



Peninsula Historian

Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue we have the second instalment of Joan Lawrence's extensive yet personal paper on the history of the Society and some of its activities in the 1950s and 60s, and the pivotal role of Percy Gledhill.

Still on personal matters, I was recently sorting through a few papers of my late mothers (she died in 2000) which I had put aside when my sisters and I sorted out her possessions 17 years ago. They included three handwritten letters from her older brother, sent to her in 1945.

Reading them now, I realised that they were sent from the front line in the Pacific. I have reproduced parts of them

in the Pot Pourri section. Although not related to the Peninsula they may remind us of our proposed research topic on civilian life during WW2.

Richard Michell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the AGM in June we elected a total of six office bearers. Our Constitution specifies that the quorum for a Committee meetings is five, so things were always going to be tight. Then, as announced last issue, shortly after the AGM Jim Boyce tendered his resignation from all positions. This left us with a Committee of five, the same as the required quorum. However one member has not been able to attend any of the three Committee meetings that have been held since the AGM. As a result the meetings have not had a quorum and so, although we have run them and they have had full agendas, they have not had formal status.

Last issue I explained that I proposed to move a motion at the general meeting to be held at Curl Curl on the 12th August to reduce the quorum from five to four. This was challenged on the basis that, without a quorum, the Committee had no right to put such a motion. Rather than entering a legalistic dispute, I chose not to put it. However we are left in something of a Catch 22 situation. Our Constitution empowers the Committee to appoint replacement members when there are casual vacancies. However do we have this right if we do not have a quorum?

I have contacted the Department of Fair Trading (which is responsible for incorporated associations such as ours) and they have advised that this power does exist even in the absence of a quorum. So the Committee is now on a mission to recruit some new members and I am very pleased to announce that Merryn Parnell has agreed to join. Merryn has looked after the door at our monthly meetings for several years, ensuring the attendance book is signed, handing out the name tags and, even more importantly, retrieving them at the end of each meeting. So I welcome Merryn and thank her for her willingness. Any other takers?

Richard Michell

DIARY

Meetings at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr. Griffin and Abbott Roads

9 September, 2017 2.00 pm

Duncan MacAuslan will talk on the history of Sydney's street public transport covering horse buses, trams and motor buses over the period 1840 to the present, with particular emphasis on early public transport in Manly and on the Peninsula.

14 October, 2017 2.00 pm

Heritage and Local Government Planning Controls

Jennifer Hill from Architectural Projects P/L is an expert in Art Deco architecture and also in heritage research and protection, including the involvement of local historical societies. She has done recent work in Manly related to development applications. More details next issue.

11 November, 2017 2.00 pm

The Palm Beach Bible Garden (revised date)

Susie Holman from the Friends of the Palm Beach Bible Garden will talk on its history. If there is sufficient interest, we will arrange a visit at a subsequent time.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEXT MEETING, Saturday 9 September, 2017

We will have a very interesting speaker in Duncan MacAuslan from the Sydney Truck and Bus Museum. Duncan will cover the various forms of public transport that have served Sydney, with particular but not total emphasis on Manly and the Peninsula. It should be a fascinating talk, ranging over horse drawn buses and trams, early use of steam, the arrival of electric power and its replacement by fossil fuelled vehicles. Ferry transport will be part of the mix.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT, Saturday 12 August, 2017

A select turn out of Members participated wholeheartedly in the open forum and there were some great ideas raised. A questionnaire was also completed and, after a break for afternoon tea, the film *Paper Run (Reprise)* was shown. This film showcasing Newport of 1956, with additional footage of the same locations today (2011), was so well received that it received an ovation at the end!

If you were not at the meeting you have unfortunately missed the paper run. However you have not necessarily missed the questionnaire. It is reproduced as the last two pages of this issue. Also, if you receive the *Historian* by email, you will receive an electronic version. Please only complete and submit one! If you were at the meeting on 12 August you need not complete either version as your responses have been recorded.

The proposed changes to our Constitution that were outlined in the previous issue were not put to the meeting as they were potentially subject to challenge.

POTENTIAL OUTINGS

The Sydney Truck and Bus Museum is at Leichhardt. It is open on the first and third Sunday of each month and a vintage double decker bus runs from the Queen Victoria Building in York Street to and from the Museum. We are contemplating an outing to the Museum and will discuss it further at the monthly meeting on Saturday 9 September.

The speaker at our following meeting in October will be Susie Holman from the Friends of the Palm Beach Bible Garden. Again we will discuss a potential visit to the Garden at the October meeting.



Charles Bottle's FIAT charabanc on the Narrabeen route, circa 1920 (Manly Library Local Studies/Bill Reid)



Collecting the paper in 1956



Inside the Sydney Truck and Bus Museum

POT POURRI

Some letters home

The following are a few excerpts from two letters sent to my mother by her older brother in 1945. They do not relate directly to the Peninsula - my mother was living at Artarmon at the time, having been married four years earlier. However she was pregnant with me when she received them!

13/5/45

"Well you will be surprised perhaps to know that I have left Moatai and am now writing from Tarakan. You will of course have read all about the landing and I cannot tell you anything on the military side beyond that."



I had a good trip across, very calm and uneventful. I came on a troop ship so was not so crowded as the small boats."

While Australians are perhaps known for their understatement, I think that my uncle was perhaps a master of it. Tarakan is a small island off the coast of Borneo. It had been taken by the Japanese from the Dutch in January 1942 and was strategically important to them as it had surrounding oil fields. After extraction, crude oil was stored on the island and shipped out from a wharf. Japan needed crude oil for its war effort. By 1945 the island was strategically important to the Allies because the Japanese had built an airstrip on it and the Allied plan was to use it to provide air cover for subsequent landings in Brunei, Labuan and Balikpapan.

The military records tell us that the main Allied invasion force arrived by sea off Tarakan in the early hours of 1 May. The landing was at 0800 hours, supported by a heavy air and naval bombardment. Resistance on the beach was fairly light but it increased as the troops moved inland. By 8 January the main objectives, including the capture of the airfield, were considered to have been achieved. While Radio Tokyo announced that Tarakan had fallen on 15 June the last organised Japanese resistance was encountered on 19 June and the Allies did not declare the island secure until 21 June.

So, when my uncle was writing to his younger sister on the 13 May, active battle had been over for less than a week and mopping up was still ongoing, as was sniper fire.

In his next letter on the 17 July 1945, about a month after the official end to the battle, he writes: *"Well I am still at the same place (Tarakan) but working in another unit at the present, actually just over the hill from my own camp. Very little is going on here now. The fighting has been over some time and it is only a matter of rounding up the scattered Japs still roaming the island."*

My uncle then goes on to say *"The burning question of getting home is of course uppermost in my mind. I am now top of the list in my mustering as far as I can make out so perhaps the break will come soon."* His leave had been cancelled some six months earlier when plans for the Tarakan invasion were being prepared and he had not been home for 17 months. However he was sanguine enough to go on to say *"This trip has been a good experience opening up to me as it has the tropical world and giving me a glimpse at least of Eastern life. One needs to travel to place things in perspective and acquire standards of comparison."* These are sentiments that many would share but with perhaps a somewhat different definition of what constitutes "a trip".

Richard Michell

More myths

The location of the first meeting with Aboriginal women in our area is not known.

Reality: During the survey by Hunter and Bradley of the lower part of Port Jackson Aboriginal women were met for the first time on 29 January 1788 at what we now know as Manly Cove, but which was first called "Eves Cove" in their honour. The meeting at "Eves Cove" was illustrated by William Bradley. (Ref Chart attributed to Capt John Hunter, *Chart of Port Jackson New South Wales Survey'd Feb.y 1788*. This map clearly shows "Eves Cove" at present Manly Cove).

George Champion



First interview with the Native Women at Port Jackson
New South Wales February 1788
(from: William Bradley - Drawings from his journal 'A Voyage to New South Wales', 1802+, Mitchell Library)

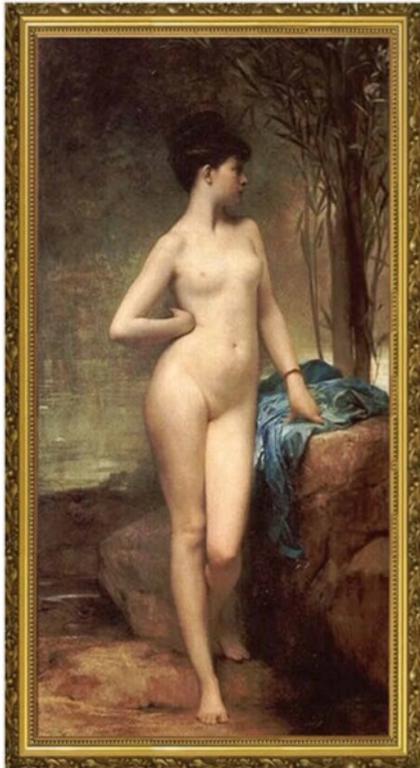
ARTICLE

THE MANLY WARRINGAH & PITTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN THE 1950's/1960's (continued)

THE SOCIETY IN THE 1950's

My parents most likely joined the Society sometime in the mid or later 1950s. My sister and I also became members when we all attended the meetings. The Society at that time met in the Manly Art Gallery, before its transformation to the building as it now stands, still operating as the Manly Art Gallery. Mr Gledhill was on the first committee of the Manly Museum and Art Gallery(10).

I recall in the main gallery there was, what I then presumed, was a copy of the famous painting of Chloe, which hangs in the Young and Jackson Hotel in Melbourne. There was certainly a huge nude hanging in the centre on the main wall but I am unsure if it was a copy of the 1875 Lefebvre painting. Why would the gallery have a copy? There was also an Antarctic sled, said to be used by Scott on his fatal expedition. The gallery was quite dark and rather forbidding and we sat on gathered chairs in a small section of the gallery. There was a general meeting, a lecture, followed by supper.



Chloe - did she or a cousin ever grace the walls of the Manly Art Gallery and Museum?

Many of the lectures at meetings were delivered by Mr Gledhill, with black and white images on his Magic Lantern apparatus. On occasions the local member WC Wentworth and his wife attended and talked of their latest car trip to Central Australia, illustrated with slides. During the 1950s there were stalwart members and later some new members. The members were quite varied, but all with an interest in local history and other fields. In the 1950s P.W. Gledhill was the Society's President, always dressed in a suit, waistcoat with watch chain, and held in high regard within the community.

There were, at times, outings to places of historic interest, such as Scotland Island, granted to emancipist, Andrew Thompson, by Governor Macquarie. Another special trip was made to Barrenjoey Lighthouse, Palm Beach, for the unveiling of a monument. Members made their own way to Palm beach and the lighthouse by various means and those fit enough walked to the lighthouse up the bush track. My mother and others were bounced up the same track in a jeep! It was a glorious day and Mr. Gledhill was in his element. The unveiling of the new plaque was achieved by the local member, Mr WC Wentworth, then we all enjoyed the cake I had made, decorated with an image of the lighthouse, together with piping hot tea, most likely supplied by the lighthouse keeper. The views, of course, splendid overlooking Pittwater and Lion Island to Brisbane Water and back along Palm Beach.

Years later, when married, we trekked to the lighthouse with our children and a friend's family, six children in all. Instead of coming back down the track Barbara insisted we proceed down through the bush, literally bush bashing. The children were passed down to her husband and mine from a high rocky outcrop. I dislike heights and being the last was unsure about getting down, until our youngest was

crying and concerned I would forever be stranded on the rock and I was able to be handled down by strong arms.

Every year Mr Gledhill commemorated the wreck of the *Dunbar* in 1857, at the grave site within Camperdown Cemetery, Newtown. A group gathered around the site as he recalled the victims and speeches were made, including mention of the *Catherine Adamson*, which was wrecked off North Head the same year as the *Dunbar*, but in October, the victims being buried in the same enclosure as those recovered from the *Dunbar*. Alderman Les Wellings, a member of the Society, had the bible from the *Dunbar*. It was washed up and discovered on Forty Baskets Beach at North Harbour. He recounted the story how the sons, Daniel and William, of the Whealey family, who lived in that area, found the bible with other debris on the beach on the day of the wreck. In 1954 it was handed to the Rector of St Stephen's Church, Newtown. It was slightly water stained, but had been protected as it was in a box(11).

One of the interesting evenings at one of the MW&PHS meetings was the occasion in the 1960s when some divers, who had dived on the *Dunbar*, talked of their plunges in the sea to the remains of the wreck. At that time there were no controls and it was possible for enthusiasts to dive freely and take salvage. These divers had various items but at the conclusion of the talk they scattered a number of coins onto the table and told us to help ourselves. I still have five coins from the wreck, one encrusted, another with a small piece of encrustation, the others cleaned. As a tutor at WEA (adult education) many years later I lectured on the *Dunbar* and a diver, who resided at French Forest, attended the talk. He spoke of his experiences diving and all the items he secured and showed the class many of these relics of the *Dunbar*.

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

00025246



A coin from the Dunbar
(National Maritime Museum)

During the 1950s there was debate with the renaming of Coal and Candle Creek Road within Ku-ring-Gai National Park, substituting that of General San Martin Drive. The name change was a decision of the then NSW Minister for Transport, William 'Billy' Sheahan. In August 1950 the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust was advised of the change that the new road through the Chase, then always known as Coal and Candle Creek Road, would be renamed in honour of the Argentinian liberator General Jose de San Martin (1778-1850), who led the military campaign to free the southern parts of South America from Spanish rule. The Trust was unhappy about the idea but offered no open opposition, considering the road out of their jurisdiction and the fact that the government had spent some £3000 on its improvement.

The change was not popular with peninsular residents and many protests were voiced and sign posts pulled down, with one journalist being prosecuted. Clive Evatt, a member of the Ku-ring-gai Trust, was another who protested and wanted the name Coal and Candle Creek Road preserved. In the NSW Parliament Sheahan stated the name was to promote good relations between the two countries and because the government of Argentina had named a thoroughfare in Buenos Aires *Australia*. The dispute continued in the NSW Parliament when Minister Sheahan was verbally attacked by the Chief Secretary, Clive Evatt, who Sheahan accused of being *constitutionally incapable of harmoniously* viewing another colleague's actions if Evatt thought he could obtain some advantage. The Minister also attacked Percy Gledhill, as President of the MW&P Historical Society,

alluding to the fact that his name was perpetuated in Gledhill Waterfalls, acerbically stating perhaps he (Sheahan's) only mistake was *in not directing that the name be the Gledhill-Clive Evatt Road*(12).

As a devout enthusiast of the Church of England Historical Society, meetings of that Society were regularly held at St Stephen's Church, Newtown. In those days the gravestone of Lieutenant Putland, the first husband of Mary Bligh, daughter of Governor William Bligh, still stood on the path beside the church. Later it was moved for safety and historical purposes elsewhere. At one of the functions I was asked to plant a tree in the grounds. It remained for many years and maybe still does. Attending the *Dunbar* services was my first experience of learning the many stories of the graves that make Camperdown Cemetery so interesting. Many years later as a Tutor at WEA (adult education) I often conducted walks there, talking of the lives of the multitude of figures that rest there. Mr. Gledhill also arranged historic bus tours with the C of E Historical Society, arranged by a Mrs Hastie, whom I recall came from Drummoyne.

Mr Gledhill was enthralled with history. Another church he was involved with was historic St Peter's Church, Cooks River, on the Princes Highway, which we visited on an outing with him on one occasion, its cemetery also holding the graves of many interesting early figures. (To be continued)

Joan Lawrence, (nee Behrmann)

References

(10) *Manly Daily*, 26.6.1946, see Manly Library Local History *Moulders of Manly*.

(11) See Trove – The Bible of the Dunbar, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 August, 1954, P.10.

(12) *The Canberra Times*, 22 August 1950, Minutes of Warringah Cultural and Heritage Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2002.



General José de San Martín in 1848
(Museo Histórico Nacional Argentina)

History Week

As part of History Week, Northern Beaches Council is encouraging residents to *Capture 2017 on the Northern Beaches!*

The project runs from 1 - 30 September and they "want it all...lifestyle, culture, events, music, environment, technology, sports, arts and everything in between for future generations to look back on".

To join in you share your pictures on Instagram under the hashtag #northernbeaches2017. If you participate you have a chance to win one of four \$200 prizes. There is a maximum 10 entries per person and by entering the competition, you agree to the published Terms and Conditions.

The Exhibition Launch & Awards Night will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 24 October at Mona Vale Library. More details at <https://northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/library/whats-on/special-events/history-week-instagram-competition>

Secret Movies

Manly Library screens a film at midday each Wednesday. For commercial reasons they are not allowed to promote the individual films so for details of the titles check out their *What's On* flyer, available from within Manly Library, or call 9976 1747. The films are aimed at adults and various feature films, from classics to the latest releases, are shown. Screenings are at 12 noon, they are free and no bookings are required. However there are no choc top ice creams available.



Manly, Warringah and Pittwater
Historical Society Inc.
Established 1924

Patron
Currently vacant

President
Richard Michell
0417 255 726
president@mwphs.com

Immediate Past President
Phil Colman
phil@easy.com.au

Treasurer
Richard Michell
treasurer@mwphs.com

Minutes Secretary
Clive Halnan

Secretary and Membership Secretary
Di Farina
difarina@bigpond.com

Editor
Richard Michell
0417 255 726
editor@mwphs.com

Postal Address
PO Box 695 Manly, NSW 1655

Website
www.mwphs.com

Another potential heritage listing

The Save Manly Oval Alliance has prepared a State heritage listing for Ivanhoe Park, including Manly Oval. In their application they state: *"Established in the 1860s, Ivanhoe Park and its traditional 'village green' oval are of state heritage significance as one of the very few planned colonial era 'pleasure grounds' surviving in New South Wales. Since its establishment, Ivanhoe Park, in the heart of Manly, has been an important destination for pleasure and healthy recreation, not just for the people of Manly, but also for the vast numbers of visitors who flock to Manly from other parts of New South Wales and beyond."*

The applicants have made good use of the historical research of Shelagh and George Champion, as summarised in their 2007 paper titled *Ivanhoe Park, Manly*. This is available on the Manly Council Local Studies web site or at http://www.goodformanly.com.au/uploads/7/7/7/1/7771899/ivanhoe_park_history.pdf

The Society has written a letter of support.

In a parallel development, at its meeting on 8 August, 2017 Northern Beaches Council adopted a Landscape Masterplan for the Park (which is officially a botanical gardens).

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. This is essential for your correct identification and is particularly important if your payment is made through a Credit Union]

Intentionally left blank



Member Survey 2017

Meetings

Frequency*	Monthly:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two monthly:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Venue*	Single:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Several:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Location	Curl Curl:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrabeen:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preferred day*	Weekday:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Preferred time*	Morning:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Afternoon:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evening:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activities

Meetings with speaker (as current)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Local tours/own transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bus tours ``	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Relevant theatre/cinema outings	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Such as:

Interests

History of local individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History of local places and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History of local buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aboriginal history	<input type="checkbox"/>	
History of specific periods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Particular period if any:
Family history (personal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Technology

Do you use email?*	Regularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use Facebook?*	Regularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you check our web site?*	Regularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irregularly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Local history research

Are you interested in participating?*

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>
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* Indicates choose only one of the options presented. If there is no * then multiple choices are allowed.

Name: _____

(pto)

Any other comment/suggestion:

Please post completed survey to:

MWPHS
PO Box 695
Manly 1655

or scan and email to president@mwphs.com. Thank you.