in March 1950, aged 64.

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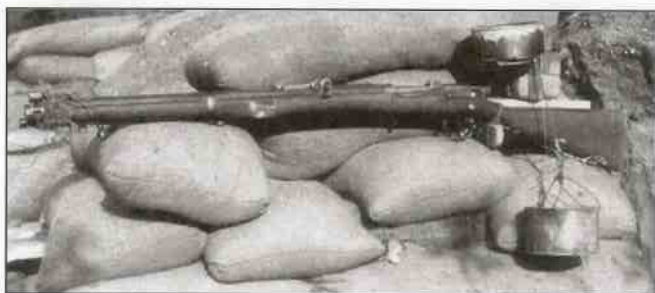


## WAR REPORT: FEBRUARY 2016

FROM OUR WAR REPORTER: CLIVE BAKER

As forecast in our last report, those in command on the Gallipoli Peninsula have cut their losses and pulled all troops off on 20 December 2015. Most of our boys are now back in Egypt.

On the Australian battle front the final withdrawal was carried out in a highly organised manner. Big guns and explosions were made to go off at random. Rifles were adapted by using a clever drip-system that caused triggers to be pulled.



*The rifle is fixed to the bags and then water from the top tin drips into the bottom tin and the weight finally pulls the trigger – with no soldier needed.*

When the final party moved to the beach with boots wrapped in sacking to avoid noise, they gave no clue that they were leaving and the enemy did not attack. Hardly any injury occurred during those final hours. All Shire men on Gallipoli are now back in Egypt and getting over the strains of their experience. Johnny Turk is still threatening the Suez Canal and action on that front is expected soon.

### SAD NEWS

Corporal William YOUNG who lived in Cronulla, was mentioned in our November news as having minor wounds. We must now report that back in Egypt, one of his mates mishandled a rifle and accidentally shot William through the chest. After surviving Gallipoli, this time he was mortally wounded and died on 28 December.

### JOINED UP

We have news of more local volunteers having signed up and are now being equipped and trained. Some that have been named are:

Tom AVERY of Miranda joined up just a couple of weeks ago and will soon be 'enjoying' the 'hospitality' that the army offers.



Henry ANDREWS of Miranda put his earlier service with local militia to use and is now in the Siege Artillery Brigade. He left Sydney in January and is now probably in Egypt.

### IMPROVING

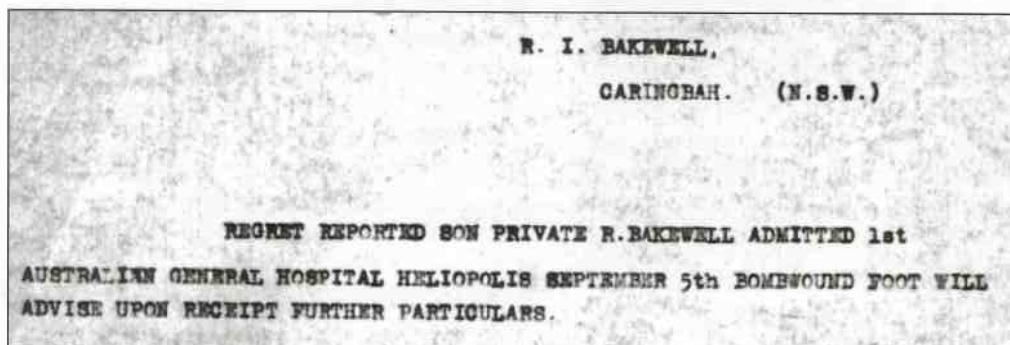
Gordon DALL of Caringbah had to be moved to a hospital in England, following his gunshot to the back reported in November. He has since been sent home and the ship arrived in time for Christmas. His worried mother and sister travelled to Melbourne to see him when the ship stopped there.

Joe AYLWARD was wounded in the fighting against the Turks and was in hospital in Cairo with a very smashed bone in his arm. His injury required more surgery and he was transferred to Britain where he is improving.

Robert BAKEWELL of Caringbah is another who knew army life in the local militia. He was with 18 Battalion on Gallipoli when a shrapnel hit his foot. It was a bit of a shock when the family received the letter below but Bob is now OK and back with his unit on 5 February.

### SOURCES:

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## BANGOR JOTTINGS

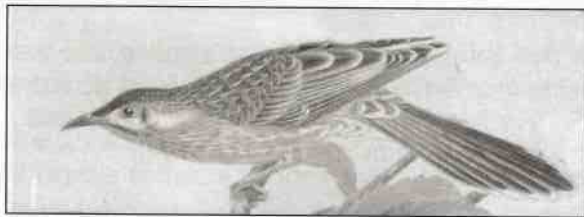
VIA JOHN CAMPBELL

The following extracts of local news have been uncovered in early newspapers 1904-1911:

The Bangor people are agitating for a road to Sutherland, via the old sand bar. At comparatively small cost a dam and bridge could be thrown across the river, and the settlers would be within three miles of the railway on the good road to Sydney, with easy grades both ways. A little money spent on this work would induce large settlement at Bangor in a very short time.<sup>1</sup>

--0--

Two well-known 'wielders of the walnut' [shotguns], visited Bangor district on Tuesday last, starting from Kogarah at 4.30 am and returning ... about 6 pm. The day's sport resulted in the bagging of 21 gillbirds<sup>2</sup> and 15 quail.<sup>3</sup>



NOTE: Red Wattle Birds are not exactly eating size!

Bangor has built for itself a neat little Congregational Church ... at least the Bangor folk, by cash and labour have done so ... and opened it free of debt, with an additional credit of a few pounds. The opening ceremony services took place on Wednesday night, the building, which holds about 80, being well filled.

The Revs. R.A. Thompson, W.L. Patison, W.F. Turton, and David Morgan assisted in the services. Mr. L. H. Purnell, who has been acting pastor at Sutherland for some time passed was mainly instrumental in the development of the church and services are to be held regularly ... The pleasure of these opening services was somewhat marred by an accident which happened to a party of ladies returning home after the meeting. Proceeding from Menai towards Sutherland, the wheel of the village cart containing the party, ran over a stump and capsized the vehicle. Mesdames Carr and Nelson of Miranda were very shaken, but fortunately there were no other serious consequences.<sup>4</sup>

--0--

President Hyndman informed the meeting that he had noticed that among the new sites mentioned for a Naval College was one in Sutherland Shire. At Bangor, 12,000 acres, were available, and in his opinion, it was a splendid site.<sup>5</sup>

### SOURCES:

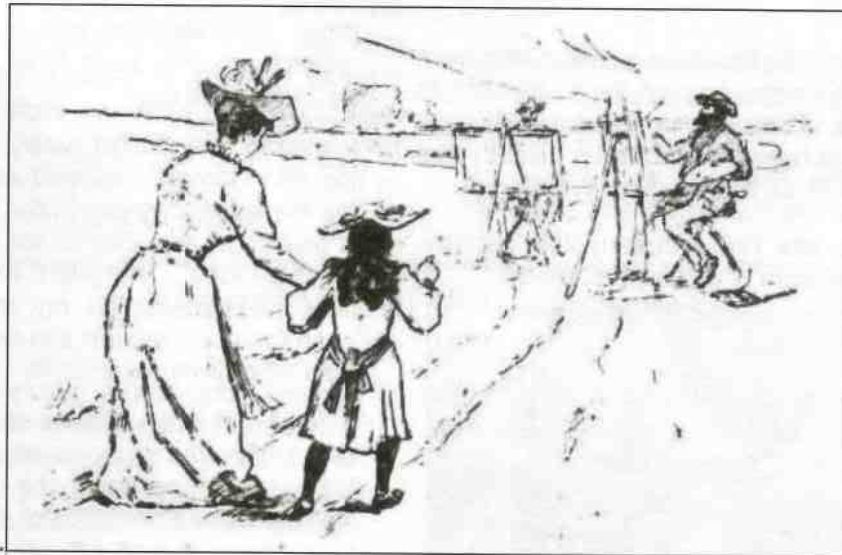
1 St George Call, 30.4.1904

2 Wiki: red wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), also known as a barkingbird or gillbird, is a honeyeater

3 St George Call, 28.5.1904

4 St George Call, 5.1.1907

5 St George Call, 17.6.1911



Child: "What are the gentlemen doing, Ma?"

Mother: "They are sketching the East Ward, my dear, before civilisation sets in".

Even in 1913 the St George Call was worrying about developers changing the landscape.



## STREETS OF THE SHIRE

CLIVE BAKER



This sign in Bundeena jumped to prominence when this iconic bird image gave it appeal.

The name derives, not from a famous Welsh singer but from a long-term local shopkeeper. He had his business in Bundeena Park from c1947 into the 1960s and then spent another 30 years as the post master until his death aged 85.

<http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/website/document-library/roads/naming/sutherland-shire-street-name-origins.pdf>



This second name comes with an interesting background as it was intended to honour the Mariens of GyMEA. Somewhere along the line it gained the wrong spelling and as far back as 1979, the family wanted it fixed.

Roberto Marieni came to the Shire in the 1890s from Italy and changed his name to drop the 'i'. He bought land at GyMEA and his original orchard/market garden site was between Manchester Road, the Kingsway, Sylvania Road and the Boulevarde.

Twice a week in the late 19th and early 20th century he would take a dray-load of produce to the city.



Roberto's farmhouse – then situated south of Marion Street and near the Kingsway.

Roberto's son, Frank, decided to make a career away from the land and, at his death in 1936 at the age of 45, was editor-in-chief of Smith's Newspapers, and had been previously editor of the *Sun* and a director, of *Truth & Sportsman*.



*This is believed to be Frank's house, used as the first Trade Union Club building and where 'Tradies' is now located. The property was sold by the family in 1943.*

Frank's house had everything that 'opens and shuts', including a full-size sound movie theatre with accommodation for 60 in the stalls and 25 in the circle. The screen could be seen from trees at the rear of the back garden, and these were invariably filled with local children.

Brian Marien was quoted in a 1979 *Bulletin*, describing the tram service:

*When my mother was off to town, and because Sutherland-bound trams could be seen coming down the Miranda Hill, someone would be posted on the front fence to announce the sighting of the tram.*

*Invariably my mother would not be ready when the tram arrived. It would be waved down and the explanation given to the guard, "Mrs Marien is going to town. She is not quite ready but she won't be long". The guard would then walk over to the house, escort my mother to the tram, open the door, ensure she was comfortable, and then let go with his whistle.*

*I didn't get quite the same type of treatment. Once after the pictures at Cronulla ... in a tin barn almost opposite the Cecil Hotel site, I walked to the Shelly Beach Terminus to take the tram home. It took off without warning, leaving the guard behind and didn't stop until we reached Sutherland. The inebriated driver then went to sleep.*

**SOURCES:** SSSH *Bulletins*: Nov 1979, Feb 2006, Nov 1981, Feb 1983



# DONALD MACKAY

## THE ALMOST UNKNOWN SHIRE EXPLORER

CLIVE BAKER

As mentioned elsewhere, our School of Arts now has on permanent display, a seven-piece memorial mural that was donated by Caringbah RSL in 2009. The beautifully painted wooden boards depict the life and activities of Donald. During his life, this man had many connections with the Shire and spent his last years here. Over future *Bulletins*, I will be producing a serialised account of his very interesting life:

### 1870-1891

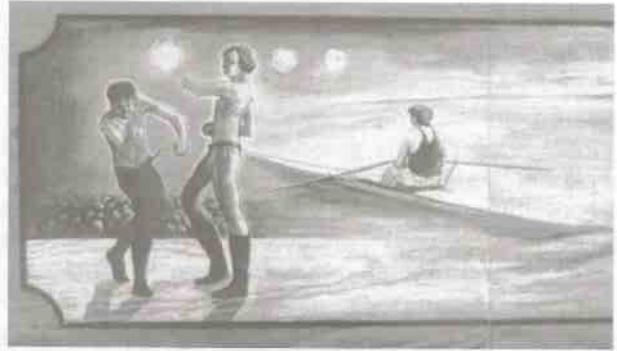
He was born in Yass in 1870, the son of a self-made Scottish father who took up land in the Riverina. Young Donald went to school locally and was then sent to Mittagong, where he had a less-than satisfactory education and learned to smoke at a young age. He tried alcohol but, after that, hardly had another drink for the rest of life.

He tried various jobs but eventually went back to work on his father's property at Wallendbeen. As an interesting aside, the property was raided by Ben Hall's men in 1863 and goods taken at the point of a gun.

Alexander Mackay died in 1890 and Donald took responsibility for the property but found time (and apparently had the money) for his own interests.

He travelled to New Zealand and that whetted his appetite for future trips into the world.

Then, in 1891, he took up boxing and was taught by Larry Foley who was, "...as game a man as ever peeled a shirt".<sup>1</sup> Initially, Donald just wanted to be able to defend himself but, "After a few lessons, Larry gave his opinion that Donald would be able to take care of himself in ordinary fights but never be a champion".<sup>1</sup>



Don then tried body-building where he lifted weights but soon decided "there was a limit to the glamour of weight-lifting".<sup>2</sup>

Deciding that rowing might be his favoured activity, he went to Dapto to learn rowing from the famous Bill Beach. He stayed with Bill's family for some time and became quite proficient in the sport.

Beach commented that, "I WAS the champion and Don WILL BE the champion". However, Donald, "began to realize that sculling for sculling's sake, without a purpose, was like weight-lifting – a senseless game".<sup>3</sup>

All this activity for a 20-year-old, was a hardening in a physical way but from those early days, it is hard to foresee what a wonderful and adventurous career that lay ahead.

### SOURCES AND ENDNOTES:

Wiki: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald\\_George\\_Mackay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_George_Mackay)

ADB: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mackay-donald-george-7377>

1] Clune *Last of the Explorers*. p 71

2-3] Clune *Last of the Explorers*. p 80

## ABORIGINAL BURIAL CUSTOMS

BRUCE WATT

Media announcements relating to Aboriginal themes say, "this show contains images of persons now deceased"? That acknowledges aspects of Indigenous culture relating to death and burial and is a caution for Aboriginals that they may not wish to view the program.

In Aboriginal culture the funeral involved all of those close to the deceased person. While practices may have varied across the continent, ceremonies involving smoking the body were conducted to encourage the spirit to leave.

Mourners would then move away from the body to allow this to happen. The dead person was then never spoken of again because if the spirit heard its name or could see its image it might attempt to come back to the world of the living. Viewing the remains of the dead or hearing the person's name then may disturb his or her spirit. Belief in the passing or release of the spirit from the mortal body is common in other cultures. Hindus cremate the body to release the spirit and Christians believe also in an afterlife where the spirit lives on.



# JUST HOW MUCH CAN YOU RELY ON THE TRUTH OF ORAL HISTORY?

## THE STORY OF AUNT ALICE'S ATTACK

BRUCE HOWELL

A story told to me by my mother and told to her by her great-aunt, proved to be chillingly accurate, despite its bizarre twists and turns.

### THE STORY

My great-great-aunt Alice Lynch was born in 1873 in the Bathurst region. She married Edward (Ted) Lynch in 1893 and they lived most of their married lives on the Belubula River, about two kilometres north of Mandurama, a township 60 kilometres southwest of Bathurst. Alice was a robust and stoic woman, who worked hard and maintained an admirable standard of living, despite difficult times.

Ted had built a nice cottage with three rooms, a veranda and a washhouse where a 'copper' was kept. She worked for a local hotel in Mandurama, laundering their linen, first carrying it from the hotel to home, washing and ironing it, and then carrying it back – hard work given that there was no power and no town water where she lived.

The family story tells of the time that Alice was attacked, just out of town, as she was leaving for home one afternoon. According to the story, she was almost killed in the attack, but her attacker was apprehended and given a lengthy sentence. She was terrorised to the extent that Ted religiously locked the doors and windows of their cottage at night, unusual given that their home was quite isolated and families living nearby were mostly related and got along very well. Alice was worried that when her attacker was released, he would return to try to kill her. This would suggest that the attacker had made some kind of threat, or at least that there was a perceived threat, and that it was indelibly marked in Alice's mind.

The family story would be interesting enough if it were left there, but there's much more to it. My mother says that, on the eve of the attacker being released from prison, news came to Ted and Alice, that he had been shot dead by one of the warders. The suspicion was that the prison personnel were just as worried as Alice that the attacker would seek revenge after his release, and they dished out 'rough justice' of their own. It was on receiving the news of the shooting that Ted stopped locking the doors and windows at night.

So that's the family story, but how much of it could possibly be true?

Researching the facts wasn't easy – a century or more has passed since the events took place, and it's possible that my mother is the only person still alive who knows of it, and even she has no real idea of when the attack took place.

Persistent searching produced nothing – indeed one might imagine that a little story of an attack in a small and faraway place might never see the light of day. But the National Library has been steadily adding to its Trove website, where digitised copies of old newspapers are posted<sup>1</sup> and eventually Trove produced articles that made for very interesting reading.

### THE ATTACK:

From the *Queanbeyan Age*, 16 January 1917

#### **DESPERATE ROADSIDE STRUGGLE. MARRIED WOMAN'S TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE**

....at the Carcoar Police Court on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Herbert O'Brien, a swagman, was charged with having committed a serious offence on a married woman, Alice Lynch, residing at Mandurama. A sensational story was told by Mrs Lynch ... She stated she was suddenly attacked...and endeavoured to escape, but failed. The accused then attempted to kick her feet from under her, and the pair rolled down an embankment some twelve feet. The accused renewed the attack and dragged her towards a fence... After struggling for some time the accused produced a piece of broken mirror and threatened to cut her throat if she screamed or resisted. She got away, but the accused overtook her, and struck her a violent blow on the face with his closed fist, dazing her. She still struggled, and the accused tore the clothes from her back and assaulted her. Her face was covered in blood. Subsequently she screamed and the accused ran away.<sup>2</sup>

### THE SENTENCE:

Subsequent newspaper articles show that the attacker was sentenced to death, but that this was later commuted to 15 years imprisonment by the NSW Executive Council [as reported in *The Bathurst Times*, 14 April 1917; *The Daily Herald*, Adelaide, 14 April 1917; and *The Farmer and Settler*, 4 May 1917].

So the family story of the attack was certainly accurate, but what of the story of the attacker's shooting on the eve of his release?

### THE SHOOTING:

From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 July 1931

#### **DEATH OF PRISONER**

*Bombala, Saturday: An inquest was held at the Bombala Gaol yesterday regarding the death of Herbert O'Brien, who was shot by Warder Martin at Brookfield afforestation camp on Wednesday*



The coroner ... gave a verdict of accidental death. Shortly before his death O'Brien made a statement to the effect that the shooting was purely accidental, that he very frequently accompanied Martin in the bush when the latter was kangaroo shooting, and that he was on very friendly terms with Martin and the other camp officials, all of whom had treated him fairly.

[The incident was also reported in *The Bombala Times*, 24 July 1931 and 31 July 1931 (in much greater detail), and the *Delegate Argus*, 30 July 1931 (in which it was stated that the prisoner had 10 days of his sentence remaining).]

#### THE PERCEIVED THREAT:

In the 24 July article from *The Bombala Times*, it is written that: "He stoutly maintained his innocence, and said he had been 'framed up', and that when he was released he would prove his innocence."

So just how reliable was the story of Alice's attack? It is now clear that she was attacked (and brutally so); her attacker was sentenced to many years of imprisonment; and he was shot by a warder.

Whether or not his shooting was deliberate will never be known, but if all the newspaper reports are read<sup>3</sup> it can be seen that there are several things about the reports of the shooting that are puzzling.

When we see that the prisoner's 'dying words' absolved the man who shot him of all blame and indeed praised him for being such a good fellow, it's hard not to be a little sceptical. One might imagine that the coroner had no option, under the given circumstances, but to declare accidental death, whether it was accidental or not.

One thing's for sure though – Uncle Ted was finally able to leave the windows and doors unlocked at night.

#### ENDNOTES:

1. At <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>
2. A much more detailed account of the attack was published in *The Leader* [Orange] 8.1.1917
3. Especially the *Bombala Times*, 31.7.1931

## LOBB MYSTERY SOLVED

We recently asked where Lobb's Hall was located and recently, two pieces of definite proof have been received.

The dark photograph below, was in our archives. It lacks sharpness, but shows a distinctive entry door.

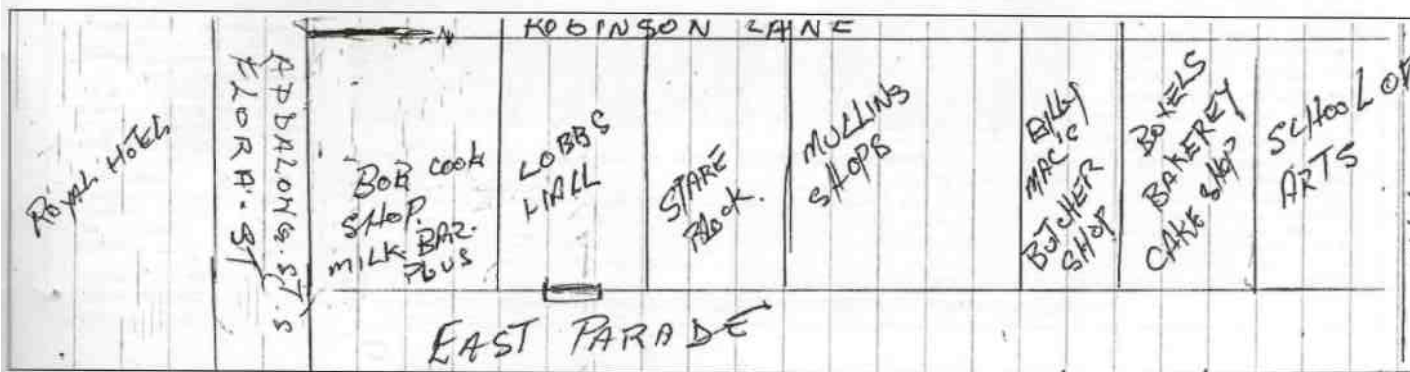


Royal hotel (left) – entry to Adelong Street – shops on the corner, then the hall.

The picture of the hall (below) shows the entry quite clearly and it matches the photo opposite.



Next, we had a visit from Neville Nixon, who grew up in Sutherland after 1933. He gave us the 'mud map' below, showing East Parade shops as he remembered them.



\* Neville has offered to take an interested group around Sutherland to point out old shops \*







## BOOK REVIEW

MERLE KAVANAGH



### ON LEICHHARDT'S PATH: Kakadu 1845

Reflections bushwalking a  
time tunnel (4th edition)

Dan Baschiera

Most of us recall Leichhardt as the leader of a party which went missing on an exploratory walk from east to west Australia in 1848. Previously he had departed the Condamine River in mid 1840s with eight companions, 270 goats, 180 sheep, 40 bullocks, 15 horses and 13 mules on a successful journey of exploration to the Gulf of Carpentaria. History has not credited him with competent organisation but suggests it was more good luck than good management that he succeeded.

Ernest Favenc, also an explorer noted "The journal of the trip reads to a man accustomed to bush life like the tale of the Babes in the Wood, yet he managed to blunder through." So perhaps it was inevitable that he and his party would vanish in the wilderness on his second trip, an attempt to cross Australia from east to west.

Baschiera, from Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, has formed his own ideas on the disappearance of the final exploratory party.

However, this book is mainly concerned with finding remaining evidence of Leichhardt's earlier exploration to Port Essington by connecting with the track taken by Leichhardt, according to his map, mostly through the current Kakadu National Park. Using his original hand-drawn maps, it was possible to follow the track and hopefully find something of interest. In fact they identify some wall art in a rock shelter as a lattice sextant, circa the era of Leichhardt and possibly near his known position in November 1845.

Leichhardt had made a practice of carving his initials on tree trunks as the party moved through the country, camping each night, and Baschiera and his wife were hopeful of finding some evidence of this. It was an epic journey for them but the couple should be happy with what did come to light, even though such findings often created more questions.

Baschiera brings to light many aspects of Leichhardt's journals and manuscript and takes us on an interesting walk through history with the accompanying photographs helping to bring the tale to life. A good read!

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# THE WARATAH MARCH RE-ENACTMENT

13 DECEMBER 2015

CLIVE BAKER

When Clyde Poulton decided to re-enact the 1915 recruiting march from Nowra to Sydney he faced lots of problems with officialdom. Eventually he got all the permissions and, playing part of the original organiser, Captain Blow, he and his modern marchers set off from Nowra. In all, over 100 local modern volunteers carried out the march in stages and the Shire section contained many serving men and women from HMAS *Albatross*. The following article covers some of the events in our area – 100 years ago, last December.



## WARATAHS REACH THE SHIRE

The 1915 marchers had already walked all the way from Nowra, growing in numbers as they went and were at Helensburgh on 12 December.



They left Helensburgh in the morning of 15 December, on a miserable day (described as a strong southerly gale) and were greeted at Waterfall by "a cordial tooting from some half dozen locomotives and the railway men heartily cheered the contingent as it trudged through the rain and mud." <sup>1</sup>

At Heathcote, "the residents extended a very warm welcome to the men" and they were then provided with lunch at Heathcote Hall.

Marchers had been given so much food along the way, that one man was heard to say, "No constitution can stand seven meals a day". <sup>2</sup>

When they reached the outskirts of Engadine, boy scouts were waiting to greet them and the lads marched the rest of the way to Sutherland.



*Less than happy lads from Woronora River Scouts at the ceremony, 2015.*

Then, near today's Engadine railway station, early settler, Mrs Hanlon, gave the men a puppy as a mascot which added to their travelling menagerie of a kitten (that they named 'Marmalade') and a possum.

In the afternoon, Sutherland Shire President Hyndman, council members and local political leaders greeted the weary men at Loftus – no doubt accompanied by many local residents.

The President then congratulated them for arriving right on time per their program, made weeks earlier.



*Edward Hyndman in 1906*

When they finally arrived here, "the town of Sutherland was decorated and the men received a hearty reception". At that point they had walked 26 kilometres for the day and had been on the road for three weeks, covering about 130 kilometres.



No wonder that one reporter said that they "looked a hardy lot".<sup>3</sup> According to one report they entered Sutherland, shouting, "We want more men".



That evening the Shire paid for the men's food and, "they were subsequently entertained to a banquet" at Boyle's Hall – which in those days was across the road from the pub where a few beers were no doubt drunk.

However, when the march ended in Sydney, "A few recruits, who were found to be addicted to drink, were put out", so Boyle's Railway Hotel was perhaps not such a good idea!

In the evening a rousing recruitment meeting was held with speeches aimed at getting more men to join the group. There are reports that three young local men did put their hands up but no definite names have yet been confirmed. If you can help please see me later.

Local member of parliament, George Burns, told the recruits that, "Without re-enforcements [ like them ] the Australians at Gallipoli would have to retreat and a retreat would mean the demolition of the Australian army".

What Mr Burns did not know, was that the evacuation of the peninsular was already under way and a week later, the Diggers were all off, having suffered 7,600 casualties. In fact, the army was not demolished and went on to fight for another three years.



*The tired Waratah marchers slept that night in Lobb's Hall in East Parade.*

After breakfast in the morning, they set off for Hurstville. As they passed Gilmore's Orchard which was then opposite where Tynan Motors is now located, they were given bags of fruit to help them on their way.



*Above and below: In the modern re-enactment, Abbey and Toby McDonald, Coralie Price and Finn Perryman gave bags of fruit to modern marchers.*



Soon after, Miss Munro handed Captain Blow a half-sovereign to buy cigarettes for the men.

When the men reached Tom Ugly's punt (there was no bridge then) they were greeted by 'Ladies of Sylvania' who had lunch ready.

On display there, was a banner saying MAROOMBA' which was supposedly 'Good Luck' in 'Aboriginal' but it seems to be a Queensland word meaning "anything true or good" – perhaps a suitable message anyway.

After lunch at Sylvania, the Waratahs left the Shire to go to war and some were later killed on active service.

NOTE: as no photograph of the banner has been found, we 'invented' one for occasion – see front cover.





*Just on 100 years later, we remember the Waratah volunteers and the more than 30 of them who never came home.*



*Monsignor Brian Rayner  
OAM RAN (Rtd) State  
Chaplain to the NSW  
RSL.*

*He led the religious part  
of the ceremony.*

#### POEM TO THE MARCHERS

There were several recruiting marches under way at the same time and this simple poem of 1915 attempted to honour the marchers:

*The "Waratahs" and "Kangaroos",  
the "Kookaburras" too.  
Are tramping on the bush-track,  
to show what they can do.  
It seems a lot of trouble,  
when they could go in trains,  
And dodge the heat and dust-storm  
and summer's sudden rains.*



*The Yagoona District Band provided the music.*

#### ORGANISATION

Full credit must go to the Nowra organisers and locally to the fine work of Woronora River RSL Club. Our Society was contacted to become involved and Clive Baker liaised with their members:



*L-R: Maureen Davis-Catterall, Jack Donnell  
And Barry Grant of Woronora RSL.*



*NSW Police: Sutherland Local Command  
controlled traffic as the marchers walked up Eton  
Street.*

The function was attended by Mayor Pesce and local members, Craig Kelly and Lee Evans.



*Zoe Catterall sang the Anthem.*





*Above: Australia Day display, Cronulla School of Arts, 2016*

*Below: The first period of Donald Mackay's life,  
shown on the mural in the School of Arts, Sutherland.  
(story on page 21)*





