



locations and adds modern footage of the same locations for comparison. It is very well done.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT, Saturday 18 July, 2017

An excellent turn out of Members plus some visitors was treated to a very interesting and thought-provoking talk by Susan Moylan-Coombs. Born in 1964 in the Northern Territory (Darwin Hospital) she was taken from her mother at birth and transferred to a mission on one of the islands off Darwin. At the age of three she was adopted by a couple who lived in Harbord (Freshwater). The Coombs part of her surname comes from her adoptive grandfather, H.C. "Nugget" Coombs.

Susan recounted some of her experiences at Harbord Primary, how being good at sport helped her to be accepted up to a point, culminating in her becoming school captain. She then went on to Manly Girls' High and, in her early twenties, obtained a position in TV at the ABC. She had a 25 year career there, one of her earliest jobs being as the outside broadcast director of Paul Keating's Redfern speech and one of her last being the "Sorry" joint sitting in Federal Parliament. She then went to NITV and now works as a consultant and advisor.



Susan Moylan-Coombs

An even bigger event in her early twenties was meeting her mother and her siblings and extended family. She met her father on her fortieth birthday.

It was disturbing to be reminded that when Susan was born in 1964 she and her mother were not considered to be citizens of Australia. At that time indigenous people were not included in the Census. This situation did not change until the 1967 referendum.

It was also disturbing to hear how, immediately after the "Sorry" session, Susan's young daughter was subject to a form of ostracism at one of our local primary schools where she attended. Not everyone was sorry.

However, despite her life experiences, Susan was very positive and constructive in her comments and hopes on reconciliation.

OUR PATRON

Alan Ventress, who has been the Society's Patron since 2012, has advised that he is relinquishing the position. In his active retirement he is finding himself less interested in history. We thank Alan for his contribution and are pleased that he intends to remain a Member.

The Executive has decided to delay the appointment of a new Patron. It is felt that there is no great urgency and we should perhaps first have some discussion as to what the role of the Patron should be. We will address the issue over the next few months.

POLITICAL AMBITIONS

One of our members, Michael Regan, is running for election to the new Northern Beaches Council. Michael is no stranger to our local political scene, having served as the popularly-elected Mayor of Warringah in its last two terms, before its amalgamation with Manly and Pittwater and the temporary appointment of an administrator.

**POT POURRI**

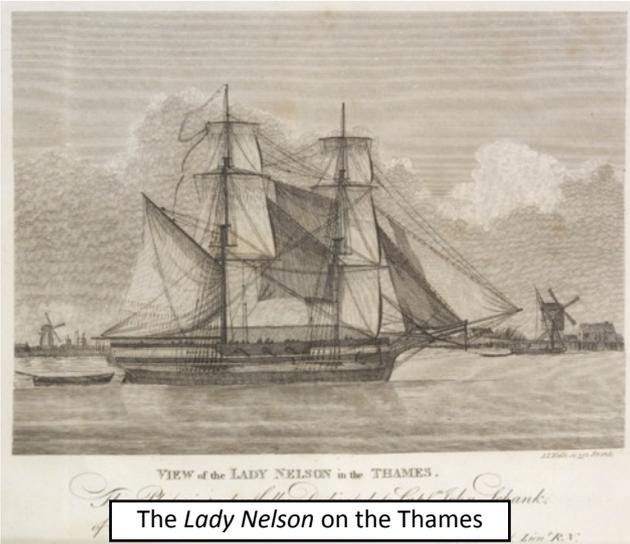
**Fact or fiction?**

Narrabeen was named after either an Aboriginal girl or a "narrow bean" that grew in the area.

Fact: Narrabeen was originally an Aboriginal place name "Narrow-bine" for the entrance to the lagoon. (Ref. *The narrative of a*



Michael Regan



voyage of discovery, performed in His Majesty's vessel the Lady Nelson of sixty tons burden, with sliding keels, in the years 1800, 1801, and 1802 to New South Wales by Lt James Grant). George Champion

### Memorial to the birth of Australian radio astronomy

In February, Hastings Pawsey gave a fascinating talk to the Society which revealed that a war time radar antenna on Collaroy Plateau was the birthplace of radio astronomy in Australia. On the 3 October 1945 it was pointed at the rising and then the setting sun and radio signals were detected. Further measurements were taken over the next few months and the results were so significant that a paper appeared in the Journal *Nature* in 1946.

The leader of the small group involved was Joe Pawsey, Hastings' father. Hastings has been lobbying the Northern Beaches Council to erect a memorial at the location on Collaroy Plateau where the antenna was located. His endeavours have now received the full

support of the CSIRO, hopefully increasing their probability of success.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### Our Constitution

We are a registered association under NSW law. In September 2016 some changes were made by the government to the rules that specify what must, at minimum, be covered in our Constitution. Some of the changes were mandatory and some were optional. The mandatory ones must be implemented by 1 September 2017.

The good news is that our current Constitution (aka Objects and Rules) already contains most of the new mandatory requirements. The only compulsory matter that it does not address is the maximum number of terms that an individual can hold an elected office for. The number need not necessarily be limited by the Constitution but the matter must be addressed there.

Accordingly, it is proposed to add to our Constitution, as Clause 11 (k), the statement *"There is no limit on the number of terms that an individual can serve in a position on the Committee"*.

It is also proposed to take the opportunity to revise the quorum for a Committee meeting from the current five to four. This is desirable as the Committee only consists of six members in total. Thus it is proposed to change current Clause 11 (h) to read *"Any 4 members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Committee"*. It currently reads "5" where "4" is now proposed.

The above constitutes the formal notice that a motion to modify the Constitution in the manner outlined will be put to the general meeting that is to be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 12 August, 2017 at the North Curl Curl Community Centre.

### Two working groups?

To share the workload and broaden the input of ideas, I would like to form two informal working groups - one on Social Activities and one on Speakers. The general tasks and responsibilities would be:

#### Social Working Group

To suggest and help organise social events such as outings, gatherings, Christmas function, etc. Meetings would be no more than once per month and will be of whatever form the group decides.

#### Talks Working Group

To suggest, approach and organise speakers for our monthly meetings. Meetings of the working group may be infrequent with most dialogue via email. You could participate as much or as little as you wish.

To nominate for either group, or for more information, please send an email to [president@mwphs.com](mailto:president@mwphs.com) or ring Richard Michell on 0417 255 726. If you have already nominated there is no need to do so again.

### Local history

Provided there is sufficient interest, we are planning to introduce two local history topics to be researched, recorded and ultimately published. They are *Life on the Northern Beaches during WW2* and *Surfboard Shaping and Manufacture on the Northern Beaches*.

It is intended that the first topic, *Life in WW2*, will be conducted in the "traditional" way via the searching of various archives including our own, conducting interviews, etc. We will divide the topic up into manageable areas such as shopping and rationing, going to school, coastal defence, etc. If you would like to be involved in any way please email [president@mwphs.com](mailto:president@mwphs.com) or ring Richard Michell on 0417 255 726.

As an experiment, the second topic will be carried out largely via social media. While there are a few

excellent Blogs and web sites dedicated to the history of surfboard manufacture and shaping there is nothing specific to the Northern Beaches. Also there are numbers of small manufacturers who have flown below the radar. Most knowledge will be lodged in people's memories and it is hoped to coax these out. If you have an interest in platforms such as Facebook and would like to be part of this project again please email [president@mwphs.com](mailto:president@mwphs.com) or ring Richard Michell on 0417 255 726.



Collaroy Beach in WW2 (Warringah Library Local Studies)



Gordon Wood's board factory Harbord Road c1960 (Encyclopaedia of Surfing)

### Open Forum Saturday, 12 August

I was planning to use the work of the Focus Group that had several meetings back in 2015, and also the Vision 2020 Committee that met in January 2016, as the basis for this forum. I was not a member of either group. To my dismay, I have been unable to find any record of the deliberations or recommendations of the Focus Group. I did track down a set of draft Minutes of the meeting of the Vision 2020 Committee. However the Minutes indicate that most of the meeting dealt with more-immediate operational issues and not the future.

Given this, I propose that the Forum will cover five main topics as listed below. Opportunity will be given to raise any others.

1. Talks - subjects, frequency, venue
2. Visits/Outings - degree of interest, where, frequency, format, transport
3. Committee members - how to get more interest, job descriptions
4. Modern technology - role of web site, social media (e.g. Facebook), email
5. Interaction with other groups

In early 2016 a survey form was included in the Historian and nine members responded. In relation to 1. above, the most nominated subjects were ones related to the Peninsula's early Aboriginal and European history. In relation to 2. the most nominated sites were Barrenjoey Lighthouse and the Quarantine Station North Head.

Please try to come along on Saturday 12 August. I promise that the deliberations will be documented and a draft action plan developed and distributed. If you cannot come, feel free to send comments/suggestions to [president@mwphs.com](mailto:president@mwphs.com) or to our PO Box (see p. 7).

## THE MANLY WARRINGAH &amp; PITTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE 1950's/1960's

The Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society was formed in 1924 by PW (Percy) Gledhill and others, with Mr Gledhill as honorary secretary from that year until 1940, when he was elected president (1). In his book *Manly and Pittwater Its Beauty and Progress* (2), Mr Gledhill wrote in the preface *When I came to reside in Manly in 1913, I was filled with the desire – in view of my grandfather having been the first chemist in Manly and district – to put together what information I could gather on the early days of "The Village"...* He further suggested it a fitting time to write the book to celebrate *the twenty one years of work of the Society.*

A notice concerning the first meeting of the Society was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald – Manly Historical Society. – At the first business meeting of the Manly, Warringah, and Pittwater Historical Society, it was decided to invite the Governor (Sir Dudley de Chair), to become patron of the society. Other officers elected were:- Vice-patrons Mr. Justice James and Sir Greville Rylie, M.P., President, Mr. D. Hope Johnston; vice-presidents, Dr David Thomas, Mr. J.T. Easterbrook, Alderman F.W. Heaton, Messrs. W.H. Slade, J.R. Trenerry, and J.B. Dalley; hon. Secretary, Mr. P. W. Gledhill; hon. Treasurer, Mr. B.R. Russell; committee, Alderman P.L. Nolan, Councillor A.G. Parr, and Messrs. W.J. Ross, J.W. Boyer, W. Brown, and G.A. King. Meetings of the society will be held in the Manly Town Hall on the third Thursday in each month(3).* The President D Hope Johnston, was a descendant of First Fleeter, Lieutenant George Johnston, who on the voyage formed a relationship with convict, Esther Abrahams. He received a

grant in the area he named Annandale, for his Scottish birthplace, and much later married Esther.



Percy Walter Gledhill

In 1948 the National Trust of Australia (NSW), founded in 1945 by Annie Wyatt, was given recognition by the MW&P Historical Society when a Public Meeting was convened by the Mayor of Manly, Ald. C R Scharkie, at the request of the Society and in the interests of the National Trust of Australia (NSW). The public meeting was held at 8 pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 1948 at the Town Hall, Manly. Speakers included the Mayor of Manly, the President of the Trust, Mr Adrian Ashton, A.R.I.B.A, F.R.A.I.A; Mr G A King, member of the Executive of the National Trust, and the President of the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society, Mr PW Gledhill. In addition two technicolour films *The People's Land*, illustrating the work and achievements of the National Trust of Great Britain, and *Green Girdle*, illustrating how London had preserved its parklands were shown(4). This resulted in some members of the Society also joining the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

## PERCY W GLEDHILL (1890-1962) – GENEALOGY

The Gledhill genealogy is of some interest with the family roots firmly in Yorkshire where Joseph Gledhill, his great, great, grandfather, was born c.1760, his wife unknown, but parents to Moses Gledhill (14.1.1781 20.6.1861) of Leeds, Yorkshire. Moses married on 14 November 1803 at Wakefield, Yorkshire, Maria Reid (1784-1845) and when he was 65 years of age in 1846 his occupation was cloth dresser . Queries as to what exactly the occupation involved revealed – *aka piece dresser, singer;*

*passed material through a singeing machine and regulated its passage over a series of gas jets or over a hot copper bar or plate.* Others describe the occupation as a cloth presser(5).

There were ten children of the marriage with John Gledhill being the eighth child. He was born 9 February 1822 in Leeds, Yorkshire, baptised 6 September 1823 at St Peters, Leeds and died on 9 January 1866 in Victoria, Australia. John Gledhill married Jane Beswick (1821-1852) on 11.3.1845 at St Peters, Leeds, with five children born to the marriage, including John Richard Walter Gledhill born in 1849. His mother died in 1852. Widower, John Gledhill married early in the next year on 5.1.1853 Sarah Kidney (1828-1890), at Leeds, with another nine children born to the second marriage.

John Gledhill's father died in 1866 in Victoria, Australia, but John's brother's William had earlier left Bradfield, with his wife and children, to sail from Liverpool on *Lincluden Castle* to Melbourne, Australia, perhaps enticed by the lure of 1850s gold rush. He was born on 8 July 1849 at 50 St Marks Street, Woodhouse, Leeds, Yorkshire. In June 1856 John and Sarah Gledhill, with four children from both marriages, followed his brother, William, to Melbourne, sailing on *Golden Era*, which arrived in Port Phillip, Melbourne on 9 October 1856. John Richard Walter Gledhill, son of John Gledhill's first marriage, was only aged 7 years when the family arrived in Victoria. He later moved to Sydney as had his brother, Edwin, where in 1873 Edwin was a hatter living in

South Head Road. The two brothers married two sisters, Edwin Gledhill married Clara Eastes and John Richard Walter married Louisa Eastes, both wedding ceremonies conducted at the Congregational Church, Manly.

The girls' father, Charles Eastes, established the first chemist's shop in Manly. Mr Gledhill, on occasions, stated his grandfather, Charles Eastes, was offered an opportunity to purchase half the Corso, but failed to do so. Charles Eastes married in 1855 at Gravesend, Kent, but his parents are unknown. He died in 1920 at Dulwich Hill. His wife, Ellen Moore, was born in 1833, also at Gravesend, Kent, she died on 25 June, 1901 at Dulwich Hill. There were six children to the marriage with Louisa Eastes, the fourth born, on 17 May 1864 at Kent, England. She died on 4 July 1938 at Wood Street, Manly(6).

Walter and Louisa Gledhill had five children, Percy Walter Gledhill, was born on 10 February 1890 at 146 William Street, Sydney(7). He was the third born, with siblings one brother and three sisters. However, around 1890 the family moved to West Maitland where John Richard Walter (known as Walter) Gledhill became an auctioneer in the Maitland area, but the family lost all their possessions in the Maitland flood of March 1893. The Gledhill families then returned to Sydney, where JR Walter Gledhill established his real estate agency on Enmore Road, Newtown. Thus, Percy Walter Gledhill grew up in Newtown, eventually succeeding to his father's business following his father's death. John Richard Walter Gledhill died at 76 years of age on 31 August 1925 at 5 Wilga Avenue, Dulwich Hill.

Percy Walter Gledhill married in 17 April 1913 at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown, the church surrounded by Camperdown Cemetery. Church and cemetery would be a lifelong interest. His wife was Lily Eliza Frederick, born 21 November 1890, she died on 4 August 1967 at Manly(8). The newly married couple lived at *Lilyvale*, overlooking Manly, where their daughter, Ruth Lily and son, Walter Samuel, were born in 1915 and 1917 respectively. Around 1920 the family moved to *Rockspray*, Fairlight Crescent, with its grand views of Sydney Harbour(9).



St. Stephen's. Newtown

#### MR GLEDHILL OF MANLY

There is no doubt of Mr Gledhill's passion and love for Manly and its history but his interests were broader. As a resident of the area since 1913 he was active in various historic and Anglican church fields. He was a Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society, Fellow and Councillor of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Hon. Secretary of Bar Island in the Hawkesbury River, the Manly representative of the Diocesan Synod from 1925, Hon. Secretary and Church warden of St Luke's Brookvale, 1913-1937, Warden of St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, an official historian of the Diocese of Bathurst, Trustee of Camperdown Cemetery, Newtown and a popular lecturer for various organisations. He was not only the author of *Manly and Pittwater, Its Beauty and Progress*, but in addition wrote a book on the prominent figures buried in Camperdown Cemetery. His many interests included not only local history. He was active with the Church of England Historical Society and contributed articles on the history of many churches in Sydney and NSW for the Society's booklets. He was also the historian to the Bathurst Diocese and

his books included histories of various Anglican churches in Sydney and outlying regions. He was an instigator of many monuments and memorials around the Manly, Warringah and Pittwater area. Natural beauty was also important and it is fitting that the Upper Gledhill Falls and Lower Gledhill Falls, at McCarr's Creek, Pittwater were named in his honour.

Although she was not present at the MW&P Historical Society meetings, his daughter, Ruth Gledhill, maintained his interest in history, particularly with St Stephen's and Camperdown Cemetery. A collection of newspaper cuttings, mainly of historic houses and buildings of Sydney, compiled by Ruth Gledhill 1936-1972, are held in the Gledhill Collection, State Library of NSW.

(To be continued)

*Joan Lawrence, (nee Behrmann)*

#### References

- (1) Unsourced newspaper cutting, probably the *Manly Daily*.
- (2) Published in 1946.
- (3) Trove – *Sydney Morning Herald*, Tuesday 23 September 1924, P.6.

- (4) Ibid., 18 February 1948, P.2.  
 (5) See Rootsweb for description of occupation.  
 (6) Ancestry.com.au – mcgill246 family tree.  
 (7) NSW BDM Reg. 893; Ancestry.com.au – mcgill246 family tree.  
 (8) Ancestry.com.au – Sam Wilson family tree.  
 (9) Genealogy – See also Gledhill Genealogy, “Huddersfield and Manly – the Gledhill Connection, Tony Dawson, Journal of the Huddersfield & District Family History Society, January and April 2009. The author was then newsletter editor of the Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society.

### Potential Heritage Listing

We have been informed that “the Heritage Council of NSW resolved, at its meeting of 5 July 2017, to give notice of its intention to consider listing Warringah Civic Centre Precinct on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of New South Wales”, and further that:

“Any members of the community, owners, managers, organisations or other interested parties are invited to make a written submission regarding the proposed listing and significance of Warringah Civic Centre Precinct. Submissions should be posted or emailed to the Heritage Council of NSW during the public submission period commencing on 12 July 2017 and closing on 9 August 2017.”

The Society will be making a submission in support of the proposed listing but individuals are also encouraged to have their say. Further information and details are at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/NominationsOfStateHeritageRegister.aspx>. The map showing the site and proposed area to be listed does not seem to be on the web site so it is shown below.



Manly, Warringah and Pittwater  
 Historical Society Inc.  
 Established 1924

Patron  
 Currently vacant

President  
 Richard Michell  
 0417 255 726  
[president@mwphs.com](mailto:president@mwphs.com)

Immediate Past President  
 Phil Colman  
[phil@easy.com.au](mailto:phil@easy.com.au)

Treasurer  
 Richard Michell  
[treasurer@mwphs.com](mailto:treasurer@mwphs.com)

Minutes Secretary  
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Secretary and Membership Secretary  
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# Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

## Membership Application Form - 2017

Title: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (please circle)

Name:

Age group (please tick):  10 – 18  19 – 50  51 – 70  71 – 85  86 – 95

[Note: this information is required for insurance purposes; if two persons included in this application fall into different age bands please tick both boxes]

Address:

State

Postcode

Phone: (Home)

(Bus.)

(Mobile)

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$20 Single

\$25 Household (2 persons) or Organisation

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$..... including emailed copy of the Peninsula Historian

\$12.00..... If you require Peninsula Historian by post.

**DONATION:** \$.....

**TOTAL:** \$..... Do you require a receipt? Yes/No

### PAYMENT METHODS

- **By cheque or money order**

Please make payable to 'MWP Historical Society Inc' and mail with the completed Renewal Form to:

**The Treasurer  
Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc  
PO Box 695  
MANLY, NSW 1655**

**[DO NOT MAIL CASH. If paying in person place cash, cheque or money order in an envelope together with the completed Renewal Form]**

- **By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

<i>Account Details:</i>	<i>Commonwealth Bank, Manly</i>
Account Name:	MWP Historical Society
BSB Number:	062-197
Account Number:	00907384

**[If paying by EFT please ensure that you enter your name in the 'to account description' box and confirm your payment by sending an email to the Treasurer at [treasurer@mwphs.com](mailto:treasurer@mwphs.com). This is essential for your correct identification and is particularly important if your payment is made through a Credit Union]**