



Peninsula Historian

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

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back.

A few weeks ago I was pleased but also greatly saddened to receive from George Champion a copy of the last local history paper that he and his late wife Shelagh researched and wrote together, in July 2015. With thanks to them both - for the paper and for the many thousands of hours that they have put into researching our local history - it is reproduced in this issue.

As is often the case, a contribution such as George and Shelagh's paper triggers off other thoughts and connections. Northern Beaches Council has just opened the Redman Road Plaza at Dee Why. What is its connection to Pavilion Street in Harbord? Read this issue to find out.

Richard Michell

DIARY

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

10 February, 2018 2.00 pm

Forum and Video

We will have an open forum to discuss the results of the survey of Members that we conducted in the latter half of 2017 and make some decisions based on them. There will also be an update on our Archives, followed by the showing of a video starring a 1948 Albion double decker bus on the Wynyard to Newport run.

10 March, 2018 2.00 pm

Dr. Paul Irish *Hidden In Plain View: The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney*

Paul is a historian and archaeologist with heritage consultancy MDCA. For over ten years he has been piecing together the Aboriginal history of coastal Sydney with researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope that all Members had a happy Christmas and are enjoying the new year.

Following my appeal in the last issue, I was contacted just before Christmas by several Members who expressed a willingness to help with the Archives. Jan Tinkler was particularly keen to get stuck in and, largely through her efforts, we have now found and re-filed, in Accession No. Order, the vast majority of those items whose physical form allows them to be stored in filing cabinets.

These items probably make up 80% of the 7,000 or so items in our Archives that have been formally accessioned in the past. By formally accessioned I mean identified, assigned the next available accession number, carefully described and then entered into the Northern Beaches Library database. We still have to sort and check all of the books, photographs (including negatives), maps and plans that have also been formally accessioned previously.

In recent weeks Jan has been joined by Pam Frei and so we are now moving forward at a pace. We hope to have completed this physical sorting of all of our accessioned materials by the time you read this newsletter. Then, in theory at least, we will be able to find any item that has been collected and formally archived. Some of the items date back well over 100 years.

To understand the system, using your home computer and the Internet, go to, for example, the Manly Library web site. In the Search box type in, say, *Bobbin Head*, and click the Search button on the screen. A list of items will appear, the first being (I hope!) "*Souvenir of Kuringai Chase and Bobbin Head*". Reading the text under the heading you will see "*1 Items available. Manly MWP/HS MWP ACC 1645.64*". The Accession Number is 1654.64 and, in our brave new world, we will be able to go immediately to that location in our files and retrieve the item. If you do not have a computer you can use a terminal at any Northern Beaches branch library.

That is where the good news ends. Although the Society has continued to collect material, it appears that nothing has been formally accessioned since about 2011. So none of the more recent material is in the library database, and we have

no written or electronic list of what the items are. This is the next challenge.

However before commencing it in earnest, I feel that we should develop a Policy that clarifies what items we as a Society should be collecting, accessioning and storing for posterity. Much has changed since our formation in 1924 and we need to revisit what the role of our Archive should be going forward.

Richard Michell



Albion double decker bus

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEXT MEETING, Saturday 10 February, 2018

To start the year we will have a Forum, to discuss the results of the survey of Members conducted in the latter part of last year and to make some decisions for the immediate future. There will also be a brief overview of our Archives, progress within Northern Beaches Council towards a Museum or similar facility and the need for a policy on what we will archive in the future.

So that it is not all talk we will also show a video that follows a 1948 Albion double decker bus (the one pictured) on its journey from Wynyard to Newport. The run was re-enacted and filmed in November 2002 and is somewhat topical with the return of double deckers on the B Line. As always, a nice afternoon tea will be served.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of the year. Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership or who paid last year in advance. For those who have not as yet done so, I hope that you will continue your support and do so in the near future. A renewal (or joining) form is on the last page.

NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 19 December, the following motion moved by Clrs Bingham and Ferguson was approved unanimously:

With the amalgamation of three councils into one, it is imperative that the Northern Beaches Council actively records, protects and becomes the custodian of items of 'moveable heritage', which are significant to the Council and the Northern Beaches, by:

- A. Preparing a Moveable Heritage Management Policy.*
- B. Maintaining a 'Moveable Heritage' register of items, their value and their location.*
- C. Investigating the allocation of funding to allow Council to purchase items of significance held in private collections.*
- D. Exploring the establishment of a permanent space for the display of such items.*
- E. Preparing a progress report to Council by April 2018*

Item D is of particular interest to us and we thank all Councillors for their support.

POT POURRI

William Redman

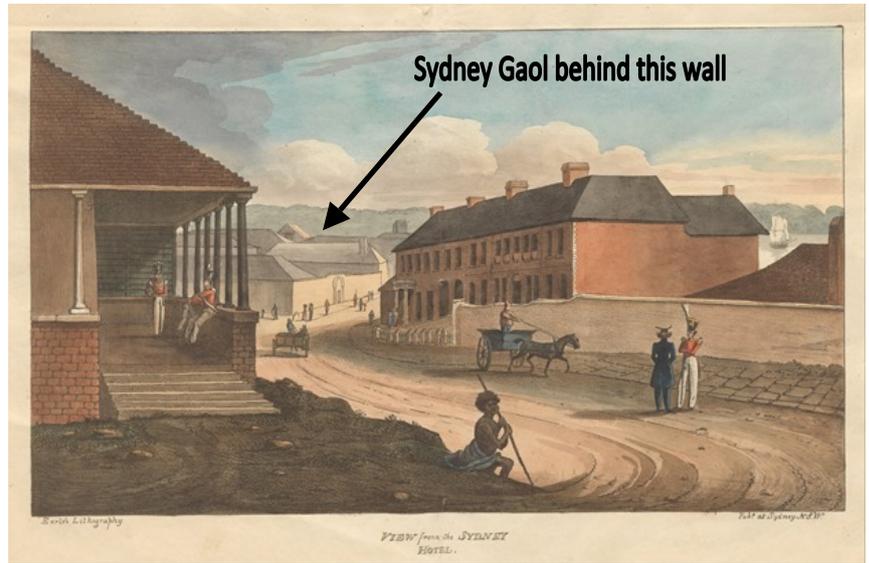
In Shelagh and George's article later in this newsletter, William Redman is a key player. They give a brief summary of his life but where did this successful man come from?

This is not quite as straight forward a question as might be hoped. There is a family history blog on the Internet which tells us that William was the son of Marine Private John Redman who came out on *HMS Scarborough* with the first fleet. However, from census data it seems far more certain that his father was the John Redman who was one of 1063 convicts transported in December 1789. He had been sentenced at Sussex Assizes on 27 March 1787 for a term of 14 years and arrived in Sydney Cove on the *Surprize* on 26 June 1790. To confuse things further, the surname Redman is sometimes listed as Redmond or Redmon.

John Redman (the convict) was born c.1763. He must have impressed authorities in the Colony for he received a conditional pardon in 1794, was appointed a Constable in 1800 and became chief Constable of Sydney in 1802. By that time he was the owner of a large property between the tidal flats of Sydney Cove and what is now George Street. Ten years later, in 1812 aged 49, he married Mary George by special licence. The special licence may have been necessary because Mary was under 21 (born c. 1793), and had no parents in the Colony, or because she was not yet emancipated. Mary was apparently transported on the *Canada* in 1810, arriving with 120 other women convicts (one had died en route).

John Redman's stocks continued to rise and he became an entrepreneur of some magnitude. He owned the schooners *Mary* and *Sally* and the sloop *Martha* (his wife was Mary and his eldest daughter was Martha). As well as leasing his boats he also used them to ship cedar from Port Stephens and Shoalhaven. All this occurred while he was the Chief Constable.

In 1820, aged about 60, he retired from that role and was granted a pension of £30 a year. However he was almost immediately appointed as Chief Gaoler of the colony and was also granted a cart licence for George Street. This permitted the carriage of goods to and from the heart of the city. By the following year he was running a shop inside the gaol, which also happened to be in George Street, and was accused of charging higher prices than the shops outside (I guess that his establishment had little competition). He was assigned a convict servant in 1821 and again in 1829 and 1830. He also owned and was the publican of the Keep Within Compass Hotel which was located almost opposite the gaol on the other side of George Street. The first issue of the Sydney Herald (to become the Sydney Morning Herald) was published from there in April 1831.



Augustus Earle, lithograph 1826. View to the north along George Street from its intersection with Grosvenor Street (runs off to the left, in front of the building with steps). A ship in Sydney Cove is visible (right, just above mid). The gaol was on the western (left) side of George Street, just north of today's intersection with Essex Street, where the Four Seasons Hotel now stands.



Redman Road Plaza, Dee Why 2017

In 1830 John Redman took a trip back to England as the authorities ordered his pension to be paid there. He died in Sydney in 1837 at the age of 74, the Sydney Morning Herald of Thursday 30 November reporting "At an advanced age, on Sunday last, at his residence, Liverpool-street, Mr John Redman, a very old and respected Colonist, and many years Governor of HM Jail."

His wife Mary survived for another 22 years, dying at the age of 67.

John Redman's will indicates some of his wealth. There were five farms totalling 750 acres in the Botany Bay area, a farm in Belmore of c.450 acres and city properties in George Street, Liverpool Street and others.

John and Mary Redman had three daughters and five sons. One son, William, became a solicitor and mining entrepreneur. His story is told in part in the Historical Article on p.5. When he in turn died in 1882, aged 58 years, he left large holdings of land in the Campsie/Belmore area - perhaps based on property inherited from his father - and also large holdings in Manly Warringah. His connection to our area - and also that of his older brother John - is commemorated by Redman Road at Dee Why and now by the Redman Road Plaza.

Richard Michell

Help needed! (please email archivist@mwphs.com or contact requester direct if they have given details)

From Adrian Ingleby, Otford NSW:

I have been doing research for the past 8 years into the Mount Kosciuszko Meteorological Observatory, consisting of an Arctic Tent set up on the summit in December, 1897. The project was the brainchild of Clement Lindley Wragge the Queensland Government Meteorologist. His nephew, my grandfather Bernard Ingleby, was one of three observers working out of the tent. A hut was built in April, 1898 and Bernard Ingleby, Basil de Burgh Newth and Harald Jensen saw out the first winter. The observatory ran until July, 1902 when the NSW Government withdrew funding for the project.

In conjunction with the Mt. Kosciuszko high-level observatory, a low-level observatory was set up in Merimbula, NSW and was run by C. Egerton Wragge (son) and another special low-level station was set up at **Manly, NSW** and before that an observatory may have been set up at Glebe Point, NSW.

The son (or maybe sons) of Presbyterian church Minister the **Rev. George Davidson Buchanan 1853-1920**, according to articles of the day, in 1898 on behalf of Mr Wragge conducted the low-level "Special Meteorological Station at Manly", and maybe another at Glebe Point before that, although I'm not sure if the Glebe Point observatory ever got off the ground. The NSW Government Gazette of 30.12.1898 reported a 50 pound, "Contribution to Mr Wragge's Low-level Observatory at Manly." <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/220969946/13875218>

The projects, which were supported financially by NSW, were run independently by Mr Wragge and had no association or connection with the Sydney Observatory which was an astronomical observatory which was also responsible for all meteorological recording in the then colony of New South Wales.

I am trying to find out **where in Manly** the meteorological instruments **were set up** for the "Special Meteorological Station at Manly." It is possible but it has not been established that in 1898 (the son) George Arthur BUCHANAN may have been living at Manly and if so, he may have set up the instruments at his residence.

ARTICLE

The Forgotten Pavilion

On the 1883 parish map of Manly Cove, to the south of Thomas Bruin's 50 acre grant at Freshwater, the following original grants of land are shown as being located at present Queenscliff: Jas. H. Palmer 43 acres, Daniel Jones 22 acres, E.N. Girard and J. Ryan 30 acres, and Ebenezer Vickery 21 acres. Together, the total area was 116 acres and the whole of this was purchased by William Redman.

William Redman was born in Sydney on 20 October 1823 (BDM). He was educated at Sydney College under the well-known headmaster W.T. Cape. In his early twenties he became a solicitor and was soon well respected in both city and country areas.

When the Turon goldfields at Sofala opened in October 1851 he formed a company with two others and involved himself in prospecting. He was well rewarded monetarily for his efforts. (Queanbeyan Age, 22 Sept 1882). Although the physical activities involved in prospecting had a deleterious effect on his health for some years, he next involved himself in parliamentary service and other community affairs.

Over the years William purchased large amounts of land in the city of Sydney and elsewhere. Much of this land was located in the Manly-Warringah area. These acquisitions also added greatly to his wealth. He died on 13 September 1882 at his residence, "Graycliff", Forest Lodge, aged 58 years. He had no children (SMH 19 Sept 1882).

An Equity Suit, Redman and Redman and others, followed his death, whereby his Honour Mr Justice Faucett and a jury of four determined that William's Estate, sworn at just under £57,000, was to be divided as follows:- five-sevenths for his brother John Redman, one-seventh for William's widow Adelaide Redman and one-seventh for Mrs Dwyer, Adelaide's sister. (SMH and NSW Advertiser 25 Aug 1883).

By 7 August 1883 (SMH 4 Aug 1883) the 116 acres at present Queenscliff owned by William's Estate were offered for sale under the names: Palmer 43 acres, Innes 22 acres, George 30 acres, Nickey 21 acres, apparently without success. Not quite a year

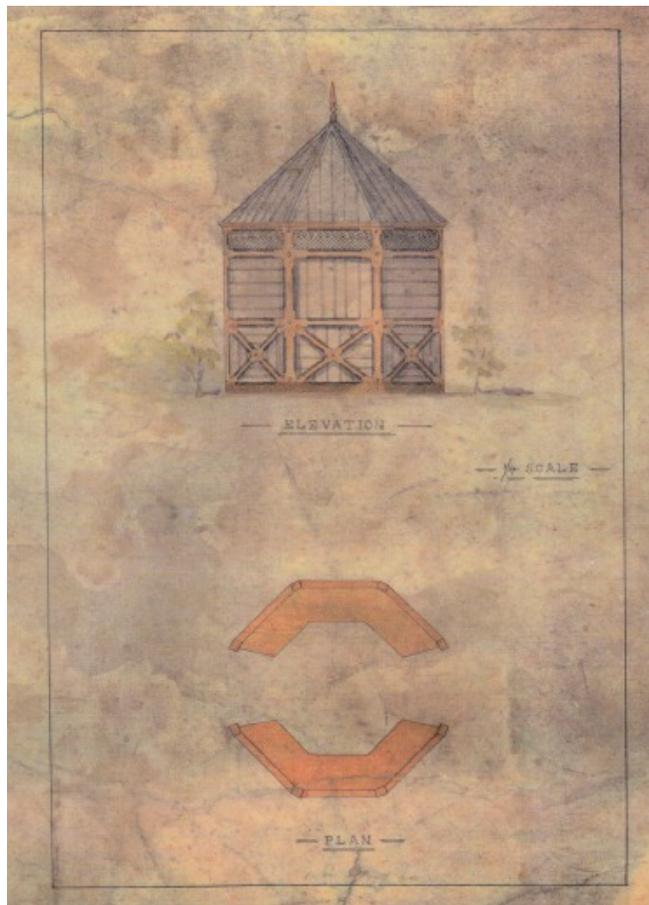
later, under the heading, "RECREATION RESERVE NEAR MANLY" the following detailed report appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 14 July 1884:

A special gathering of a very pleasant nature took place at Queenscliff, Manly, on Saturday afternoon (12 July 1884) and had reference to the dedication of a portion of the Queenscliff Estate as a public recreation ground (see portion of plan on p.6). The estate is situated to the north-west of Curl Curl Lagoon (now Manly Lagoon). On a rocky eminence has been erected an octagonal pavilion which is about 20 feet across, is provided with seats, and commands magnificent views of Sydney Harbour, Manly, the beach and the ocean. An allotment of land on which the pavilion stands (and 22 perches in extent) has been dedicated as a public reserve, and another allotment, north-west of the pavilion, 2 acres 2 roods and 20 perches in extent, has similarly been reserved.

The formal handing over of the deed of conveyance (drawn under Torrens' Act) to Mr C.H. Hayes on behalf of trustees, took place at a luncheon which was held at Queenscliff on Saturday afternoon. About 30 gentlemen and a few ladies sat down to an excellent luncheon. The chair was occupied by Mr W.P. Woolcott, and the vice-chair by Mr C.H. Hayes, Mayor of Manly. A number of toasts were honoured, including that of "The Ministry", to which Mr McMahon was invited to respond, the reason the invitation was extended to that gentleman being that he had "come from North Shore". Mr McMahon, who had only just entered the luncheon tent, said he thought it was a mean advantage to take of him. He had only just arrived, and had not the most remote idea of being called upon to respond to any toast, and especially to one of so much importance as "The Ministry". However, knowing what the Ministry had done since they had been in office, he had no hesitation in saying that it was a pleasure for him to be called upon to respond to a toast of so much significance. Mr McMahon having spoken in eulogistic terms of the Ministry, thanked the company on behalf of the Ministry for drinking the toast.

The Chairman next proposed the "Health of the Mayor and Corporation of Manly" and, in commending the toast, said they had made the crooked straight and the rough plane. The Mayor of Manly, in acknowledging the toast, said they had only been incorporated six years. He thought it would be admitted that during the period which had elapsed they had done a very large amount of work. The roads over which the company had been driven that day were six years ago simply sandy tracks. The council had the hearty support of the intelligent residents of Manly in the work they were doing. It was not quite true that they had made the crooked straight. There were still some crooked ones, and crooked places, to be made straight.

It was the desire of the council to preserve the natural beauty of the place, to follow the lines laid down by nature, and to make Manly the suburb of Sydney. They had natu-



Original plan for the pavilion at Queenscliff (this is ex our Archives and is the first fruit from our recent labours)



Shaded locations are the lots put up for auction in 1883

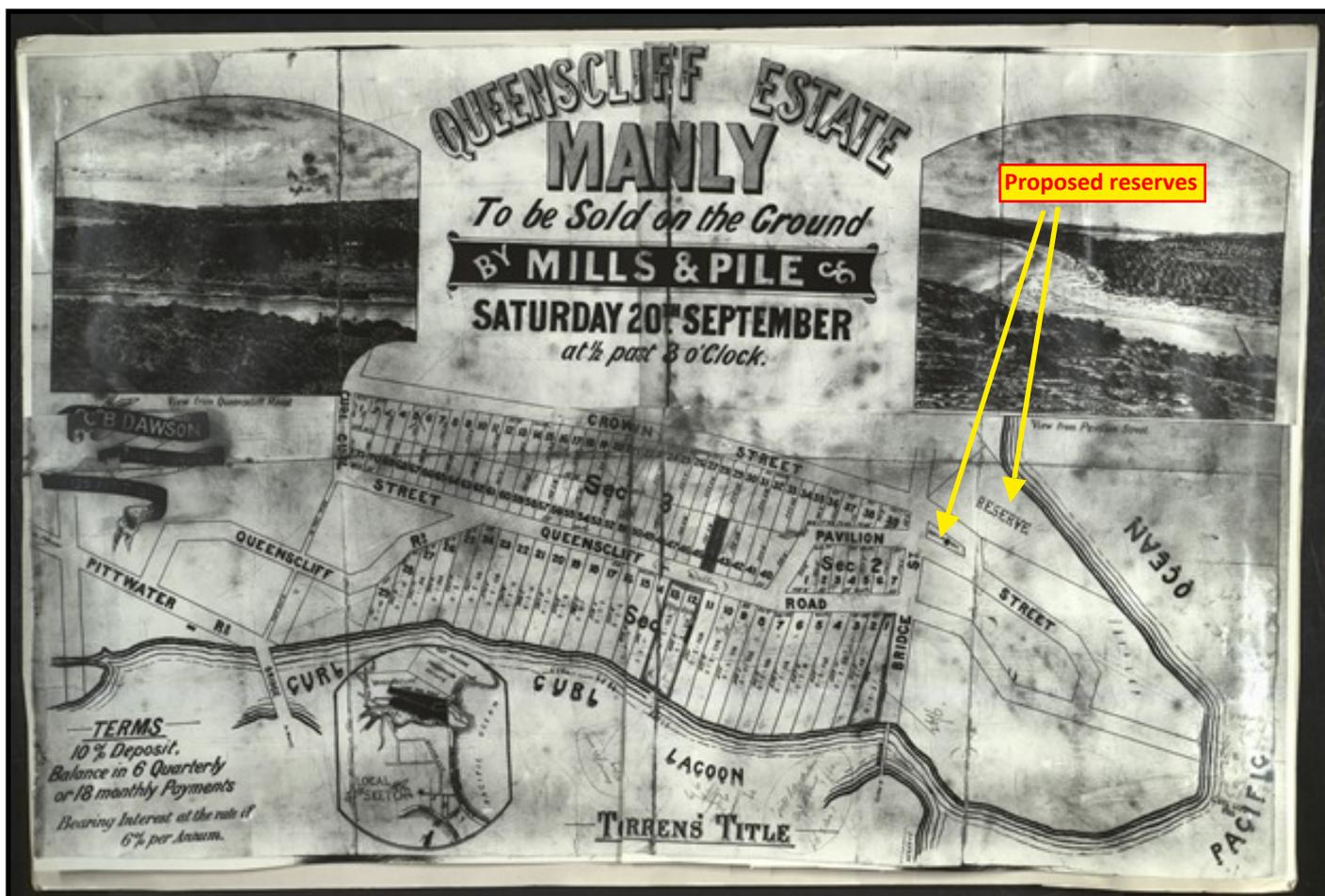
ral advantages no other suburb had. They had a considerable extent of ocean frontage which had been reserved to the public for all time to come; and they had also, thanks to the Government, a splendid park in the very heart of the municipality. The council felt that they held these reserves, not alone for the inhabitants of Manly, but for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. In carrying out improvements the residents of Manly had taxed themselves as heavily as the law allowed, and higher than any other municipality. In no other municipality had the ratepayers contributed so liberally for works as the ratepayers of Manly had done. By the end of next week he would have received no less a sum than £1000 contributed by the ratepayers in addition to their ordinary taxation. He was proud of being chairman of such an enterprising municipality, he was proud of the council which he had the honour to represent, and he was especially proud of the ratepayers of that place, who had set an example to other ratepayers. In no other municipality during the tightness of the money market which he thought they had seen the end of, had land advanced so rapidly in value as in the municipality of Manly.

Amongst the other toasts honoured were those of "success to Queenscliff" (proposed by Mr Littlejohn) and "The Trustees" (proposed by Dr Tibbits).'

For possibly only about 20 years, the beautiful little timber pavilion stood proudly on its rocky outcrop above the cliffs of Queenscliff and was visible for many miles (see the distant sketch of the pavilion in Sydney Mail 26 July 1884, p.165). However, when the pavilion apparently fell into disrepair or was removed it gradually faded from memory.

Fortunately, an unidentified plan and simple sketch of a pavilion were found in the archives of the Manly, Waningah and Pittwater Historical Society many years ago. Based on the evidence provided in the above article it was possible for us to identify both the plan and sketch as being related to the original small pavilion at Queenscliff (see attached plan and sketch) If anyone has any further information regarding this forgotten pavilion, the authors of this article would be delighted to hear about it.

On 20 September 1884, about a year after the initial attempt, all of the property owned by the late William Redman at Queenscliff was again offered for sale, this time in the form of the subdivided Queenscliff Estate. (SMH 11 Sept 1884). John Redman, who inherited most of William's Estate, moved to "Melrose" Bayview, Pittwater, sometime after William's death in 1882, and died there in April 1888 aged about 76 years. He is buried in the Church Point Cemetery. (SMH 26 April 1888)



Subdivision sale in September 1884. The two proposed public reserves are shown. Only the small one with the pavilion went ahead.

Today people frequently visit what is left of the original two acre 1884 reserve at Queenscliff. It is now referred to as "Freshwater View Reserve" and provides one of the most spectacular views around Sydney. Hence the venue has considerable popularity for wedding receptions, etc.

Shelagh and George Champion, July 2015

Note re the public reserves

In Shelagh and George's article it is revealed that when the Executors of William Redman's property on Queenscliff/Freshwater headland put their subdivision plans forward in 1884, they also proposed to create two public reserves - a small 22 Perch area on which the pavilion building was erected and a larger 2 acres, 2 roods, 20 perches area on the Freshwater cliff top (see the subdivision plan on the previous page). These reserves had been set aside as far back as 1859. Only the smaller area has survived intact.

By 1910 the area earmarked for the larger reserve had been sold off, the westernmost portion to an Arthur Costin who had, a few years earlier, purchased most of the land to the east along the cliff top overlooking Freshwater Beach.

By a quirk of fate, following agitation by residents much of the land accumulated by Costin was purchased by the NSW Government in 1982 and transferred to Warringah Council in 1986. Today it is known as Freshwater Reserve. So it has returned to the purpose originally envisaged over 100 years earlier.

The land on which the Pavilion stood is still a reserve (Pavilion Reserve), a little green island surrounded by Pavilion, Crown and Bridge Streets.

Editor



Pavilion Reserve today. The pavilion may have been located on the rocky outcrop with the flat top.



Remnant post in rock. There are traces of at least eight posts. Were they part of the pavilion?



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

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