

# Origin of Suburbs

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORWARD .....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	6
ALFORDS POINT .....	8
BANGOR.....	8
BARDEN RIDGE .....	8
BONNET BAY .....	9
BUNDEENA.....	10
BURRANEER .....	10
CARINGBAH .....	11
CARINGBAH SOUTH .....	12
COMO.....	13
CRONULLA .....	13
DOLANS BAY.....	15
ENGADINE .....	15
GRAYS POINT.....	16
GREENHILLS BEACH .....	17
GYMEA.....	17
GYMEA BAY.....	18
HEATHCOTE.....	19
HOLSWORTHY.....	20
ILLAWONG .....	21
JANNALI.....	22
KANGAROO POINT.....	23
KAREELA.....	24
KIRRAWEE.....	25
KURNELL.....	26
LILLI PILLI.....	28
LOFTUS .....	29
LUCAS HEIGHTS .....	30
MAIANBAR .....	31
MENAI .....	31
MIRANDA.....	33
OYSTER BAY.....	35
PORT HACKING.....	35
ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.....	36

SANDY POINT .....37

SUTHERLAND .....37

SYLVANIA.....40

SYLVANIA WATERS.....42

TAREN POINT .....43

WATERFALL .....45

WOOLOOWARE.....45

WORONORA.....47

WORONORA DAM.....48

WORONORA HEIGHTS .....49

YARRAWARRAH.....50

YOWIE BAY .....51

## FORWARD

The list of Sutherland Shire place names and their origins was originally published in August 2003 as *Sutherland Shire Council Fact Sheet 6*, attributed to the late Mrs. M. Hutton Neve. The list has now been updated with additional information and corrections which have come to light since that time, and the inclusion of several new suburb names and additional place names. The *NSW Government Gazette* has been used as a source of validation of the names and the dates they came into use, as have books and documents held in the Local Studies Section of the Council Library, and verifiable source material from the National Library of Australia, State Library of New South Wales and NSW Government Land & Property Information. Other historical books and documents available through the Internet have also been used as resources.

Dates shown in the references to each item are the date on which that item appears in the *NSW Government Gazette*.

References are also included in the text to indicate the sources used to obtain the information.

All the current Suburb names in this list have been assigned by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) and references include the date(s) of gazettal of the name. Since the GNB was formed in 1966, it has verified pre-existing names and included new names where they have been adopted. In 2008, most of the Suburb names were reassigned and some new Suburb names added. For a full list of Geographical Names in the Shire, see the web site [www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au).

It will be noticed that the explanation of the origin of some of the Suburbs differs from the information which was previously published. Much of this former explanatory material was obtained from lists published in books and other literature which accepted assumptions based on limited research material available decades ago. The amount of original source material now available has allowed for detailed research which in some cases refutes the former long-accepted version and provides in its place the data obtained from recent research. This particularly applies to names which were attributed to Aboriginal words with suggested English language translations, but lacked any references to the source of the word and its meaning. Specific attention has been given to determining, where possible, place names originating from the language of the Dharawal people whose traditional territory is much of what is now Sutherland Shire. However, it is nonetheless apparent that many of the place names attributed as Aboriginal come from elsewhere in Australia.

It should be noted that, during research, a number of “name origins” were found recorded in various source material where no references were provided for verification of those claims by the earliest author who stated that information. Unfortunately some of those “name origins” have been repeated in later publications in the belief by the authors that they were factual. Where these seem to be a misunderstanding of the historical evidence, or may require further investigation, an explanation has been provided. However, where a claim cannot be supported by verifiable source material — those supposed “name origins” have been purposely omitted.

Please also review the Origin of Place Names, published separately in 2 volumes A-K and L-Z, found on Council’s website at [www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au).

# SUBURBS

## INTRODUCTION

Research into the origins of the names of the suburbs in *Sutherland Shire* indicates that the historical context should be taken into account; therefore data have been included of the early alienations of the land in each suburb area as some of the suburb names (or earlier names for areas) had their genesis in those first selections.

But some of the names go back even further. What is now *Sutherland Shire* is the traditional land of the Dharawal Aboriginal people. Early settlers, travellers and surveyors recorded words they learnt from the Dharawal and other Aboriginals from nearby areas, and, often imperfectly, used those names to refer to locations and recorded those names on maps and plans often with variations in the “Anglicised” spelling.

Much has been written by historians about the landing of Lieutenant (Captain) James Cook at *Kurnell* as the beginning of the European history of what is now *Sutherland Shire*, but even there the name of the suburb cannot be pinned down to a single source.

For some years after the Europeans began the settlement in Port Jackson in 1788, the area to the south of Botany Bay and Georges River was left to the Dharawal and to the occasional illegal timber getter or runaway convict.

From 1811 onwards, the Governor allocated land south of Botany Bay and Georges River under a promise to grant the land to the settler or, as was the case with James Birnie, by direct grant of land at Botany (Kurnell). From 1821, John Connell, a successful Sydney businessman selected large area of land in the parishes of Sutherland and Holsworthy (from along Woronora River to the Tasman Sea (South Pacific Ocean) and bought up the holdings of the early settlers, setting up a headquarters at “Castle Connell” (Sylvania). On his death, Connell’s holdings were split between his grandsons Elias Pearson Laycock and John Connell Laycock. Elias sold his holdings to Archibald Allardice, a timber merchant who acquired other lands in the area, but soon had financial troubles and his estates went to John Connell Laycock, who added more land as the Crown land authorities created major subdivisions of the parish of Sutherland in the 1850s. John Connell Laycock also struck financial problems and his mortgagors auctioned off all his properties in the area which were bought by Thomas Holt, who also purchased the lands of all the other settlers, with the exception of land owned by Patrick Dolan and his son Dominick, and also most of the land which had remained unsold at the various Crown land auctions. Originally the *South Botany Estate*, but later *Sutherland Estate*, there is evidence that many of the names used in the Estate later became suburb names. Further names were added when most of the Estate was subdivided for leasing purposes, starting in the 1880s and known as the “Holt-Sutherland Estate”, and the manager of that estate is credited with suggesting some names which are now suburbs.

In the parish of Holsworthy (west of Woronora River) most of the names given by early settlers faded into obscurity until 1895 when “Bangor”, the name of Owen Jones farm, became the name of the area. The postal authorities altered it to “Menai” in 1910 and it took some years for “Bangor” to make a revival.

The southern areas, mainly in the parish of Heathcote had few locality names other than the village of *Bottle Forest*, but names started to emerge during and after the building of the Illawarra railway line. Around the same time *Bundeena* started to be used as a locality name in the parish of Wattamolla, south of Port Hacking.

That was the situation when the Shire of Sutherland came into being, and the first provisional Council was formed in late-1906. The Council started to use locality names, most carried over from the Holt-Sutherland Estate, as the “address” for properties for its ratings records. These were the first suburbs. The allocation of a post office, which had to have a name approved by the postal authorities, was a determining factor in the name of some suburbs, and later there were names selected for railway

stations which also then became used as the suburb name. Many of the suburb names were in use long before the Geographical Names Board officially adopted and notified the name in the *NSW Government Gazette*.

Some suburb names resulted from large residential areas being developed, and included the views of the residents and community groups in those areas. Unfortunately, the explanation given of some names at the time they came into use, particularly those which sourced from lists of Aboriginal names and their supposed meanings, do not seem to have been rigorously verified.

Acceptance of the current suburb names and the boundaries of those suburbs were in 2007 and 2008 subject to scrutiny by the Geographical Names Board, which also took into account public participation in adopting the current Suburb names and boundaries, and also the new Suburb of Greenhills Beach in 2011.

The names of the Suburbs in *Sutherland Shire* are an integral part of its history and it is trusted that the following description go some way to explaining how and when they came into being.

## ALFORDS POINT

*Alfords Point* takes its name from “Allfords Point” on Georges River, which was first shown on the version of the Holsworthy parish map issued in the late 1890s (Land & Property Information historical map records). For many years it was part of Menai, until around 1969 when land was being acquired for the motorway through the area and subdivision plans started showing the area as Alfords Point. (See also MENAI)

Although no direct connection has been found, the name Alford/Allford has been assumed to relate to an early landholder John Alford or Allford or his wife Jane, who were landholders from 1821 to 1828 (Land & Property Information historic land records) at what is now the suburb of Sandy Point over 5 kms upstream. A descendant of the family has advised Council that the correct name of her 4th great grandfather was “John Greenwood Alford”, and believes that Alfords Point was named after that person.

The earliest tenures in this area were large pastoral leases such as granted on an annual basis to Joshua Thorp for a few years from 1835 and others are noted on early parish maps, however there has been no record found of use by the Alford/Allfords. The earliest land grant was to Joseph Newton on the eastern bank of Mill Creek originally advertised on *NSW Government Gazette* No 350 of 15 August 1838 folios 616-620, and granted to him on 6 July 1840 — but went through several subsequent owners until residential subdivision began in early 1986. The area was opened up for farms at the very end of the nineteenth century, but residential development did not commence until the 1980s.

The Geographical Names Board confirmed the name of Alfords Point for the area in *NSW Government Gazette* No 31 of 5 March 1976 folio 1022, but it was not confirmed as a suburb until *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Neighbourhood 5 March 1976, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## BANGOR

*Bangor* was the name of the birthplace in Wales of Owen Jones, who used it initially for his property south of where Menai Town Centre is now located. Jones is regarded as the earliest permanent settler in the area from 1895 when he purchased land originally selected in 1834 by Joshua Thorp, and subsequently passed through the hands of several non-resident owners before being sold to Jones. As more selectors moved into the region over the next few years, the name Bangor was adopted for the whole area. In 1910, the postal authorities decided that there was confusion with Bangor in Tasmania, and the all the settled areas in the parish of Holsworthy west of the Woronora River in the Sutherland Shire were given the name Menai. (See MENAI) In the 1950s, land in the eastern part of Menai on both sides of Menai Road was released as Crown subdivisions and renamed as Bangor. (From various works by the late Fred. Midgley, noted local historian).

Residential development of the area began in the 1970s.

The Geographical Names Board confirmed the name of Bangor for the area in *NSW Government Gazette* No 31 of 5 March 1976 folio 1022, but it was not adopted as a suburb until *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Neighbourhood 5 March 1976, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## BARDEN RIDGE

Formerly part of Menai, then part of Lucas Heights (see MENAI and LUCAS HEIGHTS)

In 1992 local residents voted to rename part of the suburb of Lucas Heights. In *NSW Government Gazette* No 3 of 12 January 1996 folio 99, the Geographical Names Board assigned the name *Barden*

Ridge to the area 3 kilometres south of Menai Town Centre. The suburb is named after the Barden family which had an early association with the area (Sutherland Shire Council records).

The land in what is now Barden Ridge began to be taken up in 1825 when John Lucas selected land for his mill at the tidal limit of Woronora River and was granted that land in 1831. The remainder was initially selected by mining speculators who received grants for that purpose after the area was initially released for Crown land auctions (*NSW Government Gazette* No 12 of 3 February 1843 folios 177-8), beginning with Merion Moriarty in 1843 on the north of Lucas' grant, and a consortium of Messrs. Prince, Gritten, Doyle and Anslow who took up a large area on the west and north of Lucas and Moriarty in late 1888. The final area at the north end of present-day Barden Ridge on the east of Old Illawarra Road was initially selected by Messrs. Bowden and Alexander in November 1881, but was eventually granted to Frederick Barden, a butcher of Cooks River, on 2 March 1900 (Land & Property Information historical land records).

Alfred Barden, brother of Frederick and also a prominent butcher at Cooks River, was an associate of John Lucas and other early landholders in the area and was known to travel along Old Illawarra Road, particularly when he owned property at Bottle Forest (now known as East Heathcote) in the 1860s (various newspaper reports and Kennedy, *From Bottle Forest to Heathcote*, p.28). He is later recorded as a part-owner until 1881 of the "Little Forest" property originally granted to David Duncomb (Land & Property Information historical title records), which was close to the future Barden Ridge area, and he could therefore have been influential in Frederick Barden obtaining his grant in 1900.

According to the late Fred. Midgley, noted local Shire historian: *These acreages came into the possession of Mr.[Frederick] Barden of Arncliffe in 1900, and he ran a considerable number of cattle on it. On January 5th, 1901, a large shed was completed to shelter the cattle. This shed was cleaned out by the young men and girls the day preceding each New Year's Day, when residents would gather to dance in the barn and hold races and sports in Barden's paddock. Barden did not come to live on the property which in later years was sold and subdivided.* (Midgley, *Menai Congregational Church Diamond Jubilee 1904-1964*, p.6).

All of the original grants between Old Illawarra Road and Woronora River, some after passing through other hands, all became the property of members of the Shackel family who subdivided most of the land in 1916, as the "Woronora River Estates", commonly referred to since that time as "Shackel's Estate." The Barden property, however, was not acquired by the Shackels until 1917 and was separately subdivided as "Bardens Hill Farmlets" (Land & Property Information historical land records).

Most of the original grants to the west of Old Illawarra Road were acquired by the Commonwealth Government for Defence purposes in 1913 (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No 16 of 7 March 1913 folios 535-7) but this land was later returned to the NSW Government as Crown land. A large area of Crown land was reserved in recent years for the development of "The Ridge Sports Complex," under the trusteeship of Sutherland Shire Council. Other areas have been approved under Aboriginal land claims and transferred to the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Ref: GNB Suburb 12 January 1996, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## BONNET BAY

This suburb was named by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 28 of 7 March 1969 folio 855, over an area of land north-west of Jannali bounded by Woronora River. It was originally proposed to name the area Kirkby (after David Randolph Kirkby, Shire Clerk 1929 – 1963), however a nearby cave in a locality known as "The Bonnet" in the suburb of Como (the cave is shaped like an old woman's bonnet) prompted the suggestion to name the area Bonnet Bay (Sutherland Shire Council records).

Formerly land which remained unsold at a Crown land auction on 6 March 1842 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 93 of 22 November 1842 folios 1742-3), it was purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862 and became part of his "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate". It is described as "Waranora Paddock", in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, which also refers to the cave in that paddock known as "the Old Woman's Bonnet". Part of the land in the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" along the waterfront was proposed as the "Hummers Point Subdivision" in 1916 (Land & Property Information historical records) ("Hummers Point" was known as such by locals "on account of the myriad of mosquitoes and sandflies" (Burgess, *Nature's Doorstep: The Bonnet Bay Story*, p.10)). However, no development of the area proceeded until, in 1964, a large scale development was planned at "East Jannali" of a subdivision of the most of the area of present day Bonnet Bay as "Woronora Gardens," although the western area was not developed until 1981 and 1983, the last area being known as "Woronora Waters" (Burgess, *Nature's Doorstep: The Bonnet Bay Story*, p.15).

Ref: GNB Suburb 7 March 1969, now Suburb 18 January 2008 and 1 August 2008

## BUNDEENA

The present suburb of *Bundeena* is situated partly on land which was originally selected by Owen Byrne in 1823 and granted to him in 1831 and also partly on a later adjoining grant to George Simpson in 1863, excluding those parts which have over the years been dedicated as part of the Royal National Park,

The first known mention of the name "Bundeena" appears on the plan of subdivision of the area known as the "Yarmouth Estate", the first subdivision of the land granted to Byrne, which had by then passed through the hands of a number of subsequent owners. On that subdivision plan it is indicated as the name of a residence erected just prior to the auctioning of the estate in 1886. The house was apparently destroyed by fire in the early 1900s, but the name was retained in the subdivision of the land bounded by Liverpool Street, Scarborough Street, Brighton Street and Horderns Beach as "The Bundeena Estate" in early 1906. (Land & Property Information historical land records)

During the next few years the whole of the "Yarmouth Estate" became commonly referred to as "Bundeena", the name extending to an adjacent subdivision to the west in 1920 known as the "Port Hacking Hotel Estate", on Simpson's original grant, which had also passed through the hands of a number of subsequent owners. The "Village of Bundeena" was proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 137 of 23 September 1938 folios 3705-6, and the Geographical Names Board adopted it as the suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folio 1644-6.

Although "Bundeena" is said to be an Aboriginal word meaning "noise like thunder", the original source of the word and its translation has not been found.

Ref: Village of Bundeena 23 September 1938 -- GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## BURRANEER

The name of the waterway Burraneer Bay was recorded in 1827 by Surveyor Robert Dixon, as "Burraneer Bay". "Burraneer" appears as the name for the peninsula in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*. In 1890, Richard Hill reported "*Boorranea*" as the Aboriginal name for the peninsula: *The name of the first beach, on the northern side, is "Goonamatta," the western head or point is "Boorranea,"* [Sydney Morning Herald, 6 June 1890, page 5, under "Aboriginal Names"], which supports the assumption that when Dixon recorded the name "Burraneer" he was recording the Aboriginal name for the area.

There is no known translation for the name. The popular belief that it means "point of the bay" appears to be an over-reading of Richard Hill's report, quoted above.

Most of the land in Burraneer was originally purchased by James Wilson on 25 March 1862 (all land south of Shell Road) to which on 9 January 1866 was added a further area (south of Burraneer Bay Road and east of Woollooware Road). Wilson sold all that land to Thomas Holt on 29 May 1865. Holt had previously bought the land north of Burraneer Bay Road for his “Sutherland Estate” on 31 December 1862 (Land & Property Information historical title records).

The rest of what is now the suburb had been offered at auction of Crown land of 24 January 1855 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50) and bought by Andrew & Mary Webster (title issued on 8 October 1858), which although sold to Henry Potter in 1859 returned to Andrew Webster in 1860, WHO THE NEXT DAY SOLD IT TO William Marks. Marks then sold to Dominick Dolan on 15 February 1865. It is recorded that Dolan apparently refused to sell it to Thomas Holt, so it never became part of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” (Cridland, *The Story of Port Hacking Cronulla and Sutherland Shire*, p.49).

After Dominick Dolan died on 24 July 1888, his land was subdivided and offered for sale on 28 May 1889. The adjoining “Holt-Sutherland Estate” subdivisions began in 1903.

Formerly an area name within the suburbs of Woollooware and Cronulla, Burraneer was named as a suburb by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Neighbourhood 28 April 1978, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## CARINGBAH

An historical source (Kirkby papers held in Sutherland Library) indicates that Bindarra was an early name for the area. An early subdivision (1894) shows a road in the area as Bindarra Road, but Bindarra Road was altered to Caringabah Road in 1901, which was further amended in 1911 to Caringbah Road (Land & Property Information historical plans). At around this time, the area was also referred to as Highfield, but the name was changed to *Caringbah* with the opening of the Post Office in 1912.

According to information sourced around 1967 from the PMG Historical Section by a member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society: *following a decision to establish a postal service at Highfield in 1912 (until then regarded as part of Miranda), postal authorities objected to the name of Highfield as well as with the alternatives of Mansfield, Bindarra and Greenbush, claiming all three were similar to other postal locations. The Acting Postal Inspector suggested the name of “Surprise” but withdrew it in favour of the proposal by the Shire Clerk (Mr. J. W. Macfarlane) to name the post office after a local street — i.e. Caringbah, for being aboriginal [sic] it was unlikely to clash with other postal centres. (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin, January 1975 — also previous article June 1967)*

It is possible that both “Caringabah/Caringbah” and “Bindarra” derive from Aboriginal words from the Coffs Harbour-Grafton area (land of the Gumbaynggirr language group). “Ku-ringbar” was recorded by the Anthropological Association of Australasia, from a list supplied by a local police officer in 1900 including “Kuringbar”, as a word used in the Nymboida region with the meaning “paddy melon” (*Science of man and journal of the Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia*, Vol 3 No 7 (22 August 1900). The term “paddy melon” was a former common-use spelling for the “pademelon” [*Thylogale sp.*], a small marsupial, generally described with the appearance of a small wallaby\*. Both the Nymboi-Binderay and Bindarri National Parks are in the Nymboida region. “Bindarri, spelt “Bindarree” had already been recorded in 1896 in the same area with the meaning “river” (*Australasian Anthropological Journal*, Vol 1 No 2 (12 September 1896).

[\* Historical research indicates “Kuringbar” is not related to the noxious plant with common name “paddy melon” (*cucumis myriocarpus*) introduced and cultivated in central and western arid areas of Australia as

food for the camels used as transport in those regions. It was not present in the eastern areas of Australia in 1900].

Part of the land which is now the suburb of Caringbah is located mainly on the eastern half of the 1000 acres originally selected by John Connell after he bought it from Gregory Blaxland, on 1 October 1816. Blaxland had a future grant of that size promised by Governor Macquarie in 1814 to recognise his participation in the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. Although Blaxland's name appears for many years on early maps of the parish of Sutherland, he never actually selected the site, leaving it in Connell's hands to do so (*Royal Australian Historical Society's Journal and Proceedings*, Vol. XXIV, Part II pp.152-4). Connell established his "Old Farm" on the 1000 acres. On Connell's death, it passed to his heir Elias Laycock, who sold it to Archibald Allardice in 1852, but after Allardice had financial problems in 1855 it was purchased by Elias Laycock's brother, John Connell Laycock, who held large areas of the pre-Shire until he also entered financial straits, and his lands were bought at auction by Thomas Holt for his *South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate* on 14 August 1861 (Land & Property Information historical records and Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*, pp.99-101).. In Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, the part of the "Old Farm" and land to its south was recorded as the northern part of "Ewey Bay Paddocks", while the northernmost land to its east was "Shell Point Paddock", south of which was the northern-western part of the "Woolloowara Bay Paddocks".

Subdivisions of the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" as leased farms began in the area in 1893, when sales of leaseholds in the "Highfield Subdivision" were reported (*Evening News*, 20 May 1893, p.6).

Sutherland Shire Council refers to a "Village of Caringbah" as early as 1917 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 162 of 14 September 1917 folio 5216), however the official proclamation of the village did not occur until 1921 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 3 of 7 January 1921 folios 43-44), but was re-proclaimed several times until 1933 (*NSW Government Gazettes* No 47 of 4 April 1924 folio 1837 & No 6 of 9 January 1925 folio 177 & No 136 of 23 September 1927 folios 4603-4 & No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7), by which time it extended from Box Road and Woolloowara Bay on the north to Burraneer Bay Road on the south and from Taren/Taren Point Roads on the west to Woolloowara road on the east. Part of its eastern extent was later included in Woolloowara and it also later extended further westerly taking part of Miranda.

The suburb name was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7. In 2008, the southern part was renamed and became the Suburb of *Caringbah South*.

Ref: Village of Caringbah 7 January 1921, re-proclaimed 4 April 1924, 9 January 1925, 23 September 1927 and 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 22 June 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## CARINGBAH SOUTH

A new Suburb created from the southern part of the suburb of Caringbah by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142 – see also CARINGBAH.

The area which is now *Caringbah South* is largely located on land purchased by Thomas Holt, on 31 December 1862, after it was unsold at the Crown land auction of 17 January 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folio 3301-5). All of that land became part of Holt's "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate" (Land & Property Information historical land records). In Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, the land recorded as the southern part of "Ewey Bay Paddocks", and south-western part of the "Woolloowara Bay Paddocks."

There was also an area rather confusingly described in Walker's Report as "Doland's — 40 Acres, on the East Side of Doland's" (Doland is a misspelling of Dolan). The 40 acres was originally purchased by

John Connell Laycock at the Crown land auction of 17 January 1856, and was sold to Thomas Holt in 1861. As it was isolated from the main part of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate,” Holt had no use for it and sold it to Charles York in 1873, and a later owner subdivided it as the “Fernleigh Estate” in 1905 (Land & Property Information historic title information and various histories).

Subdivisions of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” as leased farms began in the area in 1893, when sales of leaseholds in the “Highfield Subdivision” were reported (*Evening News*, 20 May 1893, p.6).

The remainder of what is now Caringbah South is on land originally purchased by Patrick Dolan at the Crown land auction on 17 January 1856, later, after the death of his son and heir Dominick Dolan, was subdivided by the executors and sold as a number of smaller farms from around 1888 (Land & Property Information historical land records).

Ref: GNB Suburb 18 January 2008

## COMO

Originally Crown land for auction on 17 January 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5), but remained unsold until purchased on 31 December 1862 by Thomas Holt as part of his “South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate”. In Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* it is described as the “Double Bay Paddocks” (Double Bay is now Carina Bay and Scylla Bay).

With the start of construction of the Illawarra railway just on the south of Georges River in late 1882, a small settlement commenced, composed mainly of railway workers and was known variously as “Woniora” or “Worinora” or “Woronora”. James Murphy, in his capacity as manager of the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company suggested the area should be named “Como”, after Lake Como in Italy, as he considered that it had similar scenery (Lawrence, *A Pictorial History of Sutherland Shire*, Kingsclear 1997, p.35). After a post office was approved at Hanley’s “Woronora Hotel” on 23 April 1883, James Murphy on behalf of the Company, on 24 April 1883, wrote to the Postal Inspector: ‘*with regard to the choice of a name for the new post office at the Railway Crossing, Georges River, I have now to say we would like to have it named “Como”*’. The Post Master General approved the name on 26 April 1883 (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin, May 1997, referencing “Australian Archives Office, Series SP32 Accession 1, Post Office, Como, 1883-1917”). The name “Como” was in use for the locality by mid-1883 (Freeman’s Journal, 14 July 1883, p.19).

*Como* was originally applied to all the areas accessed from Como railway station, including parts of what are now Illawong, Oyster Bay, Kareela and Jannali, but the boundaries were much reduced after the “Village of Como” was proclaimed in 1922 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 75 of 5 May 1922 folio 2627) and later amended in 1933 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7). It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

Ref: Village of Como 5 May 1922 & 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## CRONULLA

When Surveyor Robert Dixon arrived in the Cronulla area in 1827, he recorded the name of the expansive beach as “Cronulla Beach”. The maps that followed in 1834 & 1835 (Surveyor-General Mitchell) and 1840 (Surveyor Wells) used the same spelling (National Library historical maps collection).

How and when the spelling “Kurranulla” came to be used is not currently known, however newspaper reports of a shipwreck in 1852 along Cronulla Beach refer to the beach as “Cooranulla Beach” (*Sydney*

*Morning Herald*, 30 June 1852 p. 2), and a letter to the *Evening News* (Sydney) in 1922 reported that 60 years earlier the local Aboriginal people pronounced Cronulla as “Cooranulla” (*Evening News*, 28 August 1922 p.4). In 1892 “Kurranulla Beach” is referred to extensively in an article in *The Illustrated Sydney News*, 18 June 1892, p.5.

Amid all these variations in the name, Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* has the spelling “Krenulla Beach”.

In 1890 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 145 of 14 March 1890 folio 2311), a Government notice shows the name of present day Kingsway as “Cronulla Beach Road”, however from 1898 to 1916 all known plans show it as “Kurranulla Road” or “Kurranulla Beach Road”. Also from 1899 through to 1952, present day Cronulla Street was most of the time called “Curranulla Street” (Land & Property Information historical plans).

In 1900 “Koorunnulla” was recorded by the Anthropological Association of Australasia as the name for Cronulla Beach, with the word “Kurranulla” included separately as meaning “a small pink coloured sea shell” (transcripts held by NSW State Library).

The exact circumstances via which the meaning “little pink shells” (or similar) became associated with the name Cronulla, or what the source of that translation was, is not currently known, however the available evidence supports the assumption that when Dixon recorded the name “Cronulla”, he was recording the local Aboriginal name for the area.

The majority of the land which is now the northern part of the suburb of Cronulla was a grant of land to John Connell on 28 May 1842 which was bounded in today’s terms by (on north) Bate Bay Road; (on west) Woollooware Road; (on south) Burraneer Bay Road and its prolongation to Cronulla Beach (excepting that part in Gunnamatta Bay); thence along the coastline to the prolongation of Bate Bay Road. John Connell called his property “Duck Pond” on his deed of grant, but when the property, after passing to his heir John Connell Laycock, who had debt problems, was sold to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861, it was simply described as “Connell’s 520 acres”. Walker in his 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* indicated that the 520 acres comprised the “Duck Ponds Paddocks”, “Gunnamatta Bay Paddock”, and “Reserve Paddock”. The last of these was adjacent to the Crown Reserve (now the peninsular part of Cronulla but locally known as South Cronulla) which had been reserved in 1861, but was eventually subdivided and sold at Crown land auctions commencing on 11 September 1895 as ‘suburban lands’ including the “Village of Gunnamatta”, which was proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 941 of 25 November 1899 folio 8893.

In the late 1800s, as the area within the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” became a popular destination for visitors, it was generally referred to as being at “Cronulla Beach” in various newspaper reports. Subdivisions for sale of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” lands began in early 1904, following the sale of the Crown lands in the peninsular area. As early as 1901, the location was being referred to as the “Village of Cronulla” (*The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser*, 5 October 1901, p.881), which name was used by the Sutherland Shire Council soon after was formed in late 1906, referring to the subdivided areas south of Woronora Road (present day Kingsway) including the peninsula as the “Village of Cronulla” (*NSW Government Gazette* No 68 of 5 June 1907 folio 3063) leading to the former Village of Gunnamatta being officially renamed as Village of Cronulla by the Department of Lands on 26 February 1908.

The “Town of Cronulla” was proclaimed in 1931 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 141 of 23 October 1931 folio 3636). The boundaries included most of the current suburb but extended westerly at the time to Woollooware Road, however that westernmost part was later included in Woollooware. It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

## DOLANS BAY

Named after the waterway Dolans Bay, which itself was named after Patrick Dolan who purchased approximately 286 acres adjoining that bay on 17 January 1856 and possibly also after his son Dominick Dolan who purchased the adjoining land at the head of Burraneer Bay in 1865 (see BURRANEER).

Only part of the suburb is on the land that was owned by Patrick Dolan. The remainder is on land that remained unsold at the Crown land auctions on 17 January 1856 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folio 3301-5), but purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862 as part of his "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate" (Land & Property Information historical land records). It was described by Walker in his 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* as "Tyreel Point Paddocks."

By 1909, subdivisions in the area were being shown as at "Port Hacking", and in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 the "Village of Port Hacking" was proclaimed for the whole area south of Burraneer Bay Road between Ewey Bay and Woolooware Road. The first known recording of Dolans Bay for the waterway is on a subdivision plan registered in November 1909 as "Dolan's Bay part of Burraneer Bay" (Land & Property Information historical plans). The use of the name for the area as Dolans Bay began in 1911 in newspaper advertisements for sale of land and there continued to be many references in newspapers to Dolans Bay as an address location.

It is of note that Dolans Road, also named after Patrick and/or Dominick Dolan, dates much earlier than the location name, being shown on subdivision plans as early as 1889.

The status of Dolans Bay as a suburb was confirmed by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7 when it was adopted as a geographical name. Its boundaries were altered in January 2008, but amended in July 2009 when the boundaries of the suburb of Port Hacking were re-notified.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008 as amended 10 July 2009.

## ENGADINE

*Engadine* was named after the Engadine district in Switzerland, which had similar hills and valleys and many wildflowers. Pioneering landholder Charles McAlister and his wife Christina had bought land in the Village of Heathcote, on the south-west side of Old Illawarra Road (now Woronora Road) at a Crown land auction on 7 May 1887 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 87 of 14 February 1887 folios 1055-6). Following a trip to Europe from which they returned in 1910, and during which they had seen that Swiss district, the McAlisters renamed their property the "Engadine Estate".

Part of the area which is now Engadine had previously been temporarily reserved by the NSW Government in 1874 pending selection of Railway Line and other public purposes (*NSW Government Gazette* No 1 of 2 January 1874 folio 7) and a reserve for water supply for Sydney and Suburbs (*NSW Government Gazette* No 60 of 23 February 1876 folio 816, revoked in No 365 of 3 July 1886 folio 4460), but these have ceased to have any effect.

Part of the land to the northwest of the McAlister property was until 1903 part of the National Park, dedicated in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4 & No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6, but the part on the generally western side of the Illawarra railway line was revoked by the State Government and became part of the Suburban Lands of Heathcote (*NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folios 6293-4).

A Crown land subdivision, bounded by Old Illawarra Road (later Woronora Road), an unnamed road (later Anzac Avenue) and the railway, was advertised for auction on 10 March 1910 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 14 of 27 January 1910 folio 599-600). The fourth edition of the Heathcote parish map carried a notation with a 1910 file reference that it was to be known as "The Engadine." It is of note that the McAlisters purchased land within that subdivision.

In July 1910, Sutherland Shire Council applied to the Lands Department for allocation of a school site at "The Engadine", a new township near Heathcote (*St George Call*, 30 July 1910, p.4). When the railway station was built and opened in 1920, after strong representation to the Government from the Engadine Platform Group, (the by then widowed) Christina McAlister, the major landholder in the area and largest private contributor to the cost of the station, was allowed to nominate its name as Engadine.

The Village of Engadine was notified in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7, which had its northern boundary along Anzac Avenue. As the area to the north was subdivided it was generally known as North Engadine, until renamed as the suburbs of Yarrawarrah and Woronora Heights. It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

[sourced from several histories of the area, including McKinley and Hewitt, *Sutherland Shire: some early residents* and Walker, *Two Hundred Years in Retrospect: Kurnell-Cronulla 1770-1970*]

Ref: Village of Engadine 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## GRAYS POINT

The actual reason for the name Grays Point has never been determined, however over the years two theories have emerged, the first of which is the most likely origin of the name.

THEORY 1: named after Samuel William Gray

Most of the land in the present day suburb of Grays Point was part of the "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate" of Thomas Holt, which he purchased from Crown land subdivisions which failed to sell at public auctions of Crown land on 31 May 1864 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* 98 of 30 April 1864 pp.1089-1094) and 1 March 1867 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 53 of 28/March 1867 folios 823-831), including land between the North West Arm of Port Hacking and the main channel of Port Hacking.

For some reason, Holt in his purchases of land on 25 March 1875 (Land & Property Information title records) did not include the land south of a line which in today's terms joined the intersection of Swallow Rock Drive and Cormorant Street to the eastern extremity of Mansion Point Road on North West Arm. That land, which had been originally advertised for sale by auction on 31 May 1864, was purchased by Samuel William Gray on 1 July 1878, along with other land in the area not purchased by Thomas Holt (Land & Property Information title records).

The location later known as Grays Point was therefore a point of land owned in the 1870s-1880s by Samuel Gray to the south of the boundary of the "Holt-Sutherland Estate".

Gray, who never lived on the land, held it as an investment and sold it on 8 March 1889 (Land & Property Information title records). It passed through the hands of a couple other owners, before being advertised for private auction on 4 February 1902 as a subdivision of 11 choice water frontage blocks, Gray's Point, Port Hacking (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 December 1901, p.15). No previous mention has been found of the name Grays Point.

THEORY 2: named after National Park Ranger John Gray (Jack "Spike" Gray)

As far as can be ascertained this comes from oral or family history and is based on Gray's 30-year long service record at the National Park (1898 to 1928). He lived mainly at a cottage at Gundamaian, where his ashes at his request were buried at Point Danger on the opposite side of Port Hacking from Grays Point (various refs in Carrick, *History of Royal National Park 1879-2013*).

What seems to cast doubt on that possibility is that John Gray only moved from his initial work as a labourer at Audley to the cottage at Gundamaian (then called Deer Park) in 1899, only a maximum of 2 years before the auction plan referenced above referred to the location of Gray's Point on the opposite side of Port Hacking.

Ref: GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008, and GNB Point 4 May 1973

## GREENHILLS BEACH

This is Sutherland Shire's newest suburb (formerly part of Kurnell). After extensive public consultation the Geographical Names Board in July 2011 named it after "Green Hills" which was the name given to this area on a map of the Kurnell Peninsula drawn by Myles Dunphy, and which was also recorded on the 1951 Parish map of Sutherland.

The suburb is located partly on land originally purchased by John Connell Laycock (John Connell's grandson) at a Crown land auction on 10 March 1858 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 19 of 4 February 1858 folios 197-8) and subsequently sold to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861; the remainder being land purchased by Thomas Holt at a Crown land auction on 15 February 1864 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 8 of 12 January 1864 folios 69-74). All of the land became part of Holt's "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate" (Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*, p.99). It is described in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* as within the "Sandy Flat Paddock".

The land originally contained large sandhills which were levelled over the years by sand mining. The only development of the land for many years was the establishment of Cronulla High School in 1961. The naming of the suburb in *NSW Government Gazette* No 76 of 22 July 2011 folio 5065 was in conjunction with the residential development of the remainder of the area.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 July 2011

## GYMEA

Around 1854, the Crown land authorities decided to proceed with subdividing all the remaining unallocated Crown land in the parish of Sutherland and accordingly sent Government Surveyor Captain William Albert Braylesford Greaves to the Port Hacking district, where land could be had for £1 an acre (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 January 1922, p.12). As well as the surveys later being added to the undated Parish of Sutherland map available at the time, some additional feature names — GyMEA Bay, Turriell Bay, Double Bay, North-West Arm and Gwawley Creek — were included (Land & Property Information historical maps). These names were likely obtained in the local area by Greaves.

Writing in 1924, noted Shire historian Frank Cridland seemed quite certain that the word "GyMEA" was recorded by Greaves: *GyMEA, the next bay above Yowie, was named by the veteran W. A. B Greaves in 1855, he then being a Government surveyor. GyMEA is the aboriginal name of the giant lily that still flourishes in the surrounding country* (Cridland, *The Story of Port Hacking Cronulla and Sutherland Shire*, p.53) (note: At the time of the surveys "Yowie Bay" was actually recorded and had been mapped as "Ewey Bay" for decades).

The first mention of GyMEA as a locality was in the advertisements for a number of parcels of Crown land to be auctioned at the Crown land sales on 13 March 1856, which were described as being at the "GyMEA Ground" (*NSW Government Gazette* No 21 of 7 February 1856 folios 411-3). This was a

rectangular area bounded (in today's terms) by Eton Street, Sutherland on the west; The Boulevard on the north; Sylvania Road on the east; and around halfway between President Avenue and Forest Road on the south. Most of the current Suburb of GyMEA lies in the eastern half of that rectangle. The land remained unsold at the Crown land auction, but was on 31 December 1862 purchased by Thomas Holt as part of his "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate". Significantly, R C Walker in his *Report on the Sutherland Estate* dated 14 April 1868, stated: *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.* The south-west part of GyMEA along Dent's Creek was described by Walker as "Free Selection Land – North West Arm," included in a Crown land auction of 1 May 1867 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 53 of 28 March 1867 folios 823-31) but remained unsold, until bought by Thomas Holt on 25 March 1875.

GyMEA first came to notice as a separate suburb, north of Forest Road, when the railway station opened in December 1939. It was never a defined village as was GyMEA Bay. It was confirmed as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7.

In 1890 Richard Hill, referring to the region west of Yowie Bay, wrote: *further on the 'Goomea', gigantic lily, is to be found in great abundance,* (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1890, p.5, under "Aboriginal Names"). This suggests that Hill was aware that what we now call "the GyMEA lily" grew in the area that he refers to, and he was also aware of an Aboriginal name for the lily. Given that Walker had already written of the "GyMEA or Gigantic Lilly" in 1868, it seems that the Aboriginal name for the lily was known in the area prior to 1868, and likely to have been the source for the names "GyMEA Ground" and "GyMEA Bay" in 1856.

While it has not been confirmed that "GyMEA" derives directly from a word in the local Dharawal Aboriginal language, it appears that it is from an Aboriginal word referring to the GyMEA Lily (botanical name *Doryanthes excelsa*).

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## GYMEA BAY

Around 1854, the Crown land authorities decided to proceed with subdividing all the remaining unallocated Crown land in the parish of Sutherland and accordingly sent Government Surveyor Captain William Albert Braylesford Greaves to the Port Hacking district, where land could be had for £1 an acre (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 January 1922, p.12). As well as the surveys later being added to the undated Parish of Sutherland map available at the time, some additional feature names — GyMEA Bay, Turriell Bay, Double Bay, North-West Arm and Gwawley Creek — were included (Land & Property Information historical maps). These names were likely obtained in the local area by Greaves.

Writing in 1924, noted Shire historian Frank Cridland seemed quite certain that the word "GyMEA" was recorded by Greaves: *GyMEA, the next bay above Yowie, was named by the veteran W. A. B Greaves in 1855, he then being a Government surveyor. GyMEA is the aboriginal name of the giant lily that still flourishes in the surrounding country* (Cridland, *The Story of Port Hacking Cronulla and Sutherland Shire*, p.53) (note: At the time of the surveys "Yowie Bay" was actually recorded and had been mapped as "Ewey Bay" for decades).

The first mention of the waterway GyMEA Bay is in the advertisements for a number of parcels of Crown land to be auctioned at the Crown land sales on 17 January 1856 and 13 March 1856 (*NSW Government Gazettes* No 175 of 17/12/1855 fold 3301-5 & No 21 of 7 February 1856 folios 411-3), which refers to a number of parcels as being bounded partly by GyMEA Bay. The land remained unsold at the Crown land auctions but was on 31 December 1862 purchased by Thomas Holt as part of his "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate". In his *Report on the Sutherland Estate* by R C Walker dated 14 April 1868, he refers

to the general area which is now the suburb as “Gymea Bay Nos 1 & 2 Paddocks”, “Dents Creek Paddock” and “North West Arm Paddock”.

The name for the locality appears to have been in use soon after the Sutherland Shire Council was formed in late 1906. A report in June 1909 refers to a property at Gymea Bay (St George Call, 5 June 1909, p.4). The “Village of Gymea Bay” was proclaimed *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 over most of the current suburb, although part of Miranda is now in Gymea Bay. It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

In 1890 Richard Hill, referring to the region west of Yowie Bay, wrote: “*further on the ‘Goomea’, gigantic lily, is to be found in great abundance*”, (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1890, p.5, under “Aboriginal Names”). This suggests that Hill was aware that what we now call “the Gymea lily” grew in the area that he refers to, and he was also aware of an Aboriginal name for the lily. Given that Walker in his *Report on the Sutherland Estate* in 1868 had written of the “Gymea or Gigantic Lilly”, it seems that the Aboriginal name for the lily was known in the area prior to 1868, and likely to have been the source for the names “Gymea Ground” and “Gymea Bay” in 1856.

While it has not been confirmed that “Gymea” derives directly from a word in the local Dharawal Aboriginal language, it appears that it is from an Aboriginal word referring to the Gymea Lily (botanical name *Doryanthes excelsa*).

Ref: Village of Gymea Bay 17 November 1933 - GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## HEATHCOTE

Heathcote was selected by Surveyor-General Mitchell as the name of the parish which contains the suburb of Heathcote. The formal notification of the “Parish of Heathcote” was published in *NSW Government Gazette* No 168 of 23 May 1835 folios 331-344, which notice divided the County of Cumberland into Hundreds and Parishes

A definite source for the name “Heathcote” has not been confirmed. One reference states: *the Parish of Heathcote was probably named after a fellow-officer who served with Mitchell in the Peninsular Wars Campaign 1809-1914; but which one is not known, as there were two senior officers of that name, viz. Deputy Asst. Quarter-Master-General Ralph Heathcote (mentioned in despatches); and Asst. Surgeon Godfrey Heathcote, who also served throughout the campaign* (Hutton-Neve, *Bygone Days of Sutherland Shire*, p.19). This could possibly accord with Mitchell’s naming of the adjoining Parish of Eckersley which was also possibly named after someone who served with him in the Peninsular War. However, it would seem that, lacking verification, the origin of the name remains in doubt.

The village located in the parish was originally called “Bottle Forest”. It was surveyed in 1843 in conjunction with the survey of the original route of the Sydney to Illawarra road (now forming part of the Princes Highway) (Hutton-Neve, *Bygone Days of Sutherland Shire*, p.37) and by notice in *NSW Government Gazette* No 202 of 19 May 1882 folio 2797 was split by land taken from it for the Illawarra railway corridor.

The “Village of Heathcote” to the west of the railway was originally notified in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 365 of 3 July 1886 folio 4467 & No 580 of 9 October 1886 folio 6903.

Revocation of parts of the National Park (dedicated in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4 & No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6) on the west of the railway line in *NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folios 6293-4 extended the “suburban lands of the Village of Heathcote” to the north, west and south, and incorporated *Bottle Forest, the name of which faded into obscurity* (Hutton-Neve, *Bygone Days of Sutherland Shire*, p.27).

The section of the former “Village of Bottle Forest” east of the railway has for many years had local name of “East Heathcote”.

The boundaries of the enlarged “Village of Heathcote” were formalized in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7. It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

The general locality around “Bottle Forest” is said to have had the Aboriginal name “Nannunggurrung” (as reported by Richard Hill in 1892 in his paper “Notes on the Aborigines of New South Wales”). The nearby creek now known as Heathcote Brook is labelled “Nuningerong” on Surveyor Wells’ map circa 1874 (National Library historic maps collection).

After the subdivision of the “Village of Heathcote” in 1886, much of the remainder now in the suburb of Heathcote was allocated to mining permits and mineral leases, until that area was reserved in *NSW Government Gazette* No 69 of 6 July 1945 folio 1186, when it was known as “Heathcote Primitive Area”, now Heathcote National Park.

Ref: Civil Parish of Heathcote 23 May 1835; Village of Heathcote 3 July & 9 October 1886; 26 August 1903; and 17 November 1933 – GNB Parish 19 March 1976; Suburb 04 May 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## HOLSWORTHY

Holsworthy was named in 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie after a quiet village in Devon, England where married his second wife in 1807. It referred at that time to a small community which had emerged at what was then the navigable head of the Georges River. The Parish of Holsworthy proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 168 of 23 May 1835 folios 331-344 extended the name over settlement areas south to the Parish of Eckersley and east to the Woronora River. On early maps and gazettal notices the name was often shown incorrectly as “Holdsworthy”. In 1910, Lord Kitchener, on a visit to Australia advising on military matters, went to Liverpool and declared Holsworthy as the site for a permanent Army encampment, and the Army took possession in 1913 when the Commonwealth acquired any private property land and in 1914 when the NSW Government reserved any Crown land for military purposes. The original name of Holsworthy was retained for the military establishment (Geographical Names Board website).

The only privately-owned in the part of Holsworthy in Sutherland Shire prior to the acquisition by the Commonwealth was the western part of the land allocated by Governor’s promise of 27 August 1823 to David Duncomb, to whom it was granted on 19 October 1831. Duncomb named his property “Retreat”, however it was more familiarly known by a later name of “Little Forest” (Land & Property Information historical title records). Duncomb cleared timber from part of the property and ran a herd of cattle (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 22 October 1829, p.3) but arranged to sell it in 1835 (Land & Property Information historic land titles), the farm remaining intact through subsequent owners until the acquisition by the Commonwealth in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No 16 of 7 March 1913 folios 535-7. All of the other land in the suburb of Holsworthy was Crown land which was reserved for military purposes in *NSW Government Gazette* No 59 of 1 April 1914 folios 2115-6.

The Holsworthy military area was for administrative purposes recognized as separate Suburb within Sutherland Shire by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Suburb 18 January 2008

## ILLAWONG

The first land selected in the area which is now Illawong was 30 acres in the Parish of Holsworthy straddling the Sydney to Illawarra Road (now Old Ferry Road) on the southern bank of Georges River at the ferry crossing. It was purchased from a Crown land auction on 4 September 1850 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 95 of 6 August 1850 folios 1174-9) by Surveyor-General Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell, who had also supervised the building of the road in 1842. Mitchell apparently never lived on that land and it passed to other owners until subdivided in 1914. (Land & Property Information historical land records)

The first development, in the easternmost part of the peninsula, was the Crown subdivision auctioned on 19 March 1887 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 23 of 12 January 1887 folios 271-281) which became known as part of nearby Como, as it was accessed from the Como railway station by boat across Georges and Woronora Rivers. The only land access was by the ferry crossing of Georges River on the Sydney-Illawarra Road, thence across Crown land. The landholders decided a few years later that they would be better served by being included in the Hurstville Municipal Council area. Accordingly they petitioned the Governor in late 1894, and were successful, with the area which is most of present-day Illawong becoming the Como Ward of Hurstville Municipal Council. In 1900 the ward boundaries were altered and it became part of Peakhurst Ward. This area was transferred to Sutherland Shire in 1922 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 118 of 4 August 1922 folios 4338-40), when it became part of Menai, although referred to locally as either “Bottle and Glass Point” or “East Menai”.

In 1960 it was proposed to name the new public school as the “Bottle and Glass Point Public School”, however it was considered locally that name was unsuitable. A submission was made to Sutherland Shire Council by the Bottle and Glass Progress Association for a name change of the area to Illawong, being thought to be an Aboriginal language word which could describe its location on the peninsula between Georges River and Woronora River. The name change was approved by the Council on 13 June 1961 (Land & Property Information historical land records, Council records and Illawong Public School publication *Illawong: A Place of History*).

The selected name appears to have derived from a list of Aboriginal language names and attributed meanings published in the early 1950s, which did not supply a reference to the source, but indicated the meaning of Illawong was “view of the water” (either Sugden, J.H., *Aboriginal Words and Their Meanings*, Sydney 1950-55; or McCarthy, F.D., *New South Wales Aboriginal Place Names and Euphonious Words, with their Meanings*, Australian Museum, 1952).

“Illawong” appears to be a composite Aboriginal language word. The first part of the word, “illa-”, was noted in 1929 with the meaning “near the sea,” in the Wodi Wodi language of the Thurrawal [Dharawal] people whose territory stretched from Botany Bay to Jervis Bay (Morton, P.H., “New Light: Aboriginal Place Names” in *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 February 1929, p.16). No specific meaning has been found for the suffix “-wong.”

Illawong was first adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 145 of 23 November 1973 folio 5052, but changed to a locality name (ie. “neighbourhood”) in *NSW Government Gazette* No 31 of 5 March 1976 folio 1022, then reinstated as a suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: Petition 21 January 1895, Annexed to Hurstville 12 July 1895, Ward change 13 August 1900, Annexed to Shire 4 August 1922 – GNB Suburb 23 November 1973, Neighbourhood 5 March 1976, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## JANNALI

In conjunction with the construction of a new railway station on the Illawarra line (opened in 1931), the Village of Jannali was proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 113 of 19 August 1927 folio 4072, amended in *NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 4 November 1927 folio 5204 and bounded in today's

terms on the north by Bindea Street and Pavia Road; on the east by Wattle Road; on the south by The Boulevard and Sumner Street; and on the west by Sutherland and Soldiers Roads.

Amended boundaries in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folio 4045-7 extended the village westerly to the Woronora River. It included a reserved Crown Land area (*NSW Government Gazette* No 29 of 15 January 1886 folio 312) which, in conjunction with naming of the Village in 1927, was called “Jannali Park” and this name was printed on some old maps, and in some gazettals, but it became referred to generally as “Jannali Reserve” (since 13 December 2003 most of the residue of that reserve is now Burnum Burnum Sanctuary). The area known as “Jannali” later extended further to the east, taking that area from Como, but in 1969, its north-west area was renamed as Bonnet Bay. It was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

The central and eastern parts of the current suburb of Jannali are located on land which was originally advertised for sale in Crown land auction in 1856 but failed to sell. The eastern part was purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862 as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate and in Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, was part of the “Double Bay Paddocks”, later regarded as part of Como.

The central area through which the Illawarra railway line traversed only a few years later was purchased by Samuel William Gray on 7 August 1882. He sold the block around the later site of Jannali Railway station to The Intercolonial Investment and Building Company on 2 May 1886. That company subdivided the land on the western side of the railway as Queens Jubilee Township, Como which it began to advertise for sale in April 1887 (SMH 16 Apr 1887, p.21).and in October 1900 subdivided the land on east of the railway as the Woronora Estate.

The name “Jannali” as an Aboriginal language word meaning “The moon” was included in a list provided in 1899 by the Hon. George Thornton which did not appear to specify the location from which it was sourced (*Science of Man and journal of the Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia*, Vol 2 No 11, 21 December 1899, p.210). A list provided by the Department of Mines in 1901 gives the same attributed meaning and indicates that it comes from “Port Jackson District” (*Science of Man and journal of the Royal Anthropological Society of Australasia*, Vol 4 No 11, 27 December 1901, p.191), however that could be a misreading of the Thornton listing in 1899 which directly followed another list, also by Thornton, headed “Aboriginal Names of Places at Port Jackson and along the coast.”

The name “Jannali” later appears in various books of Aboriginal words and their meanings published in the early- to mid-1900s, none of which give the source of the word or the source of its meaning. For example in FD McCarthy’s 1952 compilation “New South Wales Aboriginal place names and euphonious words, with their meanings”, it simply states “Jannali . . . Moon”.

In the Macquarie Aboriginal Words book, the Sydney area Aboriginal word for moon is given as “yanada”, and in George Thornton’s Notes on the Aborigines of NSW (1892), the Sydney area word is given as “yanala”. By contrast one of the various versions of Illawarra and south coast Aboriginal words for moon is “gudjung” (Mickey Munnima, Illawarra, 1863, see “Illawarra and South Coast Aborigines 1770-1900”, Michael Organ, 1993.)

On balance, the word Jannali appears to be an alternative spelling for the Sydney Area Aboriginal word for the moon.

Ref: Gazettal of Village 19 August 1927, 4 November 1927, and 17 November 1933 -- GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008 and 1 August 2008)

## KANGAROO POINT

While it is known from various newspaper reports in the 1800s that kangaroos were hunted for food and skins in the general area around Georges River, no verifiable reason has been found for the name of this particular location.

The earliest recording found of the name *Kangaroo Point* is on undated parish maps which appear to have been drawn up around the time of the first major surveys for auctions of Crown Land in the parish of Sutherland planned from 1854 onwards. However, whilst other localities on those parish maps appear in the descriptions of the available Crown land, the name “Kangaroo Point” is not mentioned when the land was purchased by John Connell Laycock at a Crown land auction on 24 January 1855 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50), being described simply as located on the southern bank of the Georges River and west of Oyster Bay.

In an article published in the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin* of August 2005, the writer of that article recalls having seen a hand-written letter dated October 1860 to the Under Secretary for Lands suggesting “Kangaroo Point” as a possible site for a punt crossing of Georges River, and a reference found in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Friday 8 July 1864 p.6 refers to a herd of 311 sheep belonging to Thomas Holt in pasture at “Kangaroo Point, Georges River”, and in Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, he describes the “Kangaroo Point Paddock” at that location

The original purchaser, John Connell Laycock later had debt problems, the land being sold to Thomas Holt in 14 August 1861, when it was simply described as one of *Five Farms, adjoining the Castle Connell estate, with large water frontage*. It became part of Holt’s South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate. In 1900, after the Holt-Sutherland Estate lands could be released for sale to individual landholders, subdivisions began on the northern side of Tara Street. (Land & property Information historic titles and plans; also Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*; p.102)

*Kangaroo Point* was adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7.

An Aboriginal language word “kangaroo” was recorded by Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook in 1770, when beached for repairs in the far north of what is now Queensland, apparently asked the local Aboriginal people for the name of a hopping creature he had seen in that area. On the return of Cook’s party to England, the name of this “unusual creature” became widely known. The botanist Joseph Banks later provided a list of “the New Holland language” words to Governor Arthur Phillip — a list including “kangaroo” — that Phillip had in his possession when his fleet of ships arrived in 1788 to set up the new Colony, and the Europeans used that word as a generic reference to all “kangaroos”, even though the local Aboriginal languages had a number its own words (The *Oxford Dictionaries* web site and other general references). The word “kangaroo” has developed into an internationally recognised word, and a kangaroo is incorporated into the Australian coat-of-arms.

A correspondent, familiar with various Aboriginal languages of Queensland, in 1890 questioned whether the name recorded by Cook did refer to the whole animal:

*There is no tribe of Australian blacks who use “kangaroo” for the animal so long supposed to represent that name. Cook obtained the word from the Endeavour River blacks at Cooktown in reply to an enquiry for the name they gave to a kangaroo that one of his men had shot. They neither knew a word of his language, nor did he know a word of theirs. They saw that he wanted to know something, and as the person who asked the question was holding the kangaroo’s foot in his hand at the time, the blacks gave him the name of the big toe! In the dialect of the Endeavour River blacks “kangaroo” is the name of the big toe of a man, a kangaroo, or a cassowary. They laugh at white men applying it to the animal. Their names for all kinds of kangaroos and wallabies are — minya, gnargally, galballa, gutts, walloor and choonbannoo. (A. Meston, under heading ‘Origin of the word “Kangaroo”’, the *Brisbane Courier*, 17 June 1890, p.2)*

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## KAREELA

The suburb of *Kareela* is mostly on land unsold at the Crown land auction of 17 January 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folio 3301-5), but later purchased on 31 December 1862 by Thomas Holt as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate (Land & Property Information historical land records). In Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* it is referred to as western part of the *Oyster Bay Paddocks* extending southerly into the *Double Bay Paddocks*. It was for some years regarded as part of Como from around 1882 until 17 November 1933 when the western part was included in the *Village of Oyster Bay* and the eastern part in the *Village of Sylvania*.

The part of Kareela which containing Kareela Ovals and Bates Drive Soccer Centre, originally unsold in the Crown land auctions of 17 January 1856 was notified as a Crown Reserve in *NSW Government Gazette* No 268 of 12 October 1875 folio 3202 and, although parts have been re-notified for various public purposes since that time, it has remained a Crown reserve.

Following the opening of Bates Drive in May 1962, the mostly undeveloped part of the Holt-Sutherland land to its north was first advertised by developers in August 1965 as the "Sylvanbrae Estate" (*St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 25 August 1965), and "Sylvanbrae" was considered for naming by the Council of a new suburb in that area. However, a letter was received in December 1965 from Mr. A. B Holt, a descendant of Thomas Holt, suggesting the name "Salisbury," after the area in England where Thomas Holt had lived before coming to Australia. That name was then selected as the name for the new suburb (Sutherland Shire Council records). However, the Post-Master Generals Department objected to that name as there were already areas known as "Salisbury" in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and cited that it would confuse the "electronic mail sorting system" (*St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 31 August 1966).

At a meeting at Sutherland Shire Council on 10 October 1966, it was proposed that an Aboriginal name be nominated for the Suburb. The selected name "Kallina" was forwarded to the Geographical Names Board, which sought confirmation from an authority on Aboriginal names who advised the suggested meaning was incorrect, and the Board provided an alternative of "Kalinga" (Sutherland Shire Council records and *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, May 2015).

The Council then submitted a further two names of "Willandra" and "Kareela" (*St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 2 August 1967). The suggested meaning of "Willandra" was also disputed by the same authority on Aboriginal names, however "Kareela" was accepted by the Geographical Names Board as meaning "south wind" and the approval published in *NSW Government Gazette* No 140 of 15 December 1967 folio 4804.

Recent research confirms the word "Kareela" appears as "southerly wind" on a list of Aboriginal words collected in the Berrima district in 1899 by the Anthropological Society of Australasia (transcripts held by NSW State Library).. [Note: As the suggested meanings of other names mentioned above were found to be incorrect, that information has not been included].

The name "Salisbury" was nonetheless retained for several years as the name of the Salisbury Golf Course, until changed to Kareela Golf Course in late 1978 (Sutherland Shire Council records).

Until 2008/2009, much of Kareela Golf Course, including land reclaimed from the waterway of Oyster Bay was included in *Sylvania* and *Kirrawee*, and Kareela Ovals and Bates Drive Soccer Centre were in *Kirrawee*. All of those areas are now in *Kareela*.

Ref: GNB Suburb 15/12/1967, Suburb 4/5/1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008 and 6 March 2009.

## KIRRAWEE

The name Kirrawee was adopted in 1939 with the opening of a railway station on the Sutherland-Cronulla railway line, and was assumed to be of Aboriginal origin (Sutherland Shire Council records). It

was confirmed as the suburb name by the Geographical names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7.

The northern area of Kirrawee was originally included in Crown land auctions on 13 March 1856, where it was within the area described as being at the GyMEA Ground (*NSW Government Gazette* No 21 of 7 February 1856 folios 411-3), but remained unsold until purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862 as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate. It is part of the GyMEA Ground described in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*. Walker describes the land to the south of the GyMEA Ground as "Free Selection Land – North West Arm," having been offered for sale at a Crown land auction of 31 May 1864 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94), and auction of 1 May 1867 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 53 of 28 March 1867 folios 823-31 but remained unsold, until bought by Thomas Holt on 25 March 1875.

When first subdivided in the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" in 1882 it was included in the suburban portions between townships Sylvania & Sutherland. It was from around that time regarded as part of Sutherland as it was accessed from Sutherland Railway Station.

The central southernmost part of the current suburb of Kirrawee was part of the land offered at the Crown land auction of 31 May 1864 and also remained unsold until purchased by Samuel Gray on 1 July 1878. On his death the land passed to his widow, who held the land until it defaulted to the mortgagor who sold it in January 1913.

A postal receiving office operated from the home of Mrs. Louisa Blade, from 1909 to 1915 and the locality was then known as Bladeville. In 1915 it was replaced by "a letter receiver . . . corner of Bath-road, and the main road (Bladeville)" (St. George Call, 15 May 1915 p.3 – "main road" at the time was the part of Kingsway which was renamed as Princes Highway in 1921). The postal service then again became part of Sutherland after a letter delivery commenced from the Post Office at Sutherland (McKinley & Hewitt, *Sutherland Shire – Some Early Residents*, pp.4-6) and part of the Town of Sutherland when the eastern boundary of the town was extended to Bath Road in 1925 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 77 of 5 June 1925 folio 2452), remaining as part of Sutherland until the railway station opened.

Currently there is no clear evidence as to the source of the name/word "Kirrawee" nor its meaning, nor why this name was chosen for the suburb. The word Kirrawee may relate to the word "Kirrawe" for "white cockatoo" sourced by the ethnologist R H Matthews and included in his "Vocabulary of Dharruk Words" (see Matthews' 1901 paper "The Thurawal Language") or a Sydney region Aboriginal word Garrawi attributed to key members of the First Fleet meaning "sulphur crested cockatoo" (see the "Macquarie Aboriginal Words" book), or to "karabi" or "karibi" meaning "cockatoo" recorded in 1878 in a vocabulary supplied by Mr John Rowley as "Language of the Aborigines of Georges River, Cowpasture and Appin, that is from Botany Bay, 50 miles to the south-west" (Ridley, Rev W., "Report on Australian Languages and traditions" in *Journal of Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. 2, 1878, pp. 257-91). But without any knowledge of how and why the name was chosen, this is only supposition.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008 and 6 March 2009

## KURNELL

Kurnell holds a very special place in the history of our local area, and of the nation as a whole. The site of the first significant encounter of the Aboriginal people of the east coast of Australia and explorers from the outside world, the origin of the name that we now use for the area is shrouded in a mist of unlikely co-incidence and various unreferenced claims.

The crux of the co-incidence is the similarity of the name Connell, that of an early European settler on the Kurnell peninsula, and the name Kurnell itself (not to mention the similarity of Connell and Cronulla). Richard Hill reported in 1890 that “the aboriginal name of the place where the great navigator Cook landed, is ‘Kundel’ now corrupted into ‘Colonel’”, as did George Thornton in 1892, but spelt “Kundull”. According to the recollections of a man named only as Mr. R. Longfield, who was born in 1822, and spent a large amount of his childhood at Kurnell, the Aboriginal name for the area was pronounced “Cunel”, and relates to the name of an Aboriginal man, Cundlemong who lived at Kurnell at the same time as Connell, in the early 1800s. In an interview conducted in 1905 by Mr. W. Houston, a trustee of “Captain Cook’s Landing Place” at Kurnell at the time, Mr. Longfield reported that when he was about 16 years old he had met Cundlemong (then estimated to be in his 60s) and that he had learned that the name “Cundlemong” signified that he was a “chief” of his people, and that name had been passed on to him by his predecessor [see “R Longfield interviewed by W Houston, 22nd January 1905 (Archives of Captain Cook Landing Place Trust, Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, Box 12, Item 141, Exhibit 96)].

This lends support to the claim that the Aboriginal name for the Kurnell area was “Kundel” (or similar), and that Kurnell derives from that name.

There is currently no known meaning for Kundel or similar.

The European occupation of Kurnell began with 30 acres occupied under Governor’s promise of grant to James Malone from 4 March 1811, which was transferred to and later granted to John Connell on 19 October 1831 and which he called Weeney, as it adjoined Weeney Bay.

A grant of 700 acres was made on the southern side of Botany Bay on 10 June 1815 to Captain James Birnie of Alpha Farm, originally intended as a whaling station but later developed as a farm. Alpha Farm was sold to John Connell in 1828.

Connell also received a Governor’s promise on 21 March 1821 of 300 acres, which when granted to him on 8 August 1835, he called Quibray, as it adjoined Quibray Bay, and 80 acres granted on 18 June 1835 (originally promised to T Lawrence on 31 March 1821), both on the south side of Alpha Farm, which may have been occupied from 1821, and 98 acres at Towra Point on 3 August 1844.

Further lands in the southern part of the Kurnell peninsula were purchased on 13 May 1858 by Connell’s grandson, John Connell Laycock from a Crown land auction on 10 March 1858 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 19 of 4 February 1858 folio 197-8).

All of those above properties were sold to Thomas Holt in 14 August 1861. Holt also purchased further properties, including the waterway Weeney Bay on 5 March 1860; a further 586 acres at Towra Point on 11 December 1861; Carters Island on 31 December 1862; a property at the southern end of the peninsula at a Crown land auction on 16 September 1863 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 156 of 13 August 1863 folios 1767-70; and two others also at the southern end of the peninsula on 15 February 1864 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 8 of 12 January 1864 folios 69-74).

Holt included all his purchases in his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate.

The Government retained much of the eastern side of the peninsula in *NSW Government Gazette* No 286 of 24 December 1861 folio 2747-8 as a Crown reserve, most of which (excluding the oil refinery site later revoked for that purpose in the 1950s) is now part of the Kamay-Botany Bay National Park. In *NSW Government Gazette* No 44 of 8 February 1876 folio 579 the Government also reserved the 20 chain wide reserve which is now Wanda Reserve, over coastal Crown land containing “sand hills,” and which had not been sold to Holt.

In Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, he noted six enclosed areas: Bonna Point Paddock; Boat Harbor Paddock; Donovan’s; Weeney Bay Point Paddocks; Towra; Cabbage Tree Flat Paddock;

and Sandy Flat Paddock, and that it did not include the 1861 Government reserve. He also referred to a homestead area which he originally wrote as Colonel but he crossed this out wherever it appeared and replaced it with Curnell.

The use of the name spelt as Kurnell or Kurnel appeared in various newspaper reports and Government notices from around 1873, when a tenant was required for Kurnell, a pretty Marine Residence within a few miles of Sydney (Sydney Morning Herald, 2 August 1873, p.12). It was spelt as Kurnel when a 250 acre estate was placed for tender in November 1877 (Sydney Morning Herald, 28 November 1877, p. 1, spelt Kuruel, but corrected in later advertisements). The final spelling as Kurnell was settled when most of the Sutherland Estate was leased to the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company Limited which notes in its 1882 prospectus that it included lands of the company at KURNELL (Sydney Morning Herald, 29 March 1882, p.4).

The Village of Kurnell subdivision was surveyed by August 1882, and advertisements started in September 1882 (Sydney Morning Herald, 6 September 1882, p.11). Access to the village and Captain Cook's Landing Place was generally by boat across Botany Bay. Land access to the village was by a private track through the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" lands which in 1908 was continued along Kurnell Road to Kurranulla Beach Road (later Kingsway). It took until the 1950s before a public road became available as the southern access to the village in conjunction with the development of the oil refinery.

"Holt-Sutherland Estate" land at Towra Point was subdivided as waterfront blocks and advertised for sale in late 1910 (Sunday Times, 11 December 1910, p.4), however Sutherland Shire Council placed a condition on land at Towra Point which only allowed camps to be erected there (The St George Call, 16 May 1914, p.3). An "extension" subdivision was made in late 1915 (Land and Information historical plans) but there is no record of any advertising for sale. The land was not developed and is now within the Towra Point Nature Reserve which was dedicated in *NSW Government Gazette* No 105 of 6 August 1982 folio 3574 over the former "Holt-Sutherland Estate" lands in the Towra Point peninsula and along the foreshore of Quibray Bay.

No record has been found of when the area name of Kurnell was extended down to the northern boundary of Cronulla. It could be coincident with the issue of the Cumberland County Council Planning Scheme map in 1948 which marks the area as "Kurnell Peninsula".

The suburb name of Kurnell was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folio 1644-6. In 2011, part was renamed as a new suburb of Greenhills Beach which now occupies the south-eastern part of the original suburb of Kurnell.

Ref: GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, Suburb 18 January 2008, now Suburb 22 July 2011.

## LILLI PILLI

Around 1854, the Crown land authorities decided to proceed with subdividing all the remaining unallocated Crown land in the parish of Sutherland and accordingly sent Government Surveyor Captain William Albert Braylesford Greaves to the Port Hacking district, where land could be had for £1 an acre (Sydney Morning Herald, 18 January 1922, p.12). As well as the surveys later being added to the undated Parish of Sutherland map available at the time, some additional feature names — Gynea Bay, Turriell Bay, Double Bay, North-West Arm and Gwawley Creek — were included (Land & Property Information historical maps). These names were likely obtained in the local area by Greaves. The first mention found of "Turriell Bay" is in the advertisement of Crown land for auction in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5.

A newspaper report in late 1879 refers to a "Great Tyreal Point" in Port Hacking (Sydney Morning Herald, 4 November 1879, p.6). A revised version of the Parish map issued in June 1882 not only confirms "Turriell Bay" but also shows that what we now call "Lilli Pilli Point" was originally called "Great Turriell

Point". Another parish map from the early 1900s shows "Great Turriell Point" in bold upper case with "Lilli Pilly Pt" as an alternative name underneath it (Land & Property Information historical maps).

The first mention found of the name "Lilli Pilli" for this point is in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, where he is describing the "Tyreel Point Paddocks 1 & 2" which occupy most of the peninsula, and in which he refers to another small point, called "Lilly Pilli Point", on account of the native Myrtles that grow there, in rich black soil.

The decision to alter the name of "Great Turriell Point" was likely prompted by the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" subdivision named "Lilli Pilly" registered in 11 August 1891 of land on that point, and included a road named "Lilli Pilly Point Road" (Land & Property Information historical plans).

The first European land holder in the area was Francis Mitchell who purchased 20 acres at "Port Hacking River". The name "Port Hacking River" was used in some early Government notices instead of just "Port Hacking". Mitchell bought the land at a Crown land auction on 11 March 1840 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 8 of 8 February 1840 folios 133-9) at the location later known as "Great Turriell Point", which is nowadays "Lilli Pilli Point". Probably around 1852, Mitchell sold the land to Archibald Allardice, but then Allardice had financial difficulties and in 1855 all his properties in the Parish of Sutherland were sold by the mortgagors to John Connell Laycock who himself later had debt problems with his properties sold to Thomas Holt 14 August 1861, and were included in Holt's Sutherland Estate.

Holt also purchased on 31 December 1862 the adjoining land to the north, left unsold at the Crown land auction on 17 January 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5). In Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* all the land purchased by Holt was part of the Tyreel Point Paddocks.

The first subdivision by the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" took place in August 1891 as Lilli Pilly (Estate), which subdivided the land to the high water mark of Port Hacking, however by notice in *NSW Government Gazette* No 545 of 2 June 1900 folio 4279, the Department of Lands claimed the 100 feet wide reservation from high water mark included in Mitchell's grant, which became "Lilli Pilli Point Reserve" extending around to the Crown land initially reserved in 1861 on the east of Mitchell's grant and re-declared as Crown Reserve No 135 (also later named part of "Lilli Pilli Point Reserve") in *NSW Government Gazette* No 354 of 26/6/1886 folio 4313.

Lilli Pilli was for a time part of the "Village of Port Hacking" notified in November 1933, but, as also happened with Dolans Bay, it became popularly known an address location for the residents, leading to it becoming again a separate locality.

The Geographical Names Board when it first adopted *Lilli Pilli* as a suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7 made no mention of any previous name. However In adopting "Lilli Pilli Point" in the same gazette it also discontinued "Great Turriell or Lilly Pilly Point". For some reason, on the current listing on its web site [accessed 28/4/2017] it mentions only a previous name of "Lilly Pilly Point", but lists "Great Turriell Point" in a separate entry as a "Variant". In its "Glossary of status values in the Geographical Names Register", VARIANT is defined by the Geographical Names Board as "An unofficial (sometimes formally discontinued) name. This status was originally applied to all names that were not assigned".

In regard to the origin of the place names involved, there is an interesting connection between the names Lilli Pilli and Turriell (or any of its variants) via the local Aboriginal name for the lilly pilli plant. In 1890 Richard Hill reported (in the context of Aboriginal place names) that "Tareel Point is 'Gerrale' after the well-known tree 'lilly pilli' there in abundance" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1890, p.5). In 1861, the "Catalogue of the Natural and Industrial Products of New South Wales", gives the Illawarra Aboriginal word for the lilly pilli (referred to as *Acmena elliptica*, but later changed to *Acmena smithii* then *Syzygium smithii*) as "tdjerail". In 1905 Mr. R Longfield, born c.1828, referred to "Tureel Bay" and gave the pronunciation as "tchureel" [see "R Longfield interviewed by W Housten, 22nd January 1905 (Archives of

Captain Cook Landing Place Trust, Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, Box 12, Item 141, Exhibit 96)].

So, it does appear that both the English name for the lilly pilly and the Aboriginal name for the lilly pilly were adopted for the purpose of naming what we now call Lilli Pilli, but that over time the English name replaced the Aboriginal name. How the Aboriginal name for the lilly pilly (tdjerail) originally came to be used is not known, but the evidence supports that it is a Dharawal word.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008 as amended 10 July 2009.

## LOFTUS

Named after the Governor of New South Wales from August 1879 to November 1885, His Excellency, The Right Honorable Lord Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of The Bath, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies

The appointment of Governor Loftus was shortly after the dedication of the National (now Royal National) Park which at the time had extended westerly to Woronora River and Forbes Creek (known as Port Hacking Creek at that time) (dedicated in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4 & No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6). Governor Loftus assented in 1881 to the building of the Illawarra Railway line through the National Park. The extension of the railway to Waterfall was officially opened for traffic on March 9, 1886, and included a branch line south-easterly into the National Park, terminating at a station which for most of the next few years was known as Loftus. A short platform where it branched off from the main line was known as Loftus Junction. In 1896, the terminus station was named National Park Station and Loftus Junction became Loftus, located a little south of the present railway station. The name for that general area of the National Park also became Loftus (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin, Feb 2002 "The Origins of Loftus and Loftus Village" and various references from Carrick, J. History of Royal National Park 1819-2013).

Part of the area which is now Loftus had previously been temporarily reserved by the NSW Government in 1874 pending selection of Railway Line and other public purposes (*NSW Government Gazette* No 1 of 2 January 1874 folio 7) and a reserve for water supply for Sydney and Suburbs (*NSW Government Gazette* No 60 of 23 February 1876 folio 816, revoked in No 365 of 3 July 1886 folio 4460), but these have ceased to have any effect.

In 1903 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folio 6293-4) the part of the National Park on the western side of the railway line was revoked and became part of the Suburban Lands of Heathcote. The first subdivisions of Crown land to be released were advertised for auctions to commence on 9 January 1904 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 574 of 4 November 1903 folios 8124-5) at Loftus (National Park), but thereafter usually referred to simply as Loftus.

The Village of Loftus was notified in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folio 4045-7. It extended since that time to be bounded on the west by Forbes and Fahy Creeks. The suburb name was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folio 1644-6.

Ref: Village 17 November 1933; GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## LUCAS HEIGHTS

*Lucas Heights* takes its name from the area rising to a height of above 600 feet above the location of Lucas' mill on the property of John Lucas senior, flour miller at Liverpool, granted 150 acres in 1823 at "head of unnamed stream sailing into Georges River" (ie. At the tidal limit of the Woronora River). He

built a water-driven mill for grinding corn from the Illawarra farms — small ships sailed up the coast into Botany Bay, Georges River and Woronora River. The location of that mill was confirmed by an archaeological study of the area by Pam Forbes and Greg Jackson reported in the *Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin* of February 2013. None of Lucas' land is now within the current suburb of *Lucas Heights*, but is in the part of that suburb renamed as *Barden Ridge* in 1966.

There were originally a few privately-owned parcels of land in the area which is now the suburb of Lucas Heights, however these were acquired after in 1910, Lord Kitchener, on a visit to Australia advising on military matters, went to Liverpool and declared Holsworthy as the site for a permanent Army encampment which led to all the private land being acquired by the Commonwealth in Commonwealth Gazette No 16 of 7 March 1913 folios 535-7. The Crown land was reserved for military purposes in *NSW Government Gazette* No 59 of 1 April 1914 folio 2115-6.

That private property was partly the eastern part of land allocated by Governor's promise of 27 August 1823 to David Duncomb, to whom it was granted on 19 October 1831. Duncomb named his property Retreat, however it is more familiarly known by a later name of Little Forest. Duncomb cleared timber from part of the property and ran a herd of cattle (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 22 October 1829, p.3) but arranged to sell it in 1835 (Land & Property Information historic land titles), the farm remaining intact through subsequent owners until the acquisition by the Commonwealth in Commonwealth Gazette No 16 of 7 March 1913 folios 535-7. Other land was advertised and then granted on 24 September 188 to Korff and Sheppard, followed by grants for mining purposes to a consortium of Prince, Gritten, Doyle and Anslow on 12 December 1888. The remaining properties that became privately-owned (in what was at the time part of Menai) were included in a Crown land auction of 13 December 1905 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 566 of 1 November 1905 folio 7288) where the land remained unsold, but 8 blocks were later purchased between 1907 and 1910. The Government in 1911 put a stop to further purchases in the proposed military area. All the privately-owned land, most of which was by then in the names of subsequent owners, became Commonwealth property in 1913, but was later returned to the NSW Government.

For many years a part of Menai, the name Lucas Heights is first mentioned in newspaper articles about the establishment of Australia's first nuclear reactor in 1955 and is referred to as land at Lucas Heights (Menai), when the Commonwealth Government acquired the land for the reactor site in Commonwealth Gazette No 73 of 13 December 1956 folio 3837).

In 1992 local residents voted to rename the locality/neighbourhood of Lucas Heights. In 1996 the Geographical Names Board assigned the name Barden Ridge to the area 3 kms south of Menai Town Centre. The remainder of the area known as Lucas Heights was confirmed as a suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Locality 22 February 1974, Neighbourhood 5 March 1976, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## MAIANBAR

There appears to be no published mention of the name *Maianbar* until an article by J H Want, a Fisheries Commissioner and a Trustee of the National Park in the *Sydney Mail* of 2 June 1900, pp.1295-6, under the title of "Marine Fish Hatcheries at Port Hacking," which captions a photograph with the words, "Fish Hatcheries at Maianbar, Port Hacking". The fish hatcheries remained at that site until closed in 1914.

The area which became the suburb of *Maianbar* is located on the Crown land purchase of 30 acres by George William Newcombe on 30 January 1841, subdivided by later owners as "Fishermans Bay Estate" in 1926; and the Crown land purchase of 36 acres by Marmaduke Constable on 2 December 1858, subdivided by later owners as "Sand Spit Estate," the first section released in 1923. It was generally

known by those two estate names until 1951, when Sutherland Shire Council officially named it as *Maianbar* (Kirkby papers held in Sutherland Library), reviving the name of the former fish hatcheries. The Geographical Names Board adopted the suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6, but misspelt it, which had to be corrected in *NSW Government Gazette* No 121 of 14 September 1973 folio 4092.

The word “Maianbar” appears in the book *Kamilaroi and other Australian Languages*, by Rev. William Ridley, 1875 (2nd Edition), and since the words “Gundamaian”, “Warumbul” and “Yenabilli” also occur in this book, it’s almost certain that the four localities, including the fish hatcheries, all on the southern shore of Port Hacking, were named under similar circumstances, most likely named by the Trustees of the National Park in the late 1800s/early 1900s. In the Kamilaroi language, Maianbar means “deep tank or waterhole” (see Ridley, p30), which relates very closely to Want’s descriptions of the water at the site of the fish hatchery. The traditional lands of the Kamilaroi people are roughly centred on Narrabri, 500km NNW of Sydney.

Ref: GNB Suburb 4 May 1973 erratum 14 September 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## MENAI

Suburb named after the Menai Straits in Wales, which lay between the Welsh mainland and the Isle of Anglesey, opposite Bangor. The name was selected in 1910 by the postal authorities to replace the name of the area known as Bangor in the settled areas in the parish of Holsworthy, west of Woronora River, because of confusion with Bangor in Tasmania. It retained the Welsh connection established by Owen Jones, the first permanent settler in the area in 1895, who had been instrumental in naming the area Bangor, which was his birthplace in Wales.

Owen Jones was disappointed at the decision change the name from “Bangor”. He wrote to the postmaster at Sutherland (Mr. Brigden) . . . *Am extremely sorry for having to change the name. I was first to live in the district and have the honour of naming the place . . . Now call on you to choose, I hope it will be short. I favour 1st Menai, 2nd Mona, 3rd Lugarno.* The Bangor Progress Association also referred to the postal authorities through the Sutherland postmaster a list of names: Mona, Menai, Lugarno, Flower Hill, Thorps Forest, Grass Valley, Garland, Salisbury and Elmshurst. The first name, “Mona”, was crossed off by the Postmaster at Sutherland and noted “in Queensland already”. The second name “Menai” was marked “suitable and not taken up” (*Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, July 1975, sourced from Historical Archives N.S.W. Post Office).

Jones settled on land which had been originally selected by Joshua Thorp in 1834 and later bid for by Thorp at the Crown land auctions on 14 November 1834 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 138 of 22 October 1834 folios 721-3). Thorp also occupied and apparently purchased at the same time the adjoining land on its east which had been directly allocated to David Duncomb on 26th February, 1829. Situated in a large forested area, the property became known as Thorp’s Forest, the only remnant of which came still be seen in Menai Park (now Parc Menai) (From various works by the late Fred. Midgley, noted local historian).

The first selection of land in the area was by David Duncomb, who had a reserved purchase dated 26 February for 70 acres (later recorded as portion 62 in parish of Holsworthy). From 1832 to 1834 he cleared part of the land using convict labour (*The Sydney gazette and New south Wales Advertiser*, 16 August 1832, p.2; 23 August 1832, p.2; 28 February 1833, p.1; 26 April 1834 p.4s) but then arranged for Joshua Thorp to occupy the property in 1834 (*Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, February 1978) with an option to buy the land. The purchase was not settled until late 1841, after title issued to Duncomb on 31 December 1840 (Land & Property information historic land records), even though by that time Thorp, in April 1840, had left Australia to live in New Zeealan (Thorp, “The Thorp Family” in *Ohinemuri regional History Jornal*, 8 October 1967). The trustees of Thorp’s Estate sold it to Phillip

Billingsley Walker in May 1883. After Walker's death in 1900, it was sold in July 1903 to Wilfred Nicolson, a pioneering settler in the area, in July 1903 (Land & Property Information historical title records).

Joshua Thorp had also planned to purchase the 60 acres adjoining the south-west of Duncomb's 70 acres (later portion 63 in parish of Holsworthy). After selecting the land in 1834 he failed to complete the purchase when the land was auctioned later that year. Instead it was purchased in late 1837 by John Lewis Spencer (Land and Property Information historical title records). After Spencer's death in 1856, the mortgaged property was advertised for sale (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 December 1873, p.11) and is noted later as owned by a Mr McClue (Land & Property Information historic plans). Advertised for sale after McClue's death (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1894, p.4), it was purchased by Owen Jones and his wife Julia Mary Jones, who moved onto the property in May 1895 (Midgley, *Illustrated History of Sutherland Shire: Birthplace of a Nation*, Sutherland Shire Historical Society, revised edition 1968).

Whilst Joshua Thorp only occupied the 70 acres for a few years, together with nearby properties on the Woronora River, the area became known as "Thorp's Forest". The name is still listed by the Geographical Names Board as a "Rural Place." A remnant of the forest can still be seen in the southern part of "Parc Menai."

Development of the area started soon after the Jones moved in, when the NSW Government declared the district open for homestead selection and by 1899 seven other families had taken up land and settled there (Midgley, 1964, *Menai Congregational Church Diamond Jubilee 1904-1964*)

Apart from the early land grants mentioned above and in the entries for those other suburbs, there were also lands granted along the southern side of Georges River from what is now the suburb of Sandy Point generally easterly to Mill Creek and then along the western bank of that creek, with one parcel on the eastern bank of that creek. The earliest of these was advertised in NSW Government Gazette No 350 of 15 August 1838 folios 616-620, which was taken up by Joseph Newton and granted to him on 6 July 1840; then land advertised in 1843 but not granted to Charles Wilkinson until 19 October 1853; and land advertised in 1855, taken up progressively by James Ferrier Cuthill on 12 November 1856 & 11 February 1857; Tottenham Lee Richardson on 10 October 1877 and James Thompson, John James Eaton & Francis Kilpatrick on 1 June 1878, however most passed through the hands of several owners over the following years (Land & Property Information historical title records).

By 1900 a popular picnic area was established in the area, known as "Parkesville," named after Varney Parkes, MP for Canterbury, and son of Sir Henry Parkes (Lawrence, *A Pictorial History of Sutherland Shire*, p.32). "Parkesville" operated until the start of World War 1 (although the name was retained on subsequent maps of the area).

All of the private land, with the exception of Newton's land on the eastern bank of Mill Creek, was acquired by the Commonwealth in Commonwealth Gazette No 16 of 7 March 1913 folios 535-7 for a military reserve. That land was later transferred back to the State Government and now forms part of Georges River National Park, first proclaimed as "Georges River State Recreation Area" in NSW Government Gazette No 125 of 26 September 1975 folios 3957-8

The Crown land to the south and west of those parcels was reserved for military purposes in NSW Government Gazette No 59 of 1 April 1914 folio 2115-6 and remains as Crown land. Newton's land east of Mill Creek also passed through several hands until it was subdivided from early 1986 in Alfords Point.

Over the years, much of Menai has become other suburbs, with part being renamed to Bangor, other areas changed to Illawong, Alfords Point, Barden Ridge and Lucas Heights (see the entries for those suburbs).

Menai was first adopted as the suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in NSW Government Gazette No 145 of 23 November 1973 folio 5052, but changed to a locality name ("neighbourhood") NSW

Government Gazette No 31 of 5 March 1976 folio 1022, then reinstated as a suburb name in NSW Government Gazette No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, then Neighbourhood 5 March 1976 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## MIRANDA

Named after 'Miranda', a character in the Shakespearean play 'The Tempest,' around the time that subdivisions of the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" began in the early 1880s. An extract from a letter of James Murphy dated 31 October 1921 to Mr. Chiplin, principal of Miranda Public School in 1921, indicates:

*The name Miranda was given to the locality by me as manager of the Holt Sutherland Company which I formed in 1881. It is the name of one of the female characters in Shakespeare's play 'The Tempest'. She is the daughter of Prospero, so it has a high aristocratic and literary origin. I thought it a soft, euphonious, musical and appropriate name for a beautiful place, a name easily pronounced and remembered, and, above all, with a pleasurable and, understandable meaning — the name of a good and sweet woman (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Journal, October 1973).*

According to information sourced around 1974 from the PMG Historical Section by a member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society: Prior to the establishment of a postal service at Miranda in 1892 this central area was known as:

*"Ardlin; this was the address given by Mr. J. W Macfarlane (later to be the first Shire Clerk) when he applied for the position of postmaster. Residents complained about the name, as did the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Co. Ltd. And they suggested either "Miranda" or "Kiora" (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin January 1975).*

The first use of the name "Miranda" in the Holt-Sutherland subdivisions was Miranda Road on a registered on 2 July 1892 (Land & Property Information historical records), in an area reported as "Miranda sub-division" (*Daily Telegraph*, 22 October 1892, p.6). The post office was named as "Miranda" in December 1892. The site for a public school at Miranda was resumed in NSW Government Gazette No 565 of 11 August 1893 folio 6232, after local names of "Homewood" and "Highfield," suggested by the residents in October 1892, were both rejected as "Hohnwood" (similar) and "Highfield" were already used elsewhere as school names (Kavanagh, *The Yowie Bay Story*, p.175).

First published mention found of a "Village of Miranda" was by Sutherland Shire Council in NSW Government Gazette No 24 of 22 February 1911 folio 1115, and several subsequent notices, however, the formal notification of "Village of Miranda" was not proclaimed until NSW Government Gazette No 3 of 7 January 1921 folios 43-44, when it was bounded by The Boulevarde, Taren Point & Taren Roads, President Avenue and Sylvania Road. The village area was extended in NSW Government Gazette No 47 of 4 March 1924 folio 1837, further north to near Parraweena Road and south to Burraneer Bay Road, and also south to the foreshores of Yowie Bay and to Raglan & Wyralla Roads. In NSW Government Gazette No 6 of 9 January 1925 folio 177, the northern boundary came back to The Boulevarde, but the area was extended further southerly to Wonga Road then up Kiora Road to Wyralla Road. The boundaries remained the same in NSW Government Gazette No 136 of 23 September 1927 folios 4603-4, but in NSW Government Gazette No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 they were further extended north to Box Road and on the south from the end of Burraneer Bay Road around the shores of Yowie Bay and Gynea Bay to Coonong Creek and up to Sylvania Road.

The Geographical Names Board adopted the suburb name in NSW Government Gazette No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

Since then, parts of Miranda have been transferred to Sylvania Waters, Caringbah, Caringbah South, Yowie Bay and Gynea Bay.

The land which is now the suburb is partly located on the western half of the 1000 acres originally selected by John Connell after he bought it from Gregory Blaxland, on 1 October 1816. Blaxland had a future grant of that size promised by Governor Macquarie in 1814 to recognise his participation in the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. Although Blaxland's name appears for many years on early maps of the parish of Sutherland, he never actually selected the site, leaving it in Connell's hands to do so (*Royal Australian Historical Society's Journal and Proceedings*, Vol. XXIV, Part II pp.152-4). Connell established his "Old Farm" on the 1000 acres. On Connell's death, it passed to his heir Elias Laycock, who sold it to Archibald Allardice in 1852, but after Allardice had financial problems in 1855 it was purchased by Elias Laycock's brother, John Connell Laycock, who held large areas of the pre-Shire until he also entered financial straits, and his lands were bought at auction by Thomas Holt for his *South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate* on 14 August 1861 (Land & Property Information historical records and Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*, pp.99-101). The name "Old Farm" was retained when it was recorded as the "Old Farm Paddock" in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*.

Also now in the suburb is the land to the south of the "Old Farm" which was purchased on 12 August 1856 by John Connell Laycock (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 33 of 24 February 1855 folios 511-7), and was also sold to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861: that land was recorded by Walker as "Woolshed Paddock". And the southernmost part of the suburb was a parcel which was unsold at the Crown land Auction of 17 January 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folio 3301-5) but purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862, and named by Walker as Horse Paddock.

The name "Old Farm" was used as the name of his farm by John Lehane, one of the Holt's overseers, who had a Lucerne farm where Sutherland Hospital is now located (Lawrence, *A Pictorial History of Sutherland Shire*, p.74), but knew the locality as "Homewood," until it became part of Miranda (and later part of Caringbah). (Kavanagh, *The Yowie Bay Story*, p.175).

Ref: Village of Miranda 7 January 1921, 4 March 1924, 9 January 1925, 23 September 1927, 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## OYSTER BAY

The suburb is named after the waterway Oyster Bay, which was historically plentiful in oysters, as indicated by many Aboriginal middens and large deposits of shells being found along its shores (Florence and Gardiner, *A Short History of Oyster Bay*, p.10) and that is most likely the source of its name. Originally these were natural oysters which were depleted by the activities of the oyster-harvesters supplying the Sydney markets. From 1873 onwards it became a popular location for farms for oyster cultivation. The Georges River oyster industry was wiped out by the QX disease first diagnosed in 1994, which eventually led to all farms in the Georges River being closed.

The bay is shown on Surveyor Robert Dixon's survey of the area in 1827, however he does not show any name on that bay, and no documentation has been found that he recorded the name. The name Oyster Bay is first shown on the original map of the "Parish of Southerland" [sic] dating from 1835 or possibly earlier (Land & Property Information historical maps), and the map of the "Hundred of Woronora", which includes the "Parish of Sutherland", signed by Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell on 27 March 1835 (State Library of NSW, "Original Maps of the Hundreds in the County of Cumberland", Call No MAXX 811.1/1835/1).

The land which is now the suburb was first advertised to be auctioned at the Crown land sales in *NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50, which refers to a number of parcels as being bounded partly by Oyster Bay. The land remained unsold at the Crown land auction but was, on 31 December 1862, purchased by Thomas Holt as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate.

Walker in his 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* refers to the general area which is now the suburb as Green Point Paddock and, to its south, Oyster Bay Paddock. Subdivisions in the area which commenced in 1912 consistently refer to the area as part of Como.

The name Oyster Bay was finally confirmed when the Village of Oyster Bay was proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7, which was bounded on east by former Saville Road (which ran N-S through the centre of the current suburb of Kareela), west along Box Road and then south along Bath Road ; on south by The Boulevarde; on west by Wattle Road and Tivoli Esplanade and Carina Creek; and on the north by the foreshore of Carina Bay, Georges River and Oyster Bay. Large areas of the southern area of the Village of Oyster Bay are now in Kareela and Jannali. The Geographical Names Board adopted the suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

Ref: Village of Oyster Bay 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## PORT HACKING

The current suburb is located at the southern end of Port Hacking Road, which was originally the main access road from the 1890s onwards between Georges River at Sylvania and the crossing point by boat from the northern shore of Port Hacking to its southern shore.

The land in the area had remained unsold at Crown Land auction on 17 January 1856 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5) but later purchased by Thomas Holt in March 1864 as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate. It is recorded in Walker's 1869 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, as part of Tyreel Point Paddocks. When the area was opened up for subdivision as part of the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" in 1901, it was referred to as Turriell Point (Australian Star, 16 November 1901, p.12). Advertisements for sale of properties were often headed Port Hacking up to the proclamation of the Village of Port Hacking in late 1933 for the whole area south of Burraneer Bay Road between Ewey Bay and Woollooware Road,

Over the years, residents used other locality names for their addresses, which eventually led to Port Hacking becoming a very small suburb mainly on the south side of Turriell Point Road and Port Hacking Road as adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folio 1644-6. When the suburb boundaries were being redefined in 2008, it was initially decided to include its area within adjoining suburbs, but after public consultation, the suburb was restored in *NSW Government Gazette* No 103 of 10 July 2009 folio 4078 with an increased area.

The name of the suburb is linked to that of the waterway Port Hacking.

According to an entry recorded in Matthew Flinders' journal on 30 March 1796, he named Port Hacking after Henry Hacking: It having been a pilot named Hacking from whom the first information of it had been received, it was named after him: by the natives it is called Deeban. (Matthew Flinders, *A voyage to Terra Australis*, ed. Keith Bowden, Pall Mall, London, 1814, p.ci.). This was confirmed six years later, when a map was published in London on 1 May 1802 with the words Port Hacking shown on an inlet in the coast south of Botany Bay (Chart of the three harbours of Botany Bay, Port Jackson, and Broken Bay, shewing the ground cultivated by the colonists, with the courses of the rivers Hawkesbury, Nepean, &c. &c. National Library MAP RM 4079).

From the early years of the 1800s similar sounding names were also in use for the waterway, which did lead to later claims that it had been named after a different person or persons known to be in the Colony and acquainted with Flinders. The name Port Hacking nonetheless continued to be used and is now the only adopted name.

As noted above, the Aboriginal name for the waterway Port Hacking, as recorded by Flinders, is Deeban.

The former name for the locality, “Turriell” has had various spellings over the years, including Tyreal, Tyreel, Tyrell, and Tareel. Regarding a meaning for “Turriell”, in 1890 Richard Hill reported (in the context of Aboriginal place names) that “Tareel Point is ‘Gerrale’ after the well-known tree ‘Lilly Pilly’ there in abundance” (See: Sydney Morning Herald, 6 June 1890, page 5). In 1887, the “Catalogue of the Natural and Industrial Products of New South Wales”, gives the Illawarra Aboriginal word for the Lilly Pilly (referred to as *Acmena elliptica*, but later changed to *Acmenia smithii* then *Syzygium smithii*) as “Tdjerail”. In 1905 Mr. R Longfield, born c.1828, when interviewed in 1905, referred to “Tureel Bay” and gave the pronunciation as “Tchureel”.

Ref: Village of Port Hacking 17 November 1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 10/7/2009

## ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

The land for a National Park was notified by the NSW State Government as reserved for a National Park, with 18,000 Acres formally dedicated in *NSW Government Gazette* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4, extended to the 35,000 acres in *NSW Government Gazette* No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6. As further land was acquired over the years it was added to the National Park. There were also at various times some areas revoked around the periphery of the park for public purposes, such as Woronora Cemetery, Grays Point Public School, and the area which is now Waratah Park, but the major revocation followed the construction of the Illawarra railway line, when it was decided by the NSW Government to release the severed part of the National Park amounting to about 3100 acres on the west of the railway corridor for subdivision and sale. This was notified in *NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folios 6293-4. Those areas are now in the suburbs of Loftus, Yarrawarrah, Engadine and Woronora Heights.

The term “Royal” was added to the name after the visit by Queen Elizabeth II in early 1954, the NSW Premier announcing in May 1954 that The Queen had conferred the title “Royal” on the National Park . . . [which] in future . . . will be known as ‘Royal National Park’ (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 May 1954, p.3).

For administrative purposes, the part of Royal National Park with the boundaries of Sutherland Shire was designated as a suburb by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Suburb 18 January 2008

## SANDY POINT

Sandy Point is situated on land originally promised by the Governor to John Allford (or Alford) on 1 December 1821. No record has been found of how the land was transferred to Solomon Levey to whom the land was granted on 19 October 1831. Levey was given the opportunity of supplying a name for the property but there was nothing entered. The property passed through the hands of several owners before it was subdivided in 1920.

The name Sandy Point does not appear on any maps published prior to 1920, and the first mention of the name is in the preliminary announcement of the Sandy Point Estate, Georges River (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 March 1920, p.4), the plan of which was approved by Sutherland Shire Council in July 1921. The Estate name became the locality name. Although Sandy Point appeared on maps and in directories after that time and the name of the point of land was adopted by the Geographical Names Board on 21 March 1975, adoption by the Geographical Names Board of Sandy Point as a suburb did not occur until *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Suburb 18 January 2008

## SUTHERLAND

It is not possible to state unequivocally the source of the name of the suburb of *Sutherland*, as is clouded by a number of theories by historians, which are summarised below. What is known is that Thomas Holt, the largest landholder in the area in the latter part of nineteenth century, had an interest in the history of the landing of James Cook at Kurnell in 1770. Holt particularly noted that Forby Sutherland, a member of Cook's crew, had died and was buried at Kurnell. He renamed his estate lands, known originally as South Botany Estate, as the Sutherland Estate which name later became applied to the "Holt-Sutherland Estate", but whether that was specifically to honour the memory of Forby Sutherland or also had something to do with most of the estate being located in the Parish of Sutherland has been debated for many years.

In his 1868 *report on the Sutherland Estate*, Robert Walker, Holt's solicitor, seems to have no doubt that Holt named the Estate in honour of Forby Sutherland:

*At Solander Point, near the place where captain Cook first landed on the shores of Australia, there is a stone house, containing five rooms and a kitchen, in front of which there are two fine Norfolk Island Pines — there is also a good stone Dairy, and a Stable — this homestead is called Curnell [sic] . . . Close to the house there is a small creek of a never failing supply of beautiful clear water, which runs into the Bay: . . . Close to the west side of the creek . . . at the edge of the Beach, is a small stock-yard, and milking shed for Dairy purposes. Where the holes were sunk for the posts of this yard some years back, part of a Scull of a man was found, it is therefore supposed to be the burying place of Sutherland, one of Captain Cook's men, who died soon after he arrived here and after whom the Estate is named.*

The land which forms the current suburb of Sutherland was originally partly land purchased by Thomas Holt; partly land purchased by Samuel Gray; and partly land acquired for the National (now Royal National) Park.

Thomas Holt purchased a large area of land to which he obtained title on 31 December 1862. Included was 218 acres fronting Woronora River which had remained unsold at a Crown land auction on 6 March 1842 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 93 of 22 November 1842 folios 1742-3), and land which had remained unsold at the Crown land auction on 13 March 1856 at "Gynea Ground" (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 21 of 7 February 1856 folios 411-3). This "Gynea Ground" was a rectangular area bounded (in today's terms) by Eton Street, Sutherland on the west; The Boulevarde on the north; Sylvania Road on the east; and around halfway between President Avenue and Forest Road on the south. All that land became part of Holt's "South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate". The 218 acres is described in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* as the "Outside Waranora Paddocks." Walker also indicates that to the south of the 218 acres is "Land under Free Selection", which was true at the time having been offered for sale at a Crown land auction of 31 May 1864 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94), but that land was later withdrawn, deleted from the parish map, and then reserved for the National Park. The land sold to Holt at "Gynea Ground" is, in Walker's report, also named as "Gynea Ground, and again that the land to its south was more "Land under Free Selection, which was also offered at the Crown land auction of 31 May 1864, and was later bought by Thomas Holt on 25 March 1875.

Although the land was available for purchase, Thomas Holt did not apply for some parcels which some years after being advertised were along the route of the proposed Illawarra railway line. These were then purchased by Samuel Gray who on-sold them to the Intercolonial Investment Land and Building Company on 4 March 1886, the company which subdivided and sold the Sutherland Township on both sides of Sutherland Railway Station. The land had been advertised on 31 May 1864 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94) and purchased by Gray on 1 July 1878. Gray also bought the land along the railway south of what is now Jannali, advertised for Crown land auction on 9 April 1856 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 38 of 3 March 1856 folios 775-9) and purchased by

Gray on 17 July 1882 — on his death the land passed to his widow, who held the land until it defaulted to the mortgagor who sold it in April 1912 to the Intercolonial Investment Land and Building Company.

Large areas of the suburb of Sutherland were formerly parts of the National (later Royal National) Park, within the boundaries dedicated in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4 & No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6, including land offered for sale at a Crown land auction of 31 May 1864 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94), but that land was later withdrawn, deleted from the parish map, and then reserved for the National Park. Woronora Cemetery was resumed out of the National Park in *NSW Government Gazette* No 308 of 9 May 1893 folio 3593.

In 1903 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folio 6293-4) the part of the National Park on the western side of the railway line was revoked and became part of the “Suburban Lands of Heathcote.”

The area between the western boundary of Woronora Cemetery and Forbes Creek/Woronora River was re-proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 164 of 23 May 1906 folio 3039 as a Crown Reserve for access, but altered to a Crown Reserve for *public recreation* in *NSW Government Gazette* No 85 of 30 June 1909 folio 3607, at which time it was named Boyle Park after a local hotelier and Shire Councillor, but changed to Prince Edward Park in 1921, after a visit to Australia by His Royal Highness Prince Edward in 1920. Since then, there have been some land swaps between the cemetery and the reserve.

Waratah Park was revoked from the National Park in *NSW Government Gazette* No 161 of 1 November 1954 folio 3049 with an addition in *NSW Government Gazette* No 103 of 29 August 1969 folio 3499.

The name Sutherland applies to three geographical areas, which are treated separately:

## **1. Civil Parish of Sutherland**

The Parish of Sutherland was originally proclaimed on 23 May 1835 as “Southerland”, which was the name shown on the original parish map, however just 4 days later on 27 May 1835, the proclamation was reprinted with amendments, including changing the name to “Sutherland”, which must have been to agree with the spelling shown on the original document.

Historians have argued for years whether Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, did intend the name to be “Southerland.” Whether or not that was the case, it is of note that there seemed to be little effort taken for many years to amend/correct the word “Southerland” to “Sutherland” in Government maps and other official notifications. That did cause some confusion as the two names were used interchangeably for many years until “Sutherland” became the only term used for the parish name. While it could be put down to lack of clerical checking throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, there is probably no excuse other than inadequate proofreading for “Southerland” to appear in Government Gazette notices and newspapers on odd occasions up till 1978, referring the parish, shire, localities and street names.

## **2. Town of Sutherland**

The name “Sutherland Township” was used for lease sales in 1882 by the Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company. The use of the name Sutherland for the subdivision had been decided by the company in 1881. The name was also used in July 1887 in the second subdivision of Sutherland Township for the area on the western side of the railway at Sutherland Railway Station (Land & Property information historical plans). The name “Township of Sutherland” continued to be used by Sutherland Shire Council and others until the specific boundaries of the “Town of Sutherland” were proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 3 of 7 January 1921 folios 43-44, embracing most of the area in the Holt-Sutherland subdivision and extending westerly to The Boulevard (now Linden Street). The area was extended in *NSW Government Gazette* No 77 of 5 June 1925 folio 2452, more southerly to Forest Road and more easterly to Bath Road, and again extended easterly to Sylvania Road in *NSW Government*

*Gazette* No 136 of 23 September 1927 folios 4603-4. The last change to the boundaries was in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7, where it went further north to Box Road and more to the south and included Woronora Cemetery.

The area of the “Town of Sutherland” was reduced as suburbs formed at Jannali, Gymea, and Kirrawee, and *Sutherland* was adopted as the Suburb name by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6

### 3. Shire of Sutherland (LGA Sutherland Shire)

The area which became the Shire was originally intended to be part of the “Shire of Bulli” (the former name of the Illawarra area to the south), however:

*In 1905 the Royal Commission on Local Government Areas accepted a submission by Sutherland [sic] district residents that they did not consider themselves part of the Illawarra and should not become part of Bulli Shire. The Commission reported that the districts ‘are divided by an absolute diversity of interests, the southern portion being occupied by a population comprised principally of miners, and the northern by small farmers and suburban residents.’ (Larkin, Sutherland Shire — A history to 1939, p.162, referencing NSW Local Government Commission, Report, together with Schedules and Maps, Sydney, 1906, p.9)*

The name and boundary of the “Shire of Sutherland” was proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 121 of 7 March 1906 folios 1593-1644, and re-proclaimed with amendments in *NSW Government Gazette* No 114 of 11 September 1907 folio 5118. At that time it excluded part of the “Como” area (now Illawong) which had been included in Hurstville Municipality (*NSW Government Gazette* No 840 of 31 August 1900 folio 6807-8) until 1922, when it was included in Sutherland Shire (*NSW Government Gazette* No 118 of 4 August 1922 folios 4338-40). The only other change that has occurred to the Sutherland Shire boundary was a small swap with Liverpool in 1984 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 49 of 30 March 1984 folios 1793-4) to place the boundary along Heathcote Road.

In early 1993 there was public concern that the area would lose its identity as “The Shire” when the proposed Local Government Act introduced the term “Local Government Area” (LGA) and deleted the words Shire, Municipality and City from the titles. Following submissions from Council, the Governor altered the name on 25 June 1993 in the following terms:

*I, Rear Admiral PETER ROSS SINCLAIR, Governor of the State of New South Wales, with the advice of the Executive Council, and in pursuance of section 14 of the Local Government Act 1919, do hereby alter, on and from the close of business of the Sutherland Shire Council on 30 June 1993, the name of the Shire of Sutherland to the Shire of Sutherland Shire (NSW Government Gazette No 65 of 25 June 1993 folio 3073). What this meant was that on 1 July 1993 when the Local Government Act 1993 came into force that the name changed from “Shire of Sutherland” to “Local Government Area Sutherland Shire”.*

**NOTE 1:** Historians have debated for years over the possibility that any or all of the above Parish, Town and Shire of Sutherland was/were named to honour Cook’s seaman, Forby Sutherland who died at Kurnell, or that just being a coincidence.

**NOTE 2:** Another coincidence of names, also debated by historians, is whether, when the railway station “Sutherland” opened in 1885, it was named in honour of the Honourable John Sutherland, NSW Minister for Works, 1860- 1872.

**NOTE 3:** A further theory was “Southerland” [sic] meant southern land, deduced from the next Parish to be south being named “Southend.”

**NOTE 4:** Possibly the most obscure theory advanced was that the name of the Parish had something to do with the Scottish Heritage of Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell. When this proposition was

researched to find if it had any relevance (checked from Internet sources, including historic maps available on line held by the National Library of Scotland) another coincidence was discovered: in the extreme north of Scotland is an area, the name of which comes from an old Norse word *sudr* meaning “south”, being a southern colony of the Norse people from the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD. A Scottish name “Southerland” was derived for the people living in that region, although there were variations of “Sutherland,” “Sutherlan,” “Suderland,” and so on. Of interest are a number of old maps of the region including “Southerlandia” in the *Blaeu Atlas of Scotland, 1654*, and a map from 1820 titled *Sutherlandshire* [identified as part of “County of Sutherland”]. Around the time of Mitchell’s survey map of the Parish of Southerland/Sutherland, drawn from around 1831 to 1835, that area in Scotland is shown on *Map of the county of Sutherland made on the basis of the trigonometrical survey of Scotland in the years 1831, 1832*.

Ref: Parish 23 May 1835 & 27 May 1835; Town of Sutherland 7 January 1921, 5 June 1925, 23 September, and 17 November 1933; Shire 7 March 1906, 4 August 1922, 27 January 1984, 25 June 1993 – GNB Parish 05 July 1985; Suburb 4 May 1973 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## SYLVANIA

Sylvania is an important area in Shire History. It was where John Connell, one of the first large-scale selectors in the area had his headquarters at “Castle Connell”; and later where Thomas Holt built his “Sutherland House,” the family residence at the administrative heart of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate”.

John Connell occupied 180 acres on the southern shore of Georges River and western Shore of Gwawley Bay under a Governor’s promise of grant dated 1 December 1821. On his grant issued on 31 August 1833 he named his property “Castle Connell,” which passed to his heir Elias Pearson Laycock, who sold it to Archibald Allardice on 18 October 1852, but after Allardice had financial problems in 1855 went to John Connell Laycock, Connell’s grandson, who had also purchased the land adjoining to the south and west after it was subdivided for sale at a Crown land auction on 24 January 1855 (advertised (*NSW Government Gazette* No 156 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50) receiving a grant on 30 October 1857 and two others on 9 May 1859. After Laycock had debt problems all the properties were sold to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861. Holt then purchased the remainder of the unsold portions (within the current suburb of Sylvania) from the January 1856 auction (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5) receiving two grants on 11 December 1861 and 3 others on 31 December 1862. Holt included all these in his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate.

The part of the current suburb south of Box Road was originally also listed for a Crown land auction on 9 April 1856 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 38 of 3 March 1856 folios 775-9), but was unsold and reserved as part of a Crown Reserve in *NSW Government Gazette* No 268 of 12 October 1875 folio 3202: the eastern part has, although re-proclaimed several times, remained reserved and is now Box Road Reserve; the western part was re-proclaimed as sites for Returned Soldiers after World War 1 and were granted to three returned soldiers between 1918 and 1921.

When the name “Sylvania” was first used is difficult to confirm. Historian Daphne Salt (*The Gateway to the South* (1987), p.8) seemed certain when she stated: *name given to the village by Surveyor Parkinson in 1863 when he planned the road which is now the Princes Highway*, but gives no specific reference to the source of that information. Surveyor Samuel Parkinson was certainly in that area and in 1864 surveyed a new line from George’s River at [was actually opposite to] Tom Ugly’s Point to Coal Cliff. This was mainly a new road which joined the old road at the Bottle Forest, and descended to the coast at Stanwell Park. This plan is dated August 8, 1865. A punt had already been established across George’s River at Tom Ugly’s Point (“Illawarra: A Century of History 1788-1888”, *Royal Australian Historical Society Journal*, Vol 28, p.367). Unfortunately the plan dated August 8, 1865, has not been found, so the possibility of the name appearing on that plan cannot be confirmed.

It is of note that an undated version of the Parish of Sutherland, which appears to be from around 1860s-1870s (Land & Property Information historical parish maps) shows a trigonometrical station with the name "Sylvania," just south of Georges River. That station and its name do not appear on any other versions of the parish map from that time or earlier, and it cannot be ascertained at what time that information was added to the map.

Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* make no mention of a "village of Sylvania." He records the area on which the current suburb is situated as the "Homestead or Punt Paddock", the "Building Paddock & Corn Paddock", the "Gawley [sic] Paddock", and a part of "Oyster Bay Paddock". He notes that *the Homestead itself comprises a neat four Roomed Stonebuilt House with over two attics, out Kitchen, and workmen's house at the back. There is a good 5 Stall Slab Stable, and a Store adjoining it, which is enclosed with a small yard. At the back of this there is a cart and plough Shed, also a good Blacksmiths forge, with everything complete in it; in the Punt Paddock, which is used for keeping the working horses in, . . . at the Extreme north point is a punt house built of Stone, containing 4 Rooms & two Kitchen.* Walker refers to the point of land at the punt landing as "Punt Point," however it is shown on maps after that time as "Horse Rock Point," a name that reflects horses being kept on that area.

The only major building construction in the next few years was the erection of "Sutherland House" as a residence for Thomas Holt at Sandy Point. Work began in the mid-1870s and was completed in 1881. When Sutherland House was completed there were only two shops in Sylvania. Mrs. Honoria Rice ran the grocery, Post Office and paper shop beside the punt approach and Mrs. Small the fruit shop on the western side of the main road. (Salt, "The Stately Homes of Thomas Holt", Sutherland Shire Historical Society Journal Vol 9 No. 1 – February 2006). These shops were apparently on land sub-leased from the recently formed Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company (Limited) which gained a lease of much of Holt's Sutherland Estate on 1 September 1881. The company had the Townlet of Sylvania surveyed by the end of December and registered the plan in January 1882. It was bounded on south by Box Road; on the west by Venetia Street; and Georges River on the north to just east of Horse Rock Point and then on the south-east and east by a line dividing it from the land around Sutherland House. Of note is that the area around Sutherland House and extending around to Commons Point (later Taren Point) never became part of the land leased to the Holt-Sutherland Land Company, but was retained as the family home and surrounds by Thomas Holt.

Unless an earlier use of Sylvania can be confirmed, James Murphy, manager of the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" may have selected the name to be used for the "Townlet of Sylvania", as he is quoted as having said around that time: *it is such a lovely sylvan setting that I could think of no more appropriate name than Sylvania* (Salt, *The Gateway to the South* (1987), p.8).

After Sutherland Shire Council was established at the end of 1906, it is noted as referring to a "Village of Sylvania" (*NSW Government Gazette* No 24 of 22 February 1911 folio 1115) although that name was not proclaimed until *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7, when it was bounded on the south by Box Road, west by former Saville Road [which ran N-S through the centre of the current suburb of Kareela], on north by Georges River and east by Gwawley Bay. Since then part transferred has to Kareela and it gained an additional area south of Box Road from Gynea.

The suburb name *Sylvania* was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6.

Ref: Village 17/11/1933 – GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## SYLVANIA WATERS

Sylvania Waters is located on Gwawley Bay, one of the few privately-owned bays in Australia and some of the adjoining foreshore land.

Gwawley Bay was purchased on 5 February 1860 by Thomas Holt under a provision that he could purchase reclaimed Crown land adjoining his own land. It became part of his vast “Sutherland Estate” (later known as the “Holt-Sutherland Estate”), specifically an area where he could pursue his passion to improve the methods of cultivation of oysters, a venture which failed by around 1870. The land was transferred to Holt’s son Frederick when Holt left for England in 1879 as an area surrounding Sutherland House at Sandy Point, around the southern edge of Gwawley Bay and the whole of the Taren Point peninsula, an area which never became included in the estate lands leased to the Holt-Sutherland Land Company (Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*, various refs). Gwawley Bay and some of its foreshore passed out of the hands of the Holt family on 23 September 1918, when it was sold the Smith family of oyster farmers (Land & Property Information historical title records).

Redevelopment of the area was first discussed by Sutherland Shire Council in 1958 and the idea of a “water suburb” developed but lack of funds prevented the Council following up the idea. It was nonetheless taken up by a private consortium “Sylvania Gardens Pty Ltd,” which purchased the land on 3 March 1962 from the Smiths. On 18 July 1962, it was recorded that the company had changed its name to “Sylvania Waters Pty Ltd,” and the development proceeded. (Land & Property Information historical titles and Gietzelt, *Sticks and Stones*, pp.57-61)

The suburb name therefore reflects both the name of the development company and the location. The suburb name was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## TAREN POINT

The first known documented use of “Taren” appears after a dedication by Frederick Holt, Thomas Holt’s son and heir, on 30 May 1890 of part of the “Sutherland Estate” to the State Government, of a Crown reserve at “Commons Point” and a road southerly to an existing unnamed Crown road through to The Boulevard, and then extended in a subdivision of the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” through to what is now Kingsway (although it was part of Port Hacking Road in those days). The road in that “Holt-Sutherland Estate” subdivision, registered on 1 June 1893, bore the name “Taren Road”. It is likely that the name was used for the entire length of the road through to the Government wharf off “Commons Point”. The version of the Sutherland parish map in use at the time had a pencil note “Taren,” and when a new version was issued in 1900 it had “Taren” inserted in smaller print underneath “Commons Point”. The name of the area as *Taren Point* was confirmed in 1911 when the first section of the “Taren Point Estate” was subdivided and offered for sale, including naming the road as “Taren Point Road” (Land & Property Information historical land and map records).

An early mention of the location in 1849 names it as “Cumming’s Point”, a name apparently familiar to readers of that report (*Bell’s Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer*, 13 October 1849, p.2). “Commons Point” is not mentioned in the first sale of land in that area advertised in the *NSW Government Gazette* of 25 February 1853, but is shown when that land was advertised as a private sale in late 1855 (*Empire*, 29 November 1856 p.8) as “Common’s Point Farm.” A newspaper article in 1865 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 July 1865, p.8) refers to it as “Cummins Point,” which is also the name shown in Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* as “Cummin’s Point Paddock.” The last known mention in newspapers of “Cummins Point” is in 1912. Several newspaper articles from 1906 to 1912 refer to it as “Comyn’s Point.” “Commons Point” was still being used locally up till around 1922 and in some gazettal notices “Commons or Taren Point” remained in use up till around 1954. NOTE: The Sutherland parish map still recorded “Commons or Taren Pt” for many years after Taren Point became the accepted name, however, when the Geographical Names Board notified the name of the point and of the suburb in May 1973, no mention was made of “Commons Point”.

It has also been suggested that a former name of Taren Point was “Parraweena” (*Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, May 1977). This however relates to Frederick Samuel Ellis Holt’s 175 acre farm of “Parraweena Farm”, which apparently extended from around present-day Smith Street southwards to a long frontage along Parraweena Road, being land inherited from his father, Thomas Holt, in 1888. Whilst living in his father’s “Sutherland House” Frederick S E Holt established a residence “Parraweena House” on the eastern side of Gwawley Bay, described as *a new and comparatively modest cottage* (Dr Rosemary Annable, 2007, Sutherland Shire Council report 16 February 2009). Frederick moved there around the start of 1895 after advertising “Sutherland House” for lease (*Daily Telegraph*, 20 December 1893). The farm was advertised for leasing from around 1899 (*Illawarra Mercury*, 23 December 1899, p.3). By 1911, the whole peninsula was of interest to developers and referred to as “Parraweena Estate”, however, the description includes: *On the Parraweena Estate is a Government pier and reserve at Commons Point, also a shire road (Taren Point-road) 100ft. wide, and about 6500ft. long, from Taren Point to the end of the property* (*The Sun*, 2 March 1911, P.4). As is indicated above, when the land was subdivided it was titled “Taren Point Estate”. The use of “Parraweena” therefore relates to the name of the farm/subdivision and not to the point of land which is named as “Taren Point” although it also mentions a specific location of “Commons Point” at its northern extremity.

(NOTE: A meaning of “Parrot’s camping place” for “Parraweena” is included in a list of Aboriginal words collected in 1899 by the Anthropological Society of Australasia, in the Liverpool (police) district (which at the time extended to the Woronora River but had some years earlier included all the area which became Sutherland Shire) (transcripts held by NSW State Library), however that word may have originated earlier from ‘Paraweena’, the name of a Tasmanian Aborigine associated with Truganini, the last Tasmanian Aborigine, a well-known story about whom had already led to the use of the “euphonious” name, also spelt “Parraweena”, in other locations around Australia. The association as a “parrot’s camping place” may simply have reflected the abundance of parrots which could be seen in the Taren Point area).

No evidence has been found that Taren originates from an Aboriginal language, but it is of note that the Holt-Sutherland subdivision in 1893 containing Taren Road was the first plan in that estate to use “euphonious” names, some of which derived from Aboriginal language words, in its street names. It included Bellingara, Karimbla, Wandella, Kareena, Willarong, Cawarra and Wyralla Roads, as well as Wingello Road presumably from the name of one of Thomas Holt’s pastoral properties, Wingello Park located at Marulan. No documentary evidence has been found of why these particular names were selected, but, as with Wingello could have been names in use elsewhere in eastern Australia which derived from an Aboriginal language. Some of these names (or similar) are later listed in collections of Aboriginal words and their meanings, which unfortunately lack details of the region of origin. Parraweena Road (referred to above) is shown on a further subdivision in 1894 (Land & Property Information historical records).

The land which is now the suburb of *Taren Point* is located partly on the eastern half of the 1000 acres originally selected by John Connell after he bought it from Gregory Blaxland, on 1 October 1816. Blaxland had a future grant of that size promised by Governor Macquarie in 1814 to recognise his participation in the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. Although Blaxland’s name appears for many years on early maps of the parish of Sutherland, he never actually selected the site, leaving it in Connell’s hands to do so (*Royal Australian Historical Society’s Journal and Proceedings*, Vol. XXIV, Part II pp.152-4). Connell established his “Old Farm” on the 1000 acres. On Connell’s death, it passed to his heir Elias Laycock, who sold it to Archibald Allardice in 1852, but after Allardice had financial problems in 1855 it was purchased by Elias Laycock’s brother, John Connell Laycock, who held large areas of the pre-Shire until he also entered financial straits, and his lands were bought at auction by Thomas Holt for his *South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate* on 14 August 1861 (Land & Property Information historical records and Holt, *An Energetic Colonist*, pp.99-101).

The land in the peninsula to the north of the “Old Farm” within the current suburb had several first purchasers of the Crown land subdivisions: Archibald Allardice purchased the land at the northern end of Commons Point at a Crown land auction on 31 March 1853 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 24 of 25 February 1853 folios 392-5), this also passed to John Connell Laycock in 1855 and then to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861. John Connell Laycock purchased 5 other parcels at the Crown land auction on 24 January 1855 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50), which also passed to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861. Richard Robert Moxham also bought a parcel at the Crown land auction on 24 January 1855: that land was then sold to Thomas Holt sometime in early 1862 (Land & Property Information historical records).

Although all the above land was part of Holt’s “South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate”, it was not included in the land later leased from the “Holt-Sutherland Estate”. Together with the land at Sandy Point (in Sylvania) and Gwawley Bay, it was retained as the family home and surrounds. On Holt’s death in 1888, that part of the estate was deeded to his son Frederick Samuel Ellis Holt, and then to his heirs in the family. Thomas Samuel Holt and Frederick Charles Sydney Holt subdivided the Taren Point peninsula in late 1911/early 1912.

The “Village of Taren Point” was notified in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 and at that time included Gwawley Bay, and its southern boundary was Box Road. Gwawley Bay is now developed as Sylvania Waters. Part of Caringbah, south of Box Road, has since been included in the suburb of Taren Point. The suburb name of Taren Point was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6

Ref: Village of Taren Point 17 November 1933 -- GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008 and GNB Point 4 May 1973.

## WATERFALL

There is no credible evidence that the locality around present-day *Waterfall* had any name up till the time when the Illawarra Railway line was extended into unallocated Crown land in that area in 1884, with a temporary village set up for the railway workers and an application made for a “hotel and store” to its south (the “Heathcote Hotel” which opened in May 1885) (Sutherland Shire Historical Society Journal February 2013). A Government Railways notice in *NSW Government Gazette* No 124 of 26 February 1886 folio 1423 announced: *on or after 1st March, 1886, a further length of the Illawarra Railway, from Hurstville to Waterfall, . . . will be open . . . terminating at Waterfall . . .*

The railway terminus was just north of southern boundary of National (now Royal National) Park as extended in *NSW Government Gazette* No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6. The station was thus named as it created a drop off point for visitors to the nearby National Falls in Royal National Park. An upgraded access in 1887 constructed by the National Park trustees as an extension of Lady Carrington Drive to Waterfall Station, was a road which became known as “Waterfall (or Waterfalls) Road” (renamed in 1945 as (The) McKell Avenue) (Carrick, *History of Royal National Park 1879-2013*, pp. 73-75).

The name of the station also became the name of the village which replaced the workers’ camp. A notice in *NSW Government Gazette* No 89 of 13 February 1904 folio 1356 announced the auction on 19 March 1904 of suburban lots at Waterfall. A newspaper report in July 1906 refers to the “Village of Waterfall” (*Evening News*, 2 July 1906, p.6). The official notification of a “Village of Waterfall” in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 remained the same as the original area subdivided in 1904. Areas resumed from the National Park by the Railways Department in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 17 of 9 December 1938 folio 4672 and No 99 of 1 August 1941 folio 2781 extended the village to the western side of the railway line. Further Crown subdivisions to the west of the original village took place in 1974-5.

The Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 59 of 30 April 1976 folios 1911-2 discontinued the name “Village of Waterfall” and replaced it with “Waterfall” with a designation of “Town.” The status of suburb was confirmed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: Village of Waterfall 17 November 1933 -- GNB Town (Suburb) 30 April 1976 now Suburb 18 January 2008

## WOOLOOWARE

The suburb derives its name from the waterway Woollooware Bay, which also provided the name of Woollooware Road, which traverses north-south through the suburb. The suburb seems to have evolved not only from the name of the former farmland in that area but also from its location around Woollooware Road.

The name of the bay first appears on Surveyor Robert Dixon’s 1827 map of Port Hacking and the Georges River as “Woolloowear Bay”, but by 1835 it is labelled “Woollooware Bay” by Surveyor-General Mitchell (see: “Original maps of the Hundreds in the County of Cumberland”, T. L. Mitchell, March 27th 1835, State Library maps collection).

The name is assumed to have been accessed by Dixon from Aboriginal people living in the area, however, no documentation has been found that he also noted a meaning for the name.

Shire historian Frank Cridland, in *The Story of Port Hacking Cronulla and Sutherland Shire* contends that: *The first road mapped out in the Shire was Woollooware Road. It was marked off not so much as a road for any early settler’s use, but rather as a provisional road of access from Botany Bay for some later settler . . . [and] . . . was provided for in 1842.* Where he obtained that information is not indicated, however an unnamed Crown road was provided in the surveys for the subdivisions of Crown land of 24 January 1855 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 158 of 20 December 1854 folios 2643-50) and extended from Woollooware Bay southerly to another unnamed west-east road crossing from Burraneer Bay to Gunnamatta Bay (later named Shell Road). The road (the future Woollooware Road) adjoined on its east side the 520 acres granted to John Connell in 1842 (which did not mention any road on that boundary). Between July 1857 and March 1862 all the remaining land on both sides of that road were taken by early selectors Patrick Dolan, John Connell Laycock, James Wilson, and Andrew & Mary Webster and titles issued. Between 1861 and 1865, Thomas Holt purchased all the land on both sides of the road for his Sutherland Estate, with the exception of the Webster’s land which, after passing through the hands of subsequent owners, was sold to Dominick Dolan in 1865, who then apparently refused to sell to Holt (Land & Property Information historical land title records and various histories [some of which confuse ownership of the land as being with Patrick Dolan (Dominick’s father)]).

The original grants which were located within the current suburb of Woollooware were those to John Connell on 28 May 1842 and 30 June 1838, and lands from the Crown land auction on 17 January 1855 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5) purchased by Patrick Dolan on 28 August 1857, and by John Connell Laycock on 9 July 1857 & 30/10/1857. Patrick Dolan did sell this part of his land to Thomas Holt in late 1863 (it was Dolan’s land adjoining Burraneer Bay that he, according to several histories, refused to sell to Holt): All the other parcels were purchased by Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861 in an auction to settle debts of John Connell Laycock (Land & Property Information historical title records).

It would seem the road which was to become Woollooware Road remained unformed as no mention is made of it in Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* describing all the land north of Dolan’s land to Woollooware Bay as the “Woolloowara Bay Paddocks”, which directly adjoined, on their east side without any intervening road, the “Duck Ponds Paddocks” (Connell’s 520 acres). Roads which were Walker does describe in that area were Government Roads between the paddocks in the “Sutherland Estate” and “Doland’s [sic] land”.

First documented instance of the name “Woolooware Road” appears on a subdivision of Dominick Dolan’s land for sale on 28 May 1889 which shows that name in between Shell Road and Guanamatta [sic] Bay Road (nowadays Burraneer Bay Road) but still shows the road northerly therefrom as “Gov’t Road”. When The “Holt-Sutherland Estate” subdivisions began in 1903, Woolooware Road was named wherever it was included in or adjacent to those subdivisions.

That “Woolooware” was also the location name for the area became apparent in early 1913, when the Sutherland-Cronulla Tramway had its Woolooware Loop and Siding on Kurranulla Beach Road (later Kingsway) halfway between Caringbah and Cronulla (*NSW Government Gazette* No 27 of 26 February 1913 folio 1197). Later that same year Sutherland Shire Council appointed a Poundkeeper to its Woolooware Public Pound (*NSW Government Gazette* No 194 of 10 December 1913 folio 7408). Woolooware also became the address location for the residential areas on the east side of Woolooware Road so that “Woolooware” extended from Gannons Road on the west to Kurnell Road on the east. Effectively Woolooware Road was for many years the central north-south spine of Woolooware from Woolooware Bay down almost to Shell Road.

The suburb name was adopted by the Geographical names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folios 2656-7. In 2008, Woolooware lost part of its area to Cronulla and Burraneer after public consultation on boundary changes.

Ref: GNB Suburb 22 June 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## WORONORA

The suburb of Woronora derives its name from its location in the river valley of Woronora River, although it only extends along a part of both sides of that river.

Although Surveyor Dixon made a highly detailed map of the Woronora River and its tributaries in 1827, he did not record a name for the river (see: NSW State Records Item NRS 13859, 4734/SG Map P256). The earliest record found of the name is as “Woronora Creek” in a Government notice for a grant of land to John Lucas (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 1 October 1831, p.1), which is also the name recorded on the first edition (undated) of the Parish of Southerland [sic] (Land & Property Information historical maps collection). The earliest known map giving the name as “Woronora River” is a map compiled from surveys and drawn by Surveyor General Mitchell in Sydney, published in London in 1834 (Map of the Colony of New South Wales, National Library Trove Collection, call no MAP NK 6228)

Some later maps, newspaper articles, and other publications have many variations on the spelling of the name, but that provided by Mitchell has prevailed. There is no known verifiable meaning/translation for the name, although there have been many suggested, including that it is of Aboriginal origin, from one or another of the variant spellings.

On the generally western side of Woronora River, the residential area mostly evolved from two early lands grants: the southern part to Joshua Thorp purchased at Crown land auction on 13 July 1836 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 214 of 23 March 1836 folios 249-254); and to its north the grant to John Connell purchased at a later auction on 14 February 1838 (advertised *New South Wales Government Gazette* No 313 of 5 January 1838 folios 20-24).

The property granted to Thorp remained in his name until he died in New Zealand in 1862. His executors eventually sold it to property developer Phillip Billingsley Walker in May 1883. He mortgaged the property to the Bank of New South Wales, which after Walker’s death, foreclosed and sold the property to Mary Charlotte Price in January 1902 (Land & Property Information historical title records), the wife of Thomas John (Tom) Price, who had previously worked on the land for Walker and later became well-known for providing a ferrying service across Woronora River. After Tom Price died in 1921, his wife, in conjunction

with a consortium of land developers, subdivided the land, sold some of the lots, and then in 1922 sold the remainder to the developers.

The Connell property, passed to his heir Elias Pearson Laycock, who sold it to Archibald Allardice on 18 October 1852. After Allardice had financial problems in 1855 it went to John Connell Laycock (Elias' brother) who also had debt problems and sold it to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861, becoming part of Holt's "Sutherland Estate". That part of the Holt land is described in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* in the section on the "Outside Waranora Paddock" as: *On the approach side of the River is a block of 50 acres of purchase land . . . 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.*

Eventually the remaining area of the grant to Connell was purchased in 1922 by the same developers who bought the adjoining land from Mary Price, and subdivided and sold over whole area from 1922 on.

On the other side of the river between Forbes Creek (called "Port Hacking" Creek at the time, although some distance from the creek of that same name (aka Port Hacking River) a few kilometres to the east) and a bend in the river about 1.5 kilometres to the west were four early land grants, the land on the west side of Forbes Creek where it flowed into Woronora River was also purchased by Joshua Thorp at an auction on 10 August 1836 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 221 of 11/5/1836 folios 379-381), sold by his executors to property developer Phillip Billingsley Walker in May 1883, who mortgaged the property to the Bank of New South Wales, which after Walker's death, foreclosed and sold the property to Henry Halloran in April 1909.

On the west and south of that, Samuel Gray on 1 July 1878 purchased land that had failed to sell at an auction on 31 May 1864 (Advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94). He mortgaged it to the City Bank, and on his death the land and mortgage passed to his widow, who held the land until the bank foreclosed and sold the property to Henry Halloran in December who fully subdivided Thorp's original grant in March 1909 as "Woronora River Estate Stage 1" but only subdivided blocks along the waterfront of Woronora River out of Gray's original grant in December 1909 as "Woronora River Estate Stage 2".

John Connell purchased both parcels on the west of the above-mentioned land, the first at the Crown land auction on 14 February 1838 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 313 of 5 January 1838 folios 20-24, with title issued to his grandson and heir Elias Pearson Laycock on 9 May 1851) and the second, located at the bend in the river, advertised first on 8 May 1837, then on 13/12/1837 but remaining unsold until Connell obtained it at the auction on 13 May 1840 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 18 of 28 March 1840 folios 307-9) — both parcels were sold to Archibald Allardice on 18 October 1852. After Allardice had financial problems, the parcels went in 1855 to John Connell Laycock, who to settle debt problems sold them to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861. Although part of Holt's South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate, as there is no mention of this land in Walker's 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*. The only subdivision of that land for many years was the subsequent owner, Mary Constance Cowdery, who in January 1916 purchased Connell's 1838 grant, and subdivided "Deepwater Estate" in 1919 along the waterfront of Woronora River. The remaining undeveloped land mostly became part of Woronora Heights when that suburb was formed and developed in 1982.

The other residential area of Woronora, on its east bank and between what are now the Crown reserves known as Burnum Burnum Sanctuary (formerly Jannali Reserve) and Prince Edward Park (formerly Boyle Park) was land which remained unsold at a Crown land auction on 6 March 1842 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 93 of 22 November 1842 folios 1742-3), later purchased by Thomas Holt on 31 December 1862 and became part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate. In Walker's 1863 *Report on the Sutherland Estate* it is part of the "Outside Waranora Paddock". From early 1912 the land was subdivided by the "Holt-Sutherland Estate" which then leased and later sold the land to Robert William Cook and William McNamara, with the first residential subdivision "Riverside Estate" developed in those purchased leases in 1914.

All of those residential areas and some Crown reserves were included in the “Village of Woronora,” proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7. Parts of that village were later transferred to the adjoining suburbs of Barden Ridge, Bangor, Sutherland and Woronora Heights.

The suburb name of *Woronora* was adopted by the Geographical Names Board in *NSW Government Gazette* No 57 of 4 May 1973 folios 1644-6

Ref: Village of Woronora 17 November 1933; GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008.

## WORONORA DAM

Woronora Dam was constructed between 1927 and 1941 by the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board (now NSW Water) and the dam, its impounded water and the surrounding land mostly owned by NSW Water occupies a large area in the south-west of Sutherland Shire and into LGA Wollongong.

For administrative purposes, the part of that area within Sutherland Shire was proclaimed a Suburb in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January 2008 folio 142.

Ref: GNB Suburb 18 January 2008

## WORONORA HEIGHTS

The name simply reflects that the suburb is on a high area overlooking Woronora River. The suburb was named in 1982 when the area was being developed. Before that it was regarded as a northern part of Engadine along the Woronora Plateau. Whilst retaining large areas of open space, a combination of private and Government Landcom subdivisions occurred from 1982 onwards in conjunction with the formation of the new suburb.

Most of the land now in the suburb (other than grants to early selectors) was first included in 1876 in a reserve *for water supply for Sydney and Suburbs* (*NSW Government Gazette* No 60 of 23 February 1876 folio 816) but this then ceased to have any effect and was revoked in 1886 (*NSW Government Gazette* No 365 of 3 July 1886 folio 4460). Parts of the National Park were also in the area from 1879, (dedicated in *NSW Government Gazettes* No 148 of 26 April 1879 folios 1923-4 & No 314 of 3 August 1880 folios 4035-6 & No 117 of 22 March 1883 folio 1583), but following a Government decision to release all of the National Park on the western side of the Illawarra railway line to become part of the “Suburban Lands of Heathcote”, those areas ceased to be part of the National Park when revoked in *NSW Government Gazette* No 442 of 26 August 1903 folio 6293-4.

The first privately-owned land was opposite what is now the suburb of Bangor and consisted of two parcels originally selected by John Connell, one at the Crown land auction on 14 February 1838 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 313 of 5 January 1838 folios 20-24), and the other (at the bend in the river), advertised first on 8 May 1837, and again on 13 December 1837 but remaining unsold until Connell obtained it at the auction on 13 May 1840 (advertised in *NSW Government Gazette* No 18 of 28 March 1840 folios 307-9) — both parcels passed to his heir Elias Pearson Laycock, who had to finalise the grant of the first of those parcels in his name on 9 May 1851. Elias Laycock sold both parcels to Archibald Allardice on 18 October 1852, but after Allardice had financial problems in 1855 they were sold to John Connell Laycock (Elias’ brother) who also had debt problems, with the land being sold to Thomas Holt on 14 August 1861. Although part of Holt’s South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate, as there is no mention of this land in Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*.

The only subdivision of that land for many years was the subsequent owner, Mary Constance Cowdery, who in January 1916 purchased Connell’s 1838 purchase, and who subdivided “Deepwater Estate” in

1919 along the waterfront of Woronora River (now part of Woronora). The rest of that land remained undeveloped bushland until partly subdivided after it became part of Woronora Heights in 1982.

On the eastern side of John Connell's selections, was land which failed to sell at an auction on 31 May 1864 (Advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 98 of 30 April 1864 folios 1089-94) but later purchased by Samuel Gray on 1 July 1878, and later sold after mortgage default to Henry Halloran who subdivided blocks along the waterfront of Woronora River in December 1909 as "Woronora River Estate Stage 2". The rest of that land remained undeveloped bushland until partly subdivided after it became part of Woronora Heights in 1982.

James Mitchell purchased 90 acres fronting Woronora River (opposite what is now Barden Ridge) from a Crown land auction on 11 March 1840 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 8 of 8 February 1840 folios 133-9 after it failed to sell when advertised 2 January 1838). After Mitchell's death, his executors sold the land to William Barker in June/July 1876, but by 1908 it had been subdivided in 4 parcels, each with frontage to Woronora River and named "Woronora River Frontages Estate". The only further subdivision which occurred for many years was the "Fern Camp Estate," of late 1917 on Lot 3 of that subdivision, sold to NSW Realty Company Limited by Barker's executors in July 1918 which was placed as close to the Woronora River as it could be situated, as there was a *100 feet wide from high water mark* Crown reservation enforced from the original grant (Land & Property Information historical land records). The rest of that land remained undeveloped bushland, although Lot 2 had been sold to M Hall and Lot 4 to C.E Newman (also around 1908) until being acquired by, and partly subdivided by the NSW Land & Housing Corporation after the area became part of Woronora Heights in 1982 (Land & Property Information historical title records).

John Lewis Spencer, also from the Crown land auction on 11 March 1840, purchased the 100 acres adjoining the south side of Mitchell's purchase. It is not known when Spencer disposed of this property, but around the end of 1840 he had an agreement for Francis Mitchell to occupy and then purchase the property, although it is not known if that sale was finalised. It remained whole as portion 19 parish of Sutherland for many years. It was converted to Torrens Title in 1888 on application from subsequent non-resident owners Joanna Walker, James Thomas Walker and Alexander Archer, a consortium of investors who had large property holdings all over New South Wales. In January 1912 it was sold to Charles Adolphus Bosenquet de Krantzow, who had to transfer a major part of property to the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board in 1938, as land required for the Woronora Dam to Penshurst Reservoir pipeline. The next year, Krantzow subdivided the remainder into "Waterside Estate", a bit of a misnomer as it was behind a waterfront 100 feet wide reservation of Crown land (Land & Property Information historical land records).

The large area of Crown land on the north side of Mitchell grant, extending up to the land originally selected by John Connell was re-proclaimed as a Crown Reserve *for public recreation* in *NSW Government Gazette* No 43 of 24 March 1921 folio 2029, however all except for a strip 70 metres wide along Woronora River was revoked in *NSW Government Gazette* No 33 of 13 February 1987 folio 787 when acquired by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, which partially subdivided the area, but much remains as undeveloped bushland.

Initially there appeared to be an intention that "Woronora River Frontages" subdivisions would extend all along the generally eastern side of Woronora River, as the "Village of Woronora" proclaimed in *NSW Government Gazette* No 191 of 17 November 1933 folios 4045-7 included: *east of the mean high-water mark on the right bank of the Woronora River; by a line parallel to and rectangularly distant 4 chains from that mean high-water mark, generally south-westerly to a point south-east of the limit of the tidal waters of the said Woronora River*. Changes in zoning after World War II dictated however that the area would be "open space" and much of the private land along that stretch has now been acquired for inclusion in that open space.

Originally adopted as a locality (“neighbourhood”) the Geographical Names Board confirmed *Woronora Heights* as a suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 9 of 18 January folio 142.

Ref: GNB Neighbourhood 23 July 1982, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## YARRAWARRAH

The current suburb is located on land which had been temporarily reserved by the NSW Government in 1874 *pending selection of Railway Line and other public purposes* (NSW Government Gazette No 1 of 2 January 1874 folio 7) and a *reserve for water supply for Sydney and Suburbs* (NSW Government Gazette No 60 of 23 February 1876 p.816, revoked in No 365 of 3 July 1886 p.4460) Those reserves ceased to have any effect when the National (now Royal National) Park was extended westerly to Woronora River and Forbes Creek (known at the time as “Port Hacking Creek”) (NSW Government Gazette No 314 of 3 August 1880 pp.4035-6). Governor Loftus assented in 1881 to the building of the Illawarra Railway line through the National Park and the extension of the railway to Waterfall was officially opened for traffic on March 9, 1886. In 1903 (NSW Government Gazette No 442 of 26 August 1903 p.6293-4) the part of the National Park on the western side of the railway line was revoked and became part of the “Suburban Lands of Heathcote,” for future development.

The locality was regarded as part of “Engadine North” in early Crown subdivisions of the area beginning in the 1930s. In 1968, a public school in Old Bush Road was proposed as “Engadine North Public School,” however that name was rejected by the Geographical Names Board in favour of the “Yarrowarrah,” which name the Geographical Names Board advised was an Aboriginal language word meaning “mountain ash” and was the name of a ridge (“Yarrowarrah Ridge” formerly known as “Yarrowarrah Heights”) located in the vicinity between Heathcote and Waterfall (ref: St George and Sutherland Shire Leader, 2 October 1968, p 31). The name was adopted for the school in November 1973. The name was also proposed for the Suburb in March 1972 and was adopted in *NSW Government Gazette* No 59 of 2 June 1972 p.2146.

Given that “Yarrowarrah Ridge” was a name in use prior to the suburb being named, the suburb name can be assumed to come from the name given to the ridge. In view of the description given as “mountain ash,” it is likely that it was adapted from the word “Yarr-warrah,” with that meaning which appears in the book *“Australian Native Aboriginal Words and their Meanings”* (1924) by Sydney J Endacott, however Endacott does not provide any information regarding the source of the word or from where the meaning was derived.

“Mountain ash” is a tree which is found mainly in Tasmania and eastern Victoria, however there is a much earlier reference to “Yar-warrah” which relates it to a different tree species growing much closer to Sutherland Shire.

Yar-warrah was recorded by Sir William Macarthur and Edward Hill Esq. as the Aboriginal language word for “Black Butt Gum” from the Illawarra area and described it as “one of the very largest of the Eucalypts,” for the sample exhibited in Sydney in October 1861 in preparation for a Universal Exhibition to take place in London in May 1962 (*Catalogue of Natural and Industrial Products of New South Wales*, Sydney, 1861)

Also of note is an entry of “Yarrowarrah” meaning “place of tall trees” in a booklet about the local Aboriginal people, the Dharawal (*Dharawal: The Story of the Dharawal speaking people of southern Sydney*, a collaborative work by Les Bursill and others, published by Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation, Sydney, 2007). That would seem to agree with the 1861 description of very large Eucalypts, which infers that they would have been of considerable height.

It therefore appears likely that the name Yarrawarra is derived from a local Aboriginal language word relating to the species of Eucalypt known as “Black Butt Gum.”

Ref: GNB Suburb 2 June 1972, now Suburb 18 January 2008

## YOWIE BAY

The suburb name of Yowie Bay had its origins in the waterway name “Ewey Bay”, the name shown on Surveyor Robert Dixon’s 1827 map. Subsequent maps throughout the 1800s continued to label the bay as “Ewey Bay.”

“Ewey Bay” appeared in the description of the land when it was offered at a Crown land auction on 17 January 1856 (advertised *NSW Government Gazette* No 175 of 17 December 1855 folios 3301-5). It remained unsold, but was on 31 December 1862 purchased by Thomas Holt as part of his South Botany (later Sutherland) Estate. In Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, the peninsula was called the “Ewey Bay Point Paddock”, and he had several other references to “Ewey Bay”. Various newspaper items continued to refer to the locality of “Ewey Bay” well into the 1900s, however “Yowie Bay” was used concurrently from late 1889, when the “Holt-Sutherland Estate” subdivided the peninsula as the “Village of Weeroona”, with newspaper advertisements stating that it was at “Yowie Bay, Port Hacking”, even though the registered subdivision plan showed the adjoining bay as “Ewey Bay” (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 September 1889, p.12 and Land & Property Information historical plans).

How and why the name “Ewey” transformed into “Yowie” is not well understood. Dixon had labelled other localities in Port Hacking with names that strongly identify as of local Aboriginal origin, (Gunnamatta, Burraneer), so it is assumed that “Ewey” was Dixon’s recording of the Aboriginal name too. In 1890, Richard Hill, referring to what is now called Yowie Point, reported that “the next point is “Yowie,” which means “Cooey,” and being a prominent point, the blacks, when travelling north, used to cooey to their friends on the north, and were brought over in the canoes...”, (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 June 1890, p. 5 under the heading “Aboriginal Names”). Also, the word “yowi” appeared as “echo of a cooee” on a list of Aboriginal words collected in 1899 by the Anthropological Society of Australasia, in the Liverpool (police) district, which at the time extended to the Woronora River but had some years earlier included all the area which became Sutherland Shire.

One suggestion as to how “Yowie” came to replace “Ewey”, made by Marjorie Hutton-Neve (*Sutherland Shire Historical Society Bulletin*, October 1969) and discussed by Merle Kavanagh (*Echoes From The Bay – The Yowie Bay Story*, pp.30-31), relates to Thomas Holt’s attempts to run sheep in the area in the 1860’s. In Walker’s 1868 *Report on the Sutherland Estate*, he refers several times to an “old Sheep Yard” located to the north of Ewey Bay. (As Walker also indicated in his report that there were other “old Sheep Yard[s]” elsewhere within the Estate, the word “old” would therefore seem to refer to areas where sheep were formerly held on the Estate, there being no record found of any sheep in the area until Thomas Holt imported his flocks). It could only be by coincidence that sheep (including ewes of course) would be run near Ewey Bay, but the possibility that some of the workers, presumably with various British accents, might have pronounced “ewe” as “yow” and then introduced the pronunciation “Yowie” for “Ewey” is worthy of consideration at least as a feasible explanation.

In 1934, Sutherland Shire Council tried to end the use of the ‘alternate’ names “Ewey Bay” and “Yowie Bay”, as reported in a local newspaper:

*Yowie Bay, a pretty and popular resort in the Port Hacking River [sic], will in future be known as Ewey Bay. Maps published over 50 years ago designate the place as ‘Ewey Bay’ and how it came to be known as ‘Yowie’ very few seem to know. The original name of Ewey Bay is recognised by the Electoral Office and the Postal Dept. Sutherland Council had decided to address all future correspondence to Ewey Bay, and to endeavour to get residents to adopt the name. Bus designation boards and shop and road signposts will now all have to be altered (The Propeller, 27 April 1934, p.6).*

The public disagreed and the name 'Yowie' became more widely established (Kavanagh, *Echoes From The Bay – The Yowie Bay Story*, p.30).

When the Geographical Names Board adopted the suburb name in *NSW Government Gazette* No 83 of 22 June 1973 folio 2656-7, it confirmed the popular name of Yowie Bay.

NOTE 1: Village of Weeroona: that name barely survived the advertising period of around three months. The name "weeroona" is of Aboriginal origin and appears to be from the Bendigo area of Victoria, and became popular for place and building names in the latter part of the nineteenth century in eastern Australia due to the indicated meaning of "resting place" (from lists published in various newspaper).

NOTE 2: "Port Hacking River" was often used in early reports to refer to the whole of "Port Hacking" as well as the "Hacking River."

Ref: GNB Suburb 4 May 1973, now Suburb 18 January 2008

#### **NOTE ON MATERIAL REFERENCED AS LAND & PROPERTY INFORMATION**

These items were researched from material available from the NSW Land and Property Information prior to the transfer of the land registry services to private enterprise, through searches of indexes and other materials available for research purposes.

From 1 December 2017, some of the data can still be accessed from NSW Land and Property Information, however, some enquiries for research materials would now need to be directed to NSW Land Registry Services <https://www.nswlrs.com.au>

## BIOGRAPHY: LAURIE BURGESS

Laurie spent his formative years growing up in Gymea Bay and worked for several State and Commonwealth bodies as well as private enterprise in Sydney and Canberra before joining Sutherland Shire Council on 29 May 1990 in its Recreational Facilities and Buildings Department where he had interaction with most areas of Council and with residents who contacted Council on a wide range of issues. After several years he transferred to a technical support position in the Parks Operations Department and then to the Land Information Unit, now Spatial Services, where he attends mainly to maintenance of visual records of Council's property and road assets.

Before joining Sutherland Shire Council, Laurie successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in foreign languages and history, which naturally led to an interest in the history of Sutherland Shire. He has prepared many research histories of Council reserves as background information for reports by other areas of Council. He has been a member of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society for some years and has had many of his articles published in its Quarterly Bulletin.

According to Laurie, the recording of history is an evolving process as more and more reliable information becomes freely available from sources such as the National and State Libraries and some Government bodies. A few years ago historians had to diligently search through mounds of paperwork and use guesswork to fill in the gaps. Those gaps are now being filled in with verifiable data, although that sometimes means dismissing stories that were repeated so often that they became accepted as factual.

# SUHLR

