

THE WALKER REPORT—

JANUARY 1868

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

THIS IS THE FINAL PART OF THE R. C. WALKER REPORT ON THE THOMAS HOLT 'SUTHERLAND ESTATE' FROM 1868. IT COVERS THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE PRESENT SHIRE AS SHOWN ON THE MAP (END OF REPORT)

KANGAROO POINT PADDOCK

The principal portion of this Paddock is a narrow neck of Land running out into the George's River nearly North & South, opposite to what is called the

Kangaroo Point Rises from the George's River to a considerable height with steep Banks, and Rugged Rocks. The principal part of the Point is Rocky, but there are patches of Sandy soil between the Rocks, that grow some Kangaroo grass, and Couch affording good feed for Stock – At the South End of the narrow neck, there is a dip in the Land, and then it rises up gradually with steep Rocks to about the middle of the Paddock. The South West portion is best for grass, but the grass-tree is very thick all thro' it – with a good deal of Fern: the soil is all sandy, except at the South East corner, which is an Ironstone Ridge of with Stringy Bark timber growing very little grass. The remainder of the Timber is principally Red Gum, with some Bloodwood and Mahogany. It has been scrubbed three times – in 1861, 1864 and 1866: and is now free of Scrub, only a few sproats [sic] and seedlings showing up in places. It is bounded on the East, by the Road to Wollongong, which is fenced off by a two Rail split fence one side and a two [p60] rail, wire & Stone and logs, on the other side. The south boundary fence of two Rails wire & Stone, divides this Paddock from Oyster Bay Paddock, and Oyster Bay forms the Western Boundary. the Paddock is water'd by a small pond at the South East Corner Colose [sic] to the Bay where there is a small spring, but the water is not very good.

“Bald Face Stag”, on the Northern Shore. The distance across the River at this point is not more than 16 chains wide , and would in addition to the place pointed out at “Tom Ugly's” Point – be a good site for a Damming across the George's River. At the Bald Face Stag; there is a very high point of solid Rock; on the top of this a reservoir could easily be constructed for the Water to be pumped up into – it would [p59] then have sufficient force from this height to carry it to any part of Sydney: and the stone taken out in forming the Reservoir, could be used for making the Dam, which would save labor & money – there is also a very suitable place at Kangaroo Point, for the construction of a Wear [sic] , which could be made at a very small cost.

OYSTER BAY PADDOCKS N^o 1 TO 3

Originally one large Paddock, but afterwards subdivided by low log & brush fences into three paddocks. the Main Paddock was first divided by a two Rail split fence with log & wire, embankment & stone under bottom Rail – These lines of fence run due North & South; the East line, from Dent's Creek Paddock, to Kangaroo Point Paddock, and the West line from the Free selection land at the South boundary, into the second point of Oyster Bay. The South boundary fence dividing off Free selection land and Dent's Creek Paddock, is also a 2 Rail split fence with Log & Wire.

N^o 1 Comprising of a square of about 400 acres and is marked off from No 2 and 3, by the line of low Log fence, now destroyed, which runs due East & West, along a block of 196 acres of Government Land. Which is in the middle of the Oyster Bay Paddocks, and is poor barren scrubby land. This No 1 is all high ~~ground~~ and undulating Country, of Ironstone soil; in some parts clay, [p61] and other parts loamy – it principally grows native grass, blade grass, and a little Kangaroo grass – but the feed is not very thick: there is also a good deal of grass-tree growing in all parts. The timber is White & Red gum, Stringy Bark, Bloodwood, Mahogany, Oak & Blackbut [sic]. A great deal

of the timber here has been left unringbarked as some of it is very large, and a good distance apart – but there are also a large portion of Saplings left unringbarked, principally of StringyBark & bloodwood. In many places where the Saplings have been Ringbarked, they are shooting out again from the roots which gives the place the appearance of being Scrubby, it is however pretty free from Scrub, and has only been twice scrubbed, once in 1862 & second time in 1866 – when it was well burnt. The scrubbing here shows the benefit of the outlay, ~~but~~ by the Contrast in the appearance of the Country between this paddock and the Government Land, where nothing has ever been done to it. another scrubbing either next, or the following year; with a good fire after it – will effectually clear this part of scrub.

There are a few patches of Appletree scrub, and some Xmas bushes, which are growing up thick again, but on the other portions of the paddock, only seedlings and the shoots from the ~~bigger~~ Ringbarked saplings are showing up. In the South West corner, there is a good patch of land [p62] growing Forest Oak and some black-but, which if Cleared, or the Oaks Killed, would grow good grass, as it is very seldom that any feed is found under the oak, altho' the ground where the Forest Oak grows well, is almost invariably good soil. At the South West Corner, the land is not so good, there being a barren Ridge of Appletree, and Stringybark timber, there; which extends as far as the Roadway, running east & West thro' this paddock, from the Horse Paddock:- this Ridge is very Rocky & Stony ground, and affords very little feed – At the East gate leading from the Horse Paddock, there is a good large sheep yard formed of Brush fence. There are three Creeks running from this paddock which supply it well with Water – one runs from the Gynea ground thro' the South West Corner, into Dent's Creek: the next forms, the Head of Ewey Bay Creek; and the third is the Head of Gawley Creek, from which a branch runs off thro' the good Land.

N^o 2 Number two paddock includes a portion of the Government land allured to in No 1. and except along the Bay, at the North West side, where there is some very good feeding ground of Sandy soil, it is all poor land, of very stony Ironstone soil, and growing very little grass. It was scrubbed once in 1862 and again in 1867. but only a portion of it has been burnt –

owing to the rain coming on [p63] before it could be lighted – the scrub in this paddock was very thick and of a bad Kind to get rid of, there being a great deal of Stringy Scrub & what is called Honeysuckle Scrub and the low coast Scrub. The Timber on the foot-Land has not had anything done to it; nor has it been scrubbed – as you approach the Bay the land descends into a deep gully, which prevents your passing in a straight line into No 3. and it is very rocky all thro' the paddock. The timber is Stringy Bark pepermint [sic] White gum, Bloodwood and Honeysuckle, and except on the Government land has been well Killed by ringbarking.

N^o 3 In the North West portion of the Main Paddock divided from No 2 by the line of Brush fence running down the Gully between the two paddocks. All along the Bay from the dividing fence of No 2. round to the split fence, forming the West boundary there is some excellent feeding ground, of sandy soil growing Kangaroo and other native grasses, but the land is very Rocky, and ascends on the North point to a steep hill, on top of which it is poor barren stony land with a great quantity of Rock, with only a few patches of feed. Oyster Bay, runs in from the George's River between Kangaroo Point and Green Point, and forms, four separate Bays, No 3 is the first point from Kangaroo Point, No 2 being a continuation of Kangaroo Point – and from the head of the 1st Bay there is a Fresh water creek [p64] which comes down at the back of the hill just mentioned, through a deep gully starting from the Western fence close to the boundary of the Government land: and at the head of the Gully, there is a small drip of about 20 feet ~~drop~~ fall, of good Clear fresh water. All along the banks of this Gully on both sides, which are very steep, Right down to the Bay the feed is very good; principally Kangaroo grass, but of a coarser Kind of grass towards the bay. The banks of the Gully are very steep with large Rocks, and the grass grows on a sandy & loamy soil that rests between the rocks. On the South side of the Gully, there is a similar hill to that described on the North side, only higher, and more Rocky. The Government land before mentioned commences on the top of this hill, and forms the southern portion of the paddock, there is none of it worth much, and it has not yet had anything done to it. The timber of No 3 consists of White & Red gum, Bloodwood, Mahogany, Stringy Bark, & honeysuckle, and

has all been well Killed, except a few large trees left for Shade. It has been scrubbed twice, the 1st time in 1862 & 2nd time in 1867. but it will, owing to the nature of the ground Require more looking after than some other parts as a great quantity of seed will be protected by the Rocks.

[p65] OYSTER BAY PADDOCK N^o 4

This Paddock is distinct from the other Oyster Bay Paddocks being outside the Main boundary split fence, and is a piece cut out of the Double Bay Paddock – it is divided off on the West by a low bough-yard fence, now useless, which runs down to an old Sheep-yard, and meets a line of Log fences, a portion just repaired as the remainder on the East side of the Gully was – constructed at 1/9^d per Rod, which divides off Green Point, and runs into Oyster Bay. This is only a small paddock; and affords but very little feed. About the middle, there is a deep wide gully runs through the Paddock, from the southern fence, to the head of Oyster Bay – and a fresh water Creek at the bottom of the Gully, supplies it with water. The sides of the Gully are very steep and quite impassable for a horse. The only place where there is any feed is along the banks of the gully, and just at the edge of the Bay and down by the South boundary fence which is constructed of light logs. It has only been scrubbed once in 1862 – and is now very thickly covered with low prickly, and honeysuckle scrub. This paddock affords so little feed, that it is hardly worth the expenses of scrubbing all over, and should only be cleared on the part where the grass grows – as the barren part is nearly all stone. The timber is White gum, stringy Bark, Bloodwood permint [sic] and honeysuckle: it is all well Killed by Ringbarking, with the exception of a few saplings, that are shooting from the roots again, as the bloodwood & Stringy-Bark always do.

[p66] GREEN POINT PADDOCKS N^o 1 & 2

N^o 1 & 2 This is an extraordinary shaped point of considerable Size – it forms the West shore of Oyster Bay, on one side, and the East Shore of Double Bay, on the other. It is divided off at the South end by a Log Fence from Double Bay Paddock No 2. and the fence runs from the head of Double Bay to the head of Oyster Bay in a zig zag line, and crosses the old Road made for carting timber to Oyster Bay. The Point rises up with a steep ascent to a great height, from the line of log fence, with very rugged Rocks difficult of access, and continues

the same high rocky country to near the north end of the point when it falls with a gradual slope to the Water. On the top of the Hill there is very little feed, the land being barren & Stony, with large patches of solid Rock – but all round the slope of the hill along [sic] the Water, there is some excellent feeding ground, of Kangaroo and other native grasses, which grows between the Rocks, and on patches of good loamy soil, on the eastside of No1. there is a low point affording good feed, and in No2. there is a fine flat, which extends from the division fence up to the south Boundary fence, and gives some ~~fine grass~~ good feed.

The division fence between No1. & 2 Paddock, is a low brush fence, running across from Double Bay to Oyster Bay, at the narrowest part of the point about the middle, but there is no necessity for this division – as sheep would never thrive on such country unless they were allowed plenty of room, and the whole point is none too large for one paddock. It has [p67] all been scrubbed twice, once in 1862, and again in 1865. but it is a very bad place for scrub, there being a great quantity of the low prickly scrub, and Honeysuckle scrub, which has a great deal of seed and grows very fast. At the North east point there are a great many Oaks growing up, and a quantity of broom brush, The whole of this point wants scrubbing very badly, and it should be done before Nov^r of this year, in some parts it is difficult to get thro' the scrub. The timber is nearly all Ringbarked, and well Killed, it consists of White & Red gum stringy Bark Bloodwood and pepermint [sic]. It is ~~wort~~ watered by two small Creeks, that run into oyster Bay and give plenty of water. The Water in Oyster Bay is a good depth and will permit a good sized craft to come up. A great quantity of timber used to be shipped from this Bay for Sydney.

GYMEA GROUND

This is a fine square block of high Land, and is called the Gymea Ground on account of the quantity of Gymea or Gigantic Lilly, which grows on the land, and is very valuable for manufacturing into paper. It is bounded on the South, by the Free-selection land; on the East by Oyster Bay Paddock; West by the Outside Waranora Paddock, and the Northern boundary is the old Log fence line which divides it from Double Bay Paddock No 3. The other three sides are all fenced with a two Rail split fence

with wire and logs. This is a very good paddock for feed growing Kangaroo [p68] Blade, and other native grasses, and altho' the grass is not very thick it will carry a good ~~deal~~ number of stock: The soil is Ironstone clay and loam, such as will grow good grass if cultivated for that purpose, or would make a very fair vineyard land if properly trenched. There is a good deal of Forest timber on it consisting of Ironbark, Stringybark, Red & White gum, grey gum, Blackbut, Bloodwood, Turpentine and Mahogany; some of the good trees have been left unringbarked, but the majority is well Killed. It has been scrubbed twice, first in 1863, and second time in 1866. and is now pretty free from scrub, and very little labor, would entirely clear it of scrub; the majority of what is showing up now is from seed – there are a few patches of appletree ~~shru~~ scrub on the North side, and in places the bloodwood saplings that have been ringbarked, are shooting from the roots, and should have something done to them: If the young shoots are knocked off, and the old bark knocked off with them, and left until dry enough to burn: it will effectively destroy them, but as long as any bark is left on the stump it will shoot again.

In this paddock there is a good Shepherds Hut at the West Gate leading into the Outside Waranora Paddock, on the Road to Wollongong which runs through here, in an east & West direction, and there is a small well of good Water, a few yards in front of the hut. The paddock is watered, by three small creeks, one on the North running down ~~thru~~ to Oyster Bay Paddock. Another on [p69] the East side, which runs thro' Oyster Bay Paddock, and forms the head of Dent's Creek – The third is on the south side, and runs thro' the Free-selection land, from a sudden fall in the paddock on the south West corner where the Gymea grows very thickly.

DOUBLE BAY PADDOCK N^o 3.

Adjoins the Gymea Ground, having Oyster Bay Paddock on the East, and the Waranora Paddock on the West, on the North it is divided from Oyster Bay No4 . and Double Bay No2. by a Sheep log fence.

This paddock has been scrubbed twice, first in 1863, second time in 1866~~7~~ but there is a block of 100 acres of foot land in it that has neither been ringbarked or scrubbed — this is in the North West corner and runs along the

Western fence. The land in this paddock is not so good as the Gymea Ground, and in places is very rocky, the soil being of a white Ironstone clay, with a good deal of grass-tree. There is some Kangaroo and other native grasses, which gives some good feed but it is only in patches, and a quantity of low fine Rushes, which the Cattle & Sheep will eat. The Scrub is now well killed, but there are a good many Bloodwood saplings shooting from the Roots, and a few seedlings showing up — a very small expense would keep this part clean. The paddock is well watered principally by two Creeks, which rise near the South boundary line of fence, & run down to two very deep, and meet near the North boundary fence which divides the paddock from Oyster Bay No4. from the junction, it forms one creek which runs thro' Oyster Bay No4. into the Bay. [p70] On the East side of the paddock there is a portion of 52 acres of Govt. Land comes into it. A two Rail split fence forms the eastern boundary, with a small creek running thro' it that comes down through the Govt Land & continues thro' Oyster Bay paddocks, to the South East head of the Bay. The portion of Govt Land in this paddock is very fair soil, but the land beyond it is poor and Rocky. The timber is white & Red gum, bloodwood and Stringy Bark.

DOUBLE BAY PADDOCK NO 2

This is at the end of No3. It is divided on the North by a Sheep Log fence from Green Point and Double Bay No1 — and a brush fence from Waranora Paddock on the West. It contains also ~~about~~ a portion of 135 acres of poor foot Land. Only one portion of about 100 acres was scrubbed in 1863 but it is now as bad as ever. The whole of this land is very poor, and not worth doing anything to; and is very thickly timbered with white gum, stringy bark, honeysuckle, & Turpentine.

DOUBLE BAY PADDOCK NO 1

This paddock is nearly surrounded by water, the only fence being the South boundary line, which runs from a deep Ravine, in the Waranora Paddock, to what is known as the Old Sheep Yard but both this line of fence and the Yard are burnt, the line is however still well marked. The Sheep Yard, was about half way in the line of fence, to where it terminated at the East end in the creek running into the head of Double Bay. The North point of this paddock is the entrance to the Waranora River. The whole of [p71] this

has been scrubbed twice, first in 1863 and the second in 1867, and it was in a very bad state before the last scrubbing, but it has been well burnt in some parts since the last scrubbing, which shows the benefit of the work by the grass that has grown there. All along the Water side, and on the Points forming the Bay and entrance to the River, the Kangaroo & other native grasses grow exceedingly well and afford abundance of feed, but on the high ground along the South line of the fence, and on the top of the Range on the West portion running up the Waranora the land is very poor being coarse Ironstone soil growing very little grass. The whole paddock is very Rocky, and rises in a high ridge from the North Point, (on which there is a good Shepherd's hut;) which continuing in a Southerly direction to the fence line, leaving a steep bank down to the Waranora. The feed all along the banks is very good, but the land is very Rocky. There is a creek of good water which rises near the Middle of the paddock and runs down by the Hut to the Bay; There is excellent feed all round the Hut. Near the Old Sheep Yard is a portion of 135 acres of Gov^t land, being part of the block included in No 2. On the West Side of the paddock on the Waranora River is a singular Cave with some very pretty trees growing about it, which is named "the Old Woman's Bonnet", from its singular shape, being exactly like the old fashioned Bonnet – and makes a very romantic spot. The Cave is a good size [p72] and often affords shelter to sportsmen and Fishermen, who go up the River — The timber is Bloodwood, pepermint, Stringybark, & White & Red gum: All well Killed by Ringbarking except the small block of Gov^t Land. The Scrub in some places on the bad land is beginning to shoot again, but can now be kept down by running fires if lighted every Summer for some few years. This in fact will have to be done on all parts of the Run, and now the fences are not so close together, and not so many of them; there will not be that restriction to fires which was the draw back before. but in order to allow the fire to run, it will not do to have more stock on the Run-Estate than is now upon it — that is about 1800 Sheep, and 500 head of Cattle. In some parts of the Paddock, the Bloodwood Saplings are shooting out very thick, particularly on the West side.

WARANORA PADDOCK

This is principally high steep Rocky hills, with very little feed on the top of them, but some good Kangaroo grass along the sides, and at the points. The South boundary of this paddock is a two Rail split fence with wire; Running from Double Bay No 3. on the East side, to the Waranora River, which forms the Western, and part of the Northern boundary. There is a deep Ravine Running thro' the paddock nearly North & South, parallel with the East line of fence. [p73] This can only be crossed in two places, one near the South boundary fence; the other at the North End, near where the line of fence of Double Bay No 1. comes into it. and the West Range can only be ascended at the South and North ends — The land is very poor at the East Side, being nearly all Rock, and again on Top of the Range on the Westside especially at the south portion of it but all along the River although very steep & Rocky there is some good feed of Kangaroo grass. And again, on the North points and on the sides of the Ravine is some very good feed. There is a fresh water creek at the bottom of the Ravine, and another in a gully at the North West point, which goes into a small bend of the Waranora. The timber is Bloodwood, Mahogany, Stringy & Red & White gum, but is all quite dead with Ringbarking. The whole has been scrubbed twice 1st in 1863 and second time in 1867. and is now very clean, and the scrubbing has made a great improvement in the Feed. A running fire passed over this for two or three successive years is all that. will be necessary to keep the Scrub under.

OUTSIDE WARANORA PADDOCK

This paddock is the Western boundary of the Estate, and has the Main Road to Wollongong passing through thro² it, as well as the Road to Liverpool, which Crosses the River – on the East is the [p74] Gynea Ground – North the Waranora paddock; South a two Rail Log & Wire fence, continues from the Gynea Ground, and West the Waranora River. A portion of this paddock nearly half on the South side is foot Land under free Selection, which has not been Scrubbed or Ringbarked, but the remainder has been scrubbed twice, first in 1862, second time in 1867. the portion that has been scrubbed is very clean and the timber is well Killed by ringbarking; it is principally sandy or Loamy soil & grows good Kangaroo grass, most of the foot Land is Ironstone soil, all

along the banks of the River, which are a great height & very difficult of ascent & descent. the Kangaroo grass luxuriantly between the Rocks, and at the bottom there is a flat growing some fine feed. It has a never failing supply of fresh water, from two small creeks that run towards the Waranora from the middle of the paddock. On the opposite side of the River is a block of 50 acres of purchased land in line with this paddock in order to provide a landing place for the Estate, but nothing has yet been done to this land, the soil is very good but it is subject to floods. There were originally two paddocks in what is called the Outside Waranora Paddock divided by a low brush fence but it is now destroyed and remains, as one paddock, it is generally used for horses or working Bullocks being too small for any number of Sheep to remain long, and also a long distance from the Shepherd. Some of the land in [p75] this paddock would do very well for cultivation part on free Selection land, and part of the purchased land. but the greatest portion of it is Rocky and only fit for feeding ground.

None of the land after leaving the Gynea Ground in any of the paddocks West of Oyster Bay Paddock, is suitable for cultivation Except the small portion pointed out in the Outside Waranora. the whole of the ground being either too rocky or too poor for the plough. The upper part of the Run, from the Waranora River to the Woolloowara Bay Paddock will keep the Sheep, now on the Estate, well; and the remaining portion of the Run will keep all the Cattle. The Horse Stock will be apportioned off in different parts as required. there is ample water in both portions of the Estate in all seasons.

[signed] R C Walker
14th April 1868

THIS IS THE END OF THE WALKER REPORT.

This advertisement appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on Thursday, February 10, 1848.

WOOL, &C – The undersigned is a Cash buyer of wool; or will make liberal advances on Wool or Produce consigned to his friends in England.
Wools repacked and sorted.
THOMAS HOLT, Jun.
136, George-street South

GROWING ON SUTHERLAND ESTATE 1861

- Appletree
- Bang Alley
- Bastard Apple Tree
- Black Wattle
- Blackbutt
- Bloodwood
- Broad Rushes
- Broom bush
- Cabbage Trees
- Cotton Tree
- Ferns
- Forest Oak
- Geebung
- Grass Trees
- Grasses – Native - Kangaroo grass, Couch, blade grass,
- Grasses – Introduced - Wire grass, perennial rye, or ray grass (kollium perenne), cocksfoot grass (Dactylis glomerta), Burnett (Poterun sanguis orba), Buffalo grass, fescue grass (Festuca ovina), rib-grass (Plantago lancolata), meadow grass (Poa Pratenses), annual meadow grass (Poa annua),Yarrow (Achillea millifolium).
- Grey gum
- Honeysuckle
- Iron Bark
- Lilly Pilly
- Low coast and appletree
- Mahogany Swamp
- Mahogany
- Mangrove
- Native Fig
- Oak
- Peppermint gum
- Red Gum
- Rushes
- Short curly White Gum,
- Stringy Bark,
- Tea Tree Swamp
- Tea Tree
- Turpentine
- White Gum
- Woolly-Butt
- Xmas bushes

Sutherland Estate
Report by
Robert Campbell Walker
14th April 1868.