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Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc
## Bulletin

NUMBER: 208 — AUGUST 2018

1979 'Sutherland to Surf' Fun Run started at Flora Street, Sutherland [courtesy: John Salmon]
(See *The Sutherland to Surf Story* on page 10.)

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE
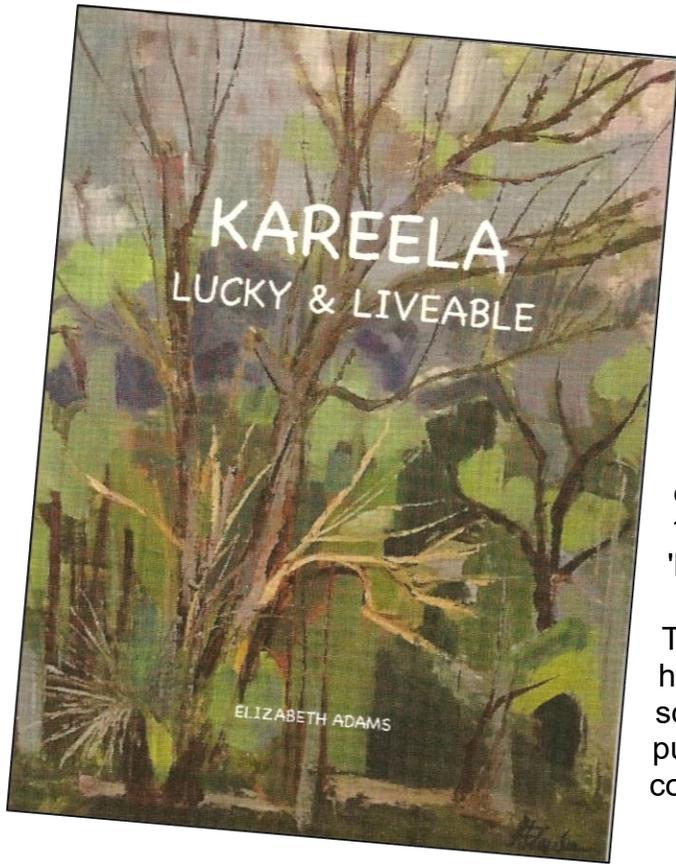
Elizabeth Adams' publication *Kareela - Lucky & Liveable* celebrates the 50th anniversary of the naming of the suburb. The book however, goes back a lot further. It uncovers 100 years of white settlement in the district and evidence of indigenous presence long ago in the form of a newly discovered Aboriginal occupation site in Kareela.

Liz describes the 1960s and 1970s development of Kareela, as well as the experiences of around 100 residents, and why the suburb is judged to be 'lucky and liveable'.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society is proud to have published *Kareela – Lucky & Liveable.* It is a scholarly, but very readable full-colour soft-bound publication of 206 pages, and contains a comprehensive index.

What does it cost?   ***$35.00***

Where can I buy a book?

You can pick up a copy at SSHS monthly meetings

or at the Museum (23 East Parade, Sutherland) on Saturday mornings.

Or order by:

Email - shirehistory@gmail.com

Or

Mail - PO Box 389, Sutherland, NSW 1499

Books can be paid for by cash, cheque or EFTPOS.
*(Add an extra **$12.00** for postage.)*

Telephone enquiries should be directed to Elizabeth Craig – 0416 234 272

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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 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 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2017-2018

ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor, Clr Carmelo Pesce		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	0405 493 187	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
SECRETARY	Angela Thomas	9528-6251	a.badger@optusnet.com.au
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MUSEUM CURATOR	Ian Kolln	9528-3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST & RESEARCHER	Pat Hannan	9528-8294	patricia.hannan@bigpond.com
EXCURSION OFFICER	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	
PUBLICITY OFFICER			
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Peter Moore	9523 5375	peter_mo@ihug.com.au
	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
	Joan Tangney	9523-6774	jtangney@optusnet.com.au

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol McDonald	9528-5122	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
BULLETIN **PROOF READER**	Merle Kavanagh	9521-1043	
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	Bruce Watt Joan Tangney	Noel Elliot	Ineke Niewland John White
EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK	Noel Elliot	9521-8622	
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Pauline Curby Elizabeth Craig	9523-8814 0416 234 272	pcurby@iprimus.com.au elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER	Helen Rosner	8539-7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	Elizabeth Craig	0416 234 272	Bruce Watt – 0405 493 187
WELFARE OFFICER	Gloria Hans	9589-0251	
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari		
HONORARY AUDITOR	Stuart Cole		

A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE ELECTED AT THE AGM IN SEPTEMBER

SSHS CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2018
(See website: www.shirehistory.org for updates)

DATE		MEETING 1.30pm, 3rd Saturday in month Stapleton Centre	EXCURSION EXCURSION OFFICER Noel Elliot – 9521 8622
SEPT.2018	1		
	15	**SSHS Annual General Meeting –** See next page for meeting agenda.	
	22		
	29		
OCT. 2018	6	**Excursion** to Sydney University and surrounds. Catch 9.05am train from Sutherland to Redfern.	
	13		
	20	**SSHS MEETING: Speaker:** Archaeologists Greg Jackson and Pam Forbes will speak about Sydney's Quarantine Station – its fascinating and poignant history and about working on a dig.	
	26	**Friday Night at the Museum -** Wine & cheese evening. Theme is 'HATS'. More information at meetings.	
	27		
NOV. 2018	3		
	10		
	17	**SSHS MEETING; Speaker:** Catherine Bishop, a historian with a focus on women in history. Catherine has published prize winning articles on books on the topic, including one in 2016 for *Minding her own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney.*	
	24	**XMAS PARTY –** Bundeena RSL. More information at meetings.	

MUSEUM
Sutherland Memorial School of Arts, 23 East Pde, Sutherland
OPEN EACH SATURDAY, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Please refer to the roster located at the Museum and at meetings,
or phone Noel Elliot on 9521 8622

PLEASE NOTE: SSHS MEMBERSHIP FEES WERE DUE BY 1st JULY.
A RENEWAL FORM was included in the May Bulletin. It can also be downloaded from SSHS website or picked up at our monthly meetings

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT THE AGM AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER 2018
COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM
STAPLETON CENTRE, 21A STAPLETON ST., SUTHERLAND

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APOLOGIES

2. CONFIRM AND ADOPT MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

3. SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 51st EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, MUSEUM CURATOR, ON-LINE ADMINISTRATOR, *BULLETIN* EDITOR

4. SUBMISSION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

5. MOTION TO INCREASE SSHS SUBSCRIPTION FEES FROM JULY 2019 AS FOLLOWS: $40 FOR SINGLE MEMBERSHIP AND $60 FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
      PRESIDENT
      DEPUTY PRESIDENT
      SECRETARY
      PUBLIC OFFICER
      HONORARY TREASURER
      MUSEUM CURATOR
      RESEARCH OFFICER & ARCHIVIST
      EXCURSIONS OFFICER
      BULLETIN EDITOR
      PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS OFFICER
      ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR
      GRANTS OFFICER

      COMMITTEE MEMBER 1
      COMMITTEE MEMBER 2
      COMMITTEE MEMBER 3
      COMMITTEE MEMBER 4

7. AGM GENERAL BUSINESS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT

I am pleased to commend another interesting range of articles that add to the growing catalogue of our local history over the last 52 years. As well our *Bulletin* contains information for members and the general reader about our current operations. I'm conscious that future researchers will be perusing these too as 'the present now will later be past'.

I was pleased to attend NAIDOC celebrations at Gunnamatta Bay once again on behalf of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society. It is hosted each year in July by the Sutherland Shire Council and the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation. It is pleasing to see the official recognition that it receives in highlighting Indigenous culture. We are also pleased to announce the appointment to the Society of Bruce Howell who will act in an advisory role in the capacity of Aboriginal Liaisons.

The Society is proud to be underwriting and launching an important new book on Kareela which is celebrating its 50th year. It will be launched on Saturday 18th of August at 10 am at Kareela Shopping Village and also at our regular meeting that afternoon. It is a beautifully presented book which will be for sale at $35.

For some time a planning day has become a feature of our calendar. It is an opportunity for team work and working together collegially in developing strategic planning for the coming year and beyond.

This year's art show *Painting the Shire,* was an initiative that grew out of a previous day. Another initiative will be a calendar featuring some of the art works from our *Painting the Shire* exhibition.

Foremost in our thoughts are ideas for the upcoming commemoration of James Cook's visit to Botany Bay in 1770. The 250th anniversary will occur in 2020. In 1970, our Society, barely four years old hosted a seminar on the 200th anniversary of Cook's visit. A book called *Employ'd as a discoverer* was produced as a result.

We have received confirmation of two successful grants. One is for a printer for the office. Another is for two cabinets to assist in our museum display.

Sutherland Shire Council has announced a plan to renovate the Entertainment Centre at Sutherland and has allocated $17 million to that effect. A further $1.7 million has been allocated to refurbish the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts which also houses our museum. We hope that a refreshed building that attracts more visitors can have a win-win outcome for all.

Finally, our AGM is a feature of our September meeting. We have an active and productive executive. However, like many community organisations, it represents a senior cohort. We need to be pragmatic in embracing succession. If any members or general readership would be interested in assuming a current or future role then their enquiry would be welcome. Viewed from the perspective of the output it is most satisfying. However, the journey is as satisfying as the destination.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
ANGELA THOMAS

Looking back at the 2017/18 Annual General Meeting, the secretary's report was written by George Miller. We sadly miss his words of wisdom, his professional approach and dedication to the society.

Following George, Ann O'Connor filled the position but found pressures of her numerous commitments made this impractical…. so it has been back to square one. Carol and myself. I had been secretary for over ten years, Carol for three – now we share the duties and I would stress that we are very willing to hand over to anyone who would like to take our place. With only one committee meeting a month it's not arduous, the work is rewarding and the company is stimulating.

This would suit any retired person who needs to augment their days with something absorbing and useful. I remember when I first met Carol, as a newcomer she came into the Museum and said 'give me a job' and she has never stopped. So think about it! We'll always be around to help.

Painting the Shire has obviously been the highlight of our year and now we have the launch of Elizabeth Adams' book about Kareela to look forward to. Each month Carol has booked in a speaker and she is to be congratulated on their diversity. Some of our own members have taken the podium, Noel Elliot on Gardens in the UK, Mary Small speaking about Lennie and the building of the Harbour Bridge, Bruce Watt on the local Aboriginal culture and then we had speakers who ranged from Lieut-Colonel David Deasy on the Boer War, Rod Coy giving an inspirational talk, Duncan Sutherland talking about Forby Sutherland and the naming of our Shire, Gary Lester on the Sharks.

Of course, no report would be complete without mentioning our Christmas outing, which combined with Elizabeth's birthday made a wonderful day out as we cruised up the Hacking River.

Members tell me that our monthly meeting is a highlight for them, listening to our president and then the speaker and finally enjoying our excellent afternoon tea supplied by Beryl Davis, Mary Small and Ann Steward I heartily agree with them.

MUSEUM REPORT
IAN KOLLN

Our Sutherland Shire Museum continues to serve the interested people of the Shire. Opening every Saturday by our volunteers, we saw some 1200 visitors.

The recent new cabinets, funded by a 50% grant from the office of Craig Kelly MP, were installed by our intrepid refit team and have been complimented by visitors. The internal lights provide a more inviting prospect from the door and there are more items from the History of Sutherland Shire in the same floor space.

A new item is the typewriter used by David R Kirkby when writing *From Sails to Atoms* - the history of the first 50 years of Sutherland Shire. It provides a centrepiece to the other memorabilia items of David R Kirkby who was the Shire Clerk for 34 years. It was donated by his niece.

The Heritage Festival events were a great success in drawing new audiences. The History of the Sharks with a display of historic guernseys and the "Painting the Shire" exhibition allowed the public display of historic paintings lent by the public as well as those in our own collection. It was considered a great success by all who attended.

The next few years will be exciting as the Memorial School of Arts building will have a makeover by the Council, and our next big event after the 2019 Heritage Festival will be the 2020 anniversary of the landing of Lt Cook at Kurnell. This was the 'sealed orders' part of his voyage of scientific enlightenment to the Pacific Ocean to observe the transit of Venus from Tahiti.

I am looking forward to these events and our contribution to them.

ONLINE ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT
CREO MOORE

Over the last twelve months our online communications have progressed very well. On our website (www.shirehistory.org) you can find all you need to know about the our activities – speakers for the next few months, excursions, Museum happenings, membership information, publications we hold and have published. In the History section we have posted Daphne Salt's book, *Thomas Holt – dynamic pioneer of the Sutherland Shire.* Important social history can be found in the Oral History section, where there are three-minute snippets of Sutherland Library's two-hour interviews with long-time local residents telling the story of life in the Shire for them. Of course, the website is a work in progress and more will be added to it over time.

SSHS Facebook page has proved an excellent tool for reaching the wider public and promoting Society activities. Many of the paintings displayed in our May exhibition, *Painting the Shire*, for instance, were acquired through people responding to our notice on Facebook. Queries on local history also come through Facebook as well as through our gmail account, and these are forwarded to members who can answer the questions. Online communications have helped make the Society and its activities more accessible and more relevant to the community.

As you are aware, we now have an interactive computer in the Museum. Over the next year, we will be compiling information, photos and interesting local history stories to load on to the computer, or kiosk as we call it. Visitors to the Museum will be able to choose from the menu anything that looks of interest and easily view it.

As you can appreciate, this is a huge job and I would welcome input and help from anyone who feels they would like to contribute. Contact me via the Society's gmail account (shirehistory@gmail.com) or come and talk to me at a meeting.

VALE KEVIN SKINNER, OAM

Former Sutherland Shire Councillor (1962-1987) and Shire President for six terms died at the age of 93 on Tuesday, 26th June.

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Kevin Skinner's love of the Shire and its natural environment, his battle for playing fields for kids, his support of many community organisations, such as the Rural Fire Service, Sutherland to Surf fun run and the Society's quest for a museum, meant that his role in shaping the Shire we know today was hugely significant.

A tribute to this popular and respected man will be published in the November *Bulletin,* based on two oral histories with him for Sutherland Library – the first by Bernard Sargeant in 1993, and a follow up by Elizabeth Craig recorded in 2006.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
ELIZABETH CRAIG

You might have noticed that there's been a bit of a focus on Shire sports history in the *Bulletin* over the last year or so. The Cronulla Sharks story in May last year sparked a chain reaction. It was brought to the attention of John Salmon in Bateau Bay who has had a long association with surf life saving clubs and athletics in the Shire. As a result John wrote the story of Cronulla's role in the evolution of surf boards and skis for the November 2017 issue. He also mentioned that he and his wife Kerryn were the founders of the Sutherland to Surf Fun Run, and offered to write the story of its shaky start in the early 1970s to the iconic annual event it became in a very short time. Their story appears on page 10. John has more ideas for the *Bulletin* – although not all on sport!

Stephanie Bailey from Sutherland Library has kindly allowed us to reprint her wonderfully researched and readable local histories written for the online Sutherland Shire Library Series. The 1954 Royal visit published in our May edition was the latest, and there are more coming. I believe they add breadth and depth to the magazine. Thank you, Stephanie!

Painting the Shire, an exhibition of Shire history told through the eyes of artists over the last century, was the Society's major project in the first half of the year, and it has also provided fodder for articles as a byproduct of our research into the subject of the paintings.

Also, paintings from the exhibition will feature in SSHS's 2019 Calendar. They will be available at the September meeting for $10.00.

Merle Kavanagh continues to proofread the *Bulletin* each month and has saved editorial embarrassment more than once. Thank you, Merle! The dreaded task of addressing labels for envelopes for posting out *Bulletins* is over! For a very reasonable cost, Civic Copying is now addressing the envelopes directly for us. Thank you to Sutherland Shire Council which has been printing the *Bulletin* for us at no cost since the first edition in 1966.

And lastly, thank you to all our regular contributors to the *Bulletin*, and to new writers.

If you have a story up your sleeve, please contact me by email, phone or letter to PO Box 389, Sutherland 1499.

SOCIETY NEWS

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Garriock Duncan   **Dennis Burns**   **Stuart Hansman**   **Leigh Wallbank**

Sadly, we also have a loss to report. Some members may remember Fred Williams, who passed away a couple of months ago. He was the owner and editor of the *Cronulla Observer*, which he took over from his father when Fred was just 17 in 1943.

Pauline Curby, who knew Fred through researching the history of Cronulla Public School, has written an obituary for him on page 32.

Fred's daughter, Leigh Wallbank, said that although her father did not attend meetings, he very much enjoyed receiving the *Bulletin*. We are delighted Leigh has decided to take over her father's membership of SSHS. Please make her welcome.

THE SUTHERLAND TO SURF STORY
JOHN SALMON
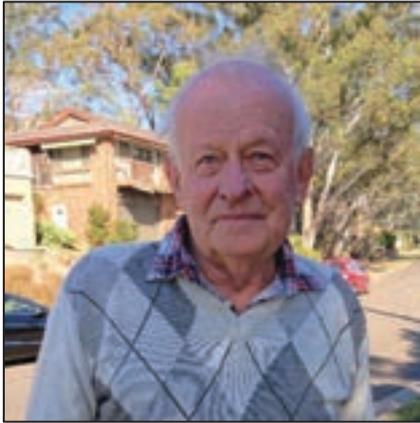
In the early 1960's there was a growing awareness among people that our life style was changing. The ownership of motor cars, petrol lawn mowers, automatic washing machines and many other labour-saving devices was creating a more sedentary life style resulting in a decline in personal fitness.

This led to the realisation that instead of achieving health and fitness from every day normal activities it needed to be supplemented by extra physical effort outside work hours. Squash became popular in the 1960's and with the development of shoes - specially designed for running. Jogging also became popular. The advantages of jogging were that you did not need to book a venue or have a partner. All that was required was the right attire, and to open your front door and start running. It was so easy.

So started the running revolution. People were seen running everywhere in the Sutherland Shire. Popular venues were the Cronulla Esplanade to Bass and Flinders memorial and for the very fit, around Cronulla Beach to Boat Harbour and back. The Royal National Park attracted runners from Sutherland sports complex to Jersey Springs on Lady Carrington Drive and return. Similar runs were happening all over Sydney, with the Bondi to Bronte run very popular.

In November 1969 I had a long talk with surf club mates with an idea of a run from Sutherland to Wanda, or perhaps a relay run from Sydney GPO to Wanda to mark the opening of the surfing season in October. They all thought I was mad so I buried the idea. Two years later The Sun 'City to Surf' burst onto the scene. Their initial course was to be from Martin Place over the Harbour Bridge to Manly, but the police modified this to run from the Sydney Town Hall to Bondi beach, a much more practical course.[1]

I ran in the first City to Surf with 1500 others (and I continued to run it for the next 35 years). Inspired, I realised it was time to revise my 1969 idea with a run from Sutherland to Wanda. Knowing that we would require police permission, I contacted Ian Toll, a surf club mate who worked at Sutherland Police Station. He was very impressed with my idea and said he would seek permission from the station Inspector. My proposed course - down the Kingsway on a Sunday morning - was rejected by the police as they said it would be a disruption to traffic. They suggested a compromise - a 2:00pm Saturday start with the route beginning from outside Boyles hotel in Sutherland, left onto the highway and left again into President Ave. Then right into Willawong Road, Caringbah and left into Burraneer Bay Road, continuing past Cronulla railway station and finishing in Gunnamatta Park.

It was a complete failure with only about 50 people competing. We needed publicity and a less complicated route. The next year – 1973 - the only change the police allowed was to finish in Dunningham Park in North Cronulla. The turnout was even worse, with only 40 people running. The 'City To Surf' was now in its fourth year and they were getting thousands

of runners while we were going backwards. Something drastic had to be done to promote 'Sutherland To Surf'. The police regulations were the main obstacle, so I decided I had to bypass them. I discussed some ideas with my wife Kerryn who had just given birth to our son Jason. Our daughter Jodie was only 17 months old, so Kerryn was very busy. However, she was ecstatic about my ideas and fully supportive.

I knew the Shire Council President, Kevin Skinner. I rang him and asked if he would fire the starter's gun on a Sunday morning at 10:00am. He agreed. I then wrote to Council and got permission to assemble and start from the Council car park, facing Stapleton Ave, and to effect several street closures around Wanda surf club. Council agreed in writing. Whilst arranging this, Kerryn had created a run logo and designed an entry form. I sent these to *The St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* advising them I had Council approval and asked them if they would print the entry form six weeks before race day.

The Salmon family in the late 1970s [John Salmon]

They agreed. When the entry form appeared in *The Leader* the police rang me and said I did not have their permission, I told them I had Council permission and the Shire president was going to fire the starter's gun. I told a white lie saying I was sure I had written to the police. Actually, I had not and it was too late for the police to try and stop the race, so they approved it. We were up and away.

The 'City to Surf' had the might and resources of *The Sun* newspaper behind it. We had nothing so we had to do things a lot differently. The approvals were finalised with the Shire Council's support, and Kerryn and I had only five weeks to get a system working before race day. We had a lot of work to do. Entry forms were printed and placed in all the Shire and Eastern suburbs surf clubs, and at selected Shire shops and businesses. The chest bibs were donated by Sustagen and we had the tedious task of putting the numbers on each chest bib. The entry forms were being returned by the runners and a simple processing and filing system was created. What we had not determined was how to record and process the results at the finish area at Wanda. The 'City to Surf' used a computer and printed the results in the Monday *Sun*. We did not have these luxuries, and there was no system available from similar events in Australia, so we had to create our own system for processing such a large number of competitors. We had categories for age groups from under-20 to over-50 male and female,

plus three teams of four categories (Athletes, Open, Surf Clubs and Women). We made the club office the place for processing the results.

We placed timing and recording tables, so that when the runners crossed the finish line they stopped at the timing table manned by three people, one at each end writing their time on a card, and the centre person with a stop watch calling the time. The runner then moved to the recording table where the chest number and the age category was written on their time card and retained at the table for later processing.

The 1974 Sutherland to Surf began outside the Council Chambers in Stapleton Street, Sutherland
[Paul Sargeant]

All the cards were then taken into the surf club office for processing. We had 500 cards and our system was very primitive. During the results processing, Kerryn had to stop to breast feed our two months old son, Jason so it was all happening. It took over an hour to compile the results, then the presentation of prizes began with trophies donated by importers of Tiger running shoes.

Participants running along the Kingsway in the 1974 Sutherland to Surf [Paul Sargeant]

So ended a day where Kerryn and I learnt so much in uncharted territory. The accolades poured in from everywhere, the third 'Sutherland To Surf' was an outstanding success. Kerryn and I quickly realised we were still on a vertical learning curve, and we now had 12 months to review the race organisation.

Apart from streamlining everything. Kerryn and I were always looking for new innovations. We were the first to have 'start' and 'finish' banners, computer printed chest numbers and a most important safety measure was to have runners start in areas related to their running ability. This reduced faster runners pushing past slower runners, tripping and being hurt. All of these three innovations were later adopted for the 'City to Surf'. I had the pleasure of having lunch with its organiser, Allan Forsyth. My aim was to support each other to increase community health and fitness.

We also created a community theme for each race.

One was *Smoking? You're Joking!*,

and another - *Plant A Native Tree to Beat Pollution* (global warming). These proved very popular. We were way ahead of community thinking at the time.

Jean Manuel, our first female Shire President, assisted by S2S cofounder, Kerryn Salmon, presents an award to 1978 winner, Andrew Lloyd , [Paul Sargeant]

Two of our most prolific winners, Andrew Lloyd and Kerryn McCann gained national fame when they represented Australia in the Commonwealth games. It was at the 1990 Auckland games that Andrew made the famous statement of 'bugger the silver, I am going for the gold', beating the great Kenyans in the 5000 metres track. Kerryn McCann won two consecutive Marathons, the second being the epic run at the 2006 Melbourne games where after a tightly run race in which the lead kept changing, she grabbed it 300 metres from the finish to win. My Kerryn, eventually a champion runner herself, became close friends with Kerryn McCann. She was shattered when she she heard that in December 2008 Kerryn McCann had died from breast cancer.

Each year Kerryn and I continued to include new ideas to improve the run, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of runners. This required more workers on race day and they were recruited from everywhere. Apex and bowling clubs, school P and C groups, St John's ambulance, State Emergency Service and many others.

Sutherland Shire Council kindly allowed us to use the Civic Centre to process the runners and issue their chest bibs. This was a major improvement in race organisation. Because of the increase in runners we moved the start position to Flora Street where it still starts to this day. We improved the processing of results at Wanda so that they were completed 30 minutes after the race had ended (whereas with all their advanced technology the City to Surf results were not announced until the following day). Then, with much excitement in a packed hall, the presentation of prizes commenced.

1979 – the Fun Run started from Flora Street, Sutherland [Paul Sargeant]

The press coverage of the race was outstanding, with the now defunct *Pictorial News* including the results and times of all the runners. Sponsorship in our final year enabled us to post out certificates to each runner. Our biggest fear was that the numbers were increasing so rapidly we would not have enough room in the finish area. In 1980, the number of entries had jumped 500 from the previous year to 4,200.[2]

In 1980, after a dispute with Wanda Surf Life Saving Club over the Committee's lack of support for the Sutherland to Surf run, Kerryn and I had no option but to resign as organisers. We moved our allegiance to Elouera Surf Life Saving Club, and as the hostilities continued, some key members followed us.[3]

It took passion, commitment, innovative ideas and many hours of hard work to make the Sutherland to

Helping a fallen fellow runner in 1980   [Paul Sargeant]

Surf such a success story. In our last three years, Kerryn and I received Road Runners of Australia's 'best fun run in Australia' award. That did not happen again.[4]   Finding new organisers with the same dedication was difficult and for several years local newspapers were plied with letters of complaint about aspects of the new organisation of the fun run, including the loss of female competitors because 'categories and prizes favour the men'.[5]

Sutherland to Surf revenue has steadily declined since 2011 due to fewer entries and sponsorship, as well as increasing costs. Wanda SLSC has recently recruited a new fun run coordinator, and ironically, Kerryn and I would not have met all their criteria for the role[6].

The question now asked is 'Will the Sutherland to Surf fade into oblivion through falling numbers and poor organisation or will it last another 46 years as a Shire icon?' With the alarming increase in obesity there is a need for the bureaucrats to support the run to improve community health and fitness, our original objective.

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[1] En.wikipedia.org/wiki/City2Surf_(Sydney)City to Surf – Sydney CBD to Bondi Beach

[2] 'Sutherland to Surf, July 13 1980, by Mike Agostini, *Fun Runner,* September 1980, p.6

[3] 'Shock switch by star iron man', by Ian Hanson, *Daily Mirror,* 18 February, 1982; 'Chapman in switch,' by Ian Toll, *The Sun,* 18 Feb 1982; 'Wanda blocks Chapman's switch,' by Ian Badham, *The Pictorial,* 23 February 1982

[4] Letter, John Salmon to Hon Secretary, Wanda SLSC, 10 October, 1980; 'Australia Day Honours 2017: Sutherland to Surf founders recognised', *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader,* by Murray Trembath, 1 February 2017; Road Runners of Australia was a national organization which also twice awarded the Salmons the 'best fun run award' for their 'Half Marathon' runs they founded as members of Elouera Surf Life Saving Club in later years.

[5] 'Letters', *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader,* 4 July, 1984; 'The Running Woman,' *Fun Runner,* October-November 1983; Letters to the Editor: 'Learn from Others by Derrick Titmus, *Fun Runner,* Nov-Oct 1986.

[6] Wanda Surf Club 2016/17 Sources of Income in an attachment to an email sent by Wanda SLC to members, 23 March 2017.

1980 Sutherland to Surf Fun Run

[Photos by Paul Sargeant]

Running along the Kingsway

The fun run finishes at Wanda SLSC, with Bank of NSW rescue helicopter in attendance

SSHS EXCURSION TO KURNELL, 7 JULY 2018
CHRISTINE EDNEY

Seven hardy souls met at the anchor near the entry to Kamay National Park at Kurnell and five returned. No, we did not push the other two off a cliff! They left early for another appointment. It was great day for mid winter - a nice sunny day and not much wind. The walk was a mix of natural and human history.

First stop was the 'cricket pitch' now a car park/picnic area. In 1881 it was where Queen Victoria's sons Princes Albert and George played a game of cricket and had a picnic with locals.

> A marauding dog, which had pilfered a plump turkey, was hotly pursued by the waiter, whereupon Prince Albert joined in the chase, and outpacing the waiter, made a cut with his stick at the thief. The dog dropped his prey and the prince retrieved the bird.[1]

The report of the incident does not say whether anyone was game to eat the turkey afterwards.

We walked the Bank Solander track (where there are number of plants with identification signs), then took the Yena (Aboriginal word "Yinna" meaning honeysuckle) and Polo (as in Marco Polo) tracks to Cape Solander. One of the walkers, Ian Hill, who is knowledgeable about Australian plants, was able to identify many of the plants we saw. Bruce Edney, despite being 'Tail-end Charlie' for most of the walk, arrived at the Cape lookout first courtesy of a NPWS ranger giving him a lift on his golf cart for the last uphill stretch.

After whale-watching for a while, our attention was caught by helicopters taking construction materials to the Cape Bailey track reconstruction. We walked back down past an interesting stand of woody pear trees at the eastern end of Yena track to the Visitors Centre. The fruit may look like brown pears but you would break your teeth if you tried to eat them.

After a quick stop at the Visitors Centre we visited the various monuments/historical sites along the foreshore being:

(1)   The Solander monument paid for by Swedish people in Australia in 1914. The grave of Cundlemong, the last full blood aborigine at Kurnell who died in 1846, is meant to be close to the Solander monument but is not marked.

(2)   Offshore is an anchorage buoy marking the approximate location where the *Endeavour* moored.

(3)   A monument marking the approximate site of Forby Sutherland's (the first British subject to die in Australia) grave.

(4)   The site of the district's first home, Alpha House, which was built by James Birnie in 1815. The next owner, John Connell, built a new house on the foundations in 1828, retaining the underground cool rooms. After it was abandoned in the 1890s, a local boy found a tin pot full of half crowns in the foundations and what remained of the house was destroyed by treasure hunters. The current building was built as a guesthouse in 1902 and is now used by NPWS rangers.

Photo of Alpha House ruins 1890s [SSHS]
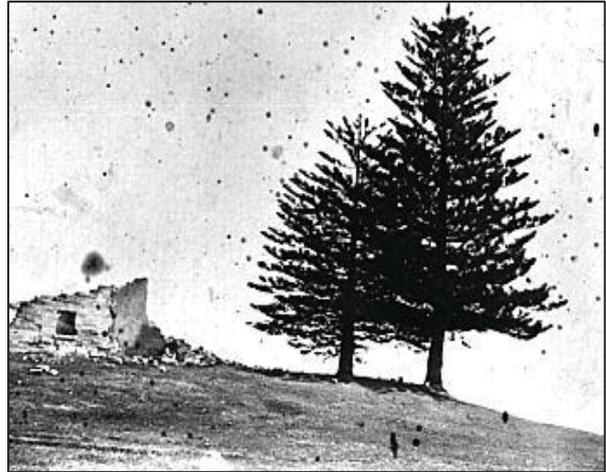
Alpha House, rebuilt in 1902, as it is currently [B. Edney]

(5)   A plaque showing the location of the stream which supplied the *Endeavour* with fresh water supplies and where Cook encountered a number of Aborigines.

(6)   The Banks Monument which is a bronze image of his head with an inscription on a long stone memorial. This memorial was built in 1947.

(7)   The Cook Obelisk, a grand sandstone monument was erected in 1870 by Thomas Holt to celebrate the centenary of the landing.

(8)   Cook's Landing Place is a small plinth on rocks just offshore where Midshipman Isaac Smith became the first European to set foot on Kurnell. But why would he land on a rock when there was a beach nearby?

(9)   Cook's Well - a small plaque marks where a party of men dug holes in the sand to find fresh water to water the ship.

The Captain Cook Landing Place reserve was resumed from Thomas Holt in 1899 – There was no road access then (the first car did not make it to Kurnell till 1927 and the first sealed road was built in the mid-1950s) so access was by boat from La Perouse. Due to bad weather dedication of the reserve had to be done one week late on 6 May.

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[1] Daphne Salt, *Kurnell*, p.43

OLIVIA: THE SHIP, THE PERSON, AND NOW THE STREET
GREG JACKSON AND PAM FORBES

Introduction

In March 2016 our president, Bruce Watts, was asked to suggest a name for a new street which had resulted from the subdivision of the large Kerslake property fronting Fowler Road in Illawong. The council theme for road names in the Illawong area is 'Historical Names of Nautical Significance' and several names with a nautical connection were suggested. Then in *SSHS Bulletin* No. 201, November 2016, an article by Don Rothnie noted that this street was to be known as 'Olivia Place'. *Olivia* was the name of a small schooner belonging to miller John Lucas who, in the 1820's, built a watermill on the Woronora River and Williams Creek, both tributaries of the Georges River. The story of these two mills has been covered in past *Bulletin* articles (Jackson and Forbes). The schooner *Olivia* was named after John Lucas' mother, first fleet convict, Olivia Gascoigne.

Olivia the Ship

No painting of *Olivia* exists and no ships registration can be found but from the newspapers of the day we know that *Olivia* was a small schooner of 60-ton burden with two masts and possibly with square sails on the fore mast. She would have looked similar to the ship in Figure 1. The *Shipwreck Atlas of NSW* (1995) reports that *Olivia* was built on the Tamar at Launceston in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) in 1826. The Shipping News in the newspapers (including the *Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser* on Friday 13 October 1826 and *The Australian* on Wednesday 25 October 1826) report her bringing wheat from Launceston to Sydney. The *Shipwreck Atlas of NSW* also reports that she was lost on 19 November 1827 south of Twofold Bay, NSW. *Olivia* had lasted only a little over one year. *Olivia's* dimensions are not known but statistical research by the authors enable her dimensions to be calculated with some accuracy from the tonnage (Forbes and Jackson, undated) Using this research the length of the *Olivia* is calculated to be 16.8metres (55.2feet) with a beam of 4.7metres (15.7feet).

Figure 1: *A typical small 19th Century British schooner,* painting by P. Braun, date unknown.

[https://www.pinterest.com/pin/71635450299235911/]

Although not large it is likely the *Olivia* was built at the maximum size to be able to negotiate the shallow Georges River and deliver wheat to the door of Lucas' Brisbane Mill on Williams Creek. At his bankruptcy hearing in September 1828 John Lucas states that he has lost 1500 pounds with the *Olivia's* wrecking (this seems an excessive amount for a 60-ton ship) and that its loss had contributed significantly to his bankruptcy.[1]

Particulars of the dramatic wreck of the *Olivia* were described in *The Australian* on Friday 14 December 1827.

WRECK

Some particulars have been furnished us of the wreck of the Olivia belonging to Mr James Lucas. She was bound from Launceston to Sydney and was laden with wheat, coffee, and potatoes. Her passage from Launceston was most unfavourable, and prolonged beyond anticipation, her water being completely and her sea stock of provisions nearly consumed. On the 19th ult. the schooner had arrived and was working off the land, a short distance to the southward of Twofold Bay, when the wind blowing her with violence right upon the shore to leeward, she struck the ground: a roaring surf broke upon her, and in a very short time the little vessel became engulfed in the waves. A raft consisting of four water casks lashed together, was hastily constructed, and on this the people of the schooner committed themselves to the warring elements, and by its means all escaped with their lives on shore; but they had saved little more of clothes or other property than what they stood in, and of that little they were stripped, we are told, by the rapicity of the black natives whom they encounter overland from the shore, upon which their vessel lay a wreck to Bateman's Bay. The names and descriptions of the shipwrecked men are, John Lucas, owner, Thomas Hammond, master, John Handall, mate, John Ellis, Charles Bacon, John Smith and John French, seamen, and Vran Legger, passenger. They were ten days in penetrating through the bush before they arrived at any part of the country inhabited by civilised people, and, when they did get to a stock station, at Batemans Bay, all hands were in a most miserable plight. Here they were supplied reasonably with provisions and enabled to continue their journey. The owner purposes to return, in order to save as much of the wreck as may be practicable. This vessel is represented as having been lost at Twofold Bay; but the natives on whose topographical knowledge some reliance ought to be placed, signify that the wreck did not occur at Twofold Bay but to the south of it.

The article above confusingly attributes the ownership of the *Olivia* to both John Lucas and his brother James. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 17 March 1825 describes the *Olivia* being built on the Tamar for John Lucas' brothers Charles and James. It may be that ownership was transferred between various family members.

Olivia the Person

Olivia Gascoigne (Olive Gascoyne) was born in 1761 into an aristocratic Yorkshire family. Her father was the High Sheriff of Yorkshire and the family home was the largest castle in England, Wentworth Castle. She was related to the Wentworths through her mother Sarah Vernon Wentworth, these Wentworths being the same family as that of D'Arcy Wentworth who had a distinguished career in the Australian colonies and whose son William Wentworth was the famous statesman and explorer. Olivia was also related to the Dukes of Argyle, Clarence and Cumberland both through legitimate and clandestine associations.

It is difficult to see how a young lady in such a privileged position would end up before the courts being sentenced to death. It would seem that Olivia had rebelled against her privileged position in society and kept company with a group of young men who had robbed one Edward Griffith at gunpoint. Although Olivia had not held the gun or benefited from the robbery she was sentenced to hang. Probably due to the influence of her relatives her sentence was commuted to seven years transportation.[2]

Due to her good behaviour on the voyage to NSW Olivia was one of the 15 convicts selected to accompany Lieutenant-Governor King to Norfolk Island on the *Supply* to form an outpost of Sydney. Soon after arriving in Norfolk Island Olivia married fellow convict Nathaniel Lucas. The couple thrived on the Island with Nathaniel becoming the Island's master carpenter and running a success farm. Olivia and Nathaniel had 11 children on Norfolk Island including twins Sarah and Mary, tragically killed when a tree felling went badly wrong. The family returned to Sydney in 1805 with John taking the position of Master Carpenter and another two children soon followed. In 1810, Olivia and Nathaniel moved to a farm at Liverpool, on land granted to the family after the government reclaimed their land in the Domain. Here he built a windmill, the last of six mills he is known to have constructed. A number of the Lucas children moved to Launceston, Van Diemens Land, and over the next few years established a number of businesses resulting in regular trips by members of the family between Van Diemens Land and Sydney. Nathaniel died in 1818, drowned in the Georges River after an argument with architect Francis Greenway over his work on St Luke's church at Liverpool, leaving large debts. Olivia sold much of the family's property and goods to pay these debts and the 1828 census records her living with her son John and his family at his Brisbane Mill in what is now the suburb of Voyager Point.
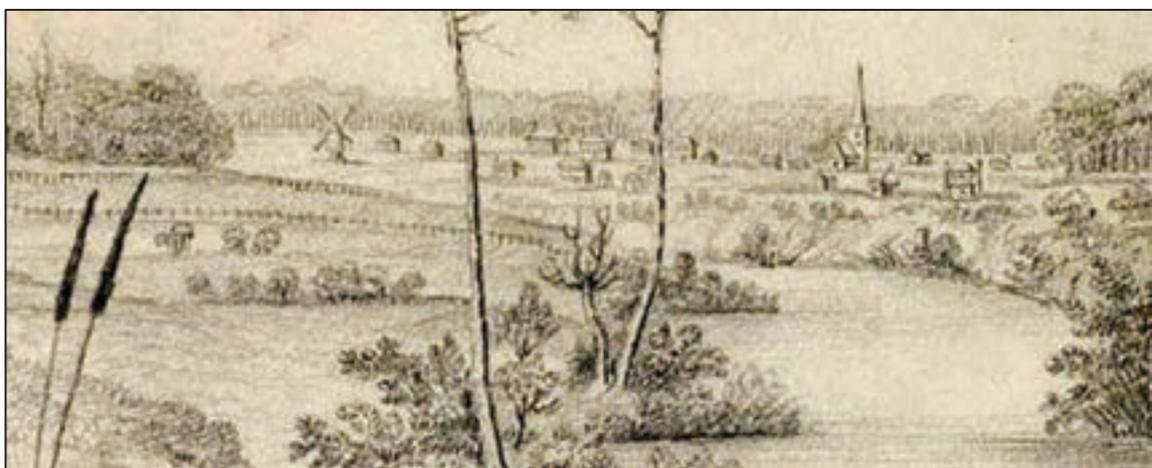
Figure 2: *Part of a painting showing Liverpool on the Georges River, NSW, view to the west with Nathaniel Lucas' windmill and St Luke's church visible, artist unknown, c1819* [State Library of NSW]

Olivia died on the 10th June 1830, her death certificate recording her simply as the wife of Nathaniel Lucas. Her life was like that of many convict women. After her initial mistake she appeared to make the best of her situation making a respectable life for herself and her large family often in difficult circumstances. Like most of our pioneering women many of her contributions are unrecorded.

The Street

This short and relative inconsequential street was indeed named Olivia Place with a shiny new sign, erected around November 2017 (shown in Image 3). Also in Illawong, about 1km from Olivia Place is Gascoyne Place (shown in Image 4). This street was established in the 1980's and it is not known if it is also named after Olivia. The spelling of the street name is different from the usual spelling of Olivia's surname.

It is fitting that the name of this new suburban street commemorates both the ship that must have sailed past Illawong on its way to the Brisbane Mill and the first fleet convict Olivia Gascoigne, one of the pioneer settlers in this area.

Image 3: *The new Olivia Place street sign in Illawong* [Greg Jackson*]*
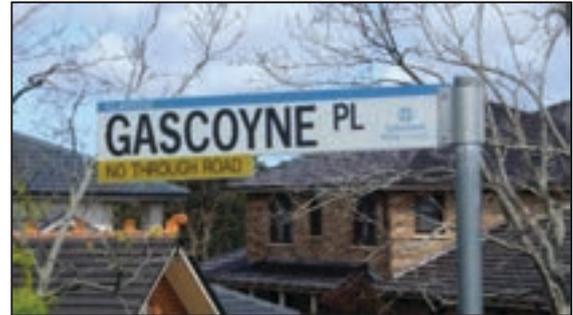
Image 4: *The Gascoyne Place street sign, also in Illawong* [Greg Jaclson]

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[1] Australasian Legal Information Institute (AusLII) website, 2012a

[2] Miskelly, G. 2009, *Fellowship of the First Fleeters*, entry for Nathaniel Lucas and Elizabeth Gascoigne, [http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/lucas_gascoigne.htm]

TEN DAYS OR EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE SUTHERLAND SHIRE
BRUCE WATT

There are many events that have influenced the area now known as the Sutherland Shire over the last 250 years. This is a selection of a few.

1. **29th April 1770** – The crew of Captain James Cook's epic round the world voyage in the *Endeavour* sailed into Botany. First contact with the Gweagal clan of the Dharawal Aboriginal inhabitants was made, though the encounter was not amicable or constructive in developing relations between the two cultures. The eight day stop-over was however an opportunity for the botanists, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander to collect botanical specimens, many of which were at this point unknown. This led to the naming of Botany Bay. The *Endeavour* continued up the east coast of New Holland. Near the tip of Cape York, Cook took possession of the eastern part of the continent. Knowledge of the site of Botany Bay was the catalyst for the establishment of a penal colony eighteen years later. While the colony was established at Port Jackson and not Kurnell, the Sutherland Shire lays claim to being 'the birthplace of modern Australia' because of the connection with Cook's landing and the subsequent development of a plan for colonisation at 'Botany Bay'. The colony at Sydney Cove was for a long time still referred to as Botany Bay.

Gweagal warriors confront Lt Cook and crew, by William Macleod, 1899 [Courtesy: abc.net.au]

Since 2002, a celebration is held at Kurnell each year on the anniversary of the landing on the 29th April. Called the 'Meeting of two cultures' it recognises both the European and Aboriginal narrative.

2. **10th August 1861** - Thomas Holt purchased 4600 acres of land in the future Sutherland Shire at auction from Thomas Laycock for £3275. Laycock was the grandson of John Connell, an early pioneer who owned land at Kurnell and elsewhere. Holt increased his holding over time to about 12,000 acres. He initially called his holdings the South Botany Estate but changed it later to the Holt Sutherland Estate in recognition of Forby Sutherland, one of James Cook's crew who died while at Botany Bay. Sutherland was the first European to die on the east coast of the continent and was buried at Kurnell near to Cook's 'watering place'. Holt was a Yorkshire man, as was James Cook who Holt greatly admired. In 1870 on the centenary of Cook's landing at Kurnell, Holt erected an obelisk at the landing place at Kurnell. Significant land holdings are still held by interests dating back to Thomas Holt.

3. **26th April 1879** - The National Park south of the Hacking River was dedicated as a reserve. It was the first truly national park in the world. (Yosemite, in the USA was proclaimed earlier as a Wilderness Area though it lays claim to being the first National Park.) Originally 18,000 acres were reserved and this was increased to 36,300 acres on 3rd August 1880. It was developed as the 'lungs of the city' and as rail transport arrived a few years later it became an extremely popular destination for recreation and as a training ground by the military. The early trustees fashioned the landscape along English grounds, damming the Hacking River and introducing exotic flora and fauna. Though it didn't greatly increase a flow of permanent population south, it stemmed a later potential urban sprawl and established a clear natural boundary to the south. Bounded by natural features, the Sutherland Shire was synonymous with waterways, surf and natural bushland. Following the Queen's visit in February 1954, the title 'Royal' was added.

4. **26th December 1885 -** The Illawarra railway reached Sutherland, a township that was laid out in 1882. While the line was planned to access the Illawarra coal fields its passage through the area began to open it up for recreation, farming and settlement. Stations were built at Como where a very popular pleasure ground was established, at Heathcote and at Waterfall.

5. **5th December 1906** - The Sutherland Shire Council met for the first time after elections occurred on 24th November. Prior to this a temporary provisional council had been set up to prepare the groundwork for the formation of the first official Council. William Judd was elected as the Shire President. The new council inherited kilometres of unmade roads and little infrastructure. The Council seal including the Captain Cook figure was chosen at a meeting on 14th January 1907, recognising the areas link to the development of Australia.

6. **26th June 1911** - The tramway between Sutherland and Cronulla was officially opened. The first sod was turned on 12th February 1910 and an unofficial first trip occurred on the 1st June 1911. The tramline followed the Kingsway down to Cronulla, following Curranulla Street, the main thoroughfare and on to Shelly Park. A celebratory arch was erected on the intersection of Curranulla Street and Yowie Avenue (Surf Road). A gala dinner was held at the surf club. The passenger service operated until 1931 when motor buses took over. The opening of the single train line between Sutherland and Cronulla on 16th December 1939 further improved access through the Sutherland Shire and was responsible for the development of the six suburbs; Kirrawee, Gymea, Miranda, Caringbah, Woolooware and Cronulla along the route. Shire President Joe Monro was largely responsible for promoting this piece of infrastructure. The park opposite Cronulla Station, formerly the site of Cronulla Public School, was named Monro Park.

7. **11th May 1929** - Tom Uglys Bridge (initially called the Georges River Bridge) was officially opened by the Governor Sir Dudley de Chair. It had been unofficially opened on 26th April and the punt, which had been in operation since 1860, stopped operating. Long delays were experienced when the punt was operating. Bridge tolls started to be collected from 27th April and continued until May 1951. When the

Opening of Georges River Bridge [SSL]

toll ceased, the fare was six pence for cars, three pence for pedestrians and one penny for a bicycle or a sheep. Being part of National Highway 1, the bridge greatly improved movement within and through the Sutherland Shire.

8. **16th March 1964** - The large shopping mall called Miranda Fair opened. It was built on the abandoned Fowler brick pit. Westfield Development Corporation purchased Miranda Fair in 1969 for $10 million and doubled it in size with a renovation completed in 1971. Another renovation was completed in 1984 and in 1992 it expanded to the other side of Kiora Road. Another major redevelopment was commenced in 2013. It has provided substantial employment opportunities. Centrally located and developed at a time when many of the Shire's suburbs were growing it tended to dwarf and hinder the development of some local strip centres. Retailing has experienced significant impacts. Bulk retail outlets, on-line shopping, the demise of large department stores and the rise of entertainment and food within the retail mix has altered the ways that consumers shop. Nearly 60 years after it was taken over by Westfields it is still affectionately referred to as 'Miranda Fair' by many Shire residents.

9. **11th January 1965** - The Wanda Beach murders in the remote sand hills north of Wanda Beach shocked the complacent local population and the nation. For a generation, just beginning to experience an explosion of youth culture, it ended an 'age of innocence' and placed Cronulla on the map for the wrong reasons. Marianne Schmidt and her friend Christine Sharrock, 15- year-old girls visiting from West Ryde were raped and murdered and their bodies left in a shallow grave in the sand hills. It sparked one of the largest police investigations in Australian history. To date the case remains unsolved.

Marianne Schmidt and Christine Sharrock [Courtesy: mamamia.com.au]

10. **11th December 2005** - The Cronulla Riots occurred. Simmering racial tensions on Cronulla beaches over time and issues being stoked in the wider community by the media and one radio broadcaster, led to a large crowd gathering in Cronulla. Late in the day, heat and alcohol fed into displays of unruly, offensive and racist behaviour by elements in the crowd. That night, convoys of cars descended on the Shire to vent anger at the alleged insults and violence from the crowd. The incident was widely reported.

Many local residents felt let down by the way they were tarnished by a social stigma from commentators. Some thought that the focus on Cronulla and the Shire excused the rest of Sydney and the nation from examining their own attitudes and from taking ownership of an issue that was symptomatic of attitudes being canvassed across a much broader swathe of society at the time. For several years Cronulla was affected by fewer visitors who would fear retaliation or discrimination.

SUTHERLAND: MAURITIAN ORIGINS AND CONNECTIONS[1]

EDWARD DUYKER

Australia's historical links with Mauritius go back some four centuries; the Indian Ocean island was used as a base by a succession of Dutch and French explorers of the Australian coast. Several Mauritian-born individuals even reached Tasmania in 1772 with Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne's expedition.[2] There were also Mauritians aboard the expeditions of Nicolas Baudin and Louis de Freycinet. The first Mauritian trading expedition to Sydney took place in 1802, during the Peace of Amiens. After the British captured the island from the French in 1810, some 200 convicts (many former slaves) were transported from Mauritius to Australia. The Catholic Church in Australia was officially administered from Mauritius between 1820 and 1834. Hundreds of Mauritians came to Australia during the Gold Rush, receiving advance reports of gold discoveries before prospective diggers in Europe and America. Numerous Mauritian sugar chemists and growers also helped to develop Australia's sugar industry in the nineteenth century. There were even Mauritian-born ANZACs during the First World War and three were fatally wounded at Gallipoli.[3] The biggest influx of Mauritians came in the 1960s, with a relaxation of the White Australia policy.[4]

Although the number of Mauritians has always been small in the Sutherland Shire, there are some interesting historical associations. Mick Derrey, who joined the Sutherland Shire Historical Society in 1977 and contributed many articles to its bulletin, came from a Mauritian family that settled in Gymea in 1894. His original family name was de Clozet d'Errey. Perhaps less well known are the Mauritian origins of Sutherland's very first church: The Evangelical Jubilee Church. Bernard Sargeant, in his fascinating article 'New Light on an Old Church', *SSHSQB*, vol. 2, no. 14, May 1996, pp. 332–7; provides a tantalizing quotation from the *68th Annual report of the Secretary of the Sutherland Congregational Church*, 1955:

> '. . . with the residential influx of new settlers came one Mr. Anderson, a native of Mauritius. This man conducted what we believe to be the first religious services and it was out of these gatherings that a Church was established and named Evangelical Jubilee Church.'

But who was this mysterious Mr. Anderson? He was, in fact, the Reverend William John Anderson, born in Mauritius on 22 May 1842. His wife, Mary Anne Joséphine Paddle (1844–1889), was also born in Mauritius. They married in Port Louis on 27 October 1870.[5] Although Anderson was of Scottish descent and grew up in what was then a British colony, he was sometimes mistaken for a Frenchman because of his Mauritian accent and because he was a fluent French speaker. His wife Mary had an English father, but her maternal Catholic-francophone ancestors were long-resident on the island.[6]

The Andersons arrived in Sydney, from Mauritius, on the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Caledonien* on 24 April 1884.[7] They were residing in View Street, Annandale, when their infant son Julius Henry died in July 1886. The Reverend Anderson had by this time established the 'Franco-Australian Mission', hoping to evangelise the Sydney Francophone community and visiting sailors. Although supported by fundraising concerts and lectures, the overtly Protestant 'Mission' struggled to attract the largely Catholic francophone community to ostensibly non-

denominational French-language services held weekly in venues such as the Mariner's Church, Temperance Hall and Oddfellows' Hall, and open-air twice monthly in the Sydney Domain. Anderson also failed to establish his intended 'French reading-room for all classes, with a small coffee restaurant attached to it'.[8]

However, on 20 August 1887, he did begin construction of his 'Evangelical Jubilee Church' on the corner of Oxford and Robertson Street, Sutherland, under the auspices of his Franco-Australian Mission. It took its 'Jubilee' name from the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign. Anderson had invited Sir Henry Parkes to attend two of his previous
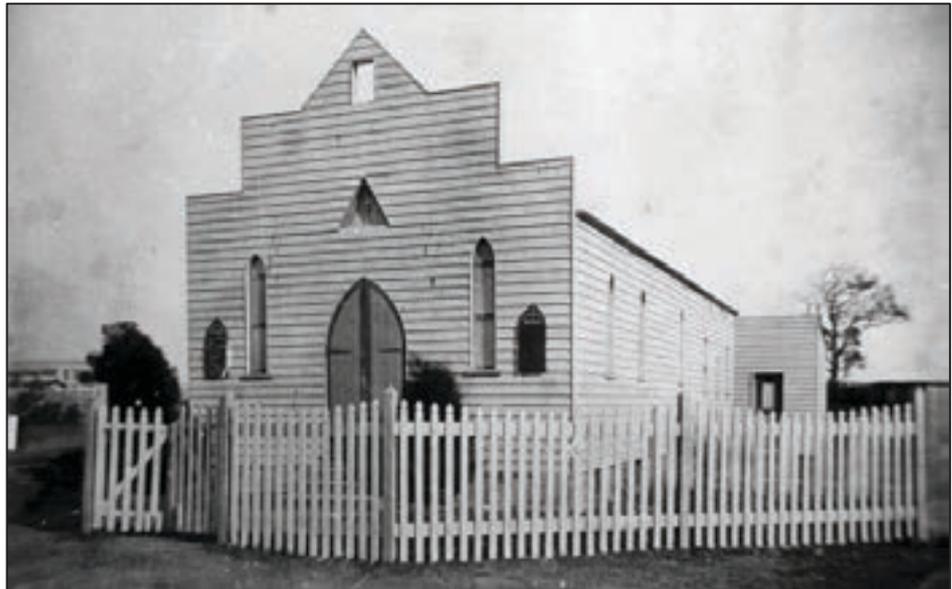
Evangelical Jubilee Church, Sutherland's first church [Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Library]

events, but the premier sent his apologies. This did not stop him mentioning Parkes' name when seeking publicity in the press. For the laying of the foundation of his Sutherland church, Anderson repeatedly invited Mrs. Eleanor Riley, the wife of Sydney's Mayor Alban Joseph Riley (1844–1914) and Mrs. Harriet Fairfax *née* Kinloch, wife of Rear-Admiral Henry Fairfax (1837–1900), the recently-arrived commander of the Royal Navy's Australian station. Neither made an appearance, but Anderson went ahead with Mr. William Neill, Manager, City Bank, performing the honours. The *Daily Telegraph* reported the event three days later. Its account offers additional information to the article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and quoted by Bernard Sargeant. Ultimately, it offers a precious snapshot of Sutherland one and a quarter centuries ago and it too deserves to be quoted at length:

'On Saturday afternoon the little village of Sutherland, on the Illawarra line, was quite en fete — all the inhabitants being dressed in their best — on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Evangelical Jubilee Church in connection with the Franco-Australian Mission. A number of visitors journeyed up from Sydney and were met on arrival by all the children of the place drawn up in order and holding flags, which . . . together with the prettily-decorated station, gave the scene quite an air of festivity. The children then formed a procession, and, together with the visitors, marched to the site of the church which was also well decorated with flags, wild flowers and mottos. Some of the principal visitors then arranged themselves on the platform, including Mr. W. Neill, manager of the City Bank: Dr. and Mrs. Eichier,[9] Mr. C. E. Ardill,[10] Rev. W. Dill Mackay, Mr. K. Freeland, Rev. W. F. [sic] Anderson, pastor of the Franco-Australian Mission, among others representing the various Christian denominations. The church is not to be a very pretentious building, as the present population will not warrant the erection of a very costly edifice, but it will be built with a view to the comfort of the congregation. It will

be about 49 x 20 ft in size and is on freehold ground. Attached to the church will be a residence for the pastor, which will be built in the same degree of style as the church. The building of the church will cost between £250 and £800 . . . Mr W[illia]m. Powe is the builder. Rev. W. F. [sic] Anderson in opening the proceedings, said that the Sutherland people had the honour of erecting the first Evangelical Church in New South Wales in this Jubilee year, and he was pleased to see many of those people present at the introductory ceremony. As they knew, the Mayoress and Mrs. Admiral [Henry] Fairfax were to have been present last Saturday to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone, but on account of the wet Mrs. [Harriet] Fairfax was unable to come out, and the Mayoress was too unwell to leave the house, hence it was postponed till this Saturday, he had now received a letter from Mrs. [Eleanor Harriet] Riley, stating that she had made arrangements to attend another engagement to-day, and so would be unable to attend; and also an apology from Mrs. Fairfax, enclosing her contribution to the offerings on the stone. Therefore, he would call upon Mr. Neill, manager of the City Bank, and who was one of the Sydney consuls to perform the needful ceremony; and when he had done so, he (Mr. Anderson) would be pleased to receive their freewill offerings on the stone. After a hymn had been sung and prayer offered up by the Rev. W. Dill Mackay, the Rev. W. F. Anderson read a portion of God's Word, and then said he would speak for a short time on the words that were to be found in the 35th verse of the 9th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, 'And there came a voice from out of the clouds saying, This is my beloved Son, hear ye him.' He said that no one had sent him out to Sutherland to preach, but when he heard that there was no church on that line past Hurstville, he laid the matter before the Lord with the remit that he was encouraged to proceed there on his mission he had been, up to the present time, holding services at the railway station Sunday after Sunday, but he hoped that by November they would he worshipping in the church. Though they had only been worshipping there a few Sundays, he thought that a number of people had already secured the crown of life. There they would not meet with any special sect, but their services would be purely Evangelical. On the platform now there were representatives of the good old Scotch Church – of which denomination many of them would remember Dr. [John Dunmore] Lang . . . as a good old representative — the Baptist, Wesleyan, Congregational, Church of England among others, and their services in the new church would be such that members of all these [sects?] could attend, where they could hear the Good Word without the distinction of denominations. Yea, all ye, hear ye Him, and he will guide all your words and actions.

Foundation Stone [E. Duyker]

He then called upon Mr. Neill to perform the ceremony for which they had met and presented him with a mallet and trowel suitably Mr. Neill said he was greatly flattered by the honor that had been placed upon him, but he would much rather have had the Mayoress lay the stone, as he was sure that she would have done it a great deal better than him, as it was the first time he had ever been called upon to take part in such a ceremony.

However, as Mrs. Riley was absent he supposed he must do what was required of him. He was glad to see so many people present, and especially so many children, as it was upon them that the working of churches would fail in future. He was pleased that Mr. Anderson had been guided to come to this place, as he was sure that he would do a great deal of good in his work. This place of worship would be quite apart from any denomination or sect, and would be simply for the spread of the truth, and he sincerely hoped that it would result in many people of the district receiving the truth. He then proceeded to perform the duty which had been placed upon him. A metal box containing a copy of the English Bible, a copy of the French Bible, one Franco-Australian Mission 'Manuel [de] Cantiques', one Sankey's hymn book, copies of *The Daily Telegraph*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Evening News*, *The Australian Christian World*, the Bethel *Gem of the Sea*, the *Redfern Suburban Times*, and a document giving particulars of the church, signed by most of the ladies and gentlemen present, was then deposited in a cavity underneath the stone. Mr. Neill then proceeded with his part of the ceremony, declaring the stone well and truly laid in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A sum of £17 18s. was then laid on the stone as a contribution. The proceedings then terminated with the singing of a hymn and the benediction.'[11]

The Evangelical Jubilee Church was the first church of any denomination to be commenced in Sutherland. Alas, despite its foundation stone being laid by a bank manager, it soon ran out of funds. In May 1888, ownership of the unfinished building was transferred to the Congregational Church, which completed construction. It no longer stands. In 1904, it was relocated to where the present Civic Arcade stands on Old Princes Highway: dragged into place by horses and, in the process, blocking the narrow railway bridge for two days. In 1925, it was relocated once again by the Congregationalists to serve as a hall alongside their new brick church on what is now the corner of Belmont and Acton Streets. An attempt was also made to move the metal box (containing the English and French Bibles, hymnals and newspapers) from under the foundation stone, but it was found to have 'collapsed' and its contents 'powdered when handled'.   In 1951, the hall (the original church Reverend Anderson commenced) was demolished to make way for the War Memorial Hall and Youth Centre. The Congregationalists in Sutherland joined the Uniting Church in 1977 and now worship in Merton Street.[12]

After the failure of his Sutherland venture, the Reverend Anderson and his Franco-Australian Mission moved to Gladstone Road, Kogarah. While there, on 18 July 1888, Mrs. Anderson gave birth to another child, Cecile Hersilla Anderson. The infant was christened by her father at a service in the Oddfellows' Hall, Sydney, on 7 October.[13] On 29 December 1888, despite its setbacks, the Mission held a concert at the Sans Souci pavilion on the Georges River to celebrate its second anniversary. Proceedings were conducted in English, but several pieces of French music were performed during the program.[14] Less than a year later, on 11 November 1889, Mrs. Anderson died while her family was residing in Hurstville.[15] She was buried in Rookwood Cemetery (Independent Old Ground, Plot 26, Grave 2867).   Her death must have been a terrible blow for the Reverend Anderson. Widowed, he moved his large family to Hobart, Tasmania. There, on 24 October 1892, he married his late wife's younger sister: Georgine Marie Augusta Paddle[16] (baptized Saint James Cathedral, Port Louis, 15 October 1848).   They eventually returned to Sydney. Anderson served as a Congregationalist minister and died in Auburn, NSW, on 28 September 1917. His second wife died in Auburn on 4 May 1924.[17] One of Anderson's Mauritian-born sons, Armidale Charles Anderson (1877–1954), served as an officer in the Australian Army in Egypt, France and Belgium during the First World War.[18]

It is estimated that there are some 25,000 Mauritian-born individuals in Australia today (and many more of Mauritian descent). And in the Sutherland Shire? In 2016, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there were 60 Mauritians in the state electorate of Miranda, 56 in the electorate of Heathcote and 39 in the electorate of Cronulla. They are individuals who have made diverse contributions to the Shire. For example, between 1995 and 2002, the Principal of Kareela Public School was Mauritian-born John Esther. The school's 'John Esther Award for Outstanding Achievement in Technology' is named in his honour. Pierre Comarmond who executed prominent murals in Kirrawee and Gymea (between 1996 and 2004) is an artist from a local Mauritian family.[19] Mauritian-born Peggy Lassaunière was the founding president of the Francophone Association of Southern Sydney, established in Caringbah in 2009 (from an informal group that came together two years earlier).[20] Its members hold regular French film nights at Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery and played a significant role in establishing regular French-language classes at Taren Point Public School. No specific Mauritian cultural organization presently exists in the Sutherland Shire, but the only consulate that the Shire has ever hosted was the Consulate of the Republic of Mauritius, in Sylvania, between 1996 and 2002.[21]

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Notes

[1] The author is grateful to Local Studies Librarian, Helen McDonald, for her assistance.

[2] René Marie Houbert & Joseph Gassin; see Duyker, E., *An Officer of the Blue: Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne 1724—1772, South Sea Explorer,* Miegunyah/Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1994, p. 119.

[3] See Duyker, E., 'Bonnefin, Charles Adrien (1878–1915)', *Dictionnaire de Biographie Mauricienne,* no. 61, avril 2012, pp. 2333–4; Duyker, E., & Currien, P. M., 'La Nauze, Charles Andrew (1882–1915)', *DBM,* no. 58, décembre 2006, pp. 2032–5; Duyker, E., 'McGuire, Albert John Joseph George (1891–1915)', *DBM,* no. 63, avril 2014, pp. 2592–3; and Duyker, E., 'Slaweski, Joseph Jean France (1887–1965)', *DBM,* no. 64, Septembre 2015, pp. 2670–73; and 'Tostée, Georges Joseph (*c.*1891–1967)', *DBM,* no. 65, in press.

[4] For an overview, see Duyker, E., *Of the Star and the Key: Mauritius, Mauritians and Australia*, Australian Mauritian Research Group, Sylvania, 1988.

[5] Civil Status Office, Port Louis, Mauritius.

[6] Mrs Anderson's mother was Louise Antoinette Joséphine Bouloux (1817–1872). Her brother was Dr. James Paddle MD FRCS, Laureate of the Royal College, Port Louis, in 1873. Information on the Paddle family from Pauline McGregor Currien, Cheltenham, England.

[7] Shipping Arrivals, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Friday, 25 April 1884, p. 6.

[8] *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday, 29 November, p. 2; Monday, 20 December 1886, p. 7; Wednesday, 22 December 1886, p. 9; Monday, 25 April 1887, p. 7; Saturday, 14 May 1887, p. 11; Friday, 15 July 1887, p. 1; Saturday, 16 July 1887, p. 8; & Tuesday, 9 August 1887, p. 2; see also *Sands Directory*, 1886–1890.

[9] On 22 July 1904, Dr William Otto Eichier, of College Street, Sydney, was charged with manslaughter after a young woman named Sarah Jane 'Dolly' Wiffen died of peritonitis after a suspected abortion.

A jury acquitted him in October of the same year; see *Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday, 6 October 1904, p. 4.

[10] Almost certainly the evangelist and social worker George Edward Ardill (1857–1945); see his entry by Heather Radi in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1979, vol. 7, pp. 90–1.

[11] 'Evangelical Church at Sutherland' *Daily Telegraph*, Monday, 22 August 1887, p. 3.

[12] Sargeant, B., 'New Light on an Old Church', *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin*, vol. 2, no. 14, May 1996, pp. 332–7.

[13] *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday, Saturday, 6 October 1888, p. 3.

[14] 'Franco-Australian Mission Concert', *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday, 31 December 1888, p. 8.

[15] Funeral Notices, *Evening News* (Sydney), Tuesday 12 November 1889, p. 5.

[16] Anderson, [William] John & Paddle, Marie Georgine Augusta, Marriage Certificate, 24 October 1892, Tasmanian Archives, Hobart, RGD37/1/51 no. 449.

[17] *Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday, 29 September 1917, p. 11; & Tuesday, 6 May 1924, p. 8.

[18] National Archives of Australia, Canberra, WWI Service Record, Anderson A. C., B2455; see also my entry on Armidale Charles Anderson in the *Dictionnaire de Biographie mauricienne* (in press).

[19] See: 'Painter shares love of life', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, Tuesday, 2 November 2004, p. 15.

[20] Gallasch, R., 'Oui, French Flavour Comes to the Shire', *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, Tuesday, 3 November 2009, p. 17.

[21] The author was Hon. Consul between 1996 and 2002; see Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Consular List*, Canberra, 1997–2002.

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SSHS MUSEUM LIBRARY

The following newsletters by other historical societies have been received in the last three months. They are housed in the Daphne Salt Room at the Museum. You are welcome to browse through them when the Museum is open on Saturday mornings.

History, Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society, June 2018, No. 136

Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, June 2018, Vol. 104, Pt 1

Placenames Australia, June 2018, Newsletter of the Australian National Placenames Survey

Kogarah Historical Society Inc. *Newsletter,* July/August 2018, Vol. 10, No. 3

VALE FRED WILLIAMS

1926-2018

PAULINE CURBY

Editor's note: Fred Williams was a long time SSHS member, although he has not attended meetings for some time. His daughter, Leigh Wallbank, will take over her father's membership.

Fred Williams [photo: L. Wallbank]

Fred Williams spent a lifetime in Cronulla. He witnessed the dramatic changes that transformed what was called 'the village' in his childhood, to the bustling beachside suburb he observed as an elderly man. Fred was well known for his involvement in a wide range of community activities, as the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* outlined in its coverage of his passing on 20 June 2018. His highest profile role was as editor of Cronulla's independent newspaper *The Cronulla Observer*. He was also the owner of the Cronulla Printing Company.

I first met Fred Williams when I was researching the history of Cronulla Public School in 1990. Fred had attended the school in the 1930s when George Thomas was principal. By this time the school had moved from its original location in what is now Monro Park, opposite Cronulla railway station, to its present magnificent position on Burraneer Bay Road overlooking Gunnamatta Bay.

This was a time when minor offences at school were punished with a 'crack across the knuckles' and, for more serious transgressions, boys were caned. Fred recalled how even though a caning was occasionally meted out to him, 'it did me no harm'.

This resilience was demonstrated most powerfully when, after his father's death, he assumed control of the newspaper business. Fred was barely 17 at the time but managed the diverse roles involved in newspaper production with aplomb. I remember reading *The Observer* when I first came to live in Cronulla in 1978, a year before the newspaper closed. The printing business continued operating until 2004.

His long residence in Cronulla gave him a deep-rooted appreciation of the place and its development. In our conversations he not only gave me an understanding of Cronulla Public School in the 1930s but also the social milieu of the Depression years. As he explained there were three distinct classes in Cronulla when he was young. There were those with small businesses like his father, then the wealthy owners of weekenders on the waterfront and finally the poor who earned a precarious living as shell gritters and/or fishermen. The children of these families rarely wore shoes to school, even in the cold of winter.

I occasionally saw Fred over the years and spoke to him again in 2010 when Cronulla Public School was celebrating its centenary. Along with older former pupils such as Phyllis Farleigh and Bill Simpson, Fred was one of the 'golden oldies' featured in the school's centenary book.

Fred Williams will be remembered as a community-minded man and one of Cronulla's most respected citizens.

BEHIND THE NAME 'CYMBELINE'

GARRIOCK DUNCAN

At the SSHS February meeting Lt Colonel David Deasey gave a spirited and well researched presentation on the second Boer War (1899-1902). David's focus was on the Australian contribution to the war and Breaker Morant barely rated a mention.

One early Australian hero was Midshipman Cymbeline Alonso Eric Huddart, RN (1881-1899).[1] Cymbeline was the youngest of the five children of Melbourne couple, James and Lois Huddart. The family was well-off as the father was a partner in the Huddart-Parker Company, which operated a fleet of several vessels in Australian waters. The family had obviously strong emotional ties to the motherland and moved to England in 1885. As a 14-year-old cadet, Cymbeline entered the Royal Naval College Britannia, graduating in 1897. At the outbreak of war Cymbeline was a Midshipman on the cruiser, HMS *Doris.*

Midshipman Cymbeline Alonso Eric Huddart, RN [courtesy:www.navy.gov.au]

Initially, British land forces were hard pressed to stop the Boer advance and help was requested from the Royal Navy Squadron based at Simonstown. A force of 350 officers and men, entitled the Naval Brigade, was hastily assembled from the various ships comprising the Squadron essentially to provide artillery support. Cymbeline and several of his crew-mates from *HMS Doris* were members of this scratch force.

Cymbeline was killed during the Battle of Graspan on 25 November 1899. For his gallantry and selfless devotion to his duty, he was posthumously awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in 1901. In 1904, the *HMS Doris* Memorial was installed in Devonshire Park, Plymouth to commemorate the service of members of the crew. Cymbeline's name will be found on it.[2] In 1914, the CSC was merged with the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC).

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Cymbeline is a somewhat obscure name today and is probably most recognised as the title of one of Shakespeare's plays. However, the play is pure farce and its only link to the historical Cymbeline is the title.[3] These days, *Cymbeline* is unlikely to be used as a boy's name. Names do sometimes undergo gender transformation. A more common example is afforded by the name, *Paris*. Now very much a girl's name, the original Paris was very much a boy, the brother of Hector, the son of King Priam of Troy and the lover of Helen, wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon, King of Mycenae.

In origin, Cymbeline was very much a masculine name. Indeed, James and Lois Huddart must have been very familiar with British history. *Cymbeline* is but a variant of the originally Greek *Kynobellinos*, Latinised as Cunobel[l]inus. Cunobelinus succeeded his father, Tasciovanus, c. 10AD as King of the Catuvellauni. In time, under Cunobelinus, the Catuvellauni became the dominant tribe in southern Britain.[4]

In the aftermath of Julius Caesar's visits in 55 and 54BC southern Britain had become part of the Roman sphere of influence. During the next fifty years on numerous occasions, British kinglings appealed to Rome for support and recognition. In Roman minds, this activity was tantamount to formal submission to Rome. Consequently, southern Britain to an increasing degree became open to a process of soft Romanisation. Evidence for this process is afforded by the mass of archaeological evidence showing the import of Roman goods. Additionally, the kings of southern

Britain had adopted aspects of Roman political vocabulary by having coins minted with the legend in Latin and proudly calling themselves REX, Latin for King.

For some reason Cunobelinus decided to challenge the status quo and the Catuvellauni entered an expansionary phase. The reason for this is uncertain, but just prior to Cunobelinus' accession to the throne, Roman prestige had suffered two massive blows. In 6AD, there occurred the Pannonian Revolt. It was eventually suppressed by Roman arms under the command of Tiberius, the future emperor. The second shock was even greater. In 9AD, the army of P Quinctilius Varus was wiped out by Germanic tribes in the Battle of the Teutoberg Forest, the so-called *clades Variana*. This defeat led to the permanent abandonment by the Romans of the swathe of territory between the Elbe and Rhine rivers.

By the time of the Claudian invasion in 43AD, the Catuvellauni had expanded eastwards from their traditional lands round Verulamium, modern St. Albans, and had established a new tribal capital at Camulodunum, modern Colchester. This expansion both caused dynastic tensions and triggered alarm among neighbouring tribes, whose lands were the object of this expansion. The flight of Verica (in Greek, *Berikos*), King of the Atrebates, to Claudius, seeking restoration to his throne, was the excuse needed to cause the Roman assault on Britain in 43AD.

The Roman landing at Ritupiae, modern Richborough, was unopposed and the Romans quickly established a defended beachhead and set about moving inland. Cunobelinus had died before the Roman landing and resistance was led by his two sons, Togodumnus and Caratacus. Togodumnus was killed early in the campaign and Caratacus took control of the British war effort. Camulodunum was soon captured by the Romans, where a mass surrender of British kings (eleven in number) was staged in Claudius' presence. Caratacus fled west and became the figurehead of a guerilla campaign against the Romans. Roman successes forced him to keep moving to avoid capture. In 51AD Caratacus sought refuge with Cartimandua, pro-Roman Queen of the Brigantes. Cartimandua handed Caratacus over to the the Romans.[5]

In spite of Cunobelinus' ultimate failure, his fame passed into legend. His name in various forms was handed down through the generations in a variety of literary types.[6] The name finally took the form, *Cymbeline*. So, we have returned to our starting point. Cymbeline Alonso Eric Huddart.

<div align="center">*********************</div>

At the Battle of Graspan, the Naval Brigade fought as infantry and mounted a frontal assault on Boer positions. In the face of heavy Boer fire, the Brigade pressed the assault and, after a number of rushes, captured its assigned target. Cymbeline was hit twice but did not seek medical attention. He pressed on until hit a third time and mortally wounded. He died in hospital later in the day. Cymbeline was just 18 years of age.

Cunobelinus, I am sure, would have been proud to share his name with this early Australian hero. So, Cymbeline Huddart was a worthy recipient of a noble name.

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[1] See: www.navy.gov.au/biography/midshipman-cymbeline-alonso-eric-huddart/
[2] See: www.devonheritage.org/Places/Plymouth/TheBoerWar-theHMSDorisMemorial/
[3] See: www.nosweatshakespeare.com/play-summary/cymbeline/
[4] See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cunobeline/
[5] See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caratacus/
[6] See: www.genealogiesonline.ni/en/stamboom-homs/16000000000977095749.php/

YOWIE BAY BOATSHED

DAVID EDNEY

(Written as an 11-year-old in 1996 when David's best friend was living in the residence on the first floor of the boatshed.)

Yowie Bay Boatshed is a boatshed with a small residence above it at 1 Wonga Rd Yowie Bay. It is one of the oldest buildings in the Shire.

Yowie Bay Boatshed was originally owned by Fredrick Matson Jr, son of Fredrick Matson Snr, for whom it was built in either 1892 or 1894. Frederick Matson Snr was a Finnish sailor who jumped ship sometime in the 1880's. A small boat hire business was operated there by Fredrick Jnr and his wife Ethel. They operated 12 skiffs and records show that they charged four shillings (40c) per day during weekdays and five shillings (50c) during weekends. During those days many buildings were built on the waterfront as roads were poor and water transport was much more important than it presently is.

The business was actually very popular and the main reason was because the location was good for fishing. The business was eventually sold to a Sydney chemist in 1903. The Matsons moved to the head of Yowie Bay and then proceeded to build Matson Pleasure grounds, part of which has now become the EG Waterhouse Camellia gardens.

The site and surrounds in 1909 [source: unknown]

Since then parts of the upstairs section has been offices for the volunteer Coast Guard (during the 1970s) and at times offices for the boat hire company which was operating on the downstairs. The upstairs is now (1996) used as a residence and one room is a workshop for a boat upholstery business operated by the resident. During the 1960s it is rumoured that the first floor was the business location of a pair of prostitutes. Most of the upstairs area of the building

Yowie Bay Boathouse 1909, by Fred Matson, 1987 [SSHS]

has always been a normal residence. Presently the downstairs is occupied by a company called "Britton Marine" which runs the marina and sells and repairs boats.

Building Form

The building has not been changed much over the years and the structure is almost identical to when it was built. The main part of the building is rectangular in shape, has a hip roof and three of the four external walls are made of uncoursed random rubble. The other wall is made of painted Baltic pine. The roof is made of tin but has been replaced several times. However the original roof beams are still in the roof. The east and west sides have skillion roofed sections with weatherboard and fibro walls. There is a verandah which looks over the bay and is an original part of the building, has since then had the decking replaced (photo below left). A large amount of original interior timber wall panelling (photo below right) has been left, but most has been painted.
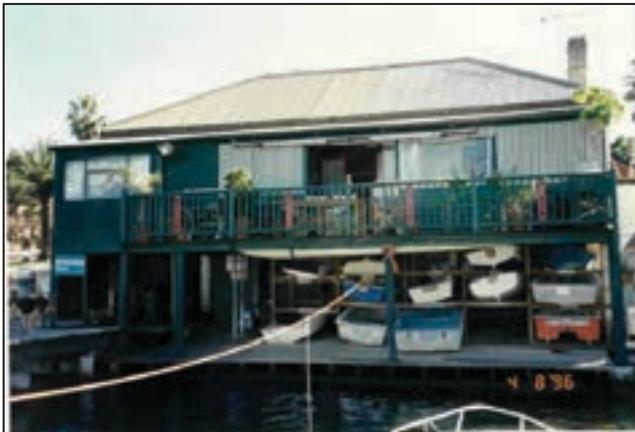
[Photos by David Edney]

The original fireplace is still in the building, but it has been relocated from the room where there is now a workshop to the room where the living room now is.

The room in which the fireplace was originally located still has the hole in the wall where the fireplace was removed from. The room in which the fireplace was originally located was probably once the living room but has now become the workroom of the boat upholstery business that the occupants of the upstairs area are running. The brick chimney still exists. There are several original double doors in the building.

Bibliography:
The Voice newspaper 15/1/1983 p. 10 article by Aileen Levy
Sutherland Shire council Building/ Property Register
Interviews with 1996 occupant (name withheld)
Gregory's Guide to Sydney Waterways

Yowie Bay, oil by Beatrice Drew, 1986 [loaned by Fay Ladavac for 'Painting the Shire' exhibition, May 2018]

Yowie Bay Wharf 1909, watercolour, by Fred Matson, 1987 [SSHS]

SUTHERLAND TO SURF
Photos by Paul Sargeant

1979 was the first year the Fun Run started at Flora Street, Sutherland

Behind Elouera SLSC towards the finish of the 1980 fun run