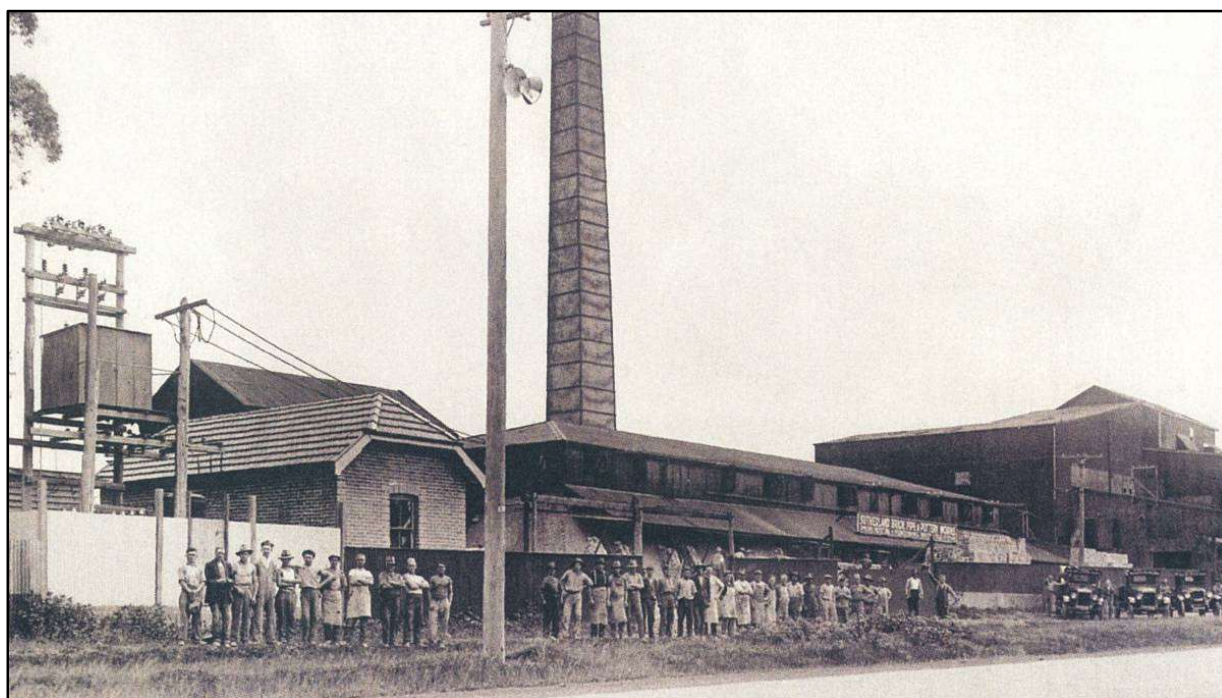




NUMBER: 216 — AUGUST 2020



Kirrawee Brickpit with workers, c.1920s
[From *Leader*, 7.1.2018, source of image unknown]

See brief history of Kirrawee Brickpit inside front cover

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

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

FACEBOOK: Sutherland Shire Historical Society

KIRRAWEE BRICKPIT – a brief history



Kirrawee Brickpit, ca 1928-1929 [SSL]



Kirrawee Brickpit chimneys on Princes H'way ca 1970s [SSL]



Water-logged site of brickpit in 2014 [Leader, 20.11.2014]

Sutherland Brick Company established the brickworks at Kirrawee in 1912. Clay and shale quarried locally significantly reduced the cost of transporting materials from other areas and kept the factory competitive. In 1917 it was owned by Refractory Bricks Limited, and in 1927 Punchbowl Brick and Tile Company Limited bought it. It was known as the Sutherland Brick, Pipe & Pottery Works, and operated until 1961. The site was decommissioned in 1968 and the landmark brick chimneys were demolished seven years later as were all buildings on the site in 1979. (*The Leader*, 17 January 2018; plaque, South Village historical display)

Developers Payce, Mirvac and DeiCorp bought the water logged site, and in 2016 building of South Village began, a mixed development of retail, residential and public space. A historical display has been installed, featuring the archaeological remains of the bee-hive shaped Pipe Kiln 1, one of the last kilns of its type. The building was open for business in 2018.

Elizabeth Craig



Display of remains of Pipe Kiln No. 1, [Photo: E. Craig]

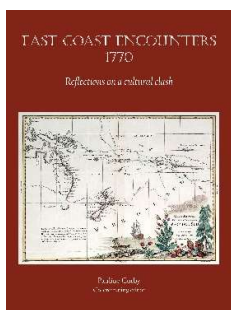


South Village on site of old brickpit, Aug. 2020 [Photo: E.Craig]



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East Coast Encounters 1770, reflections on a cultural clash produced by SSHS Publications Committee is still available for \$30 (discounted price for SSHS members) + \$10 delivery (free delivery to Shire addresses.)

Or

\$20 to those who join or renew their membership to SSHS (+\$40 membership fee).

See our website: www.shirehistory.org for details or phone Elizabeth Craig

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY

The SSHS has a proud tradition stretching back more than half a century 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 and on our website: www.shirehistory.org. 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 0491 096 642.

Digital copies of the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc Bulletin* are emailed to all Society members with online access. Print copies are sent free to members without online access. Digital copies are also emailed 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. Issues from September 1966 are also posted on the SSHS website: www.shirehistory.org

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REGISTRATION

SSHS BULLETIN – ISSN 1444-2930 (from February 2000); ISSN 2652-0400 (Online) (from May 2019)

Society publications are registered with the National Library of Australia in accordance with International Standard Serial Numbering and have an ISSN or 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. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, meetings have been suspended until further notice.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE MUSEUM

Our museum is currently closed. We have been relocated from the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts in East Parade Sutherland to a venue in Venetia Street, Sylvania, which, after COVID-19 crisis is over, will be renovated to accommodate our Museum. More information on access, opening times etc will be released in due course.

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. Donations will be stored safely while we wait for renovations of our new venue to be finished.

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: 2019-2020

ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor, Clr Carmelo Pesce		
PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	0405 493 187	watto51@optusnet.com.au
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	Joe Hales	0418 270 744	joe_hales@outlook.com
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	Vacant		
TREASURER	John Doherty	0402 848 344	johndoherty55@gmail.com
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Carol McDonald	9528 5122	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
	Elizabeth Craig	0491 099 642	elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
	Helen Rosner	8539 7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

MUSEUM CURATOR/MANAGER	Vacant		
BULLETIN EDITOR	Elizabeth Craig	0491 096 642	elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	creoaus@gmail.com
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	Pauline Curby	0427 527 721	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Pauline Curby	0427 527 721	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
ARCHIVIST/RESEARCH OFFICER	Carol McDonald	9528 5122	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
GRANTS OFFICER	Don Rothnie	0409 820 815	bardon@bigpond.com.au
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Carol McDonald	9528 5122	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
EXCURSIONS OFFICER	Vacant		
BULLETIN PROOF READER	Vacant		
EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK	Vacant		
HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER	Helen Rosner	8539 7707	hmrosner@bigpond.com
WELFARE OFFICER	Gloria Hans	9589 0251	
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari		

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions still vacant and wish more information, please don't hesitate to contact an Executive Committee member by email or speak to us at the next meeting

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020-2021 ARE NOW DUE

Membership Forms were included with the May issue and can be downloaded from our website (www.shirehistory.org). Otherwise contact the Treasurer to have one sent to you.

SSHS CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2020 – NOVEMBER 2020
(See website: www.shirehistory.org for updates)

SSHS MEETING - normally held at 1.30pm, 3rd Saturday in the month
at the **Stapleton Centre, Sutherland**

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED

Because of our relocation from the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts
to a venue in Venetia St., Sylvania - to be renovated prior to SSHS moving in -
the Museum will be closed until further notice. We will keep you posted

DATE

SEPT 2020	Sat. 19 th	<p align="center">Annual General Meeting</p> <p align="center">Think about standing for a Committee position. Crucial positions currently vacant, include Secretary, Excursions Officer and Museum Curator. Talk to Bruce Watt for more information.</p> <p>SPEAKER: Pip Rae, of Sutherland Shire Podcast Station will tell us about the audio guide for self-guided tours in the Shire she is creating, and the involvement of SSHS members for the historical content.</p>
	Sat. 17 th	<p>SPEAKER: One of the authors who contributed to <i>East Coast Encounters 1770</i> will speak about their chapter of the book, including some little-known facts that debunk the myths of Captain Cook. Was he a hero, a villain, or neither? DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER</p>
OCTOBER 2020	Sun. 25 th	<p>EXCURSION: to the Nursing Museum at the Old Prince Henry Hospital, then on to La Perouse Museum and Bare Island guided tour. Cost: \$15 (\$13 concessions) for Bare Island tour. Advise to bring lunch. Departing Sutherland outside Museum at 9.15am and car pool. Let Christine Edney know if you will attend – 8519 4711 or cmedney@gmail.com.au</p>
	Sat. 21 st	<p>SPEAKER to be confirmed at meetings, or by email.</p>
NOVEMBER 2020		<p align="center">In these uncertain times we will keep you posted via our website (www.shirehistory.org), as well as our monthly newsletter, <i>Reaching Out</i>, or by email/mail about any changes in our schedule of events</p>

Printed copies of the Bulletin?

If you wish to receive printed copies of the *Bulletin* this financial year and haven't yet
paid SSHS \$20 for printing and postage (\$5 per issue), please send in a cheque (with a
note) to the Treasurer, SSHS at PO Box 389, Sutherland 1449.

Or transfer \$20 to SSHS Bank Account: BSB: 641-800; Acc. No.200798393;

Ref. ('Name'/Bulletin).

Emailed *Bulletins* are free.

Any queries? Email us at shirehistory@gmail.com or phone Elizabeth Craig

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

THIS NOTICE IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT THE AGM AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021 WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2020

COMMENCING AT 1.30PM

STAPLETON CENTRE, 21A STAPLETON STREET SUTHERLAND

-
1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY AND APOLOGIES
 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM
 3. ADOPTION OF ALL ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019-2020 FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 2020 BULLETIN.
 4. ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2019-2020 AS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 2020 BULLETIN.
 5. PRESENTATION BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT.
 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

HONORARY SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER

HONORARY TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBER 1

COMMITTEE MEMBER 2

COMMITTEE MEMBER 3

7. AGM GENERAL BUSINESS

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN AUGUST 2020 CAROL McDONALD, ACTING SECRETARY

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

BRUCE WATT



Hello members and friends. 2020 has been a challenging year with drought, bushfires, floods and COVID – 19, a world-wide event reminiscent of the Spanish Flu pandemic 100 years ago. As we watch the effects of this pandemic engulfing the world, our situation at home is in a precarious state and we are aware of the need to be vigilant in our habits. We have been unable to meet as a group since April, when we were forced to scrap our plans to launch the Heritage Festival and also our book launch commemorating the 250th year of Cook's arrival at Botany Bay in 1770. We miss our regular contact through meetings, etc.

The new book, *East Coast Encounters 1770*, has continued to sell despite this setback, thanks especially to the efforts of Pauline Curby. Thanks to our *Bulletin* editor, Elizabeth Craig, communication has been kept alive through her newsletter initiative, *Reaching Out*. The executive has continued to meet through electronic 'zoom' meetings. We hope that we can maintain our 54-year history of preserving local history, and that we don't lose members as we move on.

I joined the Society around 1980 as a young(ish) man who had recently moved to the Shire, keen to learn about the area. Work and family commitments meant I contributed little other than learning about our history through the *Bulletin*, but I maintained continuous membership. I joined the executive in 2005 as the *Bulletin* Editor. Those years were busy, exciting and it was a steep learning curve as I read all of the past *Bulletins*, researched and attempted to put my mark on the publication, (and developed my computing skills!). The books that I was to later write, *The Shire: a journey through time* (2014) and *Dharawal, the first contact people* (2019) were possible because of my love of and deep commitment

to telling this unique story, and leaving something for posterity. I thank the Society for nurturing me in this and many other ways.

In 2011 I stood for the position of president, a position that I have held for nine years. One needs time to settle into the job, establish procedures and to make changes where necessary. One also knows when to step aside so that 'new blood' has time to grow and move an organisation on. For some time I have advocated for succession and the rotation of roles. Some organisations have time limits on how long positions should be held - eg three years.

This year I will step down as president. With the AGM approaching I encourage members who are able or looking for a challenge to consider taking on positions that are vacant. Behind the various activities that a volunteer organisation provides are people who willingly contribute their time and skills. I have been encouraged and nurtured by the team of people who have contributed in a professional way to the running of the Society. I would not have stood for office as president for as long as I have if I had not received as much as I had given. I intend to continue in other capacities. There are challenges ahead that will enable people to make their mark.

I recall many of the activities and events that we have initiated and run over recent times. After many years the museum in the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts was due for refurbishment and a grant from Museums and Galleries was sought. In 2014 it reopened with a new theme called *A journey through time*. We were very proud of the new look, the Indigenous focus and illustrative aspects of periods in our history displayed in cabinets. These would be updated in time with illuminated glass cabinets. School students and other groups were regular visitors as well as to exhibitions in association with the annual Heritage Festival.

The School of Arts was the venue for many events. Members enjoyed a social *Night at the museum*, and it was the site of the launch of the Aboriginal bark canoe, built by Dean Kelly, an Aboriginal elder. His spiritual explanation of Aboriginal culture was spell binding. A special art program was staged in 2018. *Painting the Shire* featured around 140 paintings, sculptures and pottery items by Shire artists or of Shire scenes from as early as 1880, involving many art societies and individuals.

Our society has partnered with many other groups through the Heritage Festival, Council's Get Active program, the Meeting of two cultures ceremony at Kurnell, advocacy for related causes, Forum meetings with other historical societies and family history groups, Menai Men's Shed, RSL clubs (Anzac Day and Armistice Day and building memorials) and talks to and visits by schools and clubs. Teaching units and museum boxes were developed especially for students in stages 2 and 3 (8 and 9-year-olds). Imagine the fascination of 8-year-olds who have never seen a typewriter or a gramophone or dial telephone.

The Society was invited to join the Hungry Point Reserve Trust to develop a future for the former Fisheries site at Cronulla with special interest in its historical and Indigenous history.

Apart from the variety of speakers at monthly meetings, members enjoyed regular outings by bus, train, car or on foot. Many oral histories were conducted and added to the Local Studies collection. Along the way the executive held planning days to discuss our business plan, excursions and ways forward. Some enjoyable garden parties were held at Nola Watt's house and memorable Christmas functions on the Hacking River and elsewhere.

At one Christmas function, members gave short talks about their memories from when they were young. Springing from this day was a wonderful book containing many of these stories. *My world when I was 10* was one of five publications by the society or its members that have been produced in recent times. Thank you, Angela Thomas for this initiative.

Other books include: *The Shire a journey through time* (Bruce Watt 1914), a comprehensive account of the Shire's Indigenous past and from European settlement through to the present time. It was launched at a society meeting.

Caretakers of our past: the first 50 years of Sutherland Shire Historical Society 1966-2016, (2016) by Elizabeth Craig was a fitting expose of the workings, characters and politics of the society in preserving local history.

Kareela lucky and liveable (2018) by Elizabeth Adams was published on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Kareela. It was initiated by the society's publication group and is a model for how local histories should be written.

Dharawal the first contact people (2019), by Bruce Watt was written for the impending 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's arrival at Botany Bay. It describes pre-contact Indigenous culture and the 250-year path to the present.

East coast encounters 1770, reflections on a cultural clash (2020), with Pauline Curby as co-ordinating editor, produced to mark the 250th anniversary of Cook's visit, is a collaborative effort of 10 authors reflecting on aspects of the Cook visit from Indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives.

The relocation of the museum from the Sutherland Memorial School of Arts to a venue at Sylvania Heights has now had a long gestation and has been well documented. As we planned the close-down of the museum in March ready for relocation, COVID – 19 struck and we are still some way off from the relocation. This remains one of the challenges for the future, but we are receiving assistance in many forms.

Looking back over the society's long history there have always been challenges. Our society is like many other organisations that operate on few funds and are reliant on keen volunteers who are willing and able to contribute time and expertise. Clearly there is pride in the legacy of what has been achieved.

I ask our members and readers to reflect on the fact that nothing is achieved without effort. But rewards are many too. Participating in the friendship and enjoyment of a learning and social pastime is reward in itself. We are encouraging some younger members and associates with fresh skills and perspectives in promotion and these are beginning to bear fruit. More on this later. We are mindful though that older, post retiree members are in an enviable position to be able to contribute and

learn and these will remain our core constituents. The knowledge that as 'elders' we are handing on our knowledge to future generations is a noble thought.

Thank you to all those who have been integral to the smooth running of our Society, from the movers and shakers to the unsung heroes who just get on with the job, without creating a fuss. We need you and we thank you.

Hope to see you all again soon.

ACTING SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

CAROL McDONALD

How things change

What a year we have had! The current year has shown just how unpredictable life can be.

We have faced the fact that we had to move on from the School of Arts to Venetia Street, Sylvania. Although not what we would have wanted the Sutherland Shire Council are fixing it up to make it our home. We hope that the Historical Society members will support us there. We move with a well organised museum, a catalogue of items and a research room for information gathering thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

2020 saw us going into hibernation. Meetings and excursions from March onward have been cancelled, in particular the book launch for *East Coast Encounters 1770*. Hopefully this can be celebrated later in the year. Thanks must go to Elizabeth Craig for keeping us up-to-date with the *Bulletins* and newsletters.

The speakers we have had this financial year were varied and interesting. Thank you all.

In August 2019 we had Dennis and Stephen Burns speak about their ancestor William Burns, who was an original settler in Caringbah. At the AGM in September Stephen Ward, Heritage Centre Manager for Woolworths, spoke about the history of Woolworths in the Shire.

Perhaps Pauline Curby had a premonition of what was to come as she addressed us on the 1919 Influenza epidemic at the October meeting. At the November Meeting George Cotis continued with his expose on Fish, Fishing and Fisheries in Port Hacking.

The Christmas Lunch was held in December at the Kareela Golf Course and was a most enjoyable day.

In January 2020 Noel Elliot spoke about steam trains and railways in Tasmania, and in February Michael Adams presented his book *A Big History of Little Stanwell Park*.

We hope that all current and past members will continue to support the SSHS. We are a very proactive group of volunteers who hope to preserve the history and the future of Sutherland Shire. As at 1st July 2020 we had 93 financial members. Don't forget that for \$60 you get membership and a copy of *East Coast Encounters 1770*.

Thanks must go to Don Rothnie for his role as Secretary and Grants Officer. It was with sadness that he had to resign during the year.

Looking forward to a positive future when life can return to normal.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

Reaching Out

Firstly, thank you to everyone for your support in these difficult times. Your response to our new monthly newsletter, *Reaching Out* has been very heartening, and we are thinking it may even continue after Covid-19 restrictions are over. It seems a good informal way of connecting with each other, with its lighter, more varied and potentially more personal content. So please keep your little snippets rolling in.

Bulletin – a unique resource

Thank you too for those meaty research articles on local history that have been coming in for the *Bulletin*. As you know, all the *Bulletins* we have published since 1966 are on our website where anyone in the world can access them via the internet. The *Bulletins* are a unique and well researched resource for researchers of Shire history. And by the end of this year we will have all the articles in 54 years' worth of *Bulletins* professionally indexed. By typing a keyword into a 'search box', you will be directed to every article in our *Bulletin* collection containing that keyword. Quick and easy!

Selling books DESPITE Covid-19

As you know we were unable to launch our book marking the 250th anniversary of Lt Cook's arrival in Botany Bay - *East Coast Encounters 1770, reflections on a cultural clash*, and many bookstores have been unable to stock it because of Covid-19 restrictions. Pauline Curby, our Publications Officer, described in our last *Bulletin* (May, p.9) how we contracted an online expert to market the book via the internet. Videos of the book's authors talking about their contribution were posted to our website and on Facebook. Sutherland Library also videoed a 'virtual' launch for us,

comprising interviews with authors and posting the video online. Meanwhile, the Publications team emailed many hundreds of potential buyers and book stores with book order forms. Pauline Curby and Treasurer John Doherty have worked very hard to manage the resulting book orders and payments. Such has been the success that we are now considering whether we should do a reprint – but later in the year when (hopefully) bookstores open again, and we can have an 'actual' launch!

Promoting SSHS online

The SSHS Executive realise the internet is an excellent avenue for advertising the presence of our Society and all that we do, and potentially attract new members. We have contracted Tess Dowell, a Wollongong University student doing her Masters Degree in archaeology, and with a passionate interest in Shire history, to use her online skills to promote our activities. Tess has already created a couple of self-guided walking tours which are now on our website and social media. We have had to close our Museum, but we are working with Tess to post small stories and photos online about particular artefacts from our Museum. The artefacts themselves will be displayed for a month or so in spaces like libraries, where the public can view them.

We need you!

So, as you can see, we have been working behind the scenes. It's been a lot of fun and certainly satisfying. We would welcome others to take part in these and other activities. For instance, we have ideas for excursions, but need someone to manage them. We also need a secretary – desperately! If any role sounds interesting to you, please come to our AGM in September and volunteer your services.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

JOHN DOHERTY

Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc

Profit and loss as at JUNE 2020

Income	2020	2019
Advertising	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00
Calendars	\$	\$ 506.00
Donations	\$ 510.60	\$ 1129.75
Excursions	\$	\$ 485.00
Grants	\$ 5500.00	\$ 17979.50
Book sales:-	\$	\$
ECE 1770	\$ 5798.00	\$
Kareela	\$ 717.50	\$ 13766.71
Other	\$ 322.40	\$ 508.00
Subscriptions	\$ 3530.00	\$ 3630.00
Heritage Festival	\$ 1640.00	\$
Miscellaneous	\$ 2536.20	\$ 2631.25
Bulletin	\$ 236.00	\$
Paintings	\$ 120.00	\$
Interest received - St. Geo.	\$ 201.83	\$ 230.88
Interest received - IMB	\$ 86.92	\$
	<u>\$ 21399.45</u>	<u>\$ 41467.09</u>
Expenses		
Bank Fees	\$	\$ 15.00
Book Exp - ECE 1770	\$ 12866.80	\$ 7053.56
Bulletin & postage	\$ 2192.94	\$ 1904.35
Calendars	\$	\$ 460.00
Excursions	\$	\$ 440.10
Framing	\$	\$
General Exp	\$ 1108.56	\$ 2081.43
Insurance	\$ 343.00	\$ 321.00
Licences and Fees	\$	\$
Subscriptions	\$ 313.00	\$ 263.00
Museum Exp	\$ 68.95	\$ 5173.90
Hall hire	\$ 753.13	\$ 1023.83
Special projects	\$	\$ 8327.50
Heritage Festival	\$ 1744.00	\$
Stationery & Postage	\$ 458.38	\$ 619.50
Website/kiosk exp	\$ 536.80	\$ 3860.40
Equipment Purchases	\$	\$ 2914.06
	<u>\$ 20385.56</u>	<u>\$ 34457.63</u>
Net Operating Profit(Loss)	\$ 1013.89	\$ 7009.46
Retained profits at the beginning of Financial year	\$ 26960.81	\$ 19951.35
		\$
RETAINED PROFIT AT THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19	<u>\$ 27974.70</u>	<u>\$ 26960.81</u>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ABN 17 083 299 572

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

CURRENT ASSETS	2020.00	2019.00
St George Term Deposit	\$	\$ 9285.06
IMB Term Deposit	\$ 10000.00	\$
IMB Everyday Unlimited	\$ 17824.70	\$ 17525.75
Petty Cash	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
	<u>\$ 27974.70</u>	<u>\$ 26960.81</u>
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	\$ 26960.81	\$ 19951.35
Current Year Earnings	\$ 1013.89	\$ 7009.46
Balance as at 30 June 2019	<u>\$ 27974.70</u>	<u>\$ 26960.81</u>

DECLARATION

The Management Committee declared that the association is not a reporting entity and this is a special purpose financial report.

The Committee of the association declares that:

1. the financial statements as set out on pages 1 & 2 present fairly the association's financial position as at 30th June, 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. in the Committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

President Brian Watt

Date 5/8/20

~~Secretary~~ Treasurer John Holt

Date 5th August 2010

KURNELL 1770 – THE ‘WATERING PLACE’ – A POSTSCRIPT

BRUCE HOWELL

Since the appearance of the article ‘Kurnell 1770 – the ‘Watering Place’ – exactly where was it?’ (in the May 2019 edition of the *SSHS Bulletin*), a significant ‘new’ piece of information has emerged.

The central core of the article was that although it seems obvious that the freshwater stream at Kurnell was the ‘watering place’ (the term used in the *Endeavour* journals), there is a plaque almost 350 metres southwest of the stream stating that the watering place was located there (a few metres south of Holt’s obelisk), at a spot dubbed ‘Cook’s Well’.

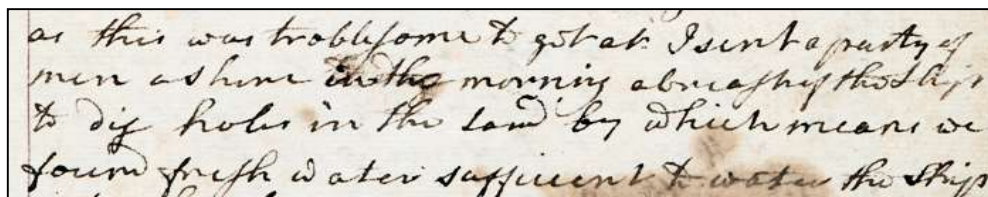
One would think that the various *Endeavour* journals, logs and diaries would shed light on the situation, but a careful check of the available documents was inconclusive.

But convincing new evidence has been found. It was found in the ‘Admiralty copy’ of Cook’s journal, held in the Public Records Office in London. The *Admiralty* copy contains some variations that do not appear in any of the other copies, not even in Cook’s own journal.

Firstly, THE PROBLEM:

None of the journals/logs/diaries (available at the time of writing the article) specifically identify the stream as the ‘watering place’. Cook’s diary (separate to his journal) doesn’t mention a stream at all, only ‘holes in the sand’:

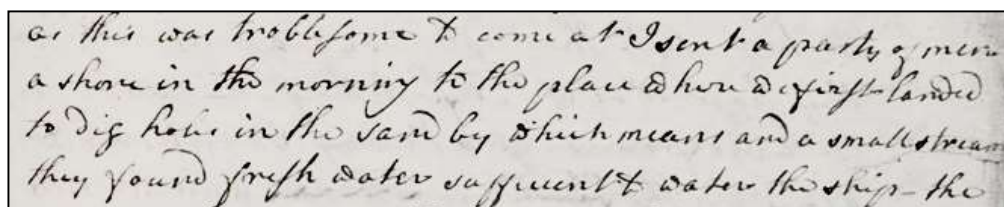
*I sent a party of men ashore in the morning abreast of the ship to **dig holes in the sand by which means we found fresh water** sufficient to water the ship.* (Bold font added by author)



Cook’s Diary entry dated Sunday 29th April 1770.¹

And in Cook’s own journal (‘Cook’s holograph’) in which he does mention the stream, it is a cursory mention at best:

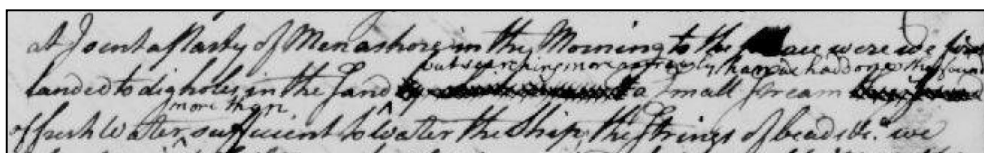
*I sent a party of men a shore in the morning to the place where we first landed to **dig holes in the sand by which means and a small stream they found fresh water** sufficient to water the ship.* (Bold font added by author)



Cook’s holograph journal entry dated 29th April 1770.²

Now, THE 'NEW' INFORMATION:

The new information comes in the form of notes added to the 'Admiralty copy' of Cook's journal.



From the 'Admiralty copy' of Cook's journal, entry dated 29th April 1770.³

Note that there are several changes to the lines shown earlier from Cook's diary and Cook's journal – two sections have been scratched out, two comments have been inserted, and the word 'of' has been written at the beginning of the last line.

Here is a literal transcription of the above excerpt, featuring all changes:

I sent a Party of Men ashore in the Morning to the place where [sic] we first landed to dig holes in the Sand ~~by which means and~~ ^{^ but searching more narrowly than we had done they found} a Small Stream ~~they~~ ^{found} of fresh water ^{^ more than} sufficient to water the Ship ⁴

Now the sentence reads very differently:

I sent a party of men ashore in the morning to the place where [sic] we first landed to dig holes in the sand but searching more narrowly than we had done they found a small stream of fresh water more than sufficient to water the ship

The deletion of 'by which means' plus the inclusion of the words 'but' and 'more than', changes the meaning of the sentence entirely – it makes it abundantly clear that the 'small stream of fresh water' was the place where the *Endeavour's* water supplies were taken.⁵

So now we can look at the events which took place at 'the watering place' in 1770 and have certainty that those events took place either at or adjacent to the freshwater stream – and the journals refer to several such events. These will be the subject of another article.

Endnotes

¹ Available at: http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?index=0&ref=Add_MS_27885. See f.21r-21v.

² Available at: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229041218/view>.

³ The Admiralty copy can be downloaded from the UK National Archives, catalogue reference ADM 55/40, at: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C2976712>

⁴ The 'Admiralty copy' of Cook's journal is in the hand of Cook's clerk Richard Orton (indeed the misspelling of 'where' as 'were' is Orton's error, not Cook's). However the extra notes appear to be in Cook's hand.

⁵ Why Cook added these changes to a copy of his journal (i.e. *not* his holograph journal), and *only* that copy, needs to be considered. Firstly, if Cook made the changes while in Batavia, those changes are less likely to have been included in the first copy, since it was sent back to England shortly after arrival in Batavia. Entries in the third copy ceased on 10th October 1770, two weeks before the first copy was sent. This could suggest that the third copy was no longer held to be as important as the first and second copies. Without knowing exactly when Cook added the new information to the 'Admiralty copy' nor over what timeframe the third copy was compiled, it's not possible to be absolutely certain, however a reasonable assumption is that Cook considered the second copy as the 'best copy' (indeed it was the one that he would eventually present to the Admiralty) and since he probably had every intention of retaining his own holograph, that he used this 'best copy' as the one he would finally review, making any required changes as he went. The three months spent in Batavia (plus the final leg home) provided ample time to do that.

THE REASSESSMENT OF COOKS' ACHIEVEMENT, PT. 2: THE SECRET 'MAP' OF AUSTRALIA.

GARRIOCK DUNCAN

This is the second and final instalment on my two part series investigating the 'Secret History of Australia'. The two articles have dealt with the European discovery of the east coast of Australia some two centuries before Cook in 1770. In Part 1 (*Bulletin* May 2020), I concentrated on the theory of Kenneth Gordon McIntyre about the discovery of the east coast of Australia by the obscure Portuguese navigator, Christavao da Mendonça.¹ In Part 2, I am going to look at the theory of Helen M Wallis, former Curator of Maps at the British Museum.

In 1993, the National Library of Australia mounted a major exhibition on the mapping of the Australian coastline - 'Changing Coastlines'. The subtitle of the exhibition was: 'Putting Australia on the world Map, 1493 - 1993'.² By 1993 I was already familiar with MacIntyre's theory.³ I had been using it for some time with Year 9 History students as a means to stimulate some interest in the story of Cook. In early 1994 the exhibition moved to Sydney and was held at the National Maritime Museum. There was a series of associated public lectures given in connection with the map exhibition. One of these was by Helen Wallis: *The Enigma of Jave-la-Grande: Did the Portuguese discover Australia in the early 16th century?* This article is a consequence of that lecture.

At the end of the first article, I raised a number of issues still to be resolved, and cited the two following passages:⁴

*Though open to much conjecture, an expedition by the Portuguese Christavo Mendonça in 1522 may have circumnavigated Australia and produced maps.*⁵

*It is speculated that Joseph Banks possessed a copy [of one] of the 'Dieppe Maps' of the east coast of the Australian continent drawn up to 200 years earlier than when he and Lieutenant Cook sailed for the South Pacific in 1768.*⁶

The date 1522, ie at the beginning of the 16th century is significant. Maps on the eve of Columbus' voyage, e.g. Hartman Schedal's map of 1493, do not show Jave le Grande. Instead, they show the mythical land of *Taprobana*.⁷ Fitting in with the theory of both McIntyre and Wallis, further exploration was carried out by the Portuguese. Yet, the earliest surviving Portuguese map, that of Jao Teixeira (1630), is derived from Dutch sources.⁸ Next, there is the mention of the Dieppe Map, i.e. the Harleian Map, a 'world map'.⁹ Banks may not have had a copy of the Harleian Map in 1768, however he certainly did in the 1780s. The significance of such a map is that it would have shown Jave la Grande ('Greater Java'), very roughly approximating to Australia on modern maps.¹⁰

1. The Harleian Map and Jave la Grande.

Alexander Dalrymple was the foremost Pacific scholar of his age, prominent member of the Royal Society and eventually Hydrographer (i.e. chief cartographer) for the Royal Navy. It was his project to chart the transit of Venus and he had even chosen the vessel. Dalrymple had been appointed by the Royal Society to command the expedition. Unfortunately, the Royal Society could not afford the costs of conversion and the Society approached the Royal Navy for help. The Royal Navy would not accept a civilian (Alexander Dalrymple) in command of a naval vessel. So instead, Lt. James Cook received the command. Some 250 years later, this incident is still part of the family's collective memory.¹¹

Thanks to the good graces of Sir Joseph Banks, in the early 1780s Dalrymple was given access to the Harleian Map. From his study of it, Dalrymple found *convergences* between Jave la Grande on the Harleian Map and Cook's charts. One example will suffice. The Dieppe maps name an indentation in the coast of Jave le Grande (interpreted as Australia) as *coste des herbaiges* (i.e. 'coastline of plants'). If one rescales the map according to McIntyre's mathematics, this location approximates to Botany Bay on a modern map of Australia. Dalrymple published his 'findings' in 1786.¹² It was his belief that Jave la Grande was the land which Cook discovered in 1770, and which we now call Australia.

However, the shape of Jave la Grande bears no relationship to that of Australia as shown on modern maps. Firstly, the northern coastline is aligned to the southern coastline of Sumatra. Additionally, the land mass of Jave la Grande is seemingly too far to the west and only includes parts of Western Australia, South Australia, and south west Victoria. An eastwards 'promontory' extends as far as New Zealand. Finally, the 'continent' is virtually cut in half by an inland waterway, the Rio Grande. These early world maps, on which Jave la Grande is found are sometimes seen as the result of artistic as much as cartographic conventions. Sometimes art won out.¹³ For W A R Richardson, former Reader in Portuguese Studies at ANU, Jave la Grande is merely an upside down map of Vietnam.¹⁴ However forcefully Richardson has expressed his views, they have not gained universal acceptance. Australian historian, Alan Frost feels that Richardson's conjectures are pure speculation.¹⁵

However, there is another representation of Jave la Grande. This figures very prominently in the work by McIntyre (1977). McIntyre argues the 'map' of Jave la Grande has been drawn aligned to a false 'projection', which he can correct. The correction is explained in ch.12, 'Loxodromes and Erration' (pp. 161-181). Unfortunately, the technical language, which explains his process, is beyond my comprehension. However, McIntyre does provide a series of maps of the stages. The end result is a very credible 'map' of Australia.¹⁶ It should be remembered that that Jave la Grande is not *terra australis incognita*. Jave la Grande was always assumed to be an actual place. The name is a French translation of the Latin, *Java Major*. This was to distinguish it from *Java Minor* ('Smaller Java'), Java on modern maps. *Terra australia incognita* was always a hypothetical continent required to offset the land mass of the northern hemisphere.¹⁷

2. Wallis and the Dieppe School of *Cosmography*.

Cosmography (*cosmographie* in French) was somewhat more than mere cartography. It contained a spiritual element. The word was taken from the title of an early Renaissance collection of scientific treatises, mostly of a cartographic/geographic nature, published in Venice in 1477.

Wallis' theory is that Cook in 1770 would have had some idea of where he was going, i.e. access to material from Dieppe. Wallis had developed her theory while preparing an edition of Jean Rotz's, *Booke of Idrography*, i.e. 'Book of Hydrography', itself a Dieppe map, for publication in 1981.¹⁸ Today, we would call the work an 'Atlas'.

Rotz had been a member of the Dieppe school and was no theoretical geographer. He was an experienced sailor, who had served on French expeditions to the Pacific in the 1520-30's. Rotz had begun the *Booke* while serving the French king but he later moved to England for political reasons. He became Royal Hydrographer for Henry VIII and remained in that post till Henry's death in 1547. Rotz claimed a high degree of accuracy in his work:

*All this I have set down as exactly and truly as possible, drawing as much from **my own experience** as from the certain experiences of my friends and fellow navigators.*¹⁹

Rotz had the reputation of just not 'filling in' his maps. Customarily, detail when unknown would be supplied by appropriate local content. The commonality of this content shows that the Dieppe maps all trace back to a common original, i.e. an archetype, now lost.

Rotz's book is based on a large map. It was probably four metres wide and two metres long and was presented as a series of regional charts.²⁰ These regional charts showed relevant natural features and snippets of local life.²¹ The charts themselves are in a Gallicised Portuguese, whereas the snippets are in French. To illustrate, Jave la Grande bears a French name while the name of the river, which virtually cuts it in half, Rio Grande is Portuguese.

In the 16th century, the French channel port of Dieppe was home to the most pre-eminent school of *cosmography* of its day. Dieppe was the conduit by which the wider world would access Portuguese navigational data.

The reason for the lack of early Portuguese maps is the alleged Portuguese passion for secrecy. All data was presumed to be held in the *Casa das India* at Lisbon, traditionally regarded as a cross between the Vatican Library and Fort Knox. Yet, the Casa das India may have been not quite so romantic. It was the headquarters of the pepper trade, not some maritime research institute. The Casa was destroyed in the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755.²²

However, there is no need for this 'secrecy' myth. Richardson is rightly sceptical. Quality mariners had international reputations and were among the first transnational workers. The Italians, Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci both sailed for Spain. Likewise, the Portuguese Fernas de Magalhaes and Pedro Fernandes de Queiros sailed for Spain. Both are better known by the Spanish versions of their names, Ferdinand Magellan and Pedro Fernandez de Quiros. Admittedly, Quiros may not be a good example, since he was only about fifteen when Portugal was absorbed into Spain.²³ This policy continued into the next century, for Lt. Arthur Phillip obtained his captaincy not in the Royal Navy but in that of Portugal.²⁴

The cartographers in Dieppe were well placed to discover what the Portuguese had found. Its reputation as a centre of maritime discovery was well established and its captains tried to usurp the Portuguese discoveries. Yet, once again chance intervened. Dieppe was largely destroyed in the English bombardment of the city in 1694.²⁵

In 1529, Jean and Raoul Parmentier departed Dieppe on an expedition to Sumatra. Notably, aboard the expedition as navigator was Pierre Crignon, who will come to play a significant role in this tale. The Parmentiers also had the services of one of those transnational mariners, the Portuguese Joao Alfonso, perhaps better known by his French name, Jean Alfonse. Alfonse was a cosmographer in his own right.²⁶ Quite specific information was gathered, as records of the expedition mention anecdotes and details provided by a Sumatran chief named Mocodon. One of these details is a reference to the eclipse of November 12, 1528.²⁷ Both the Parmentier brothers died in Sumatra. Providentially, Pierre Crignon, the expedition navigator, was able to bring the two ships back to Dieppe.²⁸ Additionally, it is more than highly likely that Rotz himself was a member of the expedition.²⁹

Unfortunately, the Parmentiers' charts and maps do not survive. However, works deriving from their maps and charts do. There has already been mention of Rotz's *Boke of Idograhie*. To this can be added Jean Alfonse's *Cosmographie...* (1544).³⁰

3. From Pierre Crignon to James Cook

By the 1530s Pierre Crignon was the leading cosmographer of the Dieppe school, even though none of his original maps and charts survive. What did survive of Crignon's original works is the work, *La Perle de Cosmographie*. This is last attested in 1714 when it was in the possession of the French geographer, Guillaume Delisle (also spelt de l'Isle).³¹ Delisle read it and found, to use Dalrymple's term, strong *convergences* between Crignon's manuscript and the *Traicte des Differences du Compas Aymante* by Jean Rotz.³² Thus the 'secret Portuguese intelligence' was able to breach the great divide between Lisbon and Dieppe via Crignon to Rotz.

How did Cook get his knowledge of the Dieppe maps? There was a considerable library on board the *Endeavour*. Many of these were the works of earlier cartographers. One of the works was the Vaugondy map of 1756, showing the east coast of Australia. The Roberts de Vaugondy, Giles, the father and Didier, the son were leading mapmakers in the mid to late 18th century in Paris. In 1757 they published *l'Atlas Universel*, one of the most important atlases of the 18th century.³³ Of particular value to the history of cartography was their custom of acknowledging their sources.³⁴

Significantly, one of the Roberts de Vaugondy's sources was the work of the recently mentioned Guillaume Delisle.³⁵ Delisle is the last known person to have seen Crignon's *La Perle de Cosmographie*. Delisle thus becomes the major figure in this discussion as he provides the necessary link between Crignon and ultimately Cook.

4. Last Thoughts.

World maps produced at the end of the 15th century, e.g. that of Hartmann Scedel (1493), show the mythical land of Taprobana. Some forty years later the Jave la Grande appears in all Dieppe maps. In the intervening years, the Portuguese arrived off the east coast of Australia. Their data was acquired by the French 1529-1530. So there is a link, albeit somewhat tenuous, between Crignon and Cook via the works of Guillaume Delisle and the Roberts de Vaugondy. This fact was recognised by Dalrymple who, in 1786 had somewhat uncharitably claimed to have recognised certain *convergences* between the Harleian Map and Cook's charts.

Reader, if you think that Jave la Grande represents Australia, as McIntyre and Wallis believe, then Cook was not the first European to discover the east coast of Australia. He had been pre-empted by some nameless Portuguese mariner. However, if you agree with Richardson and others that Jave la Grande does **not** represent Australia, Cook retains his place in the European history of Australia. The choice is yours. I shall keep my opinion to myself.

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- ¹ G Duncan, 2020, 'The Reassessment of Cook's Achievement, Pt. 1: The "Secret" Discoveries of Australia', *SSHS Bulletin* May 2020, no. 215, pp.20-23.
- ² M Richards, 1993, 'Introducing Changing Coastlines', *National Library of Australia News*, 4(2), pp.7-9.
- ³ K G McIntyre, 1977, *The Secret Discovery of Australia*, Souvenir Press.
- ⁴ Duncan, 2020, pp.22-23.
- ⁵ B Watt, 2008, 'A (very) brief History of the World,' pt. 2, *SSHS Bulletin*, May 2008, p.23.
- ⁶ B Watt, 2012, 'Lope de Vega', *SSHS Bulletin*, February 2012, p.18.
- ⁷ E. Whitehouse, 1994, *Australia in Old Maps, 820-1770*, Boolarong Press, pp.31, 32, 36.
- ⁸ W Anderson, 1994, 'Incognito in Australia', *The Bulletin*, January 26 – February 1, p.82.
- ⁹ There are varying lists of Dieppe maps; McIntyre, 1977, 207; W A R Richardson, 2006, *Was Australia Charted before 1606?*, National Library of Australia, p.96.
- ¹⁰ H M Wallis, 1982, 'The Dieppe Maps – the First Representation of Australia', *The Globe*, 17, pp.23-50.
- ¹¹ M Wade, 2013, 'Parallels pulled from the past mistakes of war', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, May 11, pp.25-26.
- ¹² A Dalrymple, 1786, *Memoir concerning the Chagos and adjacent islands*, London, 1786, p. 4 (cited by McIntyre, 1977, p.400, n. 14 to ch. 23).
- ¹³ M Pearson, 2005, *The Maritime Exploration of Terra Australis*, Commonwealth of Australia, p.3.
- ¹⁴ Richardson, 2006, pp.79-81, 91-92.
- ¹⁵ A Frost, 2007, 'Jave la Grande' in D Buisseret, ed., *The Oxford Companion to World Exploration*, OUP, p. 423.
- ¹⁶ McIntyre, 1977, pp.202-204 and figs. 14.1-14.8. P Trickett, 2007, *Beyond Capricorn*, East Coast Publications, also provides a chapter, which achieves the same end, i.e. ch. 5, 'In Search of Botany Bay: Cracking the Mendonca Code', pp.140-169.
- ¹⁷ W A R Richardson, 1992, 'Mercator's Southern Continent', *The Globe*, 37, pp. 1-17.
- ¹⁸ H M Wallis, 1981, ed, *The maps and text of the Boke of Idrography presented by Jean Rotz to Henry VIII*, OUP.
- ¹⁹ H M Wallis., 1992, 'Jave la Grande and Australia', *The Globe*, 37, Special Issue, 1992, pp.1-12, 1-13.
- ²⁰ H M Wallis, 1988, 'Jave la Grande: the Enigma of the Dieppe Maps' in G.Williams, ed., *Terra Australis to Australia*, OUP (Melbourne), pp.48-49.
- ²¹ See: W.Eisler, ed., *Terra Australis - the Furthest Shore*, Art Gallery of NSW, 1988, pp.17-19.
- ²² C.Boxer, 1969, *The Portuguese Seaborne Empire, 1415 - 1822*, Hutchinsons, 1969, p.60.
- ²³ M Estenson, 2006, *Terra Australia Incognita*, Allen & Unwin, p.63.
- ²⁴ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/phillip-arthur-2549/> (accessed May 20).
- ²⁵ H M Wallis, 1988a, 'Jave la Grande: the Enigma of the Dieppe Maps', in G Williams, ed., *From Terra Australis to Australia*, OUP (Melbourne), pp. 45-48.
- ²⁶ K G McIntyre, 1982, *The Secret Discovery of Australia*, 2ed., Picador, p.53.
- ²⁷ H M Wallis, 1988b, 'Visions of Terra Australis in the Middle Ages and Renaissance', in Eisler, 1988, pp.37-38.
- ²⁸ J Northnagle, 1988, 'Two Early French Voyages to Sumatra', *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, 19(1), pp.97-99, 103-105.
- ²⁹ H M Wallis 1992, 'Java la Grande and Australia', *The Globe*, 37, Special Issue, p.1-12.
- ³⁰ Wallis, 1988a, pp.43-44.
- ³¹ H M Wallis 1989, 'A Portuguese Discovery? The Enigma of the Dieppe Maps' in J Hardy, ed., *Studies from the Middle Ages to Terra Australis to Australia*, Ocasional Paper, no. 6, Australian Academy of Sciences, pp. 47-55.
- ³² The *Traicte* is bound with the *Boke of Idrography* in the British Museum (*Royal MS 20 EIX-Digitised*)
- ³³ www.davidrumsey.com/maps5553.html/; www.dg-maps.com/giles-didier-robert-de-vaugondy.html/ (both accessed May 28, 2020).
- ³⁴ R.Clancy, *The Mapping of Terra Australis*, Universal Press, 1995, p.109.
- ³⁵ Clancy, 1995, p.110; Richards, 1993b, p. 8.

A Tribute to

CLIFFORD ALAN EMERSON (4.11.1935 – 9.7.2020)

DAWN EMERSON with ELIZABETH CRAIG

Cliff Emerson joined SSHS with his wife, Dawn in the 1990s, and he will be remembered by many members as a huge support to Dawn during her presidency of the Society from 1997 to 2008. Three years ago, Cliff, who had been suffering dementia, was admitted to Thomas Holt Aged Care in Kirrawee. Dawn visited him daily, supporting him in every way she could. After the Covid-19 lockdown, Dawn recalls that she could not touch him, but had to speak to him through a glass partition. 'He thought it was hilarious,' she smiles.

Cliff passed away on 9th July. His funeral service was held at Woronora Cemetery on Monday, 20th July. Covid's painful impact meant that neither of Cliff's children, Craig based in the United Kingdom, and Lara who lives in Queensland could attend their father's funeral. Dawn was supported by other family members and friends, including Society members.



Cliff Emerson
4.11.1935 – 9.7.2020

Cliff grew up in Mortlake. His father Allan worked at the nearby Mortlake gasworks, and his mother, Thelma, a former tailoress, was the consummate housewife, an extremely good cook and seamstress. Allan was a self-taught craftsman, and made toys for his two boys. He brought home pieces of tin and timber from the tip and turned them into trucks, working steam engines and sailing boats, making Cliff and Ray the envy of the kids in the street. The boys loved the water. They swam, fished and went boating in a tinnie they made themselves, and after dark they would go prawning on the Parramatta River with a Tilly Lamp. Prawns were boiled up at midnight and eaten on fresh bread and butter. They never did encounter the sharks which occasionally showed up there.

In his contribution to *When I was Ten* (SSHS 2012), Cliff remembered when the war ended (World War II, he hastened to add) and described that year as the defining one of his life. He recalled the sirens going off regularly, search lights in the air, and sometimes having to get out of bed to slide under the dining room table with his family, including on the night the Japanese submarines entered the harbour. He remembers especially the day the war ended. It had come over the radio, but it was the joyous sounds all around him that signalled to Cliff something momentous had happened. 'All the tugboats and sirens and factory whistles were going off at the same time.'

His family went out on the street with all the neighbours. Cliff's parents didn't mix much with them, 'yet here they were kissing people they would never have said boo to in their lives before'. It occurred to ten-year-old Cliff that war must be a terrible thing if it makes people so happy when it's over.'

Cliff said he didn't realise what an impact that had on him until he and Dawn visited Japan, and he met a man, a year older than himself, who had survived the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. Amazingly, said Cliff, the effect of the bombing of his city was to turn him into a pacifist, as he saw the futility of war.

After his Intermediate Certificate at 14, Cliff's parents urged him to do a trade. He was apprenticed at AWA (Amalgamated Wireless Australasia) as a toolmaker and he excelled at making the moulds for AWA bakelite mantel radios. Cliff was able to use these skills when he enlisted for National Service in 1953 and joined the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

Cliff's dream had been to become a teacher, so he set about doing his Leaving Certificate at Fort Street Evening College. Here he met Dawn over the sharing of his Economics text book. They soon began a three-year courtship. At the end of their studies, they were both awarded a Teachers' College Scholarship. Cliff's posting was to Bathurst Teachers College and Dawn's was to Sydney. To stay together they deferred their scholarships.



Mr and Mrs Cliff Emerson, 22 August 1959
[Courtesy: Dawn Emerson]

Dawn and Cliff married on 22nd August 1959 at All Saints Anglican Church. So that they could stay together, Dr Harold Wyndham, then Director-General of Education, arranged teacher training positions for both of them at the new college at Wollongong. Dawn, however, decided she would rather be a librarian, so she was able to work there as a library assistant, while Cliff became a full-time student. He in turn supported her library studies after he had graduated.

Cliff was elected president of the Wollongong Teachers College (WTC) Trainee Teachers' Association and Vice President of the Students Representative Council. His first school posting was to Warrawong Primary School. The Emersons lived at Figtree where Dawn gave birth to Craig in 1966 and Lara in 1969. She studied for her Bachelor's Degree while the babies crawled around the floor.

Later posted to Gladstone Public School near Kempsey as headmaster, Cliff threw himself into the work, teaching music and Little Athletics. His students did well. The school choir gained third place in the Eisteddfod, and one student topped the state in high jump. At this time, Cliff took nearly six months long service leave at half pay to take his family on a caravanning trip around Australia. He gave the children their lessons each morning while Dawn made bread in the gas stove. Miles from civilization, the family lived off the land as much as possible, with Cliff shooting rabbits or fishing.

After six years in Kempsey, the Emersons moved to Otford, near Helensburgh to be near Cliff's mother who was living alone. The house that went with the school was in a terrible state of repair and after three years of wrangling with the Department of Education and Public Works, the family decided to live in their investment house in Illawong. Cliff was transferred to his final school, Engadine Public School as Assistant Principal.

When Dawn was elected Deputy Mayor at Sutherland Shire Council, she and Cliff were asked to lead a delegation to Tokyo for the 10th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Chuo-ku, the CBD of Tokyo. Cliff had learned Japanese and he was invited by the Minister of Education to attend the Japanese baths with him. While enjoying the soothing warm waters the Minister asked Cliff to explain to him some of the words from *Waltzing Matilda* (eg 'jumbuck').

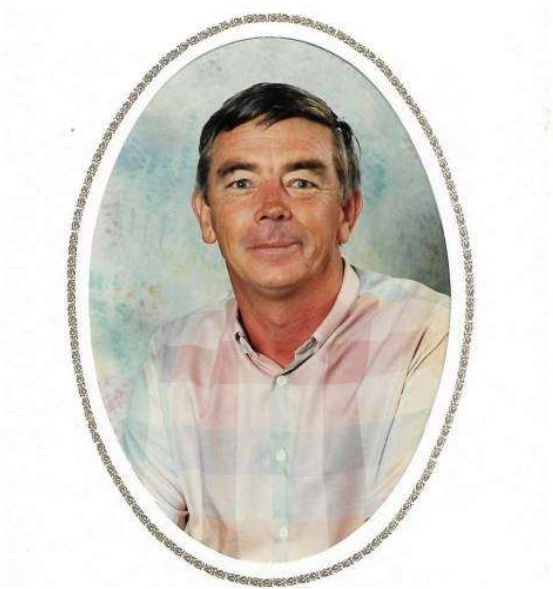
Cliff's students at Engadine Public School were enthralled to hear the story of Mr Emerson naked in a bath with a Japanese man, singing *Waltzing Matilda* to him. Cliff asked his students to draw a picture illustrating a scene from the song. He made the images into a book which he sent to the Minister in Tokyo. The next time he and Dawn visited Tokyo they were thrilled when a school choir sang *Waltzing Matilda* in English. The Minister had issued a copy of the book to every school in Tokyo, and the children had learnt the song for the Emerson's visit.

Cliff and Dawn had several trips to England to visit their son, Craig, his wife Joanna, and their two children, Scott and Chloe. Their daughter Lara and her husband, Mark have a son, Jye. Their one regret was that they couldn't get to see enough of their grandchildren.

When Cliff and Dawn celebrated 60 years of marriage last year, congratulations were sent from the Queen, our Prime Minister and local MP Craig Kelly. The staff at Thomas Holt Aged Care gave them an afternoon tea. One of the nurses, Tania, had been Cliff's student at Engadine Public School. She told how they had all loved and respected Cliff and she was thrilled to care for him. Former parents at Gladstone, Otford and Engadine also call Dawn often asking after Cliff.

As Dawn says:

We remember Cliff's wisdom, his ready wit, and being a great raconteur of humorous stories, his generosity, his respect and love for his family and fellow man, and his genuine enjoyment of being a teacher, helping a child to better understanding.



*Cliff Emerson, when principal of Gladstone
Public School, Kempsey, 1973-1979,
[Macleay Argus, 31.7.2020]*



*The Emersons:
Cliff, Dawn, Craig and Lara
[Courtesy: Dawn Emerson]*

Vale Cliff Emerson

PREPARING FOR BOTANY BAY

BRUCE WATT

Captain James Cook's brief stop-over of eight days in Botany Bay in 1770 was remarkable for many reasons. A patchwork of coastlines had been assembled on maps by explorers over centuries and Cook received an outline map with various parts missing before he left England. Cook added the east coast to substantially complete the continent's outline. Even the name, Terra Australis had been coined hundreds of years beforehand. Matthew Flinders suggested the term, 'Australia' in his book, *A Voyage to Terra Australis: Undertaken for the Purpose of Completing the Discovery of that Vast Country, and Prosecuted in the Years 1801, 1802, and 1803, in His Majesty's Ship the Investigator*, published in 1812. The Indian and Pacific oceans had been visited by many explorers and traders before Cook. Cook's instructions from the Admiralty in 1768 hinted at discovery, possession, trade and profit. But occupation and settlement was not an idea that he flagged or promoted. Many others from various nations before his time explored the notion of settlement in the Pacific. After his death in 1779, further British speculation and proposals for colonies emerged. A failed, expensive colony was attempted in Africa from 1775 to 1776. Following this, settlement at Botany Bay was explored.

Banks, Matra and Young

James Matra had accompanied Cook on the Endeavour voyage with Joseph Banks and from the early 1780s had discussed the idea of a settlement at Botany Bay with Banks, now the influential president of the Royal Society. Matra had aspirations of becoming the commander of the settlement. With family links to American loyalists, his proposal in 1783 was in part to atone for the loss of the American colonies. Arguments included the potential of trade with Asia as well as naval strategic advantages to counter Dutch and Spanish presence in the region.

Rather than be sold as slaves as convicts were in America, Matra's proposal had them work for their living or be given a few acres of land as soon as they arrived in New South Wales.

In 1783 Sir George Young put forward a detailed proposal in which the settlers would be mainly Chinese, inhabitants from the Friendly Islands, a small number of convicts, a few American loyalists and some artisans, led by himself. Strategically located in the Pacific for trade and commerce, ships of the East India Company would continue on to China after delivering convicts. The plan included a substantial list of necessary implements. The First Fleet plan had provision and a budget for securing females from the Friendly Islands, New Caledonia and others to even up ratio of men and women, though this was not implemented.

Though neither of these proposals or their proponents was accepted, they were modified forerunners that informed the First Fleet expedition that set out in 1787 under the command of Arthur Phillip. The informing document was the 'Heads of a Plan', 1786.

Heads of a Plan

The purpose of settlement at Botany Bay now became effectively disposing of convicts, the number of which had been increasing alarmingly. By then, all reference to loyalists had disappeared and the concept of free settlers cut back. The plan fleshed out a larger expedition with 778 convicts in 6 transport ships, three store ships and two naval ships. There were also 212 marines and officers as well as 250 free persons.

Arthur Phillip

Phillip would prove to be a good choice as Captain-General and Governor-in Chief of the new colony. While he was given instructions about managing the penal colony, Phillip's own meticulous planning helped to ensure that the expedition was well equipped and contingencies explored. Prior to the First Fleet departure on May 13 1787, he formulated a personal Memo, concerning the conduct of the settlement. It is reproduced here in full.

In retrospect it is easy to see that his plans did not go strictly as envisaged. Among his concerns of note was adequate preparation, care for females, cleanliness and defence against and cohabitation with natives. This latter matter could be alleviated by procuring women from the Friendly Islands. Perhaps the most bizarre factor is allowing cannibalism as punishment for crimes he deemed heinous.

Captain Phillip's Memo

By arriving at the settlement two or three months before the transports, many and very great advantages would be gained. Huts would be ready to receive the convicts who are sick and they would find vegetables, of which it might be naturally supposed they will stand in great need, as the scurvy must make a great ravage amongst people naturally indolent and not cleanly.

Huts would be ready for the women; the stores would be properly lodged and defended from the convicts, in such a manner as to prevent their making any attempts on them. The cattle and stock would likewise be properly secured, and the ground marked out for the convicts; the lists of those intended to be sent being given to the commanding officers, mentioning their age, crimes, trades and character, they might be so divided as to render few changes necessary, and the provisions would be ready for issuing without any waste. But if convicts provision &c. must be landed a few days after the ships' arrival, and consequently nearly at the same time, great inconvenience will arise, and to keep the convicts more than a few days on board, after they get into a port, considering the length of time which they must inevitably be confined, may be attended with consequences easier to conceive than to point out in a letter. Add to this fevers of a malignant kind may make it necessary to have a second hospital.

A ship's company is landed, huts raised and the sick provided for in a couple of days; but here the greater number are convicts in whom no confidence can be placed, and against whom both persons and provisions are to be guarded. Everything necessary for the settlement would be received at the Cape on board by the commanding officer, and nothing left for the transports but a certain proportion of livestock.

The confining of convicts on board the ships requires some consideration. Sickness must be the consequence in so long a voyage (six months must be allowed for the voyage – that is from the time of leaving England to the arrival in Botany Bay), and disagreeable consequences may be feared if they have the liberty of the deck. The sooner the crimes and the behaviour of these people are known the better, as they may be divided, and the greatest villains particularly guarded against in one transport.

The women in general, I would suppose, possess neither virtue or honesty. But there may be some for theft who still retain some degree of virtue, and these should be permitted to keep together, and strict orders to the master of the transport be given that they are not abused and insulted by the ship's company – which is said to have been the case too often when they were sent to America.

At the ports we put into for water &c. there may be some sick that may have fever of such a nature that it may be necessary for the safety of the rest to remove them out of the ship. In such a case, how am I to act?

The greatest care will be necessary to prevent any of the convicts from being sent that have any venereal complaints. During the passage, when light airs or calms permit it, I shall visit the transports to see that they are kept clean, and receive the allowance ordered by Government; and at these times shall endeavour to make them sensible of their situation, and that their happiness and misery is in their own hands; that those that behave well will be rewarded by being allowed to work occasionally on the small lots of land set apart for them, and which they will be put in possession of at the expiry of the time for which they are transported.

On landing in Botany Bay, it will be necessary to throw up a slight work as a defence against the natives - who, though only seen in small numbers by Captain Cook, may be very numerous on other parts of the coast – and against the convicts; for this, my own little knowledge as a field engineer, will be sufficient, and will be the work of a few days only; but some small cannon for a redout will be necessary. Within the lines the stores and provisions will be secured, and I should hope that the situation I should be able to take my admit of having the small rivers between the garrison and the convicts so situated that I may be able to prevent their having any intercourse with the natives.

I shall think it a great point gained if I can proceed in this business without having any dispute with the natives, a few of which I shall endeavour to persuade to settle near us, and who I mean to furnish with everything that can tend to civilize them, and to give them a high opinion of their guests; for which purpose it will be necessary to prevent the transports' crews from having any intercourse with the natives, if possible. The convicts must have none, for if they have, the arms of the natives will be very formidable in their hands, the women abused, and the natives disgusted.

The keeping of the women apart merits great consideration, and I don't know but it may be best if the most abandoned are permitted to receive the visits of the convicts in the limits allotted them at certain hours, and under certain restrictions. Something of this kind was the case on Mill Bank formerly. The rest of the women I should keep apart and by permitting the men to be in their company when not at work they will, I should suppose, marry, in which case they should be encouraged, if they are industrious, by being allowed to work one day in the week more than the unmarried on their own lots of ground.

The natives may, it is probable, permit their women to marry and live with the men after a certain time, in which case I should think it necessary to punish with severity the man who used the woman ill; and I know of no punishment likely to answer the purpose of deterring others so well as exiling them to a distant spot, or to an island, where they would be obliged to work to gain their daily subsistence, and for which they would have the necessary; but no two together, if it could be avoided.

Rewarding and punishing the convicts must be left to the Governor; he will likely be answerable for his conduct, and death, I should think will never be necessary. In fact, I doubt that the fear of death ever prevented a man of no principle from committing a bad action. There are two crimes that would merit death – murder and sodomy; for either of these two crimes I should wish to confine the criminal till an opportunity offered of delivering him as a prisoner to the natives of New Zealand, and let them eat him. The dread of this will operate much stronger than the fear of death.

As the getting a large quantity of stock will be my first object, till that is obtained, the garrison should, as in Gibraltar, not be allowed to kill any animal without first reporting his stock and receiving permission. This order would only be necessary for a certain time, and I mention it here only to show the necessity of a military government; and as I mean in every matter of this kind to set an example, I think that I can say this will never occasion any uneasiness, otherwise we shall not do in ten years in what I hope to do in four.

Women may be brought from the Friendly and other Islands, a proper place prepared to receive them, and where they will be supported for a time, and lots of land assigned to such as marry with the soldiers of the garrison.

As I would not wish convicts to lay the foundations of an Empire, I think that they should ever remain separated from the garrison and other settlers that may come from Europe, and not be allowed to mix with them, even after the seven or fourteen years from which they are transported may be expired.

The laws of the country will, of course, be introduced in New South Wales, and there is one that I would wish to take place from the moment his Majesty's forces take possession of the country – that there can be no slavery in a free land, and consequently no slaves.

The cloathing for the convicts will last for a certain time, after which, what means should I have of furnishing them with materials for their making their own cloathes?

It will be necessary to know how far I may permit the seamen and marines of the garrison to cultivate spots of land when the duty of the day is over; and how far I can give them hopes that the grounds that they cultivate will be secured to them hereafter; likewise, how far I may permit any of the garrison to remain, when they are ordered home in consequence of relief.

By what I am informed, hatchets and beads are the articles for barter, with a few small grindstones for the chiefs; and as when the use a light they hold it in their hands, small tin lamps on a very simple construction must be very acceptable.

Ships may arrive at Botany Bay in the future. On account of the convicts, the orders of the port for no boats landing but in particular places, coming on shore and returning to the ships at stated hours, must be strictly enforced.

The saddles I mentioned must be absolutely necessary for two or three horsemen who will examine the country to a certain distance, when it might be dangerous to attempt it with half the garrison; for I am not of the general opinion that there are

very few inhabitants in this country, at least as far as has been represented; but this article I take upon myself, as likewise the knives &c. that I mentioned.

Such fruit trees and cuttings that will bear removing should be added to the seeds carried from England, as likewise roots that will bear keeping that length of time out of the ground.

Two or three of the horses in question will be highly necessary, and there is no time to lose in giving the order, if intended.

A certain quantity of the articles of husbandry, stores, corn, seeds, and of the articles of traffick, should be put on board the *Beswick* [renamed the *Sirius*] that in case of an accident we may not be in immediate want of those things, and the same on board the storeship in which the Lieutenant Governor goes.

Reference:

'Some proposals for establishing colonies in the south seas', George Mackaness, Australian historical monographs, 1943



Captain Arthur Phillip
[unknown artist, undated], [courtesy: Dixson Library]

FERNLEIGH HOUSE – Unravelling its history

ELIZABETH CRAIG

The image on the back cover of this Bulletin is of Fernleigh House, the origins of which is fraught with puzzles, contradictions and confusingly similar names, as can be seen in previous articles by respected historians, and even in the NSW Heritage Register. But it is agreed by all that this beautiful Georgian style mansion situated on the waterfront on the western side of Burraneer Bay, is one of the oldest and most iconic residences in the Shire. I have therefore tried to iron out some of these complexities to get to the nitty gritty of who built Fernleigh House and when.

Myth 1: The caption with this photo of Fernleigh House, taken in the 1960s by Arthur Neve (husband of early SSSH historian, Marjorie Hutton Neve), says:

‘Fernleigh’, convict-built in 1821 on the western waterfront of Burraneer Bay, Sutherland Shire by Thomas Laycock jnr ...’

In fact, the first Crown land sales in the area were not until 1856. and it was not possible for Fernleigh to have been built in 1821.¹ Secondly, the 40-acre lot on which Fernleigh was built, was bought in 1858 by John Connell Laycock for £45, and title was granted to him on 9 May 1859. Thomas Laycock (named as the 1821 builder) was John Connell Laycock’s father, who had received land grants in the Kurnell area in the early 1800s.²

How did such confusion arise?

Above the front door of Fernleigh House are metal Roman numerals showing the date: MDCCCXXI (1821), and there is a sundial in the yard with the same year inscribed on its keystone.³ Several historians and heritage architects researching Fernleigh’s construction, could only speculate on the reason for this obviously incorrect date. The date on the sundial could refer to its date of manufacture – ie it wasn’t new when acquired at Fernleigh. The date above the door may have been a mistake (typo), or that it was put there for sentimental reasons. One historian was told that family tradition has it that a later owner, Ivy Alcott put it there in the 1950s.⁴

The confusion about who bought the land on which Fernleigh stands, is probably due to the intermarriage of the Laycock and the Connell families. Thomas Laycock married John Connell’s daughter, Margaret in 1817 and both the Connell and Laycock names were passed down the generations. When John and Margaret Laycock’s son, John Connell Laycock bought the 40 acres on Burraneer Bay in 1858, his cousin, John Connell also bought land in the vicinity.⁵

Myth 2: The NSW Heritage Register states that Fernleigh was built between 1858 and 1860 – after John Connell Laycock had purchased the land.⁶ Not so. Although he certainly intended to build a house, a survey of the area in 1868 showed there had been no improvements on the land at all.

This is what happened: To finance the building of his house, John Connell Laycock mortgaged his property to John Thomas Neale in 1860.⁷ At this time, Laycock, a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly, introduced a fellow member, Thomas Holt, to the area that became the Shire. Holt was keen to buy up as much land as possible, including Laycock’s. When Laycock refused to sell, Holt approached Neale and bought Laycock’s mortgage. When he discovered that Laycock had not insured his property as was a legal requirement, he foreclosed in 1861, thus acquiring Laycock’s property.⁸

In 1868 Holt, who had bought up 12,500 acres of land in the district, calling it his Sutherland Estate, commissioned his property manager, R C Walker to survey the property. Walker provided a detailed handwritten overview of the landform, vegetation and improvements, completing the report on 14 April 1868. An extract reads:

40 acres on east side of Dolan's Bay in Burrameer [sic] Bay [on the western side of Burraneer Bay]. This is a block of very thickly timbered land, with a great deal of scrub on it. Nothing has yet been done to it either in ringbarking or scrubbing ... There is a fine view of the Port Hacking River from it and it would make a good building site.⁹

Who did build Fernleigh then?

In 1873 Holt sold the property to Charles York. The NSW Heritage Register states that the locality sketch attached to the certificate of title does not indicate any improvements to the site. York bought it for a 'country retreat', and over about two years built a stone cottage which he called York House. The lower image on the back cover was taken in about 1880s.¹⁰

Charles York died in 1880, and in 1888 his son, Thomas James York sold the property to the Gannon family who made alterations, and renamed the building, 'Fernleigh'.¹¹ The Gannons subdivided the property and auctioned Fernleigh House on eight acres in 1905.

Fernleigh passed through a number of hands and was purchased by Errol Alcock, a boat builder at Burraneer Bay and his wife Ivy, who became good friends with SSHS historian, Marjorie Hutton Neve. The Alcocks (later changing spelling to 'Alcott') renamed the house, 'Mandalay', but reverted to 'Fernleigh' in about 1948.

So there you have it. Hopefully, the two myths about when Fernleigh was built and by whom, have been dispelled. It was not built in 1821 by Thomas Laycock as believed by earlier historians, but by Charles York between 1873 to 1875.

For the sake of space, none of the gloriously colourful history of Fernleigh House is contained in this article. Others before me have included many stories. But this house deserves a dedicated history.

¹ Marjorie Hutton Neve, 'Laycock Family of Burraneer Bay', *SSHS Bulletin*, Sept. 1966, p.1; Hutton Neve, 'The Corrected Story of 'FERNLEIGH'', Burraneer Bay, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan. 1968, p.2

² File Ref R/G's Office = 59/602 (=1859/602); Serial No. 150 Old Register No. 8: converted to Torrens Title Vol. IV, Fo. 88', cited in Hutton Neve, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan 68, p. 2; Edward and Susan Duyker, 'Fernleigh: The Measure of the Past', *SSHS Bulletin*, May 1989, pp.453-455; 'Environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?10=5045244' (accessed 10.8.2020); Bruce Watt, 'Magnificent Fernleigh', *SSHS Bulletin*, November 2006, pp.15-16

³ 'Environment.nsw.gov.au; Duyker and Duyker, *SSHS Bulletin*, May 1989; Watt, *SSHS Bulletin*, Nov. 2006, pp.15-16

⁴ Duyker and Duyker, *SSHS Bulletin*, May 1989; Neve, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan 68, Watt, *SSHS Bulletin*, Nov. 2006, pp.15-16

⁵ Environment.nsw.gov.au, 'Item details'

⁶ Hutton Neve, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan 1968, p.2; Duyker, *SSHS Bulletin*, May 1989

⁷ Mortgage deed to Neale dated 214/1860, Deed No. 587, Book 76 Old Register (=Torrens Title Vol. IV. Fo.88) cited in Hutton Neve, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan. 1968; Watt, *SSHS Bulletin*, Nov. 2006, p.15

⁸ Hutton Neve, *SSHS Bulletin*, Jan 1968, p.2; Duyker and Duyker, *SSHS Bulletin*, May 1989

⁹ R C Walker, 'Report on the Sutherland Estate,' Jan. 1868' transcribed by Daphne Salt, 'Part 1', *SSHS Bulletin*, Aug. 2010, p.18, 'Part 2', *SSHS Bulletin*, Nov. 2010, p.18 (copy of original handwritten report held in Sutherland Library)

¹⁰ Environment.nsw.gov.au, 'History'; Hutton Neve, 'York House, Burraneer Bay, *SSHS Bulletin*, April 1974, pp.20-22

¹¹ Environment.nsw.gov.au, 'History'; Watt, Nov. 2006, p.16



Fernleigh House, 1968 [SSL collection]



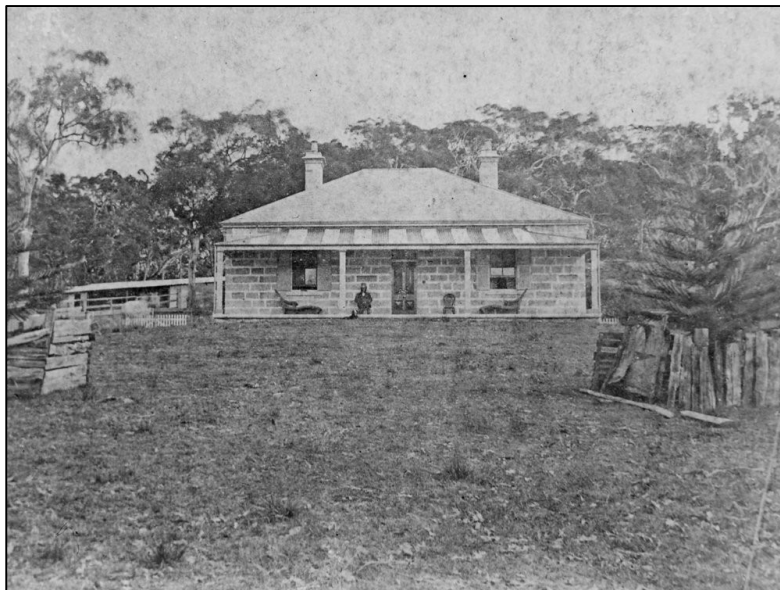
Ivy Alcott ran a private zoo at Fernleigh House in the 1940s and 1950s [SSL collection]

FERNLEIGH HOUSE, CARINGBAH SOUTH



Fernleigh House, photographed by Arthur Neve in the 1960s (and coloured by Beth Buchan), is one of the oldest residences in the Shire.

The year it was built though, and who built it, has been a matter of conjecture for years.
See story on p.27.



Fernleigh House, ca 1880s
[SSL collection]