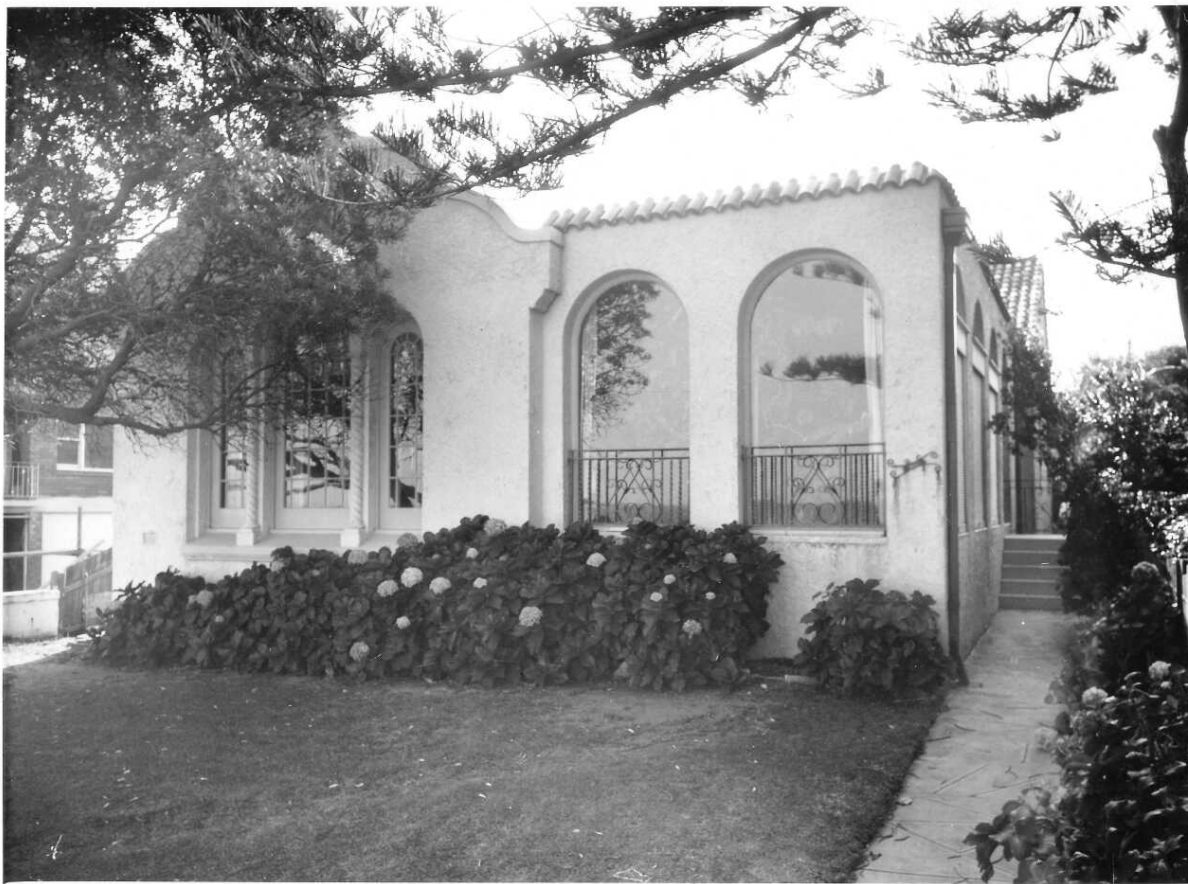


NUMBER: 201 — NOVEMBER 2016



*San Leonardo*, a 1928 Spanish Mission Style house on the Esplanade, Cronulla  
(See story on page 12)

**MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE**

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

## SSHS Planning Day at Hungry Point (see President's Report, p.5)



In work mode in the Conference room



A well-earned breather with lunch on the Point

[Photos: P. Curby]

## *! CONGRATULATIONS, SHARKIES !*

After 49 years of competing in Premier League competitions, Cronulla Sharks have achieved their dream – to win the premiership! The *Bulletin* will publish a history of the Cronulla Sutherland Football Club next year in honour of their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Sharks players holding up the trophy in triumph last Grand Final night

[Source: Cronulla Sutherland Football Club]



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## **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](mailto: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, 23 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](mailto: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: 2016-2017

### ELECTED MEMBERS

<b>PATRON:</b>	Shire Mayor, Clr Carmelo Pesce		
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Bruce Watt	9523-5294	<a href="mailto:watto51@optusnet.com.au">watto51@optusnet.com.au</a>
<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT</b>	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	<a href="mailto:pcurby@iprimus.com.au">pcurby@iprimus.com.au</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	<a href="mailto:hmrosner@bigpond.com">hmrosner@bigpond.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Ian Koln	9528-3094	<a href="mailto:iankoln@yahoo.com.au">iankoln@yahoo.com.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER</b>	George Miller	9521-3454	<a href="mailto:george.miller@bigpond.com">george.miller@bigpond.com</a>
<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b>	Anna Estephan	9525-6441	<a href="mailto:annaestephan@gmail.com">annaestephan@gmail.com</a>
<b>MUSEUM CURATOR</b>	Ian Koln	9528-3094	<a href="mailto:iankoln@yahoo.com.au">iankoln@yahoo.com.au</a>
<b>MUSEUM ARCHIVIST &amp; ARCHIVIST</b>	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	<a href="mailto:patricia.hannan@bigpond.com">patricia.hannan@bigpond.com</a>
<b>EXCURSION OFFICER &amp; BOOKING CLERK</b>	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	
<b>PUBLICITY OFFICER</b>	Joan Tangney	9523-6774	<a href="mailto:jtangney@optusnet.com.au">jtangney@optusnet.com.au</a>
<b>BULLETIN EDITOR</b>	Elizabeth Craig	9528 4707	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com">elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	Creo Hines Peter Moore	9589-0251	Angela Thomas 9528-6251
	Terry McCosker	9542-1137	Don Rothnie 0409820815
<b>BOOK REVIEW EDITORS</b>	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	<a href="mailto:pcurby@iprimus.com.au">pcurby@iprimus.com.au</a>
<b>HONORARY SOLICITOR</b>	Michael Solari	<b>AUDITOR</b>	

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	<a href="mailto:jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au">jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au</a>
<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	Andrew Platfoot	0404-038-090	<a href="mailto:andrew_platfoot@yahoo.com.au">andrew_platfoot@yahoo.com.au</a>
<b>BULLETIN PROOF READER</b>	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	<a href="mailto:merle.kavanagh@gmail.com">merle.kavanagh@gmail.com</a>
<b>MUSEUM COMMITTEE</b>	Joan Tangney	Noel Elliot	Ineke Niewland John White
<b>PUBLICATIONS OFFICER</b>	To be appointed		
<b>PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE</b>	Pauline Curby	Bruce Watt	Elizabeth Craig
<b>HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER</b>	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	<a href="mailto:hmrosner@bigpond.com">hmrosner@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER</b>	To be appointed		

## *Letters Page*

We welcome comments, feedback on articles and SSHS activities, or any suggestions you would like to share with our members.

*To the Secretary,*

*A big thank you to the Crew for your hospitality today [while visiting to the museum]. All enjoyed it and the visit provided lots of chatter at lunch time. Keep up the wonderful work. Even if they don't know it, the Shire citizens are indebted to you for endeavouring to preserve as much history as possible (in a very small space!) by people who care that those in the future can know about the past!*

*Barbara Barnes  
Bosco Friendship Group*

*To the Editor,*

*I was buying my meat at Ted Cary's Butchers in Como, and he showed me his Customer Service Award, an Australian award for service and excellence [from the Customer Service Institute of Australia]. He is a 2016 finalist and has the certificate duly framed and a piece by Mr Turnbull. The final judging will be in Melbourne on 26 October. Ted is 84.*

*He hopes to put it alongside his WOW Award, from Britain but worldwide, which he was awarded in 2013. This states that he runs a butcher's shop in a lovely leafy place called Como, south of Sydney. He has worked in the shop since 1947 that his father began it in 1926. Ted says he must have served the longest apprenticeship ever known. The award states that people come from far and wide for his fresh cut meat and homemade sausages.*

*Anyhow Elizabeth, I thought you might find the space to tuck this in and congratulate Ted.*

*Yours  
Angela Thomas*



*[Ed note]* At the national judging in Melbourne on 26 October, Ted did not win. He comments that he virtually disqualified himself anyway, because he told the CSIA that at his age an award like that would just go in the cupboard. It would be more useful for somebody younger. 'Still, it was nice to be thought of,' he adds.

Ted Cary outside his Como butcher's shop with his 2013 WOW award

***Congratulations from SSHS, Ted, for your awards recognising the unique customer service you offer.***

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT



signage and renovations to the Memorial School of Arts kitchen, representation on several local bodies and the completion of our first executive planning day.

But as a former Business Studies teacher, I'd like to explore some of the reasons for our success. A recent membership survey attested to the high level of satisfaction in the Society's different operations. We are delivering what our members want. The Society is a completely volunteer organisation. In the workplace in the past, it was usually assumed that employees work because they have to. So they need to be coerced, controlled and punished if their performance is lacking. Good wages, job security and promotion were the main motivators. Employees preferred to be directed and to avoid responsibility. Clearly, none of these factors are relevant to our 13 executive or unpaid 'employees'. Nor is this view relevant to today's workplace.

Things that motivate employees today are trustworthy leadership, a strong work culture, opportunities to build skills and grow, engaging and interesting work, encouragement, appreciation, praise and reward, job satisfaction, being part of a team, positive feedback, varied and interesting work, trust and the confidence to take initiative.

I believe that this workplace philosophy is now embedded as part of the management team of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. Change and turnover has encouraged innovation and allowed new skills to develop. Much of the success of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and a revitalised *Bulletin* can be attributed to Elizabeth Craig who has demonstrated her considerable skills.

Helen Rosner and George Miller are leaders. George balances the twin roles of Secretary and Treasurer as our elected treasurer, Anna Estephan

is on extended parent-care leave. Noel Elliot develops and conducts an outstanding excursions program. Ian Kolln coordinates the museum, Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald archive the museum collection and Andrew Platfoot maintains the website. Our newest member, Creo Hines has produced a calendar featuring historic scenes from the Shire. What would our meetings be without our afternoon tea ladies?

What's common in all of these areas is that they use their initiative to manage their areas of responsibility. There is no need to micro-manage. Their skills are acknowledged and valued. I am constantly gratified by the initiative that each of them take. They in turn feel valued for the trust that we have developed and for the way in which opinions are valued and how we operate as a team without criticism.

The executive recently took part in a planning day. It was held in the pleasant surroundings of Hungry Point at Cronulla. Apart from planning our annual calendar of events, it was an opportunity to do some reflection on who we are and where we want the Society to go. Participants broke into teams to investigate specific areas and there was a plenary session where we discussed the results of the workshops. Some excellent ideas emerged and we will act on these. We plan to make this an annual event.

I am working on a new book about the Dharawal, our local Indigenous people. It looks at traditional Aboriginal culture and traces the Dharawal story over the intervening 250 years. I hope to publish it in April next year. Another project is a history of Kareela that Elizabeth Adams is researching. If you have any photos or stories about this suburb she would be delighted to hear from you (see contact details under 'Society News'). Future plans include other suburb profiles or booklets.

We think that the Sutherland Shire Historical Society is special. We're proud of its outcomes and we're proud to represent our members and all Shire residents. We're providing a legacy but in the meantime, we enjoy the companionship, have some fun and use our skills in a worthwhile and satisfying cause. This is its own reward.

After our Christmas party in November we take a break in December. I wish all of our members a pleasant and happy Christmas and promise you an eventful and interesting 2017.

## SOCIETY NEWS

.....

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Since our last meeting, we have gained some new additions to our membership.

Lorraine Rich  
Peter Elliot  
Yvonne Wutzke

Ivy Flynn  
Barbara Mason

We are glad to have you on board with us at SSHS. Welcome!

### ... AND FAREWELL TO OTHERS

Marie Nagle and Esther Field, who first joined SSHS more than 35 years ago, have sadly informed us that age has caught up with them, and that they can no longer attend meetings. They have decided to resign their membership.

Marie recalls that Aileen Griffiths was president when she, Esther and a few other friends first joined SSHS and that they met in the Council administration building. Marie routinely drove her friends to meetings, with her little Toyota Corolla complaining a bit about the load. Marie says she loved learning about the Shire's history, and then chatting over supper. They also went on every excursion they could manage. 'I remember Aileen [who ran the excursions] used to chide us if we sat in seats not allotted to us,' she chuckles. In December 2000, when Marie no longer felt comfortable about driving at night, they resigned, but joined up again in 2009 when the meetings were moved to a daytime slot. They continued to enjoy excursions with Terry McCosker, and only stopped joining them last year when they were conscious that their inability to walk far was holding the others back. 'We felt it wasn't fair,' says Marie.

Esther, who has just had surgery for breast cancer, has now moved into Palms Nursing Home in Kirrawee. Marie remains in her home in Caringbah that she and her husband, Gordon moved into in 1953, but she says, 'At 91, I don't know how much longer I'll have my licence.'

We thank Marie and Esther for their long and loyal membership, and wish them well.

### PROGRESS OF THE SHIRE MILITARY CLUB (SMC)

The second edition of SMC's *Action Report* is now in circulation, and once again it contains a range of interesting stories about the war experiences of Shire residents. SMC is now incorporated and they have had their first AGM. They meet at 3A Stapleton Street, Sutherland at 1.00 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Their membership is steadily growing and they have a number of events planned. If you are interested in joining, contact Clive Baker at [warbookshop@bigpond.com](mailto:warbookshop@bigpond.com), or phone him on 9521 6515 or on his mobile: 0424 235 885. Membership is \$30 per annum.

### PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ON KAREELA WANTED

As you will have read in the President's Report, SSHS member Elizabeth Adams is researching a history of Kareela. She would welcome your stories, documents and photos related to Kareela's history. Contact her at [liz.adams.au@gmail.com](mailto:liz.adams.au@gmail.com) or phone her on 9528 6981 or 0424 399 844.

### STOP PRESS

Angela Badger has some books to give to a good home. Please contact her at: [a.badger@optusnet.com.au](mailto:a.badger@optusnet.com.au) or phone her on 9528 6251 if you are interested in adding to your library six volumes of Churchill's history of the second world war, or three volumes of *Wonderful London*.



		<b>EVENT</b>	<b>SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2016/2017</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	3	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Andrew Platfoot – 0404-038-090</b> Guides: Ineke Niewland; Carol McDonald
	10	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Noel Elliot – 9521-8622</b> Guides: Anna Estephan; Joan Tangney
	17	<b>MEETING</b>  <b>MUSEUM*</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	None this month  <b>Supervisor: Leone Harris – 9528-2461</b> Guides: Anne O'Connor; Maurie Beaven
	24	<b>MUSEUM</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
	31	<b>MUSEUM</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	7	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Noel Elliot – 9521-8622</b> Guides: Ineke Nieuwland; Maurie Beaven
	14	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Ian Kolln – 0466-215-289</b> Guides: Joan Tangney; Angela Thomas
	21	<b>MEETING</b> 1.30 pm, Stapleton Centre  <b>MUSEUM*</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Speaker: Carol McDonald</b> The History of Woronora Dam  <b>Supervisor: Leone Harris – 9528-2461</b> Guides: John White; Dorothy Dalyell
	28	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Bruce Watt – 9523-5294</b> Guides: Elizabeth Craig; Anna Estephan
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	4	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Noel Elliot – 9521-8622</b> Guides: Ineke Nieuwland; Maurie Beaven
	11	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Bruce Watt – 9523-5294</b> Guide: Elizabeth Craig
	18	<b>MEETING</b> 1.30pm, Stapleton Centre  <b>MUSEUM*</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Speaker: Christine Edney</b> The History of Scouting in the Shire  <b>Supervisor: Leone Harris – 9528 2461</b> Guides: John White; Dorothy Dalyell
	25	<b>MUSEUM</b> Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm	<b>Supervisor: Bruce Watt – 9523-5294</b> Guides: Joan Tangney; Anna Estephan

\* Ian Kolln to open Museum – 0466-215-289

### **A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE FOR RENEWAL ON 1 JULY  
AND REGRETTABLY YOUR *BULLETINS* WILL NOW  
DISCONTINUE IF YOU HAVE NOT RE-JOINED

## TRIBUTE TO NATHAN CUTBUSH

ELIZABETH CRAIG

On 15 August this year, Jim and Marjorie Cutbush, two long serving and popular members of the Society, suffered the unimaginable when they lost their youngest son Nathan, 40 years old, to a heart condition nobody had known about.

Although he wasn't a member of SSHS, through his parents and grandmother, Ada Cutbush, Nathan has had a lifelong association with the Society. As a child he joined his family, dressed in period costume, on board the Council's float, the *Good Ship Sutherland Shire*, often used in street parades for local festivals and fetes. Nathan was on board for the 1988 parade down Macquarie Street for Australia's bicentenary.



Nathan dressed to board the  
*Good Ship Sutherland Shire*  
[Source: Cutbush family]

Two years ago when Jim was diagnosed with cancer, Nathan moved from his home in Cairns to Sydney to help his parents with their various commitments. He stayed in Sydney for 18 months, and during this time he became involved with Society matters again. Early this year, the ballast from Cook's barque, the *Endeavour*, which had been on loan from National Maritime Museum (NMA) since the late 1990s, and was the focus of many of the Society's museum displays, was retrieved by the NMA for 'restoration'. There was no guarantee it would be returned to the Society and Nathan made it his business to talk to NMA personnel about returning it. Jim says he was told that it should be returned to SSHS.

Nathan and his sister, Jodie Cutbush-Smith, were also instrumental in helping the Society embrace an aspect of internet technology (a puzzle to many of us at SSHS) by setting up a Facebook page for the Society. It includes photos, news and activities of SSHS members. Jodie is happy for Society member, Creo Hines, to share the administration of the page, so that this valuable marketing tool is not lost to us.

Nathan had only returned to Cairns a few weeks before his tragic and untimely death while on a camping trip at Cape Tribulation with his wife, Anna. In his last telephone message to his parents, he said that he had just finished his 'Captain Cook tour', and was moving on to explore other things. Nathan's funeral was held at Woronora Cemetery on 26 August, and was attended by hundreds of mourners – family and friends, including members of SSHS.



Nathan Cutbush [Source:  
Cutbush family]

Our hearts go out to the Cutbush family as they come to terms with their loss, and at the same time continue the ongoing battle with Jim's cancer.

# MEMORIES OF COMO

GEORGE COULTHARD

## WHEN I WAS YOUNG

*The giant trees grew on the side of the hill,  
While the wild flowers bloomed everywhere,  
And at evening when the bush was still,  
Their perfumes filled the air.*

*In the gullies, the swamp oaks reached for the sky,  
In the marshes the bamboos grew,  
This was my playground when I was young,  
This was the bush that I knew.*

*Through the bush I would wander, in search of new things  
And the days were too short for me,  
On the mud flats were wonders, that I could explore,  
When the tide went out to the sea.*

*The river was wide and teeming with fish,  
That we caught from a boat that you row,  
For this was at Como, when I was young,  
Where the river oysters grow.*

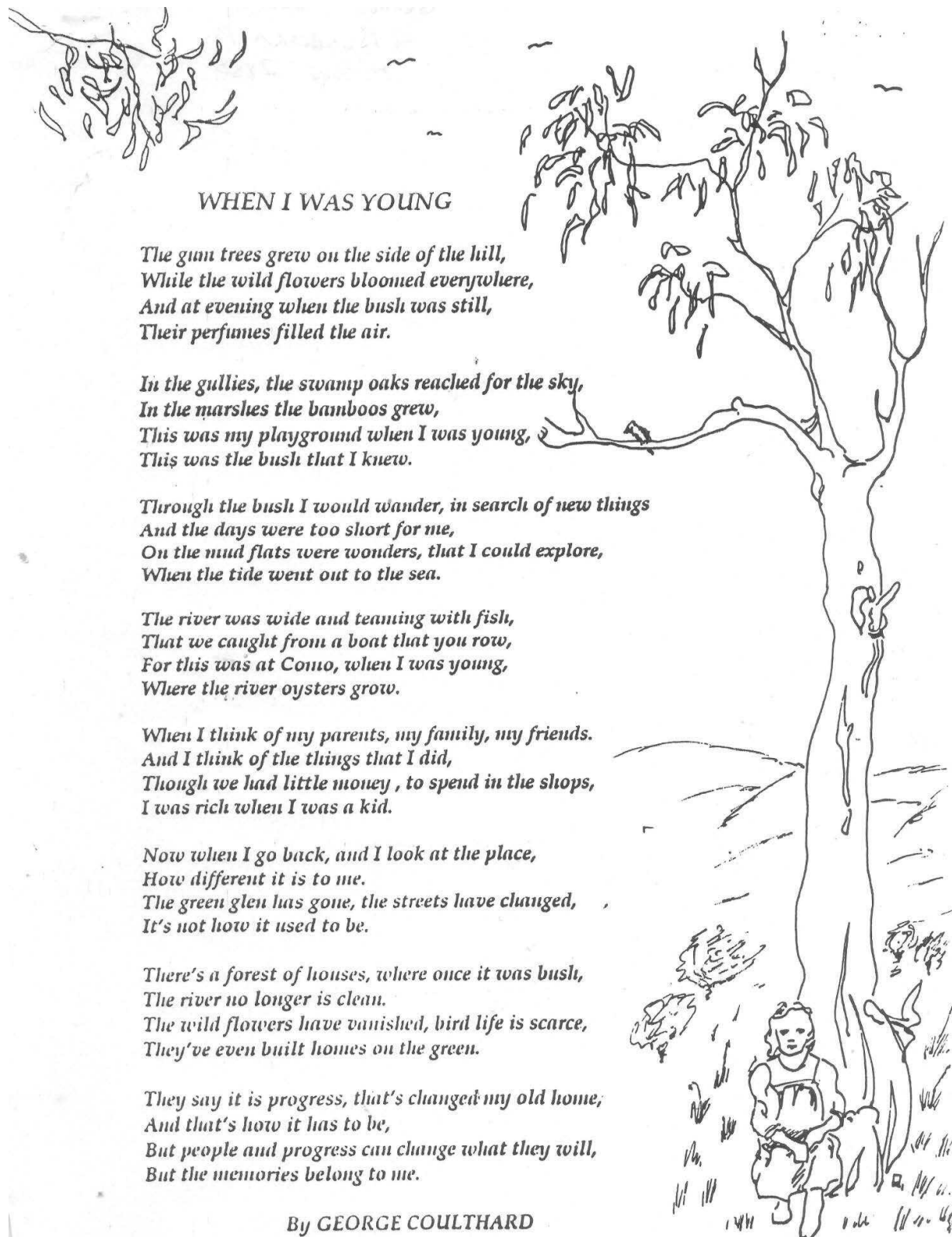
*When I think of my parents, my family, my friends.  
And I think of the things that I did,  
Though we had little money, to spend in the shops,  
I was rich when I was a kid.*

*Now when I go back, and I look at the place,  
How different it is to me.  
The green glen has gone, the streets have changed,  
It's not how it used to be.*

*There's a forest of houses, where once it was bush,  
The river no longer is clean.  
The wild flowers have vanished, bird life is scarce,  
They've even built homes on the green.*

*They say it is progress, that's changed my old home,  
And that's how it has to be,  
But people and progress can change what they will,  
But the memories belong to me.*

By GEORGE COULTHARD



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

### New look *Bulletin*

If you noticed that there is something different about the front cover of this month's *Bulletin*, you are right. Thanks to the effort of Andrew Platfoot's son, Jared, we have a new Captain Cook, together with our SSHS banner which was not there before. We also have a much cleaner looking logo as Jared digitally removed the spots which had crept in over the years – a painstaking task, and we thank you, Jared!

### Web Report

For the first time, we have included a Web Report by Webmaster, Andrew Platfoot (page 21). In this edition he explains the Society's tentative first steps into setting up our own website, and its evolution to the current, much more sophisticated version. Andrew explains how he will make further improvements to attract a much broader audience, with the facility to access members' research into Shire history, to sell books, placemats, etc online, as well as catering to members who want to know what's happening at SSHS. Andrew will help to bring our website to front of mind with regular reports in the *Bulletin*. Try out our website at [www.shirehistory.org](http://www.shirehistory.org)

### Meet the Members

The first of this re-introduced segment features Helen Rosner, a popular and relatively new member, who tells the very engaging story of her life, from her Irish and English ancestry and NSW country upbringing, to creating history by

becoming one of the first female cartographers employed by the Central Mapping Authority. She writes of her marriage to a Polish migrant and their life in Bonnet Bay, and her move to her wonderful heritage house in Sutherland after the untimely death of her husband Danny. Go to Page 22 to read more of Helen's story.

Meet the Members' is to be a regular segment in the *Bulletin*, so I need *your* story. Please contact me if you would like to contribute. I will help you if you are not sure how to go about it.

### A good read

Thank you to all those who contributed articles for this magazine. There is something for everyone here. Here's a sample: Greg Jackson's history of convicts in the Shire (Page 25), Judith Carrick's report on why Pulpit Rock at Bundeena was lost (Page 17), Pauline Curby's history of Emma Timbery, the Aboriginal matriarch from La Perouse, who died 100 years ago (Page 19), and the story of *San Leonardo*, the unique house in Cronulla featured on the cover, and owned by Peter Moore and Creo Hines (Page 12).

Please, keep your stories rolling in!

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.



SSHS members on an excursion to Centennial Park in August 2016 [Photo: Anne Steward]



## SSHS REPORT - EXCURSION TO CENTENNIAL PARK

ANGELA THOMAS and ANNE STEWARD

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August we enjoyed yet another of Noel's excursions. Truly he does know "His own Backyard" and much of Sydney's too, revealing many hidden away delights.

We set off taking the Anzac Parade to Sir Joseph Banks Reserve at Botany. This had been a playground for the wealthy in times gone by and housed a zoo, amongst other attractions. Now the animals are presented by life size and larger models many in wire mesh. The elephant is a masterpiece. After morning tea in the Reserve we made our way to Moore Park and Centennial Park. Noel told us the history of this area, much of which is preserved due to the McArthur family, Elizabeth in particular.



Centennial Park [Photo: Anne Steward]

As many would know, this area is the playground for the city and as was said of London 'the parks are the lungs of the city'.

Certainly enjoyment was in full swing by 11.00 o'clock. There'd not be a parking space by the afternoon. We came to rest by a peaceful lake where we could see the other inhabitants of the park enjoying themselves. Black swans with their cygnets, white swans, geese, Muscovy ducks and ibis were but a few of the birds making the most of the brilliant sunshine and Noel told us about some locals living under the water.

We did not believe him of course, but Noel said the eels go on a mammoth journey each year to New Caledonia and then die. How could they manage this? He quoted from text that they travelled from pond to pond and lake to lake, going overland in between and using storm drains and ditches until they reached the sea. After spawning the adults die, and, even more remarkable, the 'glass eels' as the hatchlings are called, make the 2000 kilometre journey back to Botany Bay and eventually to Centennial Park.<sup>1</sup>

We finally tore ourselves away from this idyllic scene and set off down Ocean Street and certainly were grateful we had such a wonderful driver. David navigated that network of narrow streets and precipitous ups and downs with his usual skill. Some of us held our breath on a few occasions.

We reached Cooper Creek Reserve and this is truly the most tucked away little gem on anyone's itinerary. Noel said we would be stopping at a café and we'd eyed the eating places filled to the brim in Centennial Park with some concern. Were we going have to queue and wait for ages? But the café at Cooper Creek was nearly empty and we sat watching tennis players and walkers and the birds. Waterfalls tumbled along the creek; reeds and water plants lined its sides. A series of grottos along its banks added to the charm. The more adventurous went on to view the old dam wall at the head of the creek at Bellevue Hill, but yours truly and many others just sat in our grottos and enjoyed the dense rainforest around us, marvelling that such a treasure could be found in the middle of a mass of roads, shops, high rise etc.



Ineke Niewland, Maurie Beaven and Angela Thomas in a Grotto at Coopers Creek [Photo: Anne Steward]

Then it was time for home and back to the comparative peace and space of the Shire, and to look forward to our next trip with Noel and David.

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<sup>1</sup> Strange, but true! 'A very fast drain to the South Pacific', *SMH*, 6 November 2011, [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au),

# THE STORY OF *SAN LEONARDO*

Based on an interview with Peter Moore and Creo Hines

ELIZABETH CRAIG

You are unlikely to see many – if any – houses in the Sutherland Shire like *San Leonardo*, as featured on the cover of this edition of the *Bulletin*. It is owned by SSHS members Peter Moore and his partner Creo Hines, and is located at 40 The Esplanade in Cronulla.

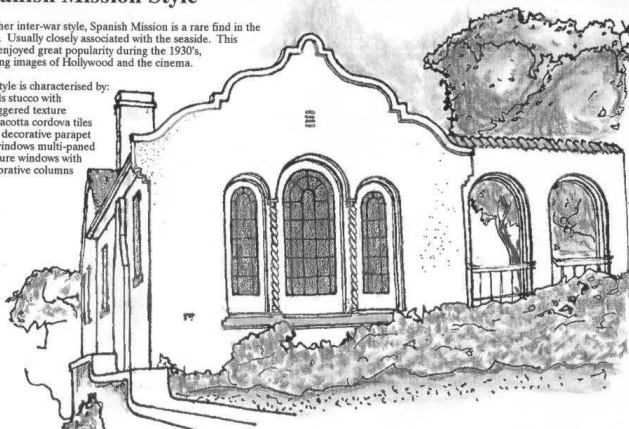
So what is so unique about this house? It was built in 1928 in the Spanish Mission style of architecture, a style that originated in Los Angeles in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was a revival of the style of the Spanish missions built a century earlier during the Spanish colonisation of the southern United States. The style was popularised by American movies, magazines and books such as Helen Hunt Jackson's 1884 novel, *Ramona*, capturing the romance of the region's idealised Hispanic past and drawing many settlers to California. Spanish Mission style architecture is characterised by its white stucco walls, a gabled roof, terracotta Cordova tiles, arched windows grouped in three and twisted columns and decorative parapet – as we can see in *San Leonardo*.<sup>1</sup>

## Spanish Mission Style

Another inter-war style, Spanish Mission is a rare find in the Shire. Usually closely associated with the seaside. This style enjoyed great popularity during the 1930's, evoking images of Hollywood and the cinema.

The style is characterised by:

- walls stucco with exaggerated texture
- terracotta cordova tiles and decorative parapet
- all windows multi-paned
- feature windows with decorative columns



*San Leonardo*, Cronulla, 1928

The style caught on in Australia in the 1920s through local magazines such as *Home Beautiful* which modelled itself on the American *Ladies Home Journal*, depicting the glamorous life of Hollywood stars living in romantic haciendas. Mediterranean styles of architecture were also advocated by the University of Sydney's first Professor of Architecture, Leslie Wilkinson, a position he held from 1918 to 1947.<sup>2</sup> Spanish Mission style became popular in Eastern suburbs domestic housing, but was also used in public buildings such as the University of Western Australia's Winthrop Hall, and in churches such as the Roman Catholic Church in Coonamble, and even in service stations like the heritage listed Broadway Garage in Bellevue Hill. Boomerang House in Elizabeth Bay, built in 1926 is one of the most opulently Spanish houses in Australia. Currently owned by Lindsay Fox, the transport magnate, it is up for sale for the ninth time with a reported asking price of \$60 million.<sup>3</sup>



Roman Catholic Church, Coonamble, 1938

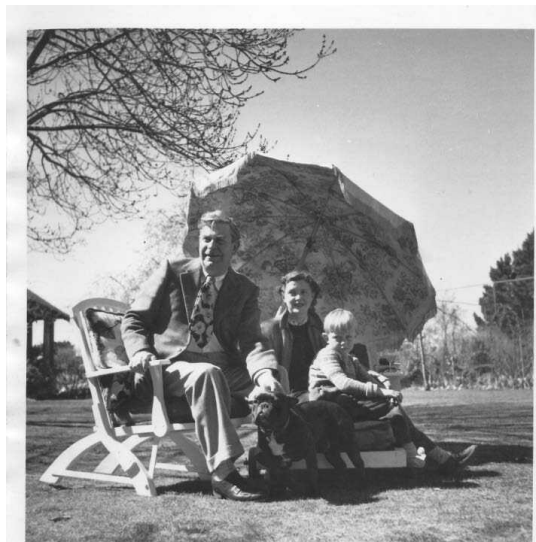


Boomerang House, Elizabeth Bay built in 1928

In 1993 *San Leonardo* was given heritage listing after its inclusion in the 1992 Sutherland Shire heritage study. Because of its rarity in the Shire and that it was deemed to be a 'good example of a Spanish Mission style, essentially unaltered', it was considered to be of historic interest. Its heritage listing number is B067.<sup>4</sup>

Recently, I visited Peter and Creo at their home to learn the history of *San Leonardo*. This is their story.

One day in 1964, 16-year-old Peter was on a walk in Cronulla with his mother Olga to fill in time as they waited for Peter's brother Tim to finish his music lesson in Coronation Avenue. As they walked along the Esplanade, taking in the view over Blackwoods Beach, Olga's interest was piqued by a house with a poster indicating that it had been passed in at auction. It was *San Leonardo*. 'Mother loved the house as soon as she saw it,' recalls Peter. 'She declared this was where she wanted to live.' The family's current house, *Sorrento* in Woollooware Road, had been partly demolished by a willy willy a decade earlier in November 1954 and Peter's father, Arthur had never finished restoring it. 'Mother was sick of the house,' explains Peter. 'It was always their plan that if they stayed there they would have knocked it down and built another house.'



Peter Moore with his parents, Arthur and Olga at Milton Park, Bowral in the early 1950s [Courtesy: Peter Moore]

Olga convinced Arthur to make enquiries with the real estate agent, Doug Porter about *San Leonardo*. They learned that the highest bidders at the house auction on 21<sup>st</sup> March were the builders, the Pardy brothers. The Pardys had already built the apartment complex, *North* and *South Reef* on the southern side of *San Leonardo*. On the northern side was *Rugby*, the well known landmark mansion, owned by Harold Judd, formerly a rugby union player for Australia and also former president of the North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club. He was an old man by then [in fact he died the following year, in 1965] and Peter believes that the Pardy brothers hoped to acquire both *San Leonardo* and *Rugby* to build a bigger block of apartments. However, they baulked at paying the extra £100 needed to meet the reserve on *San Leonardo*. Hence it was passed in.

'Father was always keen to keep Mother happy,' chuckles Peter, and he bought the house for her for £12,750. They learned that *San Leonardo* had been built in 1928 as a weekender by Len Plasto, a well known publican who owned the Royal Hyde Park Hotel in Elizabeth Street in Sydney, as well as having interests in many other hotels with other members of his family. He had also been active in the forerunner of the Australian Hotels' Association.<sup>5</sup> Peter speculates that the name *San Leonardo* came from Plasto's first name, Leonard. For a weekender it was quite a big house, with five bedrooms, a sunroom, a living room, dining room and billiard room. Included in the price was 'all floor coverings, blinds, curtains, light fittings and ANY FURNITURE so decided.'<sup>6</sup> Some of the original furniture is still in the house – the billiard table, some chairs, a dresser, a cabinet and dressing table in one of the bedrooms.



Original Herron and Smith billiard table



Horse Shoe Backed Chair

Although he did not yet have a driving licence, Peter sometimes drove over from Woollooware to spend the night at *San Leonardo* while they were waiting to move in. 'We thought it was fabulous compared to the old house,' he recalls.

Peter explains that the house block had once been part of the Craigs' estate which had run from Ewos Parade, right through what is now Arthur Avenue to the Esplanade. After the Craigs subdivided in 1917, they created a laneway called Arthur's Walk connecting Ewos Parade with the Esplanade, and allowing access to the blocks on the Esplanade. Peter remembers that before they moved in Arthur's Walk was heavily overgrown by banksias, almost blocking the walkway. Both Arthur Avenue and Arthur's Walk were dirt

roads. 'After it rained the seawater used to go a dirty brown from the dirt runoff,' says Peter. 'It doesn't any more as all roads are now sealed.'

Years later Peter met Len Plasto's daughter while she was walking along the Esplanade one day. She described how she and her brother had stayed at *San Leonardo* and had friends over for weekends. When she married the man across the road she and her husband lived there until they moved to Strathfield in 1950. The house was then sold to REWA, a family company owned by the Rogers family. The Rogers' son, Bill was known to enjoy fishing and was still living there with his mother when she died in the early 1960s. As Bill had siblings, the estate had to be sold.

Peter's family had links with the neighbourhood before buying into the area, perhaps one reason his mother was so keen to buy the house. On the block where *North and South Reef* apartments were built had been a house owned by the Shute family. Olga's sister, Pauline had married John Chad, Mrs Shute's nephew. 'It gets more complicated,' chuckles Peter, 'because at one stage Olga's brother Don was married to Pam Henderson, daughter of the family who lived across the road in Arthur Avenue. 'We used to come to the beach here and to the Nunn's Pool because of the association,' he explained. In the 1950s before subdivision of the blocks began and when Cronulla's population was much smaller, it was like a little village, he recalls. All the neighbours would meet on the way to the station and catch the train into the city together. The four houses across the road have now become sixteen units.

In the late 1970s Peter's parents died within three months of each other, and he and his brother, Tim inherited *San Leonardo*. Probate wasn't settled for a few years and in the meantime the price had escalated. Peter borrowed \$60,000 at exorbitant interest rates – up to 18 percent – to buy out his brother. But he managed to keep *San Leonardo* and has lived there ever since.

The Moores made a few alterations to the house: some doors have been removed and the kitchen and bathroom have been enlarged. 'We still have an outside laundry,' says Creo, who became Peter's partner in the late 1990s. Peter and Creo have been trying to bring the house back to its original appearance. As a mechanical engineer, Peter likes doing things with his hands, and Creo has an eye for design. She constructed many of the lead light windows which Peter fitted to the doors and windows.

They stripped back the woodwork painted pink by the previous owners, only to find another coat of yellow paint, which they also stripped back to reveal the original dark stained Oregon timber. The colours in the master bedroom have been returned to the blue colour they were. As you move through the house the colours change from the blues in the bedroom to greens and to a yellow theme in the only room with a picture rail. Peter has carried the theme of the picture rail through the other rooms. They've had the floors polished. The canite ceiling in three rooms sagged sections were replaced. 'It's taken about fifty years to locate all the leaks!' grimaces Peter.



An example of Creo's leadlight windows installed by Peter.

*Nutcote*, the home in Neutral Bay of children's author May Gibbs from 1925 until her death in 1969, and where she wrote many of her delightful stories about the gumnut babies like *Snugglypot* and *Cuddlepig*, is also a Spanish Mission style house. Gibbs and her husband had contracted Bertrand James Waterhouse, an associate of Professor Leslie Wilkinson to design it for them. Note the similarities in design between *San Leonardo* and *Nutcote* in the living room.<sup>7</sup>



*San Leonardo's* lounge room



*Nutcote's* lounge room



Some modifications were made to *San Leonardo* for practical reasons. The Billiard room was originally an open verandah, but this was enclosed by the Plastos to keep out the wind and rain. The house originally had an outside toilet and septic system but when the sewer system was connected a toilet was installed in the inside bathroom. The fence along Arthur's Walk, the laneway alongside their block, was originally wooden palings, but over the years Peter and Creo have constructed a masonry wall in the same theme as the front fence.

Replacing original materials used in the house can sometimes be a challenge. In a storm some months ago, a branch from a Norfolk Island Pine fell on the Moores' roof. Tiles were broken and the company that made them no longer exists. But they were lucky. Peter found three pallets at a second-hand tile company out at Prospect.

'When Creo came into my life the house was in a somewhat sorry state,' says Peter. While he had carried out necessary maintenance and painting, with the help of his nephew Nick and a retired brick layer Brian Briggs, restoration had not really begun until Creo arrived. 'She saw the potential in *San Leonardo* and we got things moving towards restoring it to its former glory.'

'This has been very satisfying for us and the job is nearly finished with one room left to be restored and some more arches in the backyard to be built.'



Peter and Creo at the back door of their home

See more photos of this unique home on the back cover of the *Bulletin*.

<sup>1</sup> [http://modernheritage.com.au/mhm/house\\_style/spanish-mission-and-mediterranean-1924-1940/](http://modernheritage.com.au/mhm/house_style/spanish-mission-and-mediterranean-1924-1940/)  
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/australian-capital-territory/spanish-mission-style/2007/10/311193618947593.html>;  
'Spanish Colonial revival style architecture', [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian\\_residential\\_architectural\\_styles#Spanish\\_Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_residential_architectural_styles#Spanish_Mission); Inter-War Spanish Mission c.1915- c.1940, [Sydneyarchitecture.com/STYLES/sty-108.htm](http://sydneyarchitecture.com/STYLES/sty-108.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://sydney.edu.au/arms/archives/history/HonWilkinson.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> [http://modernheritage.com.au/mhm/house\\_style/spanish-mission-and-mediterranean-1924-1940/](http://modernheritage.com.au/mhm/house_style/spanish-mission-and-mediterranean-1924-1940/)  
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/australian-capital-territory/spanish-mission-style/2007/10/311193618947593.html>;  
[www.domain.com.au/Boomerang](http://www.domain.com.au/Boomerang)

<sup>4</sup> Letter, Sutherland Shire Council to Peter Moore, 2 November 1993, and 'Sutherland Shire Heritage Study' re 40 The Esplanade, Cronulla, prepared by Perumal Murphy Wu Pty Ltd for SSC and NSW Department of Planning, 20 September 1993

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ahansw.com.au/index.php/about-us/history>

<sup>6</sup> Auction information, *San Leonardo*, Doug Porter Pty Ltd, 21 March, 1964

<sup>7</sup> <https://federation-house.wikispaces.com/Architect+BJ+Waterhouse#x-Tulkiyan-Nutcote> House of May Gibbs, Neutral Bay NSW; <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/waterhouse-bertrand-james-8990>

# MUSEUM REPORT

IAN KOLLN

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of our Museum was a low key event. We had already organised and celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the Society with big lunch event three months earlier.

We opened for a 'Night at The Museum' on Friday 21 October, and members met the visitors who came to view the museum and learn about the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.

From a peripatetic beginning in bags and boxes of the members, who provided displays and exhibitions at various locations around the Sutherland Shire, we have developed our 'Journey Through Time' exhibition to display in brief format, and for school students and adults, the history of the birthplace of modern Australia with the preceding geological and Aboriginal history.

The Memorial School of Arts building had been our permanent home for 30 years, yet we have had three changes of address. When I came on to the Museum Committee a few years ago, our address was simply 'School of Arts Building in Sutherland'. My questions of what is the street address and where can I find this on the internet led to the initial numbering of this prominent building, a WW1 memorial, being allocated no 25 East Parade.

This still could not be found on the Google street search system, and therefore no site search locations for the international visitors and those travelling from outside the Shire were effective. Further enquiries at the Council revealed that number 25 was actually the shop two doors away, and our new official address became **Sutherland Museum, 23 East Parade, Sutherland**

Hopefully we can settle down at this address to enjoy another 30 years and develop our Journey Through Time story for our second 50 years of the Sutherland Historical Society.

The project to complete the cataloguing is ongoing. This is building on the sterling work of Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald in indexing the photographic and library collections, and that of Clive Baker who boxed, listed and stored the items not on display. My thanks to them for their work.

This is part of the ongoing work of the Sutherland Historical Society to record and retain the History of the Shire as started by those foundation members and exemplified on our motto:

Mindful of the Past, Focused on the Future.



Sutherland Memorial School of Arts prior to the arrival of the SSHS Museum  
[1965-1972, Sutherland Library collection]

# HOW 'PULPIT ROCK', BUNDEENA WAS LOST

JUDITH CARRICK

## History

Before European settlement, Port Hacking was a special place for the Aboriginal people, noted for its abundance of shells and fish. Middens can be found all along the shores of the Port.

Europeans came in the early 1800s applying for grants on the southern side of Port Hacking; the first being Owen Byrne, in all 460ac in 1827; Thomas Lord, 20ac in 1847; George Simpson 50ac in 1863, all at Bonnie Vale. George Newcombe in 1841 at Fisherman's Bay; Marmaduke Constable in 1859 at Maianbar; Charles Gogerly at Gogerlys Point in 1847; William Costen at Costens Point in 1858.

Only George Simpson, Charles Gogerly and William Costen settled on their land. Most of the southern side of Port Hacking is within the Royal National Park dedicated in April 1879, with exception of Bundeena and Maianbar. Byrne's and Lord's portions were resumed by NPWS in 1884 and 1887 and Simpson's land in 1947, so that now all of Bonnie Vale is under Royal National Park's administration.

At Bundeena, on Cabbage Tree Point, there is a popular walk from Hordern Beach around to Simpsons Bay with excellent views across Port Hacking. Walkers can watch the large launches, wave runners, canoeists, kayakers, yachts and the ferry 'Bundeena' making their way to their destinations.

Families wander around, children playing in pools and throwing stones into the water or building sand castles on the beach. Adults wonder at the beautifully sculptured and coloured rock surface.

Anglers, from far and wide, try their luck on several convenient rock platforms; sometimes coming home with Blackfish, Black bream or Flathead dinner - often not.

## Pulpit Rock

When Surveyor John Burnett surveyed Lord's and Byrne's portions in 1840 he made special note of Pulpit Rock in his Field Book. This is the first record the author has found naming Pulpit Rock. Other surveyors who followed later also

noted Pulpit Rock. Trig Station XXXI is located on that rock platform but sadly the mark has since been worn away.

From the mid-1870s Sydney was running short of fresh water. In 1876 James Manning submitted his scheme for the supply of water to Sydney and suburbs by gravitation from low level dams and upper level dams. One of the sites to form a low level dam was to be across Port Hacking; from Cabbage Tree Point. In 1877 Surveyor Robert Handcock was engaged to survey the shores of Port Hacking with the plan that a dam should go across from south to north. Two sites were chosen, one from The Spit at Maianbar to the west side of Burraneer Point and the other from Cabbage Tree Point (near Simpson's) to the east side of Burraneer Point. It was considered that the harbour had no practical use and the countryside mostly uninhabited. This was not the first time that this statement was made about the sandstone country south of Port Hacking. However, fortunately, the lower level scheme was not adopted; the upper Nepean being the site chosen.

## Geology

Pulpit Rock has formed in the Hawkesbury Sandstone exposed on the coastal cliff at Bundeena. The pillar formed initially by weathering and erosion down vertical fractures within the sandstone, isolating a mass of rock from the cliff, probably many thousands of years ago. Since then, rain and seaspray have continued to weaken the rock. Water seeps through the rock, dissolving the quartz and clay cement and loosening sand grains. The water moves easily down the sloping bedding planes in the rock. This is the process that has led to the pillar becoming thinner and thinner with time, as comparison of old and recent photos show. The grey lichen-covered block on the top has become more precarious as it was undercut by the thinning of the pillar stem.

Finally, on June 5th, 6th and 7th an East Coast low weather system hammered the area with heavy rains, gale-force winds and high seas. This combination caused a catastrophe for Pulpit Rock. After thousands of years of all kinds of weather this latest storm was critical,

weakening the joints and with the surge of extreme waves down the estuary, the rock separated in two places and was washed off onto the rocks below.

It is still a beautiful walk around the headland and many will continue to do the walk, but

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Sydney Morning Herald, February 25, 1876

Crown Plan, 1877, BS-42-3014J1, Surveyor Robert Handcock, LPI

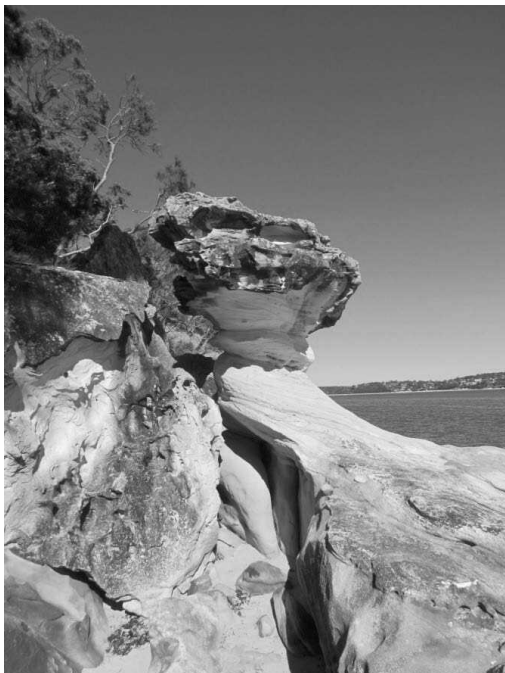
Geology, Dr. R.W. Young

something will be missing - stately Pulpit Rock. However, further west on Costen's Point there is a rock which was carved in the same fashion as Pulpit Rock but as it is surrounded by the dark grey sludge of the little bay it does not have the beauty of its look-alike.

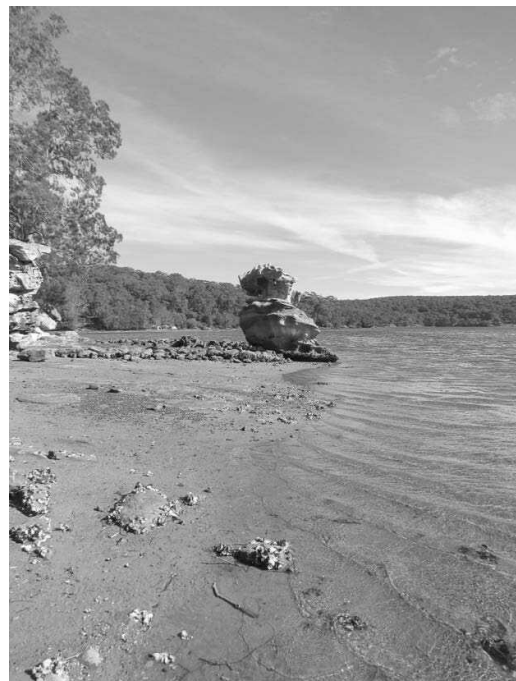


Pulpit Rock, 1888

[Source: album dated 1888-1922, Geoff Hughes, Audley boatshed]



Pulpit Rock, 2014 [Photo: Judith Carrick]



Costens Point, 2016 [Photo: Judith Carrick]



## A LA PEROUSE MATRIARCH – EMMA TIMBERY

PAULINE CURBY

Emma Timbery died 100 years ago on 29 November 1916. Even though her grave in Botany Cemetery was unmarked until recently, she has long been celebrated as the legendary 'Queen Emma'. Her story – and her family's – is part of the traditional folklore that La Perouse children grow up with.

An account of Emma's life in the Australian Dictionary of Biography records:

She was the daughter of Hubert Walden, farmer, and his wife Betsy, an Aboriginal woman. Emma, a Dharawal speaker, was sometimes given her stepfather's surname, Lond or Lownds. On 31 May 1864 at Botany she married George ('Trimmer') Timbery (c.1839-1920), an Aboriginal fisherman, who had been born in the Illawarra. They had eleven children.<sup>1</sup>

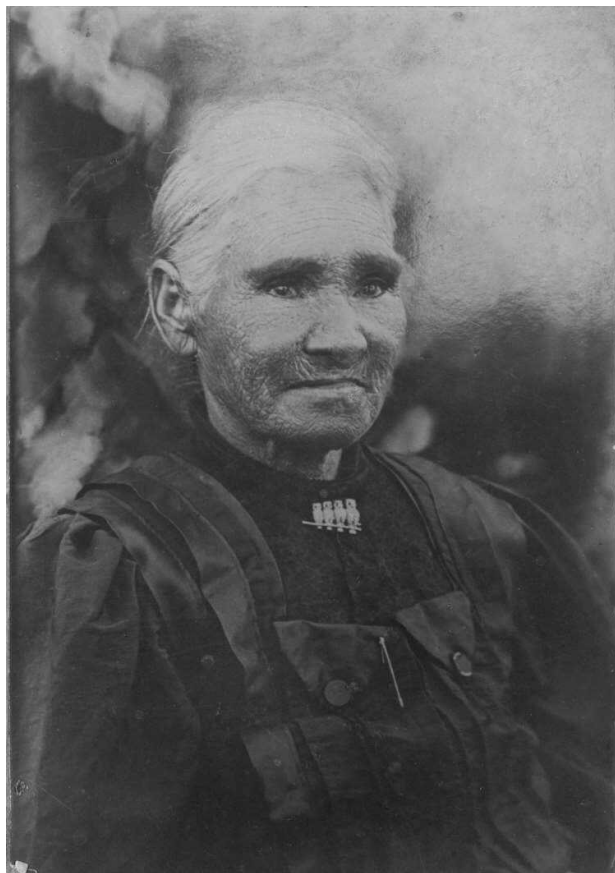
Emma and her husband George were pioneers of the Aboriginal settlement at La Perouse, as a *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist who visited reported in 1883:

The most intelligent man I met among them was George Timbrey [sic], who is doubtless well known to Botany fishing parties. George is the father of the camp. The locality has been a bathing place for aborigines since Captain Cook's time, and probably long before, but with the characteristic restlessness of their race they simply used the place to camp at for a few months, and then moved elsewhere. About four years ago George found the camp deserted, and settled down there with his wife [Emma] and somewhat numerous family. In the course of time he got some timber and other materials, and put up a respectable looking hut, and also got the use of a boat with which he was enabled to go out fishing. Subsequently other families camped beside him, erected huts, and now they form a little village. The place seems to have become a permanent settlement, and it might be a benefit to the blacks themselves if a number of them could be induced to give up their wandering habits and stick to the camp.<sup>2</sup>

A number of Aboriginal families did 'stick to the camp' and their descendants still live at La Perouse. These long settled families have intermarried and became part of an extended family network. Two of these – the Simms and Timbery families – are descended from Cooman (Kooman), who was – according to tradition – the grandson of one of the men who challenged James Cook and his crew when they landed on the southern shore of Botany Bay in 1770.<sup>3</sup> Cooman and his wife Nellie Oolonga had two girls, (probably twins) Eleanor and Elizabeth, born in 1821.<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth (Betsy) married Hubert Waldron and it was their daughter Emma who married George Timbery. In turn this couple's eldest daughter Jane was John Henry Simms' mother.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile at La Perouse, George Timbery fished while Emma and the other Aboriginal women earned money by gathering wildflowers and making shell baskets to sell in Sydney. Emma, it is said, was 'particularly accomplished at this craft'.<sup>6</sup> In addition to baskets, Aboriginal women at La Perouse were well known for shell-adorned, heart-shaped boxes, baby shoes and boomerangs. While the work was a social activity, carried out in the company of other women, each shellworker had an individual style. Emma regularly displayed and sold her handiwork at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney.<sup>7</sup> In 1910 it was reported that shell work particularly that of 'Queen Emma' (Timbery) sold well at an exhibition of Australian manufactures in Britain.<sup>8</sup> On one occasion, on behalf of the La Perouse women, Emma presented president of the NSW Aborigines Mission committee TE Colebrook with a 'beautiful letter-basket, very tastefully made of shells'.<sup>9</sup>

This Christian mission that arrived at La Perouse not long after George and Emma established their 'village' had a profound impact on Emma. Following the visits of Christian Endeavourers in the early 1890s, she converted to Christianity. Along with her fellow convert Charlie Golden, Emma



Emma Timbery, undated [ML, SLNSW]

became a key supporter of Retta Dixon, a young woman who came to live at La Perouse as a missionary in 1897. Emma and Retta often travelled together, visiting other Aboriginal settlements along the south coast to 'spread the word'.<sup>10</sup> The little Christian church built at La Perouse was the only one in that locality and was said to serve 'both black and white'. Apparently the religious devotion of the Aborigines provided picnickers 'who spend the Sabbath in pleasure' with an 'object lesson'.<sup>11</sup>

Although a convert to Christianity, Emma was also a keeper of traditional knowledge, which she shared with ethnographer RH Mathews.<sup>12</sup> She also imparted traditional knowledge to school teacher Mary Everitt who sometimes collaborated with Mathews. Emma was not the only senior woman who helped anthropologists in their investigation of Aboriginal language and culture. When visiting La Perouse in 1900, Bessie Sims instructed Mary Everitt in the Gundungurra language.<sup>13</sup>

A leader in the La Perouse community, it is not known when Emma Timbery began to be known as 'Queen Emma'. Although she was referred to in this way in 1910, her death notice does not use this epithet.<sup>14</sup> She was described as the 'oldest native Christian' when she died in 1916. 'Our old friend' Granny Timbury, as she was sometimes called had been a resident of the district for 'quite 60 years' and was 'well known and respected'. There was a 'large company of mourners' at her funeral and burial in Botany Cemetery'. It was reported that many 'floral tributes and other expressions of sympathy were received by the bereaved family, all of whom deeply appreciated the respect shown.'<sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/timbery-emma-13218> accessed 5/8/2012

<sup>2</sup> *SMH*, 16/1/1883, p.5

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori/>

<sup>3</sup> Elias Laycock in *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 10, 1924: 5, pp. 275-278.

<sup>4</sup> Registered Births, Deaths & Marriages 1788 - 1905, NSW, references to aborigines from 1788 to 1905, P.J. Mackett, 1989,

<http://www.cifhs.com/nswrecords/nswbdm.html>, accessed 11/10/12. There is a history of twins in subsequent generations of the Simms/Timbery families.

<sup>5</sup> 'Ancestor tree of Yvonne Simms', courtesy of Native Title Services Corp, 4/11/2011

<sup>6</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/timbery-emma-13218> accessed 5/8/2012

<sup>7</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/timbery-emma-13218> accessed 5/8/2012

<sup>8</sup> *NSW Aboriginal Advocate*, 28/2/1910, p.4.

<sup>9</sup> *NSWAA*, 30/9/1903, pp. 3-4.

<sup>10</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/timbery-emma-13218> accessed 5/8/2012

<sup>11</sup> *NSWAA*, No 1, 23/7/1901, p. 1; 26/3/1902, p. 4

<sup>12</sup> Martin Thomas, *The Many Worlds of RH Mathews, in search of an Australian anthropologist*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW, 2011, p. 3; Heather Goodall and Allison Cadzow, *Rivers and Resilience, Aboriginal people on Sydney's Georges River*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2009

<sup>13</sup> Bessie, who was married to William Russell, lived in the Burrigorang Valley. 'Timbery of Wollongong' was another informant. Michael Organ *Illawarra and South Coast Aborigines, 1770- 1900*, Report for the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 1993, pp. 192-19, 200.

<sup>14</sup> Cf 'Queen Lucy' of Yass. *Australian Aboriginal Advocate* (AAA), 30 November 1918, p.6

<sup>15</sup> *AAA*, 30 November 1916, p.1.

## WEB REPORT

### ANDREW PLATFOOT

I am not sure we have ever published a Web report in the *Bulletin*, so perhaps I can start with a little history.

We have had a web site for many years but it has largely existed quietly behind the scenes. Initially it was intended to make the Society known to a wider audience and especially to those who enjoy 'surfing the Net' looking for interesting web sites – a bit like window shopping in your favourite book store except it is all done from the comfort and convenience of your own computer.

Over time more details were added concerning the Societies regular activities such as meeting, excursions, book launches and special events. The web site became more functional and less of a picture postcard advertising the web site.

Interestingly as it developed, the name of our web site changed as did its host server location. What is a host server location? A web site is really just a collection of articles, pictures, sound tracks and the like tied together with computer software all stored together on a computer known as a server. The software acts like a librarian ready to provide, that is, serve up) whatever information is stored on the server to anyone who asks. This server is said to "host" the web site.

The first Society web site was hosted on a server in Russia and had the name **suthshirehistsoc.da.ru** (The creator of the web site was given a bottle of good quality scotch as a thank you gift.) Later it changed its name to **suthshirehistsoc.com.au** and was hosted on a server in Western Australia. (The first trace I

could find of its name being publically acknowledged was in our August 1999 *Bulletin*).

About six years ago a determined effort was made to update the site and provide more features and functions. It was also decided to change the website name to something a little less cryptic. The name chosen was **shirehistory.org** - a name that is far easier to remember and perhaps more befitting of who we really are. It is hosted on a server in Canada which advertises that all its electricity comes from 'green energy' sources.

This new web site was created using the common software tools of the time - HTML (Hypertext markup language), CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) and templates and its layout followed the latest design concepts (for that time). It employed a collage of sepia toned, historic photographs to create a background image and a block structure with antique style buttons with a script font in an attempt to emphasise who we are and to help us stand out from the countless thousands of other web sites that exist on the web.

But time has moved on and it's time for a face lift in 2017. Using modern tools like Content Management Systems it will be easier to update and add new features and remove redundant material. We will also move away from the old world look and feel. Our web site is no longer an image of who we are but another tool to present the Society to a broader audience and lay the foundations for the next development – the virtual society.

So look us up: [www.shirehistory.org](http://www.shirehistory.org)



Les Bursill (left) and Andrew Platfoot, who founded the SSHS website in 1999 [Source: Les Bursill and Daphne Salt]

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### HELEN ROSNER



Though I have spent most of my life as a city girl in Sydney, I was born in Glen Innes and grew up in Taree after my father was transferred there in 1950. My heritage is Irish through my father and English on my mother's side.

My Irish ancestors all came out in the 1850's due to the very poor conditions in Ireland at the time. They came through the goldfields in Victoria and NSW but continued north and settled on a farm near Maclean on the Clarence River where my father was raised. Times were very tough with his father dying when dad was ten, and the sons were left to work the farm. Dad was lucky to pick up a bursary after leaving school to study at Hawkesbury Agriculture College and he worked as an agronomist for most of his working life.

Charles Marks, my maternal great-great grandfather, came out to Australia with his wife, infant son and two brothers from Bristol after his younger brother Maurice had arrived earlier, and was one of the first land owners in Belmont. They set up orange orchards, and Marks Point on Lake Macquarie is named after Charles.

My grandfather (Charles' grandson) also went to Hawkesbury Agriculture College, and Mum and Dad met when my father went to work at Grafton Experiment Farm where his future father-in-law was the manager. Catholic met Protestant which caused much angst in those days when they decided to marry. However it was a long and happy marriage with few family hassles.

My other maternal great grandfather James Naylor came to Sydney to work at John Sands as an Illuminator from Manchester in early 1882 – then brought his family out later that year as assisted passengers. He was very interested in

the native flowers and animals and gave lectures on these through the Department of Technical Education. In 1894 he trained as a school teacher and taught until his death in 1900. I have been lucky to see some of his work in the Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

We had a good if fairly uneventful childhood, and we four kids enjoyed school holidays travelling with dad to the farms – his area spread from north of Kempsey to Gloucester so we were used to going long distances on all sorts of roads, mostly dirt. Imagine my amazement, when I started work in Sydney, to find a boy who hadn't been further than Manly.



Helen's parents and siblings in George St, Sydney in the 1950s. Helen, first child on left  
[Source: Helen Rosner]

I was the product of a country Catholic school, so was good with maths but had no science. So after I finished my Leaving Certificate at boarding school in Lochinvar (near Maitland), we found out the Central Mapping Authority were taking on female Cartographers. I became one of the three first women to be employed there in February 1961 – a historic moment which changed the face of draughting. Today there would be a reasonable chance that women outnumber the men in these fields.

My parents found a hostel that housed girls from 'the Country' in Challis Ave, Potts Point –(really just down from the Cross) - and I spent several happy years in the company of all those girls. We would go dancing at the various dancehalls as

well as going to the pictures and concerts and on some nights, as dinner was served at 6pm sharp we would put our overcoats over our pyjamas and head up to buy hamburgers in the Cross. Funnily enough it all seemed very safe and innocent. Maybe it was safety in numbers!!!!

In 1967, a girlfriend and I joined the many Aussies on the trip to the 'Mother Country'. We travelled for a month of fun on an Italian ship, and arrived in England in February to experience our first taste of short days and cold damp weather. After a few weeks with the family of one of two English friends I had met in Sydney, three of us found a flat, and I secured a job with an American Mining Company as a geological draughtswoman near Buckingham Palace. Many lovely lunches were spent in St James Park and I was very lucky to have an interesting group of people from different parts of the world to work with. I explored London and parts of England and Scotland on weekends and on holidays, and after 18 months I did a trip to the Continent on the way home. What good memories!!!

Luckily my experience got me a job in town with a Mining Company at the height of the big boom, and I stayed working in that field until I had my first child.

I met my future husband while working with a group organising social outings for migrants and visitors from overseas. Though Danny was from Poland he had migrated to Australia 10 years previously with his family, so wasn't one of the new ones. We married in 1970 and settled down to save hard. Luckily, our fish and chips one Friday night were wrapped in newspaper with an ad for land at Bonnet Bay. We came out and liked the area, so bought a block!!!!

Our house was finished not long before our first daughter was born in 1975, followed by another girl in 1977. Life in Bonnet Bay was good – all young families with not much money. Our main outings were the social evenings at our local school for fund raising, but we knew how to enjoy ourselves and it was a close knit community then. There are fond memories of the big bonfires down on the flats before they banned fireworks, and everyone would gather to have a BBQ while letting off their meagre supplies and watching the fire burn.

As computers had taken over in the draughting office by 1983, I looked elsewhere and picked up a two-days a week job which suited me fine with the school hours. It was office work and I continued to do lots of different types of this, as well as customer service and sales work until I retired. Foolishly, I resisted learning computers early but was always able to find a reasonable job, and enjoyed all the different places I worked in.

I had my mother's talent in sewing and crafts, and many a long hour was spent making clothes and fancy dresses for the girls. Luckily they enjoyed them as well. I now have a granddaughter to sew for – though not as much - as my daughter is also a good sewer who whips up the fancy dress costumes for her two children.

Our family also enjoyed bush walking, and many holidays and weekends were spent in wonderful bush surroundings. We were not swimmers, so headed to other places, including many times to the Snowy Mountains in summer before most people discovered how beautiful it was. It is still a joy to get out in the bush today away from all the noise and bustle of the city.

Danny had always said 'no' to a dog, but near his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday he relented and he and the girls headed for the RSPCA and came home with "Zac"- a beautiful kelpie-cross pup – who embedded himself in our lives as only a dog can. Unfortunately, Danny was killed in an industrial accident 18 months later, but Zac remained my constant companion for another 17 years before succumbing to old age. Zac was the reason I now live in a wonderful heritage house in Sutherland as I needed a garden but didn't want a big place.

I have been lucky to find a companion in George Miller with similar interests and we have shared some wonderful trips locally and overseas, as well as heading into the bush whenever we can.

The heritage house also encouraged my interest in local history, and helped inspire George and my involvement in the Historical Society. I hope I can continue to enjoy its benefits for many years.

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# WHAT LINKS LUCAS MILLS, THE SPRING CART IN THE SSHS MUSEUM AND A PROPOSED NEW STREET NAME IN ILLAWONG?

DON ROTHNIE

[Editor's note] The 1920s spring cart featured as the centrepiece of the SSHS Museum's farmyard display had belonged to a pioneer family of Illawong, the Kerslakes. It was acquired by SSHS in 2014 after being restored by Menai Men's Shed. Now Don Rothnie reveals the background linking the spring cart with the history – and the future – of Illawong.

In 1925 the Kerslake family took up a property in a new subdivision in Illawong. The subdivision stretched from what is now the Fowler Road frontage down to the river, basically bounded today on the east by Old Ferry Road, and to the west by Alford's Point Road. Whilst small parcels of land were sold prior to 1982 the major subdivision of the property occurred in 1983/84.<sup>1</sup>

In November 1984 when we came to Illawong, our home adjoined the remaining two and a half acres of the original subdivision. At that time George Kerslake, son of Mrs Kerslake (the buyer) and his wife Dorothy still lived on the original property. Their son Graeme had his own home on a neighbouring block. On the passing of both his parents, Graeme moved to the paternal home, living as a single man. He passed away November 2013, being the last family member to occupy the property.

Now in developers' hands the Kerslake's property has been subdivided into 14 blocks. Council does not allow access from Fowler Road to the current subdivision, so a new road is to be built to service ten of the blocks entering from Empire Place – at the rear of the block parallel to Fowler Road.<sup>2</sup>

## Finding a name for the new road

Knowing the Council would be seeking to name this new road, I consulted with Greg Jackson, a SSHS member who has published his extensive research of the Lucas Mills built in the local area by John Lucas in the 1820s, and we submitted several suggestions.

One of the proposed names was 'Olivia', and to my knowledge, the Council has submitted this to the Geographic Names Board. The following material explains the choice of the name and the three linkages, namely Lucas Mills, the Kerslake property and the spring cart.

## The Lucas family's *Olivia*

The Council requires that new streets have a maritime relationship. The *Olivia* was a 60-ton schooner built by the Lucas family in 1825 and named after John Lucas's mother Olivia Gascoyne. The *Olivia* was used to bring wheat

from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) to Sydney for his mills on the Georges and Woronora Rivers. The schooner was wrecked in 1827 south of Twofold Bay as she sailed from Launceston to Sydney with a cargo of wheat, coffee and potatoes. Her eight passengers and crew reached the shore on a raft and walked overland to a station near Bateman's Bay.<sup>3</sup>

## The Kerslakes' spring cart

Where the proposed road is to be built was a lean-to housing the spring cart (now in the museum) that George had used to deliver produce to the Haymarket daily until possibly the mid-1950s.<sup>4</sup>



## Conclusion

Naming the new road *Olivia* is a salute to the land users, for 90 years the Kerslake family, represented by the spring cart, to the Lucas family, and also meets the Council's requirement of a maritime connection. The name *Olivia* would neatly draw together several pieces of Illawong's history.

<sup>1</sup> Gregory Road Directory, 1982, SSHS Museum

<sup>2</sup> The other blocks are either entered through Empire place driveways or the two adjacent to our home by the completion of our cul-de-sac

<sup>3</sup> [LN],[SAN] [oceans1.customer.netspace.net.au/nsw-wrecks.html](http://oceans1.customer.netspace.net.au/nsw-wrecks.html)

<sup>4</sup> A 1956 GMC truck that was in the sheds on the property led to this conclusion.

# CONVICTS IN THE SHIRE – Pt 1

GREG JACKSON

Several articles in this *Bulletin* have examined various aspects of John Lucas' watermills, the Brisbane Mill built on Williams Creek in 1822 in what is now the suburb of Voyager Point, and the Woronora Mill built in 1825 at the head of navigation of the Woronora River (SSHS *Bulletin*, Vol.15. No.4&5, Vol.16 No.1&2). John Lucas relied almost exclusively on convict servants for the manpower to run these two mills and his Inn, The Black Swan, in George Street Sydney.

Convicts are a forgotten workforce. We are familiar with the names of many of the Shires early settlers, like Birnie, Alford, Lucas, Connell and Blaxland, but the convicts are almost completely unknown (unless they are one of our ancestors). In the 1820s they outnumbered the free settlers in outlying towns like Liverpool (Martin, 1839, p161), and they performed most of the hard work required to operate the farms in what is now the Sutherland Shire, and early industrial enterprises such as Lucas' two mills. This article sheds some light on the workforce that Lucas used to build and run his enterprises.

John Biggs (Biggs, 1822) had been assigned to examine the effectiveness of transportation as a deterrent to felons and was very critical of Governor Macquarie and his use of convict labour on large Government projects. When Governor Brisbane took over from Macquarie at the end of 1821 he restructured much of the convict system in accordance with Biggs' recommendations. Governor Brisbane also introduced other reforms relating to convict assignment, such as hiring convict mechanics (artisans) to settlers for a fee of 3s 6d per head per week, forming clearing gangs, and obligating land grantees to take on assigned convicts, requiring settlers to support one convict off the government stores for every 100 acres granted.

Convict mechanics such as blacksmiths, stonemasons and carpenters were much sought after by settlers, and by hiring

mechanics to settlers Brisbane broke the previous government stranglehold on their use.

Tasmanian convict records are well preserved, but in NSW few individual convict records have survived. It was reported by Walsh (2007, p11) that most of the records of the office of the Principal Superintendent of Convicts (NSW) were destroyed, possibly to protect later generations of Australians from their convict past. Walsh states there is an oral tradition that they were dumped in Sydney Harbour (personal comment, Senior Archivists of NSW State Records, 2004) however, it is more likely the records were in the basement of the Garden Palace in Sydney when it burnt down in 1882, establishing a long tradition, possibly a myth, that the fire had been deliberately lit to destroy these records (personal comment Carol Liston, University of Western Sydney, 2004). As a result, landmark studies of Australian convicts, such as those of Walsh, were based largely on generic records for NSW convicts such as shipping indents, musters, census and various aggregated returns on secondary punishment.

A search of colonial records located a total of 25 servants who worked for Lucas between 1819 and 1828 when Lucas was declared bankrupt. Of these 23 were assigned convicts. Lucas' relationship with his servants is important in our understanding of how his enterprises operated as they were distributed over a large distance and considerable trust must have been placed in their ability to work unsupervised.

Records of Lucas' 23 assigned convicts as well as biographical details of his two free servants were reconstructed and although considerable detail was located many of the records are incomplete. Statistics was used to analyse the life experiences, skills and behaviour of Lucas' servants.

An example of a reconstructed record for one of Lucas' convicts, John Mclean, is shown in **Figure 1**.



<i>Convicts Name:</i> John (Michael) McLean (McClean) (McLinnan) (McLennan)			
<i>Ship:</i> Ocean 1818			
<i>Offence:</i> Assault and theft		<i>Sentence:</i> 14 years, Perth	
<i>Age in 1825:</i> 29	<i>Marriage Status:</i> 1823 at Liverpool (NSW)	<i>Religion:</i> Presbyterian	<i>Education:</i>
<i>Country of Origin:</i>		<i>Town of Origin:</i>	
<i>Trade:</i> Carpenter	<i>Height:</i> 5'4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	<i>Complexion:</i> Sallow	<i>Hair Colour:</i> Dark brown
<i>Eye Colour:</i> Dark hazel			
<i>Assignment:</i> John Lucas June 1822, 8 Oct 1824, April 1825		<i>Freedom:</i> Convict in 1822-23, Had a TOL in Sept 1824 but lost it, Certificate of Freedom Apr 1831	
<i>Colonial Crimes:</i> 1823 Mar; 1824 Mar On monthly returns of prisoners punished at Newcastle (Reel 6023; 4/1718 pp.165, 179) In Darlinghurst Jail 1848 and 1862			
<i>References:</i> Colonial Secretaries in-letters index: Biog No. 140061730, 140015421 Census and NSW General Muster 1823/24/25: Biog No.110525355 Church Register St Luke Liverpool: Biog No. 300210198, 300250240, 300230097, 300016422, 300320097 Church Register St Philip Sydney: Biog No. 300014920, 300016820, 300016422, 300012637 <i>Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser</i> 30 April 1831			
<i>Notes:</i> Large nose, Request to marry Sarah Halford at Liverpool, June 1823 Wedding witnessed by William Dukes (another of Lucas'convicts) Son born May 1824, died July 1824 Daughter born Jun 1828 Daughter born Nov 1825 Daughter born Jan 1831			

**Figure 1: an example of a reconstructed convict record**

### What the data tells us

#### Servant Numbers:

It was not possible to determine exactly the number of convict servants Lucas had at any given time because the exact time a servant came to and left Lucas' employment is usually not known.

**Table 1** shows the maximum and minimum number of convict servants that Mitchell may have had for the years 1819 to 1828. This includes servants that had been convicts but had achieved their freedom while assigned to Lucas.

Year	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828
Maximum	2	4	9	19	19	21	19	21	20	16
Minimum	1	1	1	13	13	18	15	6	5	6

**Table 1: The maximum and minimum number of servants Lucas may have had at in the years 1819 to 1828.**

Of Lucas' 25 servants one was a free female (Eliza McGuiggin) and one a free male servant (George Williams). Both these servants were working for Lucas at the time of the 1828 census but were possibly with Lucas prior to this date.

Lucas had a large number of servants at his disposal, with as many as 21 in 1824. The majority were assigned convicts with 13 out of his 15 servants convicts in the 1822 muster, and four out of six servants convicts at the Brisbane Mill in the

1828 census. Lucas had land grants totalling only 300 acres so he should have been assigned only three convict servants. Brisbane must have applied different rules to industrial enterprises, like mills. He may also have especially wanted to encourage corn mills to feed the growing population of the colony. Being a 'currency lad' and given his social status it seems unlikely that Lucas would have received any preferential treatment and been assigned additional convict servants.

## Deployment of Servants

John Lucas' servants were spread over three workplaces. Prior to building his two watermills he had been granted a license for *The Black Swan Inn* in George Street Sydney in February 1821. These three enterprises were a considerable distance apart and servants at two of these locations would be largely unsupervised. Lucas' home and most of his workforce were at the Brisbane Mill. It is very

possible that Alexander Cameron was in charge of the Woronora Mill from 1825. When granted his Ticket of Leave in 1825 he continued to work for John Lucas and proudly called himself a 'Miller'. It is not known how many servants were at the Woronora Mill or at the Black Swan Inn.

## Sentences

Lucas' convicts were transported for the following sentences

Sentence	7 years	14 years	Life	Unknown
No. of Convicts	11	5	6	1

**Table 2: Sentences given to John Lucas' convicts**

Only fifteen of the crimes that resulted in transportation are known. **Table 3** details the known crimes and sentences of Lucas' convicts.

Only one is not a crime against property, John McLean, sentenced to 14 years for assault and theft.

Convicts Name	Crime	Sentence (years)
George Badcock	Larceny	7
Isaac Burk	"	7
William Duke	"	14
James Mayhall	"	7
George Moors	"	7
John Smith	"	7
John Townsend	"	7
John Mahoney	Robbery	Life
James Blunt	Robbing a boat	7
John Campbell	In possession of forged notes	14
George Dudley	Pickpocket	7
John McLean	Assault and theft	14
John Walker	Burglary	14
Samuel Hancock	"	14
Mary Bowden	Forgery	14
Alexander Cameron	Unknown	7
John Dowling	"	Life
Thomas Haaney	"	Life
William Kelly	"	Unknown
John Meehan	"	7
Hugh Mitchell	"	Life
Charles Rowley	"	7
Charles Taylor	"	Life

**Table 3: The Crimes of John Lucas' convicts**

## Convicts who became free by 1824

The number of Lucas convicts who had gained their freedom (Ticket of Leave, completed sentence or pardoned) by 1824 is shown in **Table 4**.

Still a Convict in 1824	Free in 1824	Unknown status in 1824
13	6	4

**Table 4: The status of Lucas servants in 1824.**

## Re -offending rate

Ten of Lucas' 23 convicts (43%) are known to have re-offended, not usually while working for Lucas. Their offences are often unknown but the sentences range from a trivial one hour in the stocks and a 5/- fine (Isaac Burk in 1830) to being transported to Norfolk Island (George Dudley in 1830 and John Campbell in 1833). Nine of Lucas' convicts are known to have committed offences after leaving Lucas with six of these offences resulting in secondary incarceration. Two convicts committed offences before being assigned to Lucas with only one convict known to have committed a serious crime while in the service of Lucas (John McLean in 1824). John Lucas is not free from fault. In April 1827 Lucas was bought before the Liverpool court, together with his convict servants John Campbell and Alexander Cameron accused of 'assisting and abetting a tumult' in Liverpool and 'making use of highly improper and unbecoming expressions in open court'. Lucas was bound over

to answer the charge in the Supreme Court at a later date (this was not Lucas' only brush with the law). The opportunity for Lucas' servants to commit crimes was probably somewhat limited. Both the Brisbane and Woronora Mills were isolated and indiscretions like drunkenness would probably go unreported. Lucas however did appear to be able to control his convicts, but what is not recorded is whether he could get them to work satisfactorily, particularly when unsupervised.

## Number of Mechanics

There was a desperate shortage of skilled tradesmen in the 1820s and they were highly prized (Walsh p71). There were five convict mechanics assigned to John Lucas and they were all indentured to Lucas in 1822 at the time the building of the Brisbane Mill was commenced. The names of all Lucas' servants and their trades are shown in Table 5. The top five names are convict mechanics.

Convicts Name	Trade	Convict's Name	Trade
William Duke and John McLean	Carpenters	Thomas Haaney	Labourer
Hugh Mitchell	Stonemason	James Mayhall	Labourer
John Mahony	Blacksmith	John Meehan	Shoemaker
John Townsend	Overseer	Charles Rowley	Baker
George Badcock	Seaman	John Smith	Labourer
James Blunt	Labourer	Charles Taylor	Labourer
Isaac Burk	Baker	John Walker	Labourer/Gardener
Alexander Cameron	Stable boy	William Kelly	Unknown
John Campbell	Weaver	George Moors	Unknown
John Dowling	Taylor	Mary Bowden	Unknown
George Dudley	Taylor	Eliza McGuiggin (free)	Childs maid
Samuel Hancock	Labourer	George Williams (free)	Baker

**Table 5: The trades of Lucas' convicts**

These five convict mechanics possessed trades that would be very useful in the building and maintenance of watermills. John Campbell, a weaver by trade, worked as John Lucas' clerk and he had three bakers (one free) and a female child's maid (free). The rest of the servants were mostly labourers or had trades unrelated to Lucas' enterprises. The trade of three of Lucas convict servants, William Kelly, George Moors and Mary Bowen, is unknown.

## Literacy rates

The ability to read and write is only known for five of Lucas' servants, these were all illiterate. Only his clerk, John Campbell, could be assumed to be literate.

## Age range

The date of birth of 24 of Lucas' 25 convicts was discovered. For comparison purposes their ages were calculated in 1825 when Lucas was 29 years old. These varied between 11 and 37 with

an average age of 27.4 years. By today's standard this is a young workforce, well suited to an active and physically demanding life. This young age is by no means unusual. Walsh reports that the average age of the convicts at Tocal was 25 and the average age of all convicts in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land at that time was 25.9 years.

England	Scotland	Ireland	Wales	Born in the Colony	Unknown
13 (52%)	1 (4%)	5 (20%)	0	2 (8%)	4 (16%)

**Table 6: The country of birth of Lucas' servants**

These figures are similar to that found by Walsh for the convicts at Tocal. He found 50% English, 44% Irish, 5% Scottish and 1.4% other. Walsh notes that the proportion of Irish at Tocal was higher than the average for NSW.

### Married in 1825

At least four of Lucas servants were married before 1825 but it is not known if they lived with their wives, nor is it known if they lived at the Brisbane Mill.

### Conclusions

From the data analysed Lucas' convicts were very similar to the convicts studied by Walsh at Tocal. Walsh (p85) quotes Robbins (2000 p154) suggesting that convicts could be categorised as 'getting back, getting on, or getting by'. While working for Lucas his convicts fall almost exclusively into the last two groups, with almost no evidence of convicts being punished. It is indeed remarkable how few problems he had with his convict labour for there is evidence of behavioural problems both before and after they worked for Lucas. How this was achieved is not known, possibly with incentives in the form of food or alcohol, or his young age and persona. The larrikin behaviour of Lucas, being 'one of the boys' together with the fact that both his parents were convicts may have resonated with his convict workforce and increased their co-operation enabling him to run his large distributed workforce with minimal supervision. His apparent success in becoming a respected mill owner from humble beginnings may also have been an inspiration for his assigned convicts. The work his convicts were required to do must have been heavy and demanding with the added problems of isolation, particularly at the Woronora Mill. There is no evidence that he was supplied with convicts hand-picked because of their good behaviour or that Lucas had any choice in the convicts that he was assigned. At his bankruptcy hearing in 1828 Lucas' statement to the court concerning the reasons for

### Country of origin of Lucas' Servants

The country of origin of 20 of Lucas' 24 servants is known. Overwhelmingly the convicts are from England, with some from Ireland, and with both of his free servants born in the colony.

his failure does not mention any problems with his workforce (Australian Legal Information Institute, 2012). His convict workforce must be considered to be at least satisfactory.

In this article the data for Lucas' servants has been compared to the study by Walsh of the convicts at Tocal. Tocal was a large agricultural estate in the Hunter Valley operating between 1822 and 1840 with only a small amount of industry (blacksmiths, building etc.). A better comparison would be with a similar privately owned convict powered industrial enterprise. However, no such study could be located. Comparison of the behaviour of Lucas' convicts with those of Simeon Lord's convicts working at his industrial enterprises in Sydney would be a better comparison, and could be the subject of future research.

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# RECOGNITION AT LAST FOR ALICE CASHIN, FORGOTTEN WORLD WAR I NURSING HEROINE

ELIZABETH CRAIG



Hon. Dame Marie Bashir, cutting the ribbon in the unveiling of the statue of Alice Cashin at her Memorial Service at Woronora Cemetery [Photo: NSW Nurses & Midwives Association]

Sometimes important heroic or historic figures fall through the cracks and are lost to the memory of the community they served. You will remember from our May *Bulletin* that we published the story of World War I Sydney nurse, Alice Cashin, whose actions in 1917 as Matron of the torpedoed hospital ship *HMS Gloucester Castle* while caring for 400 wounded men, earned her several medals for bravery. She was the first Australian to be awarded the Royal Red Cross, and she also received the French Croix de Guerre. After managing a military hospital in England, Alice returned to Sydney in 1919 working as a sales assistant while she nursed her ailing father. She died in 1939 and after a funeral service at St Brigid's Catholic Church, Marrickville, she was buried in Woronora Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Her memory was lost to her family, to the nursing fraternity for whom she would have been an inspirational role model, and to future generations of Australians.

However, that unthinkable situation changed a year ago when an extraordinary coincidence triggered a series of events culminating in full recognition of Alice's service in World War I. At an official ceremony on Tuesday, 11 October,

an impressive life-size bronze statue of Alice Cashin in her full traditional uniform placed over her grave was unveiled by former NSW Governor, the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir and Alice's great niece, Jennifer Furness.

This is how it happened.

In June last year, Jennifer noticed an article in the *Sun Herald* about an Engadine woman, Kathleen Le Gras, who in tracing her family tree, discovered that her mother's parents, Vincent and Mary Cashin, were buried in Woronora Cemetery. On visiting their graves, she noticed from the cemetery records that another Cashin - Alice Cashin - was also buried there, although her grave had no marker. Maybe she was another relative. Kathleen researched Alice's background, and discovered that she was from a different line of Cashins and was not a relative. However, when she learned of the extraordinary life of this highly decorated World War I nurse, Kathleen was horrified that there was nothing to say that she had even existed. She believed the grave should be marked. Kathleen enlisted the help of her brother, a journalist based in the UK, and he put her on to his friend and fellow

journalist, Tim Barlass of the *SMH*, who wrote the story for the *Sun Herald*.<sup>1</sup>

On reading the article, Jennifer realised this Alice Cashin might be her great aunt. She remembered a wooden box in her wardrobe that had been left to her and dug it out. It was marked on the lid, 'RRC' (Royal Red Cross). Inside were six medals, including the Royal Red Cross. Jennifer contacted the *Sun Herald* writer, Tim Barlass, and arranged to visit the grave with her sister, Lyndell Ford and children. They took the medals and placed flowers on the grave.

Another person who read that *Sun Herald* story was Lynne Ridge of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA). She, like everyone who heard the story, was amazed that someone of Nurse Cashin's calibre had slipped under the radar and felt that even at this late stage, Alice should be recognised. Her bravery and courage would inspire all nurses and midwives. After discussion with others at the NSWNMA, it was decided that a full sized bronze statue would be made and placed over Alice's grave in honour of all nurses who had served their country, and unveiled at a special memorial ceremony on Tuesday, 11 October. They started raising the \$25,000 needed to build the statue, with generous contributions from several organisations, including Super First State, St Vincent's Hospital where Alice had trained, an Australian judge and former politician, Patricia Staunton AO, local business Tradies Gynea and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in the UK, the nursing service Alice had joined in 1914.

Opera and theatre costume designers were engaged to design a replica of the full matron's uniform worn by Alice Cashin. Coral Levett, President of the NSWNMA, volunteered to be their model, and there were several fittings to ensure the uniform - even the undergarments - were correct. Photos of Coral wearing the uniform, the medals on Alice's cape and a photo of Alice Cashin herself were sent to a company in China specialising in bronze sculptures. First they made a clay model, and then before casting it into bronze they made a fibreglass statue. It looks exactly the same as it does in bronze, but it can be altered if necessary. Once it is cast in bronze there is no going back. When the okay was given by

Lynne Ridge and others at the NSWMA, the bronze statue was cast.<sup>2</sup>

Tuesday, 11 October, dawned a beautiful bright sunny day with a brisk breeze. Coral Levett wore the replica of Alice's uniform that she had modelled. Representatives from several entities, including the NSW government, St Vincent's Hospital, the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service, the NSWNMA, along with Dame Marie Bashir, the former NSW governor and Father Tim O'Toole of St Brigid's Church, Marrickville, where Alice's funeral service was held in 1939, spoke to the gathering about the significance of Alice's life and work, and the example she set for all health workers, especially those in a war setting.

Present were many of Alice's descendants, including Jennifer Furness and her two sisters Lyndell Ford and Anne Lawson, as well as members of the next generation. Kathleen Le Gras was delighted to witness the formal ceremony recognising this heroic woman who, but for her research may have remained forgotten. Many interested members of the media and the community, including the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, were at the service and found it very moving.

Alice's last post in England had been Matron in Charge of a 400-bed military hospital at Whittington Barracks at Lichfield where she was much loved by her patients. On her departure for Sydney to care for her sick father in 1919, Alice was showered with daisies gathered by 'her boys'.<sup>3</sup> In recognition of this tribute, daisies were planted around her memorial statue at Woronora, and a daisy was given to each member of the audience to lay on the memorial stone.

Alice's memory will be preserved in other ways, too. The fibreglass statue of Alice was not wasted. It has been given to St Vincent's Hospital, where Alice Cashin did her training from 1893 to 1897. The statue will be on display in the hospital in a designated 'historical' space.

It is seventy-seven years since Alice died and, but for efforts of Kathleen Le Gras after uncovering Alice's unmarked grave, and of Lynne Ridge at the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, Alice Cashin would

never have received the recognition she deserved. 'It is very special that she has been returned to our lives,' noted Jennifer, 'and also to the nursing fraternity where her story will continue to inspire young nurses'.<sup>4</sup>

And Alice's six war medals which Jennifer Furness had inherited, have been accepted by

the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, along with the replica uniform worn by Coral Levett at the ceremony. The uniform will be on display along with a replica of the medals permanently, and in 2018 for a special exhibition of World War I nursing, the original medal will also be displayed.

Colonel Bronwyn Wheeler, Head, Royal Aust. Army Nursing Corp, who spoke at the ceremony, with Kathleen Le Gras [Photo: E. Craig, SSHS]



<sup>1</sup> 'Unmarked grave of Sydney World War I heroine comes to light in family tree search,' by Tim Barlass, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 June 2015; 'Family place medals and flowers on grave of heroine WWI nurse Alice Cashin', by Tim Barlass, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 July, 2015; 'Seventy-seven years later a statue for unmarked grave of WWU heroine nurse,' by Tim Barlass, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 April, 2016; Jennifer Furness, phone call 19 October 2016; Kathleen Le Gras, phone call 20 October, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Phone call Glen Ginty, NSWNMA, 20.10.2016

<sup>3</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography, [www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cashin-alice-alanna-12842](http://www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cashin-alice-alanna-12842)

<sup>4</sup> Phone call with Jennifer Furness, 19 October 2016



Coral Levett, dressed in a replica of Alice Cashin's WWI nursing uniform with Jennifer Furness, Alice's great niece. [NSWNMA]



**Photos of the Alice Cashin Memorial Service, WWI nursing heroine  
At Woronora Cemetery, 11 October, 2016**



The official Memorial Ceremony at Woronora Cemetery for Alice Cashin [NSWNMA]



Relatives of Alice Cashin stand alongside her statue with friends before the Memorial Service  
From left: Lyndell Ford, Kathleen Le Gras, Jennifer Furness and friend [Photo: E. Craig, SSHS]



***San Leonardo, heritage house, Cronulla*** (see story page 12)



*An early image of San Leonardo [Source: Peter Moore]*



*San Leonardo in 2016 – left: from the front, with apartment blocks behind; right: rear of house [Photos: E. Craig]*