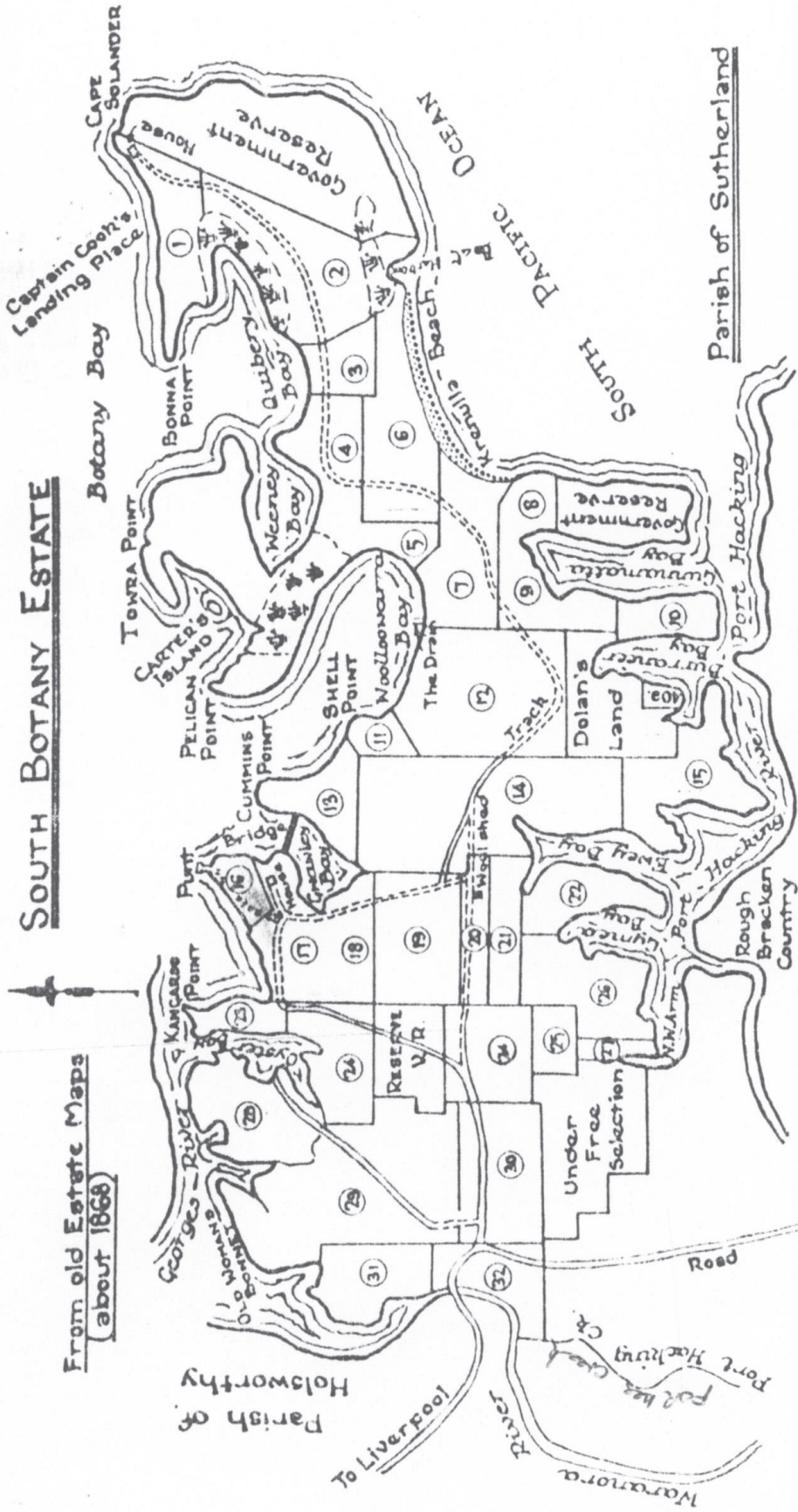


SOUTH BOTANY ESTATE



Paddocks enclosed by rails, log, wire or brush fences

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Bonna | 9 Gunnamatta Bay | 17 Building | 25 Dent's Creek |
| 2 Boat Harbour | 10 Burraneer | 18 Gawley Bay | 26 Gympie Bay (1&2) |
| 3 English Grass | 11 Shell Point | 19 Old Farm | 27 North West Arm |
| 4 Wee Wee Bay Point | 12 Noolloona (1 to 4) | 20 Wool Shed | 28 Green Point |
| 5 Cabbage Tree Flat | 13 Cummins Point | 21 Horse | 29 Double Bay (1 to 3) |
| 6 Sandy Flat | 14 Ewey Bay (1 to 5) | 22 Ewey Bay Point | 30 Gympie Ground |
| 7 Duck Ponds (1&2) | 15 Tyreeel Point | 23 Kangaroo Point | 31 Waranora |
| 8 Reserve | 16 Homestead or Punt | 24 Oyster Bay (1 to 4) | 32 Outside Waranora
(Govt. Land) |

THE WALKER REPORT— JANUARY 1868

(transcribed from the original hand written account by Daphne Salt)

THIS IS PART 2 OF THE R. C. WALKER REPORT FROM 1868. IT COVERS THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE PRESENT SHIRE AS SHOWN ON THE PRECEDING MAP.

BURRAMEER POINT

Burrameer Point is opposite and runs parallel to Gunnamatta – it is a very pretty spot and commands a fine view of Port Hacking River. The soil is good, part being Ironstone soil, and towards the south end it is a good sandy soil – in places it is very Rocky especially at the point, but between the rocks the Kangaroo and other grasses grow very well and it is a fine point for grazing – The water round this point and in the Bays is a good depth. [p26] and the Banks all round are high and steep and the Rocks rugged. It has only been scrubbed once in 1865. but has not been burnt with a running fire which requires to be done. There is a great quantity of dead timber and scrub laying on the ground, and when burnt will clear everything off and Kill some young scrub now shooting up. The timber is well Killed with ring-barking. There is no permanent water on this point the nearest place being the spring in Gunnamatta Paddock.

[p27] MARCH 1868 WOOLLOOWARA BAY PADDOCKS No 1 TO 4

Originally one large paddock and afterwards divided into four, bounded on the East by the Duck Ponds Paddock. North by Woolloowara Bay, West by Ewey Bay Paddocks, and South by a Government Road and Mr Dolan's Farm. The boundary lines of the Fence Run North & South, and are formed of a two Rail Split Fence with wire, and the bottom secured with large logs. But a considerable portion on each side, was burnt during the late fires and has been repaired with strong Brush Fence at 1/6 per Rod, and the heavy Logs drawn by the Bullock team for the Contractor.

N^o 1 – No1 is formed by the line of a low brush fence running east and west, about half way to the Bay, and meets a line of light sheep

log Fence dividing 1 and 2 from 3 and four in a north and south line – This is a very good paddock for feed growing Kangaroo and other native grasses, but there are a good many broad rushes growing in it. The Timber is very thick, consisting of Iron Bark, Grey & White Gum, Mahogany, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood & Oak – all except ~~what has been~~ that reserved for use, is well Killed by Ringbarking. It has been scrubbed three times – 1st in 1862, 2nd in 1865, and the last time in 1867. This was a very bad part for scrub but is now well cleared of it. a portion of this paddock on East side was burnt at the end of 1867. The remainder will be burnt this Year. All this paddock is good Ironstone ~~Land~~ soil, and is high Land until you reach the North end, where there is a gradual slope of Loamy & sandy soil, running along the fence line of No2 about 3 chains wide, until it reaches ~~the~~ a Mahogany Swamp, at the N E Corner, which runs into No3 – There is a good supply of water from a [p28] small creek which rises near Dolan's and runs into the Swamp running thro' No 3 and 4 – There is also water in wet seasons, in the North East corner, in the Mahogany and Tea Tree Swamp. At the South East corner, adjoining Dolan's at the entrance to an old Sheep yard, there is a very bad Apple tree Ridge, where this scrub grows up very thick, but it only extends a short distance the Ironstone is very thick here and little or no grass on this spot.

N^o 2 -- is bounded on the South by No1. West by Ewey Bay Paddock & Shell Point Paddock; North by the Bay & East by No 4 – It has an Ironstone Ridge running thro' the middle. N.E. by S.W. towards the bay, of poor soil growing but little grass. on each side of this Ridge it is low loamy & sandy soil, swampy in wet seasons and growing a good deal of bushes and grass tree, but affording good feeding ground for Cattle. This paddock is not so good for feed as No 1 – tho' the Kangaroo and other native grass is spreading more over it since the last scrubbing. It has only been scrubbed twice. 1st time in 1863 – 2nd in 1867. before the last scrubbing this part was so thick with dead timber & scrub it was quite impossible to ride thro' it; but it is now about the clearest part of the Estate. The Timber ~~is very thick~~ was very thick being White & Red Gum and Oak, but the heavy fire owing to there being so much scrub, cleared off an immense quantity of dead and useless stuff, there ~~is~~ are very few

living trees left here – being ringbarked throughout. Along the Bay for about 10 chains wide, there is a saltwater Marsh, the greater part covered with Oaks, which [p29] could be reclaimed for agriculture, by draining and embankment. There has already been an embankment made, along the Bay, but is not sufficient to keep the water out.

N^o3 – Adjoins No1. It has been scrubbed twice – 1st time in 1862 - 2nd time in 1866. The timber is very thick, being Iron Bark, White & Red Gum, Mahogany and Oak – but a good deal of the iron Bark & Red Gum has been saved from the Ringbarking – the rest is well Killed. Along the top, or south side, there is a bad Ironstone Ridge, with very little vegetation, and what grass there is growing, it is very poor, growing also a nasty small low coast shrub, with grass-tree and fern: As you enter this paddock from No 1 by the Road, there is an old Sheep Yard, thickly covered with Couch grass, which is fast spreading the seed over the other parts. The bad ridge runs the full length of the paddock, but extends northward only about 6 chains, and at the end of this, you come upon a piece of good brown soil; thickly timbered with Oak, and Ironbark – this good land extends in a N.E. line, from the poor land, to near the fence line of No 4 paddock, and would make first class cultivation land if cleared. To the West of this the land is a poor white clay; some of it suitable for Brickmaking. ~~And~~ It grows a great deal of Grass tree and fern, and the timber is White and Red Gum. It is a very good paddock for feed – and on the good parts grows, Kangaroo and other native grass, which since the strong fire in [p30] ~~which since fire in~~ Decr last is growing up very strong. The dead scrub, Timber and rubbish was very thick in this part and could not be ridden thro’ but the fire cleared off an immense quantity ~~but~~ though not so well as in No 2. In the N.W. Corner there is a large Mahogany Swamp which drains into a small creek running thro’ No 4 into the Bay, ~~which~~ giving a plentiful supply of Water. About the Middle of the paddock towards the North fence, there is a very handsome Red Gum Tree, measuring over 20 feet in circumference, and capable of shading over 1000 Sheep under its beautiful curly branches. This was always a bad paddock for shrub, but the last fire ~~to~~ has

cleaned it well – it will however have to be watched and any saplings, and sprouts that come up should be cut down as speedily as possible.

N^o 4 – Is next to the Duck Ponds and No 3. It has been Scrubbed twice – 1st time in 1863 and 2nd time in 1866. All low ground with exception of a rise at the N.E. corner at the edge of the Bay, being part of the Iron Bark Ridge in continuation from the Duck Ponds Paddock, and is very good soil. This is a very pretty sight for a house and is close to what is called the “Drain” – which is a small canal, cut out into the Bay, to afford a landing place, as the shallow banks, and the Mangrove trees prevent a landing at any other part of the Bay until you reach the points. The soil on the other portion [p31] of the paddock is not so good as the rise, growing a great quantity of Rushes, fern & cotton tree – it is watered by the swamp that comes thro’ No 3 – but the water was scarce during the last Drought – ~~but~~ at a very small cost a water hole could be dug at the foot of the rise in N.E. Corner, which would hold water to supply all the Stock the 4 paddocks would carry thro’ any season. The timber here is very thick but well Killed with Ringbarking, and the scrub and ~~de~~ fallen timber, was very thick on the ground until the last fire. The rubbish and scrub has kept the grass back here, but there is some Kangaroo and other native grass now shooting up strong and a little couch. The Saltwater Marsh mentioned in No2 Extends also along this paddock, and right round to Towra, there has been a low brush fence put up to keep the Sheep off, but the brush wood has become so perished that it will not stop the sheep now.

CUMMINS POINT

This is a very pretty point running out between Woolloowara Bay and Gawley Bay – and is opposite to Rocky Point; Known as Sans Souci. These two points form the entrance to the George’s River – Cummin’s Point ~~commands~~ commands a fine view, both of the River and ~~the~~ Botany Bay, and also over looking a great portion of the Estate; it is a high ground of Sandy soil, with a sandy Beach, and high rocks, but with several good landing places at the N.W. point. It would

make a fine building [p32] site. There are some very pretty Native Fig Trees growing on this part, but nearly all the other timber, except a few Red Gums; is destroyed by the Ringbarking. This is a very bad place for shrub, and has been done now three times. The 1st time in 1862 the second time in 1865, and the last time in 1867. and it was very heavy at the last scrubbing. ~~Which~~ The scrub with the dead fallen timber that on the ground, gave a strong body to the fire which passed over it last Year, and has made a great clearance to all shrub and rubbish.

There is a pile and slab Bridge over a ~~quarter~~ quarter of a mile long running across the entrance of Gawley Bay, which ~~enables~~ affords a communication between Sandy Point (the place of the homestead) and Cummins Point – and saves a distance of over 1½ mile, to any one going to the lower part of the Estate – at the end of the Bridge there is a two Rail split fence with wire, running across to Woolloowara Bay, forming a paddock of about 72 acres on the point – which is now used to keep the Rams in; being the most secure part for them – it is principally covered with blade grass, but the couch grass is spreading over it very fast, and there is some ~~some~~ Kangaroo and other native grasses growing. All Round the waters edge there are a great many rushes, and on the Woolloowara side there is a swamp, with a good deal of Teatree scrub, and Broad Rushes, both very difficult to get rid of. Outside the fence southwards it is very rough Rocky ground thickly timbered and sandy soil. Very bad for scrub, and broad leaf Drainwater rushes [p33] for some distance, making about 120 Acres;

When you come upon a low Teatree Flat running across from Gawley to Woolloowara Bay, at the End of which, from the head of Gawley Bay, up to Shell Point there has been an embankment formed, for the purpose of Keeping the salt ~~work~~ water off the Flat – but it does not do so. Some parts of this flat appear very good soil, but it is very thickly covered with rushes and tea tree, all the large timber has been cut down, but the timber is still on the ground except in some parts there the fire has carried off the lighter portion of it. The Teatree scrub is very difficult to get rid of; the fire destroyed a good deal, but there is a great quantity shooting up which should be cut

down again next year, so as to be well dried before the hot and dry weather, when it will burn well. Near Shell Point, there is a very bad patch of teatree, that should not be let get a head. Some of this flat, would if ploughed up and manured grow good crops, or would do well for Market Gardens & ~~some~~ other parts if well drained would do well for Lucerne patches.

SHELL POINT PADDOCK

This is formed by a two Rail & wire fence that divides it from Woolloowara Bay Paddock No 2, running N. & S. from the Woolloowara Bay paddock, until it meets a Brush fence running nearly E. 7 W. which forms the ~~North~~ South boundary [p34] fence of ~~Ewey~~ Cummins Point paddocks N. E. and this fence then continues in a N.E. line to the Bay and forms the N.E. boundary; and Shell point and the Bay itself, forms the Eastern Boundary. The Scrub in this paddock was very bad, it has been scrubbed twice – 1st in 1862 and 2nd in 1867 – and it was very thick with Black Wattle, briar, teatree, & oak shrub, when last done; but the fire which has passed over it since the last scrubbing, has left it now very clean. There is a large patch of Fine Timber left unringbarked in this paddock of Grey & White Gum, Mahogany, Appletree & Oak – this is at the North End – and where the heavy timber grows, the soil is very good – and continues on a slight Ridge for some distance, the rest of the timber off the ridge is all well Killed by Ringbarking – On the East side of the paddock there is a low flat, and a grass tree swamp, of white loamy soil, which drains into a small creek and gives a supply of good water – it grows ~~Kagroe~~ Kangaroo and other native grasses with the Common blade grass, and a few roots of Rib grass are beginning to show at the North end.

40 ACRES, ON EAST SIDE OF DOLAN'S, in Burrameer 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. The soil is Ironstone clay, and sandy soil but very Rocky. There is a fine view of the Port Hacking River from it, and it would make a good building site.

[p35] TYREEL POINT PADDOCK NO 1

This is one of the best points on the Estate, both for feed and soil: The point runs out parallel with Burrameer Point, and forms the West shore of Burrameer Bay; which turns in North, from the Port Hacking River. All the South, and South East, portion of the point comprising about 100 acres, is first class grazing land, but it is in most parts Rocky: at the North end it is not so good, there being about 146 Acres of inferior Ironstone soil growing Rushes, grass-tree, and low coast scrub: the best portion grows the couch grass & Kangaroo & other native grasses most luxuriently [sic] – This paddock is bounded on the North by Dolan's farm for about half the length of the line and this boundary line is divided by a split three-rail fence, which is put up jointly with Mr Dolan.

The whole of the Point has been scrubbed three times. 1st in 1862 – 2nd in 1865. and the last time in 1867-8. but before this last scrubbing, the Scrub and vines were so thick, it was almost impossible either to Ride or walk thro' some parts of the paddock, or to get up or down the high banks to the Water, and the ground was so choked, with scrub and fallen timber, that there was little or no feed. It was burnt this time in the driest [sic] season, just as the scrub had been cut down sufficiently long, for it to burn well; and it has made a wonderful clearance, and has improved the land immensely. The Rain came soon after the Fire, which gave a splendid crop of grass. all the Timber is well Killed by Ringbarking, and the point is now very clean. There are some very romantic little points at this place, [p36] there is one named Couch Point, on the East side of Tyreel in Burrameer Bay, where there are some pretty native Fig Trees; and a fine sward of Couch grass. there is also a similar point more at the South end, of good rich black soil, having one large Native Fig Tree, on the extreme point, from which it is called Fig Tree Point: There is also some good water there running down from the hill. This minor point forms the West Entrance to what has been named "Tiny Bay"; the opposite point on the East side, is called Crossing Point, being the place where the Port Hacking people land in their Boats, or swim their Horses across. These points command a fine view up and down the Port Hacking River; and towards the South West, there is another small point, called "Lilly Pilly Point", on account of the

Native Myrtles that grow there, in rich black soil. The Banks from the River, all rise up very steep, with rugged Rocks, which renders it difficult in many places, to ride up and down, but these points named, are easy of access. This paddock is supplied with water, by a spring which rises on the line of the public Road that passes thro' Tyreel, North & South; and runs into tiny Bay. If provision were made for saving this any quantity of good clear fresh water could be obtained. Just below Crossing Point there is a singular rise of sand in the Port Hacking River which runs out from the South Shore nearly two thirds of the distance across, forming a natural breakwater. Owing to the fine views there are from Tyreel, it is well adapted for building sites, and the soil would do well for garden land. No 1 is divided from No 2 by a bough-yard fence but it is now so dry and rotten that it has become useless –

[p37] TYREEL POINT NO 2

This is only divided from No 1 by a bough-yard fence, now too low & rotten to stop sheep; which runs east & West from Dolan's land, to a small Bay, dividing the main point into two parts, about the middle – No 2 is bounded on the East by Dolan's farm, and divided from it by a good two Rail split fence with 2 wires and an embankment under the bottom Rail. On the North side, there is also the same kind of fence, with only one wire and stones in some parts in place of embankment – it runs East and West from Dolan's, down to Ewey Bay – which forms the West boundary; or rather the No 2 point forms the East Entrance to the Bay. This has all been scrubbed three times – 1st time in 1862 – 2nd time 1865, and 3rd time 1867-68. it was very thickly covered with a nasty coarse prickly scrub, black Wattle, teatree & broom bush, with a great deal of low Appletree brush, which is so hard to destroy. It is thickly timbered with Stringy Bark, Crooked white Gum, Oak & Bloodwood – the saplings of the latter and the Stringy Bark, altho' well ringbarked; are throwing out a great quantity of shoots from the root, but when a strong running fire passes over it, a great deal of this will be destroyed. There is a small patch of timber near the bough-yard fence which has not been ringbarked.

The land in this paddock, is not like No 1, but nearly all poor Ironstone soil, some of a

white sandy nature; growing rushes, grass-tree, low coast Scrub, and very little grass. there is a beautiful clear stream of fresh water running into a small Bay named Billy Bay dividing the points, and a fine hole formed in the Rocks; which will supply any number [p38] of Stock, and it never fails: From where the Water runs down, the land suddenly rises with steep rugged Rocks, difficult to ride up; on the top of there is a table land, free from timber, but giving very little feed of any kind, the land being sour, and principally covered with Rushes, grass-tree & low coast scrub; but underneath this, amongst the Rocks by the Stream of Water, on the low ground, there is some good Kangaroo grass growing. From the table land, there is a splendid view of the Port Hacking country, the River, and many parts of the Estate. It would be well not to divide these ~~two~~ paddocks again, but throw them into one, as they contain only 425 acres, which is not too large for one paddock, and the poor land contains the best and most water, so it would be better to give whatever stock is put there the Run of the whole. The scrub is now laying very thick, and if it gets a good firing when the ground is quite dry, it will effect a great clearance, and allow the grass to spring up; but from the way the land has been choked, it has had no chance to grow. About 80 head of heifers have been put in these paddocks to eat off the long grass which is now very rank in No 1. after the burning: it will then be rested for a while, and some sheep will be put there: at present the sheep are on excellent feed, at Oyster Bay, and the Gynea Ground. The last scrubbing has only been finished this month (March).

[p39] EWY BAY PADDOCKS NO 1 TO NO 5

These 5 Paddocks are now all in one, the Boundary fence on the east side being a two Rail split fence, with wire, and logs under bottom Rail in some parts, and Embankment in others: and some parts, where it has been burnt by trees falling across, have been repaired by a heavy Bush fence. This East line extends North, from Tyreel No 2 to near Shell point in Woolloowara Bay - and adjoins Dolan's and the Woolloowara Bay Paddocks. They were divided by low Log & Brush fences, which were destroyed by the bush fires of 1865. 6 & 7. The West boundary fence, is

also a split fence of 2 Rails log & Wire, running from the middle of Ewey Bay, in a due North line up to the Old Farm, and is joined there by a few chains of Log Fence, forming the Wool Shed Paddock, which runs east & West, until it meets a 2 Rail Split fence with wire & embankment running North from the Old Farm into Gawley Bay.

No 1 Adjoins Tyreel No 2. having Dolan's property & Woolloowara Bay Paddock No 1 for the East boundary, Ewey Bay for the West boundary, and the North boundary ~~was~~ is the Log fence line, dividing it from No 2 Paddock; which runs due West from the East Boundary fence into Ewey Bay. Ewey Bay runs in from Port Hacking River, and at the head forms two narrow arms. The land in this Paddock at the South, and South West sides is poor; and similar to that described in Tyreel No 2 - but of the North End, & North East corner it is better land, and affords some good feed. [p40] All along the Bay the Banks are very high and Rocky, and the rocky ground extends back some distance. The timber here is thick and heavy, but mostly ringbarked and well Killed. Consisting of White & Red Gum, Bloodwood, Stringy Bark & Mahogany. It has been scrubbed twice - 1st in 1862 - 2nd in 1866-7. The scrub was very thick when last done, and only a portion of it has been burnt by the running Fire, the Rain stopping the Fire before it had all caught. Where it is burnt, it is free from Scrub, but at the South end there is a nasty block of Bloodwood & Stringy Bark Saplings, & low Appletrees, which have been ringbarked, but are shooting out strong again from the roots & branches. The next running fire will however kill a great deal of this as the middle stem is dead, and will light under a heavy fire, which will destroy the rest. The soil is principally a white Ironstone Clay, and grows a great deal of grass-trees, rushes, and low coarse scrub. There is a creek of good fresh water, runs down from near the junction of Dolan's & Woolloowara paddock to Ewey Bay - and a branch from this goes into Tyreel No 2. The grass is Kangaroo, wire, and blade grass.

No 2 Runs along the East boundary fence and adjoins No 1. The North boundary line running East & West from Woolloowara Paddock, to an old Sheep Yard on the main

Road-way, to Curnell. From the Sheep Yard, the West boundary, which was divided by a low brush fence, runs down to the [p41] North East Arm of Ewey Bay. This has been scrubbed twice, 1st in 1862. 2nd in 1866. and is pretty clean, there are a few seedling Oaks and Stringy Barks, shooting up, but if a heavy fire can be got to run thro' it ~~next~~ at the end of this year it will destroy most of them, but they would be better cut down and left ready for firing about November or Dec^r. There are also some Bloodwood, & Stringy Saplings which have been ringbarked, that are growing out, the same as in No 1 being of Brown Ironstone land – and grows some good feed, of Kangaroo, Blade and native grass. It is very thickly timbered, with Red & White gum Oak, Iron Bark, Stringy Bark & Mahogany – and all but the good timber is well Killed. The Iron Bark is on a rise of good land, which extends from the Sheep Yard up to the ~~East~~ East boundary fence, and along this portion, and at the Sheep Yard, the Rib grass is beginning to grow.

N^o 3 This Extends from No 2 along the boundary line of Shell Paddock, to the brush fence line, dividing Cummins Point Paddock from Ewey Bay Paddocks, which runs East & West from Shell Point Paddock to Gawley Bay. The ~~North~~ South End of this is good land, but there is a good deal of poor land at the North End; having a stony Stringy Bark Ridge running thro' it of White Ironstone soil and gravelly land – with very little grass growing on it – and in the North West [p42] Corner there is a large grass tree Swamp which drains into some Mahogany & tea-tree timber with marshy land, extending out into the Embankment which comes up from Gawley Bay – The timber is White Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood and Mahogany. At the North end it only grows blade, and wire grass, but at the South end there is some good feeding ground of Kangaroo, native and blade grass – and there is a great deal of grass-tree all thro' this land. It has been scrubbed twice the 1st time in 1862. and the second time in 1866: the greater portion of it was burnt with a running fire last year and is now clear of Scrub – only a few seedlings growing up in places –

N^o4 Is divided from No 3 by the brush fence line, running from the old Sheep

Yard, due North, to the Brush fence line that divides Cummins Point paddock from Ewey Bay Paddocks; and is bounded on the West by the Old Farm Paddock, and divided from it by the 2 Rail split fence before described. It is a very good part for feed growing Kangaroo, blade, and other native grasses, and at the South end towards the Sheep Yard there is some rib & Rye grass growing in small patches - but very scantily. It is principally a brown Ironstone soil, but towards the North end it becomes poor and stony. It is thickly timbered, ~~but it~~ but the timber is all well Killed by ringbarking, except a few trees reserved. The timber is Red & White Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood, Oak & Iron Bark – The whole [p43] has been scrubbed twice, 1st in 1862 – 2nd in 1866. There are some seedlings springing up towards the North End, and there is a Stringy Bark and Apple-tree scrub Ridge, about the middle of this paddock, that is hardly worth doing anything to which is growing up thick again – this paddock has had no fire on it since 1866 – and if burnt this season, will remain very free from Scrub, but would be all the better for having the light scrub cut down before burning.

N^o 5 Is bounded on the South by Ewey Bay, on the West by the Horse Paddock, divided by a two Rail Log & Wire fence, on the North, by No 4 – and East by No 2. There is some good land at the North End, but as you go towards the Bay, it is very poor Rocky land and the approach to the Bay is very steep and Rugged. ~~and~~ On the Southern portion there is very little feed, being principally, grass-tree, rushes and low coast Scrub – but at the North end, where there is good timber, there is a good supply of Kangaroo grass, and other native grasses – in the North West corner there is a patch of young timber left unringbarked, consisting of Oak, Iron-Bark & Bloodwood. All good straight saplings, which have been left for the use of the Station. This has been scrubbed twice 1st in 1862. 2nd in 1866. and was burnt in 1866 - there are a few Bloodwood & Stringy Saplings shooting out from what has been Ringbarked and some seedlings showing up in patches, but on the whole it is free from Scrub – and continual Running fires will almost keep it clean.

[p44] THE HOMESTEAD

This is situated on Sandy Point at the entrance to Gawley Bay – close to where the Bridge Crosses over the Bay to Cummins Point. It comprises a neat four Roomed Stone built House with two attics ~~with~~ out Kitchen, and a Workmen's house at the back. The house is fenced in with a small paddock covered with a thick sward of couch & is on a very pretty site, commanding a fine view of the George's River Towra, part of Botany bay, and Sans Souci, and Koggerah [sic] Bay on the opposite Shore. There is a good 5 Stall Slab Stable, and a Store adjoining it, which is enclosed with a small yard: at the back of this there is a cart and plough Shed: ~~Forge~~ also a good Blacksmiths Forge, with everything complete in it. At the South West corner of the small paddock enclosing the house is a good Stockyard, Branding Pen, Cowshed & Calf pen, and Slaughter Yard. At the North end there is a small patch fenced off for a garden, and another small couch paddock adjoining: The House is supplied with water by a well at the back of the Kitchen. At the east side of the House running along Gawley Bay, to the end of the small paddock, was originally a swamp but it has been well drained into the Bay by a deep drain with a small floodgate to stop the tide from flowing in: this patch used always to be covered with the flood tides, which came over the Banks and continually washed them down, but a substantial embankment has now been made, the whole length of the paddock, and outside along the beach of Gawley Bay, it has all been laid with lose [sic] timber and the tops of heavy trees, to prevent the water from washing down the banks; during heavy gales. which has made a very complete job of it. The Banks have been planted [p45] with couch, which is fast covering the whole, and now makes a good piece of grass land of what was previously a useless swamp.

HOMESTEAD OR PUNT PADDOCK

Next to the small Paddock at the House is the Punt Paddock, which is used for Keeping the Work horses in, and is enclosed with a 3 Rail Split fence, with one wire on the South West Side & on the Punt side in the House paddock, the rest is surrounded with water. In this Paddock at the Extreme North point is a punt house, built of Stone, containing 4 Rooms & two Kitchens. The Punt belongs to the Government, and works from

the point mentioned, to Tom Ugly's Point, a portion of which, where the Punt lands, also belongs to the Estate. The Punt is for the convenience of travellers on the Main Road to Woollongong, [sic] but as there is no provision made by the Government for working the punt, and Insufficient traffic for anyone to lease it – the puntman is paid from the Estate 10^s/- per week, and he gets all he can make from the traffic. This paddock has been scrubbed three times – in 1861, 1864 & 1866 – and is now free from scrub; it is principally covered with couch but there is rib grass, Buffalo, & Kangaroo grass in with it, and it carries a great quantity of stock ~~on it~~ altho' only a small block. The soil is sandy and a good deal of rock all thro' the North & West sides. There is a well at the Punt House, and a small Waterhole at the West corner. All the timber is well Killed and ~~the~~ all the fallen limbs, are used as required for fire wood, which has cleared off a good deal. The ferns and Cotton tree grow up very strong here, and along the North beach, there is a bad bit of teatree scrub, difficult to keep under.

[p46] BUILDING PADDOCK

It was formed by a brush fence, running East and West, from Gawley Bay, until it meets a two Rail split fence with wire & Embankment, that runs due North & South, and forms the East boundary line of Oysterbay [sic] Paddock. – the North is bounded by the Bay. This is all sandy soil with some high ridges of Rocks, and gives but little feed – it was Heavily Timbered, with Gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood & Mahogany, but a good deal has been cut down on the East side for fencing and other purposes. It was a very bad place for scrub, and has been scrubbed now 3 times – in 1861. 1864. & 1867. the last time has left it clean, but it now wants burning – badly, which will be done as soon as it gets a little dry, so that the fire will run properly. Along the East side where it has been ploughed for a few rod there is some couch, Buffalo and other grasses, growing well, but there is little feed on the other part, and a great quantity of fern and brickmaker rushes. There is a fine deep creek runs thro' this paddock down along the Brush fence on the South side, and for nearly the whole length of it. and is checked by a Dam at the Head of Gawley Bay – this never fails, and is excellent Water. Close

to the Dam is a large Boiler, a Sheep yard and a Dip; for Dipping the Sheep, to prevent the Scab.

CORN PADDOCK

This was originally a barren teatree Swamp and formed part of the Building Paddock, it is divided off by a heavy brush fence, and runs along Gawley Bay nearly the whole length of the East side, it has been well cleared, ploughed, drained [p47] and an Embankment thrown up with a deep drain inside, in the same manner as spoken of in the House Paddock, and continues from the Homestead. There is now a very fair crop of corn of about 6 or 8 acres growing on it, but it had a very bad season at the start which threw it back very much. With a little manure this will make a valuable patch for cultivation for the Homestead, there are some patches, in it not sown, as they have not been drained sufficiently long to ~~cover~~ get rid of the salt in the ground on the whole there is about 12 acres – and when in good working order would nearly supply the Estate with Hay & Corn.

GAWLEY BAY PADDOCK

This is next to the building Paddock the Roadway running thro' both up to the Old Farm – just as you pass thro' the Rails at the Brush fence forming the south boundary to the Building paddock, there is a second Dam across a creek of good fresh water, which runs into the ~~Dam Head of the Bay~~ Bay, and is called Gawley Creek, and comes down from Oyster Bay Paddock thro' the Old Farm paddock ~~and~~ affording a ~~good~~ never failing supply of good water to all the paddocks. The soil in this paddock is all very poor with the exception of a flat running along the Road, on the East side of the Creek – the rest is Rocky hilly country, and so stony in some parts nothing will grow on it, on the West side at the Boundary fence there is a high mound of Rocky ground ~~from~~ which overlooks nearly the whole of the Lower part of the Estate, and commands a very extensive view. There is very little feed in this paddock being nearly all Rushes, grass-tree [p48] and short scrub. It is very thickly timbered with all kinds of timber but the most of it is well ringbarked and there is a great quantity of dead wood on the ground. It has been scrubbed three times in

1861. 1864 & 1867, the last time it was thick, and on the South side there are some patches of apple-tree & Stringy Bark Scrub still growing which it appears useless to do anything to – a running fire will for the time check the growth of the shoots but they soon spring out again. This will all be burnt this Year as soon as it is dry enough to burn but at present the rushes and low scrub are too moist.

GAWLEY BAY

This Bay is situated between Cummins and Sandy Points, ~~and~~ the whole of the Bay is purchased, and belongs to the Estate, from the line of the Bridge where it crosses the Bay. The Water is shallow, and during the King tides, it is nearly dry at low water, there being then only a small channel left, which a man could wade thro' in any part. It is a splendid Bay for Fish & Oysters, and used to be the favorite [sic] resort of all the Fishermen. The Oysters are very fine and becoming plentiful, since they have been protected – there is a good fresh water creek called Gawley Creek, always running into the Bay, which makes it good for the Oysters. The banks all round are low and flat, and on the Cummins Point side, the flat extends over a good many acres. This Bay is admirably adapted for the formation of Oyster Beds; and owing to its being so close to the Sydney [p49] Market, would, if a small capital were laid out on it, furnish a considerable Revenue to the Estate, from the sale of the Oysters – it could also be made a preserve for fish by making an enclosure under the bridge, which would give an additional Revenue, from the fish ~~which~~ that could be taken out.

OLD FARM PADDOCK

This adjoins the Gawley Bay Paddock, and is bounded on the West, by Oyster Bay Paddock, east by Ewey Bay Paddock No4 - and part of the Wool Shed Paddock – and South by the Horse Paddock and Hut Paddock it is fenced all round with a two Rail split fence with wire in the middle and an embankment under the bottom rail – with the exception of about 5 chains along the Hut Paddock of the Old Farm – which is an old 3 rail fence. On some parts of this paddock the feed is very good, and it carries a good ~~deal~~ number of stock. The soil varies ~~a good deal~~ in different parts, the south, and south West End,

being the best, where there is some good soil, which would do for Cultivation or vineyards: a portion [sic] near the Hut has been cleared, about 10 acres, it was ploughed up some years ago but is now covered with couch – the Cleared land extends only about half way across the paddock.

There is some good forest timber in the paddock, consisting of Iron Bark, Oak, Red Gum, Bloodwood, Mahogany & large White Gum. The large and best timber, always grows in the best land and the good soil may be easily marked out by the line of the timber – there is a good deal of the timber here not ringbarked, and the grass will not grow well under them, especially under [p50] the Oak trees. The whole has been scrubbed three times – in 1861 – 1864 – and 1867 and is now clean of scrub: only a portion of it has been burnt since the last scrubbing, but the remainder, will be lighted this year as soon as the grass becomes a little dry – it is principally covered with Kangaroo and other native grasses, but there is some buffalo, Rib and couch growing thro' it – in some parts there is a good deal of grass-tree, and rushes, and some wire grass – there is also a large grass-tree Swamp, which drains into a small Creek running into Gawley Bay – giving plenty of Water. Gawley Creek, also runs thro' this paddock. In the North West Corner there is a bad Stringy Bark and low appletree ridge – of Rocky Stony land, which is very bad, growing little else but grass-tree – at the edge of the grass-tree swamp, there is some good stiff white clay, that will make superior Bricks.

WOOLSHED Paddock

This is a small paddock of good land, and is a corner, with the Hut paddocks; taken out of the Horse paddock, and Ewey Bay paddocks – about half of it has been cleared and was ploughed up some years ago – and it is now well covered with couch, Kangaroo and native grass – the portion not cleared has been ringbarked, and most of the timber is Killed, but there is a young oak scrub – growing up strong, with other kinds, and it wants scrubbing badly – now it has been done twice before in 1862 & 1866 – there is also a small teatree swamp in it. The East and North & South boundary fence [p51] are a three rail split fence but very much out of repair – a subdivision of this paddock has been made

by a low light log fence for the convenience of separating sheep at Shearing time. There is a good bark Woolshed on the hill at the West boundary fence, which divides this from the Hut Paddocks, which it is watered by a small water-hole close to the north fence.

HUT PaddockS OR OLD FARM

These are two small paddocks adjoining the Woolshed paddock, and forming part of the southern boundary of the Old Farm Paddock. There are two Huts here, but are both out of Repair, the Shepherd lives at one of them, and there is an old stockyard on the ~~south~~ north side of the paddock, it is however useless for putting cattle in – the land in these paddocks is good, and has been used for Cultivation, it is now covered with couch grass – there is only one small patch of timber on them near the Huts – they are divided from the Horse paddock by 3 Rail split fence. There is a small waterhole near the Stockyard ~~near~~ but it is not fit for drinking; and the huts have to be supplied from the Ewey Creek, which runs thro' the Horse Paddock about a quarter of a mile from the Huts.

[p52] HORSE Paddock

This lies at the back of the Old Farm – and is an excellent paddock for feed, with a good creek of fresh water running thro' it that never fails, called Ewey creek – it is bounded on the South by Gynea Bay paddock No1 – and Ewey Bay Point Paddock, on the West by Oyster Bay Paddock, and East by No 5 Ewey Bay Paddock. The whole of this land is thickly timbered, with Oak, Iron Bark, Grey & Red gum, Stringy Bark, Blackbutt, and White Gum. The soil is all good except a few acres, at the south east end, where it becomes stony and Rocky – As you approach Ewey Bay along the Creek the Land is high, and the banks rise up very steep and high, with rugged Rocks difficult of ascent or descent. A good deal of the timber has been left here unringbarked – some of it good for the timber yard. The land at the back of the Old farm would do for Cultivation, or if cleared would, make excellent grass land. The whole has been scrubbed twice, once in 1862 – and the second time in 1867 – at the last scrubbing it was very thick; and there is now a great quantity of dead scrub on the ground, which will make a good strong fire, when a running fire can be put

thro' it – this will destroy any young shoots that may come up and keep the paddock clean from scrub – for a long time. The North, East, and West lines of the fence are all 2 Rail split fences with wire and logs, and embankment under the bottom Rail – but the south line is only a low brush fence, out of repair.

[p53] EWY BAY POINT PADDOCK

This comprises the whole of the point, between Ewey Bay, and Gymea Bay, which is secured at the north end by the Brush Fence, which forms the South boundary of the Horse Paddock; and a Brush fence running in a due North & South line, from the head of Gymea Bay, up to the Sheep Yard at the junction, of the Brush Fences on the North Line. Along the East Side of the point in Ewey Bay – there is a slope of good land, under the high Rocks, that extends to the end of the point, on which there is some very good feed of Kangaroo, and all kinds of grasses. But all the upper or table land, is very poor Rocky Stony Country, covered with low Coast Scrub, Rushes and grass-tree, with hardly any grass on it: The timber is bastard Stringy Bark, bloodwood and low White Gum, with a great deal of the low appletree scrub – it is watered by a small Creek, running into Ewey Bay, on the East side, and another that comes in from Gymea Bay paddock No 1. The whole of this has been scrubbed twice, first in 1862. and second time in 1867-8 – but it was not burnt before the Rain set in, and in consequence, the appletree and Stringy Bark shoots are showing up strong again, but the fire will keep them back, and kill all the young scrub that is showing in places – it may be possible to get a running fire to pass over it about the second week in April, when the grass gets a little dry. All the timber is well Killed by the ringbarking, and there is a good deal of rubbish and dead scrub lying on the ground to carry a good fire. The Water in the Bay is deep and is an excellent fishing ground.

[p54] GYMEA BAY N^o 1 PADDOCK

This is next to Ewey Bay Point Paddock, and divided from it by a Brush fence on the East side, and is bounded on the North by the horse paddock, and divided from it by a Brush fence; on the West side it is divided from Dent's Creek Paddock- by a two rail split fence, with wire in the middle and logged under the bottom rail – on the South side, is

Gymea Bay and Gymea Bay Paddock No 2 – which is divided from it by the continuence of the 2 Rail Split fence from Dent's Creek Paddock into the Gymea Bay - There is a Creek of good water, runs from Dent's Creek Paddock, in an easterly direction to the Bay. The land all on the North side of the creek, altho' very rocky is good and grows the Kangaroo grass well, affording some good feed: but on the opposite side it is all poor barren land, with very high rugged Rocks rising from the water, which in some places it is impossible to descend – and this portion of the paddock affords very little feed, growing rushes, grass-tree, and low coast and appletree scrub, with short curly White Gum, bastard appletree and Stringy Bark- Honeysuckle, Geebung and Bloodwood. It has all been scrubbed twice, first in 1862 and again in 1867 – now waiting for running fire which will clear off an immense deal of rubbish, and will give it a chance then for some grass to grow – it is clear of scrub now and the running fire will keep it back and destroy the seedlings before the spring of the Year – but where there is much Appletree scrub, the ground will never be entirely free from it, until the plough has passed over it several times – but this land would not ~~be worth it.~~

[p55] GYMEA BAY N^o 2 PADDOCK

Extends from the creek running down the South boundary fence of No 1: which waters both Paddocks – round the point forming the West side of Gymea Bay, and thence up the North West Arm, to a line of Brush fence, which forms the east boundary of the NW Arm Paddock - now destroyed –The North boundary was also a Brush fence line, dividing Dent's Creek Paddock – also destroyed by fire – which throws all this portion of the Estate open. The whole of this paddock is very high Land, and descends to the Water with ~~steep~~ precipitous Rocks, there being only a few places where it is possible to ride down. There is ~~a small portion of~~ good land running along the Gymea bay, which grows some Kangaroo grass, but the ground is very rough and Rocky: ~~all~~ the rest is only a poor barren stony ridge covered with grass-trees rushes, low coast Scrub and Apple-tree scrub. The scrub is not however very thick, as a strong running fire passed over it last Year, and Killed a great quantity. None of the timber

has been ringbarked, but a portion of it was scrubbed once in 1863. On the best part of the paddock near the water, there is some fine young timber of Blackbutt, Red Gum, Mahogany, and Grey gum – On the upper portion of the land the timber is low cutly white gum, bastard Stringy Bark, and Bloodwood.

NORTH WEST ARM PADDOCK

This is divided from No 2 Gymea Bay Paddock, by the line of Brush fence running down North and south from Dent's Creek Paddock, at the Old Sheep Yard, to the water in the North West Arm [p56] it has never been fenced on the West side, but is guarded by a deep Ravine, at the bottom of which Dent's Creek runs into the N.W. Arm & forms a boundary. The banks of this Ravine are in places quite perpendicular, and there is only one place near the middle of the paddock where it is possible to take a horse down. It is all poor Rocky Stony country, except in a few patches along the Ravine, and at the extreme point, but will not carry much stock of any sort. None of it has been Ringbarked or scrubbed, the timber is low white gum, bloodwood and bastard Stringybark – it is watered by Dent's Creek. The North boundary of this paddock, is Dent's the Brush fence line of Dent's Creek paddock, which extends down the Ravine until it crosses the creek a few yards.

FREE SECTION LAND AT N. W. ARM

After you cross the creek from the North West Arm paddock you come upon some excellent feeding ground, growing fine Kangaroo grass, and the soil tho very Rocky, is good; and the banks rise up in the same precipitous way as on the east side of the Arm – about 100 acres of this has been taken under Free Selection, Running out to the extreme point, that forms the West side of the Arm. Nothing has yet been done to this either in scrubbing or ringbarking, it would do well to feed quiet Cattle – but the Country is too steep and Rocky for Sheep. There are also four other blocks of country, of 40 acres, 140 acres, 40 acres, 170 acres taken under free selection – these run up Dent's Creek and extend [p57] in a zig-zag line from the creek, up to the South Boundary fence of the Gymea Ground Paddock – the lines meet, a few Rod on the

east side of where the west boundary fence of the Gymea Ground joins the Southern. Some of this land is good, and if cleared and scrubbed would make good grazing land, the best portion runs along the Gymea Ground fence – and the worst towards the South West end, where it becomes poor Ironstone Country. There are a good many Gymea's growing on this land, which are valuable for making paper. The whole is thickly timbered – consisting of Red gum, Iron Bark, Stringy Bark, Mahogany and White Gum, and there is a good deal of scrub on it. There are two small creeks of good water running thro' the land, in an easterly direction – none of this land has yet been fenced.

DENT'S CREEK PADDOCK

This is bounded on the North by Oyster Bay Paddock – east by Gymea Bay Paddock No1 – South by Gymea Bay No2 and N.W. Arm paddocks, West by four blocks of Freeselection land – the East & North boundary lines are 2 Rail split fences, with wire and log. But the South & West lines were Brush fences, burnt in 1865-6. the West boundary line runs parallel with Dent's Creek about one Chain wide, on the West side of it. It is a very good paddock for feed growing fine Kangaroo and other native grasses – the soil is good but Stony & Rocky in places – and on a line from the Old Sheep Yard at junction of N.W. Arm line of fence, to the edge of the Ravine there is a barren Ridge, of Apple-tree scrub, grass-tree, Geebung & rushes. In addition to Dent's Creek, it is watered by a creek that [p58] runs from near the Sheep Yard into Gymea Bay – altogether it contains about 190 acres of which about 80 acres were scrubbed and ringbarked in 1863, and since then nothing has been done to it. There is now a good deal; of scrub growing on it, although a heavy fire destroyed a good portion at the North East End – This paddock is well worth scrubbing and fencing – at present it is all open country to the North West Arm, and there is no stock of any kind belonging to the Estate running on it, as it would not do to put there unless it was fenced in – quiet cattle, that have been bred on the Run might be put out at N.W. Arm and Gymea No 2 without it being fenced. when the feed is good there and secure inside the fences – but at present there is no feed at all for the Stock without this.