

NUMBER: 203 — MAY 2017



*The first Sharks Cronulla-Sutherland team at Sutherland Oval, 1967 after admission to NSW Rugby League First Grade competition [(Cronulla Sharks archive)
(See story, p.7)*

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

SOCIETY WEBSITE: www.shirehistory.org.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2017 at the Sutherland Shire Museum



Visitors to the Museum for Heritage Festival, Saturday, 22 April [Photo: John Doherty]



Museum Curator Ian Kolln with keynote guest speaker Jan Lindrum [Photo: John Doherty]



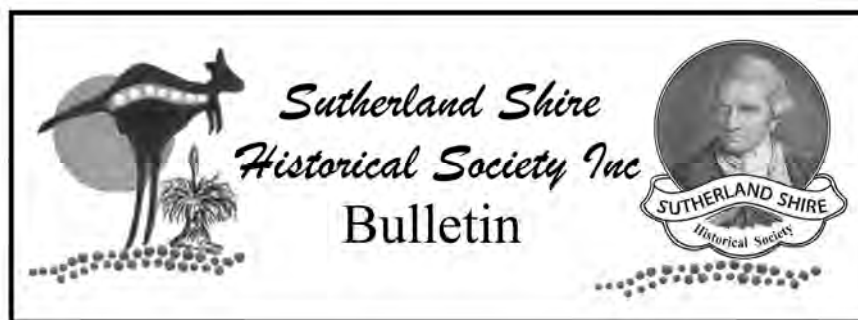
Museum guides, Christine and Bruce Edney [Photo: John Doherty]



Don Rothnie and Men's Shed prepare sausage sizzle in Museum courtyard [Photo: Elizabeth Craig]



Christine Edney, local MPs Lee Evans and Craig Kelly with Bruce Watt at the Museum [Craig Kelly, SSHS FB]



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SSHS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE BY 1 JULY 2017

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 Editor: Elizabeth Craig at elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com or phone 9528 4707.

BULLETIN

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

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REGISTRATION

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM

Our museum is located in the School of Arts, 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 Curator, Ian Kolln on 9528 3094 or iankolln@yahoo.com.au.

DONATING MATERIAL: If you have items of historical significance for Sutherland Shire, we welcome their donation to the museum to keep for posterity. If you do not wish to part with items, we would appreciate having copies of documents and photographs. Temporary loans for specific periods are also welcome. Cash donations and sponsorship assist us to improve the museum and perhaps you can keep the museum in mind when planning your estate.

CONTACTING THE SOCIETY

All correspondence and membership enquiries should be addressed to The Honorary Secretary,
Sutherland Shire Historical Society. PO Box 389. Sutherland. NSW. 1499

Alternatively, email us at shirehistory@gmail.com

+ SOCIETY COMMITTEE: 2016-2017

ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor, Cllr Carmelo Pesce		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	9523-5294	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	George Miller	9521-3454	george.miller@bigpond.com
HONORARY TREASURER	Anna Estephan	9525-6441	annaestephan@gmail.com
MUSEUM CURATOR	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST & ARCHIVIST	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com
EXCURSION OFFICER & BOOKING CLERK	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	
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	Terry McCosker	9542-1137	Don Rothnie 0409820815
BOOK REVIEW EDITORS	Pauline Curby	9523-8814	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari		

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
WEBSITE MANAGER	Andrew Platfoot	0404-038-090	andrew_platfoot@yahoo.com.au
BULLETIN PROOF READER	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	merle.kavanagh@gmail.com
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PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	To be appointed		
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Pauline Curby	Bruce Watt	Elizabeth Craig
HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	Elizabeth Craig	9528 4707	Bruce Watt
WELFARE OFFICER	Gloria Hans	9589 0251	

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES: June – August 2017

DATE			
	MEETING 1.30pm, 3 rd Saturday in month Stapleton Centre	MUSEUM Saturdays, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm CURATOR: Ian Kolln – 0466 215 289 iankolln@yahoo.com.au	EXCURSION EXCURSION OFFICER Noel Elliot – 9521 8622
JUNE	3	The Museum Duty Roster for June to August has not been finalised. Ian will endeavour to prepare and circulate a draft roster prior to the May meeting. This will be drawing on the previous roster, and can be amended to accommodate volunteers' availability.	
	10		
	17	Speaker: Bruce Howell on Shire place names	
JULY	24		Friday, 23 June: walking tour with Sutherland Probus Group. Details to be announced at June meeting
	1		Sat. 1 July: Bus tour. Details to be announced at June meeting.
	8		
	15	Speaker: Marie Palmer, Sydney Harbour Trust on North Head Sanctuary	
	22		
	29		
AUGUST	5		
	12		
	19	Speaker: To be confirmed	
	26		

Letters Page

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

Dear Bruce,

'Thank you from the bottom of my heart', is simply inadequate to express my deepest gratitude to you, Ian Kolln, elected members, past and present, for inviting me to present my family story at 'Heritage Week' and for your warm welcome and hospitality. I am deeply grateful for the honour and the privilege of the invitation.

It was truly wonderful to meet you all and I am most appreciative of the manner in which you received my talk [on her father, world champion Billiards player, Horace Lindrum].

Your certificate will be framed and counted amongst my most treasured possessions. The annual membership is appreciated and I pray that I will be able to share more moments in history with you.

*Warmest regards
Jan Lindrum*

Editors note: See the review of *The Uncrowned King* on page 29.

Hello Elizabeth,

Thank you for your letter in regard to my father – Richard Peir [who died in April 2016].

My father was a proud foundation member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, and when he became unable to participate in the Society's activities due to ill health he maintained his interest by avidly reading your quarterly journal. In the last 18 months of his life I read it to him.

He would be honoured to be noted in your journal, and I will endeavour to organise a short biography for publication.

*Regards
Susan Peir*

Editor's note: See Susan's biography of her father on page 12.

To the Editor,
SSHS Bulletin

I am a geographer working at the University of the Sunshine Coast who is interested in Australian Aboriginal stories of coastal drowning.

Bruce Howell recently sent me a manuscript about 'The Man they called Mister' that he wrote for the SSHS Bulletin [May 2016]. I would like to cite that article in a book I am writing, so I wondered whether you could send me a copy of the issue in which it appeared.

Many thanks

*Patrick D. Nunn
Professor of Geography
University of the Sunshine Coast, Qld*

Editor's note: The May 2016 issue with Bruce Howell's article was sent to Prof. Nunn

Hello Elizabeth,

I have been browsing through your excellent Bulletin, and note that no mention is made of the money made from afternoon tea! Usually \$40 to almost \$50! So I've thought of a simple ditty to go something like this:

*We three
Beryl Davis, Anne Steward
And then there's me
Provide the tea!*

*However, more than many thanks go to Pat, Maurie and especially Nola without whose efforts there would be no such gastronomic happening as ...
Afternoon tea.*

Mary Small

Note: Thank you to those members who provide extra contributions to help spread the goodies on the table.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT



April is always a busy time for us as we prepare for the Heritage Festival activities. My thanks once again to Helen Rosner who co-ordinates the Heritage Committee's activities and oversees the museum open day

and our presence at Celeste Cottage. Our thanks go to Olsen's Funerals who sponsor the latter event.

The Tramway Museum launched the Heritage Festival on Friday 21st April with a good number of our members attending. A highlight was a ride on one of the trams. They also provided the heritage bus that ran a service between the Tramway Museum, the Woronora Cemetery, the Sutherland Shire Museum and Brinsley's Joinery works. A fine talk was delivered by Dr Jan Lindrum, daughter of Horace Lindrum. Horace was a world snooker champion, as were three generations of the Lindrum family. He played an exhibition match at the Sutherland School of Arts in 1944. If you missed the talk, there are copies of her book at the museum. Feedback from visitors to the museum was very positive. We continue to fine tune and improve the exhibit. My thanks go to the members of the museum committee who enable the museum to open every Saturday between 9am and 1 pm and at other times by request. Special thanks go to Pat Hannan and Carol MacDonald who continue the work of cataloguing, filing and scanning our sizable collection. Thanks also to our curator, Ian Kolln who has recently become a Dad again.

Don Rothnie has been active in seeking grants. We are progressing with the cover for the garden area that will improve the amenity of the space for museum and theatre goers. We have sought heritage approval and will proceed to a DA through Council. Another grant is active and it

seeks to develop software for the website and for interactive terminals in the museum.

We have invited Shire Primary School teachers to an open afternoon on May 10 to showcase the potential of the museum for the curriculum. Focus areas include: How people lived in the past, how technology has changed, the importance of the first people, impact on Aboriginal people, how and why colonisation occurred in Australia, significant people and how did Australian society change over time. We believe that the museum can provide insights into these questions as well as giving practical experience. Technology has changed so quickly that anyone below about 50 will not have experienced most of the items in the museum.

I recently attended the 201st anniversary of the Appin massacre of Dharawal people near the Cataract Dam in 1816. Fourteen men, women and children were murdered in a dawn raid by troops that were sent out to hunt down, kill and hang up in trees as a deterrent, anyone that they could find. White settlers had penetrated into the Cow Pastures area around Camden and conflict over land and resources was occurring. Similar massacres occurred across the country for more than a century.

I was pleased to be asked to address a gathering at Kurnell on April 29 at the 'Meeting of two cultures' ceremony, organised by Sutherland Shire Council in conjunction with the Aboriginal community and other individuals and groups. This annual event provides a platform for exploring a shared history of European and Aboriginal culture and reconciling differences. Details of this, and my address is printed on page 17 of the *Bulletin*.

I continue to be impressed by the standard of our excursions and guest speakers. The value that we provide to members is evident in the growing number of new members.

PLEASE NOTE: SSHS MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE BY 1st JULY. FIND A RENEWAL FORM ON THE BACK PAGE

CRONULLA SHARKS – why they are such a Shire icon

ELIZABETH CRAIG

When the Cronulla Sharks Rugby League Football team jubilantly celebrated their historic Premiership victory against the Melbourne Storms on 2nd October last year, a cloud of euphoria and pride seem to settle over the whole Shire, affecting even non-football followers like myself.



Sharks - Premiership victors at last [Leader, 5 October 2016]

This year the Sharks celebrate their 50th anniversary, but rugby league has been in the Shire more than a century. We need to go back to those roots to understand how the Sharks have achieved such iconic status. The following is an account of the history of rugby league in the Shire, culminating in the formation of the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Football Club in 1967 when it was admitted to NSW Rugby League First Grade competitions. A definitive history on the Sharks and their origins was written in 2001 by Gary Lester, a sports writer and former Cronulla Sharks player. In THE SHARKS: colour me black, white and blue,¹ Lester describes how the growth of rugby league in the Shire went hand in glove with the development of the Shire itself. The information in this article is taken mostly from this publication.

The birth of Rugby League

Rugby League was a breakaway from the established code of Rugby Union in the UK in 1895 over the issue of players not being paid or compensated for time off work for injury - despite huge money being raised from paying crowds at major matches. Players from the poorer working class northern clubs felt disadvantaged compared to their more affluent counterparts in the south. Thus the Northern Rugby Football Union, a new professional code was formed. Over the next few years some of the rules of play changed too, and its competitions became very popular with spectators and with overseas rugby teams visiting Britain.²

Rugby League arrives in Australia

In 1907 similar issues of class and professionalism were causing tension in Australia's rugby union circles. When Sydney entrepreneur James J. Giltinan heard that New Zealand had formed a professional rugby team, he invited them to stop off in Sydney to play three matches before going on to do a planned tour of Britain. The Australian press referred to the New Zealand team as the 'All Golds', snidely suggesting a mercenary version of the All Blacks.³ Nevertheless, the games were a success and on 8 August 1907 at a meeting of 50 leading rugby players and officials at Bateman's Crystal Hotel in George Street, Sydney, the NSW Rugby Football League was formed.⁴

One player who had been recruited to play the visiting All Golds was Herbert 'Dally' Messenger, a star player for Sydney's Eastern Suburbs district rugby union team. He earned £180 for the three matches, and was expelled from the Rugby Union code. He was invited to join the New Zealand team on their tour of Britain. When Messenger returned to Sydney in April 1908 he captained the Eastern Suburbs in the inaugural Sydney Rugby League competition. Dally Messenger's star status popularised the new code and over the next few years Rugby League became the dominant winter sport in Sydney.⁵

Rugby League comes to the Shire⁶

In 1908 the Shire was quite rural - mostly virgin bush, poultry farms and orchards with a few businesses mostly in the main centres of Sutherland, Cronulla and Miranda. The train line from the city finished at Sutherland, and a bus ran from there to Cronulla. The population was sparse and there was as yet no organised sport, but rugby league was beginning to catch on. Gary Lester reports that the first rugby league game to be reported in the *St George Call* appears to have been between Sutherland and Cronulla in Cronulla on Coronation Day in 1911.⁷

Jim Brady, a well known and popular barber from Linden Street, Sutherland, whose shop was part of the Royal Hotel in East Parade, launched the first junior Rugby League team in 1912-13. The Sutherland team played in a paddock that is now Robertson Road, and Jim Brady was its treasurer. Another team formed in the farming area of Miranda and one in the coalmining area of Helensburgh. Notably these first three teams in the Shire were all from blue collar/agricultural areas, perhaps reflecting the tension around class and non-payment of players besetting rugby union in more urban Sydney at the time.



World War I interrupted progress of football as many players joined the army. This was followed by the flu epidemic, but in 1920 rugby league resumed. About this time members from the rapidly growing local surf life saving club movement became involved in junior rugby league football clubs.

Miranda and other teams from the Shire began to take the hand-winchd punt across the Georges River to play with the better organised St George Junior League. The St George district was more developed, with a higher population from which clubs could draw members, and they proved hard to beat. Shire teams didn't perform well, but as Lester notes, 'it says much more about the pioneering spirit of the Sutherlandites that they should join the competition ranks.'⁸ But after electric rail service between the city and Sutherland began in 1926, accessibility to the Shire improved, bringing more residents and potential players. The first victory for a Shire team was in 1931 when Sutherland B grade, wearing their jerseys of red and green bars, won the St George Junior League premiership. Club historian Jimmy McIntyre said that Sutherland supporters 'were very vocal' and that many skirmishes broke out during the game, especially with Mortdale and Brighton supporters.⁹

Transport to matches was often a problem, and there were frequent reports in the newspapers of games cancelled due to no-shows. For threepence each, a Mr Benn of Hotham Road, who owned a pig farm at Sutherland, would pick up players from the Royal Hotel in Sutherland, take them on his flat-top cart to a game, wait for the game to finish and return them to Sutherland.

Progress slowed again during World War II, but by 1946 Cronulla had enough players to form two teams. Then in 1953 primary school students were drawn into the fold when local man, Ernie Johnson set up the Combined Cronulla District Junior Rugby League. It included Miranda, De La Salle College Cronulla, Cronulla, South Cronulla, St Aloysius and Gymea Bay primary schools.

Left: Sutherland rugby league football team, 1912-13 - probably the first Shire team to play organised football. Treasurer Jim Brady is back left. [courtesy Lester, p.13]

Home grounds

The home ground for 'Cronulla Blackfellows' (who wore black jerseys) at this stage was probably 'Frogs Hollow', a flat block of ground on Burke Road in North Cronulla. Their nearest neighbours were an ice works and the Cronulla Golf Club. Other teams played at Lehane's Paddock, now the site of Sutherland Hospital, and at Gannons Oval. They also played on Green's Paddock, part of Green's dairy farm which supplied the local milk, and which later became Woollooware Golf Course. It could be quite tricky avoiding straying cattle and fresh cow dung!

Sutherland's home ground initially was Waratah Park which had been cleared and marked by volunteers. However, in 1925 it moved to Sutherland Reserve, next door to Woronora Cemetery - hence the team's nickname, 'The Grave Diggers'. It had a hard rocky surface - a gravel pit according to McIntyre, on which many teams came to grief.¹⁰

Apres football

In the early days, Cronulla Caringbah Club socialised in the garage of a member's house in Port Hacking Road, near Caringbah Catholic Church. Then when the Businessmen's Club vacated the premises above Coady's Chemist shop opposite the Caringbah Inn, the Cronulla Caringbah Club - although not licensed - took it over. Lester describes it as having a drinking lounge, a bar, two billiard tables and five 'illegal' poker machines.

However, in July 1957 a fibro house came up for sale in Banksia Avenue, near Caringbah Railway Station. The 'Blue House' as it was known, cost £9300, and with a loan of £4500 from the Port Hacking & Sutherland District Permanent Building Society, the Club was able to raise the funds to buy the house. After some debate the Cronulla Caringbah Leagues Club Board agreed to apply for a licence under a new name, Cronulla-Sutherland District Rugby League Club, thus encompassing the east-west breadth of the Shire. The junior club retained the name Cronulla-Caringbah Leagues Club.

The new clubhouse was rather primitive and described by board member and later club

treasurer, Bernie Beck as 'too rough and ready to take your wife.'¹¹ However, it made enough money to eventually be upgraded to a two-storey building.



Cronulla-Caringbah's club house in Banksia Street, late 1950s [Lester, *THE SHARKS*, p.25]

Rugby League in the Shire comes of age

In 1966 Cronulla-Sutherland made its bid to the NSW Rugby League to leave the umbrella of the St George District organisation and join the First Grade competition. An apparently impressive submission was made by Club secretary, Kevin McSweyn, and 'the Qantas printing bloke' printed it up'. McSweyn was later told it was the best submission the Board had ever seen.

Their first captain was Monty Porter from the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club and a former St George player. He was confident the team would make the First Grade, and he was keen to be part of history. They played their first game at Sydney Sports Ground on 2 April 1967, beating Eastern Suburbs 11-5.



First Cronulla Sharks team
at Sydney Sports Ground 2 April 1967
Left: Ken Kearney (coach); Right: Kevin McSweyn
(secretary). Sitting – Middle: Captain Monty Porter
[www.sharks.com.au/news]

How a nickname and colours were chosen

Early connections with the local surf life saving movement clearly influenced both the choice of name for the Club and the club colours. Some nicknames put forward included the 'Lions' and the more gimmicky name 'the Pirates' (so that supporters could attend matches wearing an eye patch). But when Kevin McSweyn and coach, Ken 'Killer' Kearney suggested the 'Sharks' it seemed right. It had also been the nickname of the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club's rugby league teams in the 1950s. To help the name catch on, McSweyn asked *Sydney Morning Herald* sports reporter, Tom Goodman to refer to the team as the Cronulla Sharks in his news report. He did so and the name stuck.

Since 1953, Cronulla-Caringbah colours had been chocolate and gold, but after entering the First Grade competition in 1967, Cronulla-Sutherland finally changed to black, white and blue. This decision reflected the influence of the connection they had with the surf clubs. Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club's colours were black, white and blue. In 1966 sky blue and white were also the official colours for Sutherland Shire. Black was added in 1987.

Club song

When Club secretary Kevin McSweyn ran a competition for a club song, it was won by Brother Florence (later known as Brother John), the Principal of de la Salle College. He wrote the words to the tune of 'Roll Out the Barrel.' Growing up in Bathurst, Brother John was a keen sportsman, playing rugby league against a touring British team while at boarding school in Armidale. He apparently had a beautiful tenor voice, but was too shy to sing in public. Brothers at his college reported sneaking up to his window to listen.

Up, up Cronulla
The boys in the black, white and blue
Up, up Cronulla
We're all depending on you.
Sharks, Sharks, forever
Go out and play without fear.
Now's the time to see good football
For the Sharks are here

Sharks' first home ground the 'dead end of town'

Until 1968 the Sharks' home ground was Sutherland oval next door to the Woronora Cemetery. It was known as the 'dead end of town'. It had no clubhouse or toilet facilities to cater for large crowds, just two small dressing sheds. The ground was hard and rocky, and many knees were bruised and grazed. On training nights there was often smoke billowing over the ground from the mortuary next door. Afterwards, the players convened at the Royal Hotel at Sutherland. One night, an unlikely looking 'big rugged prop' from the South Coast called Warwick Randall, walked over to the old piano in the corner of the main bar and began playing. 'It was one of those moments you never forget,' said one of Cronulla's team selectors. 'Everyone just stood there with their mouths open ... For all the players it was a kind of let-down night ... They were enjoyable days.'¹²

Match days

Each Friday before a match day Club member Peter Burns would wait for Cronulla fish shop owner, Perc Cheers to get home from the fish markets, and then borrow his truck to collect the all-important clock from an electrical business in Rockdale. It was reputedly the first clock used by League that ran backwards from 40 minutes to nothing. At the grounds they unwound the electrical leads and ran them from the scoreboard outside the oval, around the field back to the gate, and then to the timekeepers who sat on the sidelines.

On match day, Burns used his family company's timber truck to bring in the beer and a tent to entertain local and visiting officials. If it rained it was muddy, and at the end of the game they would pull the tent down in the dark and stack it back on the truck. The portable loos left outside the gate by sanitary carters were brought inside, with hessian coverings indicating 'Ladies' and 'Gents'. Ground announcer was Jim English, a local real estate agent. He sat on the sidelines in all weathers announcing the game, and on cold winters' days he and his mates warmed up with a large pot of hot fish soup.

The Sharks' first game on their home ground

Sutherland oval had been condemned by NSW Rugby League as not suitable for First Grade games and the Sharks' secretary, Arthur Winn pleaded successfully that the first home match against Parramatta on 22nd April not be moved to Cumberland Oval in Parramatta.

A huge crowd of 5245 arrived, ten times the number in matches at that oval previously, according to Lester. And most, he believed, felt the historic significance of the game. Players recalled the bedlam as the spectators, along with visitors to the cemetery, swarmed along the congested bridge, the only route in and out of the ground.

Lester describes the arrival of the players:

Players from each club ran out between the eucalyptus gums, up an uneven, dirt incline and across a banked, asphalt roadway, which covered half the perimeter of the oval, to the picket fence and onto the dark-earthed inhospitable field with its rock-hard cricket pitch in the middle.¹³

To their joy the Sharks won that match against Parramatta, 23-11. However, their winning streak did not last. They came last on the ladder that season, winning three games and drawing one.

With the support of Rex Mossop, rugby commentator with Channel 7, Shark matches were given some TV coverage, which Lester says promoted the Shire generally, helping with its growth. He writes that Mossop arranged to have covered scaffolding erected at matches for his use before arriving in a helicopter.

New home grounds were needed. Council refused to lease Caringbah Oval, the Club's preference because of its proximity to the Leagues Club. They were offered instead a choice of two sites: one on the corner of Bates Drive and Princes Highway (now Kirrawee Kangaroos Soccer Club grounds) or ten hectares of swampland next to Woollooware Bay mangroves. It was an eyesore. Council had used it as a local tip after Australian Consolidated Industries had given it to them. But by choosing the Woollooware Bay site the Sharks became the only club in any football code in Australia to own their own ground. Endeavour Field as it was named, was filled

in and levelled out after the rubbish had settled. For \$3 million they built a two-tiered grandstand and a three-tiered leagues club on it. Known commonly as Shark Park, the official name changed according to the sponsor. Since 2016 it has been Southern Cross Group Stadium.

Dave Cooper, a Sharks player from 1967-1972, reflected on the culture of the Club.

Cronulla was different to any other part of Sydney – like a big country town. The people were different. They talked about the Shire – it was everything to them. I don't think a community feeling for a place exists like it anywhere else in Sydney ... I think it helped the camaraderie between the players. It was a very friendly club.¹⁴

The Shark Club's history is embedded in the history of the Shire. As the Sharks' first captain Monty Porter noted, the club is unique in that it is the only one under one local government. 'This is a community,' he says, 'the Sutherland Shire community.'¹⁵ Perhaps that explains why non-football fans like me in the Shire felt such pride in the Sharks victory in October last year.

¹ Gary Lester, *THE SHARKS – Colour me black, white and blue*, Playright Publishing Pty Ltd, Caringbah, 2001 (now out of print but available for loan from Cronulla library and for reference at Sutherland Library Local Studies)

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_rugby_league, accessed 10 April 2017

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_rugby_league, accessed 10 April 2017

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J_J_Giltinan, accessed 10 April 2017

⁵ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/messenger-herbert-henry-dally-7562> accessed 10 April 2017

⁶ Unless otherwise specified material on the Shire history is from Gary Lester's publication, pp. 11-29.

⁷ Lester, p.11, assumes the game was rugby league because of the reference in the same article to the NSW vs New Zealand rugby league match in Sydney at the time.

⁸ Lester, p.16

⁹ Extracts from Jim McIntyre's *Sutherland J.R.L.F. Club history* <http://sutherlandloftusjrlfc.com/our-history> accessed 11 April 2017

¹⁰ McIntyre's *Sutherland J.R.L.F. Club history* <http://sutherlandloftusjrlfc.com/our-history> 11 April 2017

¹¹ Lester, p.25

¹² Lester, p.35

¹³ Lester, p.32

¹⁴ Lester, p.49

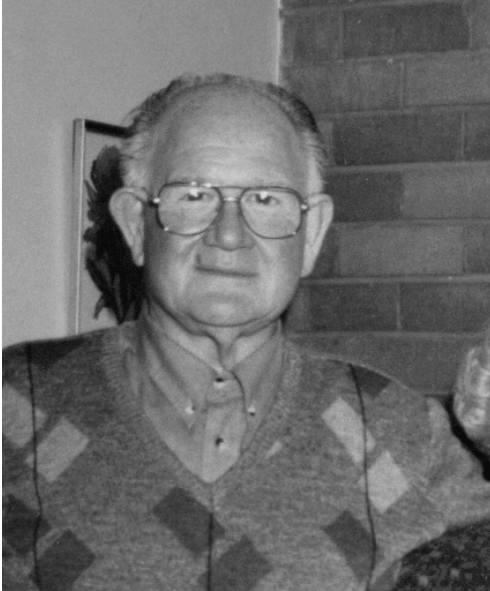
¹⁵ Lester, p.8. Foreword by Monty Porter

RICHARD HENRY PEIR

Foundation member of Sutherland Historical Society

SUSAN PEIR

Richard Peir was a foundation member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, and had been a member for 50 years when he passed away in April 2016. Richard's daughter, Susan, has submitted this tribute to her father.



Richard Peir, foundation member, SSHS

[Courtesy: Susan Peir]

Richard was born on 8th July 1930 in Hurstville. He was the first-born child of Henry and Minnie Peir who with his younger sister Margaret lived in Mortdale surrounded by extended family.

He attended Peakhurst Public School and then Canterbury Boys High. Mortdale was bordered by bush and farms and he would speak of helping his grandfather with rabbiting and with his good friend John ride his bike to the Georges River to go fishing after helping with the extended family domestic chores. Richard joined Oatley Sea Scouts, forging life-long friendships and a great love of bushwalking, camping and birdwatching.

His contact and love of the Sutherland Shire also was linked to his childhood. He spoke of weekends packing bread and fishing gear in a cornsack and catching the steam train to Engadine to go camping for the weekend down on the Woronora River, and his parents visiting Heathcote Hall for afternoon tea and paying to go up to view the coastline and mountains from the tower. The family graves were also visited in Woronora Cemetery.

After leaving school Richard commenced an apprenticeship in pathology at the Sydney Children's Hospital, then at Camperdown. Whilst working there he attended Sydney Technical College studying Medical Technology, and this is where he met fellow student Ruth Tetsell who was to become his wife in 1952.

In 1951 he started working at St George Hospital, where he was in charge of the Microbiology Department which was to become his work specialisation. After nine years he moved to Sutherland Hospital where he set up the Pathology Department for the hospital and was the first qualified medical technologist to be employed by the hospital. Richard has donated many historical medical items and books to the museum at St. George Hospital.

After a short time working at the Atomic Energy Commission, Richard joined Sugerman Pathology at Hurstville as head of the Microbiology Department for 28 years. For many years during his time at Sugerman's, Dad lectured at the Sydney University and the University of New South Wales in Microbiology. He loved his work and was often contacted by other professionals to consult on medical issues. He was respected for his specialist knowledge of microbiology and its practical application to clinical conditions.

Meanwhile in 1954, Richard and Ruth purchased land in Bottle Forest Road Heathcote for £355 which they cleared and built the family home. In those days there were gravel roads, the brick pit on Wilson's Parade was in operation, and many people built a garage to live in while they built their home. Many had no thought of ever having a car; there was the rail motor and steam trains.

As was the way of their generation, Richard and Ruth immersed themselves in the small developing community at Heathcote. Richard became a member of the voluntary bush fire brigade and was the deputy captain for several years. There are recollections of the fire bell being rung outside the fire hut at the top of

Bottle Forest Road, people beating out spot fires with wet cornsacks on the boundaries of East Heathcote, and long nights when the men were all out fighting the fires while the women were busily making sandwiches to sustain them.

Heathcote East School was opened 1961 and Richard was the President of Heathcote East Public School P & C. Richard and Ruth's four children – Susan, Kathryn, Andrew and Robyn – all attended Heathcote East Public School and Heathcote High School. Richard also assisted with the building of the Heathcote Presbyterian Church in Boronia Grove.

Local history was prominent in what the children learnt from Richard - whether it was the old roads and markings around Audley, the Aboriginal sandstone carvings along the coast, the farms at Wattamolla, the dams built for steam trains or the remains of the depression settlements along the Woronora River between Waterfall and Heathcote.

History was valued - both the knowledge and the skills of those who have gone before and what they created, whether tools, utensils, documents or photographs. The importance of preserving history was also emphasised and this philosophy contributed to Richard becoming a foundation member of Sutherland Shire Historical Society. He has donated many items to the museum at Sutherland over the years. He took his grandchildren to the museum as well, and spoke often of the practical skills and knowledge that could be learnt from respecting, understanding and valuing history and what had gone before.

Richard loved listening to the radio and amateur radio, photography and steam trains. His love of bushwalking and camping never diminished - especially sitting around a fire in the evenings.

In 1988 Richard and Ruth moved to Bundeena where they lived for the next 10 years. By that time Richard's working career had prematurely ended as he became very unwell with a debilitating illness that affected him for the rest of his life. But they continued to contribute to the community by helping regularly with Meals on Wheels - driving down to collect the meals from the Cronulla Ferry and then delivering them to those living in Bundeena, Bonnie Vale and Maianbar.

In 1998 they moved to a self-contained unit in John Paul Village, and once again immersed themselves in their community. Both Richard and Ruth volunteered to assist at meal times in the nursing home and Richard met the newsagent, who arrived every morning at 5.00 am and distributed the newspapers. This he continued until 2015 when he moved into the hostel due to failing health. Richard had a vegetable garden at the back of the village where it bordered onto the national park which he enjoyed working in whilst he was able.

Sadly Ruth died in 2014, and so was not present for Richard's 85th birthday when four generations of the Peir family were present - Richard, his son Andrew, Andrew's son Joshua and Joshua's sons Hudson and Foster. He was very proud and stated that 'This has never happened in the Peir family before'!

His personal family history was important to him as well.

Richard died on the 18th April 2016 and continued to be a proud foundation and life member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society up until his death.

When he became unable to participate in the Society's activities due to ill health he maintained his interest by avidly reading and then discussing the quarterly journal. As his sight failed in the last 18 months of his life family read the journal to him.

A year after his death, Richard would have been honoured to be remembered by the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, and would wish you all the very best in preserving local history in this period of continual rapid change.

EXCURSION REPORT

CREO MOORE

Our bus excursion to Burraneer, Bundeena and Bonnie Vale on Saturday, 4th March was led by Noel Elliott and ably assisted by Christine Edney and our driver David. Departing 9:00 we headed towards Woollooware Road. Christine was able to share her extensive knowledge of the area and names of streets with us.

Our first stop was at the residence of Geoff and Irene Forshaw at 1 Eurabalong Road. A magnificent old home overlooking Port Hacking we were shown the original pantry, kitchen and other parts of their home.



The Forshaw's home in Eurabalong Road.

[Photo Creo Moore]

Camellia Gardens was our next stop for coffee and a walk around the gardens, which were looking very lush after all the rain.

Due to the rain we had been experiencing over the past few weeks Noel and David decided to take an alternative route via Waterfall instead of Audley in the Royal National Park to Bundeena, arriving at the home of Richard and Sandra Laney for lunch.

They were very generous in opening up their home to us. Richard had organised with the local historian Helen Voigt to talk about the history of Bundeena while on our bus tour around Bundeena. This talk included the history of the Simpson family, one of the original settlers of the Bundeena area, and also renown for the Simpson Hotel

Unfortunately we could not alight from the bus in Bonnie Vale due to rain on our way to Bundeena House although we did observe quite a few campers at Bonnie Vale.

Our last stop was Bundeena House where we were invited to watch a film on the History of the original Bundeena House. We were captivated to watch footage of the original building being cut in half and floated across Gunnamatta Bay on barges. The exterior of Bundeena House still shows the saw marks where the house was put together.



Bundeena House [Photo: Creo Moore]

After saying our farewells to Richard and Helen we headed back to Sutherland. Thank you again Noel, Christine and David for a wonderful day.

ST MARK – THE SHIRE’S FIRST ANGLICAN CHURCH

BARRY JOHNSON¹

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

-- St. Mark, 16. 15

Saint Mark was a founding evangelist of Christianity in Africa. Eighteen centuries later his legacy would inspire the foundation of the Anglican faith in Sylvania, beginning with St Mark's Church and a message still relevant to a 21st century Sutherland Shire.

The author of a New Testament Gospel, St. Mark lived and preached with Jesus in Judea, now part of modern-day Palestine. After Jesus' crucifixion, he returned to his continent of birth, founding the first Christian church in Alexandria. His message spread throughout Africa despite his martyrdom inflicted by pagan opponents. During the upheaval of the Crusades, relics from St Mark's corpse were smuggled from Alexandria in a legend familiar to readers with an interest in Venetian history. The story, recorded in mosaics on the walls of St Mark's Basilica, tells of merchants smuggling the bones of St. Mark from Egypt to the Doge's palace chapel in Venice, Italy. Eventually, the chapel formed part of the Basilica, a Christian pilgrimage and World Heritage Site.

St. Mark reaches Sylvania

At the time of its founding in 1901, St Mark's Church became the first Anglican church in the Sutherland Shire (the region known as 'The Hundreds of Woronora' until the municipality was defined by the Surveyor-General in 1906). The link to St Mark is particularly appropriate. St Mark was a well-known disciple, the vast collection of art, teachings, legends and memorials inspired by his faith were familiar to believers and sceptics alike. The founding clergy in Australia also influenced by this legacy, selected St. Mark as the patron saint of the first church in Sylvania, continuing a strong tradition.



St Mark's Church (cnr Ellis St & Princes Highway, Sylvania)²

In the late 1800s, the Protestant faith steadily grew in the different forms of Methodism, Anglicanism and Congregationalism. As these strands developed in Australia, Church leaders newly arrived from England faced new challenges. The isolation from Europe, the remoteness of settler's camps, difficult travelling conditions and the relatively crude living conditions would test the stamina of proselytisers, corresponding to the hardships endured by modern-day missionaries in poorer nations. Despite this, Christianity spread throughout large work sites, including the railway construction camps in Como and Waterfall. Anglican services began in

1896, administered by Reverend John Wilson to Sutherland and Cronulla from his rectory in Heathcote. Congregational services commenced twelve years earlier, supported by the Holt family from their manor house - Sylvania's Sutherland House - until its destruction by fire in 1918. Roman Catholic services were performed in private homes since the 1890s.³

As religious districts were established, visiting preachers of the different denominations would also negotiate for funding and acreage to begin church construction. At that time the relatively low population in Sylvania did not discourage cooperation amongst these strands of Anglicanism. This was likely due to the Keswick Movement, beginning in England in 1875 to promote Christianity's core elements acknowledged by each denomination. However, the friction of sectarianism continued between Protestants and Catholics amid disagreements over education, social and labour conditions in Australia.

Reverend W.R. Bowers continued the work of Reverend John Wilson, administering to Sylvania at the turn of the 20th century, at first from private homes but then from a site costing \$4,300* on Port

Hacking Road (now 46 Princes Highway, Sylvania). The site's proximity to the suburb's dock and labourer camps was crucial in the early endeavours of the Church. In the Sylvania region at the time of the Church's founding, most local settlers were either farmers or labourers, constructing roads, railways or clearing land. The 'shanks' pony', a euphemism for walking, was the typical mode of transport, as horse and cart ownership was rare.⁴

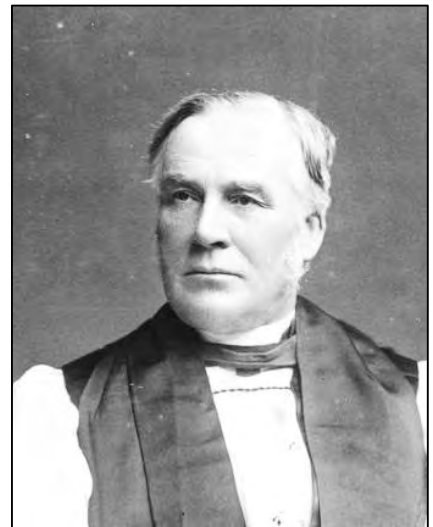
At the foundation of St Mark's Church on 6 November 1901, the Archbishop of Sydney, William Saumarez Smith, Archdeacon Henry Thomas Langley and four priests, including the resident clergyman, Reverend W.R. Bowers and the new preacher, Reverend J. Dixon were in attendance. The Archbishop's experiences in Australia mirrored the challenges facing the clergy in Sylvania. He was a vocal supporter of the Keswick movement, responding to protests against Catholic practices and advocating reforms to quell social friction.⁵ His staunch evangelicalism, perhaps influenced by St Mark's writings, generated a mood of jubilation in the audience and received reportage in newspapers throughout New South Wales.⁶

*Archbishop of Sydney, William Saumarez Smith*⁷

A century of change

According to the Church register, typical attendances in the early decades of the 20th century averaged 15. Inclement weather certainly discouraged parishioners, venturing on foot via dirt roads, likely muddy during rain storms, prompting either the cancellation of services or a note of frustration by the resident priest.

It was only in the late 1920s and 1930s as parishes formed districts in the Sutherland Shire that attendances rose - largely due to the population increase when fresh water flowed from the recently constructed Woronora Dam. Significant services noted by the Reverend during this period include the first Anzac Day service on 28 April 1929 and the memorial service for the late King George V, Supreme Governor of the Anglican Church six days after his death on 20 January 1936. During this period, the church was renovated with brass, iron and oak wood items and electric lighting with items donated by the Sydney congregation.⁸



A new church was built on the site in 1962, also relying on donations and volunteer labourers. St Mark's became a provisional district in 1964, serving the local congregation until 1978. In 1991, this church became the spiritual home of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Sutherland for two years, continuing the association between St. Mark and the Coptic faith since its foundation in Africa.

While access to this historic part of Sylvania is limited after the building was purchased by the NSW Department of Education, the religious legacy continues in the Sylvania Anglican Church on nearby Holt Road and St Mary, St Bakhomios and St Shenouda Coptic Church in Kirrawee.

* Currency values are recorded in the decimal, inflation-adjusted equivalents.

¹ Barry Johnson is the Editor of the St George Historical Society (SGHS) Bulletin. He invites readers to contact him by email at: barry.johnson@live.com.au, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-George-Historical-Society-Inc/331132697066686> for information about SGHS

² Cohen, D.M.S., 1976, *St Mark's Sylvania: First Anglican Church in Sutherland 1901-1976*, St Mark's Anglican Church

³ *ibid*

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Cable, K.J. 1988, 'Smith, William Saumarez (1836-1909)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-william-saumarez-8494>, accessed 11 April 2016.

⁶ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 November 1901

⁷ Cable, K.J. 1988, *op.cit*

⁸ Cohen, D.M.S., 1976 *op.cit*

‘MEETING OF TWO CULTURES’ CEREMONY

On Saturday, 29th April each year, a ‘Meeting of Two Cultures’ ceremony is held at Kurnell near the spot where the crew of the barque Endeavour captained by Lieutenant James Cook, landed on this date in 1770, making their first encounter with the local inhabitants, the Dharawal Aboriginal people. On this occasion, the ceremony was conducted under glorious blue skies and sunshine, as up to a couple of hundred people sat in the shade of the trees behind the meeting place, watching a very respectful and moving ceremony. The haunting didgeridoo was played by Glen Timbery, and our National Anthem, led by students from Kurnell Public School, was sung in English and in Dharawal. Moving speeches with messages promoting understanding and acceptance of each other were given by Aboriginal elder, ‘Auntie’ Barbara Simms Keeley, Sutherland Shire Mayor, Cr Carmelo Pesce, Australian Treasurer and member for Cook, The Hon. Scott Morrison, NSW Attorney General and member for Cronulla, The Hon. Mark Speakman, NSW Parks & Wildlife Aboriginal Cultural Officer, Dean Kelly, and Bruce Watt, SSHS President who was pleased to be asked to speak on behalf of the Society. Following is the transcript of Bruce’s speech.

Editor



ADDRESS AT THE ‘MEETING OF TWO CULTURES’ CEREMONY, 2017

BRUCE WATT

At this place, on a Sunday afternoon 247 years ago today, two very different cultures collided.

The British left written accounts. No less powerful are Aboriginal oral accounts.

The basic details, at least from a non-Indigenous perspective are well known:

1. On a scientific expedition to the Pacific, James Cook was also instructed to search for the fabled Great South Land.
2. Putting into this bay, they had the first encounter with Aboriginal people, stayed eight days and left.
3. Botany Bay was later recommended as a penal settlement from which the Australian nation eventually resulted.

The 1770 story hangs on several chance events and poses some 'what ifs'.

At 98 feet long, 30 feet wide and weighing 368 tons, the *Endeavour* was about a third of the size of a Manly ferry. Remarkably it carried 101 people. 20 months into a three-year voyage and before leaving New Zealand, they took on two essentials: fresh water and wood for cooking, items that would need to be replenished along the way. The sails were worn and some provisions were low. Cook's preferred option was to explore further south into the Antarctic for the Great South Land and return the way they came via Cape Horn. But the approaching winter and the condition of the ship meant that returning via Batavia was the safest option. So sailing west they sighted the southern tip of New Holland, headed north, and made the first landfall on April 29.

Two quite different contacts with different ramifications took place on that day.

1. Firstly, Joseph Banks recorded that in entering the Bay, the Pinnace (a small boat) was sent ahead with a couple on board to sound the depth of the bay. When they came back they reported that 'they (the Aboriginals) came down to the beach and invited our people to land by many signs and words'. This was a good start!
2. The other event is the well-known but very different account of the disputed landing that took place later that afternoon. Banks again recorded that two boats containing 30 or 40 people, or about a third of the *Endeavour's* company, attempted the landing. We might ask: Were customs and protocols not being observed when entering Aboriginal 'country'. How might we react in these circumstances?

Two Aboriginal men opposed the landing. Sydney Parkinson, the botanical artist recorded that their countenance 'bespoke displeasure'. They waved their arms and cried out 'warra warra wai' or 'begone'. This was a very different reception given to the small number of men in the pinnace earlier in the day. Perhaps the number in the landing party and the manner of approach are keys to understanding the response.

Cook parleyed with the two Aboriginal men for a quarter of an hour, indicating that they wanted water. The next few minutes are vital.

A musket shot was fired between the two Aboriginal men.

A large stone was thrown in retaliation.

Two more rounds of small shot were fired hitting one man in the legs and they ran back to get shields.

Cook and his party then landed on the rock.

Two spears were thrown; - the four pronged ones used for fishing

Two more musket shots were fired.

Another spear was thrown and the Aboriginal men retired.

5 musket shots, 3 spears and a rock. Not a promising start.

Cook's men examined the Aboriginal huts and took 40 or 50 'darts' – livelihood items used for gathering food. Perhaps understandably, official journals indicate that little meaningful dialogue was established throughout the rest of the 8 day stay.

Cook first named the place, 'Stingray's Harbour' based on the number and size of stingrays that they caught and ate. The Aboriginal people were fishermen but it was believed that they didn't eat

stingrays. Was this another unintended social faux pas? Were stingrays totemic animals, not to be hunted?

Cook left and his status grew.

As 'the birthplace of modern Australia', Kurnell is cloaked in symbolism. Dedicating this place as the 'James Cook Landing Place Reserve' in 1899, it was said that 'What Plymouth Rock is to America, so should this memorable spot on the south shore of Botany Bay be to all Australians'.

This is powerful stuff. Throughout the 20th century, many celebrations and re-enactments took place at the landing place. But this Eurocentric approach paid little or only tokenistic homage to Aboriginal people with which the first contact was made on the east coast of Australia.

Today there is a more nuanced understanding and recognition of our past in words and action.

This annual gathering, 'The meeting of two cultures' ceremony began in 2002. It recognises that this country has a shared past and an alternative and richer history. The Sutherland Shire Council, the Aboriginal community and many individuals and groups are to be applauded for fostering a deeper understanding of our journey through this culturally inclusive event.

The belief that history teaches us is correct, but it's true only if we are willing to learn.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Thank you, once again to all those who submitted articles for publication in this month's *Bulletin*. Again, there are some fascinating and thought-provoking stories. Keep them coming in. Personal reminiscences of early times in the Shire, as well as researched local history articles are all valuable.

Remember articles that have been researched should be accompanied by a list of sources, and direct quotes need to be footnoted. This adds credence to your work and gives the article authority as a reliable history.

Also, when you submit articles by email, photos are very welcome, but they need to be sent as a different file to the text to make it possible for me to format for the *Bulletin*.

If you don't use a computer but have a story you think would sit well in the *Bulletin*, by all means send in your handwritten story. I will be happy to type it up for you - so long as I can read it!

Please contact me if you want to talk about a story you'd like published in the *Bulletin* – elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com or 9528 4707

DON'T FORGET THAT MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE BY 1st JULY. A RENEWAL FORM IS AT THE BACK OF THIS BULLETIN

MUSEUM REPORT

IAN KOLLN

Hello to the *Bulletin* readers.

We are successfully opening each Saturday morning. I thank the members who volunteer to open and guide each Saturday, and all day for the Heritage Festival on 22nd April this year. Many of the visitors to the Museum that day said they had come because they had seen the *Leader* article about the Holt organ in the Museum's collection. The value of publicity!

The Museum has been re-organised to provide a more open space in the centre area, with the tall cabinets moved to the outer wall area. They are now next to the Colonial kitchen corner and have internal lighting for the household items donated to us and on display. The waist height display cabinets in the central area now include the house plans and approval certificates for building a house in the 1950's, a real example.

Museum visits have been from primary students in the past, and this year we had our first secondary school visit. The teacher's feedback was that it fitted in well with the history study they were undertaking. We have invited primary school teachers to visit the museum for an information session to see how we can add value to their courses and how we meet curriculum requirements with our Museum. We will do the same for high school teachers at a later date.

Our Museum in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts was once the space of a billiard room, and was the venue for an exhibition match by world champion billiards player, Horace Lindrum in 1944. As keynote speaker for the 2017 Heritage Festival, Horace's elder daughter, Jan Lindrum provided a very entertaining speech for us based on her recently published book about her father's life.

She also left the Society a DVD of him playing billiards. A review by Elizabeth Craig of Jan's book, *The Uncrowned King*, is on page 29 of this *Bulletin*.

For those interested in learning about the history of the School of Arts movement, see Catherine Freyne's 2010 article for the Dictionary of Sydney: http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/the_school_of_arts_movement

The highlight to me was to find that the playing of billiards in Schools of Arts was frowned upon as a frivolous activity, taking away from the SERIOUS purpose as an educational venue. But this provided an important source of revenue to keep the building operational.

Fitting in with the Heritage Festival's theme for 2017, 'Having a Voice,' another event at the Museum was the playing of oral and video histories of migrants to the Shire, with individuals from China, Sudan, South America, Holland and Germany, recalling their migration experiences.

We have been awarded a Community Building Grant through the office of Lee Evans, MP for Heathcote, and look forward to the building of an awning over the northern courtyard to provide shade and wet weather protection for visitors to our Museum. Of course it will be available for use by the theatre groups when they are using the premises.

We are continuing to work on the items in the storage areas and will need to finalise the next quarter's roster for Museum volunteers. If you are interested, please let me know what times are best for you.

FRANK MARIEN – A Miranda journalist

DAVID OVERETT

Francis Joseph Marien who grew up in Miranda, was born in 1890 and died 17 July 1936. His father Sebastian (Robert) Marianni (1860 -1938), was of Italian descent, and his mother, Mary was Irish.

After a schooling at St Joseph's Grammar, Hunters Hill, Frank Marien took up journalism. In the course of time he worked for *The Freeman's Journal*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sydney Sun*, before becoming the managing director of *The Truth*.

In 1928 he relinquished his position at *The Truth*, replacing founding editor-in-chief at *Smith's Weekly*, Claude McKay. For this new job Marien had demanded a ten-year contract with a salary rising to £110 per week. This was an incredibly high salary for the time when the basic wage in 1928 was £4/5/0.

While McKay had often been quite stern with the cartoonists, Frank Marien, as an artist himself, understood the need for good cartoons and the *Weekly* now carried a lot more than previously. This did not stop those cartoonists, however from taking out their imagined grievances against Marien in the form of practical jokes, including the stealing of mirrors from their local drinking hole and squirrelling them away in Marien's office. They then informed the hotel publican where his mirrors were, and as a consequence he stormed into the editor-in chief's office finding the mirrors hidden away.



Frank Marien [SLNSW]



Many of these cartoonists at *Smith's Weekly* became household names and included Stan Cross, Virgil Reilly and later, Jim Russell and Emile Mercier. It was while Marien was in the chair at *Smith's Weekly* that Stan Cross drew his famous cartoon with the now memorable lines 'For gorsake stop laughing – this is serious!' Marien said of the cartoon that it was the funniest cartoon ever produced.

Frank Marien lived at Miranda in the family home, 'Pine Lodge', situated on twenty acres of land consisting of fruit orchards, which his father had farmed since the year of Frank's birth in 1890. In later years Frank added to the home by building an 80 seat theatre. The theatre had both stalls and a dress circle, and Frank was the projectionist. He also turned his hand to fitting and turning, and at the Miranda home built a large workshop, supposedly the largest private engineering workshop operating in Australia. The house was full of mechanical gadgets which Frank proudly showed off to visitors. He also taught himself how to operate a linotype machine.

The house, situated on the corner of Manchester Road and The Kingsway, became famous when a subsequent owner, Len Jones made 'Pine Lodge' available for use by the Trade Union Club, which we know today as Tradies. The Marien orchards surrounded the house and ran from Sylvania Road to Milburn Road. Two of the nearby streets are Marion Street - spelt incorrectly - and Pine Street.

In the two years leading up to his death Frank Marien spent most of his days in St Vincent's Private Hospital, where he was placed on a special diet which he detested. This diet prohibited him from enjoying his favourite meal which was rabbit. His teenage son Brian made a couple of attempts to smuggle it in for him. Caught the first time by the Mother Superior, Brian eventually succeeded with a

pre-arranged signal and his father would lower a string from his window and the rabbit would be attached.

Still editor-in-chief and at work on the day he died, he was found by his secretary. The funeral was a requiem Mass and he was laid to rest at Rookwood.

Frank was survived by his widow and their three children, sons William and Brien and a daughter Frances. His widow eventually left the Miranda home to live at Point Piper.

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Wikipedia – Frank Marien

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SSHS MEMBERS NEWS

New Members

We welcome new member, Kathleen MacDonald to the Society. We trust you will enjoy the talks, the activities and the camaraderie, Kathleen, especially over the cup of tea and delightful luscious, (but low calorie cakes) produced at the end of each meeting by our band of afternoon tea gurus.

To thank our speakers who go to such efforts to prepare interesting and enlightening talks for us, we have begun giving them a year's membership to the Society. We have gained two new members this way: Carol McKirdy, who spoke on the Bundeena ferries in February, and Jan Lindrum, who talked to us at the Heritage Festival about the life and career of her father, world champion billiards player, Horace Lindrum. Welcome to you both!

Gong

Congratulations to Christine Edney on the publication of her *History of Scouting in the Sutherland Shire*. The book will have been launched at the Museum by the time you read this (on 20 May). You may remember Christine's address to the meeting in March about the history of scouting in the Shire, based

on her book. It was full of wonderful stories and anecdotes, making the history come to life in an entertaining as well as informative way.

Vale

We learned recently that one of the Society's foundation members, Richard Peir, died a year ago. He had not been able to attend meetings for a long time, but enjoyed membership through the *Bulletin*. We tracked down his daughter, Susan, and she sent us a fascinating biography of her father's life which will be greatly enjoyed by those who knew him, but also of interest to the rest of us. (See page 12)

Our condolences too, to Doreen Gerlach on the death of her husband William. We are pleased that Doreen has decided to take over his membership of the Society. Welcome, Doreen!

Our archiving empire grows

Pat Hannan and Carol McDonald have a new recruit to help them with the enormous task of archiving our valuable photographic and document collection – Floriana Camper. Pat says she's 'wonderful'. Floriana is gradually making herself indispensable on several fronts!

BADEN-POWELL

ANGELA BADGER

Recently we all listened to Christine Edney's most interesting talk on scouting in the Shire [in March]. Such dedicated work by scouts, their parents and the Council has achieved so much. I'd like to add a few snippets about the founder of the movement Baden-Powell, a distinguished (if sometimes controversial) soldier but first and foremost the hero and inspiration of so many boys and girls.

My late husband was one of those inspired for life by Baden-Powell's character. Growing up in Kentish Town, an inner suburb of London, scouting was a release from the city streets. Baden-Powell was a hands-on leader and Dennis remembered sitting round a campfire with him and listening to his stories. He literally worshipped his leader, the effect on those poor city kids was phenomenal and it lasted too.....with a lifelong love of literature and poetry. No one had ever spoken to them before about bravery, adventure and service and painted such vivid pictures...later Dennis would sit in his tank reading Shakespeare!

The other brief recollection is of his funeral. He died in 1942 in Kenya and had wanted to be buried at St Peter's church at Nyeri in the White Highlands. The modest church has an outstanding mural painted by an African artist. Maybe that was still to come but when I was there in 1951 it certainly was in place.

His funeral was an important event: all the dignitaries were present, the governor, prominent citizens etc., and as the cortege wound up into mountains disaster struck, the engine of the hearse packed up.

The august assembly stood around with Baden-Powell's coffin at the roadside, quite unable to get it to the church, when in the distance they saw a cloud of dust.

A safari truck was approaching, and it proved their saviour. So Baden-Powell ended his days with Happy Safaris and went on his way to St Peter's.

I am sure he touched a myriad of lives and far more profoundly than ours, he was one of the most important men of the 20th century and we all owe him deep gratitude.



*Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting,
pre-1923 [US Congress]*

STORMS AT CRONULLA 60 YEARS SINCE THE GUNNAMATTA WILLY-WILLY

PETER MOORE

The Cronulla area from the earliest days has had a history of many destructive storm events. The recent Kurnell storm brings back memories, which I have of some similar events that I have lived through.



'Sorrento' in 1950 with a small Peter on the right

[courtesy: Peter Moore]

When I was a child my family lived on a three-and-a-half acre property on the Burraneer peninsular called *Sorrento*. Although I was only 7-years-old at the time I remember the events of 6th November 1954 quite vividly. The day was supposed to have been a special day for my parents as they were to go out for the evening for the first time since my brother Tim had been born some nine months previously. He had been a sickly infant and had required much attention, but was improving and my aunt and myself were to baby sit.

The day started as usual, milking the cow and doing all sorts of chores around the place. Of course I was my fathers little helper and we went about doing what we had to do. After lunch we noticed a change in the behaviour of our animals; the cow was very friendly, even trying to put her head into the ute with us, and the dogs did not seem very interested in leaving their kennel. As the afternoon progressed we also noticed the behaviour of the sea gulls, they were flying around in circles making quite a commotion. As my parents were going out we finished chores early and retired to the house.

The next thing I remember was my father telling us to leave the house and run up the driveway to the stone cottage, but it was too late and we were trapped in the hall way in the middle of the house. My father tried to get the washing off the clothes line on the western veranda, but he was hit by some flying debris and returned with a cut hand. The house had a galvanized iron roof and the noise was deafening. The whole house was shaking, it was all over in the matter of seconds.

The willy-willy had progressed up Burraneer Bay until it reached our boat shed; it then removed the front doors and placed them in the swimming pool. It was low tide and it picked up sand and mud from the sand flats in front of the boat shed. The willy-willy then proceeded up the cliff face knocking down some mature gum trees then between a row of camphor laurels and the northern side of the house. The west and north facing verandas were removed and part of the easterly veranda was folded over the roof of the house.

After the wind had passed we could not get out of the house through the front door as it was packed tight with camphor laurel branches. Needless to say that the washing on the line now graced the nearby trees like Christmas decorations and every thing was covered with a coating of mud. We were all thankful that we were alive. During the next few weeks I spent many days climbing the trees to recover the washing.

One interesting fact that sticks in my memory is the sheet of galvanized iron that hit a tree branch and was folded like a piece of paper so much so that a man could grip the sheet in the middle and his fingers could touch his thumb. This sheet was taken to the university and the dons calculated that it was travelling at 112mph when it hit the tree.

There was not much publicity about this storm as our place was about the only one damaged except for some minor damage up Woollooware Road near the Royal Motor Yacht Club.

Two weeks later, on the 20th November 1954 the Sutherland Shire area was struck by a series of willy-willys, which caused wide spread damage throughout the shire with houses damaged in Cronulla, Bundeena, Miranda and Sutherland. Fortunately this time our house did not receive any more damage, but the thunder storm and accompanying hail which rocked our already damaged house sent my mother into hysterics. Once again, I remember the behaviour of the animals, particularly the sea gulls, prior to the storm. Again they were flying around in circles and making all sorts of noise.

On Friday 8th November 1957 I was attending the De La Salle College Cronulla, which is situated on the western side of Gunnamatta Bay. For some reason which I can not remember, we were on the lawn in front of the Brothers' residence. Once again I remember the sea gulls were flying about and for some reason I looked up the bay towards Bundeena and observed some very low black clouds above the Bundeena settlement.

I immediately realised what was happening and headed for a brick class room. By the time I had reached a window the storm was racing down the eastern side of the bay. I remember house roofs and parts of houses flying through the air and a boat shed being lifted whole into the air before it disintegrated.

It was reported that there were a number of willy-willys that day and the damage extended from Bundeena through to North Cronulla. This was quite possibly true as I remember looking east out over the Cronulla Peninsular and observing about six large green grey water spouts out at sea.

Evidently nearly 100 buildings were damaged by the wind estimated to be over 110mph. The next day my father and I went over to have a look at the damage in Taloombi Street and we saw a number of houses that had been blown away, with only the floor boards remaining, along with heavy items such as the stove, refrigerator and bathtub sitting forlornly on top of the floor boards. Fortunately there were no reported fatalities from this storm although there were reportedly a number of near misses.

This has been an eyewitness report of three storms that affected the Cronulla area in the 1950's, but there are records of many more dating back to the early days of settlement in the area. This area seems to be prone to this type of weather event and could be linked to the geological formations on the coast of National Park and the Illawarra escarpment. The high cliffs and the ensuing up drafts may be the cause of cyclic winds which form into mini-tornadoes. Of recent times I have seen many scudding across Bate Bay and they usually lose energy and peter out before making land fall. Fortunately, it is only when they move towards the west and come in behind Bundeena that they cause damage.

Calling all Internet Gurus

Andrew Platfoot is currently building a new website for the Society. Running the website takes technical know-how, and once it's up and running, will also need regular updates. Andrew really needs a backstop - someone who is not daunted by internet technology, and is willing and able to put in a few hours each month to maintain its currency, making sure its content is up-to-date. If this interests you, Andrew would love to hear from you at andrew_platfoot@yahoo.com.au or on 0404 038 090

ANOTHER LIFE ALTOGETHER

PAULINE CURBY

Last year Kangaroo Point residents George (a member of SSHS) and Gladys King spoke to me about their experiences of living and working in Sutherland Shire.¹ As with many Shire residents of their generation, George and Gladys spent their early years in inner west suburbs such as Marrickville, Erskineville and Campsie.



Gladys & George King at home in Kangaroo Point, September 2016 [Photo: Pauline Curby]

At a time when working class children usually left school as soon as possible in order to contribute to the family income, they both finished their education at the age of fourteen and entered the workforce. A blind date brought them together and they married in their early twenties, on 13 November 1943. Their first home was with Gladys' parents in Campsie, but George had another location in mind.

Well, before the war we used to come fishing on the Georges River. A friend of mine's father had a 26-foot boat that he kept down at Tempe ... and weekends we'd come up here, fishing, and we used to tie up opposite Baldface, and sleep on the boat and go down to the swimming baths at the bridge ... and get the Primus out and we'd cook bacon and eggs. Then we'd go across the bay, fishing, or outside fishing and I thought, you know, 'That's a pretty good spot around here', so that was before the war. And we used to go up to Parkesvale, Picnic Point, and tour up there and so I thought, 'Well, that's a good area to live in' after living at Campsie – you don't see a tree there. You came down here and there's all beautiful trees and we thought, 'This'd be a pretty good venture'.

After World War II the young couple were saving hard for their own home, especially as their family began to arrive. George had left the navy with six years service to his credit and trained as a bricklayer. He began building 'spec' houses with a friend. Gladys explains what they had in mind if they got a chance to move.

We wanted to be somewhere with the water and we saw this block advertised and each time it was in the paper it got cheaper so we said, 'We must go and buy that', which we did and we moved out here in 1952 on 20 July ... we moved into a garage and we had two children [John and Margaret] and we just had to get used to it because we couldn't afford to rent anywhere while we built the house.

George thinks the brick rendered garage they moved into could have been built during the depression.

The bricks were only what they call bats, half bricks, broken bricks from the brickyard; they used to give them to you for nothing ... We lined it, lined the ceiling, because it's pretty cold out there and it had corner cupboards,

one in each wall, and we had a piano – the piano was a room divider – and we had a platform for a bed, mattress. I made bunks for the kids to sleep in – that took up less room. And we had stools and a small table and a tin shed out the back was the laundry and storage of our things we brought from the house in Campsie.

Despite this humble beginning to their life in Sutherland Shire, George and Gladys were content. Their rocky block of land on Kangaroo Point Road has stunning water views overlooking Oyster Bay. For George it was love at first sight.

We would be out there, taking photographs of beautiful sunsets. Every night we'd be looking at these beautiful sunsets and like, at Campsie all you see is wooden fences.

Gladys was also entranced by her new home.

It was really another life altogether completely. It was just so beautiful, the water. And there was nothing much here, just about three or four houses in the street, so it was very quiet.

The children also loved living at Kangaroo Point. George bought a shed and set it up part of the way down the block. This became their cubbyhouse where they played records on an old gramophone.

Living conditions in their temporary dwelling continued to be rudimentary while they built their own two-storey full brick house on the top of their water front block. This work was a family affair with the two children happily helping load bricks into the wheel barrow. Even though she is quite petite, Gladys was George's labourer throughout the building process. Her tasks included such jobs as holding a chisel called a 'gad' while George wielded a 12-pound hammer. This was a time when the population of Sutherland Shire was growing rapidly and many young couples were building homes in the district while living in what were called 'temporaries', a practice that Sutherland Shire Council allowed under certain circumstances. George recalls how he approached Sutherland Shire Council.

The council was a cottage, a wooden cottage up on the hill at Sutherland ... And I went in there and presented – I drew up the plan, designed and drew the plan up – and I went into a room, a bedroom, in the front of the house and he looked at it and told me about the boundaries – I'd have to keep so far off the boundaries – and I had to have it surveyed. And so that was OK, that he said, 'Righto. You go across the room there to Risbridger,' I think his name was.

With their plans approved they got down to work on the new house, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. One day the Council building inspector, Ron Taylor arrived unexpectedly, as George recalls.

He came out one day and said to Glad – he had inspected the foundation and he came out to inspect the dampcourse – and he came out and said to Glad, 'The council have changed their position and you can't live in temporary dwellings'. And, of course, boom. And Glad said, 'Well, we have nowhere to go. We can't afford and we've been delayed with six weeks' wet weather', and he said, 'All right'. He said, 'Well, soon as it fines up', he said, 'get in and start getting it done'. They'd changed their policy that you had to have the dwelling at floor level before you could live in the temporary.

The family worked hard and fast. George explains.

We cut and pitched the roof. We used to do a lot of carpentering ourselves. Concreting was done with a small light Lightburn mixer and you didn't pump concrete in those days and you shovelled it out into buckets and up the stairs when you made the staircase upstairs. And the concrete garage, that was all tip it on the ground, build a stage, shovel it onto the stage, then onto the roof.

After 20 months of arduous toil, the house was at the lock up stage and the Kings settled in. While the children moved on many years ago, George and Gladys still live there in the house they built themselves in the early 1950s.

George went into business on his own, and he and Gladys eventually owned two companies: GW King P/L Builders and Atlas Earth Moving.

Gladys served as his secretary, even though she had no training for this, and remained a two-finger typist throughout her career. The Kings ran successful businesses, working hard and ploughing their profits back into the companies.

Nevertheless there were challenges such as many bad debts that were not worth chasing through the legal system and – almost disastrously – the ‘credit squeeze’ of the early 1960s when they faced liquidation. This option was rejected as many of their creditors were friends. As George says, ‘I had a good name and so I said, “No, I’ll pay you all out” and we paid them all out.’ This took four years.

In the early 1960s they bought two blocks of land in Meta Street in the Caringbah industrial

area and erected a shed to house George’s expanding fleet of machinery. Later this was demolished and two factories were built on the site: one was rented and the other was headquarters for the business and Gladys’ office. This complex is still there.

George and Gladys have been married for 73 years, most of which have been spent in the Kangaroo Point Road house. Extensions to the property over the years have made it a comfortable family home which is filled with their extensive collections of clocks, gramophones, model cars and boats and – Gladys’ great love – porcelain dolls. George sometimes attends Sutherland Shire Historical Society meetings which by chance coincide with the meetings of the Porcelain Doll Guild of Southern Sydney which Gladys attends nearby.

¹ From an oral history conducted by Pauline Curby in September 2016 for Sutherland Shire Council. The full recording and related photos and documents can be accessed from Sutherland Library’s Local Studies archives



*Horace Lindrum (left) beat his New Zealand rival Charles McConachy to become world champion snooker player in 1952 [The Uncrowned King, p.200]
(Book review opposite)*

BOOK REVIEW – *The Uncrowned King*, by Janne Clara Lindrum

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Dr Janne (Jan) Lindrum was invited to be guest speaker for the SSHS at the Sutherland School of Arts during the National Trust Heritage Festival. The theme this year was 'Having a voice', and Jan spoke movingly – and entertainingly – about her father, world champion snooker and billiards player, Horace Lindrum. The venue for the talk was made poignant because this famous Australian had played an exhibition match in the School of Arts billiards room in 1944. That room is now the Society's museum.



Jan has recently published a history of the Lindrum family, four generations of which achieved world fame for their prowess in the cue arts. *The Uncrowned King* is a very personal story written to correct the misrepresentations of her family's history, particularly of her father's achievements. Known for his 'almost magical wizardry with the cue in snooker'¹ together with a charming personality, he was dubbed the Showman. Horace became world champion snooker player in 1952 after a two-week marathon against New Zealander, Clark McConachy in England. The British had no entrants because of a dispute between two bodies governing snooker and attempted to claim the contest was a non-event.

Jan's story starts in 1849 when her great great grandfather, Friedrich von Lindrum, wine merchant and billiards player, arrived in Adelaide from Prussia. He was the first Lindrum to make his mark by beating the British billiard champion in 1865, triggering a trade boom in the export of billiard tables of Australian timber. It was also the start of the Lindrum legend, as the succeeding generations of Lindrums took billiards around the country – Perth, Melbourne and Sydney – promoting the sport and excelling at it here and internationally. The last Lindrum to make his name synonymous with billiards and snooker greatness was Horace who died in 1974.

Jan's detailed research includes delving into newspaper archives, family stories, correspondence, diaries, court records, letters and interviews, especially with people who knew her father. Readers have a vivid sense of place and time as Jan writes in colourful detail, often in present tense, about the characters in her family – many had tragic or controversial lives – and how they related to the world around them. The women in the family were just as passionate about preserving the Lindrum legend as the men, especially Horace's mother, Clara and wife, Joy. Woven through the story of their ambition, their struggles and their achievements, is the history of Australia's development as it unfolded. This is very much a social history.

The Uncrowned King was based on Jan's thesis for her Ph.D, conferred by the University of Wollongong in 2015, and titled *Family, Nation & Sport: Writing the Uncrowned King*. This background provides an inkling of the depth of her research. Jan credits much of the material to her mother Joy, who was a meticulous record keeper of family history, a diarist and a writer in her own right.

Reflecting Jan's interest in the performing arts, the writing style is reminiscent of a script for a play, complete with theatrics and details that give the changing scenes colour and immediacy. Use of a larger font in the 2016 edition would have made the book easier to read, and there is no index. However, it is generously footnoted. The black and white photos liberally dispersed through the 244-page book are often indistinct, like old family snaps, but they add to the nostalgia and intimacy of this publication.

The Uncrowned King, by Janne Clara Lindrum, Primrose Publishing, Sydney 2016 is available for \$40.00 from SSHS. Shortly an e-book will be available for \$15.00 (www.lindrum.com).

¹ 'Indian Express', December 1952, cited in *The Uncrowned King*, p.214

MURDER AT HEATHCOTE

MARJORIE HUTTON NEVE, SSSH *Bulletin*, April 1973

(Submitted by Bruce Watt)

In the early 1890s murder was committed at Heathcote, but the murderer was never brought to justice, although known.

In the tall bushland which then came right up to the newly constructed railway station at Heathcote a little old lady lived alone, well known and well respected by all who knew her. Neighbours were few, but those who lived within sight of her small cottage looked each night to see a light burning in her window and then they knew that all was well with her.

But one night the light was seen for the last time, for in the morning it was discovered she had vanished without trace. She was known to own real estate not only around Heathcote but also along the Parramatta River -- which in due time would pass to a certain relative.

Her disappearance created a spate of rumours; some said she had wandered into the bush and become lost or injured, others were more blunt and said she had been murdered; and for some reason, now unknown, these rumours grew when a near relative offered £500 reward for the finding of her.

In those days there were many experienced Bushmen in Sutherland — as timber-cutters and the like who knew the National Park bush, its gullies and its rock-caves; in leisure time they would take their dogs for kangaroo hunting. Amongst the Sutherland hunting dogs there was a young one, Lad, who was always in demand. Not only was he a good hunter, but he had a strange peculiarity; he did not bark when on a trail or when having sighted a quarry, but would 'coo-ee' quite plainly in a long-drawn howl when he had 'found' [the quarry]; and this behaviour pattern never varied.

For days the bushmen combed through the rough and rocky bushland; and finally a shoe was found in an area between Loftus Junction (the Tramway Museum) and the National Park Railway Station, but no signs of any body were found. The search gradually faded over the following weeks, and the disappearance of Mrs. Nagle remained a mystery.

In 1898 two Sutherland men, William Stanton and George Candy decided to go 'roo-shooting, and took the aging Lad with them. Returning late in the afternoon from an unsuccessful hunt they suddenly heard Lad's peculiar coo-ing, and found him pointing to a small cave above his head. The entrance appeared to have been deliberately blocked with branches and brushwood as if forming a fence. Stanton climbed up and discovered the skeleton of Mrs. Nagle.

The two men returned to Sutherland and informed Sgt. Lewis (he was Sutherland's first Police Sergeant), He instructed Charles Stapleton, then a youngster of about 16 (now deceased) to procure a horse and cart, and the party set out for the cave --- which apparently was south of the railway station and probably in the Kangaroo Creek area. For many years afterwards it was known as 'Nagle's Cave' and 'Nagle's Gully'. An inquest was held in Kitt's Hotel (Boyle's); an open verdict was given, and Stanton and Candy each received £25 reward.

The entire population had from the first been quite adamant as to who the murderer was; but there was no proof to denounce him. To add fuel to the original rumours, he had left Sutherland almost immediately after Mrs. Nagle's disappearance, and had withdrawn the £500 reward after 12 months of the bushmen's fruitless searching — which fact, it was said, proved that he thought the body would never be found. Strangely, however, many years later he returned to Sutherland and is said to have died here.

The facts of the above story were related to me by an elderly third-generation Sutherland resident, Mr. William Hayes, who heard it from his late father.

M. Hutton Neve, 1973

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR YEAR ENDING: 30 JUNE 2018

The membership year commences on 1 July each year and ends on 30 June the following year.

NEW MEMBERS: please complete this form and mail to our Treasurer (address below) together with your membership fee:

RENEWALS: so that we can update and check our records, those renewing are asked to please complete this form in full and give it to our Treasurer (or mail to address below) together with your membership fee.

(NB: Failure to renew by 30 September each year will result in a lapse of membership. Receipts may be collected from the Treasurer at monthly meetings or, if you wish to have your receipt mailed to you, please include a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your renewal form).

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW MEMBER (please tick) [☐] —or— **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP** (please tick) [☐]

FAMILY NAME	
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GIVEN NAMES:	
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NUMBER and STREET:	
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SUBURB and CODE:		
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HOME TELEPHONE:		MOBILE:	
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EMAIL:	
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Enclosed is my cheque/ money order for \$30

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Mail to:

**Treasurer, Sutherland Shire Historical Society,
PO Box 389, Sutherland. NSW. 1499**

or

Hand it in at a monthly meeting

HISTORY OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE SHIRE

[See story page 7]



Reportedly the first Sutherland rugby league team, 1912-13

Back row (from left): J. Brady (treasurer), F. Lawton, D. Woodward, J. Giffen, F. Bran, H. Bray, G. Beach, C. Dube, Bill Henderson (trainer). Middle row: E. Lloyd (coach), J. Hallett, L. Ewers, W. Lewis (secretary), C. Beebon, J. Cadet. Front row: T. Cadet, C. Cadet, A. Bray, W. Skeyan [courtesy: Lester, p.13]



Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club 1st grade team behind dressing shed, Sydney Sports Ground, 2 April 1967
Standing (from left): Ken Kearney (coach), Gary MacDougall, Brian Cox, Phil Sylvester, John Hynes, Dennis Hewitt, Greg Miller, Kevin McSweyn (secretary). Sitting: Eric Barnes, Terry Hughes, Dave Cooper, Monty Porter (captain), Alan McRitchie, Jack Danzey, Warren Ryan [courtesy: Lester, p.31]

MEETING OF TWO CULTURES

Kurnell, Saturday, 29 April 2017



Gathering under the trees at Kamay National Park for the 'Meeting of Two Cultures' ceremony
Bruce Watt is delivering his address (see p.17)



Glen Timbery on the didgeridoo leads a symbolic walk at the end of the ceremony
[Photos: Elizabeth Craig]