



Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc Bulletin



NUMBER: 220 — AUGUST 2021



'HMB Endeavour' being repaired in the Endeavour River, engraving by John Parkin, 1976.

[Source: ANMM collection]

(See article: 'HMB Endeavour after Cook', by Greg Jackson, page 16)

MINDFUL OF THE PAST – FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

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

FACEBOOK: Sutherland Shire Historical Society

SSHS BBQ LUNCH AT 88 VENETIA STREET, SYLVANIA

Photos by Elizabeth Craig



Our new Museum location is an ideal venue for a backyard BBQ lunch on a beautiful sunny day as it was on Saturday, 22nd May. Members and visitors mingled around the BBQ and inside the Museum admiring the developing displays.

There will be more such gatherings at Venetia Street post-Covid lockdowns.

President Pauline Curby with BBQ chef husband, Kevin. With his skills as a BBQ cook and his readiness to help Museum Manager, Peter Moore, Kevin has become an invaluable defacto member of SSHS.



The Sketchers' Club visitors drawing the old cart. Several of them had joined SSHS by the end of the day.



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Extra printed copies of the *Bulletin* will be available at meetings for \$5.

DON'T FORGET – MEMBERSHIP FEES WERE DUE ON 1 JULY

Membership Forms were included with the May *Bulletin*.

Otherwise email shirehistory@gmail.com for information on how to renew
or phone John Doherty on 0402 848 344

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 can be purchased at \$5.00 each. 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, Shire high school libraries and some local businesses. 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 restrictions, we ask that you register your attendance ahead by email to: shirehistory@gmail.com or phone Creo Moore on 0425 226 405

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: 2020-2021

ELECTED MEMBERS

PATRON:	Shire Mayor, Steve Simpson		
PRESIDENT	Pauline Curby	0427 527 721	pcurby@iprimus.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Bruce Watt	0405 493 187	watto1951@tpg.com.au
SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER	John Doherty	0402 848 344	johndoherty55@gmail.com
TREASURER	John Doherty	0402 848 344	johndoherty55@gmail.com
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:			
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	creoaus@gmail.com
	Carol McDonald	0403 877 397	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
	Graham Burton	0423 234 127	grahamburton@live.com.au
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Elizabeth Craig	0491 096 642	elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS

MUSEUM MANAGER	Peter Moore	0427 213 575	peter_mo@ihug.com.au
BULLETIN EDITOR	Elizabeth Craig	0491 096 642	elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
BULLETIN PROOF READER	Dawn Emerson	9543 1060	emersondawn939@gmail.com
ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	creoaus@gmail.com
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER	Elizabeth Craig	0419 096 642	Elizabeth.craig@y7mail.com
PUBLICITY OFFICER FACEBOOK	Creo Moore	0425 226 405	creoaus@gmail.com
ARCHIVIST/RESEARCH OFFICER	Carol McDonald	0403 877 397	jmcdonald@optusnet.com.au
GRANTS OFFICER	Bruce Watt	0405 493 187	watto1951@tpg.com.au
EXCURSIONS OFFICER	Joe Hales	0418 270 744	joehales@outlook.com
EXCURSIONS BOOKING CLERK			
HERITAGE WEEK LIAISON OFFICER	Bruce Watt	0405 493 187	watto1951@tpg.com.au
WELFARE OFFICER	Gloria Hans	9589 0251	
AFTERNOON TEA	Anne Steward Beryl Davis Mary Small		
HONORARY SOLICITOR	Michael Solari		

SSHS CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2021
(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

DATE

SEPTEMBER 2021	Sat. 18th	<p align="center">55th SSHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>SPEAKERS: New members to introduce themselves – why they joined SSHS and about their interest in history. AGM follows (see Agenda, p.5)</p> <p align="center">YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IF THIS MEETING IS TO BE CANCELLED FOR COVID REASONS.</p> <p align="center">IF SO, THE AGM WILL BE HELD AT A LATER MEETING</p>
OCTOBER 2021	Sat. 16th	<p>SPEAKER: Stephen Gapps will talk on the Sydney Wars: conflict between Europeans and Aboriginals in Sydney's early history. Stephen also contributed a chapter to <i>East Coast Encounters 1770</i>.</p>
NOVEMBER 2021	Sat 20th	<p>SPEAKER: Matt Murphy, historian and author of <i>A Distilled History of Colonial Australia</i> says he tolerates the attitudes of kids towards history that he used to share. His previous book, <i>Weight of Evidence</i>, is about what was the longest civil court case in New South Wales. Matt's younger self would be aghast that he is now writing history books.</p>

SSHS EVENTS POSTPONED DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWNS

SPEAKER: Scheduled August 2021: Helen Zerefos, a Sylvania resident and well-known soprano singer, has agreed to postpone her talk until a meeting in 2022.

EXCURSION: SSHS members and friends will visit Vacluse House, explore the house and have a tour of the extensive gardens. Train from Sutherland at 9.30. At Edgecliff change to 325 bus which stops outside Vacluse House. Bring sensible shoes, BYO lunch or buy lunch at café on the premises. A new date for this excursion to be announced.

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND REACHING OUT FOR
UPDATES ON MEETING CANCELLATIONS**

**Don't forget to register your intention to attend a meeting
(Phone or email Creo Moore)**

55th 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 18TH SEPTEMBER 2021

COMMENCING AT 1.30PM

STAPLETON CENTRE, 21A STAPLETON STREET SUTHERLAND

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1. WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY AND APOLOGIES
 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM AS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 2021 *BULLETIN*.
 3. ADOPTION OF ALL ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2020-2021 FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 2021 *BULLETIN*.
 4. ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET FOR 2020-2021 AS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST 2021 *BULLETIN*.
 5. PRESENTATION BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT.
 6. MOTION TO AMEND THE SSHS CONSTITUTION:

That the tenure of each of the four elected Executive Committee positions be limited to three years. Those positions include: President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

HONORARY SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER

HONORARY TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBER 1

COMMITTEE MEMBER 2

COMMITTEE MEMBER 3

8. AGM GENERAL BUSINESS

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN AUGUST 2021

JOHN DOHERTY, SECRETARY

SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc
54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Saturday 19 September 2020.

MINUTES

Meeting opened 1.35pm.

- Bruce Watt welcomed all members and guests.
- Minutes: Carol McDonald
- Christine Edney presented information regarding upcoming excursion to Prince Henry Hospital Nursing Museum and Bare Island on the 25th October 2020.
- Bruce Watt showed his recent acquisition of a painting of Cronulla by Henri Tebbitt, 1925.
- Guest speaker was Pip Rae from Shire Podcast Station.
Pip is preparing 4 audio tours of Sutherland Shire: Sutherland, Cronulla, Kurnell and Como.
At the moment they are free. She is working with businesses and organisations.
They can be edited and updated on streaming platforms.
Pip played the first 15 minutes of the podcast on Sutherland.
She then took questions.

AGM followed:

- Minutes from the 2019 AGM were published in the November 2019 *Bulletin* and were taken as read. Accepted Elizabeth Craig, Sec. Peter Moore. CARRIED
- Other reports: Accepted Joe Hales, Sec. Helen Rosner. CARRIED
- Bruce Watt announced that he was stepping down. He has enjoyed his role and acknowledged all people with whom he had worked.
- All positions were declared vacant and Andrew Platfoot took on the role of Returning Officer.

President: nominee Pauline Curby, nominated by Elizabeth Craig.
Elected unopposed.

Vice President: Bruce Watt, nominated by Elizabeth Craig.
Elected unopposed.

Secretary and Public Officer, John Doherty, nominated by Creo Moore.
Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: John Doherty, nominated by Elizabeth Craig.
Elected unopposed.

Committee: Creo Moore (Assistant Secretary and Treasurer), Elizabeth Craig, Carol McDonald, Frank Zumbo. All elected unopposed.

- New President Pauline Curby took over the meeting.
- Election of appointed members.

Museum Manager: Bruce Watt and Peter Moore are considering position.

Bulletin Editor: Elizabeth Craig.

Publications Officer: Liz Adams

Excursions Officer: Joe Hales

Online administrator: Creo Moore

Facebook administrator: Frank Zumbo

Archivist: Carol McDonald

Heritage Festival Committee rep.: Frank Zumbo

Afternoon teas: Ann Steward, Beryl Davis and Mary Small

Grants officer: vacant

Welfare officer: Gloria Hans

- Bruce Watt, as Vice President will continue as an IMB signatory. Pauline Curby will be added to our IMB accounts as a signatory to Account numbers 200790393 and 200855539 in the name of Sutherland Shire Historical Society.
- John Doherty as Secretary/Public Officer will be completing NSW Fair Trading Forms A121-T2 (Annual summary of financial affairs) and A9 (Notice of appointment of Public Officer).
- Pauline Curby closed the meeting with mention of the book *East Coast Encounters 1770* and next speaker, Paul Brunton.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

The article on W.H. Mitchell in the most recent *Bulletin* ['William Henry Mitchell, 1858-1934', *SSHS Bulletin*, May 2021, pp. 8-12] referred to his involvement in cricket, including umpiring. Liz Summerson [the writer] may be interested to read the following extract from a book produced to mark the centenary of the N.S.W. Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association.

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*When the NSWCUA held its formation meeting on 15 August 1913 at the relatively late hour of 8pm the meeting elected its first president, WH Mitchell. William Mitchell was a Grade umpire who had been officiating for a few years and was obviously highly regarded by his peers to be elected President in the Association's first year. When one considers that there were 42 umpires present at the first meeting it was a mark of respect for the ability of Mitchell to lead the association in its formative years. Mitchell stood in the first game of the 1913 - 1914 season, Mosman v Randwick, and continued umpiring for a few years.*

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According to the Book's Appendix he was President for only one year, 1913 - 1914. (p.447)

The book also mentions (as does the article) his intention to take 'a raft of such questions' on the laws of the game to the MCC when visiting England in 1914 (p.47) and his attendance as a spectator at a game in Sydney while on a visit from Grafton in 1919. (p.110)

(Source: David Jenkins & Ronald Caldwell: *No Dazzling Deeds with Bat or Ball: A Centenary History of the New South Wales Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association 1913 – 2013*, The Cricket Publishing Co. 2015, p. 209)

I always enjoy reading the Bulletin.

David Robinson

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*Editor's note:*

*Liz Summerson was interested to read David's letter with the new information. She says she had tried unsuccessfully to contact the current Umpires' Association and had not discovered the book.*



# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2021

PAULINE CURBY



Sutherland Shire Historical Society (SSHS) has undergone a period of change since we moved our museum from Sutherland Memorial School of Arts in the wake of

Sutherland Shire Council's decision to refurbish this building. The Society recognises that community groups are no longer given rent-free occupancy of council buildings.

As of 29 January last, SSHS has a five-year lease with Sutherland Shire Council of a former baby health centre at 88 Venetia Street, Sylvania Heights. Our museum committee worked hard to facilitate the move. Deaccessioning of items not relevant to Shire history was undertaken: some items were sold, while others were donated to relevant organisations. The Council renovated the building to ensure it is suitable for our use, as well as making some lease concessions that will assist us in our transition period.

The Venetia Street site offers opportunities for much needed storage. We now have two sheds, one supplied by Sutherland Shire Council and another which the Society purchased and installed. This is important as we have only a small exhibition space where we will mount attention-grabbing displays that tell a coherent story or relate to a central theme. These will be changed at intervals so visitors have a new experience each time they drop in.

SSHS has received valuable support from the Australian National Maritime Museum which has lent us ballast offloaded at Cooktown from the *Endeavour*, and video footage on making a bark canoe. We will continue to collaborate with other organisations to ensure our

exhibitions are engaging and historically relevant.

Our grants committee has pursued funding from a range of sources. As a result, we obtained a COVID Recovery grant of \$4000, and a \$15 000 grant from Sutherland Shire Council for cabinets to house the Matson Collection of local Aboriginal artefacts. Our plans to restore the Holt Organ are underway thanks to a contribution of \$5000 from the Holt Estate 1861. As I write this our organ restorer is ordering parts from overseas so he can begin work. The organ was manufactured in Canada in 1878, before being acquired by the Holt family. In 1904 Frederick Holt donated it to Sylvania Congregational Church. It has been in the possession of SSHS since 1992.

Meanwhile other Society activities continue. While some meetings have been cancelled because of COVID restrictions, we still organise COVID-safe meetings whenever possible. Excursions are valued by visitors as well as members. On 18 March Bruce Howell led a group on a walk following the stream that flows into 'Cook's watering place' at Kurnell and on 27 May we visited Ed and Sue Duyker's unique 1950s home at Sylvania Heights which included an examination of the Aboriginal rock overhang on their property.

Despite not being able to launch our publication, *East Coast Encounters, 1770, Reflections on a Cultural Clash* last year, we have sold most of the print run and have ordered a reprint of a further 200 copies. This year our *Bulletin* editor Elizabeth Craig initiated a well-received newsletter, *Reaching Out*, to help keep in contact with members during these challenging times. We are pleased to welcome 21 new members in recent months. New blood brings fresh perspectives to any organisation, and we anticipate innovative ideas from our most recent recruits.

## **SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT**

JOHN DOHERTY

Taking on the challenge.

I knew from the start that I would have my work cut out for me, but with the help of Creo Moore, thence Elizabeth Craig who assisted as assistant secretaries, I was able to focus on some very important tasks.

These were chiefly:

- helping to prepare for our move from the School of Arts,
- finalising our lease negotiations with the Sutherland Shire Council. Pauline Curby and I signed the lease effective from 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 for 5 years.
- the move to Venetia Street. This was led by Peter Moore and his team and ably assisted by the council's removalist. Several truck loads were involved and at the end of the day, we had quickly filled our storage shed and museum.
- our next task was another new shed and with the help of fund raising, we very recently managed to have our second 18m<sup>2</sup> shed installed.

Fund raising has been very important to our survival. Creo Moore has raised \$1300 in FB Market Place and through the

generosity of members a further \$1500 have been raised by the sale of paintings. Cash donations have been made by Joan Tangney and Nola Watt and a much needed vacuum cleaner has been donated to us by Pamela Boler. Our sincerest thanks to you all.

Membership is the lifeline of the Society and to date we have 96 on the books. Numbers did drop (with the onset of Covid restrictions) which was a worry. However, remarkably we have enrolled 21 new members. I would like to thank Peggy Annabel who brought her lady sketchers to our 22 May BBQ. Through this, six of her troupe signed up.

Working with Bruce Watt, we have been successful in receiving \$5,000.00 from the Covid-19 Rescue Grant (this has assisted our liquidity) and \$15,000.00 from the Community Programme Grant which will pay for specialised cabinets to display our Aboriginal artefacts, most notably our Matson and Simpson collections.

We have only begun in preparing the Museum. Many hands make light work and the more volunteers we have, the better.

Come on, give it a go !

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### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2021-2022 IS NOW DUE**

Membership forms were included with the May *Bulletin*.

They can also be downloaded from our website: [www.shirehistory.org](http://www.shirehistory.org)

Otherwise, email [shirehistory@gmail.com](mailto:shirehistory@gmail.com) for more information on how to renew

or phone John Doherty on 0402 848 344

**Treasurer's Report**  
**John Doherty**

Sutherland Shire Historical Society Inc  
Profit and Loss year ending 30 June 2021

|                                                     | FY<br>2021         | FY<br>2020         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                       |                    |                    |
| Advertising                                         | \$                 | \$ 200.00          |
| Donations                                           | \$ 540.10          | \$ 510.60          |
| Grants                                              | \$ 5000.00         | \$ 5500.00         |
| Book sales:-                                        | \$                 | \$                 |
| ECE 1770                                            | \$ 5337.70         | \$ 5798.00         |
| Kareela                                             | \$ 294.20          | \$ 717.50          |
| Other                                               | \$ 176.00          | \$ 322.40          |
| Subscriptions                                       | \$ 3405.00         | \$ 3530.00         |
| Heritage Festival                                   | \$                 | \$ 1640.00         |
| Miscellaneous                                       | \$ 295.75          | \$ 2536.20         |
| Bulletin                                            | \$ 890.00          | \$ 236.00          |
| Paintings                                           | \$                 | \$ 120.00          |
| Interest received - St. Geo.                        | \$ -               | \$ 201.83          |
| Interest received - IMB (Fixed Deposit)             | \$ 112.44          | \$ 86.92           |
| Christmas Party 2020                                | \$ 1008.00         |                    |
| Fund Raising                                        | \$ 2930.20         |                    |
|                                                     | <u>\$ 19989.39</u> | <u>\$ 21399.45</u> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                     |                    |                    |
| Bank Fees                                           | \$ 114.00          | \$                 |
| Book Exp - ECE 1770                                 | \$ 0.00            | \$ 12866.80        |
| Bulletin & postage                                  | \$ 2142.00         | \$ 2192.94         |
| Shed #2                                             | \$ 3469.00         | \$                 |
| General Exp                                         | \$ 351.27          | \$ 1108.56         |
| Insurance                                           | \$ 377.60          | \$ 343.00          |
| Subscriptions                                       | \$ 215.00          | \$ 313.00          |
| Museum Exp                                          | \$ 913.34          | \$ 68.95           |
| Hall hire                                           | \$ 745.00          | \$ 753.13          |
| Heritage Festival                                   | \$                 | \$ 1744.00         |
| Stationery & Postage                                | \$ 432.25          | \$ 458.38          |
| Website exp                                         | \$ 4429.35         | \$ 536.80          |
| Equipment Purchases                                 | \$                 | \$                 |
| Christmas Party 2020                                | \$ 1008.00         | \$                 |
|                                                     | <u>\$ 14196.81</u> | <u>\$ 20385.56</u> |
| Net Operating Profit(Loss)                          | \$ 5792.58         | \$ 1013.89         |
| Retained profits at the beginning of Financial year | \$ 27974.70        | \$ 26960.81        |
| RETAINED PROFIT AT THE END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2021   | <u>\$ 33767.28</u> | <u>\$ 27974.70</u> |

22/07/2021

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**  
**ABN 17 083 299 572**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30th JUNE, 2021**

| CURRENT ASSETS                        | 2021               | 2020               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| St George Term Deposit                | \$                 | \$                 |
| IMB Term Deposit 200855539            | \$ 5112.44         | \$ 10000.00        |
| IMB Everyday Unlimited 2007983933     | \$ 28504.84        | \$ 17824.70        |
| Petty Cash                            | \$ 150.00          | \$ 150.00          |
|                                       | <u>\$ 33767.28</u> | <u>\$ 27974.70</u> |
| Less: Liabilities, Unpresented Cheque | 0.00               |                    |
|                                       | <u>\$ 33767.28</u> | <u>\$ 27974.70</u> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                         |                    |                    |
| Retained Earnings                     | \$ 27974.70        | \$ 26960.81        |
| Current Year Earnings                 | \$ 5792.58         | \$ 1013.89         |
| Balance as at 30 June 2021            | <u>\$ 33767.28</u> | <u>\$ 27974.70</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, 2021 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:

Assistant Treasurer

x Pauline Curby  
 Pauline Curby

x Creo Moore  
 Creo Moore

Date: 2/8/2021

Date: 2/8/2021



# ANNUAL MUSEUM REPORT

PETER MOORE

Well what an eventful year we have just had! At the time of writing (July) we have hit the brakes again, and we are all in quarantine. This has stopped most progress in the good ship VS (Venetia Street), except for the behind the scenes work of writing stories and labels for exhibits.

The latest addition to the museum is the second shed - thanks to John Doherty for organising its purchase and construction. It gives us additional storage space, as well as a venue for our country kitchen and laundry - always popular, especially with children and some older folk – and it's a good fit with our outside exhibits of old farm machinery and the spring cart.

By moving some items from the now over-crowded first shed to the new shed, we will have room for sorting out and identifying which objects are redundant and thus can be sold or passed on to other museums, freeing up more storage space.

## **Grants and other monies**

We have been extremely fortunate to have received a number of grants and donations along with on going sales of unwanted items, these have placed the museum in a financially stable position.

Many thanks must go to the grants committee of John Doherty and Bruce Watt for their perseverance in chasing down any available grant. An untold amount of work went into preparing the submissions. We have received a total of \$20,000 in grants allowing the museum to display the Matson Collection (local Aboriginal artefacts) in a safe and sympathetic way as well as providing storage space for items not currently on display.

We all owe my dear wife Creo a huge vote of thanks in her relentless pursuit of selling

anything she can get her hands on, and with the sale by Elizabeth Craig of some non-Shire paintings we have raised a total of \$2800. This has increased the Society's bank balance and also reduced the pressure on our limited storage space. One day we may be able to use the public bathroom, which currently stores the paintings we want to sell!

The layout of the display cabinets inside the museum has been finalised and the cabinets now await to be filled with artefacts. Lynn Collins (Museums & Galleries) suggested that we increase the amount of wall space for hanging displays by partitioning some of the internal glass windows with sheets of wood. This will add about another six square metres of hanging space in the Aboriginal display area. On the other side of the partition we will have scope to expand the Bass and Flinders or Banks and Solander theme or both.

## **Holt family organ**

The museum has been fortunate in receiving support from the Holt family for the restoration of the Holt organ – a cost of \$5000 - and we thank Bruce Watt and Pauline Curby for bringing the Holt family to our aid. As most members know this organ has been an iconic part of our historical display for many years.

The story was that Thomas Holt had imported the organ from Germany for his wife, Sophia. Well, our sleuth Pauline Curby, tracked down the real story. While there may have been a German organ, the one we have is not German. Our organ was made in Canada, but it was used by the Holt family in Sutherland House before being moved to the Sylvania Congregational church.

## **Time to thank all hardworking volunteers**

While there was great disruption all round prior, during and after the move, the engine room of the society remained active, with

Carol, Creo, Floriana and Cheryl sorting, filing documents and cleaning artefacts.

We are also indebted to those who lent a hand in the move: Bruce Watt, Dave Simpson, John Doherty, Kev Curby, the council staff and the French removalists.

A very new member Graham Burton has just joined the team and has been of great help in setting up the museum.

Thank you also to Ted Craig for his help with hanging our collection of paintings.

Elizabeth Craig and Pauline Curby have taken over the writing of labels and putting together the stories relating to our exhibits. Thank you both for your good work here. If there is any one else who wishes to help with this work, please come forward and join the crew.

John Doherty is owed a great deal of thanks for his unsung work behind the scenes. He is the golden thread that has kept us all

together, filling in where ever he is able to help and keeping control of finances.

Finally, I must thank our President Pauline for all her help during the year. Her enthusiasm and inspiration has kept us all going during this difficult time. Without her drive we would not have achieved nearly as much.

### **Your help needed**

When we are up and running, we will be in need of guides for the museum, so please come forward if you would like to participate. The more we have acting as guides the more we can stay open and generate an income for the museum. You will not be thrown in cold, as you will be given training in the contents of the museum and provided with a manual to help you to carry out a tour of the museum. If there is any one who feels they can contribute to the writing of labels and the writing of stories related to the exhibits please come and help, the more the merrier.



*Peter Moore and Pauline Curby experimenting with the setting up of the Cook display – along with the Endeavour ballast that had just arrived from the Australian National Maritime Museum*

[Photo: E. Craig]

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ELIZABETH CRAIG

### Some good news

Despite the deadening effect of rolling Covid lockdowns on SSHS activities, and the trauma of having to move and redesign our Museum to what seemed an impossibly small and remote space, the past year has been surprisingly upbeat.

Our premises at 88 Venetia Street have proved to be a very successful venue for holding BBQ lunches for members and friends. There will be more!

Interesting speakers, popular excursions (in between lockdowns), and the sell-out success of *East Coast Encounters 1770* requiring a reprint has been heartening. Our Facebook Page, enhanced by Creo Moore's posting of images and stories from our archive and *Bulletin* articles has drawn attention to SSHS. And after initially losing some members during the first Covid lockdown, our membership numbers have grown!

### The *Bulletin* and *Reaching Out*

I have been delighted to receive some wonderful and sometimes unexpected contributions to the *Bulletin*. For instance, the article in May 2021 on William Henry Mitchell (significant in Jannali's history), containing previously unknown information about Jannali,

was sparked because an English relative had seen a reference to him on our online *Bulletin* index, while researching her family history.

It illustrates what a valuable resource our *Bulletins* are, and the enormous benefits of having them online and available to anyone in the world.

I am also grateful to those SSHS members who have been a constant source of well-researched interesting local history. But a journal like the *Bulletin* thrives on variety, and I welcome more writers to contribute to it.

If something lighter and snappier is more appealing to you, you could always contribute to *Reaching Out*, a newsletter started during last year's first lockdown that has proved to be quite popular. Please contact me if you have something suitable to contribute.

And lastly, my thanks to Dawn Emerson, for proofreading the *Bulletin*. It is a huge help to know that there is someone with the skills to catch typos and errors that can slip in.

Thank you everyone, for your support in the past year. Hopefully, a mostly vaccinated NSW community will mean freedom from lockdowns next year!



1919 May Gibbs illustration for NSW Government mask wearing campaign for 1919 Spanish flu  
[Submitted by Christine Edney]

# HMB *ENDEAVOUR* AFTER COOK

GREG JACKSON

In 1770 Lieutenant James Cook, Captain of HMB<sup>1</sup> *Endeavour*, became the first European to sail along the east coast of Australia. On his return to England Cook and eminent botanist Joseph Banks were national heroes but the small bark *Endeavour*, which had taken her crew around the world through uncharted waters, was largely ignored. This article traces the subsequent history of *Endeavour* after Cook.

*Endeavour* was built as an East Coast collier, the *Earl of Pembroke*, in Whitby and purchased by the Royal Navy in 1768 for Cook's expedition.<sup>2</sup> She was then 3½ years old. Using a collier as an expedition vessel proved to be an inspired choice.<sup>3</sup> Although she was a slow vessel with poor windward performance, she was very strongly built, had a shallow draft and able to carry a large cargo. After an extensive refit and with a crew of 94,<sup>4</sup> Cook set out on a three-year voyage to observe the transit of Venus and search for the Great South Land. The story of *Endeavour's* discoveries has been told many times but what was the fate of *Endeavour* after Cook returned?

Within days of returning from her arduous voyage, *Endeavour* was dispatched to South Atlantic as a replenishment ship for a small garrison at Falkland Islands. She was now over 10 years old and had sailed over 112,000kms whilst a Royal Navy vessel, and showed significant wear and tear. For the next three years *Endeavour* made several voyages to the Falklands. In March 1775 the navy decided that *Endeavour* was not worth refitting and she was sold into private hands for a paltry £645 (she had cost £11,799 to purchase and refit in 1768<sup>2</sup>).

With the outbreak of the American War of Independence in April 1775, the British government began contracting civilian vessels to transport troops and military materiel to its rebellious North American colonies. *Endeavour* was tendered for consideration, but the Admiralty rejected it due to its poor condition. Repairs were made and her name changed to *Lord Sandwich* 2 in February 1776 (as there was already a transport ship called *Lord Sandwich*). Although initially rejected because of her poor condition she was finally accepted on her third submission and was assigned as a troop transport.<sup>4</sup>



**Image 1:** A cutaway painting of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*.  
[Photo by Robert W. Nicholson/National Geographic/Getty Images]



*Lord Sandwich 2* sailed on 6 May 1776 from Portsmouth in a fleet of 100 vessels, 68 of which were transports under orders to support Howe's campaign to capture New York. This fleet was largest fleet assembled by Britain up until the D Day landings in WW2 and was one of largest naval fleets of its time. *Endeavour/Lord Sandwich 2* carried 206 men mainly from the Hessian du Corps regiment of Hessian mercenaries. The crossing was stormy and 15 transports were lost.

The scattered fleet assembled at Halifax then sailed to Sandy Hook (slightly south of New York) where other ships and troops assembled. On 15 August 1776 *Lord Sandwich 2* was anchored at Sandy Hook. Following New York's capture from the Americans, British military leaders turned their attention to Newport, which was held by American forces and represented a threat to British control of New York and its surrounds. In November 1776 *Lord Sandwich 2* collected another contingent of Hessians and joined a convoy bound for Rhode Island. The German mercenaries quickly seized control of Newport, but were unable to completely subdue the Americans, who controlled the shores surrounding Narragansett Bay and began preparing for a counter-offensive.<sup>4</sup>



**Image 2:** Chart of Narragansett Bay, 1776. [Harvard Map Collection]  
The location where Lord Sandwich and four other vessels were scuttled in about 13 metres of water is circled in red.

After the British surrender at Saratoga in October 1777, France entered the war on the side of the Americans, and plans to retake Newport commenced. In the summer of 1778, a pincer plan was agreed by the Americans and French to recapture Newport from the British, with the French sailing into Narragansett Bay, and the American force of 20,000 attacking from the north. The British garrison and their Hessian troops in Newport - about 6,500 soldiers - realised that if they weren't capable of repelling the attack, they were in serious trouble. The attacking forces were so superior in strength that the British declined to engage it.

The French squadron of 18 vessels (11 ships-of-the-line, one 50-gun ship, five frigates and one 16-gun vessel) arrived at Narragansett Bay on 29 July 1778 to try and capture the town.<sup>5</sup>

To prevent the French fleet from getting into the harbour the British commander, General Pigot, determined to blockade the bay by sinking surplus vessels at its mouth. The *Lord Sandwich II* was one of 13 selected. On 4 August 1778, it was sunk along with four others in the area between Goat Island and North Battery, an artillery placement north of Newport<sup>4</sup> (Image 2, previous page). The decision to sink transport ships was also to stop Royal Navy ships falling into French hands, to block the access to Newport's Inner Harbour and provide a partial barrier between the city's land-based artillery batteries and the French warships<sup>5</sup>. *Endeavour* had reached her final resting place.

Although these scuttled ships were first identified in 1993 it was not realised till 1999 that one of the ships at this site was possibly the *Lord Sandwich 2* and had previously been Cook's *Endeavour*.

This archaeological site, located in Narragansett Harbour, Rhode Island U.S.A, is known by its nickname the 'Kerry Site' (named after Dr Kerry Lynch, an American archaeologist and the Rhode Island Marine Archaeological Project (RIMAP) Field Supervisor). Work at this site has continued since that time. These wrecks are the property of the State of Rhode Island and although the Americans are mostly interested in the scuttled ships' historic connection with their War of Independence, they realised the advantages of linking the site's exploration to an historic figure of Cook's magnitude.

Research has concentrated on determining which of the five scuttled ships at the Kerry site is the *Earl of Sandwich*. The Australian National Maritime Museum has been active in the investigation, providing research and diving expertise. The ravages of time have resulted in only about 15% of the original wrecks still being present,<sup>6</sup> but identification may still be possible using the following markers:

- *Endeavour* was the largest of the five ships scuttled at the Kerry site.
- *Endeavour* was built as a large, very substantial, flat floored collier with a 'box' like shape.
- *Endeavour* had a second keelson<sup>7</sup> to enable her to take to the seabed when required. These keelsons were unusually made of elm.
- Ballast found on the wreck may possibly have originated in New Zealand or Australia.
- Repairs to *Endeavour* in Batavia (Jakarta) after her grounding on the Barrier Reef would have resulted in Asian hardwood being present on the wreck, and repairs completed in Endeavour River, Australia) would be Australian hardwood.

Diving conditions at the Kerry site are far from ideal with strong currents, cold dirty water and contamination from nearby industrial sites, but using these and other clues investigations are now concentrating on one wreck.

There will probably never be 100% proof that the *Endeavour* has been located. Cook's *Endeavour* had undergone many changes in becoming *The Earl of Sandwich* and the remains of the ships at the Kerry site are very decayed, and are located in a difficult site, but as research continues the results are promising with all evidence, so far, suggesting that *Endeavour* has indeed been located<sup>8</sup>.



**Image 3:** *Photogrammetric image of Lord Sandwich/Endeavour Newport USA 2019.*  
[Photo James Hunter ANMM]

#### References:

1. HMB = Her Majesty's Bark
2. The Captain Cook Society webpage <https://www.captaincooksociety.com/home/detail/endeavour>
3. Another collier, HMS *Resolution*, was chosen for Cook's second and third voyages.
4. New Zealand Geographic, 2019, *The Search for the Endeavour*  
<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/the-search-for-the-endeavour/>
5. Newport Rhode Island,  
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/newport-rhode-island>
6. Chart of Narragansett Bay by Charles Blaskowitz 1777, National Archives UK showing Brenton's Point, Goat Island and the North Battery  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=6.+Chart+of+Narragansett+Bay+by+Charles+Blaskowitz+1777%2C+National+Archives+UK+showing+Brenton%E2%80%99s+Point%2C+Goat+Island+and+the+North+Battery&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_en-GBAU926AU926&oq=6.%09Chart+of+Narragansett+Bay+by+Charles+Blaskowitz+1777%2C+National+Archives+UK+showing+Brenton%E2%80%99s+Point%2C+Goat+Island+and+the+North+Battery&aqs=chrome..69i57.1493j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=6.+Chart+of+Narragansett+Bay+by+Charles+Blaskowitz+1777%2C+National+Archives+UK+showing+Brenton%E2%80%99s+Point%2C+Goat+Island+and+the+North+Battery&rlz=1C1CHBF_en-GBAU926AU926&oq=6.%09Chart+of+Narragansett+Bay+by+Charles+Blaskowitz+1777%2C+National+Archives+UK+showing+Brenton%E2%80%99s+Point%2C+Goat+Island+and+the+North+Battery&aqs=chrome..69i57.1493j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)
7. A keelson is a structure running the length of a ship and fastening the timbers or plates of the floor to its keel.
8. Personal communications, Kevin Sumption, Director of the Australian National Maritime Museum May 2021.

## *Vale* BRIAN SAUNDERS (1927 – 2021)

ELIZABETH CRAIG



*Jo and Brian Saunders at their Oyster Bay home, 2012 [Photo: E.Craig]*

Brian Saunders, a long time SSHS member, sadly died on 22 May this year after a brief illness. Known for his quiet manner, but enthusiastic interest in local history - both European and Aboriginal - this gentle friendly man attended most of the monthly meetings until quite recently.

I had the privilege of recording the life story of Brian and his wife Jo, in an oral history interview in September 2012.<sup>1</sup> The following is Brian's story.

Born in Haberfield in 1927 to a keen Baptist family who strongly disapproved of alcohol, Brian attended Mortdale Public School and Sutherland Intermediate High School. He had a technical bent and was known at school as an inventor, but apart from French he did not like high school. He found it 'a tough place with hard teachers'. Brian's father died when he was 12, and at 14, the child allowance his widowed mother received ended. She could no longer afford to keep him at school, and Brian saw this as a 'marvellous opportunity to get out of school and into work'.

After working for a while at the Department of Supply (which supplied equipment to the war effort), Brian became an apprentice electrician in 1943, attending classes three nights a week. He studied for his final exams at the home of a friend, Jim Dalyell, who was a fellow apprentice electrician. There Brian met Jim's sister, Jo, a school teacher, and there was an instant attraction.

After their decision to marry Brian and Jo began to look for a place to live in the Shire – like just about everyone else they knew in the St George area, commented Brian. The Shire was very popular and it was hard to find a block of land in the early 1950s. They rode around the suburbs on Brian's motorbike looking, and eventually found a block in Forest Road, Yowie Bay, for which they paid £315. Brian and Jo married at St George's Church, Hurstville on 1 May 1953, with Jo's school student, 15-year-old Sylvania soprano, Helen Zerefos singing at their wedding – her very first gig!<sup>2</sup>

Like many others at the time, the newly married couple erected a garage to live in while they built their house. They cleared the bush, and then had an architect friend draw up their plans. After Council's approval, they hired a bricklayer to lay the foundation footings, and Brian built the house on the footings, a wide ranch style weatherboard home with – unusually - a kitchen at the front.

Brian was offered a job as an electrician at American Rolling Mills Company (ARMCO) Kirrawee Depot. The company had started in Port Kembla as Commonwealth Rolling Mills (CRM) pressing raw steel into sheet metal, which was then trucked into Sydney. However, there were restrictions on how far freight trucks could travel, and driving from Port Kembla into the city incurred a tax. Building a depot in Kirrawee put them inside the mileage limit to the city.

Brian enjoyed working at ARMCO. It was a very sociable company, largely due to the works manager, Alan Pond, who organised events such as the staff concert. Brian was delighted when he was promoted to the office to do clerical work. 'All tradesmen aimed to "get off the tools" and into the office,' he explained. When their American bosses decided ARMCO was overstaffed, Brian was laid off on a 'last in, first out' basis, despite nobody wanting him to go. Through one of the management staff, Brian was referred to British Motor Corporation and was offered a job assisting with production control.

From there, Brian was employed by Dalgety's to build a new wool store in Melbourne. In 1961 when Dalgety's merged with New Zealand & Mercantile Agency to become Dalgety & New Zealand Loan



Ltd, Brian and his family were sent to New Zealand. The Saunders sold their Yowie Bay home for over £5000. On their return in 1966, Brian left Dalgety's. They bought a ready-built double brick home near Tradies at 704 The Kingsway, Gymea where they stayed for 10 years before moving to 168 The Kingsway, in Woollooware. 24 years later they moved to Oyster Bay.<sup>3</sup>

Five of the Saunders' six children attended Gymea High School. Brian and Jo were not aware that Aboriginal children from Kirinari Aboriginal Hostel at Sylvania attended Gymea High School until their children started bringing home Aboriginal friends. They had voted for the recognition of Aboriginals in the constitution at the 1967 referendum, but were too busy settling back into Australia with their sixth baby to be very absorbed in the issue.

One of the Saunders' daughters was invited by a close Aboriginal friend to visit her home in Moree. Jo and Brian gave permission. On her return their daughter told them that her friend's mother was shocked to find that the Saunders were not Aboriginal. She had said, 'Does your mother know we're black?' Jo and her daughter felt very humbled by this.

The Saunders got to know some of the Kirinari students well, inviting into their home children who were missing their families. One young man from Groote Eylandt went on holidays with Brian's family, and the boy's family sent back several Aboriginal artefacts for the Saunders – a didgeridoo, spears, coolamons and a boomerang. Society members may remember when Brian brought these in for 'show and tell' at a meeting.

Brian and Jo joined the Kirinari Committee, with Brian as President for a while and Jo fundraising with Aileen Griffiths, a founding member of SSHS, and President from 1989 to 1997. They held fetes, put on concerts and negotiated with government for funds.

Brian had a long involvement with the scouting movement, starting with the Oatley Sea Scouts as a teenager. He joined the Gymea Scouts Committee when his son joined up in 1966 after returning from New Zealand. His main interest was bushwalking and he had regularly taken his family camping in the Royal National Park. Brian learned bushcraft and held training courses. He then ran graded bushwalks which were enormously popular. He taught how to light fires, cook food, camp out and to navigate bush – and what snakes to avoid!

When reflecting on his life Brian commented that he felt Kirinari was a broadening experience both for its students and also for people like his family. It promoted understanding. He said the more he got to know Aboriginal people, the more he got to love them. 'There was something quite rich about them.' Amongst Brian and Jo's 18 grandchildren - who have given them great joy - is an Aboriginal grandson.

*Jo and Brian Saunders with Helen Zerefos, celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at their home in Oyster Bay in May 2013.. [Photo: H. Zerefos]*



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<sup>1</sup> Oral History interview with Jo and Brian Saunders for *Telling It As It Was*, a Sutherland Shire Council Oral History Project, Oyster Bay, 11 September 2012. Interviewer: Elizabeth Craig. The recording and associated transcript and photos are archived with Sutherland Library Local Studies, and can be accessed online:

<https://localhistory.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/> then in the search box write 'Jo and Brian Saunders'.

<sup>2</sup> Helen Zerefos, telephone conversation, 5 August 2021

<sup>3</sup> Margaret Schepis (nee Saunders), email communication, 6 August 2021

# THE SHIRE'S ORIGINAL COUNCILLORS

CHRISTINE EDNEY (compiler)

In 1906 the NSW State Government appointed 'provisional' councillors to establish Sutherland Shire council. They were:

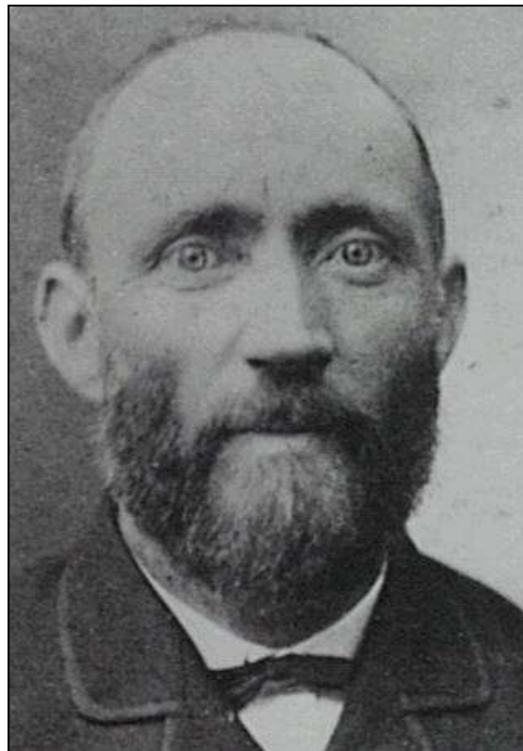
## **ATKINSON, John**

Period as Councillor:

9 June 1906 – 23 November, 1906

John Atkinson was born at Richmount Town in County Armagh, Ireland and died in his 74<sup>th</sup> year on 15 April, 1917 in Cronulla at his house 'Richmount' in Richmount St, named after his birthplace. Atkinson had been a shipwright and had lived at Balmain. He moved to Cronulla around 1895. He was married twice. His first wife was Mary Falconer Stewart and they married in 1870, and through her he was brother-in-law to William Richard Ainsworth (who later became a Councillor).

Atkinson's second wife, Lydia Mary Moore (married 25 January 1886) was a midwife and district nurse born in Portsmouth UK. In 1895 Atkinson was one of a group of people pressing the State Government to prevent development of what is now Gunnamatta Park and make it parkland. He also pressed for preserving South Cronulla foreshores as public land. He had an 11-acre leasehold dairy, called *Shell Point Dairy* on Parraweena Rd, Taren Point and also several clay quarries, one located on the site of the old part of Caringbah High School and another at Robin Place Reserve (Jacaranda Rd, Caringbah).



*All photos courtesy Sutherland Library collection.*

In 1910 John Atkinson was Founding President, Cronulla Ratepayers Association. He was also President of South Cronulla Progress Association, and chaired the meeting where it was decided to establish the Cronulla School of Arts.<sup>1</sup> His granddaughter, Aileen Griffiths was a founding member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society, serving as President from 1989 to 1997.

## **BEST, Edwin**

Period as Councillor:

9 June 1906 – 23 November 1906

Edwin Best did not stand for election to the Council which followed the State Government appointed provisional council, and for which he acted as Secretary. He owned and managed a sawmill/ lumber yard located on the south east corner of President Ave and Acacia Rd/Princes Highway and was known locally as the 'Lumber Lord'. He was Vice President of Sutherland Progress Association in 1905.<sup>2</sup>



## COOK, Robert William

Periods as Councillor:

24 November 1906 – 25 August 1911

31 January 1914 - 30 January 1920

02 December 1922 – 23 August 1929

05 October 1929 – 01 January 1932

Robert William Cook (known as 'Bob') operated his horse bus company in the Shire for many years. He was Shire President in 1916 and 1928, Deputy Shire President in 1908. Cook was one of nine aldermen who resigned in August 1929 over 'The Affair of the Bridge Passes' (after *Smith's Weekly* campaigned against Councillors and Aldermen having free Georges River Bridge passes). All nine were re-elected October 1929. In 1907 Cook built a house on the Woronora River from which he was going to supply skiffs for

fishing & pleasure parties. In 1911-12 he tendered to do road building jobs for council. He had a shop on East Parade, Sutherland, and in the garage behind it the Sutherland fire engine was parked. Bob Cook retired from Council due to ill health, and died 16 June 1942, aged 64.<sup>3</sup>

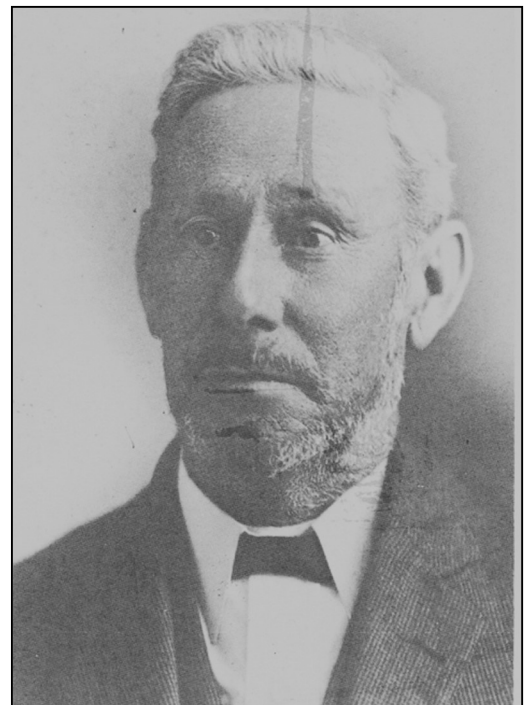
## HILL, John

Periods as Councillor:

24 November 1906 – 28 January 1907 (resigned)

16 February 1907 – 1 December 1922 (Shire President 1918)

Born in Collingwood, Victoria in 1858, John Hill moved to Balmain in Sydney c. 1873. He worked as a builder in the western suburbs, later becoming a boat builder in Cronulla c. 1892. His family lived in a large house on the corner of Woollooware Rd and Hill Street (named after him) from 1893. He was draftsman for many Council projects. He was founding member of Cronulla Masonic Lodge, President, Cronulla School of Arts, Commodore of Port Hacking Sailing Club and Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club's first President. He was also a member of the Miranda School Board and President of the Cronulla Parents' and Citizens' Association (which pushed for the establishment of Cronulla School). He was the Cronulla representative on the committee of St George Cottage Hospital, and he provided a personal guarantee for construction of the Sutherland – Cronulla Tramway. Another achievement was the establishment of Burraneer Post Office where he was the first letter receiver in 1907, and first Postmaster in 1910. Hill was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1913. He died December 1931 age 73.<sup>4</sup>







### **HYNDMAN, Edward Walter**

Period as Councillor:

24 November 1906 – 30 January 1920

Deputy Shire President: 1908

Shire President: 1911-1915

Born in 1871 in Brighton NZ, Edward Hyndman left school at 15. He worked in mining and on a rural station. On his arrival in Sydney, he secured an interest in a printing business, but due to bad health went back to the land. He had a poultry farm at Miranda from about 1904 and also owned land on Yowie Point. He was involved in the Miranda School of Arts and Miranda Progress Association. Hyndman was President of the School of Arts in 1911 and one of a group pushing for a tramway to Cronulla. He was Director of the Poultry Farmers Cooperative Society and appointed Justice of the Peace in 1911. Hyndman was Council representative on the Local Government

Association 1910-12. He favoured road building and tree planting. Edward Hyndman died in August 1937.

### **JUDD, William George**

Periods as Councillor:

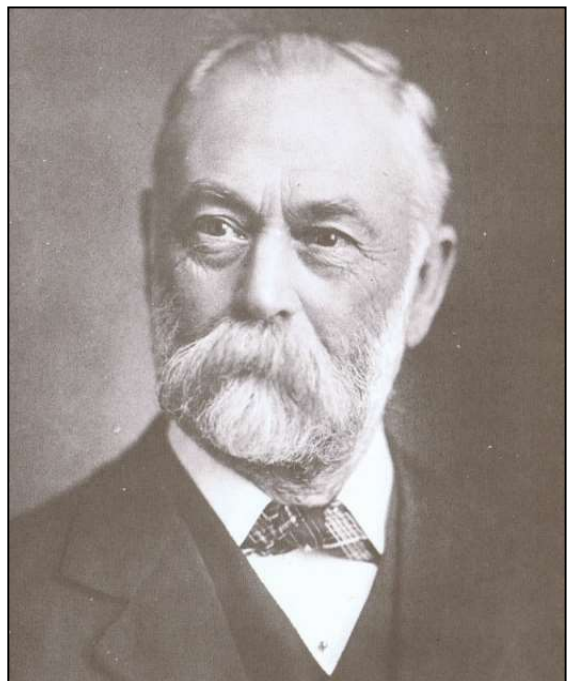
9 June 1906 – 27 January 1911

4 September 1911 – 30 January 1914

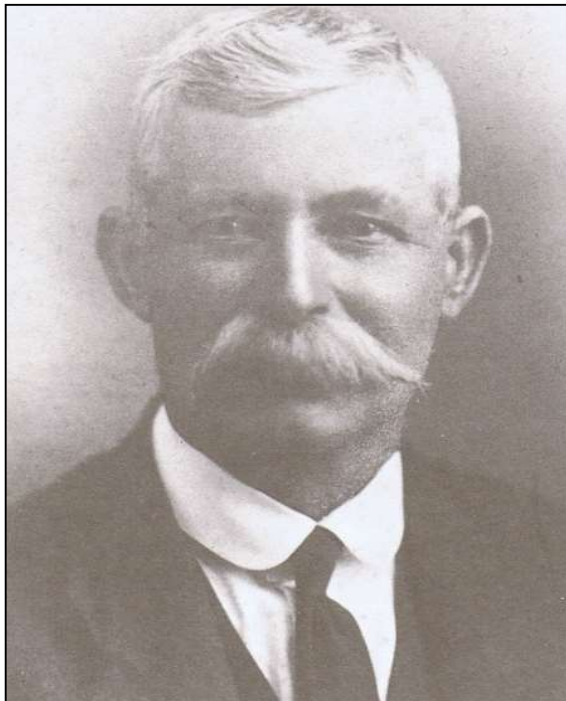
Shire President 1906-1910

William Judd was born in Pitt St Sydney on 30 July 1847. He died at his house 'Athelstane', Wollongong Rd, Arncliffe on 6 December 1929, aged 82. He was known as the 'Grand Old Man' of the Shire. Judd was kidnapped as a five-year-old, and an employee of his mother's laundry business retrieved him and thrashed the kidnapper. He worked from the age of seven, only attending school intermittently. His main education was at night school.

Judd did not initially stand for the 1911-14 Council election, but after the resignation of Councillor Cook, was persuaded to run, and won the vacant seat unopposed (the other candidate withdrew). Judd St, Cronulla and President Ave are named after him. Judd had a weekender at Yowie Bay. He married Elinor Eliza Howard at St Peters on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1869, and they had four children. Before becoming Shire councillor Judd was Alderman and Mayor of St Peters and West Botany (Rockdale) Councils, and was State Member for Canterbury 1885-87. He worked in a refreshment room, then in St Peters brickworks, and later as a storekeeper at St Peters. He was a founder of Judd's brickworks at Mortdale, and in 1910 Council representative on the Local Government Association. Judd laid the foundation stone for the Sutherland Congregational Church 1925.<sup>5</sup>







### **LEHANE, Thomas**

Period as councillor:

24 November 1906- 4 December 1925

Born 28<sup>th</sup> June 1868 at 'Old Farm', now Miranda, Thomas Lehane was the eldest son of John Lehane, one of Thomas Holt's overseers. He went to school at Kogarah and Blakehurst. His family owned large areas of land in what became the Sutherland Shire, including at Dolan's Bay where a street was named after Lehane (who owned land at the time of subdivision), and where Sutherland Hospital was later built. The family also owned land at Sutherland, Cronulla and Miranda. In 1908 Lehane was elected to Council unopposed. He died on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1933, aged 65 at his home in Miranda.<sup>6</sup>

### **McALISTER, Charles**

Period as Councillor:

9 June 1906 - 30 January 1914

Charles McAlister was known as 'Mac', and from 1911, as the 'Prince of the Riviera' (his Cronulla subdivision was called the Riviera estate). As a young man he worked in the pearling industry in Torres Strait, and then turned to the retail grocery trade for nearly 30 years. By the early 1890s McAlister had built a small cottage he called 'Sunbeam Cottage' on the corner of Fairview Ave and Woronora Road. He later extended and renamed his home, 'Holmlea'.

In 1900 McAlister subdivided much of Engadine. At about the same time he bought waterfront blocks at South Cronulla and built his first brick house in McAlister Avenue, Cronulla which is named after him. He was also the original settler at Engadine. McAlister chaired the 1908 meeting to form Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club. His wife, Christina chose the name for Engadine Station after a visit to the Engadin Valley in Switzerland. In 1908 McAlister was elected to Council unopposed. He died on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1916 at Holmlea, aged 72.<sup>7</sup>

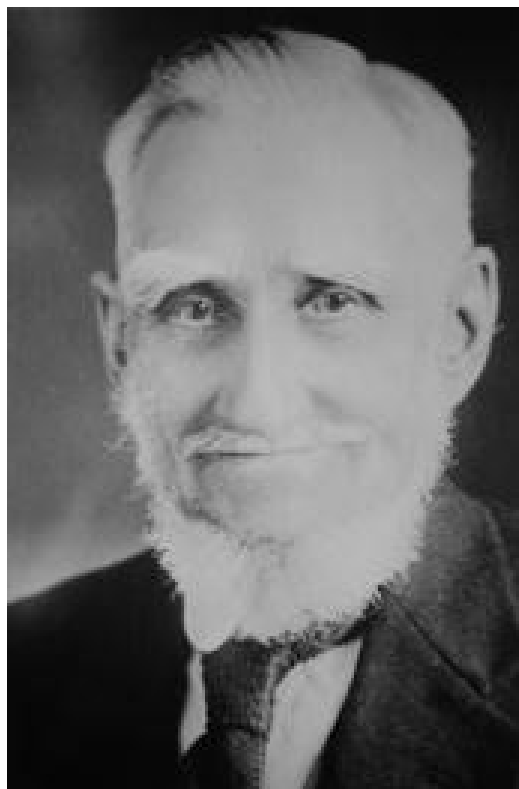


## THACKER, Edward

Period as Councillor:

9 June 1906- 23 November 1906

Edward Thacker was known as the 'Patriarch' or 'Father of Miranda'. Thacker Street, Miranda is named after him and Humberstone Ave is named after his wife, Lucy's maiden name. He moved to the Miranda area from Kogarah in 1887 and established an orchard on what had been Blaxland's Old Farm. He helped finance and build Miranda School of Arts. Thacker co-founded and was the first President of Miranda Agricultural Bureau/Cooperative Society. He was also President of the Miranda School Board, and in 1916 became Chairman of the Miranda Progress Association. His land was bounded by Sylvania Rd, The Boulevard and Manchester Rd almost as far as Bondell Ave. He also owned land where Talara Rd is now located. Thacker retired from public life at the age of 80, and died six years later on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1936 at his home in Sylvania Road, Miranda.<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> SMH 16/4/1917, Marriage certificates and other info in Library Local History pamphlet file, *St George Call* 28/5/1910, *Faces of The Shire*, 2006

<sup>2</sup> *St George Call* 8/7/1905, David Kirkby, *From Sails to Atoms, First 50 Years of Sutherland Shire, 1906-1956*, SSC 1970 (also *Kirkby Index*, SSC)

<sup>3</sup> Woronora Cemetery website, *St George Call* 21/12/1907, Kirkby, *From Sails to Atoms, Propeller* 18/6/1942

<sup>4</sup> Maryanne Larkin, *Sutherland Shire – a History to 1939*, Sutherland History Press 1998, Sutherland Shire Historical Society *Bulletin*, May 1987, *Faces of the Shire, St George Call*, 16/11/1907, 18/6/1910, 18/11/1911, 17/5/1913. Pamphlet file Library Local Studies, *Propeller* 4/12/1931

<sup>5</sup> *Cronulla Public School Golden Jubilee 1925-1975*, Merle Kavanagh, *Echoes from The Bay*, Parker Pattinson Publishing, 1998, *Faces of the Shire, St George Call*, 30/7/1910, 2/9/1911 & 11/11/1911, *Propeller* 20/12/1929

<sup>6</sup> *St George Call* 25/11/1911, Woronora Cemetery website

<sup>7</sup> Woronora Cemetery website, *Engadine District News*, 17/10/1984 (article by M Hutton Neve), Kirkby, *From Sails to Atoms, St George Call* 18/11/1911

<sup>8</sup> *Faces of the Shire*, Kavanagh, *Echoes from the Bay, Sutherland Shire Some early Residents*, BBFHS 2007, Woronora Cemetery website, *Propeller* 12/11/1936, 19/4/1936, SCAM 12/10/1956, *St George Call* 29/1/1916

## THE LAST ROAD GANG: PART 3

GREG JACKSON AND PAM FORBES

In 'The Last Road Gang', Part 1 and Part 2 (*Bulletin*, February and May 2021), letters from the Assistant Surveyors Roderick Mitchell and William Darke to the Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell were used to examine various aspects of the convict's life on the road. This road gang had a nominal strength of 25 men, although this was seldom achieved, and at least 45 convicts are mentioned in the correspondences. The records of 42 of these convicts have been at least partially reconstructed. This article – the last of the series - looks at these records to determine the profile of the convicts and how they compare with other convicts in NSW.

### Data Sources

The records of NSW convicts were officially destroyed around 1870.<sup>2</sup> However, there are other sources such as shipping indents, tickets of leave data, trial data from UK and NSW court records that can be used to at least partially reconstruct a convict's record. Data for the reconstruction of the convicts on the Illawarra Road came from the following sources:

Ancestry.com: [home.ancestry.com.au](http://home.ancestry.com.au)

Biographical Database of Australia: 2016, <http://www.bda-online.org.au/>

Findmypast: <http://www.findmypast.com.au/>

Trove, National Library of Australia: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Convict Ships of Australia: <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/ships>

The reconstructed records are not complete, with no trace being found for five of the convicts mentioned in the Assistant Surveyors' letters. This is possibly due to illegible writing, simply mistakes in writing the convicts' names (or ship) or an error caused by the convict's use of an alias, something that frequently occurred.

### The Convicts

Convict transportation ceased in 1840,<sup>3</sup> three years before this gang was formed to clear the Illawarra Road. The gang members were recruited from the Hyde Park Barracks from convicts who had been convicted of a crime in the colony or had been assigned to settlers and returned as unsatisfactory. Although it is often assumed that they worked in chains this is not the case; they were merely selected from those available at the Barracks and difficulty was sometimes experienced in selecting suitable convicts.<sup>7</sup> It is unsurprising that they were badly behaved and proved difficult to control when members of the road gang. Their behaviour can be compared to other convicts in the colony, particularly from a study by Brian Walsh of the 142 convicts at the agricultural property at Tocal, a large farm in the Hunter Valley between 1822 and 1840.<sup>4</sup>

### Sentences

The sentences of the Illawarra Road convicts are shown in Table 1.

| Life     | 14 years | 7 years | unknown | Total |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 21 (50%) | 15 (36%) | 6 (14%) | 0       | 42    |

**Table 1:** *Original sentences of the convicts on the Illawarra Road gang*

They were transported for far more serious crimes than those at Tocal where only 39% of the convicts received a life sentence, 7% received 14-year sentences and slightly more than half of Tocal's convicts received a seven-year sentence.<sup>4</sup> The severity of the sentences the Illawarra Road convicts received was to be reflected in their behaviour in the NSW colony.

## Crimes

The crimes and subsequent incarceration of the convicts on the road gang are taken from the reconstructed convict records. They are almost certainly an underestimate of the true number of crimes they committed. Many crimes and their subsequent punishments would escape detection due to the poor records now available.

Most of the convicts in the gang were transported to NSW for some form of theft: snuff boxes, watches, clothes, sheep, pickpocketing etc. Nineteen percent, however, were sentenced for crimes against a person, including murder and highway robbery. Some of their crimes were unusual - such as vagrancy and sacrilege. Table 2 outlines the type of crimes that resulted in transportation.

| Crimes against a person | Property crimes | Other  | Unknown | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------|-------|
| 8 (19%)                 | 29 (69%)        | 3 (7%) | 2 (5%)  | 42    |

**Table 2:** *Crimes of the convicts on the Illawarra Road gang*

Prior to their transportation 70% of the Total convicts had no previous convictions. For the convicts on the road gang this was only 50%.<sup>4</sup> This suggests that many of the road gang convicts were already habitual criminals prior to their transportation.

## Colonial Crimes

Table 3 shows the number of convictions in NSW for the convicts on the Illawarra Road Gang.

| None    | 1       | 2      | 3        | 4      | 5      | >5      | Total |
|---------|---------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| 5 (15%) | 7 (17%) | 8 (1%) | 10 (24%) | 3 (7%) | 3 (7%) | 6 (14%) | 42    |

**Table 3:** *Number of colonial crimes*

The members of the road gang averaged almost three convictions each after their transportation to NSW.

## Age profile

In 1843 the average age of the convicts in the road gang was 31 years (Table 4), compared to the convicts at Tocal, which was 25 years - almost exactly the average age of convicts in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land prior to 1840, namely 25.9 years<sup>4</sup>. The greater age of the convicts in the gang is to be expected, as no younger convicts were arriving in the NSW colony after 1840. The oldest convict in the gang was 47 years old and the youngest 21 years old.

| Average age in 1843 | Maximum age  | Minimum age  | Unknown |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 31 years old        | 47 years old | 21 years old | 0       |

**Table 4:** *Age profile of the convicts in the road gang*

## Country of origin

The place of origin of all but two of the gang members is known. Over 60% were English with about 30% Irish, with very few from Scotland or other places. This is roughly the same proportions as the average for all convicts in NSW<sup>5</sup>.

| England  | Ireland  | Scotland | Other  | Unknown | Total |
|----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------|
| 26 (62%) | 12 (29%) | 1 (2%)   | 1 (2%) | 2 (5%)  | 42    |

**Table 5:** *Convicts on the road gang country of origin*



## Convict Skills

It has been argued that NSW convicts had a considerable range of skills, and that convicts were assigned to make the best use of these skills.<sup>6</sup> Because the road gang convicts were chosen from the Hyde Park Barracks, and because by 1843 there was a lack of any suitable convicts available,<sup>7</sup> they would not be expected to have useful skills. However, amongst the few skilled men on the gang were John Latham, a blacksmith (such a tradesman was requested by Assistant Surveyor Darke in a letter dated 29 November 1843<sup>8</sup>). Also, amongst the convicts were other useful convict mechanics, George Walker, a blacksmith and James Robertson (Robinson), a stonemason. Table 6 outlines the skill levels of the road gang convicts.

| Skilled or semi-skilled | Unskilled convicts | Unknown | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|
| 13 (31%)                | 28 (67%)           | 1 (2%)  | 42    |

**Table 6:** *Convicts on the road gang skill levels*

The skill levels of the Tocal convicts are shown in Table 7:

| Skilled or semi-skilled | Unskilled convicts | Unknown | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|
| 102(73%)                | 38 (27%)           | 0       | 140   |

**Table 7:** *Convicts at Tocal skill levels*

As we can see from Tables 6 and 7 the road gang convicts had far fewer skills than the Tocal convicts. However, Walsh states that there is no obvious matching of skills to the requirements of Tocal with many of the convicts having skills that were irrelevant to a large agricultural property.

## Literacy rates

The literacy rates of the convicts on the road gang and the convicts at Tocal are very similar. From Table 8, 42% of the convicts could read or read and write and from Table 9, 45% of the Tocal convicts could read or read and write.

| Read and Write | Read only | None    | Unknown  | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|
| 16 (38%)       | 6 (14%)   | 9 (21%) | 11 (27%) | 42    |

**Table 8:** *Literacy rates for convicts on the road gang*

For Tocal, Walsh reports the following<sup>4</sup>:

| Read and Write | Read only | None     | Unknown  | Total |
|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|
| 39(27%)        | 26 (18%)  | 26 (18%) | 51 (36%) | 142   |

**Table 9:** *Literacy rates for convicts at Tocal*

## Absconding

There is no mention in either the reconstructed convict records or in the letters from the Assistant Surveyors of any convict absconding. At Tocal, Walsh recorded 38 convictions for absconding. This was the most common crime and involved a total of 24 or 17% of Tocal's convicts.<sup>4</sup> The convicts in the road gang had every opportunity to abscond - working unhindered by leg irons, on the fringe of Sydney with minimal supervision. Why none of these convicts ever absconded is unknown.

## Tickets of leave

As the road gangs' work came to an end, many of the deserving convicts were given their tickets of leave. At least 25 convicts were given their Tickets of Leave in 1844, with a further seven receiving theirs in 1845. This can be seen as a reward for their work on the road, but a more cynical and more likely view is that with a major world-wide depression underway in the 1840's, the government took the opportunity to get as many convicts as possible off government stores. Given the previous criminal tendencies of many of the road gang members this was not a complete success. The reconstructed convict records describe nine of the convicts who received tickets of leave in 1844 and 1845 losing them in the following years and several other convicts committing minor crimes but managing to keep their liberty.

### A typical convict in the road gang: William Wallace

William Wallace was born 1819 in Bath, Wiltshire and was convicted of stealing snuff boxes and sentenced to transportation for 14 years. Wallace had already served two months in jail and been whipped in 1835. He arrived in the *Moffatt* in August 1836 after a three-month voyage. Prior to transportation he had been a baker's boy. Physically he was an unimpressive 5'2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " tall (1.58 metres) with brown hair and a ruddy pock-marked complexion. He also had many tattoos. Wallace was one of the 25 convicts from the gang given their ticket of leave in 1844, but his ticket of leave - shown in Image 1 - clearly has 'cancelled' written across it although the reason why cannot be found. He quickly regained his ticket of leave and his behaviour must have been sufficiently good for Wallace to receive a pardon between 1842 and 1845. He settled around Patrick Plains (Singleton area). There is no record of William Wallace ever marrying and he died in 1865 at Patrick Plains, aged 45 years. Image 1 is a photo said to be of William Wallace in later life.



*On same authority as preceding to de Col. Carlo 44/113 dated 7 May 1846*

*Cancelled*

| TICKET-OF-LEAVE.                                    |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| No. <i>44/1582</i>                                  | <i>1<sup>st</sup> June</i> 184 <i>4</i> . |
| Prisoner's No. ....                                 | <i>361635</i>                             |
| Name .....                                          | <i>William Wallace</i>                    |
| Ship .....                                          | <i>Moffatt</i>                            |
| Master .....                                        | <i>Bolton</i>                             |
| Year .....                                          | <i>1836</i>                               |
| Native Place .....                                  | <i>Somerset - 27<sup>th</sup></i>         |
| Trade or Calling .....                              | <i>4 Jan'y 1836</i>                       |
| Offence .....                                       | <i>14 years</i>                           |
| Place of Trial .....                                |                                           |
| Date of Trial .....                                 |                                           |
| Sentence .....                                      |                                           |
| Year of Birth .....                                 |                                           |
| Height .....                                        |                                           |
| Complexion .....                                    |                                           |
| Hair .....                                          |                                           |
| Eyes .....                                          |                                           |
| General Remarks .....                               |                                           |
| Allowed to remain in the District of <i>Sat. No</i> |                                           |
| On recommendation of <i>Bencl</i>                   |                                           |
| Dated                                               |                                           |

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Image 1: Photo of William Wallace (Ancestry.com, public source) and his ticket of leave from 1844

## Conclusion:

In these articles the letters from the Assistant Surveyors to the Surveyor General and the reconstructed convict records have been used to elucidate many of the workings of the last convict road gang in NSW. There are many more questions to answer. The fact that no convicts absconded, or at least were reported to have absconded, is puzzling and the documents are silent on any interaction between the convicts and the indigenous peoples whose land they crossed. Archaeological evidence for the Illawarra Roads construction is difficult to find and any evidence for the clearing party that preceded construction is non-existent. Particularly disappointing, although not surprising, is the failure to locate any of the gang's road camps. Comparison of this road's construction with the much grander Great Northern Road (1825 – 1836) would be an interesting topic for future research.

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As reported by Walsh B. 2007, *Heartbreak and Hope, Deference and Defiance on the Yimmang: Tocal's Convicts 1822-1840*, University of New South Wales Press.
6. Nicholas S. and Shergold P., *Convicts as Workers: reinterpreting Australia's Past*, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
7. Letter 44/13 dated 27 May 1844, from Darke to T. Mitchell explaining the difficulty in obtaining suitable convicts from the Hyde Park Barracks.
8. Letter 43/76 dated 29 November 1843, from Darke to T. Mitchell requesting more men for the gang, especially a blacksmith.

## EXCURSION REPORT

'Glenn Robin', Sylvania, 27 May 2021

JOE HALES

'Glenn Robin' is an unusual home in Sylvania, on the northern side of Pinnacle Rock and overlooking the Georges River, with views from Kangaroo Point to Tom Uglys Bridge.

On arrival, we open an old farm gate in front of a cypress pine log cabin in the Swiss style, and Edward and Susan Duyker greet us with a warm welcome to their home.

Already there, is Bruce Howell, our historian for the day - the SSHS private guide for all things to do with places in the Shire that are of significance to our Aboriginal heritage.

But first, we visit the Fairy House in the front yard of the home. This is a children's playhouse, specially designed by Frank Thorpe, who also designed the house. Inside, the walls and ceiling are decorated with birds and animals painted by Walter Cunningham and Noela Young, both well-known illustrators of Australian children's books.

At the rear of 'Glenn Robin', some nine metres below the cliff top and half way to the water's edge, is an ancient Aboriginal rock shelter hidden behind the trees. Wow! Under this large overhanging rock, probably three metres deep, there is plenty of room for ten or so people to camp, light a fire, cook and keep warm by the fire.

Aboriginal bones were located on this registered archaeological burial site. Hand

stencils of adults and children are still visible, despite years of weathering. Carbon dating of a shell found on the surface goes back some 1750 years. And it is probable that the local people would have visited this shelter for many thousands of years before that.

Bruce described what life would have been like then - really not much different to when Cook came to Kamay Botany Bay in 1770. Standing there, it is easy to visualise an Aboriginal family sitting under this large natural rock shelter, eating shell fish and fish caught in the river and picking berries from the large nearby fig trees.

We navigate the spiral staircase back to the house and next we visit Edward and Susan's Library - over 9,800 books at last count - a lifetime of collecting.

We then went to the upstairs rear terrace, where we were treated to tea, coffee, lunch and cake. At this relaxing location overlooking the river, everyone enjoyed a quiet chat, talking about the history of 'Glenn Robin' which was built in 1953, and the fairy house, built in 1960 - not very long ago compared to the rock shelter below us. Such an idyllic location.

Thanks to Edward and Susan for your warm hospitality and a very interesting day. As always, Bruce Howell was most informative and knowledgeable, thank you.

Thanks to all who attended

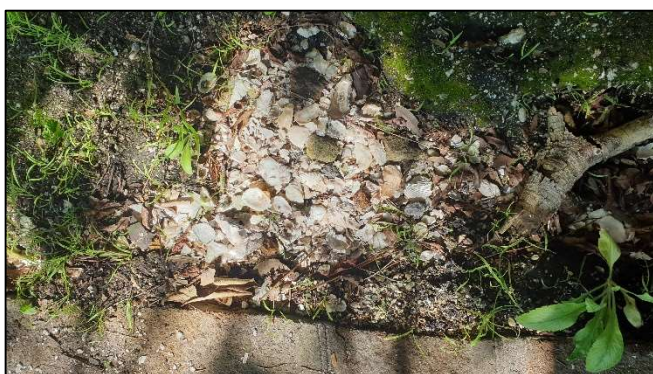


## EXCURSION TO GLENN ROBIN

Photos by Ian Hill



*Excursionists, led by Bruce Howell, gazing at the hand stencils under this ancient Aboriginal rock shelter at Glenn Robin*



*Evidence that the site includes a shell midden*



*The Fairy House, designed by Frank Thorpe*



*Inside the Fairy House*



## EXCURSION TO GLENN ROBIN

Photos by Ian Hill



*The 3-metre deep ancient rock shelter at Glenn Robin - a registered archaeological site*



*Excursionists enjoying lunch at the Duykers' home after exploring the Aboriginal rock shelter and Fairy House*