



Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc Bulletin

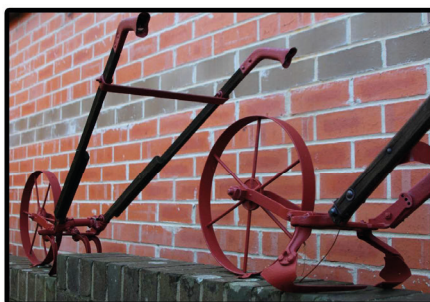


NUMBER: 200 — AUGUST 2016

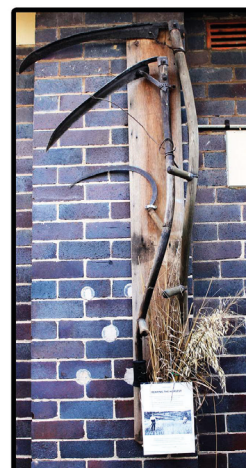
SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM - 30 YEARS OLD



Chaff Cutter



Ploughs mounted on the wall



Scythes for reaping the harvest



Tool Sharpener



Logging was an industry in the Shire



1920's Spring Cart (photo Chris Hawkins 2015)

Relics of the Shire's rural past displayed in the museum's courtyard providing insight into the use of land for agricultural pursuits – orchards, chicken and pig farming, dairy cattle and vegetable garden – in earlier times

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.shirehistory.org.



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Front cover: collage of photos of farmyard display exhibits [created by Dawne Harridge from photos supplied by SSHS]

Back cover: Snapshots from Sutherland Shire Museum [SSHS]

Inside back cover: Jan Etteridge's mural depicting the Shire's rural past [SSHS]

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back 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 Acting Editor: Elizabeth Craig at elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com or phone 9528 4707.

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 Acting Curator, Ian Kolln on 9528 3094 or iankolln@yahoo.com.au.

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

SOCIETY COMMITTEE: 2015-2016

ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor, Clr Carmelo Pesce		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	9523-5294	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Ineke Nieuwland	9524-9226	ineken10@gmail.com
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	jcmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
HONORARY TREASURER	Anna Estephan	9525-6441	annaestephan@gmail.com
MUSEUM CURATOR (ACTING)	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com.au
RESEARCH OFFICER	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	merle.kavanagh@gmail.com
EXCURSION OFFICER	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	----
EXCURSION BOOKING CLERK	Lynne Sams	0429-000-848	sam.lewis4U@gmail.com
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Joan Tangney	9523-6774	jtangney@optusnet.com.au
BULLETIN EDITOR (ACTING)	Elizabeth Craig	9528 4707	elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
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	Stuart Cole

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	Bruce Watt	Andrew Platfoot Pat Hannan	Bruce Gill Noel Elliot Ian Kolln
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

Letters Page

We welcome any comments, feedback on articles and suggestions that you would like to share with members of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. Here are our first contributions to the *Letters Page*.

I would like to acknowledge assistance given to me by members, particularly Clive Baker, Pat Hannon and Carol McDonald, while painting the mural for the Society. [This is the mural hanging in the Museum's courtyard depicting the Shire's rural past. See inside back cover.]

*Jan Etteridge
Oyster Bay*

Dear Bruce,

On 10 May 2016 I was delighted to make a statement in Parliament about the Sutherland Shire Historical Society's 50th anniversary.

I attach a copy of the relevant section of the Hansard. [See page 24.]

Congratulations once again on this significant milestone.

Yours sincerely,

*Mark Speakman SC MP
Member for Cronulla*

Dear Bruce,

Thank you very much for your hard work when my class visited the Museum. You really helped the children a great deal with understanding what they could do for their [local history] project, and how to go about it. There has been much excited conversation at school about what they saw.

*Ann Coleby
Caringbah North Public School*

Ann Coleby included some of the fifth class students' comments:

... I'm thinking of researching WWII for my project because of all the information the museum had. I especially liked the air raid siren.
Christian

... I particularly liked the old fashioned dress. It was very interesting to see the change in the way people dress.
Zali

... I learnt a lot about what it was like in the 19th century. ... It felt like you had transported me back in time.
Estelle

... My favourite part was looking at the Aboriginal tools. It was also interesting to look at some of the toys that kids used to play with.
Ben

... When I saw what the transport looked like in the 1800's, I knew that had given me an idea [for my project].
Ramin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT



Our Society reached a venerable young age of 50 this year and we gave it one hell of a good birthday party. The luncheon celebration and book launch have been well reported on and appropriately so. What is it that keeps a community based volunteer organisation

ticking along for so long? The answer no doubt is in examining the actions and efforts of many of the members this year.

I'd imagine that some of our members are vaguely interested in history, like a social outing and a chat and the occasional thought provoking talk or presentation. We do that well. Carol McDonald organises the guest speakers, Terry McCosker sets up the audio. Noel Elliot reports on the upcoming trips and Elizabeth Craig pleads, cajoles and regales us on the need for more articles for the upcoming bulletin but generally assures us that all's well and the next edition will be the best. It must be exciting for those who can't attend meetings to receive the next instalment in the mail. Meanwhile Anna Estephan delightfully collects and receipts our money. Raffle over with 'every child player receiving a prize', the troops gather 'round the campfire' so beautifully laid out by the catering crew.

All sounds easy, and it is when lots of people are doing lots of things; and this is the strength of the Society.

Haven't mentioned the museum? For some it's the heart and soul of an historical society. Well over 25 volunteers are on a roster to keep it open every Saturday from 9 to 1 pm. Ian Kolln heads up the museum committee. Doing the roster, opening and a host of other administrative things are important but the committee is the engine that drives it.

Noel Elliot, Andrew Platfoot, Carol McDonald, Pat Hannan, Bruce Watt and Joan Tangney

have taken many initiatives to move it forward. New external signage has been commissioned for the museum and to advertise the museum in other locations.

What about the executive committee. None are sleepers and there's lots of active debate and worthwhile suggestions. Pauline Curby, Ineke Nieuwland, George Miller and Helen Rosner are leaders and wise council as is Angela Thomas, the steady hand of the Society. Thanks to George Miller who has once again taken up the temporary role of treasurer in Anna Estephan's absence.

The museum anchors lots of our activities. To celebrate its 30th anniversary we are holding 'a night at the museum' on Friday October 21. It will be catered for so expect a charge but we always deliver value for money. It's an important event on our calendar so support us please. We continue to host Primary School groups and other groups mid-week.

A recent burst water pipe in the School of Arts caused damage to paper records in our store room. Fortunately a lot could be saved. Access to the area is difficult and the committee is to undertake a rationalisation as it's a safety issue. The Society has secured the use of a large building at Hungry Point and some of our inventory will be relocated. Anyone looking for a removalist's job? Your help would be appreciated. Ian Kolln and I attended a disaster management and recovery workshop at Wollongong. There are eight museums in the Wollongong area, a city the size of the Sutherland Shire. The networking was valuable.

Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald continue the mammoth task of scanning and filing our considerable collection of photographs and ephemera. We now have many resource folders filed under suburbs, people etc.

Our modest art collection is growing and has been hung. I wish to acknowledge the work of Jan Etteridge in producing a large mural

representing the Shire's rural past. This is mounted in the courtyard. Whilst unsuccessful with one grant we have another active application in for funds to build a covered area in the northern courtyard. This will provide cover for student groups and other School of Arts patrons. Our thanks go to Don Rothnie, our grants co-ordinator.

I attend the Meeting of Two Cultures and NAIDOC celebrations held each year as part of our Indigenous recognition. I attended the latest meeting of the Shire Aboriginal Reconciliation committee. Hazelhurst Regional Gallery gave a presentation on a major exhibition and workshops of Aboriginal artists that they are hosting from October 15 to December 11. It will feature artists from the seven major art centres of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in South Australia near the borders of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

I have been in consultation with Hazelhurst regarding the Society joining 'Friends of Hazelhurst'. There are certain synergies between our organisations.

Crio Hines is a talented photographer and member. We are photographing local iconic historical images and hope to produce our own calendar. Crio and Peter Moore were recently granted access to the interior of Heathcote Hall. Very few people have seen inside the Hall for many years. Peter gave an interesting talk with photographs about the mansion at our last meeting. I will be joining them for another visit in the near future.

As the AGM is approaching in September, I wish to thank members for their support and encouragement this year. Perhaps you'd like to consider standing for a position or volunteering. The Society has benefitted greatly from a healthy injection of new talents and personalities in recent times.

A gentle reminder that annual subscriptions are due, at the modest price of \$30.

Remember: history is our past; understanding it is our future.

HERITAGE LISTING OF LUCAS MILLS

GREG JACKSON



Alexandra Boukouvalas and Sterling Smith
archaeologists from NSW Heritage
at the Brisbane Mill site [Photo G. Jackson]

Following several articles in our *Bulletin* the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage are progressing with the state listing of John Lucas' Brisbane Mill on Williams Creek, Voyager Point and the Woronora Mill at the head of navigation of the Woronora River. This will ensure that these two valuable sites will be permanently protected and preserved. This image shows Alexandra Boukouvalas and Sterling Smith, Archaeologists from NSW Heritage inspecting the Brisbane Mill on the 2nd of June.

Apparently, these are the only two remaining watermill sites not built over in the Sydney basin, so they are considered to be very important.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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

SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER, 2016

COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM

STAPLETON CENTRE, 21A STAPLETON ST., SUTHERLAND

AGENDA

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APOLOGIES
2. CONFIRM AND ADOPT MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM
3. SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 49th EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, MUSEUM CURATOR, *BULLETIN* EDITOR
4. SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2015-16 FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET
5. MOTION: ADOPTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:
A. MERLE KAVANAGH B. NOLA WATT
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER 1
COMMITTEE MEMBER 2
COMMITTEE MEMBER 3
COMMITTEE MEMBER 4
COMMITTEE MEMBER 5
7. APPOINTED POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MUSEUM COMMITTEE (1)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE (2)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE (3)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE (4)
MUSEUM COMMITTEE (5)
BOOK REVIEWER
BULLETIN PROOF READER

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (1)
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (2)
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (3)
8. AGM GENERAL BUSINESS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

CAROL McDONALD

The past year has been memorable for a number of reasons. Most of all we successfully celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a Luncheon at Club on East. On this occasion Elizabeth Craig's book, *Caretakers of our Past*, (an account of the first 50 years of the Historical Society) was launched, with guest speakers Shire Mayor Cllr Carmelo Pesce, NSW Minister for Heritage Mark Speakman, former President of the History Council of NSW Emeritus Prof. David Carment, and President of the Royal Australian Historical Society Dr Carol Liston. A special mention should be made of Daphne Salt, Andrew and Jenness Platfoot, who related their experiences with the Historical Society in its earlier days. Thanks should also go to Daphne Salt for her interesting power point presentation compiled from photos used in Elizabeth's book.

The Society also hosted the opening of Heritage Week this year at the School of Arts.

It was well attended by our members and other groups involved. Thanks to Helen Rosner for her work on the organising committee. We had a display of historical photographs on the night and these were also taken to Celeste Cottage on Open Day. There were many favourable comments from interested visitors.

On the 13 December 2015 there was the re-enactment of the Waratah March in Sutherland. In 1915 marchers left Nowra to march to Sydney to enlist in World War I. They left Helensburgh on 15 December 1915. The Society was prominent in the re-enactment. When the original marchers passed through Sutherland they were given fruit by children from a local orchard and this was repeated in 2015 in the re-enactment. Thanks to Toby and Abbey McDonald, Coralie Price and Finn Perryman for handing out bags of fruit. Thanks must also go to Clive Baker for assisting in the organising of this occasion.

Excursions and historical walks provide enjoyable and varied days to the monthly meetings. Special thanks must go to Noel Elliot for making these days possible. We have visited some varied and diverse places of Sydney and Wollongong. On the days I have participated I have learnt some new and interesting things about our Heritage.

The Museum continues to be a highlight of the Historical Society. Opening on Saturday mornings makes it available to all visitors. It is most pleasing that we have had several school tours in the past

year as well as group bookings. Hopefully we will get a grant to cover the courtyard. Disaster struck with a flood occurring in the School of Arts which flowed into the storage garage. A number of items were waterlogged but many have been saved thanks to the hours of work Pat Hannan and Bruce Watt put in rescuing what they could.

Our talks have been interesting and varied. We began the year in October with a talk by George Cotis on Gogerly's Cottage, the oldest surviving house in the Shire. George had some excellent photos. Many members had visited the site.

We have been lucky in finding many speakers from within our ranks and have enabled them to share their experiences.

Our Christmas Party was held at the School of Arts on the 21 November, there being no General Meeting. Instead 50 guests and 3 visitors entertained each other.

I spoke at the January meeting on the history of Como. At the museum Pat Hannan and myself have been scanning the large number of historical photos and it was very exciting to be able to share with members many of these photos on the history of Como.

Colin Burgess spoke to us in February about Australian prisoners in Colditz Castle during WWII. This was most interesting and gave us fresh insights. In March Pauline Curby spoke about the use of Aboriginal names by the Council and expressed doubt that sufficient research was done before naming streets and suburbs.

We did not have a meeting in April due to the 50th Anniversary Lunch and Heritage launch.

Due to a cancellation in May Angela Thomas filled in with a talk on the *Letters of Rachel Henning* with a Powerpoint presentation of Norman Lindsay's illustrations which had been compiled by Daphne Salt.

In June we had an excellent talk with accompanying Powerpoint by Noel Elliot on the 200th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens. In July we enjoyed another fine presentation from Bruce Watt on the history of Cronulla, using many photographs selected by Pat Hannan.

At the time of writing we have not had our last presentation for the year, Lorraine Neate's *Scandal, slander and interfering with our neighbours*, on

characters who shaped the Illawarra. We look forward to that shortly.

I can't conclude this report without a very sincere thank you to Angela Thomas for her continuing assistance and support over the past year. The success of any organisation depends on its members contributing their time and expertise.

This has been particularly noticeable within the Historical Society considering that all members are voluntary and they take on so many roles. Clive Baker's resignation left a big hole that has been hard to fill. Thanks must go to so many for their assistance and they have made the past year truly memorable.

MUSEUM REPORT

IAN KOLLN, INTERIM CURATOR

The pace on East parade on a Saturday morning is one of meandering. The local cafes do a roaring trade pumping out caffeine to locals and streams of cyclists. Each week on our little patch of the Shire, promptly at 9.00 am volunteers open up the museum ready to welcome visitors.

Our visitors on Saturday morning vary from those who specifically come seeking us out to those who wander past. One of our volunteers on his rostered weeks will be seen trying to cajole passers-by to 'come inside'.

The museum's exhibition, *A Journey through Time* is the story of Sutherland Shire, commencing with Sydney Basin geology and Aboriginal artefacts. It moves on to First Contact with Lt Cook through settlement with Capt Phillip, then Holt and other settlers' stories are presented. Attention is also placed on local residents' involvement in the wars and Army uses of Loftus encampment area, now the entry to the Royal National Park. Local manufacturers' displays from Parke Davis and Kreisler conclude the journey.

Most visitors look at the suburb folders containing photos and historical extracts. These are readily accessible in the Daphne Salt room. These are outstanding research resources of the museum. Visitors can personally engage with history and seek out answers to their own unique queries. The creation of these folders came through the mammoth work of Pat and Carol with the assistance of a varied number of assistants who come in on a weekly basis.

As well as the Saturday openings, and Heritage Festival openings we have had school groups who attend with their teachers to learn of the history of the Shire, as part of the curriculum. We have work sheets and learning modules for this purpose, set up for the age of the students attending. Our volunteers on these days have met the legal requirements, holding Working with Children checks.

All aged care residences in the Shire have either been visited by our publicity officer, or had information about the Museum mailed to them. At the time of writing we have had one mid-week visit by a group, with the promise of more in the future and another has booked a visit. Some local Proboscis groups have been in to see what the Museum has on display. We are hoping to host more community groups in the coming year.

Our display now extends into the courtyard. A 1920s Spring Cart which was restored and donated by the Menai Men's Shed forms the centre display. Bruce was delighted to accept it in late 2014.

General farming implements as well as industrial and domestic items bulk out the display. School groups delight in using the air raid siren in the military display on their visits.

Some paper records in the lock-up storage were damaged recently when the dressing rooms of the theatre above had a leaking pipe. Those records beyond saving had to be discarded. The upside to this situation is that we have now been granted a more appropriate space to store material, including those records we were able to save. A building at Hungry Point, the old fisheries site at Cronulla has been allocated to us. The building there has industrial shelving systems as well as adequate space for future work to be undertaken for preservation and cataloguing of the huge array of records we hold on behalf of the people of Sutherland Shire.

With the benefit of hindsight, Bruce and I attended a one day workshop on Disaster Planning for Small Museums, held at Wollongong on 28 July. This provided practice and skill development. It also gave us invaluable contacts with other Museums in the Illawarra area.

The job of Curator, done previously by Clive is an enormous one, covering many roles. We have considered the need for splitting of responsibilities into:

- Curating – cataloguing and recording;
- Marketing-planning future displays to meet historical anniversaries and events;
- Volunteer rostering- staff for regular and special openings;
- Manual skills -Maintenance and Exhibition Mounting. .

If you or someone you know would like to assist with these, please contact me.

We have run the initial introduction to Volunteering at the Museum with training for the roles of Supervisor and Guide, both of which will be repeated as required.

We are planning a 'Night at the Museum' on Friday, 21 October to mark our museum's 30th anniversary since opening in 1986. Details will be announced at the meetings

		EVENT	SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2016
SEPTEMBER	3	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	10	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	17	Monthly Meeting 1.30 pm	AGM Members' 'Show and Tell'.
	24	EXCURSION: Noel Elliott 9521 8622	Bus trip to Birch Grove and Balmain
OCTOBER	1	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	8	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	15	Monthly Meeting 1.30 pm	SPEAKER: George Miller, 'The History of Sutherland'
	21	Night at the Museum	Details to be announced at meeting
	22	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	29	EXCURSION: Noel Elliott 9521 8622	To be decided
NOVEMBER	5	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	12	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm
	19	XMAS MEETING	To be confirmed
	26	MUSEUM	Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Sutherland Shire Museum turns 30!

This month we mark thirty years since the opening of our museum at the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts in August 1986. The museum's current polished display, systematically tracing the history of our Shire through 'time pods' has evolved enormously since those first tentative steps to tell the story of the Shire in photos and artefacts in the new 'Exhibitions Room'. An exhibition of our Shire's rural past is currently being developed in the museum's courtyard. A salute to the dedication and hard work of curators, archivists and their assistants appears later in this *Bulletin*.

How many *Bulletins* did you say?

Another significant milestone this month is the *Bulletin* itself. You will notice from the number of this edition (on the front cover) that since September 1966 when Marjorie Hutton Neve launched the first *Bulletin*, the Society has published 200 editions! Changing technology has meant that production of the magazine is no longer the labour intensive process it was, and the result is far more sophisticated. The first edition comprised four single-column foolscap pages typed on to stencils with a manual typewriter. The stencils were fitted on to a Gestetner duplicator for printing by the Council staff. Then came the collating and stapling process – all by hand – usually on the floor of somebody's house. Envelopes were addressed manually, before stuffing them with *Bulletins* for posting.

Look at the *Bulletin* now! It is illustrated, includes colour, and comprises stories usually submitted to the editor's computer electronically. It's also much more substantial, with up to 40 pages of well researched articles on local and broader history, and more intimate personal recollections of an earlier time.

The Council, which has always printed the *Bulletin* for us, now sends the electronic files supplied by the editor to a printer which prints, collates and

staples the copies automatically. Although addressing envelopes is also electronic, it doesn't always run smoothly as labelling software, Windows 10 and the operator frequently come to blows!

'Now which edition was that story in?'

Valuable records of our history were in danger of becoming lost as the *Bulletins* piled up and stories became harder to locate. Ray Sowden and later, Merle Kavanagh came to the rescue by creating an Index of the articles. Then with more sophisticated technology and the dedication of another SSHS member, Daphne Salt, every *Bulletin* until May 2012 was scanned and digitised and put on to searchable CDs, making valuable articles easily accessible by anyone with a computer. Digitising from August 2012 to the current issue is now needed.

Any feedback or suggestions?

In this edition I am starting a *Letters Page*, and you are invited to make comments, suggestions and responses to articles – including follow-ups, such as further information on WWI nurse Alice Cashin's memorial which will be featured in the *Bulletin*'s November edition.

When our work makes a difference

It is very satisfying when a SSHS member's efforts bear fruit. Several articles written by Greg Jackson about the Lucas Mills have been published in the *Bulletin*. Now we learn the mills are being considered for heritage listing. (See page 6.)

Getting to know you

I intend to reintroduce a segment in the *Bulletin* called 'Meet the Members,' and I would be delighted to receive your story for publication in the magazine. If you are interested, but not sure how to go about it, please contact me and I will help you.

A reminder

Subscriptions for 2016/2017 are now due. A membership renewal form can be found on page 39 of the May 2016 *Bulletin*.

SOCIETY NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome the following new members into our Society this year:

Burnie Bridget	Bernadette Day	Cheryle Poyner	Gloria Scott
John Doherty	Tony Dowling	Marylin Urch	John Worchurst
Bruce Edney	Bruce Hammond	Peter Neve	Leonie Patterson
Ian Hill	Joan King	Roger and Rhonda Tomlin	
Des Levins	Marshall Mills		

We trust you will enjoy the camaraderie and the activities with us at SSHS.

HEALTH REPORT

Good news from Merle Kavanagh, who fell and damaged her hip a few weeks ago. She is now fully on her feet and we can expect her to trot up to the August meeting.

Another casualty though, has been Pat Hannan, who slipped on the steps at her home and managed to break a rib and hurt her back. She will be out of action for a few weeks. We wish you all the best for a quick recovery, Pat.

A NEW MILITARY CLUB IN THE SHIRE

SSHS member Clive Baker, well known for his interest in military history, has launched the Shire Military Club (SMC). With 20 members so far, the Club is in the midst of being incorporated before formally electing a committee. Clive edits a club magazine, *Action Report*, the first edition containing several stories of the experiences of Shire men and women in wars, book reviews and upcoming activities.

SMC meets monthly on Thursdays at 1.00 pm at the Stapleton Centre (at least for the moment), where two or more guest speakers talk on a variety of subjects, followed by afternoon tea and an informal chat. The next meeting on Thursday, 8 September will feature a discussion on 'Cronulla defences in WWII'. Field tours will be organised in and outside the Shire, visiting military historical sites and other places of interest to the Club.

If SMC interests you, contact Clive Baker for more information at warbookshop@bigpond.com or phone him on 9521 6515 or call his mobile on 0424 235 885

We wish you luck in your new venture, Clive.

THE TURRIELL POINT CAVE-IN – TWO CENTURIES (OR SO) ON A HUMAN TRAGEDY WE SHOULD ALL SHARE

BRUCE HOWELL

It's ironic that what is arguably the most tragic loss of human life ever to have occurred within the Sutherland Shire is something most of us know very little about. It happened at Turriell Point, near the mouth of Burraneer Bay, in the mid to late 1700's or thereabouts, and several, if not scores of people died.

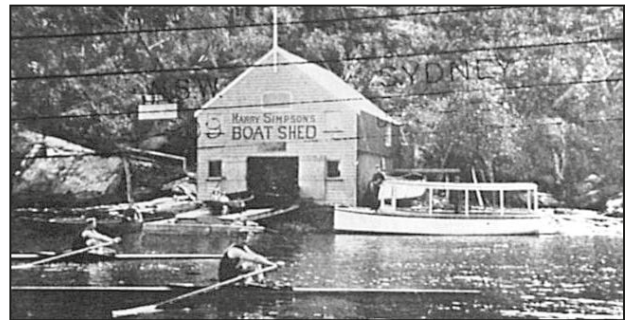
In the late 1800's, a young boy by the name of Harry Simpson was told of the tragedy by Biddy Giles, an Aboriginal woman who had lived almost all of her long life in the local region, and it was Harry, years after Biddy's death, who would all but confirm her story.

During the late 1800's, Biddy Giles was a regular visitor to Port Hacking. From about 1860, she lived with her husband Billy at the mouth of Mill Creek, on the southern side of the Georges River, but she conducted fishing and hunting tours in the Port Hacking area¹. By all accounts Biddy was quite the raconteur, and one of the stories she told her guests was of a calamitous rock fall in which many of her ancestors had been killed. The story suggested that about a hundred years before, a large group of people had been travelling through the area to attend a corroboree, and when they were caught in a fierce storm, they took shelter in a large rock overhang. As Biddy is reported to have told it, a massive lightning strike caused the overhang to collapse, killing what has been suggested to have been a whole tribe of people.

Biddy was well known to the first European residents of Port Hacking, in particular Charles Gogerly who actually featured in some, perhaps many, of Biddy's tours², and it would seem almost certain that Biddy was also well known to another of the earliest residents, William Simpson. William had inherited a parcel of land that had been granted to his father George in 1863, at Cabbage Tree Point near Bonnie Vale in Bundeena. Over time, William developed the land and it was in around 1886-1887 that he opened a hotel, called Tyreal House³. Holiday makers were ferried from Turriell

Point⁴, where the Simpsons also owned land, to the hotel, where they were able to access the Royal National Park⁵, only recently gazetted at the time^{6,7}.

Biddy had told the story of the rock fall to William Simpson's young son Harry⁸, and had pointed out the location of the rock fall to him, but it wasn't until 1918, long after Biddy's death⁹, that Harry decided to test the story. By this time Harry was the proprietor of the boat shed on the Simpson's land at Turriell Point¹⁰, which was, as happenstance would have it, very close to the site pointed out by Biddy¹¹.



A postcard photo of Harry Simpson's boatshed at Turriell Point, postmarked sometime between 1900 and 1909. [Photo: Sutherland Library, Local Studies, Historical Photographs.]

In August 1918, Harry blasted away a metre or two of what is a 30 metre length of fallen rock, and found dozens of bones and stone artefacts mixed up in the rubble.



Bones and artefacts excavated from the site in 1918. [Photo: Sutherland Library, Local Studies, Historical Photographs]

It seems highly unlikely that it was simply by co-incidence that the rock that Bidy had identified was also covering a plethora of bones and stone artefacts. Harry's tenacity confirmed, almost certainly, the veracity of Bidy's story, a story that had been passed on to her through her family, one of whom, as Bidy related, had escaped the disaster only through having been asked to gather some firewood just prior to the rock fall¹².

Harry's discovery was widely reported in the newspapers of the time¹³, and various photographs were taken showing both the

locality of the rock fall and the items revealed by the excavation. Whether every detail of Bidy's story is true or not doesn't detract from its central significance – Bidy Giles believed that the tragedy had occurred and she believed that she knew where to look for signs of it, and the later excavations support her story.

Clearly this site qualifies as one of the most, if not *the* most significant Aboriginal sites in the shire, but moreover, this site should be considered as one of the most significant sites in the shire – full stop¹⁴.



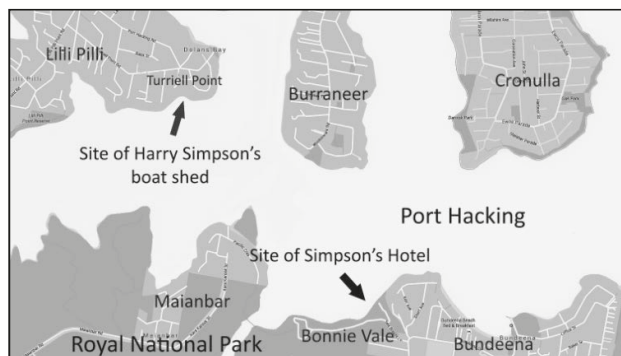
The rock fall site at Turriell Point, photographed in 1918. A 30 metre length of rock can be seen at right, with a dark open area behind it, mostly shrouded in foliage. The results of Harry Simpson's excavations at the western end of the rock fall can be seen as a mound of dark soil, shown by the white arrow, with a line of cubical rocks in front of the mound, strewn towards the waterline. [Photograph courtesy of Bruce Watt.]

POSTSCRIPT:

In recent years archaeologists have confirmed the location of the rock fall and have been able to examine the site. Laws regarding Aboriginal sites prohibit any kind of action that might damage the site, so excavation is not an option, but more bones were discovered close to the site in 1987 when some nearby building works were performed. The site itself is entirely located on private land so public access isn't possible.

The site was recently dubbed "Bidy Giles Shelter", a tribute to the woman who, more than anyone else, kept the memory of the tragedy, and the people affected by it, alive.

LOCATIONS:



[Map adapted from Google Maps view of Port Hacking.]

ENDNOTES:

¹ Accounts of Biddy and Billy Giles' exploits as tour guides in the 1860's can be read in various issues of *St George Call*, a newspaper published in Kogarah during the early 1900's, in particular during 1907 in a series of articles entitled "Reminiscence of the Sixties" (see especially the May 18, 1907 issue, p3, at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/22832097?zoomLevel=1>) and an item in the April 8, 1911 issue p6 entitled "Small Beer Chronicles", at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/22833729?zoomLevel=1>.

² For an account in which it is clear that Biddy, Billy and Gogerly (spelt Goggley in the account) are working together on a tour, see *St George Call* of April 27, 1907, p3 "A Reminiscence of the Sixties", at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/22832073?zoomLevel=1>.

For other stories of "Goggley" see the November 2015 edition of the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, pages 23 & 24.

³ *Tyreal House* was the original name of what was later generally referred to as *Simpson's Hotel*.

⁴ *Turriell Point* has been variously named *Tyreal Point*, *Tyreel Point*, *Little Tyreal Point*, *Tyrell's Point*, and *Turriel Point*.

⁵ During the time in question, the park was called simply *National Park*. It wasn't until 1955 that the park would be renamed as *Royal National Park*.

⁶ *National Park* was gazetted in 1879.

⁷ For information regarding George Simpson, William Simpson and the history of the development of the Simpson's Hotel site, including the relationship between the development of the site and the opening of the Royal National Park, See *Conservation Management Plan for Simpson's Hotel Precinct, Bonnie Vale, Royal National Park*, pages 9-13, at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/cmp.pdf>.

Also see the November 2010 edition of the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin* pages 6-10, for an article on the Simpsons.

⁸ Harry Simpson was born Henry Charles Simpson in 1874. He died in 1920, in a private hospital in Cronulla, aged 46. His death notice can be seen at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/1245945>.

⁹ According to Harry Simpson's estimates, Biddy died c.1893.

¹⁰ A 1901 plan of the Simpson's property can be seen at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230425473/view>

¹¹ For more information on Biddy Giles' activities on Port Hacking, see *Rivers and Resilience*, Heather Goodall and Allison Cadzow, UNSW Press 2009, pages 87-103. (Note: the location of the rock fall is incorrectly placed near Simpson's property at Bundeena in this volume – understandable given that the actual location is adjacent to the Simpson's property at Turriell Point, and the curious link to "Tyreal" at both places.)

¹² There are other accounts that refer to the story of the rock fall that can be seen in *St George Call* articles: "A Reminiscence of the Sixties", April 27, 1907, p3 at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/22832073?zoomLevel=1> and also "Old Times", April 13, 1907, p3 at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/22832057?zoomLevel=1>. They show that the rock fall site had been pointed out by Biddy Giles as early as the mid 1860's. One of the accounts names the affected group of people as *King Wirrah and his tribe*.

¹³ The story of Harry Simpson's discovery featured in several newspapers across NSW, as well as the *Evening Post* in New Zealand, but all used basically the same text. One such article can be seen in the *Delegate Argus* of Thursday September 12th 1918 at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/123171459>. When comparing the *St George Call* account of April 27, 1907 to the account as presented in the *Delegate Argus* article, some discrepancies can be seen regarding who it was who originally passed on the story of the rock fall.

¹⁴ The significance of the rock fall site is enhanced further when considering the various other details related by Biddy Giles, as reported in the *St George Call* articles – in particular regarding the movements of Aboriginal people from as far south as the Shoalhaven into Port Hacking. The Deeban Spit area between Maianbar and Turriel Point is explicitly suggested by Biddy to have been a "crossing place" – not difficult to imagine if one looks across to Turriell Point from Deeban Spit on a low tide.

HENRY HACKING IN AUSTRALIA

MERLE KAVANAGH

Henry Hacking, whose name was given in 1796 to the port just south of historic Botany Bay on the New South Wales coast, appears to have been an adventurer who strayed at times into serious trouble – a pilot, bushman, explorer and ... thief. He was born about 1850 but nothing is known of his life before he embarked from England on a voyage to the New World.¹ No diaries or even letters have been found for him and as he made a cross when 'signing' for his salary in 1812², we can assume that he had few writing skills.

Hacking was a quartermaster on H.M.S. *Sirius* when it sailed in convoy in 1787 to establish a colony in the Botany Bay area on the east coast of the Great South Land. The American War of Independence had put an end to the transportation of England's convicts to that country and, with overflowing prisons, a replacement country was desperately needed. This convoy, the First Fleet, carried everything required to establish such a colony, including human cargo. Hacking, with his adventurous spirit would take advantage of the opportunities it offered, both legal and otherwise.

The first few years spent establishing the colony brought many problems, the most important being adequate food. Before the first year had ended, Governor Arthur Phillip decided that the *Sirius* should sail to the Cape of Good Hope for supplies, flour especially. Seven guns were taken out of the ship to make more room for provisions and she sailed on 2 October 1788 with Captain John Hunter in command and Hacking serving as a quartermaster.³ The voyage was expected to take six months.⁴

The *Sirius* sprung a leak a few days out but knowing that a quick return with supplies was essential for the colony to survive, Hunter sailed on, making repairs where necessary and pumping continuously. On 25 December 1788 the *Sirius* crossed the opposite meridian to Greenwich, giving the sailors the chance of Christmas celebrations on two days running. It was 91 days before they reached the cape.⁵ On 20 February 1789 the *Sirius* left the Cape, arriving back in the colony on 9 May 1789. The officers and crew, including Hacking, had experienced terrible hardships and danger on their stormy circumnavigation of the Globe.⁶

Hacking, now safely on land, was often found out in the bush around the settlement, shooting and hunting. But he was back on board when the *Sirius*

sailed for Norfolk Island on 5 March, 1790, in company with the *Supply*. The ships carried 116 male and 67 female convicts with 27 children and two companies of Marines plus their effects, their livestock and supplies to support them all.⁷

The *Sirius* and *Supply* had a stormy crossing to Norfolk Island and found it impossible to land at Sydney Bay where the settlement had been established. Even after sailing to the opposite side of the island they were unable to land for several days and then had to walk across the island. On 19 March 1790 *Sirius* drifted close to the reef, thrown onto it and wrecked. The shipwrecked men, women and children aboard were hauled ashore on a makeshift raft, many through breaking surf, often emerging half drowned.⁸ Some cargo was washed on shore and salvaged but much was lost.

When the sea abated somewhat a couple of convicts swam out and liberated the livestock which swam ashore. The convicts quickly found the ship's cellar and became gloriously drunk – and set the ship on fire! A convict, John Arscott, had his sentence remitted when he swam out and doused the fires and brought back the culprits.⁹ With the sudden loss of all the supplies on the *Sirius*, Martial Law was declared on Norfolk Island, all food stocks and livestock commandeered, double locks put on the store and rations reduced. It was August 1790 before the Island received further news and stores.¹⁰

Hunter and the crew of the *Sirius*, including Hacking, stayed at Norfolk Island for almost a year until *Supply* returned to collect them, arriving back in Sydney on 26 February 1791. They were all gaunt and very unhappy about their long wait on the Island and though 10 seamen and 2 marines chose to stay in the colony (perhaps some attachments to women), the others, including Hacking sailed for England on the Dutch ship *Waak-sam-heyd*, meaning Good Lookout. The voyage was overly long with the ship departing on 28th March 1791 and not arriving in England until April 1792.¹¹

Why Hacking chose to return to Sydney on the *Royal Admiral* is not known but he arrived back on 7 October 1792,¹² just prior to the departure of Governor Phillip on the *Atlantic* on 10 December 1792, with two aborigines, Baneelon (Bennelong) and Yem-mer-ra-wannie'.¹³

Hacking returned to his favourite pastime – rambling in the bush. Since his departure some exploratory efforts had been made by marines to explore the country and Hacking was spurred to do his best to achieve more. With two companions he left on 20 August 1794, but returned seven days later, reporting on the wild and inaccessible country and their meeting with only one native who fled when he saw them.¹⁴

Again in November 1795 some cattle which had strayed from the settlement in 1788, were found by two convicts who were out shooting for officers and Governor Hunter sent Hacking, ‘a man on whom he could depend’¹⁵ to confirm and report back. When Hacking returned with good news, Hunter left on 18 November to check on the cattle with Hacking, Captain Henry Waterhouse, 2nd Commander of the *Reliance*, George Bass, Surgeon on that ship, David Collins and two convicts who had found the herd initially. They travelled for two days, crossing the Nepean River and found 40 head of cattle grazing. It was established that they had all the features of the Cape cattle brought into the country earlier. This area, 30 miles South West of Sydney then became known as the Cow Pastures.¹⁶

George Bass and Matthew Flinders also explored the country around the settlement including the river south of Botany Bay. They entered the port on Wednesday 30 March 1796 and landed in a small northern bay, made a meal, dried their goods and fished from the boat. However sharks were numerous and they returned to the small bay, pulling grass for their beds and suffering a disturbed night on account of the ‘numberless mosquitos’.¹⁷

The following day they explored the port, finding it ‘very shoal’ and unsuitable for shipping. Flinders recorded –

“It having been a pilot named Hacking from whom the first information of it had been received, it was named after him: by the natives it is called Deeban.”¹⁸

There has been some controversy regarding the name of Port Hacking as it was referred to earlier as Port Aiken or Aikin, even after the naming by Flinders. However, it cannot be disputed that Flinders named it for Henry Hacking. In a later publication, Flinders declared –

...in March following, Mr. Bass and myself planned an expedition to another River which Henry Hacking the pilot had met with

to the southward of Botany Bay, in his kangaroo hunting excursions: the entrance of this river was thought to be very little beyond Point Solander.¹⁹

Frank Cridland’s early history of Sutherland Shire states –

...whether Hacking actually saw the bay, or whether friendly Botany Bay Blacks informed him of its existence, is a matter of conjecture.”²⁰

Hacking’s expertise had been much appreciated and used by the Governors but in 1796 he became involved in questionable activities. Together with Michael and John Hogan he was accused of assaulting Matthew Austin, Superintending Surgeon of Convicts on the *Marquis Cornwallis*. Michael Hogan was the Commander of that ship, John Hogan, the Surgeon and Henry Hacking the Pilot. The ship had arrived from Ireland with 233 male and female convicts on 11 February 1796, the Commander reporting a conspiracy to take over the ship. But this had been averted when Michael Hogan became aware of the plan and after consulting with the free people on board, punished those concerned severely. The assault was proved but Hacking and John Hogan were acquitted though Michael Hogan was found guilty and ordered to pay damages of fifty pounds.

In February 1798 Hacking was given another responsibility by Governor Hunter, who sent him to the Cow pastures to investigate the killing of several cattle there. This was thought possibly to have been done by Irish convicts ‘who were nearly as wild themselves as the cattle’²¹ but no trace of the cattle was found.

Hacking’s job in the colony was piloting on Port Jackson and records show that between November 1800 and October 1801 he earned 21 pounds for piloting the *Porpoise* on Sydney Harbour on seven occasions. His duties also included control of the Battery on Garden Island, Sydney Harbour. In 1802 he was appointed first mate of the *Lady Nelson* and in this capacity he accompanied the *Investigator* to Queensland waters. Hacking also acquired 30 acres of land at Hunters Hil and 30 acres at Mulgrave Place in Queensland.²²

However, early in 1803 Hacking was in trouble with the Law again. Initially he was charged with shooting and wounding a woman and sentenced to death but was reprieved and sentenced to

transportation to Van Diemen's Land and then pardoned. Later when Hacking was piloting in Hobart, Governor King wrote to Collins 'I am glad you have kept Hacking, he is a good man but was lost here by the arts of a woman.'²³ But Hacking couldn't keep out of trouble!

On 5 October 1803, together with Francis Colpits, late gunner on the *Investigator* hulk, Hacking was charged with embezzling the King's Stores. John Harris had testified that he had suspected for some time a malversation (corrupt behaviour in a position of trust) of His Majesty's Stores and had been told that Hecken (sic. Hacking) had tried to sell some of these stores, saying "Mr.Colpits was much in want of money." Some were purchased and so incriminated Hacking and Colpits. Both were found guilty and sentenced to death. The outlook for Hacking looked grim. But Hacking's sentence was changed to transportation for seven years to Van Diemen's Land.²⁴ Governor King considered him 'still a good man' and thought his crime was 'committed to obtain spirits'. Hacking

sailed in the *Lady Nelson* to Tasmania.²⁵ He obviously had friends in high places.

After he had suffered the consequences, Hacking stayed out of trouble under Col. David Collins, Lieut. Governor in Van Diemens Land, going on to serve as Superintendent in charge of all the Government boats and crews. Lachlan Macquarie, then Governor in Chief of New South Wales wrote in 1816 –

'As Mr. Hacking has become superannuated and useless as a Pilot from drunkenness and other infirmities, it became necessary to remove him from that situation.'²⁶

Hacking was then 66 years old and at that time receiving a pension of 25 pounds per annum.²⁷ By April 1819 his pension was 6 pounds 5 shillings as a Superannuated Pilot, this amount also being paid then to ten other recipients.²⁸ Hacking died at Hobart on 21 July 1831 aged 81.²⁹

¹ *Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB)* Vol.1, 1788-1850 Ed. Douglas Pike, pp.497/8.

² *Convict Life in Australia: an Illustrated History*, 'From Convict to Colonist' Hamlyn, Sydney, 1977. p.100.

³ Eldershaw, M. Barnard, *Phillip of Australia – An Account of the settlement at 'Sydney Cove*, Angus and Robertson Publishers, Sydney, 1977, p. 134.

⁴ David Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Ed. Brian H. Fletcher, Sydney 1975, Vol. 1, p.33-34; Eldershaw, *op.cit.* p.134.

⁵ Eldershaw, p.143-144.

⁶ *Ibid.* p.151.

⁷ Eldershaw, *op.cit.*, pp.161, 325.

⁸ Eldershaw, *op.cit.* p.326.

⁹ Eldershaw, *op.cit.* p.327.

¹⁰ Eldershaw, *op.cit.* p.328.

¹¹ Eldershaw, *op.cit.* 186/7.

¹² *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 1, 1788-1850, Ed. Douglas Pike, p. 498.

¹³ Eldershaw, *op.cit.* p.222.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Collins, *op.cit.* p.365.

¹⁶ Collins, *op.cit.* pp.365/6.

¹⁷ Flinders, Matthew, *Narrative of Tom Thumbs Cruise*, p.18.

¹⁸ Flinders, Matthew, *Voyage to Terra Australia*, p.cii, ciii.

¹⁹ Flinders, Matthew, *Narrative of expeditions...* Reel FM 3/688 (ML)

²⁰ Cridland, Frank, *A History of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire*, Sydney, 1950, p.6.

²¹ Collins, *op.cit.* Vol. 2, p.61.

²² *Australia's Heritage*: Vol.2, p.672.

²³ ADB, Vol.1, 1788-1850, p.498.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Australia's Heritage*, Vol. 2, p.672.

²⁶ *Ibid*; *Convict Life in Australia: From Convict to Colonist*, p.100.

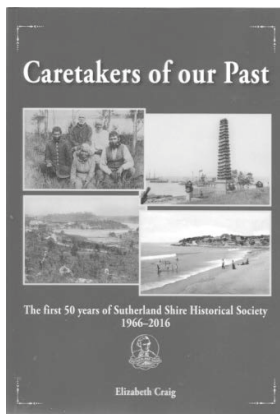
²⁷ *Australia's Heritage*, Vol. 2, p.672.

²⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 'government and General Orders, 10 April 1819, pp.1/2

²⁹ *A.D.B.*, Vol. 1, 1788-1850, p.498.

BOOK REVIEW

MERLE KAVANAGH



Elizabeth Craig

Caretakers of our Past: The first 50 years of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, 1966-2016

SSHS, Sydney 2016

\$25.00

It is interesting that the then Sutherland Shire President, Arthur Gietzelt proclaimed on 25 March 1966 that a Sutherland Shire Historical Society would be formed. This was just six weeks after decimal currency was introduced on 14 February 1966. It may not have been “off with the old” but it was certainly “on with the new”, as local history lovers didn’t waste any time. Their first meeting of 61 interested locals was held on 15 April 1966. Now, 50 years later, we reflect not only on their efforts, but those of the many followers included in this comprehensive book.

After the first meeting the Society embarked on a pathway for the education and entertainment of their interested members, as well as investigating the many past events and historic local occurrences that gave the Shire its initial identity. Elizabeth Craig has done this admirably, recording the upsurge in interest in local history at that time and the ups and downs of the band of keen participants, proud of their shire’s place in the country’s history.

She has included many people involved in events of the times, such as the establishment of the Museum, exhibitions, Shire and Australian anniversaries, Shire history books, Heritage Week activities and identification of local history sites for preservation. If you need to know any who, what, when and where concerning the Sutherland Shire Historical Society since its establishment, Elizabeth Craig’s book can give you the details. It is also amply illustrated with photographs – people, Museum and some items held, local buildings, plaques, costume events and Society outings.

Elizabeth has gone to great lengths to research all leads to the events and people involved over the last 50 years, highlighting those members who have contributed their talents to the Society in various ways, including those who have researched and published local histories. Its use as a reference book is an added bonus. Some people might not want to read the whole book but it is immensely easy and satisfying to just browse and read about anything or anybody of interest with the help of the competent Notes, Bibliography, Appendices and Indices at the book’s end.

I found it an enjoyable and interesting read and can recommend it as a fascinating account of the first 50 years of the Historical Society and a window onto the Shire’s past.

Caretakers of our Past is available at SSHS monthly meetings and at the Sutherland Shire Museum on Saturday mornings.

Or email: shirehistory@gmail.com

Or phone Elizabeth: 0416 234 272

ST GEORGE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CENTENARY HISTORY

PAULINE CURBY

When St George Girls High School was founded in 1916 it joined Sydney Girls High School, North Sydney Girls High School and Fort Street Girls High School as one of only a handful of public high schools in Sydney catering specifically for intelligent girls. Since that time St George has provided educational opportunity for girls, mainly from Sydney's southern suburbs, but also for students from further afield.

I was commissioned to write the school's history as part of the celebrations for its centenary this year. While the tone of the work is a little celebratory, it is also an examination of the merits and shortcomings of a single sex, selective school. It traces the impact of limited educational and career prospects for many of the students during its first 50 years and examines how expectations and opportunities have expanded, particularly since the 1960s.

One story I found particularly touching, but also somewhat puzzling was that of Vera Peddie, the daughter of a Scottish migrant father and Australian mother. Her daughter Beverley Earnshaw (nee Brook) – long time president of Kogarah Historical Society – told me how Vera enrolled at St George Girls High School in 1921:

Her parents didn't really value the fact that their daughter had gone to a high school ... Her father was born in 1870 and was Scottish and he had this attitude about social class and he was a very successful builder. He was a bricklayer by trade but he didn't believe in letting children go on into higher education because they'd get aspirations above their station and he just didn't want his children to slip off into another social class. But even when my mother was due to do the Intermediate her

father decided he wanted to go on holiday and see his brother in Adelaide so he booked the train tickets three days before the exam started and, of course, she missed the Intermediate exam altogether.¹



Class of 2B, 1922. Only nine of these 19 girls are listed in the Intermediate Certificate results for 1923. One of the girls who did not sit this exam is Vera Peddie, middle row, far right. [Beverley Earnshaw]

With such a background one would think Vera would have been keen for her daughter to achieve the educational qualifications she missed out on – not so. Enrolling at St George Girls High School in 1946, Beverley Brook thrived in the competitive atmosphere and was in the top classes where she excelled in all her subjects, especially history and Latin. For history, 'we had this gorgeous old teacher called Miss Wingrove' who was 'quite eccentric', but who knew 'so much interesting history ... I lapped it up'. It was a big disappointment when her parents did not allow her to proceed to the Leaving Certificate and she had to leave school 'to supplement the family income'. University was out of the question as, she recalls, they could not afford the fees.² Leaving behind the subjects she loved, Beverley joined the Fourth Year commercial class, which, according to another student was 'looked upon as being not academic'.³ 'So that', Beverley says, 'was where my school career

finished, much to my sorrow.' Undaunted, she later attended university as a mature age student and has had a successful career as a writer and professional historian.⁴

Unlike her mother, Beverley did attain the Intermediate Certificate after three years at high school. By the 1940s expectations had risen and many girls expected to go further to the Leaving Certificate at the end of five years. Some aspired to university and perhaps a teaching career. Ironically in 1951 – the year Beverley would have been eligible for university – a new Commonwealth scholarship scheme opened up university education to thousands of school leavers.⁵ A former St George student who attended university at this time commented on the 'huge wave of students which at present floods the university'.⁶

It is true many families were doing it tough and found it difficult to cope with the financial pressure of educating their children, but some simply did not value education beyond the Intermediate Certificate, which in the inter-war years had become the gold standard of educational achievement in NSW. Girls such as Beverley also had to contend with the preference given to boys' education. For many clever girls – especially those who were the 'brains' of the family – this was particularly irksome.

This history of the first 100 years of St George Girls High School tells many such stories in the context of the evolution of public education in

New South Wales. Some of its themes relate to teaching and learning, extra-curricula activities and the role of uniforms and discipline. It also discusses social interaction within the school, the changing student demographic and parental and student expectations. One of the overarching themes is girls' education generally and in particular the education of high achieving, talented students. It is written from the perspective of a professional historian who is also a former state school teacher whose commitment to public education is unwavering.



Third Year students at Jubilee Oval for the Centenary of Education display, April 1948. Beverley Brook is second from the right. [Beverley Earnshaw]

One of the strengths of this work is its extensive use of oral history. A range of former students and teachers were formally interviewed and excerpts from their interviews are included. In addition the resources of the school archives have enabled me to incorporate reminiscences from the time of the school's foundation. The book will be launched in November in time for Christmas.

¹ Beverley Earnshaw, interview with Pauline Curby, 24 November 2014.

² Beverley Earnshaw, interview with Pauline Curby, 24 November 2014.

³ Yvonne Dodds, interview with Nicole Curby, 21 March 2015.

⁴ Beverley Earnshaw, interview with Pauline Curby, 24 November 2014.

⁵ Julia Horne & Geoffrey Sherington, *Sydney, the Making of a Public University*, the Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2012, p. 79.

⁶ *The St Georgian*, December 1948, p. 11.

HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE

CHRISTINE EDNEY

Officially scouting started in the Sutherland Shire in early 1912 with the registration of 1st Cronulla Scout Troop. However, it actually started in November 1908.

Scouting in its early days in NSW was promoted by the *Sunday Times* newspaper which listed new patrols and activities. There were six articles about Shire Scouts in the *Sunday Times* between November 1908 and June 1909. These included.

* On 29 November 1908, 'Miranda (Thrushes) formed. Patrol Leader R. Smith, Corporal H. Geddings. Scouts A. Draper, C. Doust, E. Buckland, H. Waddington and H Talbot', and 'Miranda (Thrushes) formed. Patrol Leader J. Phillips, Corporal E. Mortlock, Scouts E. Phillips, T. Avery, J. Mortlock, R. Hayles & L. Burton.'

* On 4 April 1909, 'Port Hacking Patrol Leader Phillips reports that he has formed a patrol at Port Hacking Thrush'. Leader R. Smith, Scouts C. Doust, H. Waddington, A. Talbot, J. Hilland & W. Talbot.'



A. Talbot in scout uniform circa 1909 [SSLlibrary]

The first group established in the Shire was 1st Cronulla which was formed in early 1912. The troop was started by a 14-year-old boy, Clive Doust (possibly the C. Doust in the 1908/1909 patrols above). He sent letters to boys he knew in Cronulla asking them to become scouts. His older brother Vernon Doust was the first

scoutmaster. Initially there were 11 boys in the troop. Their first parade was held behind the sandhills on 12 January 1912, and their first meeting was held at the Doust's home on Saturday 3 February 1912. Their first camp was at North West Arm at Easter 1912, where, according to Colin Doust they had no tent but used a canvas blind placed over two rocks. The group started a cub pack in 1916 and a sea scout troop in 1941. Land in Taloombi Street was donated to the Group by a Mr Horsfield and in 1921 the Group's original hall was opened. In 1921 the Cub Master was W. D. (Walter Donald) Cridland.



Opening of 1st Cronulla hall, donated in 1921.
[SSLlibrary]

The second group to form in the Sutherland Shire was 1st Sutherland which commenced with a scout troop in 1915. They had no hall of their own till 1957 and for many years met in the Congregational Church hall. Their hall was extended in 1976 when a Telecom building was moved to their Eton Street site from Glencoe Street.



Scout hall on the move from Glencoe Street to Eton Street site [Leader 8 December 1976]

In 1933 1st Caringbah was opened and in 1938, 1st Jannali-Como. For a fleeting period in 1929/1930 there was a 1st Sylvania Group. Scout groups could be very large as there were no strict rules on numbers. In the early 1960's Lilli Pilli had 47 scouts in one troop. Before and during WW2 1st Caringbah met in houses and garages. Post-war they met in Caringbah RSL until they raised the funds (mostly from bottle drives) to build their own hall.



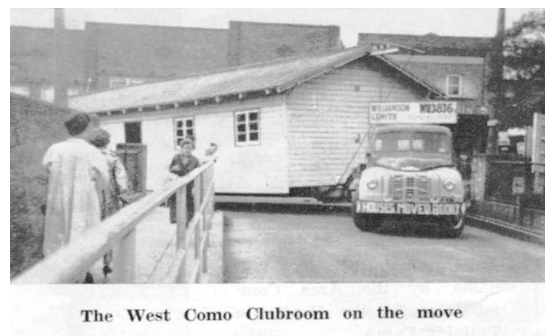
Caringbah RSL Sub-branch where 1st Caringbah met post WWII. [Caringbah RSL Sub-branch]

Scouting took off as did the population of the Shire in the post war years. By 1966 there were 52 Groups and 2563 youth members. Just in the Caringbah area there were in 1966 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Caringbah, 1st and 2nd North Caringbah, Lilli Pilli, Dolans Bay, Port Hacking and Taren Point scouting groups. (Shiprock started in 1967.).

Some interesting events over the years included:

- 1st Sutherland Group – their hall survived an arsonist's attack in 1978-79 who tried 11 times to set fire to their hall and the adjacent Girl Guide hall.

- 1st Menai Group – the first meetings were in a chook shed on the Carter family's poultry farm. Their hall from the 1950's onwards was burnt down in 1981 after a 21st birthday party went wrong.
- 1st North Gympie Group's Scouts' first meeting place was the local pigeon racers club room complete with pigeon cages.
- 1st Grays Point Group tried to convince the Council to allow them to use an ex-Navy Corvette as a hall which they wanted to cement into Swallow Rock Reserve. The Council response in 1972 was a very resounding NO.
- 1st East Miranda Group was a Scottish troop where the scouts and leaders wore kilts. They met in 1962 in a building awaiting demolition to make way for the construction of Miranda Fair and in 1968 in part of Miranda Fair's car park.
- 1st Wearne Bay Group's original meeting place in 1966 was the boatshed of the Lugarno ferry master. Meetings had to be cancelled at high tide when water would come up through the floor boards.
- In 1959 1st West Como Group obtained an ex-army hut for a hall – that was the easy part – getting it over the overpass near Jannali Station was the hard part. It was stuck for a short while.



The West Como Clubroom on the move

[Source: Scout News]



SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sutherland shire, as the site where Europeans first encountered the Indigenous Australians on the East Coast, has a special place in our nation's story. It is a community with a unique and diverse history that spans the time from the custodianship of the Dharawal nation—a period that remains literally etched into the natural landscape—through to European settlement, and the rapidly changing profile of the community over the past century.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society, which this year celebrates 50 years since its formation in 1966, is dedicated to discovering, collecting, and preserving all aspects of that history. I was pleased to have the opportunity last month to join members of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society to commemorate its golden anniversary, and to mark the occasion with the launch of a new book by Elizabeth Craig, *Caretakers of our Past: the first fifty years of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, 1966-2016*.

Elizabeth's book explores the people and events that led to the society's formation, the efforts of volunteers to adapt to a rapidly evolving digital environment and changing methods of historical inquiry, and the factors that have contributed to the organisation's success, where similar local history and heritage groups have failed. Elizabeth grew up in Perth and moved to the shire in 1977. After a long career in editing, initially writing for *Southside Home and Lifestyle* and later for *Reader's Digest Magazine*, she began to pursue her interest in oral history and around that time joined the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm for discovering and recording the Sutherland shire's rich history, and it is the dedication of people like Elizabeth that has underpinned the society's longevity. Reflecting on our past—whether it is our own experiences, our family history, the story of our local community, or indeed the broader national and global historical narratives—illuminates and enriches the present. That is why it is so important that we have groups like the Sutherland Shire Historical Society to collect and preserve cultural heritage materials in the local community.

In 2014 the society's president, Bruce Watt, published his fantastic book, *The Shire: a journey through time*. Bruce's book brilliantly captures the extensive tapestry of stories that constitute the shire's history. Examples given include the young Hawaiian actor and surfer Duke Kahanamoku, who brought surfing to Cronulla beaches over 100 years ago; and Cocky Bennett, the lemon-crested cockatoo, reputedly the oldest living bird, who spent some of its 116 years at the Sea Breeze hotel on the northern side of Tom Uglys Point. Cocky Bennett still lives on, albeit in taxidermies form. Further examples are the iconic "Surf Queen" of 1927, Phyllis Stroud, who won her title after much sartorial controversy involving a non-conforming bathing suit; and Donald Mackay, a Port Hacking resident known as the last Australian explorer and is one of the shire's truly great residents.

Mackay surveyed central Australia, which was then unexplored by Europeans, and in 1930 conducted the first aerial survey in Australia. His aerial expeditions added some 40,000 square miles of detail to maps of the country's inland. As I have mentioned, the shire also has a magnificent indigenous history, which Bruce explores in detail in his book. I congratulate past and present members of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society on their significant milestone of 50 years. Their dedication to our shared history will continue to enhance recognition and appreciation of heritage in New South Wales.

Mark Speakman
MP for Cronulla
Environment and Heritage Minister

Extract from the NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard on 10 May 2016

TED'S STORY

The Cary family's friendship with a victim of the Mt Kembla Mine Disaster of 1902

ANGELA THOMAS

The other day I was down at our butchers. We don't buy meat from the selections in the supermarket, nor do we go to the butchers who lay out their meat 'boutique style' with serried ranks of kebabs and chops and choice cuts displayed for the shopper.

Instead we go to Ted Cary. His shop is hung with carcasses and if you ask for mince – well he cuts off a portion and puts it through the mincer. The Cary family have been local butchers over three generations and we appreciate him. His walls bear witness to this appreciation. Testaments to his skill are numerous, and he is celebrated with a magnificent wooden sculpture of Ted at his work with the inscription "Ted Cary...a vanishing breed."

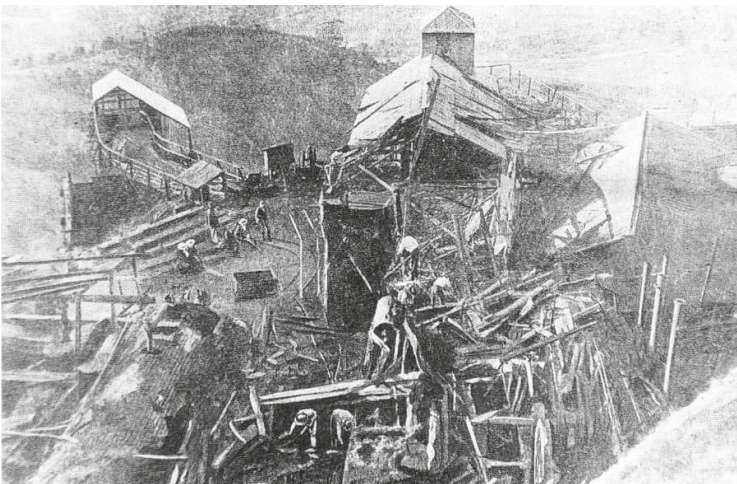
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A visit to Ted's shop is a history lesson and last week when I called in I caught the tail end of another customer's conversation. Ted was telling him of a 98 year old lady who had died and the problem was – what to do with her ashes as she had no relative to advise.

The customer went on his way and left this half told story so I asked Ted what it was all about.

Mrs. Walker had for many years helped his father and his brothers in their shops which had been in Oatley, Jannali and Como. Her story was a sad one and Ted had never lost touch with her.

Mrs. Walker's father and brothers had worked in the colliery at Mount Kembla and the disaster that overtook it shocked the nation. In 1902 at 2.00 pm on July 31 the colliery exploded killing 96 men and boys, the terrible sound was heard seven miles away. On that day 33 women were widowed and 120 children left fatherless. The Mayor of Wollongong, Major Henry MacCabe and Nightshift Deputy William McMurray also lost their lives, overcome with fumes during the rescue.¹



Mt Kembla Mine Disaster, 1902
<www.insidehistory.com.au>

Mrs Walker's brothers were killed immediately but her father survived and the rescuers were working on bringing him to the surface. To keep his spirits up they lowered his wife down the cavity and instead of giving good cheer she said, 'I've lost two sons today, why are you saved?' And she punched him.

As you can imagine the family was devastated by these events and Mrs Walker was left a lonely old lady with no brothers and eventually no parents either.

What to do with her ashes? Ted rang up the caretakers of the Mount Kembla memorial and asked permission to

scatter them around the monument. Instead they suggested that the ashes be accommodated behind the memorial and a plaque put up, with her single name and her married name inscribed. She would then be at peace with her brothers.

Every year there is a Memorial Day so Ted went along to the next Memorial service and met the padre who was an elderly man of about ninety years. He said "I am not going to preach a 'fire and brimstone' service over this little lady but something needs to be said. Following the tragedy every miner in Australia donated half a week's wages and the Government doled it out at five shillings a week to the widows. Mrs James, her mother, had received her widow's portion of this donation, though she was given nothing for her sons. This continued for six or seven years and then stopped. The community were told it went into 'consolidated revenue' and that was the last that was heard or seen of the money.

Although Mrs Walker was a lonely old lady, as she had no children, but she was lucky to have found a good employer and more than that, the friendship of the Cary family.



Mt Kembla Mine Heroes Memorial

<www.panoramio.com>

¹ www.illawarracoal.com

MUSEUM'S RESEARCH FACILITY

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald have recorded, numbered and filed 4500 historic images of the Shire to date. It's an ongoing project and they both spend hours in the Daphne Salt room at the Museum on Saturday mornings and through the week. Their work is a labour of love, and the beneficiaries are the Shire community at large and researchers of Shire history for generations to come.

Pat and Carol are filing documents, newspaper clippings, maps etc in lever arch files according to their category - suburbs, bridges, railway stations, Aboriginal heritage, churches, sport and the Royal National Park. They also have a file called 'People and Places' which contains material related to historic figures such as Thomas Holt and Forby Sutherland, and of more recent times, Bill Collins and Helen Zerefos. In addition, the files include records of up-and-coming Shire identities such as our young Sutherland tenor, Mark Vincent, who is currently making a name for himself around the world, and Jiawei Shen, award-winning Bundeena artist, who won this year's Gallipoli Art Prize.

From the museum's records, Carol McDonald gave a fascinating talk to members on the history of Como a few months ago. Her material came from the 'Suburbs' file, and included information that was new to many people – such as the war in Como! Good publicity in the *Leader* ahead of the meeting drew a sell-out crowd from inside and outside the Society, and by their enthralled expressions they were not disappointed.

Pat recalls one lady from Como who came into the Museum one Saturday morning. When she learned of the work done by Pat and Carol, she said, 'I bet you don't have anything on my family.' Pat went to her files, looked up her name and drew out a questionnaire the lady had completed in 2004 when Daphne Salt invited Como residents to provide information about their family history. Needless to say the Como lady, who had forgotten about the questionnaire was quite dumbfounded, but impressed.

MUSEUM – 30 years old¹

ELIZABETH CRAIG

It is 30 years this month since the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Museum was opened in the newly renovated Sutherland Memorial School of Arts on 9 August 1986. It was the culmination of a twenty year search for a suitable venue to house and display the Society's growing collection of Shire artefacts and photos, hitherto stored at members' homes and carried to venues for portable displays.

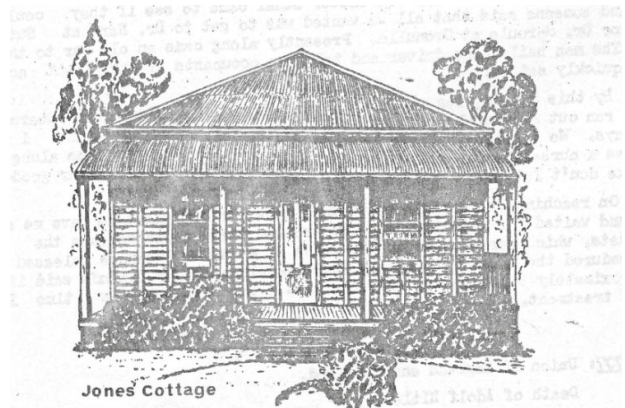


Sutherland Memorial School of Arts, 1970s [SSL]

Despite the achievement of a long cherished dream, the launch was a low key affair, the main focus being on the reopening of the School of Arts itself, originally built in 1922 and renovated in 1986 to include an 'intimate theatre' for 200 patrons, as well as dressing rooms, showers and a small band pit. The former billiard room and library at the front of the building comprised the Society's museum, with a small room at the back for storage. Initially, the museum was modestly referred to as the 'exhibitions room', managed by the 'exhibitions convener'. The first official museum curator, Allan McGrath was not appointed until 1996, a decade after the opening of the museum.

While there were themed displays each year for Heritage Week, the museum's permanent exhibition was mostly of the growing collection of unrelated artefacts donated to the Society. There was no coherent story of the Shire's history until 2004 when then SSHS president, Dawn Emerson hit upon the idea of building a replica of the 1896 cottage of a pioneer of Menai, Owen Jones. The weatherboard cottage with the bullnose iron roof had featured

strongly in the growth of the community of Menai (or Bangor as it was then) from early days. The front room had been used as a schoolroom in 1902 and 1903, the house was used for a telephone exchange in 1927 and in 1945 a post office was built on Jones' land.



Owen Jones cottage as drawn by Fred Midgley for the cover of the Bulletin, May 1977

With Allan McGrath's failing health, the management of the building of the Owen Jones cottage fell to his assistant Jim Cutbush, who became curator when Allan died in 2005. The Council contracted theatre props builder, Tom McMahon to build the replica, with Council staff and Society members scrounging for timber, sash windows and doors to make the budget stretch. They painted walls, made furniture from butter boxes and sewed curtains – and were ready for Heritage Week 2004.

The Owen Jones replica served until mid-2012, with displays rotating to depict different periods of Shire history. It became clear that the display was becoming stale and a fresh one was needed. Then Society secretary, Angela Thomas attended a year-long series of workshops run by Museums & Galleries NSW on how to produce a more professional museum. This resulted in the demolition of the Owen Jones replica cottage and discussions were held on a fresh display. It was a daunting task and hard physical work to dismantle the cottage, and the Society is fortunate to have so many willing men in its membership. The collection

was then rationalised, with some items on loan returned to owners, others sold at a garage sale, discarded or stored in a borrowed garage in Sylvania. The museum was closed while it was cleared and repainted.

Angela had successfully applied to Museums & Galleries NSW for a grant to employ a museum adviser, Lynn Collins, to help with the makeover. The museum project committee, headed by President Bruce Watt, had decided on their theme – eight ‘pods’ depicting periods of the Shire’s history from its geology, Aboriginal occupation, European settlement, pioneers, the wars and post war industry. Lynn struck a chord with everyone, with plenty of encouragement and advice on labelling, lighting, use of colour and stressing that ‘less is best.’ Committee members each took responsibility for a ‘pod’, and as Angela Thomas reported in the May 2013 *Bulletin*, ‘for months our devoted team cut and fitted, sawed, painted sewed, typed and labelled.’ The new exhibition, *The Shire: a journey through time* was officially launched by Sutherland Shire Mayor Kent Johns, to much acclaim on 31 August 2013, and to the immense satisfaction of all involved in its creation. The museum, renamed the Sutherland Shire Museum, was accredited by Museums & Galleries NSW.

But it was no time to sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labour. With health problems Jim Cutbush was taking a step back and Clive Baker became the new curator in late 2013. The donation of a 1920s spring cart from Illawong and restored by members of Menai’s Men Shed inspired the development of a new display in the courtyard leading from the museum, depicting the Shire’s rural past. The spring cart became the centrepiece of the farmyard display and has been joined by ploughs, a tool sharpener and other farm machinery. School groups are fascinated to see and touch items from a by-gone era. The latest addition to display in the courtyard is a mural by Oyster Bay artist and SSHS member, Jan Etteridge.²

Bruce Watt, who is keen to expand the museum’s focus to include a gallery of local art, spoke to Jan generally about creating a mural reflecting Shire history. She and Bruce perused the photo

collections of Shire images in both the museum and Sutherland Library, with plenty of help and suggestions from other SSHS members and local studies librarian, Helen McDonald. After ‘a million ideas’, says Jan, they settled on a farmyard theme. The mural was to be painted on a large fibro cement panel and installed in the courtyard. Jan began drawing some rough sketches from agricultural photos of the Shire. ‘All the images chosen had a connection with transport, family and agricultural animals,’ she explains.

Installing the mural outside where it would be exposed to rain and sun had its own challenges. Jan and Bruce investigated the appropriate types of paints to use and Bruce sealed the board.

Jan painted her mural, using acrylic and oil based paints, sitting wherever she could find space and good light under cover. Sometimes it was in the foyer of the School of Arts. At other times she worked in a corner of the museum. She often had company. SSHS members spend hours at the museum during the week cataloguing, filing and adding to displays.

Installing the finished mural was a job for three men from the museum committee. First timber battens were screwed to the wall. A temporary scaffold was erected and Andrew Platfoot, Ian Kolln and Bruce Watt lifted the substantial sheet into place and screwed it securely to the battens.

Like all good museum displays this one is very much a work in progress. Fresh ideas are constantly floated and exhibitions modified. The Aboriginal display is one that we are particularly proud of. The work being done by Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald to scan and file our records means we now have a first class research facility where information can be accessed easily (see page 26).

It was recently noted that Wollongong, with a population about the same size as the Sutherland Shire, has eight museums. The Sutherland Shire Museum, maintained and operated by the Sutherland Shire Historical Society is the only one representing Shire history.

¹ For a detailed history of the acrobatics performed by SSHS members to acquire a venue for a Museum, and the efforts of various curators to sensitively portray our Shire’s unique history to the public, see *Caretakers of our Past: the first 50 years of Sutherland Shire Historical Society, 1966-2016* by Elizabeth Craig, 2016

² Phone conversation with Jan Etteridge, 2 July, 2016

SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM

Farmyard Display



Mural by artist, Jan Etteridge, SSHS member, depicting Shire's rural past



Animals



Transport



Family

SNAPSHOTS OF THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM



Sutherland Music Club members help celebrate the museum's relaunch in 2013



Anna Estephan on the desk in front of the museum's olde worlde 'shop front' to greet visitors



Museum guides: Anne Steward, David Overett, Pat Hannan and Joan Tangney



Charlie, Emily and Thomas Street examine an old typewriter



Carved eagle donated to the Museum by St John the Baptist Anglican Church in 1993



Organ imported from Germany in the 1850s by father of the Shire', Thomas Holt for his wife Sophie. The Sutherland district's first church services were held in the organ room in the Holt's Sylvania home