



NUMBER: 210 — FEBRUARY 2019



'Are you being served?', McDowell's Department Store, Caringbah, 1960s. (See story page 8.)
[Source: Gordon Stone]

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

EMAIL: shirehistory@gmail.com **SSHS WEBSITE:** www.shirehistory.org

FACEBOOK: Sutherland Shire Historical Society

Bruce Watt's 'Dharawal, the first contact people'

To be launched

at the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts on

Saturday, 27th April from 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Nibbles and drinks will be offered

ALL WELCOME



250 years ago the first encounter between British and Aboriginal people occurred at Botany Bay in 1770 – a move by the British to expand their empire, and for the Aboriginals the beginning of the decimation of their ancient culture.

Though no longer a fully functioning tribe by the 1840s, the first contact people's descendants continue to live in the community and keep traditions alive. This is an account of their journey from the Dreaming to the first encounter and through to today. It is our shared history. Knowing it and understanding it is a pathway to a better future.

Heritage Festival, 2019

**Open Day at the Sutherland Shire Museum
on Saturday, 13th April from 9.00am - 4.00pm**

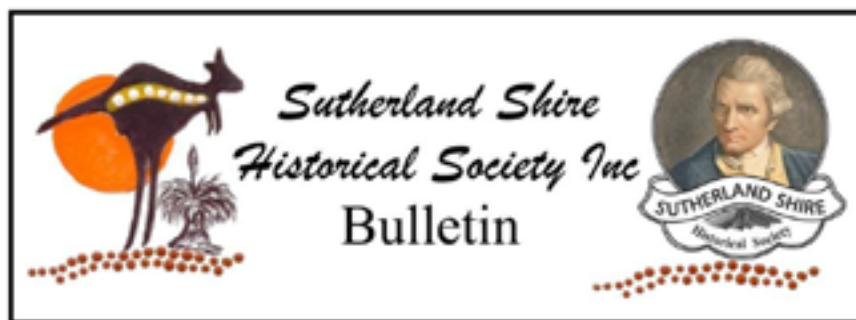
showcasing the Shire's unique history, including new exhibits of the Dharawal Aboriginal culture.

A display of historical photos at the Woronora Peace Park (sponsored by Olsen's Funerals)

And a Walking Tour of graves of local interest conducted by Peter Moore – a very popular event at last year's Heritage Festival



Funeral Train ran from Central Mortuary Station to Woronora Cemetery on a branch line until mid 1930s



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SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back more than 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. Any enquiries contact the Editor: Elizabeth Craig at elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com or phone 0416 234 272.

SSHS BULLETIN - ISSN: 1444-2930 (from February 2000)

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

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 Sutherland Memorial School of Arts, 23 East Parade Sutherland (on the western side of Sutherland Railway Station).

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: 2018-2019

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/PUBLIC OFFICER*	Don Rothnie	0409 820 815	bardon@bigpond.com.au
HONORARY TREASURER	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	creoaus@gmail.com
MUSEUM CURATOR	Ian Kolln	9528 3094	iankolln@yahoo.com.au
MUSEUM ARCHIVIST & RESEARCHER	Vacant (contact Carol McDonald)	9528 5122	jmcDonald@optusnet.com.au
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Vacant. Contact Promotions Committee members: Bruce Watt, Elizabeth Craig, Creo Hines, Don Rothnie		
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ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	c.hines@bigpond.net.au
GRANTS OFFICER	Don Rothnie	0409 820 815	bardon@bigpond.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Peter Moore	9523 5375	peter_mo@ihug.com.au
	Helen Rosner	8539 7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
	Carol McDonald	9528 5122	jmcDonald@optusnet.com.au
	Greg Jackson	9543 6224	greg.jackson100@gmail.com
	Joan Tangney*	9523 6774	jtangney@optusnet.com.au
	Angela Thomas		a.badger@optusnet.com.au

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol McDonald	9528 5122	jmcDonald@optusnet.com.au
BULLETIN PROOF READER	Merle Kavanagh	9521 1043	
MUSEUM COMMITTEE	Peter Moore, Bruce Watt, Carol McDonald, Ineke Niewland, John Doherty		
EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK	Vacant		
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Pauline Curby Elizabeth Craig Ian Stewart	9523-8814 0416 234 272	pcurby@iprimus.com.au elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com brucedale.124@bigpond.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			

* After many years of valuable service to SSHS, Angela Thomas has asked to stand down from the Secretary/Public Officer role, and Don Rothnie has kindly agreed to replace her until the next AGM when elections are held.

* Joan Tangney, unable to be at the last AGM and so not re-elected, expressed a wish to rejoin the committee. The committee have welcomed her back until the next elections are held in September.

SSHS CALENDAR: MARCH – MAY 2019
(See website: www.shirehistory.org for updates)

DATE		MEETING 1.30pm, 3 rd Saturday in month (except as noted in April) Stapleton Centre	MUSEUM 9.00am-1.00pm Saturdays (except as noted for Easter) Sutherland Mem. School of Arts 23 East Parade, Sutherland
MAR. 2019	Sat, 2 nd	Excursion – Sydney University, Darlington heritage + Nicholson Museum Catch 9.05am train from Sutherland to Redfern. (Details at meetings or on website.)	
	9 th		
	16 th	SSHS Meeting:	
	23 rd	Speaker: Anthony Gribble on Central Australian indigenous people.	
	30 th		
APRIL 2019	Wed. 3 rd	Excursion – Reserve Bank of Australia Museum, Martin Place Catch 9.34am train from Sutherland. (Details at meetings and on Website.) Contact Elizabeth Craig if interested – 0416 234 272	
	Sat. 6 th	SSHS MEETING: (1 st Sat because of Easter on 3 rd Sat) Speaker: Dr Lamorna Osborne to speak on beekeeping in the Shire	
	Sat. 13 th	HERITAGE FESTIVAL Museum open 9.00am – 4.00pm. Cemetery Tours conducted by Peter Moore. Meet at SSHS Tent at Woronora	
	Sat. 20 th	EASTER - MUSEUM CLOSED	
	Sat. 27 th	BOOK LAUNCH – at Sutherland Memorial School of Arts, 3.00 – 5.00 pm Bruce Watt will launch his book: <i>Dharawal – the first contact people</i> (see inside front cover for details)	
MAY 2019	Sat. 4 th		
	Sat. 11 th		
	Sat. 18 th	SSHS MEETING: Speaker: Bruce Watt to speak on his new book: <i>Dharawal – the first contact people</i>	
	Fri. 24 th	EXCURSION: Historic Meroogal House, Nowra. Possible visit. Car Pooling. Details at meetings. If interested contact Bruce Watt – 0405 493 187	

MUSEUM

Please refer to the roster located at the Museum and at meetings.

If you are unable to attend at your allocated time, please make private arrangements to swap your roster time

WEEKDAY OPENINGS

If you are interested in volunteering as a Museum guide from 9.30am to 4.00pm on a weekday once a month, contact Peter Moore on 9523 5375 or 0427 213 575

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE WATT



Welcome to a new year with new hopes and new challenges and to another great *Bulletin*. Our Society was established 53 years ago with the explicit support of the Sutherland Shire Council and enthusiastic citizens. Only one local history had been written (in 1924) and great change was sweeping away lifestyles, institutions and memories. Across Australia, many local history organisations and pioneer villages were established to preserve and record a past that was fast disappearing. Some, whose narrow vision was to assemble old objects and memorabilia, have faltered. Those who survive have found new ways of engaging with the public, in displaying collections and continuing to interpret and write new histories. This has been our challenge.

Australia Day has just passed and there has been much soul searching about what it means to be 'Australian'. Our country is changing rapidly and the old slogans and jingoistic clichés of an earlier mono-cultural Australia seem less relevant and the refuges of those unwilling or unable to foresee a new and emerging reality or indeed multiple realities. Tribal allegiances to sporting teams, religions and political parties are splintering. This creates less certainty and more tensions within society over differing viewpoints. Informed debate on who we are and where we want to be in the future is needed to create a more forward thinking and united 'civic nationalism'.

We share this vision and actively take part in this discussion. We have recently published local histories and taken part in activities that support Senior Citizen's Week, the Arts, Heritage Festival, heritage conservation, community talks and consultation on the nature of the 2020 celebrations at Kurnell, honouring the Cook expedition as well as the Aboriginal people who occupied the land.

Up until recently the society's museum displayed no tangible evidence of, or paid respect to our Aboriginal past. Our displays have now rectified this. Bruce Howell has written elsewhere of a recent purchase of an Aboriginal breastplate. These objects are a relic of our colonial past and an important educational tool. They tell a story little understood by many people.

I have been working for some time on writing a comprehensive book on Aboriginal culture and history. It is titled *Dharawal, the first contact people*. It details pre-contact Aboriginal culture and then the fateful eight days spent in Botany Bay by Captain James Cook and his crew. It then traces the impacts of contact with non-indigenous people from the Port Hacking and Illawarra districts using specific time periods up till the present time.

A working date for its launch is 27th April which is two days before Cook's arrival on 29th April 1770, 249 years ago. The venue is likely to be the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts. It is supported by 180 images and a comprehensive timeline. It is the first comprehensive account of the Dharawal people and adds significantly to the recognition by Sutherland Shire Council that this area is located on Dharawal country. It is a timely addition as the 250th anniversary approaches.

Our much vaunted 'Kiosk' or interactive device for displaying museum information to the public is now up and running thanks to the efforts of Creo Moore and Sara Powell. However, the future of our museum space is problematic. Refurbishment of the Sutherland Entertainment Centre is also conditional on refurbishment of the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts building. Whatever the outcome of this, the museum will need to close while extensive renovations are undertaken. It may be that an alternative venue for the museum be investigated. Any suggestions as to potential venues will be gratefully received. As the 'birthplace of modern Australia' it is imperative that the Shire maintains a vibrant and informative museum.

Please note: to work around Heritage Festival activities, our April meeting will be moved to 6th April – two weeks earlier than normal.

MUSEUM REPORT

PETER MOORE

I am again writing this report as our Curator Ian Kolln who has been unwell, and while he is on the road to recovery from a series of health issues, he is not yet his usual self. Also on the sick list is our great quiet achiever Pat Hannan, who has had a nasty fall and has been laid up for sometime. We all wish Pat a speedy and full recovery from her injuries, and look forward to her resuming her invaluable role as archivist for SSHS.

The arrival of our new brightly lit display cabinets showed up the need to brighten up two of the original glass cabinets with lighting as well. New lights were purchased and installed, and when these did not restore the lighting, we found that the transformers were unserviceable. Fortunately, replacements were found in a council clean-up. These were installed and now we have good lighting in all cabinets.

We must thank Mrs Ivy Flynn for the loan of the Anzac Commemorative Medal belonging to her Grandfather-in-Law. This medal created much interest in our Remembrance display held in Parc Menai to commemorate the end of the Great War.

Well, at long last the Touch Screen Kiosk has been brought on line. We all owe Sara Powell a great big thankyou as she downloaded a large amount of material from the internet and started to flesh out the headings. She was

also able, with some difficulty due to the expiration of the provider's agreement, to overcome a number of hiccups during the installation of her material. All now seems well and the Kiosk can be used during the Museum's opening times. Although the Kiosk is up and running there is much more information and photos to be installed. It is up to the members of the SSHS to forward material to Sara so that she can update the display. Please contact us by email at: shirehistory@gmail.com, or phone Creo Moore on 0425 226 405.

There has been no new information from the SSC as to our position relative to the upgrading of the Memorial School of Arts. Although other venues for our Museum have been suggested all have so far been deemed unsuitable or unavailable.

Finally, the types of high-resolution scanners for the office have been decided and will soon be purchased. I would like to thank Carol McDonald for taking over the running of the research office whilst Pat Hannan is indisposed. Also, I must thank all those who have come along and acted as museum guides during our open times. If anyone else is interested – especially for weekday openings (see below) please let me know on peter_mo@ihug.com.au and we will place your name on the roster, as well as provide training to help you guide visitors.

Are you able to volunteer as a Museum guide for weekday openings?

We would like to open up the Museum two days a week to make our collection of Shire history accessible to more people.

If you can commit yourself to one day a month – say a Tuesday or a Thursday - between 9.30am and 3.00pm, please let Peter Moore know on 9523 5375, 0427 213 575 or email us at shirehistory@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

SSHS *Bulletin* at a crossroad

As you know from the covering letter/email to this *Bulletin* SSHS is being dragged into the digital world, and we can no longer take for granted that our quarterly magazine will be available on paper. This is a plight shared by historical societies and other organisations everywhere. However, we realise that some of our members do not have an email address or even a computer, and we will find a way of funding the cost of printing the *Bulletin* (previously done for us gratis by Sutherland Shire Council) for those people.

Correction

Thank you to eagle eye, Ian Stewart for noting an incorrect caption on a photo of Sir James Rowland, 1980s Governor of NSW in the tribute to the late Kevin Skinner, former Shire President (*SSHS Bulletin* Nov. 2018, pp. 27-32). The photo on p.32 was incorrectly

captioned Sir Roden Cutler (who preceded Sir James Rowland as Governor of NSW).

Thankyou to contributors to this *Bulletin*

We have an eclectic range of local history articles within the covers of this issue: some solid research articles, enlightening us on what makes the Shire unique. How our classical heritage is reflected in our street names, architecture and in our natural history (page 23), our oyster industry (page 31), a continuation of the story from the last *Bulletin* about the Bowie family and their link to Cronulla's first picture show, plus an intriguing story of an Aboriginal breastplate labelled Tommy, 'King of the Woronora' recently acquired by our Museum, and memories of a bygone culture of service and entertainment at McDowell's Department Store at Caringbah, as told in an oral history with McDowell staff members Gordon and Lorraine Stone.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

Stored in the Daphne Salt Room at the Museum

Available for perusal on Saturday mornings during Museum opening

Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Vol. 104, Pt 2, Dec. 2018

HISTORY, Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society, No. 138, Dec. 2018

OUR HISTORY, Magazine of the St George Historical Society Inc., Oct.-Dec. 2018

THE ENDEAVOUR, Botany Bay Family History Society Inc., No. 137, Dec. 2018

TROLLEY WIRE, No. 353, Nov. 2018

DESCENT, Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Vol. 40, Pt 4, Dec. 2018

Kogarah Historical Society Inc. Newsletter, Jan/Feb 2019

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

McDowells Department Store, Caringbah, 1961-1972

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Those of us who were around in the 1960s will remember that shopping was a very different experience to the impersonal self-service or online shopping of today. Prior to the 1970s department stores such as David Jones, Mark Foy's, Anthony Hordern's, Grace Bros, Marcus Clarke and McDowells, were all based in the city. They offered personal service, as well as entertainment, a cafeteria, occasionally an art gallery and some stores organized children's birthday parties. Since about the 1920s Sydneysiders had bought their meat and groceries locally, but went to town to visit department stores for the rest of their shopping needs. It was seen as a day out, and people dressed up for the occasion, with women donning hats, gloves and stockings.¹

Then in the late 1950s as industry decentralized and people moved further out into the suburbs, pre-planned suburban shopping malls began to appear, usually comprising a supermarket, specialty shops and a department store, 'glittering with white formica, mirrors and tiles ... piped music, air-conditioning, "driverless" lifts and electric hand driers in the washrooms.'² Goods and service that people once went to the city for could now be bought locally.

McDowells comes to Caringbah

McDowells Department Store was one of the first to open stores outside of the city - in Hornsby, Dee Why and in Caringbah. The Caringbah store, a five-storey building erected on the site of Burns Timber Yard on the corner of Kingsway and President Avenue, was opened in 1961 by Brian McDowell, the third generation of McDowells in the business. Brian's father, Frank had joined his



McDowells Department Store, Caringbah
[source: extract from SSL photo collection]

father, John McDowell's drapery business (McDowell & Hughes) in 1904, and in 1920 the business became McDowells Limited, dominating the corner of King and George Street, Sydney. By 1971 the store was sold and demolished to make way for the King George Tower.³

McDowells joined other fashion shops in Caringbah – Yvonne Deleedes boutique which 'brought Europe to Caringbah', and elite menswear shops, Kenrays and Brett Parker. McDowells soon became the centrepiece of Caringbah's fashion precinct. It was 'bright, modern and spacious', and the first department store in Sydney to have a talking lift.⁴

It was the vision and energy of Gordon and Lorraine Stone that made McDowells, Caringbah such a success. The Stones shared their memories in an oral history interview conducted in 2010 for Sutherland Library.⁵

In 1961 Gordon Stone was working in McDowells' city store when he was appointed to assist Brian McDowell (a Cronulla resident) to set up the Caringbah store. Gordon, a musician and artist, had previously worked as a ladies and children's footwear buyer in Sydney and in North American department stores, where he was also trained in display.



Lorraine and Gordon Stone, August 2010 [Photo: E. Craig]

A culture of service

Department stores in those days epitomised the British TV show, 'Are you being served?' recalls Gordon. 'Everyone had their haughty Mrs Slocum with the bustle at the back, and Captain Peacock with the carnation.'⁶ At McDowells the motto was: 'McDowells will serve you best because we care'. Sales staff needed to be expert in their sales area – whether it be fashion, carpet, wool, footwear or gloves – either from experience elsewhere or they were trained inhouse. 'For instance, if you sold dress materials, you had to know how to make a dress,' explains Gordon.⁷

At Caringbah Gordon and Brian McDowell interviewed the local staff and the successful ones were then indoctrinated in McDowells' policy of service to customers – the customer was always right, 'and if you seriously argued with a customer,' recalls Gordon, 'you were dismissed.'⁸

The making of McDowells, Caringbah

While McDowells' city store was a 'lovely homely store', Gordon says it wasn't exciting. But with his background in entertainment and theatre, and the support of Brian McDowell, Gordon introduced excitement to the Caringbah store. Three or four fashion parades a day were held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. They were often elaborate and theatrical, with Gordon using his training as a props manager to make the displays inhouse. Trees were made from paper mache, and in winter, when snow was needed for the parades they used nylon filings, with models arriving down the 'ski slope' on a toboggan.

McDowells models prepare to 'toboggan' down the ski slope of nylon filings, Caringbah 1960s [Source: G. & L. Stone]



Gordon also introduced theatrical promotions. For the Victa Lawnmowers promotion, people were invited to bring the longest piece of paspalum they could find. The winner (with a piece of paspalum 11'6" long) won a Victa.⁹ He also organized charity parades for Sutherland Hospital and St Andrews Anglican Church (the Elephant Church) in Cronulla.

There was always something on

People never knew what to expect at McDowells. The NSW Governor, Lt General Sir Eric Woodward came to open their art exhibitions, and once they built a Dodge City in store, complete with dirt floor, saloon bars and a stagecoach which kids could ride in.



Lorraine Stone (foreground) takes kids for a ride on a stagecoach down the Kingsway
[Source: G. & L. Stone]

There were some hiccups. They had a live snake show once and the python escaped overnight. They couldn't open the store next day until it was found. 'It was in the bedding department,' recalled Gordon.¹⁰

Er Do you sing or dance?

Sales staff were often employed for talents they might have in entertainment – modelling, music, dancing, etc. They would then be trained for McDowells' parades. In late 1963, Gordon employed Miranda girl, Lorraine Quinlin as a sales girl in the cosmetics department. Lorraine was a singer and model, and had performed with Miranda Musical Society, often as a soloist. She had also trained in ballroom dancing under Mavis and Bill Mussett at the Miranda School of Arts. Besides her job selling cosmetics, Lorraine became a house model, and Gordon trained her to compere the fashion parades.

When her time to dress for a fashion parade approached, Lorraine had to leave her department and get ready, do the parade for half an hour and then return to her department, perhaps to do the dusting. 'You would go from Cinderella to princess and back to Cinderella again,' she laughs. 'That's what made the job exciting.'¹¹

Account clients

Account clients were special customers who paid their bills once a month. They came to McDowells to be dressed for a special occasion, and sometimes spent the day there. 'Mrs So-and-So would arrive at the store at 9.30 for the ladies to dress and help her with her shoes,' explains Lorraine. 'These ladies drank morning tea in the mezzanine level coffee lounge and then shopped at McDowells all day, not leaving until 5.30.'¹²

In a performance of *My Fair Lady* put on for account clients, Lorraine played Eliza Doolittle in costumes obtained from Warner Bros' Ascot Day set. And during the 1960's Beatlemania, four guitar-playing male staff performed as Blueberry Beatles for a fashion show featuring mulberry and wine colours.

McDowells Christmas show was memorable. Santa arrived in a helicopter. 'We had a giant procession with St Patrick School's band and big floats,' says Gordon. As Santa went inside, the kids flooded in and he and Lorraine put on 'Breakfast with Santa' in the coffee lounge. Gordon played the trumpet and Lorraine sang Christmas carols. There was no charge.

Demise of McDowells

The advent of suburban shopping malls (like Miranda Fair in 1964) were taking their toll on department stores, and in 1971, after a bidding war for McDowells, shareholders accepted a takeover bid by Waltons. Waltons took over the Caringbah store in 1972. 'It was heartwrenching', recalls Gordon. 'Our store was successful and not ready to be taken over.'¹³ Waltons had a different merchandising policy, more aligned to whitegoods, and they employed door-to-door salesmen. They were not interested in fashion or in the kind of old-fashioned genteel service McDowells offered. Waltons lasted until the late 1980s when the building was sold and split up into office spaces.

The fate of McDowells was mirrored throughout the department store sector. Mark Foys, Marcus Clarke, Anthony Horderns, Farmers and even Waltons have gone, and Sydney's oldest Department Store, David Jones (founded in 1838) is faltering, as is Grace Brothers. With the advent of cheaper self-service retail outlets and the growing popularity of buying on the net, the retail environment has changed. The era of department stores' culture of service and entertainment has gone.¹⁴

Frank McDowell was knighted in 1967, and died in 1980. 'He lived in a lovely old home in Ewos Parade near Oak Park in Cronulla and was a staunch support of the Caringbah branch,' recalls Gordon Stone. 'He was the last of the large department store icons.'¹⁵

A Whirlwind Romance



Mr & Mrs Stone sign the wedding register.
[Source: G. & L. Stone]

After a short closet courtship – fraternisation was frowned upon by McDowell's more conservative staff - Gordon Stone and Lorraine Quinlin were married at Miranda Methodist church on 24th October 1964. Brian McDowell officiated as MC during the wedding breakfast. The Stones have now been married for 54 years. 'And they said it wouldn't work,' smiles Lorraine.¹⁶

They settled in Caringbah, and in 1965 Lorraine left McDowell's to have the first of their two sons. For ten years the Stone family held theatrical performances on their front lawn on Christmas Eve for the neighbourhood children. They would close off the street and put on 'Razza the Clown and Princess Rainbow' show, with Razza (Gordon) appearing covered in fireworks while juggling and Princess Rainbow (Lorraine) singing Christmas carols. Neighbours acted as ushers. (See photo inside back cover.) For several years Apex brought a busload of children from the Red Cross home in Cronulla to see the show. Gordon recalls one little boy who wanted to give Lorraine a big kiss because he had nothing else to give her. 'It brought tears to her eyes,' he remembers. 'Then the rest of the kids

kissed her too.'

¹ 'City Department Stores – Gone and Mostly Forgotten', by George Repin, *Pittwater Online News*, Oct 30- Nov 5, 2011: Issue 30

² Repin, 'City Department Stores'

³ 'McDowell, Sir Frank Schofield (1889-1980)', by Beverley Kingston, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol.15 (MUP), 2000; <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/sydneys-home-furnishing-stores-1890-1960/mcdowells> (accessed 12.01.2019)

⁴ Pauline Curby, *Sutherland Shire Pictorial History*, Kingclear Books, 2004, p.123

⁵ Oral History interview with Gordon and Lorraine Stone by Elizabeth Craig, 27 August 2010, Sutherland Shire Library, Local Studies Archive. This recording, along with more than 150 other oral histories of Shire residents, can be accessed by contacting Helen McDonald, Local Studies Librarian. Except where otherwise indicated, all information came from this oral history interview.

⁶ Oral History Interview with Stones, Track 3

⁷ Oral History, Track 3

⁸ Oral History, Track 3

⁹ Oral History, Track 4

¹⁰ Oral History, Track 3

¹¹ Oral History, Track 3

¹² Oral History, Track 3

¹³ Oral History, Track 7; <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/sydneys-home-furnishing-stores-1890-1960/mcdowells> (accessed 12.01.2019)

¹⁴ Repin, 'City Department Stores'

¹⁵ Gordon Stone, Caringbah, 6.2.2019

¹⁶ Lorraine Stone, Caringbah, 6.2.2019

AN ABORIGINAL KING PLATE A NEW ACQUISITION FOR THE SSHS MUSEUM

BRUCE HOWELL

The Society recently purchased at auction a brass breastplate, also referred to as a *King Plate*, believed to have been worn by an Aboriginal man, although exactly when is not known. During the period from 1815 to as late as 1946, and all across Australia, *King Plates* were presented to the person deemed to hold seniority within a given group of Aboriginal people. The aim was to provide recognition of that person's importance or perhaps reward that person for good deeds that he or she may have carried out. *King Plates* are an important if not bittersweet part of the history of relations between the Australian Aboriginal people and the European arrivals from 1788 onwards.

Originally handed out by the relevant governing body, they were later also handed out by pastoralists. The motives in presenting the plates might have varied from place to place, however there is a strong view held by modern historians that the plates were in general used as a subtle form of control of the Aboriginal groups that remained after each new wave of settlement passed across the continent.

The Society was particularly anxious to acquire this particular plate given its (presumed) connection to the Woronora River. However in making the purchase it was understood from the outset that since there is no provenance available for the item, there is no guarantee that it is an authentic plate. This might explain why the auction price was far lower than the price that Aboriginal breastplates normally command, but regardless of this, the plate is at the very least an excellent representation of a *King Plate*. So even if it can't be proven to be authentic, the plate can still fulfill an important educational purpose while on display in the museum.

On the other hand, if sometime in the future the plate is judged to be authentic, then it is an even more significant acquisition for the museum.



The Aboriginal King Plate, inscribed 'Tommy, King of the Woronora Tribe', recently acquired by the Society for display in the Sutherland Shire Historical Society Museum.

Sources:

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THE BOWIES AT CRONULLA

LAURIE BURGESS

Whilst following in the footsteps of the Bowies (see 'Bowie Park – A legacy of some proud home owners' in *SSHS Bulletin*, November 2018) I found that the land at Sutherland (later Kirrawee) on Princes Highway was not the only land owned by the Bowies in Sutherland Shire.

In 1919, the Bowies looked to Cronulla, where Ethel May Bowie purchased from the widow of the previous owner, a block of land bounded by Gerrale Street, an unnamed lane, and Ozone Street. She had to wait until the following year while the title was cleared: 'Vesting Order dated 21st May 1920. Ethel May Bowie wife of Thomas Guthrie Bowie of Sydney Gentleman is now the registered proprietor of the land. ...' Meanwhile, also in 1919, the adjoining land was being sold as a separate deceased estate to Thomas Guthrie Bowie, with his purchase cleared and finalised on 10 August 1920.¹

Likely there were dwellings already erected on both properties facing Ozone street, with a view through land on the opposite side of that street to the Ocean just north of the popular Cronulla Beach. Mrs Bowie ordered 'building additions' in December 1926² and a photograph of the area in the late 1920s shows a large building on her land, with a house on Mr Bowie's property. The purpose of the buildings on the rear facing Gerrale Street has not been determined (see Figure 1). On 13 October 1929, Ethel Bowie became the sole owner when Thomas Bowie transferred his land to her.³



FIGURE 1: Oblique view is part of MF000739, *Cronulla Peninsula area from the air looking south, ca. 1920s* (SSL historic photo collection). Vertical view extract from 1955 aerial photo, (courtesy of SSC)

No information has been found as to whether the Bowies actually resided at Cronulla, but they had plans to develop the land in anticipation that their purchases would lead to obtaining title. A subdivision plan was lodged with Sutherland Shire Council in 1919 to divide off the rear yards facing Gerrale Street.⁴ The Council objected at that time because it had plans to acquire part of the land to realign Gerrale Street through the corner of that street and the (then) unnamed lane. A court case ensued which ruled against the Council proposal and lead to approval of the subdivision plan including Mrs Bowie's land 'proposed to be subdivided by cutting off one part of it, thus forming a corner block, with a frontage of 62ft. to Gerrale Street, and 50 ft. to Picture Show Street.'⁵

History from that time is silent on any events concerning the Bowies at Cronulla until, after Mrs Bowie died on 22 March 1952, her sons Keith Guthrie Bowie and Ian Paul Grafton Bowie inherited the whole property and became owners on 8 April 1953. In accordance with the approved subdivision they sold the south-western block facing Ozone Street on 16 June 1953 and the north-western block also facing Ozone Street on 9 May 1956. After his brother died Keith Bowie became sole owner of the remaining land facing Gerrale Street on 9 January 1973. He sold that land to Caltex Oil (Australia) Pty Ltd on 21 March 1973, who used it for a service station.⁶

Many years passed before the Council formally and finally acquired the road widening. On 14 March 1995 it issued a certificate for dedication of a triangular area of one perch.⁷ However, the plan was then marked 'not proceeded with', even though Gerrale Street had by then been deviated through that area.⁸ An area of 27.57 square metres was eventually dedicated on 27 August 1982, by Caltex Oil Australia Ltd.⁹

Mrs Bowie's large building was demolished in 1994 to make way for a new three level brick residential flat building. The house to its south had previously suffered the same fate in the 1960s, replaced by a two-storey brick residential flat building. The Caltex Service Station was demolished in 2001 to make way for a four-storey concrete and rendered brick commercial and residential building.¹⁰

One little mystery remained – the side of the Bowie's property was 'Picture Show Street,' a name that appears nowhere in road naming records. It turns out that the picture show was nearby on the opposite side of Gerrale Street, so the Bowies had the opportunity to visit there, but if they did no record remains.

FOOTNOTE: The mention of 'Picture Show Street' which fronted the Bowies' property, led to further research by the author who found another story which had received scant mention in any earlier histories of the Cronulla area – its first cinema. The story of this 'Cronulla Picture Show' is published separately.

References:

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² *Construction and Local Government Journal*, 1.12.1926, p.2

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⁴ Sutherland Shire Council records

⁵ *The Daily Telegraph*, 17.7.1920, p.13

⁶ *HLRV*

⁷ A piece of new road is either 'dedicated' with the compliance of the owner, or 'resumed' if it is acquired compulsorily. The Council wanted the triangular piece of land to allow the road to curve across the intersection, rather than have two right-angled bends to navigate.

⁸ Sutherland Shire Council records

⁹ Registered plan of subdivision for road widening – Sutherland Shire Council records

¹⁰ Sutherland Shire Council records

THE FIRST PICTURE SHOW IN CRONULLA

LAURIE BURGESS

Picture Show Street

This street, mentioned in the court case of Mrs Bowie versus the Sutherland Shire Council (see 'The Bowies at Cronulla'), did not actually front the Cronulla Picture Show, which was in Gerrale Street. It was the street by which people came from Curranulla (Cronulla) Street to get to the Cronulla Picture Show. It was never officially named as 'Picture Show Street'.

Originally an unnamed lane 20 feet wide created in 1906 along the northern boundary of Charles McAlister's 'Cronulla Beach Estate', also known as 'Ocean Grove Estate,' between Curranulla (Cronulla) Street and Ozone Street. It was widened to 44 feet in 1907 between Curranulla (Cronulla) Street and Glaisher (Gerrale) Street,¹ with the lane between Glaisher Street and Ozone Street also widened to 22 feet. The first mention found of a name for the road was in 1915 when 'Ocean Grove Ave' was included in a Council report, the name coming from the subdivision name 'Ocean Grove Estate.'²

The Cronulla Picture Show

There are several mentions of the first picture show in Cronulla in various publications, but none stating exactly where it was located, other than being in Gerrale Street, and that it opened on 14 December 1912.³ There also is some confusion in various publications between the Cronulla Picture Show and the Cronulla Picture Theatre (Odeon Cinema) constructed some years later on the corner of Kingsway and Curranulla (Cronulla) Street, which opened in 1928.

A search for a photograph of the Cronulla Picture Show initially proved fruitless other than one image northerly along Gerrale Street which only showed its roof in the background. After the site had been confirmed from title records a further photograph of the area was located which gave a reasonable view of the side of the building (see Image 1).



Image 1: Cronulla picture show on oblique aerial view late 1920s which shows the Cronulla Picture Show in Gerrale Street and houses on the Bowie properties facing Ozone Street . The sharp bend on the corner of Gerrale Street and 'Picture Show Street' is where the Council intended to acquire land for road widening out of Mrs Bowie's property. In the background are the Cecil Ballroom opened in 1926 and Hotel Cecil in 1927 [Source: background photo from SSL historic photo collection MF000739 - Cronulla Peninsula area from the air looking south, ca. 1920s].

The Cronulla Picture Show (also known as the 'Cronulla Picture Palace') was reported to have been

an open air picture show . . . and was a very popular source of entertainment (silent movies). This show had a very good dance floor in a covered section and was constantly used for dances and concerts on nights when there were no pictures.⁴

In the winter months tins of coke were burnt in the back section of the theatre to keep patrons warm but when it rained there was a stampede to the front covered section.⁵

Admission to the pictures in January 1913 was rather expensive at sixpence.⁶

A view of the interior of the building had been taken on 21 May 1925 during an election campaign of C O J Monro and published in *The Propeller* (29 May 1925, p.3).



Image 2: Election Rally in Cronulla Picture Show 21 May 1925 ⁷

The Cronulla Picture Show was built on land purchased on 9 June 1910 from Charles McAlister by Ebenezer Furley, a Sydney Journalist.⁸ It first came to notice on 13 November 1911, when Sutherland Shire Council considered 'correspondence in connection with a picture show which is to be provided for the mental and spectacular amusement of Cronulla'.⁹

Cronulla had a reputation as 'quite a Parramatta town',¹⁰ due to the number of its residents who had moved there from Parramatta. It was not surprising then that when a party of 'spectators' from Parramatta visited the Picture Show in December 1912 that the following report appeared in a Parramatta area newspaper:

A Parramatta Spec.

We dropped in the other evening to see the Cronulla Picture Show. The show is run by a Parramatta syndicate, and promises well. The manager is the genial Kim., and he was in evidence. During the interval he thanked the patrons (who were fairly numerous) and assured them that the show would screen the best pictures on airt [sic], and that they would be real bright when the engines got going sweet. Parramatta men put up the structure, and Parramatta men are in charge of the mechanism. In fact there was quite a Parramatta air about the place.¹¹

Not quite as good, however, four days later, when the same Parramatta newspaper reported:

Parramatta to the front

At the Cronulla Picture Show on Saturday night last [28 December 1912], just before the show ended, the lights failed, owing to the engine stopping. It meant sending to the store for a fresh oil supply. The wait would have been a dreary one but for a sparkling incident. The pianist had played himself to a standstill, and when a bright and musical Parramatta lady took in the situation, and in a twinkling installed herself at the piano and gave the audience a real treat. She had the big house (for it was packed) singing lustily all the popular airs she played, and things went humming till the oil came along, and the engine once more throbbed. The young lady, after the episode, remarked, 'I saw the pianist was done, and I thought it up to me to do 'Kim' a turn.'¹²

On 28 April 1913, the premises came to the notice of authorities as a temporary structure maintained upon one site for a period exceeding six months, or may be proposed to be roofed wholly or partially, or shall have been roofed wholly or partially, and was forthwith registered as a public hall named 'Cronulla Picture Theatre' under the Theatres and Public Hall Act 1908.¹³

Phyllis Stroud, a long-time Cronulla resident, who was eight years old when her family moved to Cronulla in 1913, recalled that Mr John (Jack) Lawless, the district lighter employed by Sutherland Shire Council, also collected the money for the Old Tin Picture show in Gerrale Street. It had no box office, so Mr Lawless would sit on the chair outside the door and hand out threepenny tickets. The seats were benches with backs on them, and if you had a boyfriend he would sit behind you and cuddle you from the back.¹⁴

The popularity of the now registered Cronulla Picture Show was indicated when on 17 May 1913 '... there was no meeting of the C and R Ass.[Community and Ratepayers Association] ... Several leading members who came to attend a meeting went to the picture show instead.'¹⁵

The bright lights of the picture show came close to causing a disaster around on 27 January 1914:

Steamer off Cronulla Beach

Considerable excitement was caused amongst the residents of Cronulla at midnight by the appearance of the mastlight of a ship just off the beach. Several rushed down to the water's edge, and were startled to find a big tramp steamer within 300 yards of the beach. The steamer came close in round Jibbon Point, and passed dangerously close to a patch of rocks on the southern end of the beach, when she stopped suddenly and backed out. It was said that the lights from a Cronulla picture show on a prominent point near the beach had

misled the captain. When the vessel rounded Jibbon Point a cluster of electric lights outside the picture show was turned full on, and these might easily have been mistaken for the flash of South Head light.

The steamer which ran aground was the *Wear* . . . and she brought up gently on the sand, remaining there for several hours. It was necessary to set the pumps going and discharge 600 tons of water ballast before the vessel could be got clear.¹⁶

Ebenezer Furley sold the Cronulla Picture Show to Cronulla Pictures Ltd on 17 March 1915.¹⁷

Going to the pictures was a popular form of entertainment. In August 1917, the nearby School of Arts also started showing films, its hall being leased for three years for the purpose.¹⁸

Apparently, the Government authority noted by January 1918 that it was not getting its share of the revenue generated by the Cronulla Picture Show. A condition of registration was that every customer was expected to pay an additional fee (a type of entry tax to entertainment venues) — perhaps the venue had started printed its own tickets, leaving off the tax? It appears that Mr Melville would have been the owner of Cronulla Pictures Ltd at the time.

Entertainment Act

Hector Pope Melville was proceeded against by summons on a charge that while proprietor of the Cronulla Picture Theatre, Cronulla, he failed to furnish a statement showing the total number of persons admitted for each separate taxable payment for admission, and on a second charge of having issued a ticket other than a stamped ticket contrary to the Act.

The defendant . . . pleaded guilty, and was fined £15 and £2/5/0 costs, in default four months' hard labour.¹⁹

It is not known whether this had any influence on a decision by Cronulla Pictures Ltd to hand over running of the business to Lance Giddings of Cronulla, Estate Agent, who leased it from 16 July 1918 until 1927.²⁰ Around this time power to the part-open-air galvanised theatre still required an on-site generator driven by Wally Bridges,²¹ who was also manager of fleet of ferries on the Cronulla-Audley service after Tom Hegarty bought the ferries from Walter Hodgkinson in 1921.²²

Not only adults were entertained at the Cronulla Picture Show:

A Children's Treat

The western children visiting the city last week were entertained by the Cumberland branch of the Country Women's Association on Monday afternoon [16 February 1925], who were able to give them a wonderful time owing to the generosity of Mr. Douglas, owner of the Cronulla Picture Theatre, who lent his theatre for the occasion, and the Universal Film Co., who provided films free of charge.

During the afternoon the children were supplied with ice cream —some of the children were happy consumers of six ice creams each . . . Another pleasant surprise for the children was the bag of lollies given to each child by Mr. and Mrs. Glasgow. Those of us who remember the sweet-hunger of our childhood will know how this was appreciated.²³

Apparently Lance Giddings or Mr Douglas must have had some arrangement for Mr Glasgow to run the theatre as, when the lease expired, a lease was given to William Glasgow of Cronulla, Picture Theatre Proprietor, from 14 July 1927 to 10 October 1929.²⁴

Of note is that Mr. Glasgow was given permission by Sutherland Shire Council in July 1927 'to erect Theatre'²⁵ [ie. build a new Cronulla Picture Theatre]. Obviously, his lease of the Cronulla Picture Show was an interim measure to continue his presence in the area until the new picture theatre commenced operating. Tenders had already been called a month earlier for 'quantities' in respect of a 'New Picture Theatre' at Cronulla.²⁶

Cronulla Pictures Ltd pulled out of owning the old Cronulla Picture Show when it became obvious that the patronage would move to the new theatre. On 6 May 1928 it sold the site to William Aubrey Kimber of Kensington, Gentleman.²⁷ On 5 October 1928, the rival 'Cronulla Theatre' opened on the corner of Curranulla Street and Kingsway²⁸ and was registered under the 'Theatres and Public Hall Act 1908.'²⁹

It seems that Kimber was not interested in continuing the operations of the Cronulla Picture Show and on 30 August 1929 leased the site (possibly occupied earlier) to Frank Korrien Bardsley of Cronulla,³⁰ the well-known bus proprietor and aviator, who needed a bus depot site after his bus depot building and five buses in Ewos Parade were destroyed by fire in February 1927,³¹ and no better luck when he moved to Monk's garage off Nicholson Parade as the building and a bus were consumed by fire on 20 October 1928.³² Shire historian, the late Fred Midgely, confirmed that Bardsley used the 'old Cronulla picture theatre' as a bus depot (but confusingly refers to it as 'Monk's garage').³³ No information has been found about when Bardsley ceased to use the site (his lease ran out on 3 May 1935³⁴), possibly continuing until his bus service ceased operations when the Sutherland-Cronulla railway opened in December 1939.³⁵

Failing continuation of its operations as a picture theatre, the 'Cronulla — Old Picture Theatre, Gerrale-street' had its registration cancelled 21 September 1932 and 'ceased to be used for public entertainment purposes.'³⁶

It had been well-used while in business, not only for films but other purposes, there being a number of newspaper articles about various events:

During and in the post- World War 1 era, many fund-raising events were held. 1915 saw money being raised to aid the 'Expeditionary Forces' for 'Our boys at the Front'.³⁷ In 1921 a euchre party and dance was held in aid of the 'Cronulla War Memorial',³⁸ and on 25 May that year an Empire Day celebration,

*... a monster gathering was held in the Cronulla Picture theatre ... where those present ... carried unanimously amidst much enthusiasm . . . that this meeting affirms unswerving loyalty to King and Empire.*³⁹

Later the same year on 10 August that year, 'a large audience attended . . . to hear Sir Charles Rosenthal's lecture entitled 'A Trip Through Europe to Gallipoli.'⁴⁰ The scene at various times of political rallies,⁴¹ real estate auctions,⁴² community functions,⁴³ card nights & dances,⁴⁴ play groups performing,⁴⁵ and generally a community hub,⁴⁶ it all fell silent, along with its silent films, when the new theatre just up the road opened for business.

The former picture theatre/bus depot was demolished after being vacated, as there are no signs of any buildings on the site in 1943 aerial photographs,⁴⁷ a year or so after the land was sold by the Kimber family members to Allan Fawcner McLeish, 'hotel proprietor' of Cronulla, in December 1941.⁴⁸



Image 3: Advertisements for film programmes for the Cronulla Picture Show in October 1921⁴⁹

And what replaced the Cronulla Picture Show?



Image 4: The Cronulla Theatre was opened on 5th October 1928, with a seating capacity of 1,532. Around 1950, it was taken over by the Greater Union Theatres chain and renamed Odeon.⁵⁰

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- ⁴ *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, Feb 2006 p.19
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- ³³ 'Bardsley' Bus Services,' *SSHS Bulletin*, February 1988
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SUTHERLAND SHIRE: A CLASSICAL HERITAGE

EDWARD DUYKER

All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine,¹ education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh-water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?

Reg, Monty Python, *Life of Brian*, 1979, scene 10.

Most of us write in Latin script and many of our Shire institutions have Latin mottoes. At Port Hacking High School it is '*ardentibus nil ardui*' ['no difficulties to those who make the effort']. At Caringbah High School it is '*omnia vincit diligentia*' [diligence conquers all].² And at De La Salle College, Cronulla, it is '*Deo duce*' [with God as leader]. Latin and Greek were first used locally in April 1770. When the *Endeavour* anchored in Botany Bay, the artist Sydney Parkinson had books by Homer, Virgil and Ovid with him.³ Joseph Banks had a hundred or more volumes on board the *Endeavour* – mostly works of natural history and accounts of exploration.⁴

Many of the natural history works were in Latin. His colleague, the Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander, almost certainly owned some of these Latin books, particularly those published in Sweden. They included the *Systema Naturae* (10th edition, Stockholm, 1758) and the *Species Plantarum* (Stockholm, 1753) of Carl Linnaeus, the magnificent *Icones Insectorum* (Stockholm, 1759) of Carl Alexander Clerck, and the *Iter Palestinum* (Stockholm, 1757) of Fredrik Hasselquist.



Native 'drumstick', *Isopogon anemonifolius*
[Source: Wikipedia]

After botanising ashore, Solander wrote the first scientific descriptions of our local flora. Although his Latin descriptions were not published, the first volume of his manuscript *Plantae Novae Hollandiae*, preserved in the Botany Library, British Museum (Natural History), offers us a precious linguistic window on his sensibilities. When he collected what we now know as *Isopogon anemonifolius*, the familiar drumstick of the Sydney basin, he included it in the Linnaean genus *Leucadendron*. The leaves almost certainly reminded him of celery (*Apium graveolens*) because his original Latin specific epithet was *apiifolium*.

When he savoured the bouquet of the red-flowered bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*), the scent of lemon suggested the specific epithet *citrinus* which has survived to this day. With thoughts of heather, he coined the generic name *Ericastrum* for what we now know as *Epacris* and when confronted with the exquisite crimson and white flowers of *Epacris longiflora*, he was moved to record the specific name *pulcherrimum* – Latin for ‘most beautiful’.⁵



Epacris longiflora [Photo: Edward Duyker]

Latin and Greek names, for plant genera, remain evident on many Shire streets:

Acacia Road, Kirrawee & Sutherland, Latin from Greek *akis* thorn.⁶

Callistemon Close, Alfords Point, modern Latin, from Greek *kallos* ‘beauty’ + *stēmōn* ‘thread or stamen’.

Casuarina Road, GyMEA Bay, from modern Latin *casuarius* ‘cassowary’ (because of the resemblance of the branches to the bird’s feathers).

Celosia Place, Loftus, modern Latin, from Greek *kēlos* ‘burnt or dry’ (from the burnt appearance of the flowers in some species).

Dianthus Place, Jannali, from Greek *dios*, genitive of ‘Zeus’ and *anthos* ‘flower’.

Eucalyptus Street, Alfords Point, modern Latin, from Greek *eu* ‘well’ and *kaluptos* ‘covered’, because the unopened flower is protected by a cap.

Genista Street, Loftus, from Latin, ‘broom plant’.

Laurel Grove, Menai, from Latin *laurus*.

Melaleuca Place, Alfords Point, modern Latin: from Greek *melas* ‘black’ and *leukos* ‘white’ (because of the fire-blackened white bark of some species).

Viburnum Road, Loftus, from Latin, ‘wayfaring tree’.

Latin in religion

Latin once had a sustained local presence in the liturgy of the ‘Tridentine’ Catholic Mass. It was probably first celebrated on the east coast of Australia, on Sunday, 27th January 1788, by the priests of Lapérouse’s expedition, if not aboard the *Boussole* and the *Astrolabe* anchored in Botany Bay, then on the northern shore when the Franciscan naturalist Père Receveur was buried.⁷ Until the reforms of the Second Vatican Council – which introduced the vernacular [local modern language] liturgy in 1965 – Mass was said in Latin at St Aloysius Gonzaga, Cronulla, from 1924; at St Patrick’s Church, Sutherland, from 1934; St John Bosco, Engadine from 1947; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Miranda, from 1951; Our Lady of Fatima, Caringbah, from 1951; St Joseph’s, Como-Oyster Bay, from 1954; St Catherine Laboure, GyMEA, from 1958; and Our Lady of the Way, Sylvania, from 1959.

Latin and Greek in schools

The works of Homer, Virgil, Cicero, Plutarch, Marcus Aurelius, Suetonius, Tacitus, Herodotus, Ovid, Horace, Julius Caesar, Livy, Pliny the Younger and other classical authors (some in bilingual editions) can still be found in the Sutherland Shire Library. Latin, once the language of international scholarly discourse, was formerly taught in several schools in the Shire. Although, Jean-Baptiste de la Salle (1651–1719) forbade Latin in his schools – in favour of the vernacular – a 1923 papal dispensation permitted the De La Salle Brothers to teach it in their schools.⁸ For some years, Latin was taught at De La Salle College, Cronulla (founded in 1936), by Brother Ignatius.⁹ In 1963, the Year 9 Latin class at Caringbah High School (established in 1960) had 43 students, of whom 13 went on to sit Latin for the Leaving Certificate in 1965. Only one (Garriock Duncan) went onto to study Latin at university. In 1973, six students at Caringbah received 'A's in the School Certificate Exams,¹⁰ but the following year there were none. While this appears to have coincided with the introduction of Indonesian and Japanese, the main factor in the demise of Latin locally, was the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme (begun in 1962) which required all students to do a common course in Year 7 and choose two electives for Years 8-10, at which point subjects were chosen for the HSC.¹¹ Nevertheless, Latin has had periods of resurgence at Caringbah with small numbers studying it in the 1990s. The strength of the classical tradition can still be seen on the two honour boards at Port Hacking High School (opened in 1959). The first bears the rubric, *Dux*. The second board lists the runners-up and bears the legend, '*Proxime accessit*' [he/she, who came next].

Classical influence on street names

Greek has had a liturgical function in the Shire since the opening of the Orthodox Parish Church of Saint Stylianos, Saints Peter and Paul, and Saint Gregory of Palamas, in GyMEA, on 16th December 2001. In its modern form, Greek is also a community language in the Sutherland Shire. A number of ancient Greek gods and heroes are still remembered in Shire street names: Ajax Place, Engadine (from the Latin name for Aias the giant who fought alongside Akhilleus known to the Romans as Achilles), Argo Place, Miranda (after the ship on which Jason and the Argonauts sailed in search of the Golden Fleece), Clio Street, Sutherland (after the muse of history and daughter of Zeus and Mnemosyne), Canopus Close, Engadine (after a star in the constellation of Argo, in turn named after the navigator of King Menelaus of Sparta in the Trojan War), Jason Street, Miranda (after the leader of the Argonauts), Scylla Road, Oyster Bay (after the sea monster in Homer's *Odyssey*), and Minerva Street, Kirrawee, after the Greek goddess Athena in her Roman form. Like Clio Street, it was named by James Murphy, manager and a director of the Holt-Sutherland Estate (1882–1895). He appears also to have named Vesta Street, Sutherland, after another member of the Roman pantheon: the virgin goddess of hearth, home and family.¹²

Beta Place, Engadine, is named after the second letter of the Greek alphabet. Other Greek toponyms are commemorated in Arcadia Avenue, GyMEA Bay and Woollooware (after the central and eastern region of the Peloponnese in Greece, synonymous with idyllic simplicity and happiness) and Odeon Place, Heathcote (after an Athenian theatre). Heathcote also has a Troy Road and a Corinth Road (after the ancient city states the Greeks knew as *Troia*

and *Kórinthos*). While Sindone Place, Caringbah, appears to take its name from the Greek word for a 'winding sheet' or 'shroud', it might be named more specifically after the Sindone di Torino (Shroud of Turin), the purported burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth, preserved in the *Cappella della Sacra Sindone*, adjacent to Turin Cathedral.

Sylvania once had an Ovid Lane, named after the Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso (43 BC–17 AD). It was a pathway which ran between Albert Avenue, MacFarlane Parade and Henry Avenue, but disappeared with the extension of Box Road in 1948.¹³ The suburb name, Sylvania, is from the Latin word *silvanus* meaning forest. (It is also the name of the Roman god of forests and fields.) Sylvan Lane and Sylvan Street, Sylvania, Sylva Avenue, Miranda, and Sylvan Ridge, Illawong, all have a cognate etymology. Several other Roman toponyms are evident in the Shire. Tiber Place, Heathcote, is named after the river which runs through the city of Rome. Forum Drive, Heathcote, honours the *Forum romanum*, once the centre of Roman life: a marketplace, a processional space and a venue for debates, judicial proceedings and even gladiatorial contests. Via Mare, Cronulla, is literally a 'street or road leading to the sea'. Numantia Road, Engadine and Heathcote, is named after the Celtiberian hill fortress (now Garray, near Soria), in northern Spain, besieged by Scipio Aemilianus Africanus in 133 BC and burned by the defenders before they surrendered.¹⁴ Ardua Place, Engadine, takes its name from the Latin word for 'adversity'.

15

Shire suburbs and buildings reflect Latin and Greek influence

Aside from the etymology of Sylvania, several other Shire suburbs have Roman connections, albeit tenuous. Garriock Duncan has pointed out that Menai has a link with a significant event in the Roman conquest of Britain.¹⁶ Como is named after a town in Lombardy, northern Italy. It would seem that for James Murphy the confluence of the Woronora and Georges rivers recalled the south-west arm of the lake in Italy. The hills surrounding Lake Como (*lacus Larius* in Latin) have been inhabited since prehistoric times. The Roman town of Novum Comum (from which we ultimately derive the name Como) owes its position to Julius Caesar. In 59 BC, he moved the centre of Roman habitation to the southern tip of the lake after nearby swamps were drained. The town's two most famous sons were Pliny, the Elder [Gaius Plinius Secundus] (23–79 AD) and his nephew, Pliny, the Younger [Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus] (61–c.112 AD); both were important Roman authors.¹⁷

Miranda, has no specific Roman historical connection, but the name of the suburb is Latin. Garriock Duncan argues that it is derived from the phrase *Miranda Regio*, an admirable location. At some point the toponym *Miranda* also became a family name and finally a first name. Like Como, Miranda was named by James Murphy who is not known to have travelled overseas. Where did he encounter the word? Perhaps he heard it in a performance of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, or in a conversation with Thomas Holt, or read it in a travel book. In a letter dated 31st October 1921, Murphy tells us that he gave the name to the suburb in 1881, because he 'thought it a soft, musical, euphonious and appropriate name for a beautiful place.'¹⁸

Just as our highways and street grids in the Sutherland Shire are, in a technological sense, the heirs of the Roman roads, so too are many of our buildings and even building materials: the Romans (or perhaps the Etruscans before them) invented concrete (*opus caementicium*). Roman arches are readily visible in the Italianate mansion Heathcote Hall, several Shire churches (although Gothic-arched fenestration is more common) and many other local domestic buildings and shops. The Roman arch, rotated around its central axis, also gave us the dome. A fine example – in neo-Byzantine style – can be found in Saint Andrew’s Anglican Church, Cronulla (see back cover).

Doric columns can be seen supporting the portico and pediment of the Masonic temple in Cronulla (43-45 Kingsway, see back cover), constructed in 1920, and the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Stylianos, in GyMEA.



Lotus capitals – a direct reference to the heraldic plant and pharaonic architecture of Upper (southern) Egypt – can be seen on the columns which support the front portico of a home, dating from the early 1990s in Miranda.

Photo: Edward Duyker

And at Woronora Cemetery, Roman soldiers – albeit carved in China and with decidedly Asian features – surround ‘Big Jesus’ in the ‘Stations of the Cross’. Alas, they are wearing legionary uniforms; when Judea’s garrison, under Pontius Pilate, was largely composed of auxiliary cohorts.¹⁹ Ultimately, Woronora Cemetery, the final resting place of many Shire residents, has classical references aplenty: be it family vaults harking back to the Etruscans,²⁰ or niches in columbaria for cremated remains, like those used by the Romans.

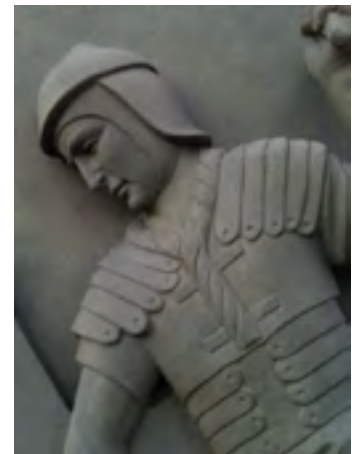


Photo: Edward Duyker

Edward Duyker (School of Languages and Culture, University of Sydney) is very grateful to Garriock Duncan, for sharing his deep knowledge of the Greek and Roman world, and to Helen McDonald, Local Studies, Sutherland Shire Library, for her assistance with several sources and illustrations.

¹ Reg was mistaken; medicine is a Greek derivative. As Sir Clifford Allbutt put it in the preface to his collection of lectures and essays, *Greek Medicine in Rome* (Macmillan & Co., London, 1921): ‘Medicine entered from Greece into Rome; but throve there only in so far as it was continually reinforced by the immigrations of Greek physicians. As the Greek oil failed the fitful light of the lamp went out. From Rome medicine drew no strength.’ p. viii.

² Originally, Caringbah High School’s motto was ‘*omnia superat diligentia*’ [diligence overcomes all].

³ Sydney Parkinson listed his books in his sketchbook; see British Library, Department of Manuscripts, Add MS 9345; see also Duyker, E., ‘HMB Endeavour Virtual Library Links’, *Doryanthes*, vol. 3, no. 2, May 2010, pp. 30–4.

⁴ Carr, D. J. ‘The Books That Sailed with the *Endeavour*’, *Endeavour*, new series, vol. 7, no. 4, 1983, pp. 194–201.

⁵ See Duyker, E., *Nature’s Argonaut: Daniel Solander 1733–1782, Naturalist and Voyager with Cook and Banks*, Miegunyah/Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1998, chapter 14.

⁶ In his *De Materia medica*, Pedanius Dioscorides gave the name *akakia* to the Egyptian thorn, which had medicinal uses. It appears to have occasioned Phillip Miller’s naming of the genus *Acacia* in *The Gardener’s Dictionary*, London, 1754, vol. i, although not all its species have thorns. The genus has undergone much taxonomic revision and no longer includes the Egyptian thorn (now *Vachellia nilotica*).

⁷ There can be little doubt that a requiem Mass was celebrated in Latin when the Franciscan naturalist Père Receveur was buried on the northern shore of the bay, shortly after his death on 17 February 1788; see Duyker, *Père Receveur: Franciscan, Scientist and Voyager with Lapérouse*, Dharawal Publications, Sydney, 2011, p. 24.

⁸ Brother Aloysius, *The De La Salle Brothers in Australia: 1906–1956*, Halstead Press, Sydney, 1956, pp. 55–7.

⁹ *De La Salle College, Cronulla: Golden Jubilee, 1936–1986*, circa 1986, no imprint details, p. 46 [copy in Sutherland Shire Local Studies Collection, Q 377.829441DEL LHC.]

¹⁰ *Banksia: The Magazine of Caringbah High*, November 1974, pp. 9–10.

¹¹ I am grateful to Garriock Duncan for this observation.

¹² Sutherland Shire Streets, Sutherland Shire Council, Land Information Unit, January 2015.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Hornblower, S., & Spawforth, A., *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996, p. 1052; see also Grant, M. *A Guide to the Ancient World*, Barnes and Noble, New York, 1986, pp. 441–2.

¹⁵ Sutherland Shire Streets, Sutherland Shire Council, Land Information Unit, January 2015.

¹⁶ Duncan, G., ‘Menai and the Romans’, *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin*, vol. 12, no. 2, May 2008, pp. 16–18.

¹⁷ Duncan, G., ‘Como and the Pliny Boys’, *Doryanthes*, vol. 3, no. 1, February 2010, pp. 20–23.

¹⁸ See Duncan, G., ‘An Admirable Location or a Splendid View: Miranda’, *Doryanthes*, vol. 5, no. 1, February 2012, pp. 34–6.

¹⁹ Denis Bain Saddington suggests that the Roman soldiers at the crucifixion were probably Syrian auxiliaries. Two regiments are named in the New Testament (Acts 10.1; 27.1): an Italian and an Augustan cohort. They appear to have been the *Cohors II Italica Civium Romanorum* and the *Cohors Augusta I* of the eastern command; see his entry ‘Roman Army’ in Metzger, B., & Coogan, M., (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to The Bible*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993, pp. 656–7; for further information (including photographs of auxiliaries on Trajan’s column), see Webster, G., *The Roman Imperial Army*, A. & C. Black, London, 1981, pp. 141–156, & plates xvii & xxiv.

²⁰ For an account of numerous Etruscan tombs, including those of Tarquinia, Cerveteri (Caere) and Vulci, see Hampton, C., *The Etruscans and the Survival of Etruria*, Victor Gollancz, London, 1969.

EXCURSION REPORT

Cook and The Pacific Exhibition, Canberra

BRUCE WATT

The Historical Society was renowned in the past for its overnight excursions to far flung places. Eight members recently renewed this tradition by travelling to Canberra to attend the Cook and the Pacific exhibition at the National Library of Australia.

While locally we are focussed on Cook's upcoming 250th anniversary of the stopover at Botany Bay in 1770, there is a much broader picture of Cook and the impressive range of scientists that travelled with him. In three voyages, Cook opened up a huge area of the Pacific Ocean, claimed territory for the British and encountered a range of Indigenous people, wrote about their cultures and collected curios. We are guided to examine and separate the difference between Cook the man and Cook the legend.

The *Endeavour* expedition (1768 – 1771) was of enormous scientific importance. At Tahiti measurements were taken to assist in the calculation of longitude. Cook mapped the two islands of New Zealand and the east coast of New Holland which he took possession of, renaming it New South Wales. His exploits became the catalyst for Empire expansion that included much of the Pacific region.

The exhibition was superbly curated with many rare items on display. For those looking for Cook the man, there is a poignant reminder that he was a husband and father (though none of his six children reached adulthood). Cook had collected tapa cloth from the Society Islands. An exhibit of a half - finished vest, made from this natural fabric by his wife, Elizabeth Cook for James is a reminder of the human side of this venture.

Our group was also privileged to view the wonderful folk museum at the small village of Hall just outside Canberra. Housed in a Primary School that closed down, it contains an amazing array of items of the area's pioneering past. Many of the initiatives used by the dedicated museum volunteers were of interest in our museum.

No visit to Canberra is complete without a visit to the Canberra War Memorial. Exhibits and presentation methods are constantly being updated. At 5.00 pm each evening, a dedication to a fallen soldier is performed.

Those who attended travelled by car and ride shared. Everyone enjoyed the exhibits and the camaraderie immensely and felt that we needed to do such trips more often.

It was noted that the historic house, Meroogal (Nowra) will be open on Friday May 24 at 10:15. If there is anyone interested in a trip down there for the day or an overnight stay if another attraction is found, please pass on your interest to me on 0405 493 187 or email us at shirehistory@gmail.com.

Meroogal House [sydneylivingmuseums.com.au]



BOOK REVIEW

ELIZABETH ADAMS



Collier for Miranda is much more than its title suggests. The book provides a captivating account of how the seemingly impossible happened — with a 'shoestring' budget, an unknown, politically naive novice and 'underdog' candidate, achieved a 7.6% swing in Miranda in the State election of March 1999 against the high-profile deputy leader of the Liberal Party, Ron Phillips, who had held the seat for 15 years. The implications are relevant to politics at all levels today.

Barry's conversational style, candour and humour convey his aspiration and determination to navigate a route 'down the Miranda Road to Macquarie Street', and encourage the reader to keep turning the pages despite knowing how it all ends.

Self-deprecating honesty is employed in the analysis of the campaign and its context, in which at times, 'the planets aligned'. The win seemed miraculous, but Barry and his Labor team's strategies had capitalised on factors not always of their making. The 'unwinnable' victory was achieved despite the Liberals reportedly out-spending Labor by 15 to 1 and without his campaign receiving financial support from the party's Head Office. After Barry's win in Miranda, Premier Bob Carr is said to have asked a staffer: 'Where did we get *him* from?'

For all those who are intrigued by the workings of our political system, Barry's dissection and scrutiny of the local campaign is most enlightening and essential reading for anyone contemplating a political career. For those who live in the Sutherland Shire, stories that pull no punches reveal the workings of the Labor Party locally and in NSW.

A genuine desire to serve Miranda constituents shines through Barry's account of the preselection process and his campaign over four long, hot months with his slogan, 'a local who listens'. Throughout the book, Barry Collier emphasises the crucial support of loyal local party members and volunteers in this grass roots campaign and the positive impact of engaging the electorate through door knocking, railway station visits and street stalls. Clearly apparent in this tale, though not overtly stated, is the vital importance of personal relationships, commitment, loyalty, integrity and sincerity.

Barry's acknowledgment of a degree of luck is refreshing. That luck included electoral boundary changes, Ron Phillips' role in overthrowing Liberal Opposition Leader Peter Collins, Phillips' assumption that his seat was safe, his dismissal of 'overdevelopment' as a major local issue and his role as the architect of the unpopular electricity privatisation policy. Labor promises for the Sutherland Shire — including the four-lane Woronora Bridge and Bangor By-pass, the State-wide swing to Labor and some fortuitous divine intervention such as Barry's very favourable second place draw on the ballot paper, also played their part.

This 455-page soft cover book includes an index. The structure greatly enhances its readability as do the many anecdotes involving local residents and Labor Party personalities.

Collier for Miranda – The 1999 Labor Campaign, by Barry Collier, was self-published in November 2018 and is available from Barry Collier for \$29.99 (plus postage) via email: collierformiranda1999@gmail.com

OYSTERS ON THE GEORGES RIVER

GREG JACKSON and PAM FORBES

Introduction

Oysters have been harvested on the Georges River for at least the last 6000 years initially by the local indigenous peoples and in the 19th and 20th centuries by European. Today, due to a combination of environmental factors and disease, the oyster industry has all but disappeared from the Georges River. Although the industries history has been poorly documented a rich archaeological record has been left in the mud and on the river banks. This article borrows heavily from an article by Dawn Emmerson published in the SSHS Bulletin in May 2007.

History

The oyster industry on the Georges River can be divided into 3 overlapping periods, shown in Image 1. Indigenous Australians practised sustainable harvesting of oysters from the river with a C14 dating of over 6000 BCE from one of the Georges Rivers middens (NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy, 2006, p7). When the first fleet arrived, they found Sydney with no source of limestone to make builders mortar close by and began burning the oyster shells in Port Jackson. Oysters appear to have been harvested from the Georges River by the settlers as early as 1812 (Ashton, P, 2006, P38). They were not prized by the European population for their succulent flesh, but for their shells. In 1831 John Alford, after whom Alford's Point was named, supplied lime from the Georges River for the construction of the Lansdowne Bridge across Prospect Creek (Pedr D, p85). To protect oyster stocks authorities banded the burning of live oysters around 1876 prompting the extensive burning of indigenous middens. Sydney siders slowly developed a taste for eating oysters with many oyster bars opening, starting around 1864.

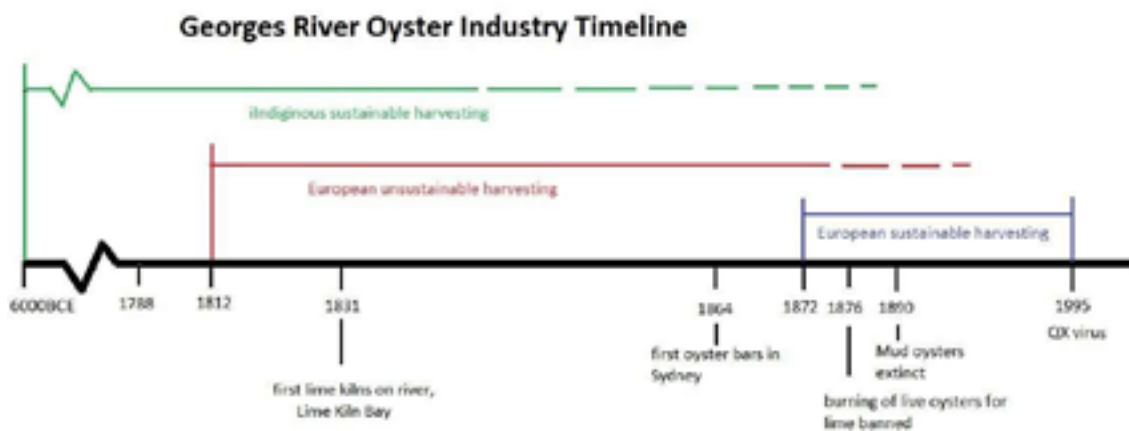


Image 1: Time line

Because of their large and heavy shells, the large mud oyster was prized by the lime burners, and these were overfished and declared extinct in the Georges River by 1896 (Kurnell - Birthplace of Modern Australia, 2008) but can still be found in some South Coast estuaries. Their shell, shown in Image 2, can occasionally be found in old indigenous middens. The small but tasty Sydney rock oyster became the mainstay of the industry for over 100 years with cultivation starting around 1864 (Emerson D., 2007). Various methods of cultivation were tried including placing rocks in the river for the oysters to grow on, shown in Image 3, before the modern tray method of cultivation, shown in Image 4, was adopted.



Image 2: *Mud oyster are now extinct, but their shells, like these, can sometimes be found in indigenous middens.*

[Photo: G. Jackson]



Image 3: *Growing oysters on rocks, an early form of oyster cultivation* [Photo: Sutherland Shire Council 1900 – 1920]



Image 4: *Modern tray oyster cultivation, Lime Kiln Bay, Georges River* [Photo: Oatley Flora and Fauna, n.d.]

Pacific oysters were mysteriously introduced to the Georges River in the 1980's but they have caused significant problems for the oyster farmers who cultivate native Sydney Rock Oysters.

Image 5 shows the variations in oyster production in the Georges River since 1931/1932. The production of oysters peaked in 1972/3 and was on the way down when the QX virus was detected in the Georges River in 1994, causing cessation of oyster farming up river over the following years. Oysters had been grown on almost all the mud flats along the Georges River from its mouth up to Lugarno and up the Georges River major estuary, the Woronora River, as far as Woronora Village. Today oyster leases are only in Woollooware Bay, at the rivers entrance into Botany Bay, and, as can be seen in Image 5, the production of oysters is now insignificant.

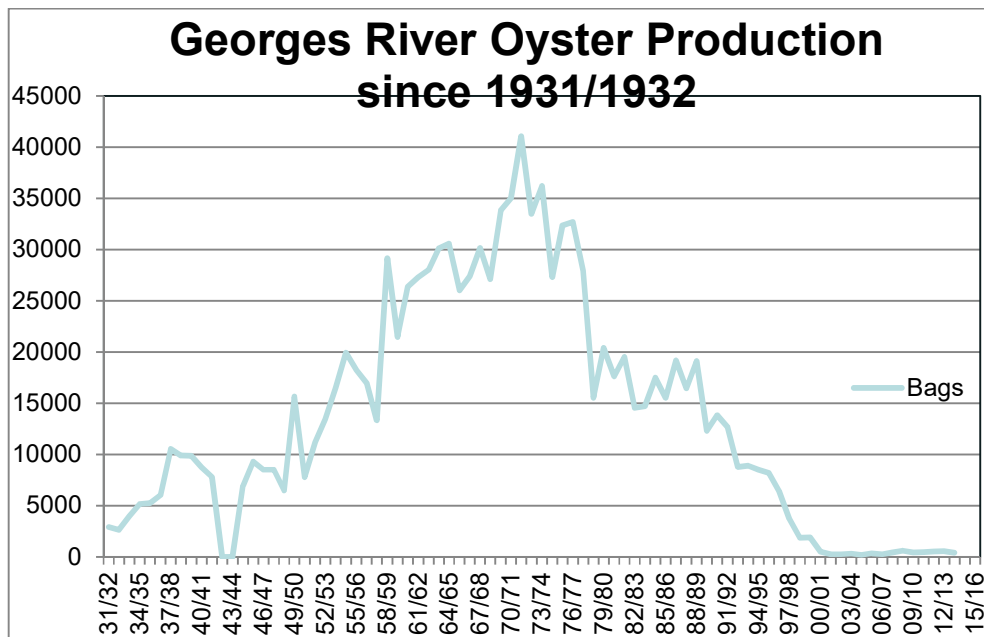


Image 5: *Georges River oyster production since 1931* [Courtesy: Department of Primary Industry]

After gathering oysters for at least 8,000 years it was natural for the indigenous population along the river to be involved in the oyster industry. This involvement however is poorly documented. It is known that local aboriginal identity, Biddy Giles and her brother Joe worked on oyster leases for Georges River land holder John Holt in his unsuccessful attempt to cultivate oysters starting in 1864.

Case Study – Audrey Bay

Audrey Bay on the Woronora River, a tributary of the Georges River, is today an isolated backwater but has been a scene of continuous oyster harvesting and cultivation from before 1788.

Indigenous oyster gathering is represented by the many middens, containing oyster, cockle and whelk shells located around the bay. An indigenous shelter, containing hand stencils and stone tools together with a large midden, was recently located beside the bay. This shelter was reported by pioneer oysterman Andrew Derwent



Image 6: *Aerial photo showing indigenous sites around Audrey Bay* [SIX Map]

in the 1880 to be the home of the last indigenous person living in a traditional way on the Woronora River (Humbley & Salt, 2012). Image 6 shows the location of these indigenous sites

on the southern side of Audrey Bay. An article describing this shelter was published in the SSHS Bulletin, Feb. 2018 and is available online (Jackson G., Forbes P. 2017).

Early European oyster cultivation (or gathering) is evident by three old slab hut sites located beside the bay and evidence for oyster cultivation on rocks can be seen at several locations in the bay (the same method shown in Image 3). The location of these features is shown in Image 7. The huts are all small and primitive with no signs of roofing iron or water tanks. They are all similar and a plan of Hut 1 is shown in Image 8. The remnant rock oyster leases, testify to very early cultivation of oysters in this location and is the only place on the Georges River, known to the authors, where the remains of this type of cultivation can now be seen.



Image 7: Evidence of Early European oyster cultivation in Audrey Bay [Source: SIX Map]

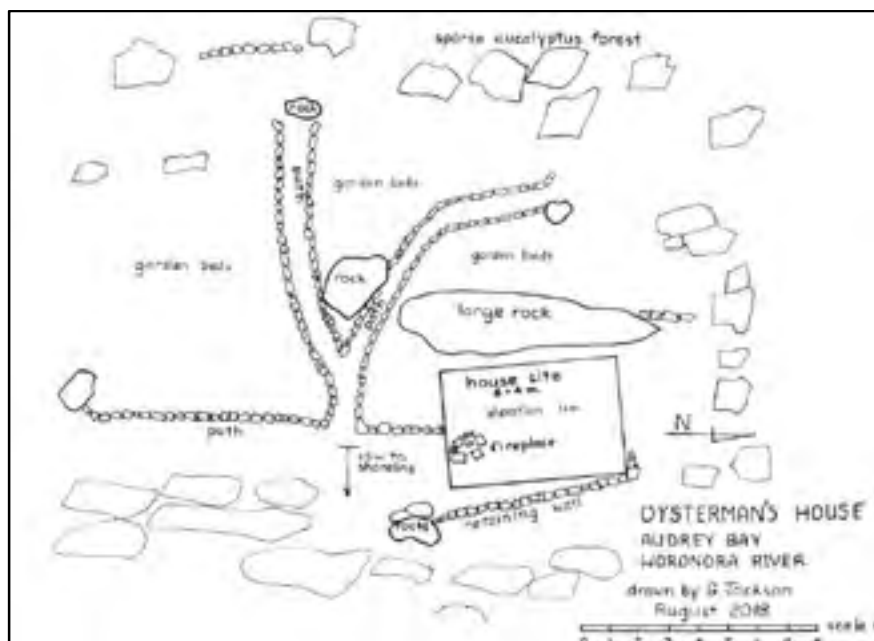


Image 8: Plan of Hut 1 beside Audrey Bay [Drawing by G. Jackson]

Evidence for modern oyster cultivation, up to the 1980's, can be seen on the aerial view of Audrey Bay shown in Image 9.

Image 9: Modern oyster pro-cessing infrastructure remaining in Audrey Bay
[SIX Map]

At least five oyster processing areas can be seen around Audrey Bay and the location of most of these sites, on a difficult to access mangrove island, has resulted in the survival of much of the abandoned oyster processing infra-structure.



Why the industry collapsed

The oyster industries woes cannot be blamed on the QX virus. From Image 5 it can be seen that production had already fallen by approximately 80% from its peak 1972/73 by 1994 when the virus struck. Possible reasons for this collapse have been given by a 4th generation Georges River oyster farmer, Laurie Derwent, in an address to the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society on the 24th October 2016 (Oatley Flora and Fauna Society, Pub. 2016) and are listed below:

- Mudworm (*esp. Polydora websteri*)
- Urban runoff: Industrial and land development
- Sewage Pollution
- Oil spills & clean up (dispersants)
- TBT – Tributyltin antifoulants (French ban 1982, NSW Mar 1989 – after 1 year industry campaign)
- QX – (*Martelia sydneyi*) – protozoan parasite
- POMS – Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (*OsHV-1 micro variant*). France 2008, Georges R 2010, Tas Feb 2016.
- Poor catches of hatchlings (at least by 1976),
- Boat wash, (physical damage and turbidity)
- Heavy metals
- Acid sulphate soils (worse in other estuaries)
- Jellyfish have disappeared from the Georges River. Is this a possible cause?
- Don't forget the little guys (plankton, invertebrates, fish larvae etc)

While it is impossible to verify many of these possible causes for the industries collapse between 1972 and 2000 many stems from the changing nature of the riverside suburbs. Population densities in these suburbs has increased enormously since the peak production year of 1972 and with this increase population environmental pressure on the river has increased. It is significant that the only leases left in the river are in the sparsely populated Woollooware Bay area which is bordered on the north and south side by vast mangrove swamps. The decline of the Georges River oyster industry is permanent. The industry is not compatible with the increasing population living on the banks of suburban estuaries and the use of the river for modern leisure activities, but the oyster industry will continue to prosper in sparsely populated pristine estuaries.

Conclusion

Although oyster farming on the Georges River has existed since before European settlement and for a considerable period was a thriving industry its archaeology has received little attention. Starting in the late 19 century the nature of oyster farming changed from simple gathering a natural resource to a sophisticated farming industry leading to its eventual decline. Audrey Bay is a useful case study of the rise and fall of the oyster industry with all the different phases of the industry represented in the archaeological record and more waiting to be discovered.

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McDowells Department Store, Caringbah (1961-1972)
belonged to a bygone era of culture and service
(see story, page 8)

Photos kindly supplied by Gordon Stone



McDowells window display, 1960s



*Mr Southern Districts Contest, held by
McDowells, Caringbah 1960s*



*Razza the Clown and Princess Rainbow Christmas Show
(starring Gordon and Lorraine Stone)
held on Stones' front lawn for neighbourhood children, 1970s*

SUTHERLAND SHIRE: A CLASSICAL HERITAGE

(See story, p.23)



Masonic Temple, Cronulla, ca 1920s [Source: SSL Historic Photo Collection]

Opened in 1921 at 43 Kingsway, this imposing structure built by Frederick Sorenson was described in the *Propeller*, on 18 February 1921 (p.1) as being 'constructed of brick and tiled roof: its front elevation is characterised by imposing pillars supporting a finely designed brick verandah and pediment in classical style, giving the structure an impression of dignity and solidity.'

St Andrews Anglican Church, Cronulla, ca 1930s [Source: SSL Historic Photo Collection]

Opened 3 July 1935, this church, known as the Elephant Church with its Roman arch rotated around a central axis, giving us the dome, is a fine example of neo-Byzantine style.



SSHS XMAS PARTY 2018 at BUNDEENA RSL

[Photo: E. Craig]

