



A NEW LIFE UNDER A NEW FLAG

The Story of John and Mary Ann Ellis (nee Bilson) and the Ellis Clan in
Forbes, Arncliffe, Bexley, Rockdale and Carlton (1802 – 2023).



By their Great Great Grandson, (Copyright 2023)

The Aim of this Story

I began this exercise about 5 months ago knowing a great deal about my family overseas but, I now realise, knowing virtually nothing of their lives here at Bayside. I knew my grandfather and grandmother and their family lived at Arncliffe, but that was about all and I was truly stunned when my research uncovered the lives of 6 Ellis families, including my Great Grandparents Sylvester and Catherine Ellis. For me, this has truly been a journey of discovery and it also shows me how little we actually know of our ancestors and their lives. Yet, their lives influence ours. I have discovered some of my family who died, or were terribly injured for their country, who lived in traumatic and difficult times but always kept the family together, come hell or high water. Not a bad lesson to absorb.

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Arncliffe before the White Settlement.

It would be truly remiss of me if I failed to mention those people who lived in the Bayside area long before we white Europeans arrived. The area was inhabited by members of the Bidjigal and Gadigal clans. This area of Botany Bay and Wolli Creek would have been prolific with fish and other seafoods plus the area likely had wallabies, and other marsupials. Oysters still grow on local rocks and there would have been ample amounts of berries etc which would have supported small bands of hunter gatherers. Interestingly though, figures taken from the (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 2023, p. 1) 2021 Census show that only 0.7 % of the Bayside population declare themselves as of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Anyway, I would like to extend my thanks to them as they, truly, went before.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When the world renowned scientist, Sir Isaac Newton stated that “ If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants”,

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by which he meant those who had gone before him and either blazed a trail or encouraged him in his endeavours. I am certainly not trying to equate myself with Sir Isaac Newton (my old Science Teacher, Froggy Cook would laugh) but it is in this context that I dedicate this story to those that are still with me or who have gone before.

- a. My lovely wife Linda, and my family, Katie, Andrew and James and their partners Richard, Kym and Leah for their encouragement, support and constant good humour, especially when I tried to give family updates at Kangaroo Valley;
- b. To Robert Bruce Ellis, my late cousin, who introduced me into the family history of the Ellis Clan in Australia, who gave my sons, Andrew and James such a wonderful introduction to Forbes, Eugowra and Oak Park and, passing in 2016, now lies with his beloved angel in Eugowra, where he was born. Truly a man for all seasons, bushie, researcher and writer, shearer and a man who, like a true Aussie, never let anything stand in his way.
- c. To my son Andrew who took me on the road trip that I never had time for because of work. It was a brilliant holiday and I like to think that we both got more out of it than the family history – thanks Andrew
- d. To Dawn Welsh, my 92 year old cousin whom Andrew and I met recently at Eugowra on our trip and gave us her information and knowledge generously and unhindered.
- e. To Robb Ellis, Roberts son and his wife Bec, for their information about Forbes, showing me a 100 year old, unopened jar of Bray Pickles, and a lovely lamb roast.
- f. To my brother and sister, Edward and Cheryl and Cheryl's daughter Helen, for their keen interest, support and enthusiasm for what I have been doing.
- g. To Rockdale Library staff for their generous assistance and time, as well as staff from The State Library of NSW.
- h. Finally to all of those cousins that I found that I never knew that I had.

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Their Children

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Leslie Albert Ellis RAAF d. 1945 (Germany)

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Their Children 101

Victoria May Ellis (Aunty Vic)

Clementine Lavinia Ellis (Aunty Clem)

Reuben Oliver John Ellis (Uncle Bunny)

Gladys Catherine Pearl Ellis (Aunty Gladys)

Sylvester Edward John Ellis (Uncle Tiger)

Wilfred Noel Ellis (Uncle Bill) Australian Militia and 2nd AIF

**Gordon Alexander (Dad) Australian Militia and 2nd AIF and Otille
Annie Ellis (Mum)**

Their Children

Edward John Ellis

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Xxx Ellis (me)!

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Introduction

Every story, written or otherwise has a beginning. Some take place in a certain town, city or suburb while others involve a family, their descendants and their location and their lives. This is such a story. As you begin reading about John Ellis and Mary Ann Bilson, and James McKeon and Mary Cotterell, you might say, disappointedly, that this has nothing to do with Bayside, Rockdale, Arncliffe, Carlton and Bexley and you will be completely wrong. Families are like the sands of the desert, shifting and moving, and so this is their story.

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The Beginning

We begin with my Great Great Grandparents, John and Mary Ann Ellis (nee Bilson) and their lives. At the time of writing this story, all of their children and most of their Grandchildren had passed on so, this story is based on documentation that I have found, places I have visited and some family stories. Therefore, I am making no claims that this is a totally 100% accurate historical narrative but I have done my best to make it as historically accurate as possible, while introducing the element of the story teller, with the odd assumption thrown in. At any rate, be kind to me. The purpose of writing this piece of prose is to enable my children, Grandchildren and future members of the Ellis Clan who may or may not ever know me, to be able to develop a broad understanding of who were our ancestors, how and where did they live, who did they love, together with their dreams and visions.

It has only been in researching this story that I have uncovered so much of my families immediate past, and realised what I had missed and how much I did not know. So, sit back, relax and follow the story of my ancestors because from them comes my DNA and stories that can be passed onto my descendants.

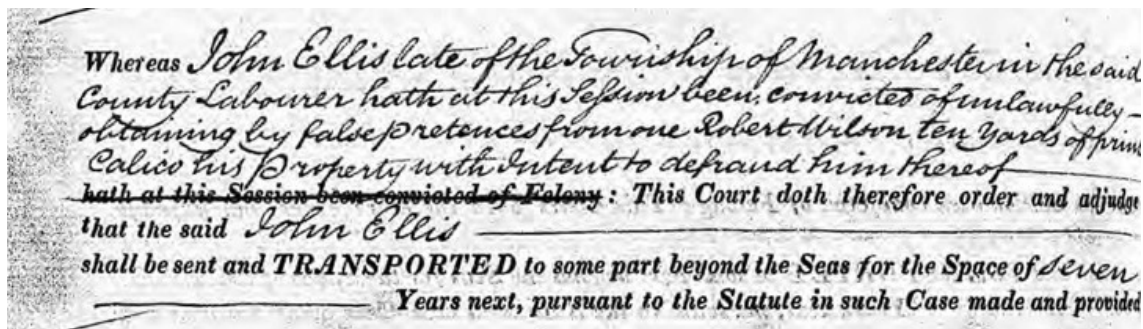
Some, like my Grandfather, John Alexander Ellis, lived with tragedy for 19 years. Others went off to War and never returned while others came back, scarred for life. My own father, Gordon Alexander Ellis returned after fighting for three years in New Guinea in Milne Bay, Gona, Buna and other lovely places, to have malaria attacks for the rest of his life. However, I think that I am getting ahead of myself. It is my firm belief that we are influenced by our forebears, their victories, their defeats, their loves and lives. How did they cope, like my grandfather and his family of 7 children, with tragedy? What was life REALLY like on a convict ship for 3 months? I intend to focus on their lives at Arncliffe, Bexley and Carlton however, this is not going to be a history of those places. The story is about how a retired grazier and his wife moved from Forbes in 1911, bought a home in Arncliffe in 1915, were followed by some of their children and how, now in 2023, some of us are still here, living in this area. Their times as convicts, at the goldfields and their treks northward to Forbes with a cart and bullock are unbelievable in the harshness that they faced and help us understand how lucky we are in 2023.

(Photographer) So, I am going to start at the beginning, always a good idea I think, and look at my Great Great Grandparents, John Ellis, a convict from Lancaster given 7 years at Norfolk Island for Larceny, Mary Cotterell, Great Great Grandmother, convict, given seven years in Van Dieman's Land for stealing her

mistresses clothes, her father David Cotterell, (lets keep it in the family) who received fourteen years for stealing wine and then, carpenters tools, was also sent to Van Diemens Land where he died in 1842 from a heart attack, and James Mckeen, an Irishman and Great Great Grandfather, who when his first wife died in Dublin, stole three sheep to feed his children. He received 7 years in Van Diemens Land, like Mary Cotterell. Oh, with all of the convicts I left out Mary Ann Bilson. She was unique in that she was not a convict, but had been bought out to Sydney by one George Freeman, ex-convict, as an assisted migrant and after working for him at the Rocks, finished up at Norfolk Island as an Indoor Servant. There are other convicts dangling (quite literally) from the tree, including a horse thief and a deserter from the Kings German Legion in Spain, as well as a female counterfeiter, sentenced to be hung but given life here in NSW instead but we shall stay with the main Ellis line to save confusion.

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John Ellis was born in Colne, Lancaster England in 1802. His mother was Ann Ellis but his father is unknown. His early life remains a mystery but we do know that in 1837 he appeared in Court in Manchester, was charged with Larceny – obtaining goods with False Pretences and was subsequently found guilty. This was his second appearance in the same Court, with the Judge advising him that in his first appearance, he was let off but had been lucky. He obviously did not learn his lesson and his luck had apparently run out! (Documents, 1837, p. 7)



Whereas John Ellis late of the Township of Manchester in the said County Labourer hath at this Session been convicted of unlawfully obtaining by false pretences from one Robert Wilson ten yards of prime Calico his Property with Intent to defraud him thereof hath at this Session been convicted of Felony: This Court doth therefore order and adjudge that the said John Ellis shall be sent and **TRANSPORTED** to some part beyond the Seas for the Space of Seven Years next, pursuant to the Statute in such Case made and provided

The Register of Indictable Offences and Person for 10th April 1837 shows John Ellis being sentenced to 7 years transportation and in 1838 he boarded the Bengal Merchant for New South Wales and arrived in Sydney on 21st July 1838. From Sydney he was moved to Norfolk Island which would seem to not be a good move but when you are in a ball and chains, you tend to go where they tell you. His appearance is listed as a dark and sallow complexion, his hair is dark brown with brown eyes. His face, at the age of 35, appears from the description to be battered. He is listed as Protestant, single and could read and write and his occupation was an Indoor Servant. He had scars on the outer corner of the left eyebrow, breast and arms hairy, scar on back of lower left arm, two scars outside right leg. He was about 5' 9" tall and had broken front teeth. He was obviously not immune to being in a scrap or two. The Ellis family have always been pretty good in a blue! At Primary School I had blond curls like Shirley Temple and was always being bullied. Dad taught me how to fight and very quickly, I was left alone, despite my curls.



A painting of the Bengal Merchant (Merchant)

Life on board a convict ship was not pleasant. Convicts were generally kept in cells below decks, with a bucket for drinking water and another for their waste. They were allowed on deck for an hour a day. The journey from England to New South Wales generally took, depending on the condition of the prevailing winds, about 3-4 months. On the Bengal Merchant there were 270 convicts, plus sailors and Marines to keep the convicts under control. Breaches of discipline were generally dealt with by the Cat O Nine tails, which was a whip with 9 strands of leather, some occasionally with pieces of lead at the end to weigh them down and inflict more pain. John Ellis had already spent a year in prison before setting sail from England and one can only imagine what he felt as the vessel moved and rolled through the sea. Men would be moaning with seasickness, the smell of vomit, urine and faecal waste in the air, and then came dinner!! I am not sure it was something to look forward to!



Typical cells in Convict Ships from UK to NSW
(Emporium, 2012)

I suspect that the drawing does not truly provide an accurate image of the stench of sewage, vomit from seasickness, unclean and unwashed convicts, a rocking and rolling wooden vessel on the high seas and the foul and maggot infested food. Not quite the sort of description Princess Cruises

would use however, this was a free trip, courtesy of the Monarch, Queen Victoria. There was no Suggestion Box on board! If there was, it had likely been ripped from its hinges and thrown overboard.

When John Ellis arrived at NSW (Sydney) he was transferred to Norfolk Island and after spending a year breaking rocks, just to get his attitude right, he was assigned a position of Indoor Servant to a British Officer, named DACG Smith who was Norfolk Islands Commissariat (in charge of stores and supplies). Smith, being a senior officer had his own quarters on a street called Quality Row. John Ellis, as his

servant would have had a small room, connected to the building. Norfolk Island had a terrible reputation with floggings of 200-300 lashes, and hangings being normal, so, John Ellis was lucky to get a job working for Smith. Working as an Indoor Servant for Smith was to be a life changing event for John Ellis.



Quality Row, included within is DACG Smiths quarters. John Ellis would have had a side room attached to this building. (Philips, 1996, p. 9)

Meanwhile, back in England a 19-year-old young woman from Bristol, Somerset had been born on 20th February, 1822. Her name was Mary Ann Bilson and she does not appear to be anyone out of the ordinary. Her father died when she was 11 years of age and her mother (Dianna) apparently moved back to Clapham. When Mary Ann was 19, she became an Assisted Immigrant to New South Wales. These schemes were fairly popular at the time (and still are in 2023 in Australia). She was subsidised by a man called Alexander Campbell, living at the Rocks who was an ex-convict himself. He was bringing out people and would arrange lodging and work for them, for a part of their wages. As a young single female, she was placed under the care of the ship's surgeon during the voyage.

The following is an extract taken from notes she gave the surgeon of the ship, the Bussorah Merchant. (Surgeon, 1842, p. 9) He stated that "she was a Protestant, could read and write and was a housemaid. She was listed as being in very good physical condition". We can only wonder what would have driven her to undertake such a voyage (3-4 months), into the unknown world of NSW. At any rate, she obviously had some gumption and on 5th April 1841 she arrived at Sydney in New South Wales. Her future life would call upon her to exhibit all of her toughness and resourcefulness, traits which I believe are in evidence in her descendants today. A woman at Forbes who knew her before she died said that" she was tall and strong, intelligent and hard working".

It is interesting to look at the lives of women, both free and convict, around the 19th Century. It is not quite the picture that one gains from reading *Pride and Prejudice* or watching the movie. The reality was their lives were ones of hardship, having children on a regular basis and, if their partner died, looking for a new

husband as quickly as possible to offer her and her existing children some protection. If we then look at the clothing they wore (two of my ancestors were women who died from burns when their clothes caught fire in the kitchen). Their huts or shanties had dirt floors, no appliances that we would consider labour saving, no running water and a life in the Australian bush with all of its lack of comfort. There was usually an outhouse. So, women had it tough as this story shall show (and that is before they reached Arncliffe).



NAME (Hus.)	BILSON, Mary Ann (single woman)		
OCCUPATION	House maid		
REL	Prot	AGE 19	R.W. Yes
NATIVE PLACE	Bristol, Eng		
FATHER	BILSON, James - dead		
MOTHER	BILSON, Dianna Orton - alive in Clapham		
NAME (Wife)			
OCCUPATION			
REL		AGE	R.W.
NATIVE PLACE			
FATHER			
MOTHER			
CHILDREN	Mary Ann was 19 yrs 20 Feb 1841		
	/Merchant"		
SHIP "Bussorah"	DATE OF ARRIVAL 5 Apr 1841 VOL 39		

Mary Ann Bilson b. 1922 England m. 1844 Sydney and Bathurst 1873 d. 1908 Forbes NSW (Ancestry.com, Mary Ann Bilson, p. 10)

Mary Ann Bilson arrived in Sydney on 5th April 1842 and was a housemaid for her Master, Alexander Campbell. At some stage she moved to Norfolk Island where, as a Housemaid it appears she may have worked for DACG Smith and subsequently met John Ellis (broken teeth, scars and all). As with all women she obviously fell in love with an Ellis male (John Ellis), and, when his time as a convict was up, and while waiting for his Certificate of Freedom (Appendix 1), they took a boat to Sydney where they were married on 16th December 1844 at Scots Church. After their marriage they appear to have returned to Norfolk Island. As free people they returned to their jobs as housemaids and servants and, on 12th November 1846 their first and only son, Sylvester Ellis was born. He was to be my Great Grandfather and the Master of Oak Park at Forbes. He was baptised at the Norfolk Island church on the 9th December 1846.



The photo on the left is a portion of the Norfolk Island Chapel, in which baby Sylvester was baptised in late 1846. Taken by me in 2011 on a holiday to Norfolk Island.

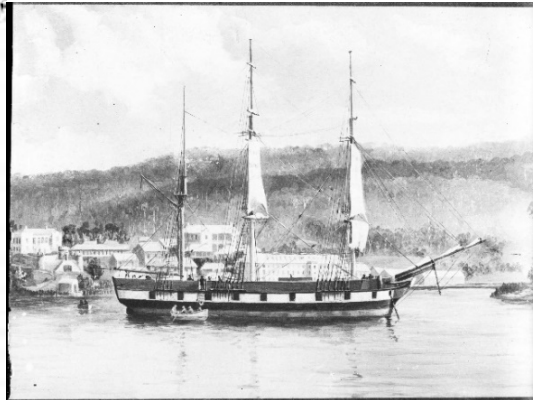
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Very soon after Sylvester's birth, John, Mary and baby Sylvester took a ship to Sydney via Hobart however, this was not a direct route. This vessel was called the Lady Franklin, and the departure of the vessel is noted in the diary of Aaron Price (convict) as being

around late December 1846. (5; Ellis T. , Chapel)

Britannia and Trades' Advocate (Hobart Town, Tas., 1846 - 1851)
from Port Phillip. Cargo, sheep. Cabin pas
Thursday 31 Dec 1846

schmer, Mr. Dickson. Steerage, John Hill, Wm. Hall, M. Hopwood, and R. Short.
Dec. 30.—Arrived the Government barque Franklin, Willett, master, from Norfolk Island Dec. 12. Passengers, the Judge of the Criminal Court, F. Browne, Esq., and Mrs. Browne; the Crown Prosecutor, R. Stewart, Esq.; Lieut. Butler and family; Mr. Sellers, foreman of works; Mr. and Mrs. Ross, Miss Smith, Mr. Croll, John and Mary Ann Ellis, Augustus Stoop, William Harris, and Thomas Walsley, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 18 rank and file of the 11th and 96th regiments, as a guard over prisoners. Remarks—The Island was quiet. Instructions had been received to send on the next two ships from England with their prisoners to Van Diemen's Land, instead of landing them on the Island.



(Advocate H. T., 1847)The Lady Franklin
(database, 1838)

It appears that there were a couple of older ships which made regular round trips from Norfolk Island, Hobart, Port Philip, Sydney and back to Norfolk Island. John and Mary boarded the Lady Franklin with their new born, Sylvester, to make the trip to Sydney. We have a newspaper note "Shipping Intelligence" which shows Mr and Mrs Ellis sailing from Hobart to Sydney in January 1848, on the Louisa. We do know that the small family ended up at Yass and in December 1848 their only daughter, Emily "Granny Rogers" Ellis was born. I have not delved into her and her life in this narrative. Suffice it to say that I have met some cousins of mine, which come from her line. The 'Granny Rogers' comes from the fact that she was a midwife who bought many children into the world.

In 1848 the family resided at Yass, where John had a job on a property named Yeumburra which was situated in a curve of the Murrumbidgee River, owned by a Mr Turner as a sawyer. In those days most large country properites needed timber for houses, fences, buildings, etc as there was usually a ready supply and most large properties had their own saw mills. The cleanly dressed timber that we buy today at Bunnings, or other commercial outlets, did not usually exist in the country and the sawmill and operators were essential components. To demonstrate

this I have included the photos below which I recently took at Oak Park, Forbes, home of Sylvester and Catherine and their 12 children. My Australian ancestral home. The country homes are quite simple and not grand stone houses with columns. Inevitably, like Oak Park, they are surrounded by a bull nosed verandah and, in the case of Oak Park, to cater for the size of the family, had two main buildings with a covered breezeway between them to enable cooling during the heat of an Australian summer. Foundations were rough, floors were timber and, if you were wealthy, you had a number of fireplaces and ceilings made of tin and covered with a layer of white plaster to make them look nice



Oak Park – off Ellis Lane and the Cowra Road Photo (Ellis T. , Photo of Oak Park Forbes)

In 1902, around its peak, Sylvester and Catherine hosted 150 guests at the reception for their daughter, Catherine's wedding to Edward Volney Silk. To quote the Argus "the guests danced, drank and partied until the wee small hours"!



timber



The breezeway between both buildings at Oak Park
(Ellis T. , Oak Park Breezeway and timber roof)

On the left, a photo taken by me at Oak Park of one of the buildings with the hand sawn beams and rafters. NO Bunnings dressed timber here, but cut down from local trees. The old shed is also built from hand hewn



Yeumburra – owned by a Mr Turner (Ancstry.com)

John and Mary's second child, Emily Ellis was born on 6th December 1947 and baptised at Yass on 28th September 1849. This gap between birth and baptism was not unusual as Clergy often travelled from Parish to Parish, carrying out their duties.



Emily "Granny Rogers" B. 1847 Yass D. 1943 Burwood (Ancestry.com, Emily "Granny Rogers" Press nee Ellis)

23 rd Sep 2	6 th Dec 2	Emily	John & Mary Ann	Ellis	Gumbarna	Savoy	Chatfield Kingston
No. 726.	1848.				Murumbidgee		

(Ellis T.)

This is the only photo which I have of Emily. She would go on to marry at three times with her first husband (Joseph Sylvester Press) (1867 Forbes) dying after 4 months. The Ellis women have always been tough!! She then married Henry Rogers (1870 Forbes, an Englishman) and finally, Isaac Phillips (1895 at Condoblin). She apparently outlived them all, dying at Burwood in 1943. I have made contact with 2 of her family and they also have their own interesting stories. She, like Sylvester grew up in a challenging environmet of Yass, the Bendigo Goldfieds, the trek north and Bathurst, before moving with her family to Forbes.

The Great Flood 1852 (Herald, 1852) and Bendigo

Life for the small Ellis family now seemed reasonably settled. John had what appeared to be a solid job, while Mary, as was the custom of the times, attended to the children and 'home duties'. However, life in the Australian bush can, as we still see today in 2023, be very deadly. In June 1852, after a long drought there was about 3 weeks of solid, heavy rain in the area. The Murrumbidgee burst its banks and John Ellis was apparently swept away in The Great Flood at Yass/Gundagai, in which 80 people died. It is unknown how Mary and the two children survived the flood however, John Ellis was apparently swept away and his body was never recovered and consequently, no Death Certificate was issued. If one reads the archives, there are heart rending stories of people climbing trees on the Thursday night and climbing on rooftops to escape the floods, and survivors speak of hearing cries for help which, over the next two days, went quiet as people fell into the raging torrent and were washed away. Animals, sheep, cows, kangaroos, etc drowned in their thousand, buildings collapsed and, it must be remembered that there was no State Emergency Service, helicopters etc to call upon. Communication links via telegraph were washed away and Yass and Gundagai were basically isolated from the outside world! After the waters eventually receded there was the unmitigating stench of unburied dead animals and people, with the prospect of disease..

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Two local Aboriginal men, Jacky and Yarri had expertise with dugout canoes and for three days and nights they rowed amongst the raging torrent, plucking lucky



survivors from tree tops. At Gundagai, which had a population of 250, the loss of between 80-100 people was devastating. Indeed, a week ago I found another of my McKeon cousins (Nev), and he passed this story about his family and the Flood to

me: (12; The Great Flood 1852, 1952)

"My G Grandfather was a Blacksmith & lived with his young family on the edge of the floodplain at Gundagai.

In the big flood there his first wife & 3 Children got swept away & were last seen floating downstream on a bale of hay . All were found later on , drowned, miles from their home."
Nowadays our politicians are so much smarter and would never build towns on flood plains would they. Well, sometimes they do – Lismore 2022.

I visited there in my Caravanning days & don't know why anyone would want to build on that floodplain just above the old bridge. There was even a School in the middle of it.

Mary Ann Ellis, with two young children, Sylvester and Emily, were now alone in a hostile environment. She appears to have gone to the gold fields at Bendigo (known then as Sandhurst) where she found a place to stay at Spring Gully, a small town about 5 km from Bendigo. While there are no records, family history says that she took in washing to make ends meet and clothe and feed the children. Goldfields in any part of the world were a nasty and dangerous place for a man, let alone a young widow with two young children. The goldfields were run by the Gold Commissioner, a government appointee, supported by British soldiers. There were a number of simmering issues on the gold fields mainly being the cost of mining licenses which gave you permission to look for gold, Sly Grog (this was typified in the drawing below), rape, murder and theft, and of course, the influx of Chinese immigrants. The Chinese, in particular caused a great deal of resentment amongst the white miners.

The Chinese tended to send any money earned back to China to their families and, being highly motivated, tended to work longer hours in even the harshest environments whereas the white miners tended to be a bit more laid back, drank more and got into more fights. (Thomas)



In the drawing, the tent is labelled Coffee and Meals, just like any modern day Cafe, however, at the back a Digger can be seen buying a cup of alcohol, which was homemade and distilled and pretty rough. Ingredients such as potato peelings,

currants etc, a bit of sugar all go into the mix. Iodine was put into it to improve the colour!! Its advantage was that it was cheap and the people making it did it 'on the sly' to avoid government taxes. Given it was very cheap, drunkenness and drunken behaviour, fighting with fists, knives and guns etc was rampant. Prostitution was also rampant with women setting themselves up in rough tents offering sex for sale. Since most miners did not find much gold, when they did, it was often splurged on prostitutes and sly grog. Many were robbed, beaten and killed for the gold they carried, as well as disputes over ownership of claims. Thousands flocked to the goldfields from overseas, including many from China. This opened a new can of worms and racial tensions ran high. The framework was being laid, for the White Australia Policy in the next century.

Children were also badly treated on the goldfields, with malnutrition, overwork, beatings and even child prostitution went unpunished. Added to this was the Bendigo winter weather of rain and sleet turning the goldfields to mud. I do not think that, sitting back in our lounge rooms with heaters, air conditioners, etc that we truly understand how tough life could be for these Diggers. (Joyce)



Children of the Bendigo Goldfields, likely collecting wood for a cooking fire.

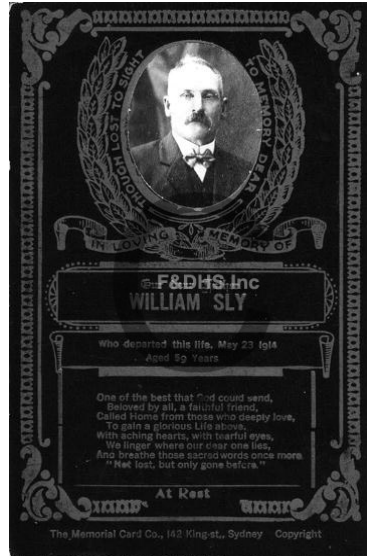
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While living at Bendigo, Mary Ann Ellis met a man called William Sly, became pregnant and had his son, named, of course, William Sly!! Their child was born in

Given their personal situations, it is likely that Mary Ann could not remarry for at least 7 years as her husband, John's body, was never found. Mary Ann Ellis and William Sly (snr) were not married until 1873 at Bathurst. William Sly Snr was an ex-convict (of course) who was born in 1818 and was found guilty of stealing a horse (he was a stable boy). Sentenced to life at Southampton Assizes in 1836, he arrived at New South Wales on the ship The Moffat, with 403 other prisoners.. Likewise, William Sly Snr was a widower who had to wait until proof of his wife's death was obtained. By all accounts, William Snr was a good man who raised Sylvester and Emily, as his own children, and, when he died, he left his estate to Sylvester and his son William, in equal measure. It should be remembered that the daughter did not inherit in those days. She was expected to find a wealthy man and marry him! At Bathurst in 1873, Mary Ann Ellis and William Sly Snr married.

From Bathurst Mary Ann (now Sly) and William moved to Forbes, which was also going through its own gold rush. William Sly Snr died at Forbes in 1904 and Mary Ann Sly in 1908. They are buried together at Forbes Cemetery. By this time, Sylvester Ellis, Mary and John Ellis's son, had become an extremely prosperous grazier owning Oak Park of 1200 acres. Sylvester had so far lived a very adventurous life. Born at Norfolk Island, raised at Yass and then the Bendigo Goldfields before moving to Forbes, marrying Catherine McKeon in 1869 (daughter of two ex convicts) and having 12 children. In 1902 his and Catherine's eldest daughter, also named Catherine, was married at Scots Church Forbes to a returned veteran of the Boer War, Edward Volney Silk from Molong.

Catherine would have an interesting life, having 6 children, two of whom died very young which was not uncommon in those days. Around 1917 she and Edward moved to Hurstville, following her father and mother however, Edward decided to leave the family and move to Queensland where he worked as a shearer. Without bothering with a divorce, he married a woman named Elizabeth Catherine Walsh, when she died in 1946 he married Emily Maude Deede and when she died, he finally married Cleopatra Zurvas. They both died and are buried in Mackay. Maybe Catherine was the lucky one as she lived until 1973



William Sly

senior died in 1908 and is buried at Forbes and his son died in 1914, and is also buried at Forbes Cemetery. (Ellis T. , Headstone of Mary Ann Sly and William Sly Snr) (Sly, 2020)

Mary Ann died in 1908 which may well have been the catalyst for Sylvester to make his decision to retire. From what we know, William Sly Snr was also quite successful at Forbes. Indeed, the text at the bottom of his Death Card above reads:

One of the best that God could send Beloved by all, a faithful friend

Called home from those who deeply love, To gain a glorious life above

With aching hearts, with tearful eyes We linger where our dear one lies

And breathe those sacred words once more "Not lost, but only gone before".

James and Mary McKeon (nee Cotterell) – My other Great Great Grandparents

James McKeon was born in Longford, Dublin Ireland in 1812. He would become a market gardener and his future wife, Susannah Cole was born in County Longford in 1825. She and James were married on 18 Sept 1842. They had 3 children but, sadly, in 1845 Susannah passed away. I have been unable to find out where she is buried nor any details about her other than her father's name was Mr Cole. James was now left with a problem as to how he might support his children. His answer was to steal 3 sheep from a local gentleman but unfortunately, he was caught, charged, tried and found guilty. He was sentenced to Transportation to New South Wales for 7 years, spent 1 year on the prison hulks before arriving at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in January 1846 on the ship Samuel Boddington. His children were left behind and taken care of by his brother and wife but later they moved to Cavan in Ireland. James had no knowledge of their move which would impact him later.

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St Peters Church Dublin – marriage of



James and Susannah Cole- (Wikepeadia, 1830)

**6 Greater Longford St
Dublin home of Susannah Cole**
(Wikipedia, 6 Greater Longford St Dublin,
1822)

James McKeon's Convict Record

First name(s) James
Last name McKeon
Age 33
Birth year 1812
Residence LONGFORD
Residence county Longford
Year 1845
Date 25-Jul-1845
Role Prisoner
Offence LARCENY
Where convicted LONGFORD
Prison Smithfield

James arrived at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land (which was then part of NSW), and spent a year cracking rocks, which seems to have been commonplace. After that, he was transferred to work for a British Officer as a servant, mainly in the garden growing fresh vegetables for the officer's table. He was also promoted to the rank of Constable.

Mary and David Cotterell (her Father)

In 1829 at Horshall in the borough of Woking, Mary Cotterell was born to David and Mary Cotterell (nee Marden). Mary was one of 6 children, however the father, David, whether by chance or need, was not the greatest of role models for young Mary. In 1819 he was found guilty of stealing some wine and sentenced to 7 years transportation to New South Wales. He never made the journey but served 5 years on the prison 'hulks' on the Thames.

It would appear that David was a slow learner because in 1833 he had been found guilty of stealing carpenters' tools and sentenced to 14 years transportation. This time he made the journey and departed on the ship, the *Stakesby*, arriving in Van Diemen's Land in September 1835. He finished up working for a British Officer named Lieutenant Dyball as a Ploughman and Gardener. Unfortunately he was caught drunk and drinking out of hours on Dec 3rd 1838 with prisoners in his charge. He also received 7 days gaol for disorderly conduct in November 1839. Then, in 1842 he died of an apparent heart attack. David Cotterell was buried at New Norfolk but no burial site is known. He was 45 when he died and had never seen his wife and other children since leaving England. To Mary Marden and his children, he had disappeared from the face of the earth.

Mary Cotterell (Great Great Grandmother) – Daughter of David Cotterell (19)

The 1841 UK Census shows Mary (age 13) and her sister Ann (age 10), were living with their sister Charlotte in a small town called Picbright. Mary seems to have been an adventurous young woman because on 17th September 1845 (aged 17) and a laundress, she stood in the Dock at the Old Bailey, charged with theft of two petticoats, three caps, two nightgowns, three shirts and a frock, total value 14 shillings. She was also charged with stealing three shawls and a gown, 3 pound 16 shillings. She pled guilty and received 7 years transportation to Van Diemen's Land. Nothing like following in Dad's footsteps. Mary set sail on the vessel *Elizabeth and Henry* in September 1846, arriving in Hobart January 1847. She was short, only 5' tall, and basically well behaved on the trip. She could read and write and was a Protestant and had a sallow complexion. She was designated as a Laundress and Servant.

Not long after completing her probation in the penal settlement she met James McKeon and they obtained permission to marry on 30th November 1847. This was not unusual in the life of the fledgling colony. The British, as well as finding a dumping ground for their excess convict population, wanted to populate the new continent. Convicts who were reasonably well behaved could marry and even have children. Gold had been found in the Colony, at Ballarat and Bendigo and later Forbes and other parts of the continent. Exploration was taking place and, as we shall see with James, Mary's new husband, convicts could apply to bring the families that they had left behind in England, out to the Colony.

1847
MARRIAGES in the District of Hobart Town

Number	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
1	30 th Jan 1848	James McKeon Mary Cotterell	32	Constable	James McKeon Mary Cotterell	Rev. John H. Hall	30 th Jan 1848	H. Hall

Married in the Catholic Church of St. Joseph according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Holy See by the Rev. John H. Hall, Minister.
This Marriage was solemnized between us } James McKeon } { In the Presence of } John H. Hall, Minister.
Mary Cotterell } { of us } John H. Hall, Minister.

1847
MARRIAGES in the District of Hobart Town

Number	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
2	30 th Jan 1848	John H. Hall Margaret Cotterell	32	Constable	John H. Hall Margaret Cotterell	Rev. John H. Hall	30 th Jan 1848	H. Hall

Married in the Catholic Church of St. Joseph according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Holy See by the Rev. John H. Hall, Minister.
This Marriage was solemnized between us } John H. Hall } { In the Presence of } John H. Hall, Minister.
Margaret Cotterell } { of us } John H. Hall, Minister.

1847
MARRIAGES in the District of Hobart Town

Number	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
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**Marriage Certificate of Mary Cotterell and James McKeon – 3rd January 1848
Hobart Town (at this point Van Diemens Land was still officially part of NSW).
(COTTERELL, 2020)**

While in gaol awaiting transportation, James was reported to have been 'quiet' and 'orderly' but of a 'suspicious character'. Upon arrival at Hobart, he was described as being thirty-two-years-old, five feet seven and a half inches (about 172 cms) tall, with a slightly freckled face, red whiskers, brown hair and grey eyes. He was a Catholic and could read and write. A widower, he had left three young children behind in Ireland. In the colony, James had been sent first to the Rocky Hills Probation Station near Swansea on the east coast of the island. He had conducted himself well there and had not been charged with any offence during the twelve-months he had spent there. He was promoted to the rank of Constable, which was also not unusual. However, James was caught drinking and refusing to obey the orders of a Constable. Did someone say something about the Irish? This was to be my Great Great Grandad!

Notwithstanding his offence, on 24 July of the same year, James was granted a ticket of leave. In the following year, Mary also received a ticket of leave and husband and wife were now both free to find their own accommodation and

employment. Descendants believe that by 1852, they were living together in the Oatlands district. On 31 August 1852, James was issued with his Certificate of Freedom and on 25 January 1853, Mary received hers. They were now free to travel anywhere, including the United Kingdom if they wished to do so. Like thousands of others in Tasmania around this time, James and Mary decided to move to the neighbouring colony of Victoria where, in 1851, the discovery of gold at Ballarat and nearby Bendigo, (considered at the time to be the world's richest alluvial goldfields), were attracting fortune-seekers from all over the world.

Prior to their departure from Van Diemens Land, Mary had given birth to a second child, a daughter whom she named Jane Frances. In 1852 James McKeon obtained permission from the Governor to bring his three children from Ireland, however, the children had been taken by relatives to Cavan in Ireland and the letter was returned unopened. James and Mary had nine children, James and Jane were born at New Norfolk Tasmania, Catherine Jane (Sylvester's future wife) was born on the goldfields, as were William, Ann and Sarah. Margaret, Bridget and Henry were born in Forbes. Curiously, Mary Ann Ellis (the late Johns wife), was also on the goldfields around 1853 with her children Sylvester and Emily.



Mary McKeon (nee Cotterell). One of my Great Great Grandparents with James McKeon (no known photo) (Ellis M. a., 1854)

Having decided that the pickings at Bendigo were lean, the family history tells of a family who made the trek from Bendigo to Forbes in pretty hard style. They obtained a wagon and a bullock, put their few sticks of furniture onto the wagon, and with their children walked all the way. Today it takes 6.5 hours to drive non stop from Bendigo to Forbes. Roads are multilane, sealed, there are rest stops and petrol stations along the way. You can stop to use the restroom, get a burger, a coffee. You

get into your SUV, turn on the air.con , your music and off you go. Apart from the Coppers and RBT and Speed Checks, you travel unhindered. Fortunately, native peoples with spears and bushrangers have disappeared, although you wonder at the cost of a sandwich and coffee in some of the cafes in small country towns. Maybe the bushrangers are now running the cafes!

However, back in the 1860s, travel in Australia was very different. The roads were rough and were basically dirt tracks with bushrangers and aboriginals attacking the occasional traveller. Travel was hard, dangerous and brutal and it is possible that travelling with a single bullock wagon, it could take 2-3 months to get from Bendigo to Forbes. In summer it was burning hot in the Australian bush and water would have been in short supply. In winter, roads were often impassable because of rain and those roads that did exist were impacted by stagecoaches and heavy wagons, leaving ruts that could easily break an axle. If you or one of your children got sick, well, antibiotics had not yet been invented and women had to suffer with long dresses, petticoats and their menstrual cycle, which most authors conveniently ignore. No local hospitals except in larger towns.

By the time the McKeons reached Forbes, the gold rush had been in full swing for a couple of years. Having reached Forbes, James had little success in gold digging so, falling back on his market gardening experience he obtained permission from the Gold Commissioner to be given some land, Garnsey's Paddocks, at Forbes and started planting onions in 1862. Soon, he had obtained land at Wongajong, near Forbes, as a free selector. He called his farm 'Clover Hill'. The farm has now gone but its name is remembered as a suburb. Gradually life was improving for the McKeons. James and Mary continued to have children, and in 1862 Mary had Margaret and in 1865, Bridget was born. However, in between those two births, their fifth child, Anne, was burnt to death when her clothes caught fire. As it turns out this was not an unusual occurrence, given the stoves that were used for heating and cooking, and the clothes that women of all ages wore. Indeed, one of my early cousins also died of the same problem when her dress caught fire while cooking dinner.

Then, in mid 1867, James McKeon suffered a fatal accident. While in the process of opening a gate, something which he had done a thousand times before without incident, he was crushed between the gatepost and horse and cart. He was returned to his home but passed away 5 days later, he was 55 years old. James McKeon, one of my Great Great Grandfathers, was dead. James was buried at Forbes Cemetery.

Gold at Forbes (an aside)

Gold was transported from Forbes to Orange along the Escort Way. The drivers and escorts stayed at The Great Eastern Hotel, owned by Edmund Bray,

another of my Great Great Grandfathers who migrated from England and surprisingly, was not a convict. While the hotel has long gone, the stables and loft are still there, and there are the remains of the foundations of the old pub. One of Edmunds sons, William Bray was to have thirteen children, two of which, Amelia Bray and Jessie May Bray were to marry sons of Sylvester and Catherine Ellis, Joseph Ellis and John Alexander Ellis, my Grandparents.



The stables and loft of the Great Eastern Hotel Foundations of the Great Eastern Hotel today – built in the 1850's (Ellis T. , Barn at the ruins of Great Eastern Hotel Forbes and remains of Foundations, 2023)



This is a very rough photo of the Great Eastern Hotel at Forbes, owned by Edmund Bray, another of my Great Great Grandfathers. (Pinterest, 1853)

One of the most famous bushrangers who used to raid Forbes and attack the gold shipments was a young man named Ben Hall. The most famous (or infamous) of these robberies was at a place

along Escort Way at a feature now called Escort Rocks which was the largest gold robbery in Australian history. In today's terms, the robbery was worth more than a few million dollars, even more because the currency at the time was Pounds. The

plaque, (seen below), is from the site which is now a common tourist stop. Not shown in any of the photos is an old Canon, circa WW1, and painted green. It sits, a silent sentinel halfway towards the rocks. Many tourists have been seen standing by it and getting their photos taken. Unfortunately for them, the history of the cannon was that my late cousin, Robert Bruce Ellis, who was a bushranger in the centenary re-enactment, found the gun on an old property and asked the owner if he (Robert), could have it? The owner knew him and said yes so Robert decided to take it on his trailer and put it next to the Rock. Unbeknownst to most people, it has nothing to do with the Robbery but, it does look very impressive as it points out over Escort Way. When Andrew and I were there, a busload of Japanese tourists pulled up, all frantically taking photos of the Canon. Well done Robert, always the showman and storyteller! (Ellis R. B., The Gold Escort Robbery Eugowra Rocks, 1862)



A century after the robbery, a re-enactment was made and my late cousin Robert Bruce Ellis, was one of the actors. Robert died in 2016, one month after his beloved wife, they say from a broken heart. He is buried at Eugowra Cemetery and Helens ashes are buried with him. Over the years he spent a great deal of time and

his own money on the Ellis family history. He collected a huge quantity of items from around the country and created a small museum at Eugowra. Maybe sensing that he was getting on, he donated the museum and all of its contents, except a couple of precious items, to the National Trust. The museum these days is open by appointment as Eugowra is a very small town however, he has given the town something to show to passers by. Twenty years ago, when my sons were much younger, he took them both on a multi day trip around the countryside, pointing out historical places at Forbes and the Ellis homestead. They will always remember him with fondness. He could not cook to save his life so once a week he had lunch at the local Chinese Restaurant and when my son, Andrew stayed there, Andrew cooked for them and Robert was amazed! I could go on and on about him. He wrote many, many stories, published books and made many friends but, maybe that is a story that I shall write another day.

Escort Rock Gold Robbery Centenary



My late first cousin, Robert Ellis, centre,



Roberts Museum Eugowra (now National Trust) (Ellis R. B., Escorts Rocks gold robbery reenactment centenary plus Eugowra Museum, 1962)



Robert Bruce Ellis and his wife at their property approx. 2000 (Ellis T. , Robert Bruce Ellis and Helen Ellis, 2000)



Ben Hall's Grave at Forbes Cemetery (Ellis T. , Ben Halls Grave , 2023)

Some bushrangers made it into the public consciousness, such as Hall. He lies buried today in the Forbes Cemetery.

Now, having made that slight diversion, lets return to the McKeons!

Mary Mckeon was now in a difficult position as, at the time of James death, she was 6 months pregnant with her 7th child. Unfortunately, the child would only survive for 3 years and died of an illness in 1871. Then, in 1870 Mary married for a second time to Adam James Elliott, a 47 year old Grazier from Forbes. Mary had 7 children, aged from 5 to 21 and it is believed that she and the younger members of the family moved into Adam Elliotts property, 'Green Ponds' near Forbes. Their life together seems to have been quiet but Mary gradually became wealthy and, when in 1889, at the age of 66, Adam Elliot passed away, he left his entire estate to Mary so there must have been some level of love between them, even though their marriage produced no children. Mary moved in with her eldest daughter Jane, at her property called Oatlands, near Forbes. She had come a long way from the convict woman sent to Tasmania for theft.

Mary died on 16th April 1895 and was buried with her first husband James at Forbes Cemetery. The local newspaper published the following obituary: (Advocate F. , 1895)

"The deceased, who was well known and respected in the district, leaves by her first husband a large number of descendants, comprising two sons, five daughters, forty-two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mrs. Elliott's funeral took place on Tuesday and was a lengthy one consisting of no less than forty-six vehicles, some coming from a long distance to be present"

Interestingly, it is very likely that none of her close friends or even family knew of her background. In conclusion we can truly say that Mary McKeon nee Cotterill was a typical pioneer of this country who never gave up no matter what the circumstances. Today, I am in touch with existing members of her descendants. The McKeons and Ellis families are once again connected.

Just as a small aside, in 2001 I flew to Europe and was upgraded to First Class and was about to be served an 8 course meal with fine wines as the Emirates jet flew through the night. I ordered a glass of Bollinger champagne and I gave a silent toast to my ancestors who had made those arduous and terrifying journeys, tossed about in foul conditions, locked in cells below decks and could never, in their wildest imaginings, have thought of me, their Great Great Grandson flying at 35,000 feet, in total luxury back to England, the land that had forcibly ejected them! However I like to think that their trials and tribulations contributed to me being what I am today and whose traits of independence, individuality of thought and perseverance I have passed on to my children and grandchildren.

The Dawn of a new Century

On January 1st 1901 the Commonwealth of Australia was officially proclaimed. Queen Victoria had celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887 and Britannia ruled the waves. The prevailing view in the United Kingdom was that God was an Englishman, the Boxer Rebellion in China had been put down and the Boer War was heading to its inevitable end. All was right with the world! In Australia there was an air of optimism and celebration across the nation. At this time Sylvester and Catherine were living a comfortable life at Forbes with their 12 children, all of whom had survived childhood and were now growing into young men and women.

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A rail network criss crossed NSW, motor cars were still few and far between, roads, even in the large cities were still very often compacted dirt, and you and your neighbour were much more likely to go to Church on a Sunday, dressed in your finery in a horse drawn Sulky. Heavy loads of goods were pulled in horse drawn wagons which left large ruts in the road but, things were changing. On January 21st, 1901, Queen Victoria died, the only Monarch most people had ever known to be



replaced by her son, **Edward VII. (below)** (Wikipedia, <https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/29922>, 2000)

In Europe, the German Kaiser Wilhelm II was the King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany and had turned Germany, with the extraordinary talents of his Chancellor, Otto Von Bismark, into a technological, military and commercial Great Power. His desire was to build a German Naval Fleet that would surpass Great Britains and control the oceans. In 1907 the American President, Theodore Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet, consisting of 16 Battleships, on a 14000 mile journey around the Globe as an expression of America's desire to also be seen as a World Power. In 1903 the Wright Brothers made (possibly), the worlds first powered flight. Work was

underway on the submarine cable but while the telegraph linked Australia to Great Britain, it would be 1930 until the first telephone call to the UK was made.

There were many examples of sickness which could, with the right turn of events, become an epidemic. Penicillin had not been invented and the death rate of mothers and infants was high. In Australia we continued to move at our own pace, ignorant for the most part of what things were happening on the other side of the world. Around the turn of the century Forbes NSW had a population of less than 1,000 people. However, on 10th July 1869, at the age of 23, Sylvester Ellis married Catherine Jane McKeon at Scots Church Forbes. Catherine was born on 24th April, 1854 at Bendigo on the goldfields to James and Mary McKeon (nee Cotterell). Sylvester and Catherine were to have 12 children, born between 1870 and 1897 and all born physically healthy. The children's names were: (Ellis T. , A New Life under a new flag - Table, 2023)

First Name	Second name	Surname	Birth Date	Birthplace	Residence
Sylvester (Father)		Ellis		Norfolk Island	Oak Park Forbes then 8 Stewart St Arncliffe 1911-31
Catherine (Mother)		Ellis		Bendigo Vic. Goldfields	Oak Park Forbes then 8 Stewart St Arncliffe 1911-16
Sylvester	James	Ellis	1870	Forbes	Orange
William	Henry	Ellis	1872	Forbes	
Joseph		Ellis	1874	Forbes	Oak Park Forbes
Catherine	Mary	Silk nee Ellis	1879		Penshurst
John	Alexander	Ellis	1881	Oak Park	Bexley, Rockdale, Arncliffe (1915-54) then Killarney Vale
Alfred	Ernest	Ellis	1883		
Annie	Elizabeth	Ellis	1885		Orange
Percy	Lionel	Ellis	1887		Carlton
Henry	Edward	Ellis	1889		Arncliffe
Wilfred	Eric	Ellis	1892		Thursday Island (WW1 TPI)
Norman	Cyril	Ellis	1894		Arncliffe
Emily	Pearl	Ellis	1897		Rockdale

In Forbes in 1902, Sylvester and Catherine Jane Ellis hosted the Wedding of Catherine Mary Ellis, their eldest daughter to Edward Volney Silk. The ceremony was performed at Scots Church Forbes and the Reception, for between 100-150 guests was held at Oak Park, the Ellis Homestead, 9 miles from Forbes and comprising 1200 lush and profitable acres.



Oak Park Forbes, (Photo) Sylvester and Catherines home. Run down now but it was lovely to go and walk through it and take in the atmosphere and imaging the open fireplaces, the 12 children and the warmth of the kitchen. When Andrew first went there in 2000 there was a rose growing over the rear of the building and so he bought a cutting back and it grows in our garden today with lovely blooms.

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We must remember that around the turn of the 20th Century, forbes had a population of about 1000 people, although there were always itinerants, shearers, etc moving through the district



Ellis Lane is official as you can see by the sign, and it leads about one kilometre to the old homestead, close to a huge silky oak tree. In 1902 Oak Park stood in excellent condition and was used to host Catherine and Edwards Reception. Below is the newspaper report of their wedding. It makes interesting reading.



(Ellis R. B., Edward Volney Silk and Catherine Mary Ellis)

Molong Express and Western District Advertiser Sat 6th Sept 1902 page 3

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

A BRIEF report of the wedding of Mr E. V. Silk, of Molong, with Miss C. M. Ellis, of Forbes, appeared in our last issue. The following additional particulars are taken from the Forbes 'Gazette' :—

Catherine Ellis married Edward Volney Silk, from Molong in 1902 at St Johns Church Forbes in what sounds to be almost the wedding of the year. After the Weddding ceremony, there was a reception at Oak Park, Catherine's home (she was Sylvesters and Catherines eldest daughter) at which, depending on which newspaper article you read and chose to believe, somewhere between 100 and 150 guests attended

.

The bride was prettily attired in white cashmere with satin strappings and tucked lace trimmings, and was given away by her father, while Mr J A Ellis filled the position of best man. Misses Annie and Pearl Ellis, sisters of the bride, filled the position of bridesmaids, being dressed in white muslin, with buttercup sashes and lace trimmings, wearing white hats with wilted and butter-cup trimmings, Master Norman Ellis acting as page. After the ceremony at the church the party proceeded to Oak Park where the wedding breakfast was partaken of, at which about 100 guests sat down. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, and the usual toasts were given and responded to, after which **dancing commenced and was continued with spirit till the 'wee small' 'hours' of the following morning.** The bride received many costly, handsome and useful presents, amongst which we note :

Mr S Ellis (father of the bride), cheque and sterling silver-mounted brush and comb

Mrs Ellis (mother of the bride), handsome hand-painted lamp

Mr J Ellis (brother of the bride), silver- mounted cut-glass butter basin

Messrs J A and A Ellis (brothers of the bride) handsome marble clock

Miss Annie Ellis (sister of the bride), set of ivory-handled dinner knives and silver forks

Mr and Mrs Ellis (aunt and uncle of the bride), cheque

Mr G C Golding, pair of carvers

Messrs E and M Golding, handsome photo frames

Miss Lizzie Golding, cut glass jug

Mr and Mrs Golding, silver-mounted jam dish

Mr and Mrs Ellis (aunt and uncle of bride), glass water jug , and fruit plate

Mr and Mrs Elliott (Grove Hill), handsome hand-painted afternoon tea set

The wedding of Catherine and Edward as can be seen from the newspaper article above was a sumptuous affair with a well catered reception at Oak Park, Catherine's home. The expectations would be that that they were in for a wonderful life. However, life was, as it so often does, turned out to be very different. Edward had returned from the Boer War where he had been a member of No. 4 Squadron, 20th NSW Mounted Rifles. He was one of a dozen or so men who volunteered from Molong to join up and go to South Africa to fight the Boer. He had been a typical country boy, who was a shearer, and easily met the requirements of signing up. He was a good horseman and also a good shot with a rifle, and had the sense of adventure which drove so many young Australian men and women to war over the next 120 years. Edward seemed to have had quite an active War in South Africa. Returning home, he was entitled to the Boer War Medal with clasps. When he returned Edward was also part of the surviving volunteers who were given a civic reception and a medal from the residents of Molong, grateful for the volunteers contribution to winning the war, but he was absent from the actual celebrations.



State: New South Wales, Australia
Issued on: Return
Date of presentation: 28/01/1901

After the honeymoon they returned to Molong where they set up a home and started having children. Between 1903 and 1913 Catherine and Edward had 6 children but, sadly, only four survived childhood. However, Catherine's life was about to take a turn for the worse. After moving to Hurstville, her husband, Edward Volney Silk left her and moved to Queensland where he took up shearing at Adavale (1913 Electoral Roll). There was no divorce that I could find and Catherine and her four surviving children moved to Penshurst where her father, now firmly esconced at Arncliffe, bought her two small properties at numbers 3 and 5 Apsley St Penshurst. My research has shown my that Sylvester was a very caring father towards his children. No only did he look after his eldest daughter Catherine in buying property at Penshurst, but he helped other members of his family with money and/or living with him at 8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe.

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Edward Volney Silk, in 1928 married Catherine Walsh in Queensland (without any Divorce). She passed away (date unknown) but in 1933 Edward married Emily Maude Deede, but she passed away in 1946. Edward then married Catherine Zurvas Finucane who also passed away in 1963. As mentioned, through all of this there is no evidence that he ever divorced Catherine Silk (nee Ellis). Edward died in 1969 at a nursing home in Cairns and is buried there. Edward is also memorialised in a book published in 2016 (2nd Ed.) by the Molong and District Servicemen and Servicewomens Portrait Gallery.

Retirement at Mount Arncliffe 1911 and the Beginning of the Lives of the Ellis Clan at Bayside.



Catherine Jane and Sylvester Ellis at Retirement (Photography)

In Sylvester's world at Forbes in 1908, his mother, now Mary Ann Sly, had passed away. His wife Catherine was suffering the onset of health problems with her heart and it must be said that the Forbes hospital lacked modern features. So, at the tender age of 60, Sylvester was considering retirement. There is no doubt he had been a very successful Grazier, while keeping out of the local politics in the town. Oak Park was 1200 excellent acres of land and if you read about the wedding of their eldest daughter Catherine and the Reception, you will see that food, drink etc were plentiful on the day (and well into the night and next morning). It was also common at places like Forbes for people such as Sylvester and Catherine to take an annual holiday in Sydney, travelling by train. When recently at Forbes, another cousin, Dawn Welsh, now 93 and in a nursing home at Eugowra, told me that Sylvester and Catherine were the first pioneers to bring a piano over the Blue Mountains.

So, how did Sylvester come to sell Oak Park to one of his sons, Joseph? Our Ellis family story says that Joseph and Edward, two of Sylvester's sons, together owned a large tract of land on the other side of Forbes but had a dispute so bad that Joseph came to see Sylvester and told him that he would never work with Edward again! The story continues that Sylvester told Joseph that he was going to sell Oak Park, but he would give Joseph first option. Father and son agreed a price, and

within a short period of time, Joseph Ellis became the new master of Oak Park. How Sylvester came to decide on he and Catherine moving to the (now), Bayside area is unknown but Kogarah Hospital had been founded in 1884 and was developing a very good reputaion for health care. It was also not unusual for farmers to come to the city by train for an annual holiday so, I think that it was likely it was a confluence of events which caused Sylvester and Catherine to move would turn out to be heart disease, which ultimately caused her death at Arncliffe in 1916.



On the left is a photo of **Kogarah Hospital**. It was founded in 1894 as a small local hospital but very quickly developed an excellent reputation for health care. Note the horse and buggy on the left and the ornate chimneys. (Pininterest, Kogarah Hospital -

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=xHBrNcGL&id=26CCE71974532FAE6D89D6F4CB63FAFDC01CF12C>)

In 1909 Sylvester and Catherine made the move to the St George District, initially living in a small cottage in Bay St, likely near the intersection of the now, Princes Highway. A Steam Tram ran down Bay St to Brighton Le Sands from Rockdale. One also ran from Kogarah Station to Sans Souci via Ramsgate Road. Another also ran from Arncliffe Railway Station to Bexley and return. Sylvester and Catherine then moved to Lacey St, close to Allawah Station before moving to Mount Arncliffe and purchasing 8 Stewart St or Eloura. It is interesting to note that most houses had names, numbers coming later. Our own home in Beverley Park was built in 1906-07 and I still have the name plate of Marloo. This is also the address given in 1911 by the owner of our house when he advertised for a servant girl in the local newspaper.



Stewart St (joining Wollongong Rd and Forest Rd) (of, 2023)



8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe or “Eloura” (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 2023)

Stewart St was a typical Australian designed and built home of the time. It had a front veranda, this one faced East which meant that the morning sun came into the front windows of the house. When Sylvester and Catherine lived there it had chimneys for indoor fires and cooking. The backyard is of a reasonable size (50' by 150') figures taken from Rockdale Council Rates Notices. Sylvester was said to have a large chicken run and indeed sold them to supplement their income. He also apparently had an orange and lemon tree and a vegetable garden. This shows a garden of, likely cabbages and cauliflowers. He probably also grew carrots, spinach and other vegetables. They did not have a car and there is no evidence he ever drove anything other than a horse and sulky or a horse drawn wagon at Forbes.

Percival and Norman Ellis, two of Sylvesters son, standing with Sylvester seated at Mount Arncliffe (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag - Sylvester, Norman and Lionel Ellis, Circa 1920)



The vegetable garden in front of them appears to be quite prolific and it presents quite a serene scene in why a retired person might contemplate the past and look forward to the future with their family. Both Percival and Norman also moved into the Bayside area, but more of them and other family members later. This is only the second photo that I have of

Sylvester and I liked it so much that I could not help but try and replicate it. (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 2023)



**This is L to R – Andrew and James Ellis -
Xxx Ellis seated**

As when they were living at Oak Park, Forbes, Sylvester did not seem to be inclined to become involved in local politics. Instead he was probably caring for his wife, Catherine, tending his garden and spending time with his family, some, including his elder daughter Catherine, who had moved to Hurstville/Penshurst when her husband left her. Given that she had four surviving children, it is most likely that Sylvester funded the purchase of her property. Indeed, my father, Gordon Alexander Ellis (b Nov 1918) who we shall hear of later, told my elder sister that he recalled meeting his grandfather, Sylvester.

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Catherine, Sylvesters wife passed away at 8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe in 1916. Her funeral cortege left Rockdale and she was buried at Woronora Cemetery in an imposing monument. This had obviously been planned by Sylvester because, when he died at Kogarah Hospital in 1931 at age 87, he was buried with her and the burial headstone altered. Sylvester Ellis passed away, after attempting to cut his throat and abdomen at his daughters home at Penshurst. The Coronor found that he had suffered a severe attack of dementia, resulting in his suicide.

Sylvester had moved to Penshurst to be cared for by his daughter in 1930, and it was just before that time that one of his sons, Norman Cyril and Evelyn Margaret Ellis moved into 8 Stewart Street Arncliffe. After Sylvesters death, the property was sold via Sylvesters Estate to a Mr Goddard but Norman, Evelyn and faamily stayed on as tenants until later when they purchased the property after Mr Goddards death. It remains in the hands of the Ellis family to this day.



The grave of Sylvester and Catherine Ellis Woronora Cemetery, (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag - , 2020) Sutherland.

Arncliffe, Carlton and Bexley from 1900-1939

So, I think that we should have a look at what Arncliffe, Carlton and Bexley looked like, as much as possible when Sylvester and Catherine were living there. Later on I have included current photos, taken by me of the area today, just for an interesting comparison. Arncliffe was almost a semi rural suburb with large tracts of land devoted to Market Gardens, which were established in 1884 by Chinese miners who had left the Forbes Gold Rush and come to Arncliffe to do what they knew best, farming. These Market gardens would come into their own during the Great Depression.

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A number of stately homes had been built such as Dapetto, in 1906 the Arncliffe Post Office was opened, in 1916 the Arncliffe Boys home was built and run by the Salvation Army and, by and large, the suburb had it's share of new housing estates starting to spring up. However, not all progress came up smelling of roses! At Arncliffe, the Sewerage Works took up a large tract of land and were in operation from 1886 – 1916, along with a foul smelling Tannery and Boiling Down works built in 1870.

The Australian Star newspaper, Friday 25th Sept. 1908 had headlines which appear to express the publics view of the facility *“Arncliffe Sewage Farm – A Suburban Problem – Suburban Grievance Investigated”*.

A number of outfall proposals were made and a large tunnel encased in concrete still runs through part of the area. There were any number of public meetings complaining about the odours which came from both facilities. After one such meeting, a delegation of Councillors and State Politicians arranged a tour of the Sewerage works with the manager. The manager took the Delegation on a tour of the complex, on a ride on their small steam train and then finished the tour with a rather well lubricated luncheon. After a brief discussion, the Delgation agreed that all was well and left, happy and content after a job well done. It appears that they did NOT live near the sewerage farm! (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 1908)



The small guage steam train that took workers around the site.



A photo taken looking across the Sewerage Farm (Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 1908)



The (locally called) Fart Tower – dismantled in 2015
(Ellis T. , A New Life Under a New Flag, 2023)

These monuments to mans progress seem at odds with some of the lovely estate homes, such as Dapetto, which were built around the area. Although these were at the Mount Arncliffe part of the suburb. The original Post Office and Railway Station (heritage protected and still in existence today), also show a very different picture of Arncliffe. The Steam Railway between the city and Hurstville also met with many complaints, particularly from housewives who complained the smoke from the steam engines soiled their washing. This was solved in 1926 when the line was electrified. Very slowly some forms of industry were coming to Arncliffe, an example of which was the Sterling Battery Factory, built in the late 1920's on the then, Princes Highway.

The Sterling Battery Factory on the Princes Highway. “ Hurstville Propeller - Friday 23rd December 1932; Tuesday morning, during a heavy rainstorm, water entered a large vat of molten metal at the works of the Sterling Battery Co., Ltd., Prince's Highway, Arncliffe. Immediately the water entered the vat the molten metal exploded, doing considerable damage to the interior of the building. Fortunately none of the staff were injured. The Arncliffe Fire Brigade turned out, but their services were not required”.



The Sterling Battery Factory (Princes Highway) Arncliffe (Ellis T. ,
A New Life Under a New Flag, 2023)

The factory was built in the late 1920's and was a new addition to light industry at Arncliffe. It is indeed interesting to observe the number of Market Gardens, the advertising billboards along the Princes Highway, and the traffic level!! Did I say traffic?

Shops and homes at Arncliffe before 1920



Arncliffe around 1910 - Note the street light bottom of the scene, the kerb and guttering and the horse (Ellis T. , Scene at Arncliffe circa 1910, 1910)

As you can see from the previous photo, in some parts of Arncliffe housing estates were being constructed as some of the larger land grants from the 1800's were being broken up. In 1906 the Arncliffe Post Office was opened, a substantial stone and brick structure still there today. Electric street lighting had first appeared in Sydney in 1904 and kerb and guttering were being put in by local Councils. The size and structure of these buildings gave a feeling of solidity and permanence to the area and encouraged other shop owners to start establishing businesses. Real estate, as always, was not too far behind.

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Arncliffe Pharmacy circa 1910 (Ellis T. , Arncliffe Pharmacy circa 1916, 1916)

The Railways from Sydney to Hurstville

Possibly the greatest physical impact on opening up of the St George District in the latter part of the 19th Century were the introduction of the railways. The steam trains arrived at Arncliffe in October 1884 and at Hurstville, later in 1884 and at Sutherland in 1885. Given that Arthur Philip arrived at Sydney Cove in 1788, it does appear to be a remarkable achievement which State governments today would be hard pressed to meet! Although, in the 1960's my family would catch the steam train from Hurstville to Thirroul for our holiday so it still had a time to go.



Arncliffe Railway Station circa 1906
(Ellis T. , Arncliffe Railway Station, 1906)

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In 1916 a Steam Tram was introduced and ran from the Arncliffe Station, on rails, to Bexley and return.

Today, the Arncliffe Train Station buildings are heritage listed by the NSW State Government, so preserving them for future generations to see, as an example of early 20th Century architecture. In my opinion, in the same way that the architecture of the ancient Egyptians and their massive figures, and the buildings of the ancient Greeks helped define them, so does our architecture help to define who we are, or were. Our own home was built in 1906, a classic Edwardian home owned and built by a Mr Chater. The house has high horse hair ceilings, ceiling roses, marble and timber fireplaces and cedar ceilings in the sun room, plus in the garden an English Oak Tree painted when the home was built. The owner would appear to have been pretty well off financially as he advertised in the local newspaper for a house maid, and convinced the Mayor to have his footpath repaired.



Arncliffe Railway Station just before passenger lifts and the Steam Tram which ran to Bexley and return. (Ellis T. , Arncliffe Station and Steam Tram, 1915)

The railway station at Arncliffe is Heritage listed with the NSW State Government to preserve its unique character and looks. In the same year, 1906, the Arncliffe Post Office was officially opened on Firth St and, as at other suburbs in the St George District, schools were being built. Indeed, My Grandfather and Grandmother's eldest daughter, Victoria May Ellis, born at Forbes in 1905, went to Bexley School and left there with her certificate in 1919.

Social Changes

The early part of the 20th Century also brought significant social change. In 1916, partly in response to the effects of World War One and the growth of a Temperance League, pubs (hotels), had new closing hours imposed. In NSW, they would go from around 11.00 pm to 6.00 pm. and would not change until 1954. Those who championed the Temperance Movement were given the name of 'Wowzers'. While closing the pubs at 6.00 pm solved one problem, it created another, the 6.00 o' Clock Swill! Men would finish work around 4.00 or 5.00 in the afternoon and make for the pubs where they would order schooners of beer, sometimes a dozen at a time and just swill them down before closing at 6.00. They would then stagger home, very drunk with the resulting increase in domestic violence, child abuse, lack of money for housekeeping, etc.

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Arncliffe Hotel note drinking on the footpath and gutter was permitted
(Ellis T. , Arncliffe Hotel 1930, 1903)

The Arncliffe Hotel, or Pub, situated on the corner of Forest Road and the Princes Highway, has changed very little during the 1930's and 40's. Indeed, it stayed much the same until early in the 21st century. In the 1930s and 40s. the hotel would have been a regular place for the Ellis boys to have a beer and in those days, a cigarette. Poppy Ellis however smoked a pipe. While it is against the law today, back then having a drink on the footpath or gutter was perfectly acceptable and quite commonplace. The normal layout for an Aussie Pub was for an entrance from the street into Public Bar. This usually had tiles on the floor and walls so it could be hosed out at the end of the days trading. There was a second bar, hidden in the back called the Saloon or Ladies Bar. Women were not permitted, by custom, into the Public Bar and had to drink, alone or with other women, in the Saloon Bar. A strange

quirk was that women were meant to only go into Saloon Bar with a man and he had to purchase the drinks.

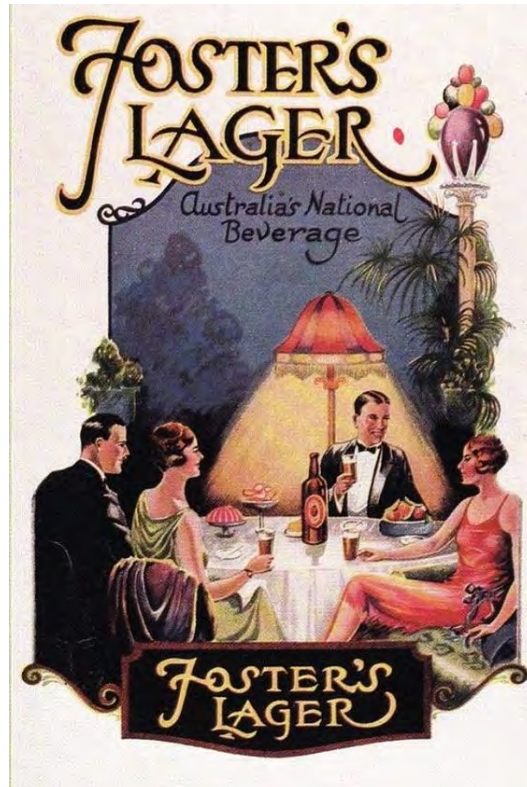
A popular drink for ladies was a shandy, of part beer and lemonade. There were only two women allowed in the public Bar, which were the lady tending the bar and pouring drinks for patrons, and the Salvation Army lady who would come through asking for donations with a small wooden box. Given the popularity of "the Salvoes" after both Wars, men would generally make a donation of a penny or two with the more extravagant donating a threepence.

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During the 1940s, a new kind of advertising at Pubs became prevalent in that they were stylised images of men and women in evening wear, drinking a beer. This might seem to have been a bit extravagant for poor old Arncliffe Pub but it was attempted by the Publican to convince patrons that various beers, in this case, Fosters, a Melbourne beer, was acceptable. Anyway ladies, if invited to dinner and there is a beer bottle on the table, proceed with caution.

Pubs or hotels also were made to provide accommodation which was usually on the first floor. Some also even had a dining room (such as The Royal Hotel at Orange, but more of that later). The accommodation was usually a number of small single, and a couple of double rooms, with shared shower, bath and toilets!! A very popular beer in Sydney during this period was Resch's!

It had the advertising motto "Resch's Refreshes" but was known to many drinkers as "Reckers". Beer was Australia's most popular alcoholic drink during the period up until the 1970s and it was advertised, once refrigeration came in, as being 'ice cold'! (Fosters.com.au, 2023)



Finally, during the explosion of radio during the 1930s and 40's, many punters would go to the local pub on a Saturday afternoon, have a few schooners, smoke a few coffin nails, and listen to the races on the Wireless. It was not until television came to Australia in 1956 and they became more affordable, that they began becoming installed in Pubs. Broadcasting of horse racing by wireless began with 2KY in 1931 and was soon picked up and introduced to most pubs. It would have been considered normal to walk past a pub and hear horse racing in the background, plus a rousing cheer when the punter's horse won.

Development of A Social Conscience

As well as developing roads, train lines and other infrastructure, some large and expensive homes had been built in the Bayside District since the late 1800s. Despite having had the initial population in New South Wales being made up of convicts and soldiers (the uniforms were designed to show who was who, as very often the behaviour was similar)! While few female convicts would admit it, it was not unusual for them to grant 'special favours' to soldiers in return for extra rations, however, despite social progress, there are still any number of places with ladies offering 'special favours' but at a cost of dollars, not rum. However, as the Colony grew, the old days of the Rum Currency dried up, so to speak and normal English currency took over.

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Churches had begun to expand and in 1844, John Ellis and Mary Ann Bilson, my Great Great Grandparents travelled to Sydney and on 16th December 1844 they were married in Scots Church Sydney. While Church services had been carried out when the First Fleet arrived, construction of Churches such as Scots began to introduce a change in the local environment. The Church had been constructed and opened in 1826 while the first Catholic Church, St Patricks was built in the late 1840s.

At Arncliffe, St Davids Anglican Church was first built in 1879 however, it was replaced in 1914 on Forest Rd as the need for a larger church to deal with the increased congregation was identified. With the Church came Sunday School services, wedding ceremonies, funerals, baptisms and all of the usual services associated with a Church, including Sundayb Services. The Church also influenced a number of new facilities to the general area which included:

- A. Roslyn Hall Babies and Childrens Home, 1911-1973. This was built in 1911 and was a non denominational home for babies and children. It was built at 87 Cameron St Rockdale and stayed as Babies and Childrens home until 1973, when it became a daytime childcare centre. (Collection)



Roslyn Hall Arncliffe



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- B. (unknown) **Bexley Boys Home**, 1915 – 1979, Address cnr Kingsland Rd and Barnsbury Grove Rd North Bexley. This was run by the Salvation Army and is still owned by them today, although now empty. It has a heritage order and is slated to be included in a new estate.



- C. (Gibbons) **Arncliffe Girls Industrial Home – 1916 – 1930**. This was run by the Salvation Army and was designed as a place for girls who had received a sentence through the Courts. Between 1930-41 it became the Nest Childrens Home then in 1941 until 1969 it operated as the Arncliffe Girls Home. It was located at 171 Wollongong Rd Arncliffe and had been a semi palatial home called Dapetto. The home had been built in 1885 by a man named Frederick

Gibbons who lived there until 1917. It is still owned by the Salvation Army and is Heritage listed.

Other new amenities were making their presence felt and homes were now being advertised for sale with Gas, Electric light, laundries and bathrooms. To us in 2023 we might think, so what but cast yourself back to 100 years ago and they were huge changes for families who had the finances to purchase a home such as this.

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In the Sydney Morning Herald, dated Wednesday 31st September 1930 p3, we can observe houses at Arncliffe (4 and 5 bedrooms) being advertised with Gas, Electric light with kitchen, laundry, bathroom, and verandah at 150 Forest Road. Also a 5 room cottage with electricity and large grounds earlier.

In a number of suburbs such as Bexley, Arncliffe, Sans Souci, the local School of Arts was established. At Arncliffe, Trove cites an article from the Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 20th June 1908 saying that

“ARNCLIFFE SCHOOL OF ARTS.” (54)

The committee formed for the purpose of establishing a temporary School of Arts for Arncliffe expect by June 31 to have operations in full swing. Premises have been secured at the corner of Wollongong road and Kembla-street. and as funds are required for furnishings, entertainments are being promoted. The first effort was a fancy dress football match on Saturday in the grounds of Mr. W. O. Judd, Arncliffe, at which there was a good muster of footballers and spectators. Many of the costumes were distinctly humorous, and a collection taken up yielded 4 pound 14 shillings.”

Sans Souci Literary Institute (Ellis T. , Sans Souci Literary Institute)

The Sans Souci Literary Institute was opened on 27th July 1923. Today it is used for local activities such as Saturday Dance and Ballet Classes, as a voting place on Commonwealth, State and Council elections and can be hired out basically for almost any occasion, providing alcohol is not consumed!. It was built for the general use of the local community and is still used today. It is a lovely old building with original timber floors and stained glass windows. Unfortunately wire mesh screens have had to be installed to stop vandals breaking the stained glass windows. It was built at a total cost of 1500 pounds, 600 of which were raised by local residents plus it would also have been used as a general community hall. It is on Ramsgate Rd Ramsgate.



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D. At Brighton-Le-Sands, in 1893, a small private school, The Scots College was opened. It had as its motto "O that you may Be Worthy of your Forefathers". It was a Presbyterian school which espoused their values and aspired to be a single sex school (which it still is), which catered to many pastoralists by offering a Boarding School environment to their sons. The School, in 1922 obtained permission from the Black Watch Regiment in Scotland to wear their Tartan as they had formed a Cadet Unit and Pipes and Drums. Now, Scots has expanded to a large campus at Bellevue Hill, one in kangaroo Valley and a new Junior school at Dolls Point. Their Pipes and Drums now number over 100 students and have played at the Edinburgh Tattoo and on many vice regal occasions. It also leads the Anzac Day march in Sydney. Indeed, the authors two sons, now well and truly grown, attended Scots and Glengarry at Kangaroo Valley. Both of my sons, Andrew and James attended Scots College and Glengarry. [Home - The Scots College](#)

E.

So, what did this rush of buildings mean for the community in which they stood? Like churches and schools they started to influence local behaviour. Residents, evidence being the 600 pounds being raised for the Sans Souci Institute, were beginning to take pride in their suburb, and their small slice of heaven, their home. Amongst the Ellis Clan living at Bexley, Arncliffe, Carlton and Rockdale, all of the children attended school, were sent off neatly dressed, hair combed, etc. Those people who attended Sunday Church Services dressed in their 'going to church' clothes, hotels were closed on a Sunday, as were most shops. The view of the Sabbath was still very openly supported. Babies were being christened or baptised, Communion classes were given and outwardly atleast there was a new and stricter sense of morality.

Leisure Time and Recreation at Bayside

The further one goes back in history, whatever the culture or religion, those who were least financially well off had the least amount of time to spend on their own leisure activities. In Australia, the 5 day, 48 hour working week was introduced in 1916. The Fourty Four hour working week was introduced in 1926, the Annual Holidays Act which gave employees two weeks paid Annual Leave was introduced in 1944 and in 1947 the 40 hour working week was introduced with the Workers Compensation Scheme in 1955. So, as I stated earlier, the new Century had ushered in a slow but steady improvement to the lives of working men and women.

These changes would have been particularly relevant to families such as mine as, for the first time, people could take annual holidays without having to save money for food etc while away. One can only imagine the effect on my family, living in Bayside, that the ongoing reduction in working hours would have.

The Age Pension was first introduced in Australia in June 1908 (56) when the Commonwealth legislated to introduce a flat old age pension. Before that, elderly people were left to their own devices, family or various charitable organisations. Various age, sex and residence qualifications existed however, at the time it was ground breaking legislation. In 1926, after World War 1, Widows pensions were introduced, although, it should be noted that WW1 finished in 1918. As always governments are quick to recover funds but slow to hand them out. This has not changed today and one only need look at how much money and reconstruction have been carried out as a result of the 2018 bushfires and lately, the Lismore and Forbes floods. Over the next 50 years, changes would continue to be introduced to pensions, their indexation due to CPI (Consumer Price Index) and (57) World War 2. Retirement age for pensions was 65 for men and 60 for women but, like the minimum wage, womens pensions were less than mens. Although now we have gone up to 67 for the retirement age.

Men (and some women), returning from World Wars One and Two and who were too injured to work because of their wounds, were given a one of payment and also a pension for life, plus one for their spouse if they were married.



In terms of increased leisure time, parks and gardens were being established, not only by local Councils, but in some cases older, more expensive homes were being opened up to allow visitors. Arncliffe Park was established in 1889 and was originally a Chinese owned Market Garden (tba). In 1904 an avenue of trees

was planted. The Arncliffe War Memorial is situated in the middle of the park. Other major Parks or Gardens established in the district include: Earl Park, home ground of the St George Dragons Rugby League Team from 1925-1939 named after the owner of the property, Lancelot Lewis Earl. Not only did he own this property, but he owned a number of houses in Martin Avenue Arncliffe, immediately alongside Earl Park, these being 1, 3, 5 and 7. These houses were to be rented to various members of the Ellis Clan over the next 40 years except for no.7 which was bought

by one of my Aunties. Scarborough Park, opened 26th January, Australia Day, 1939 and was added to with the opening of the Bi-Centenary Park near Rockdale in 1988..

Earl Park – Arncliffe – home of the St George Dragons (Ellis T. , Earl Park, 2023)

Earl Park was to become the home of the St George Dragons from 1925 to 1939. It was chosen as the new clubs home ground as it was alongside Arncliffe Railway Station and was easy for fans, most of whom did not own automobiles, to get there and home. After Lancelot Earls death in 1938, the ground was offered to the Dragons for 5,000 pounds but they could not afford it, so some small factories were built there. In 1950 the Dragons moved to Kogarah Jubilee Oval from Hurstville Oval. In researching this book I found a reference to The Riot at Earl Park (March of the Dragons by Ian Heads – published 1989 – p36). To give an idea of what went on I have included the following quote from the Sydney Morning Herald; 1928 August

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The Riot Earl Park August 1928 (Ellis T. , https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Park,_Arncliffe#Earl_Park_Riot, 1925)

“Batons, handcuffs and fists were used by the Police at Earl Park, Arncliffe, on Saturday afternoon when they were called upon to quell a riot at the conclusion of the St George – Balmain Rugby League game.” At the conclusion of the game many of the crowd tore pickets from the fence, one man had an axe, and ran onto the field in which an all in brawl began. The Police, though outnumbered, waded into the crowd. Wounded players and spectators alike were cared for by the Ambos. A week later the League censured a player from each side, stated the referee was NOT to blame, and suspended a couple of players whose suspensions were duly heavily reduced.

They could not raise the money and it was sold to a caramel manufacturer who built a factory there . Today the area of Earl Park consists of a number of blocks of home units. I wonder what Lancelot Earl would think of his beloved park now? Today the St George Dragons call Jubilee Oval at Carlton their home, which is just across the road from the St George Leagues Club, once know as the Taj Mahal! There is little doubt that with the building of Earl Park for the fledgling St George Dragons Rugby League team in 1925, the railway which had been in operation since 1880 and by the ongoing expansion of Rockdale, Carlton, Allawah and Hurstville, the suburbs began to grow even more. Local schools, newspapers (The St George Call – 1925) and in 1940, the Rockdale Town Hall was officially opened. Sydney Technical Boys High, my old school, was opened at Bexley in 1912

The Political and Economic History 1900-55 and the effect on the Ellis Clan

Outside of Australia things were happening which would confirm Australias status as a fighting nation, but also bring grief and pain to countless thousands of men, women and children back home. Storm clouds were forming in Europe and in August 1914, after an assassination of the (61) Grand Duke Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo, World War One, the War to end all wars (until 1939) broke out. Germany, England, France and Russia, together with Austria/Hungary and Serbia and Italy, began war mobilisation plans which, once begun, could not be reversed. Millions of men, caught up in the jingoism of war, rushed to their places of mobilisation while countless others rushed to enlist, harried by old men who had most likely never fought in a war. If they had, this one was going to be different! In Australia, pledges

were made by politicians (who never joined up and fought), to support England, the mother country, to the last man and the last shilling!! Those men who did not quickly enlist were given white feathers, a symbol of cowardice.

In the Ellis Clan, one of the sons of Sylvester and Catherine, (62) Wilfred Eric Ellis married Anie Leahy Burke in 1915, before enlisting. He was described by the Doctor at Enlistment as being 6' 2" tall, fair hair, green eyes and 150 lbs and was 22 years of age. He was sent to France with a Heavy Bombardment unit. In 1917 his Service Record shows that he was wounded in both legs and his ability to walk was severely hampered. Consequently he was discharged from the 1st AIF (Australian Imperial Force) and he and his wife moved to Thursday Island where he became a member of the military Garrison. Living at John St Thursday Island with his occupation listed as Soldier. He was given a pension for life for his wife and himself.



(Ellis T. , Wilfred Eric Ellis WW1)

WAR PENSION STATEMENT NO. 5-25 DATED 2/2/18
NEW SOUTH WALES.

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed.	Ellis, Wilfred Eric - 175, Bdr., 36th H.A.Group
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed.	Self - 252 Catherine St., Leichhardt
3. Relationship of such person to Member	
4. Result of Claim	Pension of 33/- p.f. granted from 8/2/18
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	
1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed	As Above
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed	Ellis, Annie - As Above
3. Relationship of such person to Member	Wife
4. Result of Claim	Pension of 16/6 p.f. granted from 8/2/18

Wilfred Eric Ellis and his wife and their war pension (64)

They stayed at Thursday Island until at least the early 1930s and then moved to Lakemba where they were shown living at 20 O'Hara St with their daughter Catherine Loris Ellis. Their other child, Annie Moya Ellis had been born and died in 1922 (65) and would have been buried at Thursday Island. In 1943 Wilfred was

shown as having no occupation as he and his wife were on a pension were still living at Lakemba. In 1958 they had moved to Greenacre, a neighbouring suburb. Wilfred passed away on 9th February 1964 at Greenacre and is buried at Woronora Cemetery at Sutherland.

World wide there was great relief in November 1918 that The Great War was over but there were also great levels of grief and suffering as millions of households mourned the loss of fathers, husbands, sons and brothers. In France the Peace Treaty was being hammered out with blame for the war being attributed to the Germans. Fierce reparation payments were required of Germany, as well as the surrender of German territory and colonies. In Munich, a strange man with a short moustache who had been a runner in the German Army and obtained the Iron Cross First Class took a great interest in what many Germans felt was a betrayal by the politicians and the Jewish money lenders. There are those who feel that the start of World War 2 had begun, as early as 1919. All over Australia monuments were erected with the names of those who never returned.

By the end of World War 1 (1914-1918), an estimated (Ellis T. , https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/war_casualties, 2023) 62,000 Australians, mainly males, had died. This represented 1.5% of the Australian population and it does not include those men who returned home who became suicidal, had severe mental issues, were never able to marry and have children, never able to work, were amputees, blinded by German gas attacks, etc. The returning soldiers were promised a land fit for heroes and a Soldier Settlement Scheme was instigated. However, most men who took this option had no idea of farming, the soil was poor and it was like a slow moving train wreck. Entire families walked off the land and into the cities. The War severely affected Australia's population growth.

The Spanish Influenza Epidemic – 1919-21

Just as the thoughts of people were turning to recovery, at both a national and personal level, another event which had a negative effect on population growth and Australia generally occurred. The Spanish Influenza Epidemic took hold world wide but, for a short time, Australia's distance and the fact that air travel had not really begun, gave us some protection. In Australia, as with Covid 100 years later, our isolation helped minimise the cost and effects however, about 40% (Ellis T. , [Australians who contracted Spanish Flu, 2023](#)) of the total Australian population fell ill with 15,000 having died (Australians who died from Spanish Flu, 2023). Wearing of a mask was mandated and the hospital system creaked and strained under the load of sick and dying people. Ships arriving from overseas faced 7 days quarantine and, after the Great War, it appeared that Hell had been visited on Earth.



Women wearing surgical masks in Brisbane – National Archives

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In

Here in Australia different States introduced different regulations (sound familiar). In Tasmania the State

was perilously close to running out of flour and delivery of foodstuffs and goods was hindered by lack of lorry drivers. Vaccines did not exist and remedies were crude and often ineffective. Although, wearing of a mask seems to have been readily accepted as there was little more that the average person could do.

The following is an extract from an article written by Frank Bongiorno – Professor of History ANU: (69)

“The Spanish flu came in waves and was extraordinarily virulent. There were reports of people seeming perfectly healthy at breakfast and dead by evening. An illness lasting ten or so days, followed by weeks of debility, was more common. An early sign was a chill or shivering, followed by headache and back pain. Eventually, an acute muscle pain would overcome the sufferer, accompanied by some combination of vomiting, diarrhoea, watering eyes, a running or bleeding nose, a sore throat and a dry cough. The skin might acquire a strange blue or plum colour.”

Coming so close to the end of World War 1, the Spanish Flu not only affected population growth in Australia and around the world, but also created problems for trade between countries and feelings of great depression amongst the population.. The Table below, taken from the 1911 Australian Census shows the population per LGA in the Sydney Metropolitan Area (70). It also cast a pall over the general population, hoping to recover from the violence and suffering of World War 1.

The area, population and occupied dwellings in each of the local government areas included in the metropolitan area are given in the following table :—

Area, Population and Occupied Dwellings of Metropolitan Local Government Areas of New South Wales, 1911.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.	AREA.	POPULATION.			Persons per Acre.	No. of Occupied Dwellings.	Occupied Dwellings per Acre.	Population per Occupied Dwelling.
		Acres.	Males.	Females.				
Alexandria .. (M)	1,024	5,260	4,863	10,123	9.89	2,244	2.191	4.51
Annandale .. (M)	360	5,413	5,827	11,240	31.22	2,363	6.564	4.76
Ashfield .. (M)	2,081	9,212	11,219	20,431	9.82	4,189	2.013	4.88
Balmain .. (M)	932	15,907	16,131	32,038	34.38	6,464	6.936	4.96
Bexley .. (M)	1,920	3,096	3,421	6,517	3.39	1,405	.732	4.64
Botany .. (M)	2,163	2,355	2,054	4,409	2.04	896	.414	4.92
Botany, North .. (M)	2,256	3,083	2,763	5,836	2.59	1,271	.563	4.59
Burwood .. (M)	1,050	4,001	5,379	9,380	8.93	1,843	1.755	5.09
Canterbury .. (M)	8,384	5,628	5,707	11,335	1.35	2,329	.278	4.87
Concord .. (M)	2,666	2,009	2,067	4,076	1.53	844	.317	4.83
Darlington .. (M)	44	1,863	1,953	3,816	86.73	745	16.932	5.12
Drummoyne .. (M)	1,920	4,182	4,496	8,678	4.52	1,902	.991	4.56
Eastwood .. (M)	2,931	521	447	968	.33	219	.075	4.42
Enfield .. (M)	1,696	1,695	1,749	3,444	2.03	718	.423	4.80
Erskineville .. (M)	166	3,583	3,716	7,299	43.97	1,551	9.343	4.71
Glebe .. (M)	521	10,450	11,493	21,943	42.12	4,202	8.065	5.22
Homebush .. (M)	640	355	321	676	1.06	137	.214	4.93
Hunters' Hill .. (M)	1,325	2,605	2,408	5,013	3.78	693	.523	7.23
Hurstville .. (M)	6,750	3,187	3,346	6,533	.97	1,434	.212	4.56
Kogarah .. (M)	4,448	3,429	3,524	6,953	1.56	1,524	.343	4.56
Ku Ring Gai .. (S)	23,040	4,347	5,111	9,458	.41	1,884	.082	5.02
Lane Cove .. (M)	2,496	1,639	1,667	3,306	1.32	656	.263	5.04
Leichhardt .. (M)	1,170	11,828	12,426	24,254	20.73	4,909	4.196	4.94
Manly .. (M)	2,426	4,716	5,749	10,465	4.31	1,853	.764	5.65
Marrickville .. (M)	2,016	14,338	16,315	30,653	15.20	6,514	3.231	4.71
Mosman .. (M)	2,067	5,836	7,407	13,243	6.41	2,687	1.300	4.93
Newtown .. (M)	442	12,887	13,611	26,498	59.95	5,377	12.165	4.93
Paddington .. (M)	403	11,494	12,823	24,317	60.34	4,666	11.578	5.21
Petersham .. (M)	1,254	9,846	11,866	21,712	17.31	4,479	3.572	4.85
Randwick .. (M)	8,064	9,294	10,169	19,463	2.41	3,913	.485	4.97
Redfern .. (M)	435	12,422	12,005	24,427	56.15	4,436	10.198	5.51
Rockdale .. (M)	5,022	6,739	7,356	14,095	2.81	2,931	.584	4.81
Ryde .. (M)	7,110	2,562	2,719	5,281	.74	1,151	.162	4.59
St. Peters .. (M)	896	4,220	4,190	8,410	9.39	1,678	1.873	5.01
Strathfield .. (M)	1,792	1,709	2,337	4,046	2.26	809	.451	5.00
Sydney .. (M)	3,327	59,685	53,236	112,921	33.94	18,463	5.549	6.12
Sydney North .. (M)	2,067	15,625	19,021	34,646	16.76	7,200	3.483	4.81
Vaucluse .. (M)	768	768	904	1,672	2.18	324	.422	5.16
Waterloo .. (M)	806	5,206	4,866	10,072	12.50	2,073	2.572	4.86
Waverley .. (M)	1,965	9,107	10,724	19,831	10.09	4,211	2.143	4.71
Willoughby .. (M)	5,530	6,211	6,825	13,036	2.36	2,623	.474	4.97
Woollahra .. (M)	1,926	7,415	9,574	16,989	8.82	3,424	1.778	4.96
Total Metropolitan Area	118,299	305,728	323,775	629,503	5.32	123,234	1.042	5.11

In the foregoing table those areas marked (M) are Municipalities, while that marked (S) is a Shire. In the case of New South Wales the area adopted for Census and Statistical purposes as "Metropolitan," comprises the whole area of the municipalities and the shire specified. In all the other States the "Metropolitan Area" boundary crosses the boundaries of several of the constituent Local Government Areas.

I have included the entire Table taken from the 1911 Census which gives an accurate presentation of the population, and it's density just before The Great War and the Spanish Flu. In the table below, I have singled out just the relevant LGA's which allows a more micro view. Please note that up until 1954, Allawah, Arncliffe and Carlton were not listed individually, but were merged.

**Population According to Year and Local Government Area – taken from
Census Data for the Census Year. (Ellis T. , Population according to
Census and LGA for Bayside, 2023)**

Census Year	Allawah * and Hurstville	Arncliffe * inc in Rockdale	Bexley	Carlton * and Rockdale	Hurstville	Kogarah	Rockdale And Arncliffe
1911			6517		6533	6953	14096
1921			7186		6592	8923	12374
1933			10072		11058	15043	19053
1947			13178		16653	19261	23126
1954			29490		50336	45618	75995

The population between 1911-21 showed a small increase in Bexley and Kogarah, virtually no change in Hurstville and a noticeable decrease in Rockdale. If one looks at the above figures for the Census of 1921 and 1933, it can be seen that in all cases the population of Bayside had undergone significant change. In the cases of Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale, the population rise was close to 90%. However, it might be said that this increase in babies being born also put a heavy load on the hospital system as, back then, women were expected to stay in hospital for between one and two weeks after giving birth.

The 1920's and Here We Come

The 1920s, not only in Australia but world wide, ushered in a period of change in many of societies habits and views. It was a decade with people wanting to move away from the grief and suffering of The Great War as well as the Spanish Flu Pandemic. Entertainment, fun, short skirts, dancing and music became very popular. Change and fun were in the air and the Flapper made her appearance. Women wore short skirts, drank alcohol in public and smoked cigarettes. *Just remember Reader, this might have been your Grandmother! Go Granny Go!* Fortunately, in Australia, unlike the United States, there was no intent to impose Prohibition, which legislated against the selling of alcohol.



Image from Blogspot.com – Flappers (Ellis T. , History Brief 1920 , 2023)

In Bayside, movie theatres such as at Carlton and Kogarah flourished. Dances were held in Halls on weekends. In Kogarah, the Mecca Theatre opened in 1920 and was called the Victory Deluxe Theatre with seating for 1800 patrons. In Arncliffe, the first movie theatre was open air and began in 1911 before being acquired by Hoyts in 1927. In 1924 the Carlton Picture Palace opened, while the Savoy in Hurstville did not open until 1937, but bringing with it a Wurlitzer organ that raised through the floor. Music had changed and became even more popular with Gramophones and in 1920, Radio made its first real appearance, mainly in the cities but suddenly plays, news and weather and music were 'on the air'. Cars were now beginning to replace horse and buggy and in Australia at least, the good times rolled. At Kogarah, the Moorefield Racecourse did great business with crowds of 40-50,000 (79) attending race meetings but more of that later. In 1926, Radio 2GB (Ellis T. , 2GB, 2023) began intermittent broadcasting in Sydney which would set the tone for other radio broadcasters to begin. This would rapidly expand during the 1920's with the introduction of ball by ball broadcasting of cricket in Australia.



Image – cinematreasures.org -Victory Theatre Kogarah (81)

The Depression

However, as with all such good things, economic disaster lay in wait, like a tiger waiting to pounce on it's unsuspecting prey. In 1929 the New York Stock Exchange went into freefall and the Great Depression had arrived. Not only Stock Exchanges in New York, London, etc were affected, but the Sydney Stock Exchange suffered equally. Businesses went bankrupt, staff were laid off, most without pay and in many cases banks foreclosed on working people who could not meet their home loan repayment obligations. It is interesting to read the following article from Skint – an exhibition at the Museum of History at Sydney “ *The city of Sydney was hit harder than other parts of the country, with nearly a third of our workforce unemployed in 1933. Evictions were rife as out-of-work families failed to meet their rental payments and newspapers reported pitched street battles between police and anti-eviction (82)protesters. Soup kitchens were set up in school yards, and many hundreds of*

families were forced to shelter in caves or build their own humpies on the city fringes and along the coast.

In Australia men left their homes and families and took to the roads, walking from country town to town looking for work of any kind. Some obtained work, married again and stopped sending money back to their first family. This was not what the politicians had promised when they spoke of a land fit for heroes. In the cities and (83) suburbs, women sold furniture and anything they owned, in many cases themselves, to buy food to feed their children. Hopelessness and despair seemed to take over from the jolly mood of the 1920's. In most towns, in the country and cities, including the inner and outer suburbs, Soup and Food kitchens were opened up to try and give the poor hot meals for free. Soup was given to schoolchildren three days per week for free to help feed them.

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Australian men 'on the road' looking for work. Note the 'billy can', used to make tea. Pininterest (84)

At suburbs such as Arncliffe, Bexley, Carlton and Rockdale, etc, many people raised chickens for meat and eggs, grew vegetables as they had no money to buy food and there are instances at Carlton where homes even had a small well in their backyard. Bafftering was normal but many families were more prone to disease. For those with money, life was still fine, as evidence by the attendance at Moorefields Racecourse but, for the new poor, with no money, destitute and without hope, I do not think that we can imagine what life was like.

For lowly Arncliffe however, this was indeed a time to shine. Since 1884, Chinese gold miners and some Maltese and Italians, had moved to Arncliffe from the Forbes gold fields when the shallow gold ran out. They saw the wide open spaces of Arncliffe as an opportunity for them to do what they knew best, gardening. They built row upon row of Market Gardens across the suburb and, for a growing city like Sydney, became the fruit and vegetable bowl for the city and suburbs during the Depression. While many of these

rmarket gardens have gone, many remain, protected from developers by NSW Heritage which means they are now preserved. (Ellis T. , Market Gardens Kyeemagh 1)



Market Gardens today (Ellis T. , Kyeemagh Market Gardens 2)



Aerial view of Arncliffe 1943 with Earl Park and many market gardens
(Ellis T. , 'Bayside Library Local History Collection, 2023)

In the United States, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ushered in the 'New Deal', with its focus on public works. One classic example of these was the Hoover Dam. Entire families lived in tents in wind and dust as the dam was built. The best guess of the Department of Reclamation in the United States is that 96 men died during construction. In Sydney Australia, during construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge during the Depression 16 men died. Indeed it was said, anecdotally that when a worker fell to their death, within 30 minutes a queue had formed wanting his job.

Meanwhile in Sydney, work on the Sydney Harbour Bridge continued and finally, in 19th March 1932, in a huge expression of faith, hundreds of thousands of people joined the procession to cross it after the NSW Labour Premier, Jack Lang cut the ribbon. Unfortunately he was gazumped by a retired Army officer from WW1 called Charles De Groot, who, at the correct moment rode forward on his horse and slashed the ribbon with his cavalry sabre, crying 'Death to all Tyrants'! He was dragged from his horse and sent to a mental home while Jack Lang had the ribbon repaired and then cut it with his scissors. De Groot was part of a right wing group called the New Guard and had caused chaos in Sydney, and also in other cities of Australia with their political views and actions. Indeed, mass meetings took part in Sydney and Melbourne suburbs, such as Rockdale to push their political views.



The “Big Fella” Jack Lang Premier of NSW twice. (2022, 2023)



Charles De Groot – cutting the Sydney Harbour Bridge ribbon before Lang
(Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_de_Groot)

Later Lang would be sacked by the NSW Governor due to his continuing refusal to repay War debts to Great Britain. Great Britain, undergoing its own severe financial crisis due to the Depression, had sent Sir Otto Niemeyer from the Bank of England to strong arm Australia to pay its War reparations faster. Britain also wanted Australia to be made to purchase their consumer goods at high prices and sell our wool and beef cheaply. Lang was against all of these measures. The political climate had changed around the country which, coupled with poverty and despair impacted great numbers of the population. Jack Lang, called the ‘Big Fella’ because he was 6’ 4” tall with a large frame, made a number of social changes to help the poor. Banks could not foreclose on tenants without a Court Order and he

also introduced the Widows Pension which, during the Great Depression, kept many families together. Interestingly, I remember watching an interview on television with Paul Keating, ex Australian Prime Minister who listed Lang as his mentor in Labour politics.

Meanwhile, in the suburbs such as Arncliffe, Kogarah, Carlton and Bexley, the horrors of the Depression continued to affect the population. However, the one saving grace for Australians across the Nation was Donald Bradman. He had become such a fearsome and successful batsman that in the 1932-33 Ashes Tour of Australia by the MCC, they invented a new style of aggressive fast designed to limit the runs he could make. It was called Bodyline and the English Captain, Douglas Jardine was widely disliked for his attitude towards the Australians and in the Third Test in Adelaide, Bill Woodfull, an Australian Batsman, was hit by a rising sharp ball over the heart. The crowd, indeed the radio commentators reacted angrily and the newspapers the next day were full of vitriol towards the Englishmen. However, even though Australia lost the Series 4-1, Bradman would go on to captain the 1948 'Invincibles', in which revenge was obtained. But in the Depression Ashes series, crowds would pack the cricket grounds and radios were tuned across the nation and the suburbs to listen to when Bradman came into bat. During the 1932-33 Ashes Series Bradman, despite Bodyline bowling by the English, still averaged around 100 (Ellis B. -T., 2023), more than double any other world class batsmen. Indeed, he is credited with single handedly lifting the morale of Australia when it was close to its lowest ebb. Bradman also played for St George at Hurstville Oval which bought record crowds of 10,000 people.



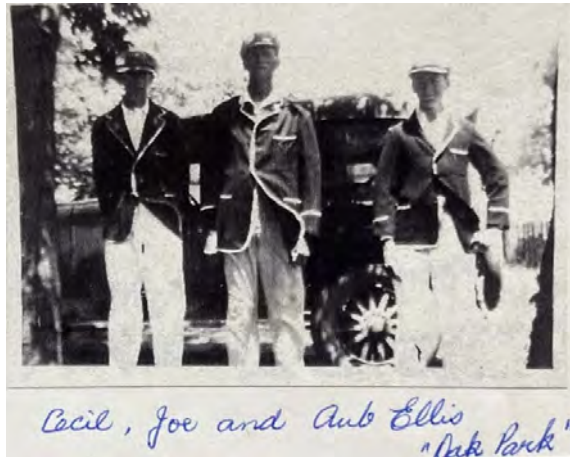
Don Bradman demonstrating the cover drive. Look at the head and footwork!!
(Wikipedia, Don Bradman 1932, 2023)



**Don Bradman playing for St George Cricket Club at Hurstville Oval PRG
682/16/110C – 1931 31st January**

(92)

You are probably wondering why I have devoted time to Donald Bradman and cricket during the Depression. Well, he not only had as huge impact on morale across the country, but at Forbes and Bayside. The Ellis men, including those at Forbes at this time, were all very good cricketers. Indeed, my elder brother, Edward Ellis was a very fine cricket player, making a century with the bat, taking wickets with his bowling, and an excellent fieldsman. My middle child, Andrew was also a very good cricket player, representing the St George District and playing in the First and Second XI at Scots College. At Forbes, not only Joseph Ellis but his sons and grandsons were very good at cricket with Claude moving to Melbourne after WW2 to play for Brunswick when he was offered a job there as well. So, in that cricket was a tonic for the entire nation during the Depression, so was it for Sylvesters family at Bayside and Forbes.



This is all that remains of a cricket poster (Ellis T. , Cecil Joe and Aub Ellis circa 1926)

which was stuck on a bedroom wall at Oak Park.



Claude Neville Ellis – Brunswick Cricket Club Melbourne (Photo B. C.)

So, particularly during those terrible years of the Depression, cricket united the population in the cities, suburbs and country towns, like no politician ever could.

World War 2

The fourth and final event which had a significant influence on the Australian and suburban populations before 1950 was World War 2, (1939-1945). Approximately 39,656 (wikipedia, 2023) Australian men and women died in action or as a result of wounds inflicted during combat. In the Ellis family alone in World War Two, there were three fatalities and at least three returned wounded, one, my Uncle

Wilfred Noel Ellis who lived at 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe, was so badly wounded he was unable to work again and was given a payment and life long pension. He died aged 52 at his small home which he and John Alexander Ellis, his father built at Killarney Vale. Another uncle (Ernest Ellis) died at the Battle of Singapore in 1942 and a first cousin, once removed died in a bombing raid over Germany in 1945, two months before the War ended. He was 21 and born and raised at Carlton. We have similar numbers for World War 1 and a returned casualty from the Boer War, and that is just from my fathers side of the family and does not include some cousins and uncles from my mothers side, killed in World Wars 1 and 2. It can be said that basically no Australian families were left untouched by the events of the first half of the 20th Century.

After the surprise Japanese attack on 7th december 1941 on the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl harbour, the Japanese swiftly advanced southwards. They quickly occupied Hong Kong, then a British Protectorate, and moved quickly through the Phillipines, Malays, Sumatra and even capturing Singapore, Churchills bastion in the East! The 135th South Seas Regiment invaded New Guinea but were stopped by a combined force of Australian Militia and troops returned from the Middle East so close to Port Moresby that the Japanese could see the towns lights at nightfall. My father and his brother, Uncle Bill both fought in the New Guinea campaign but more of them later.

For the first time in Australia's young history, our country was severely bombed by the advancing Japanese Air Force. Indeed, Darwin had more bombs (96)dropped on it than Pearl Harbour and at Broome, sixteen flying boats packed with civilians who had been evacuated from the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) were caught moored in the harbour, strafed and burnt and a hundred men, women and children were killed or wounded, their bodies floating lifeless in the water.



Roebuck Bay Broome after the first air raid

(Perthnow.com.au) (97)

HMAS Kuttabul was sunk in Sydney harbour by a Japanese midget submarine and the mother submarine shelled Bondi, causing housing prices to drop as people moved to the blue mountains.

Post World War 2

With the ending of the Second World War there was a significant rise in the population of both Australia and Bayside. Beginning in 1947 the Australian economy had begun to make significant strides forward. In late 1948 the first locally designed and produced Holden car rolled off the production line at Fishermens Bend Victoria. This was followed by a Holden plant at Pagewood in Sydney which, at its height employed approx 2,500 workers, including my father in law.. In October 1949, the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric System had begun construction.. Between 1949-1974, an estimated 100,000 people worked on 'the Snowy' (Cosgrove, 1968). Beginning in 1947, immigration from Europe to Australia became a popular government mantra. While initially those from the UK were encouraged to come to Australia, it soon stretched to include most European countries, including Germany and Italy, partially devastated after the War. Many of these immigrants worked on the Snowy Scheme, in the car and manufacturing industries, and in the burgeoning Housing construction industry. HMY set up a radiogram and later, colour tv manufacturing facility in Sydney. People were encouraged to buy their own slice of heaven, their quarter acre in the newly built suburbs and estates. Between 1945-1965, more than 2 million migrants arrived in Australia. The majority of these, as in later times, lived in the major cities and suburbs.

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My late Uncle, Wilfred Noel Ellis returned in 1947 after a year in Japan but more of him and my father later. My own wife arrived as a six year old in 1956 with her parents and two siblings. An original 10 Pound Pom. The family arrived in Sydney and were moved to an immigration centre at Wollongong. The family moved to Sydney when their father wrote to Holdens at Pagewood. He was offered a job, the family moved to Little Bay and built a house, which became a home. Now, in 2023, my wife and I have three children, all married and with 5 lovely grandchildren (and a Border Collie). We have lived at Beverley Park in an Edwardian house built in 1906 for over 40 years. My wifes family all became Australian Citizens and travelled down a path well worn by many other immigrants, before and since. If one looks at the Table and graph above, it is possible to see the actual trend in population growth across those for Local Governemnt Areas for those three time periods. However, with the ending of the Second World War there was a significant rise in the population.

The economic conditions in Australia would continue to improve over the next 25 years. The election of the Menzies Liberal government in Canberra and Menzies focus on the Middle Class of voters, the influx of migrants and the rise of the housing and manufacturing industries would propell Australians into discovering that their dream of owning the family home was within reach. Unemployment was low and the migrants brought with them a desire to build their new lives in Australia. British, Greeks, Italians, Germans, many fleeing a Europe destroyed by World War Two, whole cities had been demolished by bombing and whole populations destroyed or uprooted. Moving to Australia seemed like an adventure and a dream, starting afresh in a new and distant land. In late 1948 the first locally designed and produced Holden car rolled off the production line at Fishermens Bend Victoria. Also, in October 1949, the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric System had begun construction.. Between 1949-1974, an estimated 100,000 people worked on 'the Snowy'. Beginning in 1947, immigration to Australia became a popular government mantra. These changes to population levels would be especially felt in suburbs such as Arncliffe, etc.

Carlton NSW

Carlton is a small, quiet suburb which adjoins Bexley and Allawah and the name Carlton is taken from England and means "Village of Free Men" (100). Around the turn of the 20th Century there were still reasonably large stands of trees, long gone now. Indeed, Forest Road through Hurstville, Bexley and Arncliffe was named because of the forests that were removed. Today, Carlton is a relatively small suburb nestled between Forest Road and the Princess Highway. It adjoins Bexley and they both have their share of schools (Bexley has Sydney Tech Boys High, a State Selective School (the authors old high school along with Hurstville Public which he attended too many years ago)! Indeed, two of my teenage grandchildren who live with their parents at Fleet St Carlton attended Carlton Public School which not too long ago celebrated its Centenary. Across Forest Road from Sydney Tech is St Mary's Star of the Sea, Catholic Girls School (my first girlfriend went there). There are also have a number of churches with reasonably small congregations of differing faiths and the suburb, along the Princes Highway, is growing with numbers of home uni blocks being built. The train station has been modernised with lifts to and from the platform and a new bridge built over the rail line just outside Allawah Station.

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The shopping centre is small and is centered around the train station, with a small number of shops on either side. Cafes of different cultures, are opening (all good), a Pub which has been in the same place for a number of years and a large Gym, which used to be a movie theatre (see below). Opened in 1926, it continued as a movie theatre under different owners until sold and operated as a Photo laboratory to get films developed. Its days however, may be numbered as it looks to a future of becoming another block of units "Mooaaan"! It also has a newly refurbished Drama Playhouse on the Western side of the railway line. There are still some older homes in the area, sadly some are being bought and demolished for new designs, which, in my opinion lack the class and elegance of designs of past decades.



The Carlton Theatre (now a Gym) on the Eastern side of the Railway line. (Ellis T. , The carlton Theatre)



The Hardcore Gym, redevelopment on the site next door. Are the Gyms days numbered? (Ellis T. , Hardcore Gym)



A lovely old home at Carlton - (Ellis T. , Old Home at carlton)

The wrought iron railing around the first floor balcony is lovely and to lose this building, a treasure of the past, would indeed be a travesty. While, given the current

economic situation regarding the needs for housing, I think that local government efforts when building high rise units, should be done to properly consider our architectural heritage.

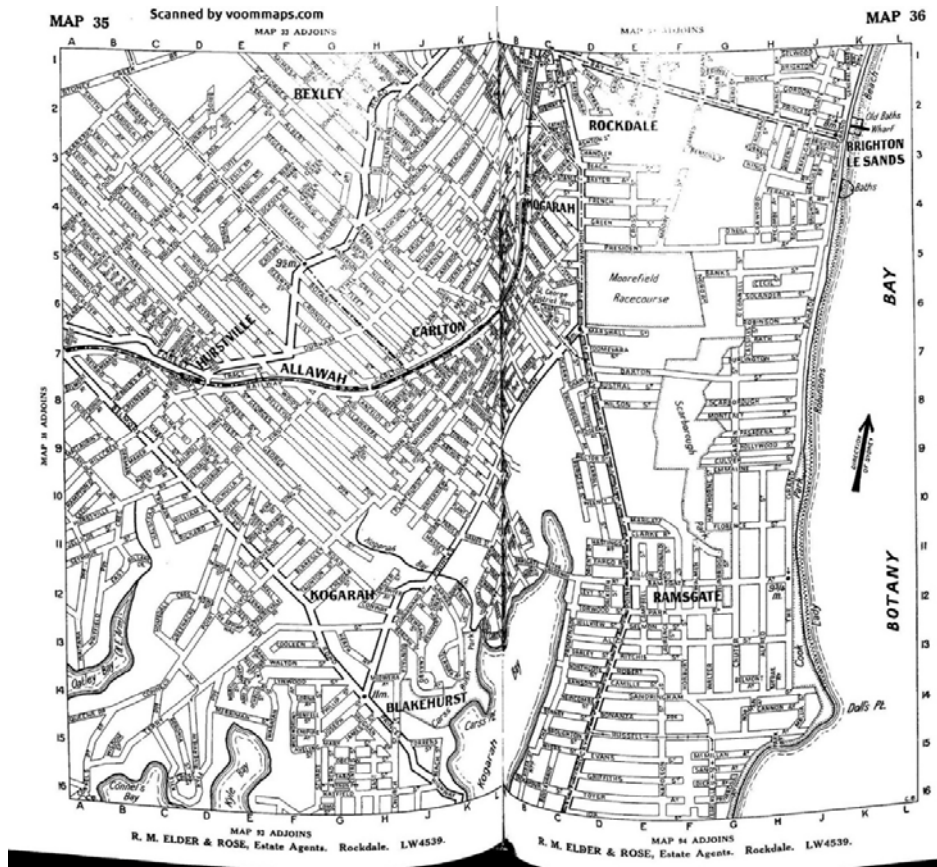


Original houses at Carlton (Ellis T. , Edwardian Homes)

The above photo is an excellent example of Edwardian homes at Carlton. Of particular interest is the wrought iron around the verandah and the tiled steps and walkway. Carlton is quiet and is a very green suburb with many lovely tree lined streets and a number of parks for residents to use.



The Princes Highway heading towards Carss Bush Park and Blakehurst. Plant St is on the right. This was taken in 1938 and is a different sight today (Ellis T. , Princes Highway 1940 circa)



Map taken from 1934 Gregory's (Ellis T. , Gregorys Map Carlton 1934)

. In the Bayside/Georges River area, many very solid and lovely homes and even shops had been begun to be built around the 1920s. My daughter and her family live in a solid brick home built in the 1920s at Carlton and, strangely enough, her home was only two streets away from two of Sylvesters sons and their families.



This shop is on the corner of Jubilee Avenue and Railway Parade and was built in 1920. It is across from the local Pub and Train Station. (Ellis T. , 1920 Building at carlton)



The Royal Hotel Carlton - Jubilee Avenue on the left leads to Jubilee Oval (Ellis T. , The Royal Hotel)



Jubilee Avenue leading to Jubilee Oval from Carlton Station (Ellis T. , Jubilee Avenue)

light

and



This patch of greenery hides the western entrance to Carlton Railway Station. Given the traffic flow the pedestrian crossing provides adequate safety for people going to and from the station in the morning afternoon.

(Ellis T. , Entrance to Carlton Station)

This is Fleet St Carlton looking down towards Durham St which leads to Hurstville. Many of Carltons Streets are like this which have helped preserve its green, calm and peaceful nature. Traffic flow is light which helps minimise noise. (Ellis T. , Trees in Fleet St)





Princes Highway Carlton looking south – more new units (Ellis T. , Units on Princes Highway - old vets)



(Ellis T. , Units on Railway Parade Carlton)

Whilst local Government are always under pressure to provide more housing, by way of units, let's hope that we do not follow Hurdsville's trend and try and preserve a decent mixture, which does not block out sunlight. The photo on the right is for a new set of units being built next to the Gym. In earlier lives the Gym was a Photo Lab and before that, a movie theatre. These are on the eastern side of Carlton Station

Moorefields Racecourse – Kogarah 1888 - 1953

.At Kogarah, the Moorefield Racecourse had been home to horse racing since the 1880s with a steam tram ferrying punters and their ladies from Kogarah Station to the Racecourse and back. For the average punter however, 'Shank's Pony' your feet, had to suffice. The Racecourse stood on a large area of land today filled with homes and a couple of high schools, as well as St George TAFE. At the entrance to the racecourse stood, you guessed it, a Pub! Designed to bouy your spirits on the way in and console them on the way out, if you had any money left!

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The Pub at the entrance to the Racecourse (<http://www.annefield.net.au/>, 2023)



The ticketing entrance to Racecourse, near to the Pub.
(<http://www.annefield.net.au/>, <http://www.annefield.net.au/>, 2023)

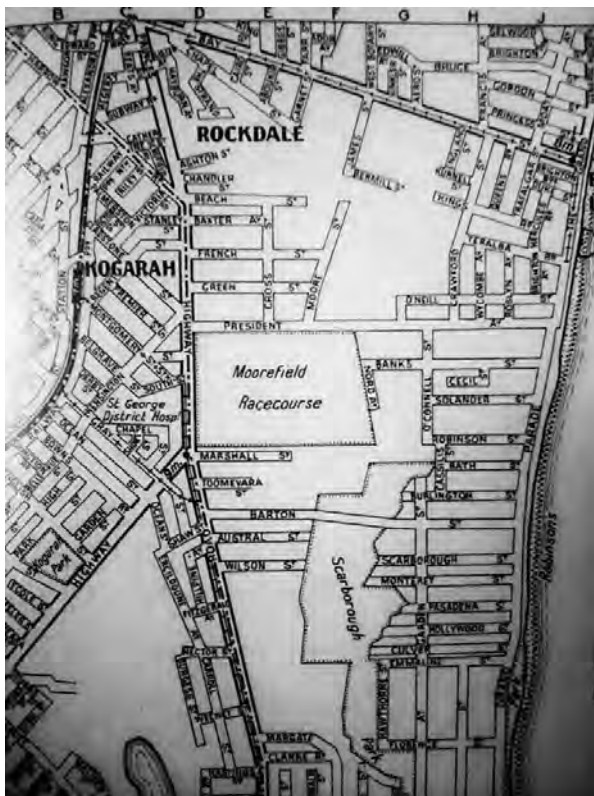


Fashion at Moorefields Racecourse Kogarah circa. 1920s
(<http://www.annefield.net.au/>, Facebook.com, 2023)

Nothing much has changed at the races today, except the fashions. Ladies took the opportunity to display their finery and, in those days, men and women all wore a hat. Moorefield's Racecourse also drew large crowds of between 40,000-50,000 on a Saturday. There were special train timetables from the city to Kogarah and a steam tram ran between Kogarah Station and the course on the Princes Highway and President Avenue. The Kogarah Golf Club, now near the airport, was actually inside the racecourse. The Golf Club members had no club house but instead used the Members Bar at the Race course.



Notice Kogarah Golf Club was then inside the racecourse.
(<http://www.annefield.net.au/Facebook.com>, 2023)



Map showing the position of the Racecourse (Ellis T. , Gregorys, 1934)



Bookmakers at
Moorefields Racecourse
Kogarah. Note the
crowds

(<http://www.annefield.net.au/>, Moorefields Racecourse Kogarah, 1934)

In these times the only legal way to put a bet on the horses was to actually go to the races. . There was no TAB or any other legal off course betting. My father gave up betting when, after losing his momney, he and his brothers could not afford the train back to Arncliffe so they walked in the rain. Meanwhile, the 'bookies' drove out in their large American cars which told him who made the money!!



Moorefields racecourse today – the back straight is a little bit damp and bit heavy for the horses! (120)

4

MOOREFIELD RACES AT KOGARAH, Saturday, 11th February—continued.
Additional Empty Car Trains (Electric).

No.	B 2	B 4	B 6	B 8	B 10	B 12	B 14
Mortdale.....Dep.	a.m. 10 39	a.m. 10 44	a.m. 10 48	a.m. 10 55	a.m. 11 00	a.m. 11 05	a.m. 11 10
Hurstville .....Arr.	.....	I	.....	IL	.....	.....	.....
Do .....Dep.	.....	10 44	.....	10 59	I	.....	.....
Kogarah ..... "	.....	Start.	.....	Start.	11 18	.....	.....
Rockdale..... "	.....	.....	10 58	.....	11 20	Start.	Start.
Punchbowl Car Sdgs. "	10 20	.....	.....	.....	11 20	11 22	11 22
Canterbury..... "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meek's Road Jct. ....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do .....Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	XIL	.....	.....
Sydenham Jct. ....Pass.	10 37	10 36	11 6	11 11	11 27	11 37	11 46
Erskineville .....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Illawarra Junction ...Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wells Street "	XL	XL	XL	XL	XL	XL	XL
Central .....Arr.	10 46	11 6	11 15	11 21	11 40	11 44	11 48
Museum .....Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. James .....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arrives Platform No.	14	15	14	15	14	15	14
Forms	11 0	11 18	11 25	11 35	11 45	11 53	12 0

No.	B 16	B 18	B 20	B 22	B 24	B 26	B 28
Mortdale .....Dep.	a.m. 11 00	a.m. 11 05	a.m. 11 10	a.m. 11 15	a.m. 11 20	p.m. 11 25	p.m. 11 30
Hurstville .....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do .....Dep.	I	.....	I	.....	I	I	I
Kogarah "	11 37	.....	11 43	.....	11 54	12 2	12 13
Rockdale..... "	11 39	.....	11 45	.....	11 56	12 4	12 15
Punchbowl Car Sdgs. "	.....	Start	.....	Start	.....	.....	.....
Canterbury..... "	.....	11 28	.....	11 32	.....	.....	.....
Meek's Road Jct. ....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	p.m.	.....	.....
Do .....Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	XIL	XIL	.....
Sydenham Jct. ....Pass.	11 46	11 46	11 52	11 51	12 2	12 11	12 21
Erskineville .....Arr.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Illawarra Junction ...Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wells Street ..... "	.....	XL	.....	XL	XL	XL	XL
Central .....Arr.	.....	11 57	.....	12 2	12 13	12 20	12 31
Do .....Dep.	11 55	.....	12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Museum .....Dep.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. James .....Arr.	11 59	.....	12 4	.....	.....	.....	.....
Arrives Platform No. ....	.....	15	.....	14	15	14	15
Forms	12 5	12 9	12 11	12 17	12 23	12 29	12 39

Precede No. 26 Run from Sydenham.

" O " Trip Empty Cars to follow from Wells Street.

Above is a copy of a Train Timetable to Kogarah Station from the city (Elis, circa 1935)

Sylvester and Catherine Ellis were not the only members of the Ellis Clan to move and settle at what we now call Bayside. In the next chapters I intend reviewing which of my family also moved to Bayside, including Arncliffe, Bexley, Carlton, then and now.

Henry Edward and Mary Kate Ellis and family – 47 Duncan St Arncliffe

Henry Edward Ellis was born in 1889, Henry Edward (one of Sylvester's sons) and Mary Kate Burke married at Petersham in 1919 and bought a house, which was to become their family home, at 47 Duncan St, Arncliffe for many years. It was on the other side of the railway line to Sylvester, but still close enough to visit. Henry had been a natural sportsman, like any number of the Ellis Clan, then and still true today. An article in the Forbes newspaper dated 20th March 1912 has Henry playing in a local derby cricket match. He scored 22 runs with the bat and took two wickets for 18 runs. Excelling at cricket has run throughout the Ellis Clan and my elder brother, Edward John Ellis b. 1943, also excelled at the game

Henry Edward had left home and gone to the West to find a new life. He was a Porter for the NSW Railways and in 1913 was severely injured when he was crushed between two railway cars. The local newspaper thought that he was doomed but, the Ellis Clan are a tough old bunch. Not only his left leg, but up to and including his thigh were amputated. (Ellis T. , Henry Edward Ellis A New Life Under a New Flag, 1913)

Medical: Crush in a shunting accident, 22 Aug 1913, Narromine, NSW. A Terrible Accident. A fearful accident occurred at Narromine on Friday night last when a railway guard named Harry Ellis was crushed between two trucks, and had his left leg and the lower portion of his body practically reduced to a pulp. The unfortunate young man is well known in the Forbes district, and has a number of relatives here. His aunt is Mrs George Golding, and he has several brothers and sisters in the district. One of his brothers, Mr. W. Ellis, of the Cowra road, only got word of the terrible catastrophe on Sunday, and yesterday, through the large heartedness of Mr. T. P. Clark he was able to proceed to Narromine in that gentleman's motor car. Particulars to hand of the accident are as yet very meagre, but there is practically no hope of the unfortunate young man's recovery.

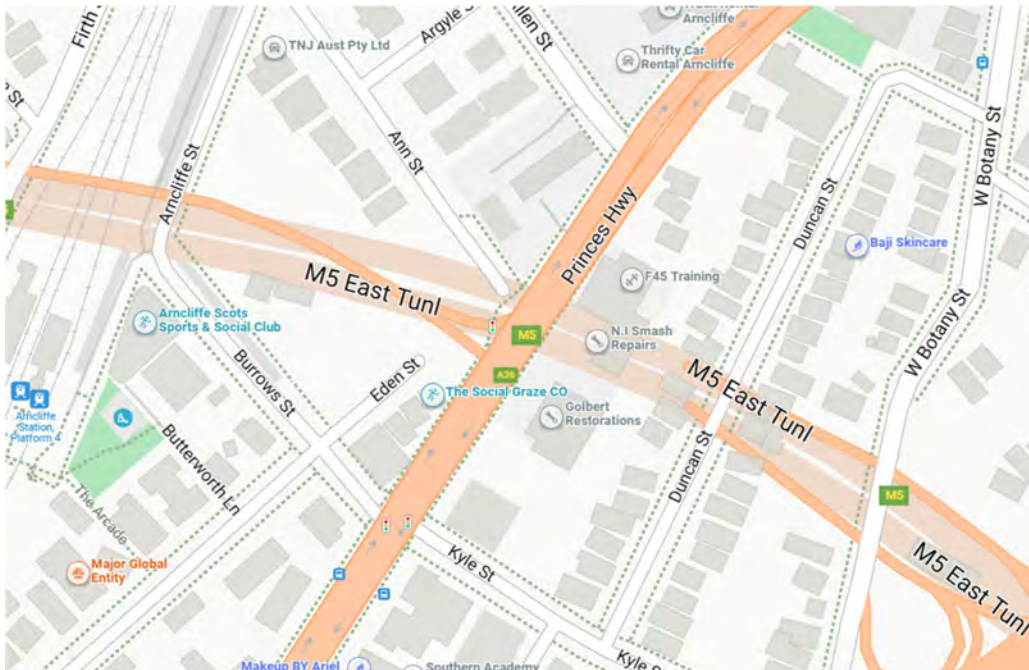


Henry had been a very good local cricketeer, like many of the Ellis boys, but that career was now gone. The NSW Railways gave him a job for life as Ticket Collector (*before Opal), at St Peters Station and in 1963 he and Mary Kate were still living at 47 Duncan St Arncliffe. They had three children, Kevin Henry (b. 1921-d. 1975), Nita Mary Ellis (b.1924 -d.1958) and Eric John Ellis (b. 1928-d.1978). Henry sadly passed away in 1965 and his wife, Mary Kate, in 1967.

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Nita Mary Ellis married Gavin George Morton and they had a son, Warren Ellis Morton, seen in the photo with his grandfather, Henry Edward. Warren was born in 1944 and died in 2004. He married and moved to Queensland where he passed away in May 2004 in Bundaberg Queensland, after having at least one child

Henry Edward Ellis 1945 with his grandson Warren (Ellis T. , Henry Edward Ellis at Arncliffe)



47 Duncan st Arncliffe (Ellis T. , Map of 47 Duncan St arncliffe)



47 Duncan St Arncliffe – Home of Henry Edward and Martry Kate Ellis nee Bourke and family
(Ellis T. , 47 Duncan St)



Nita Ellis and Gavin Morton with baby Warren (Ellis T. , Nita Ellis and Gavin Morton)



Warren Ellis Morton, son of Nita Ellis and Gavin Morton (Children)

Kevin Henry Ellis

Kevin Henry Ellis had had a varied career, moving to the NSW country in 19xx as a teacher, but in 1968, he and his wife are back at Arncliffe at 10 Duncan St. He is a moulder and she is a clerk. If this tell us us anything about life in the 1960's and 1970's, it is that Australia is entering the period where both partners in a marriage will go out to work. In 1972 Kevin was working as a teacher at Gunnedah and he passed away in 1977. In 1977 he and his wife are at 47 Duncan St Arncliffe and he is listed as a coremaker.

Kevin Henry and his wife, Doreen Ellis lived at 10 Duncan St Arncliffe, while Nita Mary and her husband Gavin George Robert Morton married in 1941 and lived in the Arncliffe area with her husband and son, Warren until her untimely death in 1958. Leanne Nita Ellis also lived at this address

Eric J Ellis

Eric John Ellis married Mavis June Ellis and had a son, Wayne Kenneth Ellis before he passed away at Heckenberg in 1978 after initially living at Arncliffe. Wayne Kenneth Ellis, in 1977 was shown in the Electoral Rolls as living at 28 Adaminaby Road, Heckenberg with his wife, Mavis June Ellis (Ellis T. , Ancestry.com, 2020). He was a Clerk and she was listed as Home Duties. Eric was also listed as living at the same address and was a Fitter



The last resting place of Eric John Ellis (Children E. E., 2020)

Still at Arncliffe!

Norman Cyril (b. 1894 d. 1960) and Evelyn Margaret Ellis (nee Corbett)

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Evelyn Margaret Ellis with her child, Leslie Albert Ellis KIA 1945 (Archives)
Sylvster and Norman Ellis (Ellis)

Norman Cyril Ellis was born at Forbes in 1894 and, like his siblings, grew up at Oak Park with his parents Sylvester and Catherine. In 1919 he married Evelyn Margaret Corbett at Rockdale. His mother, Catherine, had passed away in 1916 of heart problems but Sylvester still lived at 8 Stewart St Arncliffe. Norman's wife, Evelyn was one of two Corbett sisters who married two Ellis brothers. The Corbett Family also lived at Forbes but in 1919, the father and family moved to Kogarah. Norman, like many country folk identified as a labourer. They lived at 8 Stewart St Arncliffe with Sylvester and stayed there after his death when the property was sold to a Mr Arthur Goddard. After he passed away in 1950, Norman and Evelyn bought the property for 850 pounds. Norman passed away on 4th May 1960 and is buried at Woronora Cemetery at Sutherland. Then when Evelyn died in 1977, Raymond Ellis, their son who had grown up at the home, obtained 8 Stewart St.

Raymond married Judith Maree Howe and they had three children but, unfortunately he passed away in 2016. The home is currently owned by his wife

whom I met today when I first went and saw the home. She has been to visit us recently, to exchange family information over morning tea.

Children of Norman and Evelyn Ellis (nee Corbett)

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Ronald Cyril Ellis b. 1920



(Father)

Ronald Cyril Ellis was born Carlton NSW in May 1920 to Norman and Evelyn Ellis nee Corbett. On 19th April 1955 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at Eastwood he married Cicely Mary Kennedy, born in 1922. They had three children, Mark Patrick Ellis born in 1958, Barry Jonathon Ellis born in 1960 and Neale Colin Ellis born in 1962. On 10th March 1943 he enlisted in the Australian Army at Mataranka in the northern Territory and would rise to the rank of Corporal. His service number was NX160990. His military file is currently in the process of being digitised and once that is done, it shall be freely available for inclusion into this novel.

In 1949, after his return from World War 2, Ronald Ellis was back living with his parents at 8 Stewart St Arncliffe. He was still living there in 1954 when, a year later, he married Cicely Mary Kennedy at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church at Earlwood NSW. They would go on to have three sons, Neale, Barry and Mark Ellis. Mark and I have been in contact over our family tree. The family moved from Arncliffe in 1958 to Caringbah, which was connected by the Tom Ugly bridge and a punt before the construction of the Captain Cook Bridge in 1965. Ronald passed away in 1984 while Cicely passed away in 2010. Both are buried at Woniora Cemetery, Sutherland.

Leslie Albert Ellis b. 1923 Hurstville m. nil d. RAAF Bocholt Borken Germany 1945 (no Children)

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L to R Bob Kennard (Pilot), Harry Ghattly (Bombadier), Leslie Albert Ellis (Wireless Op/ waist gunner), Jack Farr (Air Gunner) who was the only Survivor (Raaf)

Leslie Albert Ellis joined the Royal Australian Air Force at the outbreak of World War 2. He went to Canada, accompanied by his father via ship. Norman He was flying as the Radio Operator/Air Gunner when his aircraft failed to return from a bombing mission over Germany in March 1945. The commentary below is from the Rear Gunner, who was the only crew member to survive as he was able to bale out and was captured by the German ground forces. The three members are buried in Germany in a common grave.

Flight Sergeant Farr later reported "We were hit by flak and immediately caught fire. No one panicked and Ellis advised the Skipper we were on fire. The Skipper said bale out. Why no other crew member did not escape I cannot say, especially Ellis who was the waist gunner. The Germans told me that although our aircraft was a mass of flames, the pilot tried to make a forced landing but it blew up when 100 feet off the deck."



Standard B25 Mitchell bomber (Unknown, Standard American B25 Bomber WW2)

Flying Officer Leslie Albert ELLIS (422151) of the Royal Australian Air Force

Circumstances of Death: Lost in aircraft Mitchell III, KJ563, 180 Squadron RAF.

Death of Death 21/3/45, Age : 21 years. **Burial Details:** Joint grave 21. A. 6-7. at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany. (138)

Air Operations No.180 Squadron, Mitchell aircraft **KJ563, Germany, **21st March 1945**.**

Mitchell **KJ563** took off from **B.58 Melsbroek**, Belgium on 21st March 1945, along with other aircraft from the Squadron, detailed to attack the marshalling yards at Bocholt, Germany. Nothing was heard from **KJ563** after take-off and it failed to return to base. During the attack intense and very heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered and the No 2 aircraft in the formation FW236 received a direct hit while releasing its bombs, and an explosion followed. This explosion forced **KJ563** which was flying in No 3 position out of control. The port engine was seen to be in flames and there was a large hole in the fuselage near the bomb bay. **KJ563** was last seen to be diving steeply. One parachute was observed. **KJ563** blew up about 100 feet from the ground when trying to make a forced landing.



Grave of Flying Officer Leslie Albert Ellis (Flying Officer) – 1st Cousin 1 * removed (Commission)

To me, the most poignant comment that could be made is that he was 21, and the War in Europe had less than 2 months to run.

Raymond Thomas Ellis 1933 – 2016

Raymond Thomas Ellis was born at Arncliffe at 8 Stewart St in 1933. This was the home of Sylvester and Catherine Ellis, his grandparents and had been purchased by Evelyn Ellis after the death of the owner Arthur Goddard. Evelyn used the insurance payout from Leslie's death to purchase the property which is still in the Ellis family today. After her death, the property was purchased by her son, Raymond and his wife Judith. Sadly he passed away in 1977 however Judith, as his widow, retained ownership of the property. They had three children, two sons and a daughter, who now lives at Taree. Judith and her two sons continue to live in the property and she and I met about 4 weeks ago when I decided to knock on the front door and see who answered it, and it was Judith Ellis nee Howe.



8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe (ELLIS)



Raymond Thomas Ellis B. 1933 Hurstville d. 2016 Arncliffe (141)

Raymond Thomas Ellis was born in 1933 at Arncliffe and was raised at his late Grandfathers home at 8 Stewart S Mount Arncliffe. He and Judith had three children, and in 1963 he, Judith and one of his sons, Kenneth Neville Ellis, a Technician, were all living at 8 Stewart St Raymond passed away at Arncliffe in 2016 and is buried at Woronora Cemetery Sutherland..

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Sister) Margaret Rita Ellis 1935 – 2006

Sister Margaret Ellis was born at Hurstville on 27th April 1935.



(Kensington) Margaret Rita Ellis was born in 1935 to Norman and Evelyn Ellis nee Corbett at Arncliffe. The Electoral Roll shows that in 1958 Margaret was a student at the O.L.S.H (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) Convent at Kensington, which would make her 23 years old and most likely training to become a nun. I recently met a long lost Cousin, Judy Ellis who still lives with her two sons at 8 Stewart St Arncliffe and she told me that she and Margaret used to send each other Christmas cards, would write letters to each other and Judy gave me a copy of a paper family tree which Margaret researched and produced, however, my part of the Ellis Clan were not on it. In 1980 she is listed as living at 2 Kensington Rd Kensington and is a teacher. Margaret never married and died in 2006. She is buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium.

I recently contacted her old convent who said that, unfortunately when she died in 2006 of lung cancer she did not wish to have a Eulogy, as it was against her vows to

be always humble. However, a Sister who knew her wrote the following after her death

(Kensington, Comment about Sister Maargaret Ellis)“Whatever Sr Margaret was asked to do, she carried out with fidelity, enthusiasm and great attention to detail. Whether it was living out her religious commitment, caring for the sacristy in the Parish Church, preparing lessons or teaching the children, especially those who need special help with reading... all was done with generosity, care and love for those whom she served”.



Headstone of Norman and Evelyn Ellis at Woronora Sutherland
(His children)

John Alexander and Jessie May Ellis (nee Bray) at Bexley, Orange and Arncliffe



Jessie May Bray was born at Forbes in 26th March 1884, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Annie Payne. She had 11 Siblings and would have gone to a local school. Her Grandfather, Edmund Bray had the license to the Great Eastern Hotel in Forbes but went into administration. Her father, William Bray had a number of hotel licenses, at Forbes and Orange and was also part owner of Brays Pickle Factory. When Andrew and I visited Robb Ellis he put on a lovely, freshly killed lamb roast. The jar of pickles below are original and over 100 years old, and have never been opened. So, if Robb ever invites you for a lamb roast, watch the pickle jar!

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**Jessie May Ellis (nee Bray) my late
Grandmother (Photographer F.)**



**Drummer Boy Pickles – Bray Family
Forbes (unopened still after 100 years)
– hungry anyone?**

Jessie was a very attractive young woman, as can be seen from the above photo. Her father had to approve the marriage as she was under 21 at the time. The Wedding Reception was held at the property of her parents. Jessie's first child, Victoria May Ellis was born at Forbes in 1905. The family of three then moved from Forbes to Cobar. (they were quick off the mark). At Cobar, they had two more children (Clementine Lavinia 1907) and Reuben Oliver John Ellis 1909 (at Cobar), then moved to Warialda St at West

Kogarah for three years then another three years at Wolseley St West Kogarah before moving to 46-48 Stoney Creek Road Bexley in 1916. It was not too far from Arncliffe with a connecting Steam Tram and they lived there from 1916 until 1923. During that time John Alexander and Jessie May Ellis had 4 more children. These were Gladys Catherine Pearl (1912), Sylvester Edward John (1914), Wilfred Noel (1916) and finally, in late 1918, my father, Gordon Alexander Ellis. John and Jessie did not own any of the properties and the records show that they rented the properties until 1923. More about her soon!

John Alexander “Poppy” Ellis b. Forbes 1881 m. Forbes 1904 d. Killarney Vale 1963. (Arncliffe)



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Poppy Ellis and some of his Grandchildren L to R: Neil Bateman, Keith Asplet, Edward Ellis (my elder brother) Neville Bateman; Uncle Tigers (Sylvesters) three children: Rhonda, David and Janita then far right Aunty Gladys daughter, Elaine. Poppy would go on to have more grandchildren including my elder sister, Cheryl and myself, Xxx Gordon Ellis.

However, on 21st July 1919, when my late father, Gordon Alexander Ellis was 7 months old, his mother (my Grandmother) Jessie May Ellis was committed to Gladesville Mental Asylum. She spent one night at Darlinghurst and was transferred the next day. She had apparently only been ill for 3 weeks but it was sufficient for her to be sent to Gladesville, under the Lunacy Act. She would stay there until 1926, when she was transferred to Bloomfield Mental Hospital, at Orange NSW. She died there from tuberculosis in December 1938.

Her form below lists her as being bought to the Darlinghurst Mental Institution late on the day of July 19th 1920. She appears to have been examined and committed under the Lunacy Act to Gladesville Mental Asylum. I obtained her record of 132 pages in 2020 during Covid lockdown and it makes harrowing reading and asks some difficult questions of my late Grandfather, Poppy Ellis. For instance, when Jessie was initially committed it was only after a period of illness of three weeks. Given that she would spend the rest of her life in Institutions, it seems like a drastic step to have been taken and it raises the question as to whether she had been under the care of a local Doctor before going to Darlinghurst. Also, the Admission form to Darlinghurst says that she had small scars on her back? This raises another uncomfortable question about whether or not she had ever been beaten? These questions can never now be answered however, they do remain. It was also believed, around this time, that it was not unusual for husbands to have their wives committed, for whatever reason. This could include failure to perform in the marital bed! . Our Australian society was definitely male dominated in this period, and in some aspects, even today.

Patient's Case Record.

4.50 pm. Name Jessie May Ellis Number for year 85-9.
 Date of Admission 20 July 19 Whence received
 Name of Escort husband Age 35 Sex F M.S. or W M
 Religion CR No. of children alive 7 Ages 14 7 months
 Occupation wife of rubber maker Residence "St Albans" Stony Creek Rd Boxley
 Nativity Yorkshire
 Dates of Previous Admission
 Dates of Previous Discharges
 Form of Mental Disorder Mania & Del Length of attack 3 weeks
 Supposed cause of Insanity
 Insane Relations
 Epileptic Fits No Suicidal No Dangerous may be to children
 If Overseen, state particulars
 Date Certified 21 JUL 1919 Length of Remand
 Order from Darlinghurst Court at D. Hurst
 Request signed by
 Where sent Gladesville Date of discharge 21 JUL 1919
 Length of time in Reception House 1 day
 Cuts or Wounds Bruises
 Eruptions or Marks Small scars on back
 Other Injuries
 Bodily condition Thin. Head warm Temperature 97 Vaccination
 Property
 (See Property Book, page)
 Old-age or Invalid Pensioner
 Notices sent to Master: Adm 21 JUL 1919 Disc 21 JUL 1919
 Addresses of Relatives husband - John Alexander Ellis
"St Albans" Stony Creek Rd Boxley
wife

HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF CASE.

St. Graham.
Thinks food is tampered with charges husband &
neighbors with this - spirits told to her direct her
actions & declare that she is not doing right.
Is mentally confused & needs control.

My late Grandmother whom I never met, Jessie May Ellis – Darlinghurst Admission Form - 21 July 1919 – My father was 8 months old! (Admissions)

John Alexander had been raised at Oak Park, with his 11 siblings and his parents Sylvester and Catherine.

John Alexander (Poppy) Ellis had in fact been slowly assembling a Macadam or Road Building Business in the Bayside district. . We will never know but it is possible that he was funded by his father to do this. His reputation in the family was of someone who had trouble managing money, and indeed, he does not appear to have ever owned a home in Bexley, Rockdale or Arncliffe where he and the children moved to over the next 12 years. From when Jessie was committed until 1923 he and the family are listed as living still at 46-48 Stoney Creek Road Bexley. After that he appears to have moved to Rockdale, then 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe until 1947. His son, Wilfred Noel Ellis had returned from WW2, involving battle at New Guinea and then as part of the Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. While in New Guinea he had been seriously wounded by a Japanese Grenade and then in an explosion at Kure in Japan.

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While investigating Sylvester James Ellis, one of my Uncles, I noticed that the Electoral Roll for Orange for Ellis had three extra names! In the mid 1930s Victoria May and Clementine Lavinia moved to Orange to be near their mother and worked as waitresses in the Royal Hotel. Uncle Sylvester (Tiger), worked on his uncles (Sylvester James Ellis's) orchard as a blacksmith during the same time to be near her. On the outskirts of Orange is the Bloomfield Mental Asylum, which Jessie May Ellis was sent to, from Gladesville Mental home in 1926. Her file shows that she was very disturbed however, it is likely that in today's society she would have received a much kinder form of therapy and not been secreted away from the family for almost 20 years. In May 2020, when Covid lockdown hit, I contacted NSW Health at Orange and paid for her file (132 pages to be copied and sent to me) (hospital). In parts it makes harrowing reading.

John Alexander Ellis, Jessie May and their children would initially live at Warialda St West Kogarah from 1910 until late 1912, before moving to Wolseley St, also in West Kogarah for 3 years. From there, the family, with a couple of new additions, moved to Stoney Creek Road in early 1917 where they stayed until 1923, when, without their mother, they moved to 32 King St Rockdale (1934). Then, in the early 1930s, Victoria May Ellis and Clementine Lavinia Ellis, plus their brother Sylvester Edward Ellis, moved to Orange. In mid 1926 their mother had been moved to Bloomfield Mental Asylum located there. The two girls obtained jobs as waitresses at the Royal Hotel in Orange and Sylvester Edward worked for his uncle, Sylvester James Ellis as a blacksmith on his orchard. Sylvester James and his wife had purchased the orchard some years earlier however, in 1940, aged 70, he was killed when a young bull made its way into his orchard and gored him to death in a very bloody and gruesome manner. His death made the newspapers in the Capital cities and the local police were sent to shoot the animal (Newspaper).

10 118

Property and clothing received with or for
Ellis Jessie May

Ward No. *Con A.*

Date	Articles	Whence received	Signature of person receiving	How disposed of & Date
12-25	No property	From Gladswells	SSJ	
	wearing ward clothing			
1-12-28	1 small purse	From visitors	missing	
	cont 4 (in a pocket)		Spent - 885	
4-12-28	1 pair slippers	from visitors	worn out	
1-26	2 singlets	from visitors	SSJ worn out	Transferred to B Ward 885
10-26	1 Navy Sweater	from visitors	missing	
	1 singlet		worn out	
				Received by J. T. G. Aug 26 1927
12/12/26	2 pairs bloomers	W. B. ✓	worn out	Trans to 2-2
	1 W. Nightdress	missing		1927. In S.
			J. B. 19-7-24.	J. B. 20-2-27/4/37.
			Wid 29.12.38	
			presence to wheel	
			A. O. H.	

There is a page which refers to her transfer from Ryde to Orange (1926)(above) and states that she had when she left Ryde she had in her possession the following "1 nighty, 1 dressing gown, 1 pair of slippers, two pair of drawers and a small purse". The purse went missing during the transfer as did a navy sweater! Now I am not an emotional man, but of all things that have bought me close to tears in my life, this was it. small purse", which went missing. Jessie May (or Grandmother Jessie as I like to call her), died on December 30 from Tuberculosis. However, since obtaining her medical file and finding her grave, I now feel (almost), that I have bought my grandmother back from the grave to her family where she belongs. (Ellis T. , Grandmother Jessie)

Victoria and Clemine spent just over a year living at Orange before returning to live with their father at 5 or 7 Martin Avenue Arncliffe sometime in 1935. John Alexander would stay here until his second youngest son, Wilfred Noel Ellis, returned

from World War 2, 12 months in the Occupation Force at Kure near Hiroshima and then a 12 month stay at Alice Springs, working as a volunteer carpenter at the Rectory

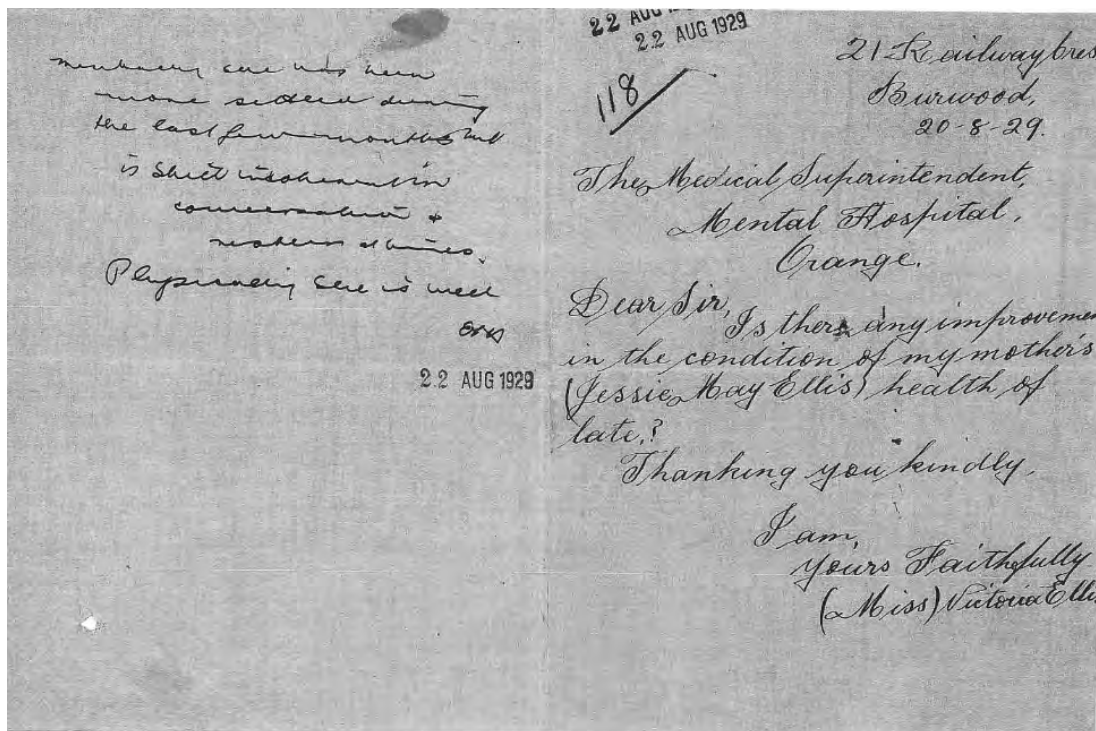
Andrew and I visited it recently the Royal Hotel at Orange (Ellis T. , Royal Hotel Orange Old Dining Room) on our road trip and the Assistant Manager gave us a great tour and I took some photos of the old accommodation, including bathroom.



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The original fireplace and ceiling of the hotel dining room in which Aunties Victoria and Clementine worked as waitresses. This gave them access to their

mother at Bloomfield Asylum on the outskirts of Orange



(Ellis V. M.)**The copy of the above letter is from my late Aunt Victoria, John and Jessies eldest child, to the Superintendent of Bloomfield asking about her mothers condition.**

An ongoing family mystery involves my late father and his next elder brother, Wilfred (we all called him Uncle Bill) and Uncle Sylvester William (Uncle Tiger). As his mother was hospitalised when my father, Gordon, was 7 months old, the elder girls were too young to care for Dad and Uncle Bill and Uncle Tiger. At this stage, despite numerous attempts at tracking down where they were taken to, I have been

unsuccessful. Possibly Gordon went to the Rockdale Babies home and the other boys to the Bexley Boys home however all records have been destroyed. I have tried the Salvation army Archives at Melbourne but they also have no records of the boys. We do know that at age 5, Gordon, the youngest child returned to the family and went to Rockdale School.

During the early 1920s, John Alexander Ellis (Poppy) had established a road building business in the Rockdale Council District. He was labelled a Macadam Road Builder and, for those of you who do not know what that is, here is some information from Wikipedia:

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“ With the advent of [motor vehicles](#), dust became a serious problem on macadam roads. The area of low air pressure created under fast-moving vehicles sucked dust from the road surface, creating dust clouds and a gradual unravelling of the road material.^[18] This problem was approached by spraying [tar](#) on the surface to create **tar-bound macadam**. In 1902 a Swiss doctor, [Ernest Guglielminetti](#), came upon the idea of using tar from [Monaco](#)'s gasworks for binding the dust.^[19] Later a mixture of [coal tar](#) and ironworks [slag](#), patented by [Edgar Purnell Hooley](#) as [tarmac](#), was introduced”.

So, from looking at the Rockdale Council Minutes from 1927, it appears as though John Ellis' work for that year included:

1. A new road and drainage in the Leuralla Extended Estate. This estate consisted of portions of Highclere Avenue and West Botany Street, Banksia (see the attached State Library of NSW plan).
2. Orion Street, Arncliffe (now Bardwell Valley).
3. A new road in 'Mr Mitchell's subdivision' / road on the Lorraine Estate. The Lorraine Estate was created out of a subdivision of land owned by Mr Mitchell off Lorraine Avenue, between Alsace Avenue and Pile Street (see the attached State Library of NSW plan).
4. Road on Vincents Nursery No. 1 Subdivision. This subdivision was comprised of land off the Princes Highway, Banksia, between Spring Street and Terry Street (see the attached State Library of NSW plan).
5. A lane at the rear of Mrs Mumford's property. I found another reference to Mrs Mumford's property in the Minutes for the Rockdale Council Meeting held on 16 August 1928 (attached). These minutes deal with correspondence regarding the need for a lane at the rear of the Cairncross property in Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands, to be extended through the property of Mrs Mumford.
6. A road and drainage on Mr Wilson's Estate off The Strand, Rockdale (this is the portion of The Strand immediately off Chapel Street, Rockdale).
7. Roads in the Earlwood Station Estate. The Earlwood Station Estate was a subdivision of land bounded by Devon Road, Slade Road and Darley Road. (Courtesy – Kirsten Broderick – Bayside Library Rockdale) (157)

This carried on until the Depression hit Australia and unfortunately, Poppy Ellis refused to update to new technology, instead keeping his men on in employment as long as he could but, in the end, economics told and his business failed and his equipment was auctioned on 12th September 1930.

AUCTIONS

AUCTION SALE.
ON THE PREMISES LATELY OCCUPIED BY
MR. A. M. HART, Jeweller,
480 George Street, Sydney,
NEXT ADAMS' HOTEL.
This Day, Friday,
5th INST., AT 11 A.M.

Xylonite Brush Sets, Jewel Cases, Powder and Tidy Boxes, Perfume Bottle Holders, Manicures, Clocks, Trays, Saving Mugs, Glove Boxes, etc., E.P.N.S. Tea and Coffee Sets, Teapots, Cruets, Egg Frames, Manicure Stands, Entree and Casserole Dishes, Salad Bowls and Servers, etc., Ladies' and Gent's Gold, Silver, and Nickel Watches, Oct. Sleeve Links, Brooches, Collar Studs, Pins, Bangles, etc., etc., Bronze Jar-jar-jars, Vases, Statuettes, Canteens, Sheffield Cutlery, Cased Goods, Trays, Necklaces, Bags, Stainless Knives, Spoons and Forks, Perfume Sprays, etc., etc.

WITHOUT RESERVE.
CRAWFORD, ALLEN, AND CO.,
W. ROBERTS, Auctioneer,
480 George Street, Sydney.
Phone, MA1403.

AUCTIONS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT HOLDEN AT SYDNEY.—No. of Plaint 7080 of 1930. No. of Writ 885 of 1930. Between DONALD ROBERTSON Plaintiff and J. A. ELLIS (a male) Defendant. On the Twelfth day of September 1930 at four of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in this action unless the same be previously satisfied all the right title and interest (if any) of the abovenamed Defendant of in or to all the stock-in-trade chattels and effects said to be in or on the premises situated at Martin Avenue Arncliffe and which are the subject of a Conditional Bill of Sale dated the Fifth day of August 1930 given by the Defendant to The Australian Finance Company Limited to secure the sum of Twenty-five pounds registered No. 14939 of 1930 will be sold by the Bailiff by Public Auction at the gates of the Court House Queen's Square Sydney. TERMS CASH. Dated this Fourth day of September 1930. JOHN NEW Bailiff.

THE WORLD'S NEWS.
Bright, Chatty Items, Short Stories, Jokes, Inventions.

And at 208-10 Pitt Street, next Lyceum Theatre.
OPEN TILL 9 P.M. FRIDAYS.

LECTURES

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION BOARD
THREE PUBLIC LECTURES,
By Dr. C. A. DUNNWAY, Carnegie Visiting Professor.
Monday, September 8th.—The American Revolution and the Problem of Imperial Organisation.
Thursday, September 11th.—Character Study of Woodrow Wilson.
Tuesday, September 16th.—Progressive Industrialism in the United States.
AT THE UNIVERSITY, in the Organic Chemistry Theatre.
Course Tickets, 2/6. Tickets for single lectures, 1/6, obtainable at the door.
IVEN G. MACKAY, Secretary.
The University.

Printed and published for the Proprietors by AUGUSTUS STEPHEN BALDICK, "Wyong," Harrow Road, Stammers, at 60-66 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, in the State of New South Wales.

Auction of Poppy Ellis's equipment to pay his debts (Ellis N. C.)

I have fond memories of Poppy as he lived until he was 83 before dying in his sleep from a heart attack. "Poppy Ellis" or Jack as he was called, was an excellent golfer and played every week at Bexley Golf Course where he was a most proficient and popular member, even scoring a hole in one which was put upon the Club Honour Board. He was a regular in the local newspaper called The St. George Call, a local newspaper at Hurstville. He continued to play golf for the rest of his life and at age 70 won a prestigious local contest which was featured in the Daily Telegraph.



Poppy Ellis Bexley Hole in One (Telegraph)

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW : 1931 - 1954), Sunday 24 December 1944, page 22

Golfer, 70, wins Bexley contest

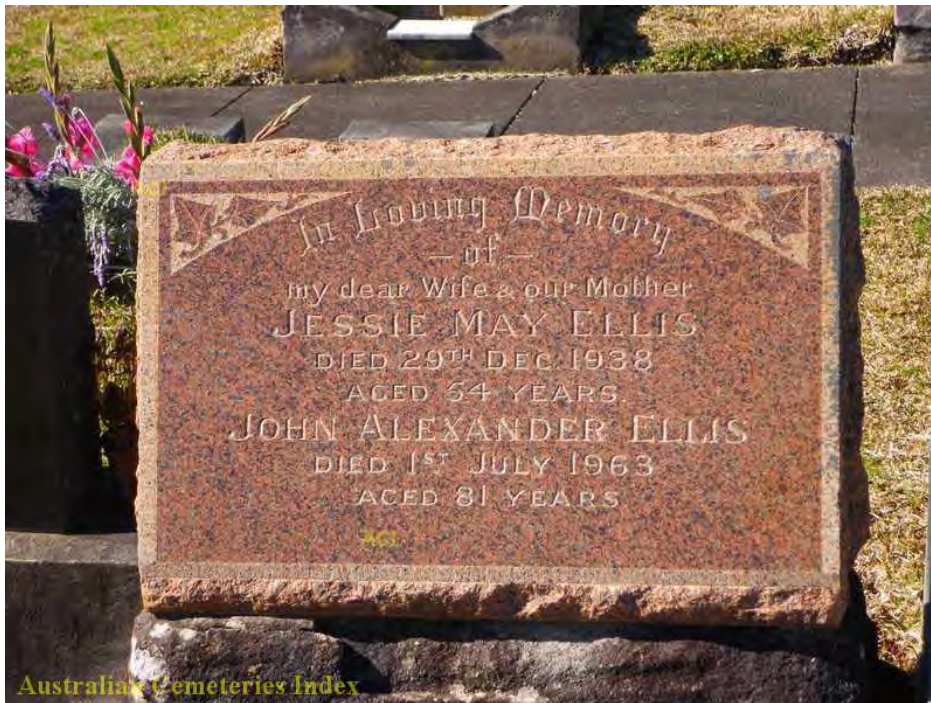
By HECTOR MORRISON

Seventy-year-old J. ("Pop") Ellis defied wind, heat and humidity to win the Bexley Golf Club's A grade stableford event with 39 points yesterday.

Ellis went around the course in 71 (par 65)—net 60. He scored 21 points on the home run.

The last story about Poppy involves his activities the day before he died. He cycled up to the local golf club and played 18 holes with his ancient clubs, had a baked dinner then cycled

home. That night he quietly passed away to be found by his son, Uncle Bill the next day. He was 83.



Poppy and Grandmother Ellis – together at last (Headstone of Jessie May and John alexander Ellis)

The Children of John Alexander (Poppy) and Jessie May (Grandmother) Ellis

Victoria May Ellis b. 1905 Forbes d. 1954 Hurstville

Aunty Victoria was born at Forbes in 1905, then as a baby moved with the family to Cobar. Here there were two rich copper mines and it appears the Poppy obtained a job with one of them. He played cricket for the mine in a local competition and scored 22 runs. During this time they had two more children, Clementine Lavinia and Rueben Oliver Ellis, both born at Cobar. However, around 1910 the family of five moved to West Kogarah where they lived for 6 years, moving house once before settling at 48 Stoney Creek Road Bexley. As we have seen Sylvester and Catherine



were, around 1911, moving into 8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe (162) . We know that Victoria May attended Bexley School from her Certificate (below).

As the eldest daughter, once she turned 21 she could legally care for the younger boys who apparently returned home. This would have been approximately 1926 when my father, Gordon (the youngest), would have been 7

Aunty Victorias Qualifying Certificate Bexley Public School 1919 (1919)

years old going on 8. We know that the family moved to 32 King St Rockdale, possibly around the mid 1920's. They stayed at this address until 1931, after his road building business when bust, when he and some of the family moved to 7 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. John alexander Ellis then seems to have moved back to Rockdale, then back to 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. Interestingly, he does not appear in his wife records for Bloomfield, apart from one letter and there is no record of him ever visiting her. Victoria and Clementine and Sylvester, their brother moved to Orange early in 1933 and stayed for a year.

Then, in 1934, after she had returned to Sydney, Victoria May married Henry William Bateman at Rockdale. We knew him as Uncle Harry in those days. Everyone was either an Aunt or an Uncle and growing up, you were expected to address them accordingly. Mum and Dad could, of course call him Harry or her Vic, but not kids. I was only born in 1953 but I remember Uncle Harry with some fondness. He was an intelligent, jovial man who worked for the Railways and was responsible for timetabling, in the days before computers and spreadsheets.



Aunty Victoria's Wedding Day: Far right, John Alexander (Poppy) Ellis, her father, next to her Henry (Harry) Bateman and the Bridesmaid and groom remain unknown. I very much like the formality of these old photos, much better, I think that the posed photos one sees on Facebook and the like these days (Bateman)

Victoria May Bateman nee Ellis 1934

Aunty Vic and Uncle Harry, as they were known in the family, moved to 20 Dora St Hurstville. They had two sons, Neville and Neil Bateman. Unfortunately tragedy was to strike their family when, in December 1954, their mother passed away. She certainly had a difficult life with her mother being admitted to an Insane Asylum since July 1919 until her tragic death in December 1938. She had to leave school early to help look after the family.

Aunty Vic and Uncle Harry lived at 20 Dora St Hurstville and once a year the Hurstville Flower Show was held at Hurstville Park, next to Hurstville Oval. There was a procession through Hurstville and down Dora St to Hurstville Park and my elder sister, Cheryl, vividly remembers sitting on their front brick fence and watching the parade go by.



(Hurstville)

Hurstville Flower Festival Circa 1956

Neville, Victoria's eldest son was a Pharmacist but he had a marriage which ended in divorce. Neil, his brother, was a really lovely chap. He met and married a woman called Ruth who died from cancer after about 5 years of marriage.



Ruth and Neil Bateman circa 1964 (21st)

Because of her cancer, they were unable to have children so, I don't remember the year, but they adopted a very young boy whom they named Darren. After her death Neil was placed in a very difficult situation. He could return the child

to the State or keep him as his son. This, Neil chose to do however, Neil was working as a Payroll Clerk for the Electricity Commission and needed someone to care for Darren. So, my darling mother, Otille, stepped in and did just that, caring for him during the day after Neil dropped him off on his way to work and then picked him up on the way home. I remember this quite vividly but that was the sort of person mum was. Often she would cook dinner for them and they would join us around the table for tea.

Neil subsequently obtained a promotion with the Commission out to Wallerawang Power Station. He chose this because life was slower and he could devote more time to his son. Neil was also a very senior member of the Masonic Lodge and I think, from what he told me, that he also drew upon that for support. Two years ago, and in his 80's I tracked Neil down up the North Coast. He had developed cancer and had very little time left but we both enjoyed a number of precious phone calls. He also sent me some lovely family photos for inclusion in my work, such as his mothers wedding photo. Neil was living with his son, Darren, his wife Tammy and their children but this was December 2020 and he sadly passed away in January of 2021.

Clementine Lavinia Ellis b. Cobar 1907 m. Colin Gordon Asplet 1936 Rockdale d. 1989 Kogarah (Bexley)



ASPLET—ELLIS.

St. David's Church, Arncliffe, was the scene of a wedding on Saturday, December 28, when Clementine, second daughter of Mr. J. A. Ellis, of Arncliffe, was married to Colin Asplet, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Asplet, of Rockdale. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Pitt Owen. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her father, chose a classical gown of ivory satin, and wore a Brussels lace veil over tulle, loaned by Mrs. Favelle, with a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a sheaf of gladioli and frangipanni. Miss Gladys Ellis, Miss Grace Day, Miss Phyllis Day, and Miss Bertha Webster, acted as bridesmaids. Little Shirley Asplet was flower-girl, carrying a basket of toning flowers, and frocked in blue frilled satin. The bridesmaids were gowned in pink cotelle, with train effect, and carried sheafs of blue delphiniums. Mr. Harry Day acted as best man. During the signing of the register Miss Ackerman rendered "Because." After the ceremony Mrs. H. W. Bateman (sister of the bride) received the guests at Collins' Hall, Bexley, wearing navy and white, with a spray of red roses. She was assisted by the bridegroom's mother in black and white, with red roses.

Cutout from the St George Call (1936, 1936)

Aunty Clem, as we called her, married Colin Gordon Asplet in 1936 at Rockdale. After looking around, they bought a house in Victoria St, Bexley. The house had almost been excavated into bedrock and I remember going there for the Ellis family monthly Sunday dinners. I was fortunate indeed to know most of my Aunts and Uncles, although I do not recall meeting Uncle Rupert (or Uncle Bunny), as we called him. When Aunty Clem passed away the home went to her son Keith, my first cousin, now 84 and living up the North Coast. We chat on email regularly and he takes a great interest in my Genealogy work, often exchanging photos, information etc. Keith's son, Tony Asplet, now owns the home and we recently met over coffee. He was stunned that I knew his home so well!



Uncle Col and Aunty Clem's home 57A Victoria St Bexley (ASplet)

It transpires that Uncle Col was a reasonably good golfer and he and his father in law, Poppy Ellis, would often play at the Bexley Golf Course. At the back of the house are three levels of garden and Poppy was keen to travel around his children's homes, maybe stay 2-3 months and be with them. At Aunty Clem's and Uncle Col's home he built a putting green on the top layer in the back yard, the signs of which are still there.

A fond memory was when I was about 10-11, my father and Uncle Col were driving up to Killarney Vale, where Poppy and Uncle Bill lived and Uncle Col had a 'weekender' cottage and we were going to paint it. For the first time I was allowed to go up with the men . but, Uncle Col had a Holden Ute which he used to get fish from the fish markets every day. As Dad and Uncle Col were in the front, I got to sit in the back of the ute with the paint tins, brushes, etc. Mum insisted I wear a jacket and ! was very glad that she did as it was extremely cold. Also, in those days, the F3 did not exist so it meant a long slow trip up the old Pacific Highway, bouncing around in the back of the ute with pain tins, brushes, etc.

On Saturday night we had sausages, potato and Baked Beans. Aunty Clem had sent peaches and cream for dessert but ants got into the cream!. Dad and Uncle Col just stirred them in and proceeded to eat the lot so, I joined in and it was very tasty.



Uncle Col and Aunty Clem – likely at a family wedding (Neil)

Aunty Clem and Uncle Col owned a Fish and Chip shop at Kogarah, just down from the (sadly now gone), Mecca Theatre. In those days Fridays were always busy as members of the Catholic faith were forbidden to eat meat and had to eat fish, so their shop did a roaring trade. It was also on the way to the train station for students from Kogarah Marist Brothers and close by to St George Girls High. My mother, Ottilie, used to work there every Friday so, Dad and I would drive down and get mum around 7.00pm, and she always had a feed of lovely fish and chips to take home for dinner. Indeed, recently my old High School, Sydney Tech High at Forest Road Bexley, had a reunion and one of my old mates sent an email to the group saying that he used to drop into the fish and chip shop on Friday afternoons and my mother would always give him a free serve of freshly cooked hot chips. His comment "what a great mum"! She was indeed.

Rueben Oliver John Ellis b. Cobar 1909 m. Mary K Guinney 1928 Rockdale d. 1958 Rockdale

Rueben Ellis, or Uncle Bunny as he was called within the family, was born at Cobar NSW in 1909. By this time John Alexander and Jessie May Ellis had been living at Cobar for about 3 years. In 1910 Sylvester and Catherine Ellis, Poppy's parents, had moved to Kogarah and were renting while they searched for a property to purchase, which they did in 1911, 8 Stewart St Arncliffe. So, it would not have been unusual for Poppy and Jessie May to have moved to Sydney as well. A copy taken from the Sands Directory of 1910 shows Poppy and Jessie May at Warialda St West Kogarah and the 1913 Electoral Roll (Roll, 1913) also shows them living, likely renting, at that address. By this time (1913) Aunt Vic was 8, Aunt Clem was 6 and Uncle Bunny was 4. Aunt Gladys was born at Bexley in 1912 and the family continued to expand. It is interesting to look at a few old photos of the time to get a mental picture of the suburbs in which the family lived, then and now.

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Outside Kogarah Railway Station 1915 (Ellis T. , Kogarah Railway Station , circa 1915)

This was the time when Uncle Bunny would have been about 6 years of age. Kogarah was a busy and bustling suburb. The steam tram went to Sans Souci as well as to Brighton Beach. Horses and drays and the like were the normal form of transport. Cars were making their appearance on the streets but were very few in number. One of the problems of course was, where there are horses, there are always piles of horse dung. While I have no factual information about Ruebens upbringing, the house was filled with a continuing stream of new babies. In 1914, Sylvester Edward, in 1916, Wilfred Noel and finally, November 1918, my father, Gordon. Rueben was now 9 and the family had moved to Bexley, 46-48 Stoney Creek Road in 1913. It is likely that some of the children attended Bexley Public School, the same as their elder sister, Victoria.

In 1928 Rueben married Mary K Guinney at Rockdale, age 16, and in 1930 the Electoral Roll shows him living with his father, John Alexander at 7 Martin

Avenue with his sisters Victoria May, and Clementine Lavinia. His wife, Mary, was born in 1912 and would not appear on the Electoral Roll until she turned 21. In 1931, they were living at 4 Judd St Banksia and would continue living in the area until 1937 when they moved to Marrickville however they returned to Rockdale where he passed away in 1958. He was a carrier by trade and they only had one child, a daughter Valerie, b. 1931 d. 1931 who died soon after birth. They had no more children and they are both buried at Woniora Cemetery, Sutherland with Mary passing away in 1959, a year after Rueben.

Gladys Catherine Pearl Ellis b. 1912 Kogarah m. Arthur xxxx Divorced m. James (Uncle Jimmy Macleod) 1985 Kogarah



Aunty Gladys, as we called her, was born in 1912 at Kogarah to John Alexander and Jessie May Ellis. Like the other Ellis women, she was reasonably tall and very attractive. The photo on the immediate left was taken when she was single. (wedding)



Aunty Gladys first wedding (Ellis T. , Aunty Gladys Wedding)

Aunty Gladys, and her husband, Arthur xxxx had purchased a house at 7 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. At this stage Arncliffe bore no resemblance to the suburb which it is today. It was not multicultural in any sense of the word. While there was some evidence of light industry, for example the Battery Factory, much of it consisted of small houses, large spaces devoted to Market Gardens and some wealthy homes, with a Post Office and some small shops (NO Westfield then)! Aunty Gladys had married (I shall not mention his name) a man in xxxx and bought a house at number

7 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. She and her husband would go on to have one daughter, my delightful cousin Elaine. In 1942 my father, Gordon Alexander Ellis was sent to New Guinea to fight against the Japanese invaders. He had married his sweetheart that he met at a local dance (Otille Smithers) in 1942. In July 1943 my elder brother, Edward John Ellis was born. My mother was living with her new son with her parents at John St Hurstville, however, her sister and husband were returning from Albury, where he was an employee of the PMG (Post Master General). They intended to build a home near her parents and so, they needed somewhere to stay so, mum and Edward had to move out but were invited to move in with Dads sister, Aunty Gladys and Elaine at 7 Martin St Arncliffe but, a dark secret lurked in the house. When my father returned in late 1945 he was granted leave, while staying with his sister and wife and new son, it became apparent to him that something in the house was not right.

It became apparent to Dad, and other members of the Ellis family that Aunty Gladys's husband was a wife beater. As an aside, my father would tell my brother and I that no matter what, you NEVER hit a woman, under any circumstances. So, when Dad found out that his brother in law was beating his sister, he took matters into his own hands. Dad was tall and lean but strong, and his time in New Guinea had stripped any fat from him and turned it into muscle. So, dragging his brother in law into the street (Martin Avenue), he proceeded to beat him up. Neighbours came out of their houses, some with a cup of tea, others smoking their pipes to watch the free entertainment. The Ellis men were known around Arncliffe as being hard and my father basically left him in the gutter with the comment never to hit his sister again.

Well, this guy was a slow learner and a few days later, repeated the dose to Aunty Gladys. This time there was no stepping back. Once again Dad dragged him into the street and a knock down drag out fight ensued. Once again the neighbours came out to watch. No one called the Police as everyone regarded this as a local matter. This time, my father literally beat him to a pulp, then went into the house, packed some clothes into a suitcase and threw it at him as he lay in the gutter. My father then threatened him to leave and never come back. He further stated in front of the small crowd that had gathered, that he had killed better men than him in New Guinea and knew where to dump the body. The chap concerned never returned. Aunty Gladys divorced him and married a lovely man, James Macleod, that we all called Uncle Jimmy.

Two years ago, I was speaking to Elaine's daughters after Elaine had passed away at age 80, and one of them said that their Grandmother, Aunty Gladys and their mother had a special place in their hearts for my father, Gordon but they had no idea why. I told them the story of what had happened that night at Martin Avenue Arncliffe and they both said that suddenly, everything was made clear. They would never forget their Uncle Gordon. Likewise, Elaine had a very traumatic childhood with an abusive father who not only used to beat her mother, Aunty Gladys, but would use his dog to put his cigarettes out on their ears. When my father came home on leave, she gravitated to him as he was likely a safe person, which Gladys's husband could not stand. Elaine went on to have a disturbed time of it, at one stage being committed to Callan Park. I remember quite vividly visiting her and, when she came out on weekends, she stayed with us at Hurstville and my elder brother Edward, used to take her to the local dance as brother and sister. Fortunately, after a

failed first marriage she married again and had a wonderful life with her two lovely daughters. My Uncle Bill (Wilfred Noel), seeing that she had had a rough time of it and having no wife and children of his own, bequeathed his home to her at Killarney Vale.



**L to R Gordon
Ellis (Dad), Otille Ellis
(Mum), Uncle Jimmy,
Aunty Gladys,
“Poppy” John A Ellis**

(Photo W.)

As this was Aunty Gladys second wedding, the reception was held in our home at 139 Dora St Hurstville. This photo was taken in our lounge room. Aunty Gladys was used to hard work and when she and Uncle Jimmy were married, she went

out to work, initially at the Dining Room in the local hotel and eventually managing the Dining Room at Arncliffe Scots.



**Elaine and her daughter, Sandy, not long before Elaine’s death aged 80
(daughter)**

Sylvester William Edward Ellis (Uncle Tiger) b. 1914 Rockdale m. Madge Lillian White 1940 d. 1979 Sydney

Sylvester William Edward Ellis, known in the family as Uncle Tiger, was born at Rockdale in 1914. He was the fifth child of John Alexander "Poppy" Ellis and Jessie May. Like most of the Ellis family, he was tall, about 6' 2" but he was broad shouldered and strong. He would have gone to Bexley Public School as he lived at Bexley, Stoney Creek Road, with his mother, father and siblings.

Sylvester Ellis spent some time on his Uncles Orchard at Orange for about a year (1936), probably so that he was able to see his mother, Jessie May Ellis, who was an inmate at Bloomington Asylum in the early 1930s, working as a blacksmith. In 1937 the Electoral Roll shows him as living with his father at 5 Martin Avenue, Arncliffe and his occupation is still listed as Blacksmith. After or around the time his mother passed away at Bloomfield in December 1938, he moved back to Sydney and obtained a job as an iron worker, at Garden Island Dockyard, Sydney's naval base with a 100 ton crane and 100 foot dry dock.



On June 8th 1940, he married Madge Lillian White who had been born in 1922 at Tempe, the next suburb along from Arncliffe. They went on to have 5 children but their first child, a girl named Colleen June Ellis died soon after birth. They went on to have four more children, two boys and two girls. One of their sons, David born in 1948, passed away in 1989 and is buried at Woronora Cemetery at Sutherland. The other boy, Paul Ellis is, I believe has also passed away. Both of the daughters apparently married Asian men but they are also proving to be elusive. The 1949 Electoral Roll shows them living at 13 Wyuna St Kogarah, in the electorate of Barton and he is now listed as a boilermaker. I remember visiting their home when we had our Ellis family get togethers and his yard was always filled with old cars, which he did up and sold to get extra money.

He stayed as an employee of the Garden Island Dockyard until he retired which is likely sometime after his divorce from Madge. While at Garden Island he gained a certain notoriety as he refused to go on strike when the Union demanded it. In 1970 I began a Technical Officer Traineeship with the Department of Navy at Garden Island in Electronics and Computing and I remember seeing him quite often. The Union campaign against him became quite ugly and violent and he lost a legal case in the NSW Supreme Court against the Union. However, like most of the Ellis Clan he refused to be cowed and, like in the movie 'The Castle' he took the Union to the High Court in Canberra where he won!! Go Uncle Tiger.

Uncle Tiger and Aunty Madge had five children but the first, Noleen, born in 1945, only survived for a brief few years. She is buried at Woronora Cemetery Sutherland. Her inscription reads, 'This little flower we thought we owned, but this little flower was only loaned'. When I was young my mother would take me in the car and go to the cemetery and clean up the family graves and put small bouquets of flowers on them, until next visit. Their other children were Juanita, Rhonda, David and Paul. After his divorce, Uncle Tiger moved into the city and lived in a Boarding House. Around that time he disappeared from the family scene and nothing was heard of him until he passed away in 1977 and is buried at Woronora Cemetery. His divorced partner, Madge, passed away in 2009 and is buried at Port Macquarie NSW.

Wilfred Noel (Uncle Bill) Ellis b. Dec. 1916 d. 1969

Wilfred Noel Ellis (b 1916) or Uncle Bill as we all lovingly new him, was born in Bexley and raised at their home (rented) at 46-48 Stoney Creek Road Bexley. He was a quiet and religious man, probably not as outgoing as the other Ellis brothers but could still fire up if necessary. I have great memories of Uncle Bill after he returned from WW2, as do my elder brother and sister, Edward and Cheryl. My sister recalls seeing him at Killarney Vale wearing a kind of T shirt and his back was covered with scars from an explosion while on duty, probably a Japanese grenade.



From when he was born in December 1916 until his mother was sent to Ryde Mental Home in July 1919, Uncle Bill lived with the family at 46 Stoney Creek Road Bexley. His eldest sister was Victoria May, born at Forbes in 1905.

Wilfred Noel Ellis – Pitt St 1942 (Photographer S.)

However, recently, as part of my research into Bexley, I came across the Bexley Boys Home, founded 1916 by the Salvation Army. The building is empty now with a heritage order on it but it was about 1.5 km from their home at on Stoney Creek Road. I recently spoke to the caretaker and he has invited us up to see the building and have a tour but, when I asked about records, he said that outgoing Superintendents used to have a bonfire out the back with the records, giving the incoming Superintendent the opportunity to start afresh!.

The family appear to have stayed at Stoney Creek Road until at least 1923, then Poppy Ellis and the family moved for three years to 32 King St Rockdale, then, ultimately, moving back to 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. The family history says it was to avoid the rent collectors but we shall never know the truth of it, however, the family were known as a bunch of larrikins. Uncle Bill enlisted in the 2nd AIF on August 2nd 1942 at Loftus NSW. He gave his father, John Alexander (Poppy) Ellis as his Next of Kin and his home address of 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. He was natural Born (Australian) as opposed to a British Subject, single and a Protestant. His Service Number, 2nd AIF, was NX134399. He had been enrolled, with his younger brother, Gordon (my father), in the CMF (Citizens Military Force or the Militia) at the Arncliffe Drill Hall on 6th August 1940 and assigned to the 45th Battalion and designated a Carpenter (he had been a labourer)! At that time the Militia could not, by Australian Law, fight outside of Australia however, when the time came, New Guinea was considered an Australian Protectorate which is why the Militia, including Uncle Bill and Dad, were sent there in 1942, initially to Milne Bay.

On 21st July 1943 he was injured in an explosion (likely a grenade) with burns to the back and neck and while in hospital he suffered a condition known as Furunculosis which is an outbreak of large boils on the skin. On the 29th of November 1943 he was moved to the 31st Water Transport Company but things were going to get even rougher for Uncle Bill as, on 6th August 1945, after serving on Morotai Island where the battle against the Japanese raged until the end of the War, he was injured in an explosion which caused lacerations of the back and neck and forehead as well as concussion and abrasions to his right thigh. He was returned to Australia and spent 24 days in the Lady Gowrie Convalescent home in Gordon, NSW administered by the Red Cross before being returned to New Guinea and Wewak.

During his time in New Guinea however, he took a few moments to write to his mates at the Bexley Golf Club on Stoney Creek Road. His father, Poppy Ellis, was a keen golfer and a long term member and appeared regularly in the articles in the St George Call, a local newspaper whose reporter was also a member. Below are examples of two of these letters:

The St George Call Fri 21 July 1944 Page 3 Bexley Golf Club (reporter, 1945)

Had letters of acknowledgment and thanks from Gnr. Roy Dowsett, L.A.C. Geoff Astridge,

Sig. A. E. Pacey and **Sapper W. N. Ellis, sons of club members**. The former was at a school at Holsworthy, Geoff was in N. Guinea, Sig. A. E. Pacey was up north while Sapper W. N. Ellis is apparently still on X island off N. Guinea. The latter has had some very varied experiences of late, including a very severe attack of malaria. He says it's fair dinkum, not like the 'flu, still they accept it as inevitable and don't worry about it—great spirit! The reference made to his 31st Aust. Water Transport unit in the "Call" excited much enthusiasm, as the boys had not seen the name of the company in print before it was posted on the notice board and was the cynosure of all eyes.

Reckons one of the most delightful and unique experiences up there is to be invited to afternoon tea at the Church of England Mission on X Island nearby (sounds like a chip off the old block—social Hon). They are entirely civilised and speak excellent English. The young ladies who are not so bad to look at bake the most delicious

scones and cakes. He says they played the Mission Papuans at cricket, and can they play; they have eyes like hawks, and can run like hares. The last match they beat the Aussies by 1 run— 126 to 125, and during the dinner and afternoon tea they are liberally supplied with those same cakes and scones, etc. The church is made of blue volcanic stone, the ceiling is very nice, while the woodwork is better than many Sydney churches.

The St George Call Fri 3 Nov 1944 Page 3 Bexley Golf Club (Reporter, 1945)

Had an interesting letter from young Sapper Bill Ellis, who is in an amphibious engineer unit on one of the recaptured islands up north. Had just paid a visit to the local war cemetery set in a clearing among coconut palms with white crosses set on a grassy lawn. Concrete paths and coloured rockery added to the smartness of the appearance, where the Australian Flag, the red ensign, is flying all day. As Bill writes, "the cemetery is well looked after, each cross bearing the soldier's name, number, unit, etc. a man can't help but feel a personal reverence standing there, because these are actually the first men to stop the Jap on his invasion of Australia." It was these men who commenced that long line of successful campaigns against this animal in human form, may their souls rest in peace as they lay in peace together in their last sleep!" Nicely written. Bill there's no doubt about the magnificent spirit, resolve, and sentiment of these great digger crusaders who are making such untold sacrifices (along with all the Allies) trying to make the world a bit better for mankind. His letter is most interesting in other respects, but space does not permit more than a passing reference

At the conclusion of the War in the Pacific Uncle Bill volunteered for the British Commonwealth Occupation Force and was sent to Japan. He arrived at Kure, a once major warship building port and close to Hiroshima, on 22nd February 1946. I have a few small things that he returned from the War with, including a Japanese medal and a badge from the 135th Japanese marines who initially invaded New Guinea and which he probably collected at Milne Bay. I have checked the War Diaries for his unit and on a couple of occasions his injuries caused him to have to be readmitted to the 92nd Independent Field Hospital. He obviously took advantage of his time at Kure to do some sight seeing. The photo below is of Uncle Bill (far left), and two mates on leave in Tokyo in Winter Dress.



Uncle Bill, Ernie and Stan – Tokyo January 1947 (Soldier)

In February 1947, Wilfred Noel Ellis (or Uncle Bill), returned home to Australia from serving in the Commonwealth Occupation Force for 12 months, after the War with Japan ended in late 1945. He had a tough time of it, being severely wounded twice, being unable to return to work, then or for the rest of his life. He returned to the family home at 5 Martin Avenue Arncliffe but in 1949 spent 12 months at Alice Springs working as a volunteer carpenter in the Rectory (1949 Australian Electoral Rolls). It is unclear as to what his mental and emotional state might have been, having been badly wounded, plus having Malaria and suffering from boils. Enquiries to the Rectory and the Darwin Diocese for any information have been fruitless but, maybe he was just looking for a sense of peace and normality after his time in a vicious, cruel and unrelenting war against the Japanese.

After returning from Alice Springs he and his father, Poppy Ellis, moved to Killarney Vale. I am not sure why he chose this place but, maybe like going to Alice Springs, he was after some peace and Killarney Vale would have promised that. With the money he had been paid for his wounds and receiving a modest pension they settled into a quiet life. Poppy began playing golf at the local course (Tuggerah) as he had at Bexley and became a popular figure with his peaked cap and pipe which he smoked as he played. Initially the home that he and his son, Uncle Bill shared at 10 East St Killarney Vale was little more than a shack made from materials that they scrounged. However, over the next few years and with his skills as a carpenter, the small home took shape and became a very comfortable place for Uncle Bill and his father to settle down in. I remember visiting Uncle Bill on a number of occasions and he struck me as a very kind and generous man.



Wilfred Noel Ellis (Uncle Bill), sitting on his homemade seat at his home in Killarney Vale (Sandy)

Uncle Bill purchased a small motor scooter which he used to ride around the local area, doing his shopping and wearing a red helmet. He never bothered to get a car license but became a familiar figure on his motor scooter in the area. After he passed away, having no wife and children, he left the home to our cousin Elaine who had been through a very stressful and emotional life. Wilfred lived a short life, dying at the age of 52, at his home in Killarney Vale. He was cremated and his ashes are at Woronora Cemetery Sutherland. He died, according to his Death Certificate, from Heart Disease and unfortunately left no wife and children (Certificate, 1969)



Uncle Bills home at Killarney vale with the Scooter out front. This was after he passed away as the Holden did not belong to him.



Uncle Bills Campaign Medals. He is also entitled to the Japanese Medal for his time in Japan (Affairs)

World War Two Service		
		
<p>SAPPER WILFRED ELLIS NX134399</p>		
SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY	
DATE OF BIRTH	20 DECEMBER 1916	
PLACE OF BIRTH	BEXLEY, NSW	
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	2 AUGUST 1942	
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	ARNCLIFFE, NSW	
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	LOFTUS, NSW	
NEXT OF KIN	ELLIS, JOHN	
DATE OF DISCHARGE	26 FEBRUARY 1947	
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	13 AUS ARMY TPS COY	
ADDITIONAL SERVICE	N40165, N40615	
NUMBERS		
 <p>Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs</p>		

Wilfred Noel Ellis – World War Two Service (Affairs A. V., 1969)

Ottile and Gordon Ellis (My Mum and Dad)

Mum had been born Ottile Annie Smithers in 1922 at Kogarah. Her parents, Adelaide and George Henry Smithers lived at 30 John St Hurstville and had married at Glebe in 1918. It was very much to the family's surprise that they moved to Hurstville and built their home, as the Smithers Clan, after arriving from England via New Zealand in the late 1870's had settled at Newcastle. The Smithers Clan were free people with a long lineage from Surrey but unlike the Ellis Clan, had no known convicts (such a shame)! Actually a bit of a let down really.

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Gordon was born on 19th November 1918 at Bexley NSW. He was the youngest of 7 children to John Alexander "Poppy" Ellis and Jessie May Ellis nee Bray. At that time his family were living in rented accommodation at 46 Stoney Creek Road Bexley. It was a short walking distance from Bexley shops, in the other direction, Bexley Golf Course, and, very close nearby, Bexley Boys Home, opened in 1916 and run by the Salvation Army



Left - my Father Gordon in the middle. (sister)

What we do know is that when Dad returned to the family home, he was cared for by his three elder sisters, Victoria, Clementine and Gladys with a great deal of love and affection. Gordon grew up as a very independent and, like his brothers strong willed young man. He excelled at sport, particularly golf, tennis and snooker/pool. He loved his family and did whatever he could to raise money to help the family.

Gordon was always an extremely good snooker and pool player. Even when in his 60s, and having suffered a stroke, he and I spent a few Saturday afternoons at Ramsgate RSL playing snooker. He was also old enough to begin school. It appears that Gordon attended Rockdale Public School as the family had moved to Rockdale at that time.

Meanwhile, storm clouds were gathering over Europe and in Asia, with Germany, Italy and Japan on the rise. Dad (Gordon) and Uncle Bill initially joined the Militia and were part of a Coastal Artillery battery. However, in December 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in Hawaii without warning and World War Two in the Pacific had begun. The Japanese advanced swiftly, capturing Hong Kong, a British Protectorate, the Philippines and even capturing Singapore which Winston Churchill said was impregnable, which it might have been, had its guns pointed towards Malaya and not the empty ocean. Dad and Uncle Bill, as part of the Militia, were sent to New Guinea to try and stop the Japanese 135th South Seas Regiment from capturing Port Moresby and having a land base to use against Australia.

Gordon would go on and spend 3.5 years in New Guinea moving into the Headquarters Unit (190) of his Battalion in which he saw violent combat at Milne Bay, Gona, Buna and Salamau. While never being wounded, he was hospitalised with Malaria and continued to be hospitalised in the early 1960's with it.

Dad and Snooker

I remember vividly the first game we played and he sank a red ball then said "I will hit the white into green and sink the green, set it up for the next red, then sink the black, etc". I remember thinking that he was speaking a lot of rubbish, until he did it!! He then continued to do it, time after time. Myself, I was hopeless and Dad just laughed me a little and told me it was all about the angles. The 1930's around the world was called the Great Depression. Companies and organisations went bankrupt, shares were meaningless, the number of unemployed rose almost exponentially and men trying to raise a family did whatever they could to earn a few shillings. Many walked the highways, going from town to town looking for work.

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Dad and his elder brother Uncle Tiger went to Picton and obtained work

splitting timber logs. It was hard, backbreaking work but Gordon and Sylvester did not complain. After all, a job was a job and money was money. When he returned to Rockdale the family moved to 5 Martin avenue Arncliffe. Here Gordon got a job working in a tannery (a vile, foul smelling job). So, back to Rockdale circa the late 1930's. Dad's contribution to the household income was by playing pool on a Saturday at the local Pool Room, for money, against the men and he usually won and would return home and put his winnings in the Jam jar. Snooker was to be an anchor for Dad for the rest of his life and provide an enormous surprise for us at his funeral service. Dad, like most young men before the War used to go to local dances, as these were a very good place to meet girls. At one of these dances at Penshurst Dad met a young woman named Otille Smithers. Otille lived at 30 John St Hurstville with her parents and sister, Clare. Otille was brought up in a very cultured environment in which she learned ballet and passed her piano exams with Distinction at the Conservatorium of Music in the City. Grandpa (George Henry Smithers), has a solid well paid job as a Cellar Master at Hardy's wines at Circular Quay.



I remember quite vividly their home had lovely furniture and Grandpa loved Opera and had a wonderful collection of old records. He liked a tippie and also on Saturdays used to send my elder brother, Edward, down to the local SP Bookmaker to put a bet on the horses and hopefully collect his winnings. Saturday night he

always came to our house to watch the (Photographer L.)race highlights on Channel 9 and always bought with him a block of Cadbury chocolate.

Ottile and Gordons Wedding Day (1942)



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Uncle Tiger, unknown, Dad, Mum and mums father, George Smithers

Ottile and Gordon were married at Christ Church Bexley on February 28th 1942. Gordon had enlisted in the Militia on the 1st January 1942. He was only allowed a 2 day furlough for their honeymoon and they decided to spend the time at Thirroul, north of Wollongong. Mum and Dad enjoyed it so much that they swore that one day they would live there, which they did. They returned from their honeymoon and Dada had to join his unit, the 24th Field Company. He was sent to Singleton and in November 1942 was sent to Milne Bay at New Guinea. He took part in a number of actions and on 1st June, 1943, the Militia were absorbed into the 2nd AIF. While initially in the Engineers, he did also fight as part of the 7th Division Headquarters Company and saw a great deal of combat.



Dad in Summer Uniform 1942

(Photographer S.)

Dad had fought at Milne Bay, Gona, Buna and Salamaua and Lae, both of which housed Japanese air force used to bomb Australia, all pretty nasty places. At Gona and Buna they were joined by American troops who were quite young and green and apparently, Dad by now a seasoned veteran, enjoyed playing practical jokes on the nervous Americans, particularly the negroes. At Salamaua and Lae, there were 1770 Australians killed, wounded or missing. Dad was fortunate not be killed or wounded in the Campaign but he did contract Malaria which hit him pretty hard.

Dad, like many men who survived and returned from World War 2 very rarely spoke of his experiences. After his death I was invited to attend the presentation night at the Corrimal Cougars

Working Mens Club Snooker Presentation. I had made a donation, following from Dad of \$300 to help the Club fund their night and was warmly welcomed with my two sons. After the presentation an old chap came up to us and said that he and 'Gordy' as he was called, had fought in New Guinea and he had nothing but praise for Dad, saying that he was a 'bloody good bloke to have on your side against the Nips'! He also told of the time they were at Port Moresby when a Japanese air raid took place. They and another half dozen Aussie soldiers dove into a fairly deep trench. However, a bomb had landed close by and the explosion and force from the bomb threw them all out of the trench. Dad also had a mole on his cheek and he used to tell me, up until I was 10 or so and knew better that he had been stabbed by a Japanese bayonet there while he told my brother that he had been shot there. Dad always liked to spin a yarn!



Australian soldiers at Milne Bay 1942-3 (Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Milne_Bay, 1942)



Dads Campaign Medals (Cosgrove D.)

After the end of World War 2, Dad was demobilised and returned to 7 Martin Avenue Arncliffe. Mum (Ottile) and my Elder brother Edward had been invited by Dads sister, Aunty Gladys to live with her, her husband and Elaine, their young daughter. In 1946 my elder sister Cheryl was born. Unfortunately, the atmosphere inside the home was tense as Aunty Gladys first husband used to beat her and my sister recalls as she grew that cousin Elaine gravitated to Dad, rather than her abusive father. Things came to a head one night after he returned from the hotel and assaulted his wife. My father finished up out in the street with him trading blows until Dad won. He went into the house, packed Aunty Gladys husbands bag and sent him packing with the comment that if he returned, Dad would sort him out for good. He never returned, Aunty Gladys divorced him and remarried but that is her story.

In 1949 Mum, Dad, Edward and Cheryl moved to 139 Dora St Hurstville where the family would live until 1968 when, after Cheryl had married Peter Cosgrove (no, not the Governor General, the other one) haha, I was born on May 10th

1953 (Mothers Day) at Kogarah Hospital and was bought home to Dora St. Edward was 10 years older and Cheryl 7 years older than me and Cheryl tells the story of her being allowed to wheel me around the neighbourhood in a stroller, dressed as a baby girl. I had a mass of blond curls like Shirley Temple and Dad wanted me to get a short back and sides, but mum refused as she loved my curls.

Hurstville was a great place to grow up in. Myself, a few mates and local girls lived very close to Hurstville Park and Hurstville Oval and I remember the Music Shell before it was demolished. Even at such an age, because none of us had a watch, the story of our parents telling us to come home when the street lights were turned on was very true. Across the street was the Hurstville army Drill Hall and in summer we used to climb the barbed wire fence and collect cicadas. At Hurstville Oval St George Rugby Union used to play and my friends and I would sneak around the back and dug a small trench under the wire behind the bushes and get in for free. We would then scour the place for empty coke bottles for 3pd refunds to buy lollies! When I reached High School I was able to attend Sydney Technical High School, a State selective school on Forest Rd Bexley. I had a girlfriend who lived at Carrington Avenue and went to St Mary's Star of the Sea convent, across the road from Tech High and we used to catch the bus to school in the morning, sitting up the back and holding hands and thinking how daring we were. Some of her girlfriends were also on the bus and would giggle at us. They were good days.

In 1968 Mum and Dad and Edward and I moved to 17 Burlington St Monterey, still in the Bayside area and very close to Lady Robinson Beach which they enjoyed walking along. Once I began working and earning some money on Saturday mornings I used to walk to Brighton le Sands and buy the occasional LP Record. I still have my collection and play them occasionally, much to the delight of my older grandchildren. I would play a great deal of sport at Scarborough Park and other fields in the district. By this stage my brother and sister had married and it would not be too long before I also stood to attention and said the appropriate words. It was 1979 and Mum and Dad moved to Woonona, close to Thirroul which they had spent their two day honeymoon at after Dad enlisted. However, this was not to be the end of Bayside nor the Ellis Clan. Before Mum and Dad moved away and during the 1950s, 1960s and 70s, the Ellis Clan would gather, the last Sunday of every month at our home at Hurstville or one of his other Aunts and Uncles homes. Everyone bought food and beer and they were very fun filled events, I just wish I had been old enough to remember all of the stories. In those days Channel Nine had a Sunday night movie which we would watch.

Mum would travel to Hurstville by train once a week to have lunch with her sister, Aunty Clare. Mum and Dad loved their new life at Woonona and, after Linda and I were married and had children, we would drive down to spend the day with them which we all loved. Mum unfortunately passed away in 1986 at Thirroul from lung cancer while Dad lived until December 1998, passing away also at Thirroul Hospital. Earlier on I said that my elder brother Edward, elder sister Cheryl and I had a shock at Dads funeral at Woronora Sutherland. We were all quietly waiting outside of the Chapel for the time to go in when a large mini bus pulled up and about 15 men alighted wearing the same yellow T shirt. Then, even more to our surprise, about a dozen bikers on large, heavy motorbikes arrived, dressed in leather, boots, beard etc.

We assumed that they were for another Service and were stunned when they came over to us (we were all dressed in dark suits), and very politely asked if this was the Service for Gordy Ellis (our Dad)!! We explained that it was and asked where they were from and they said that they were part of the snooker team that Dad had put together at Corrimal Cougars Working Mens Club. They had nothing but praise for him but those stories are for another day. We invited them in and back to the wake but they said no, they just wanted to come to the Service and pay their respects. Dad would have loved it – he was still, at 80, a larrikin from Arncliffe at heart. A final note about Gordon (or Gordy) as he was known at the snooker club. The year he passed away the Club one their first Snooker Competition for many years and Dad was honoured with an Annual Trophy called “Clubman of the Year”. Well done “Gordy”!



The Gordon Ellis Memorial Trophy (Ellis T. , Gordon Ellis Memorial trophy)



Gordon Alexander Ellis – World War Two Service (Militia Service not included) (cosgrove)

This is not totally accurate. Dad enlisted in 1942 and was sent to New Guinea in the Militia. The date on the plaque above is when his time in the Militia finished and he was joined in the Army in New Guinea. He had already been in action since November 1942 and was included in his time in a War Service environment. This is why he has N87123 as additional service. Uncle Bill is the same but I have asked that his record be corrected.

Gordon and Otilie's Children (Dad and Mum)

My mother and father had three children, my brother Edward born in 1943 after Dad was sent to New Guinea, my elder sister, Cheryl, born in 1946 after Dad returned from WW2 and myself, a latecomer, born in 1953.

Edward John Ellis – b. 1943 still living

My elder brother, Edward was born in July 1943 and was initially raised with mum at 7 Martin Avenue, Arncliffe. He was to prove to be a natural sportsman, excelling at cricket and rugby league at High School and in Saturday Park Cricket. He would give up playing cricket when he married Beverley Sharland and took up golf. Again, he excelled at this,

Cheryl Adelaide Cosgrove (nee Ellis) – b 1946 still living

Cheryl married Peter Cosgrove in xx/xx/xxxx and they bought a small house in Cabramatta which in those days was home to a large number of English and Scottish migrants. Peter was an electrician and also had a second job at the local RSL Club working as a waiter in their dining room. He enjoyed this as he was

provided with a gourmet meal towards the end of his shift. Peter was a lovely man who taught me a great deal about politics, history and scotch, even though he was a very mild drinker. They had two children, Helen and David. David has two children from his first marriage and is a very successful car dealer while Helen has a high ranking position in TAFE and lives, near her mother, in Goulburn (brrrr).

Xxx Gordon Ellis – b. 1953 My Memories so far!

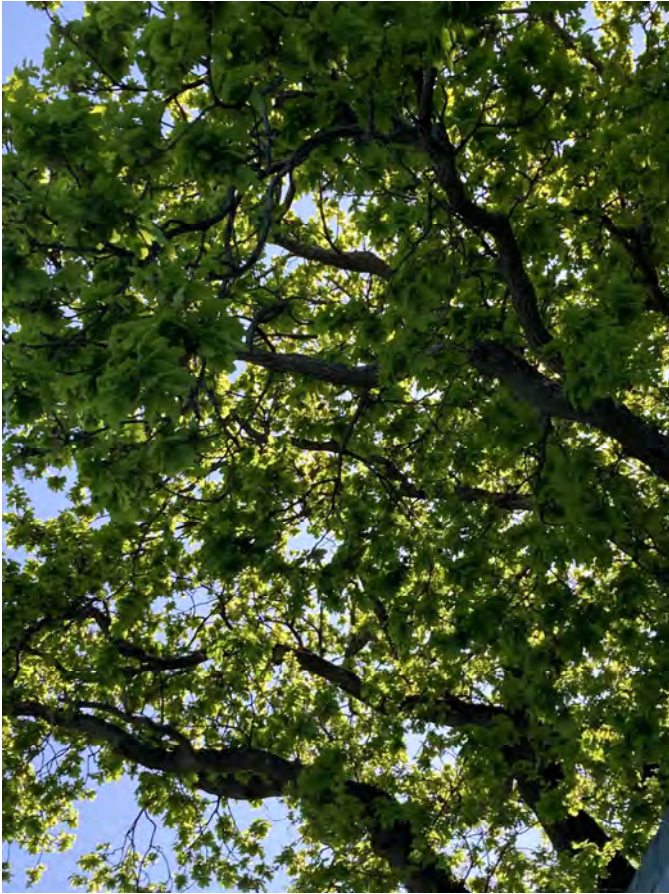
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Dad had always loved sport and was particularly good at cricket and loved Rugby League. His favourite team were the St George Dragons and if you lived in our home, that was who you followed. I would say that the choice was black and white but it was actually red and white! I like to think that Edward, Cheryl and I have all lived successful lives. We have all married lovely partners, raised loving children who now have children of their own and are successful in their own right so, before moving on to Bayside Today, I thought I might share a few of my memories from growing up in that time of the 1960-70 period which, with 5 grandchildren of my own, seems so long ago.

Pemberton's Baths – Ramsgate 1938



(Collection') After a few trials and tribulations, Dad taught me how to swim at Pemberton's Baths. On those evenings when it was 40 Deg C, day after day, and before we had a car, we would catch the local bus down to the baths and have a long swim then, buying some hot chips, we would catch the bus back home. At the top of the cutting at Ramsgate, my mother would look at this magnificent house on top of the cutting and say how wonderful it must be to live in that house. The address was 52 Ramsgate Rd, and, 25 years later, my wife Linda convinced me to buy the house. It was built in 1906 and we are still there in 2023.



Our Oak Tree – Planted 1906-7 when the house was being built. It should live for at least 400 years, developers willing!! (Ellis T. , Oak Tree at Raamsgate Rd Beverley Park)



Sometime after my wife and I moved to Ramsgate, as it was then, Video (Ellis T. , Video Ezy Ramsgate)Ezy came to our local shopping centre. As a treat for our children of a Friday Night I would walk the 3 kids to the video shop where they each chose a video, then down to the local 7-11, (Ellis T. , 7-11 Ramsgate SHops (now gone)) now also gone, and buy Slurpees and Ice creams to take home and eat while we watched the videos.



Fuel Plus, an independent service station on Rocky Point Road, (Ellis T. , Fuel Plus (now gone)) about 400 metres from Ramsgate and a stained glass shop. Both are now gone and replaced by a delightful block of units and a number of nail shops. On weekends, a mobile kebab van sat at the Servo selling the famous chilli Kebab to patrons of the Intersection Tavern (still there today) in the early morning hours. Hands up if you enjoy a chili kebab after a few schooners? I'll bet you can feel the sauce running down your arms.



Beverley Park Causeway

This photo is facing East about 1910 and our home is on top of the hill on the left. The small cottage before us was owned by Lassister, of Lassiters Reef fame. Notice that neither the Golf course nor the reserves existed back then.

(Facebook.com)



Pretty much the same view today except that Beverley Park Golf Course is on the left and Claydons Reserve is on the right. It has a couple of soccer grounds, toilets and a kiosk pavilion, plus a nice playground for the kiddies. Harslett Cres. is on the immediate left and the Promenade is on the right at the base of the cutting (Ellis T. , Beverley Park Causeway today).

The Ellis Family at Carlton

Up until this point, I have been focussing on the Ellis Clan that lived at Arncliffe, Kogarah and Bexley. I now intend to move onto Carlton, another small, quiet suburb nestled between Rockdale and Hurstville. Carlton in the early part of the 20th Century would be the home of Percy Lionel and Mary Josephine Ellis and their family. Carlton would also be the home of my daughter, Katie and her husband Richard, and their two children, Evelyn and Harrison, plus their dogs, Morris and Mabel. So, let us start with and look at Carlton then and today.

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Percy Lionel Ellis (8) b. Forbes m. 1910 Forbes 1914. Mary Josephine Corbett Forbes d. 1958 St George Hospital Kogarah



Percy Lionel Ellis
W.)



Mary Corbett (Percy's second wife) (Photography F.

In 1914, Percy married Mary Corbett at Forbes. In 1915 Percy they had moved to Sydney and were living at 39 Mills St Carlton. Carlton at that time was a small, rather sleepy hamlet, much less a suburb. However, as the 1920s and 30's moved forward, so did Carlton. At that time it still had stands of trees which added to its attractive nature. Today, many of the streets are lined with trees and, even though the electric train line runs through the suburb, is reasonably quiet and pleasant. The exception of course (there always has to be one), is on the Eastern Boundary of Carlton, the Princes Highway.

Their first child was Marjary who was born and died in 1915.

Keith Lionel Ellis b. 39 Mill St Carlton 1916 m. 1941 Hurstville d. 2010
Hurstville - NX132445 2nd AIF

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Lillian Margaret Milliss (b. 1917 m. 1941 d. (photos))

Keith Lionel Ellis was born at 39 Mill St Carlton which, at the time of his birth was a single dwelling in 1916. Today the house is gone and a set of home units are on the site. The home was very close (about 10 minutes walk) from the station which at that time was not electrified but ran steam trains. His military file is currently being digitised and hopefully will be available late August.

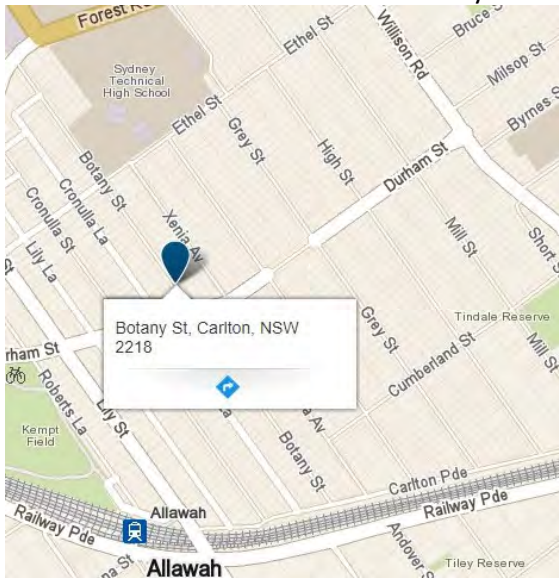
Mervyn Leonard Ellis b. 1919 – 39 Mills St Carlton m. 1945 Hurstville – Mabel Edith Cavanough d. 2008 (group)





Lorna Winifred Ellis b. 1921 NSW m. Clement Arthur Butel d. 2016

Lorna Ellis was born in 1921 to Percy Lionel and Mary Ellis nee Corbett. Mary was Percy's second wife and was born at 47 Botany St Carlton. Carlton at that time was still a bit of



(Photographer W.)

a small, quiet suburb. Before moving to 47 Botany St Carlton, her father, Percy had lived at 39 Mill St Carlton. Funnily enough, my daughter, Katie and her husband Richard and two teenage children, Evelyn and Harry, live in Fleet St Carlton. Lorna would have gone to Carlton Public School and been very familiar with the local area. Lorna married Clement Arthur Butel, an up and coming NSW Public Servant. Clement Arthur Butel enlisted in the second AIF in World War 2. They had two children and Lorna passed away and is buried at Ryde in 2016. His file is still being digitised and is unavailable but hopefully by the end of August. He went on to become a successful NSW Public Servant and they moved to St Ives.

Rex Ernest Ellis (Flying Officer and OAM) (Photographer A. F.)



Rex Ellis had been, before the beginning of the War an Assistant Music Librarian at the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC). A man with an obvious passion for music and literature, he joined the RAAF on 6th October 1942 when he was 20 years of age. He initially was sent to Wagga Wagga where he did his basic training as a member of aircrew. In 1943 he was sent to Winnipeg Canada where he subsequently did 99 hours learning to fly a rather outdated British Bomber, the Avro Anson. He then was transferred to Britain where he flew over 288 hours on Operations against Germany, mainly in the Wellington Bomber but also in the famous heavy bomber, the Lancaster with 464 and 467 Squadrons. The British and Commonwealth Squadrons bombed Germany by night while the Americans in the 8th Air Force bombed Germany by day but casualties were extremely high. It should be remembered that of the Lancaster or B17 were shot down, then 10 men could die in one instant.

On 23rd March , 1944 Rex became a navigator and given a Commission to Pilot Officer then Flying Officer on the Lancasters in 1944. I don't think that we can imagine the sheer terror which must have engulfed these very young men flying night after night over Germany in 1943/44 at the height of the air war, experiencing anti aircraft fire, German Night Fighters all in the pitch blackness of night. On 26th February 1946 Rex was discharged from the RAAF and returned to the family home at Carlton. In 1949 he was listed as a Broadcasting Employee on the Electoral Roll, still living at 47 Botany St Carlton.



The British Lancaster heavy bomber, G for George is on display at the War Memorial in Canberra.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avro_Lancaster)

After returning to Carlton, Rex met and married Betty Joan Nicholson and bought a house at Gueudecourt Avenue, Earlwood. Having returned to the Australian Broadcasting Commission he became Director of Music in 1977 and was responsible for taking the ABC Orchestras out to Australian country towns, and even overseas. For his services to Music he was awarded the OAM, which was a great honour. Rex passed away on 21st August 2009 and is buried in the Roman Catholic section of Rookwood Cemetery.

**Emily “Pearl” Ellis b. 1897 Forbes m. Alfred Watson 1914 Rockdale
d. Dec 1977 (no known children)**

Emily “Pearl” Ellis was the last and youngest of the 12 children born to Sylvester and Catherine Ellis at Forbes in 1897. She was raised at Oak Park and would have attended the local Forbes public School. At that time however, there were virtually no cars on the roads so she would have travelled the 9 miles to Forbes on a horse and dray. Given that the roads were dirt, it would have been a dusty and bumpy trip (Ellis J.)

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In 1914 she married Alfred Watson at Rockdale. Her mother and father, Catherine and Sylvester were still alive and living at 8 Stewaart St Arncliffe Heights. Her husband, Alfred Watson, was a Private Investigator. In 1933 they were listed on the Electoral Roll as living at 1 Niblick St, Rockdale. She is listed as Pearl Watson. In 1963 they are both listed as still living at 1 Niblick St, but this time the suburb is arncliffe. The did not have any children and her husband, Alfred passed away at Arncliffe on 31st July 1964. Emily Pearl passed away at Arncliffe on 10th December

1977. She was 79 years old and she and Alfred are buried at Woronora Cemetery, Sutherland.

Thomas Steven Corbett 1856 Epsom Victoria) d. 1928 Hornsby NSW and Susan Hoad (b. 1864 Carcoar NSW d. 1934 Kogarah NSW) (220)

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Thomas Steven Corbett was married to Susan Hoad in Carcoar NSW in 1884 and would go on to have 7 daughters and five sons. Thomas's children were all born in Forbes, at about the same time as Sylvester's 12 children were born. Indeed, two of Thomas's daughters married two of Sylvester Ellis's sons. Evelyn Margaret Corbett married Norman Ellis and Mary Josephine Corbett married Percy Lionel Ellis. Thomas moved to and lived at Kogarah around 1920 while his two children married and moved to Carlton a few years earlier. The photo below is from a family collection of Dawn Welsh nee Ellis, my first cousin aged 93 living in a Nursing Home at Eugowra. Likely taken at Arncliffe or Kogarah.



Keith Johansson, Percival Ellis, Leonard Corbett, Norman Ellis,
front row Thomas Corbett and Sylvester Ellis.
two Ellis brothers married two Corbett sisters.



Thomas Corbett at Arthur St Kogarah (Photo F.)

Thomas was working as a labourer on the new great Northern Road near Berowra when he was killed instantly in a huge rockslide. The article below was taken from the Sydney Morning Herald. The accident occurred on 1st March 1928 and he is buried at Woronora Cemetery, Roman Catholic Monument Section 1, Grave 0725. His son, Patrick Corbett was also living at Arthur Street Kogarah and was executor of his will.

WORKMAN KILLED. • HUGE ROCK FALLS.

A great rock, weighing probably 10 tons, fell on Thomas Corbett (65), of Arthur-street, Kogarah, yesterday, fatally injuring him.

Corbett was one of a number of workmen engaged in building the Berowra-Hawkesbury River section of the new main northern road. Portion of a great cliff was being blasted, and the workmen, leaving their tools beneath an overhanging ledge, retired to a distance.

After the charges had been exploded they returned to retrieve their tools, and it was while Corbett was getting his that the huge rock broke from the ledge, and fell on him. Corbett was dead when he reached the Royal North Shore Hospital, to which institution he was taken by the Northern Districts section of the Central District Ambulance.

(obituaries)

Arncliffe Today 2023

St Patricks Church Arncliffe today 2023. Much the same as when built in 1932



(Ellis T. , St Patricks Church) Built circa 1930s, the church has (religiously) haha, stood the test of time and still stands proudly halfway at the top of the hill on Forest Rd and above the Pub.

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Arncliffe today, like most of Australia, has changed significantly since Sylvester, Catherine and their family moved here. While the technology

which the Post Office uses today is unrecognisable to that of the 1920-30s, the Arncliffe Post Office building, at least on the outer, remains the same. I am sure that Sylvester would recognise it, if not the car parked outside and certain elements in Firth St. such as the Nail Salon and the Kebab Shop might surprise he and Catherine as they walked along Firth St

Arncliffe Post Office 1906 and today – Firth St Arncliffe



The same building that was built in 1906, minus the red wheelie bin, the car and the red post box. At least the building is safe (for now)??

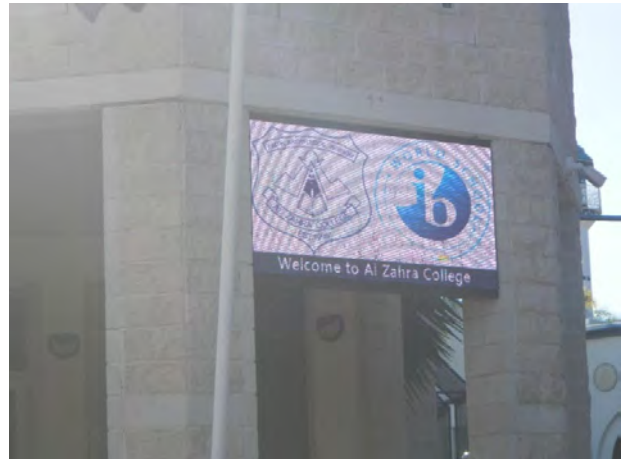
Muslim Mosque in Martin Avenue Arncliffe



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Al Zahira Muslim College – right Martin Ave.

(Ellis T. , Moslem Mosque at Arncliffe)



Nail Care Salon on the corner of Belmore and Firth St. The building has no date however, it appears that it has been in place, maybe in different guises, for many years. (Ellis T. , Arncliffe Nail Care shop)

While this street scene is typical in what we expect to see today, away from the Westfields, it would have been totally beyond belief to Sylvester and Catherine.

The sewer vent, removed around 2015 was on top of the hill near the intersection of West Botany St and the Princes Highway. Thankfully for Arncliffe and Tempe residents, the Arncliffe Sewerage Works and Boiling Down Works have long been consigned to the dustbin of history.



An old Edwardian or late Victorian house at Arncliffe



(229)The Princes Highway, Arncliffe at the intersection of West Botany St. Notice the lovely unit towers in the background at Tempe? Mind you, they do have a Woollies' and Dan Murphy's so, all is not lost. Notice the traffic, going like the clappers!



Macedonian Community Child care Centre – ILINDEN (230)



Airport Hotel (was the Arncliffe Hotel) (231)

No bottle shops existed and even in the 1960s, women were not allowed to even enter the public bar of a hotel. Women were expected to drink in what was called the Saloon Bar, and usually restrict their drinks to shandys, a mixture of beer and lemonade. The only women allowed were the woman serving behind the bar and the Salvation Army lady with her collection box. Indeed, in the late 1950s and early 1960's, cars were built with a Glove Box which could hold a 'middy' of beer so the wife could sit in the car in the hotel car park and have a beer while her husband drank in the Public Bar with his mates.

In the 1970's, up to and including 2020, the Pub from time to time provided Strippers as Friday Afternoon Entertainment. The excerpt below is from a chap called Steve Rickerts, a Rugby League Writer: (Writer)

TRAVEL

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As the strippers did their thing in the Arncliffe pub in Sydney, there was an announcement from the Catholic priest next door, asking for a ute to be moved from the presbytery driveway.

It seemed surreal that the publican would be relaying the message from Father O'Reilly (we'll say it was Father O'Reilly) over the din of the [Friday afternoon](#) 'tradie' crowd, enjoying a few schooners of Reschs, as the girls gyrated in front of them.



(Ellis t.)**Looking up Firth St Arncliffe towards Forest Road. Train Station is on the left. Traffic is a far cry from the Princes Highway.**

Firth St on the western side of Arncliffe Station is really the main street at Arncliffe Shops. It was named after the railway engineer involved in building the line in the late 1880's. The street is equipped with most of the usual small shops, the chicken and kebab shop, chemist, nail salon, hairdresser, newsagent and café, plus the original post office.

Bexley Today 2023

Bexley today tends to show a couple of different faces. Firstly, there is the junction of Harrow Road, leading to Rockdale eastwards and Bardwell Valley in the west and Forest Road which goes between Hurstville and the Princes Highway at Arncliffe. There is also the junction, a bit further on, of Forest Road and Stoney Creek Road. These are all very busy roads, during most parts of the day. Large trucks such as B Doubles, Cement Mixers, etc, plus the steady hum of motorists going about their business, make the Bexley Shopping Centre very busy and filled with a range of small shops. They are major thoroughfares and parking is usually very difficult to find. The style of shop has changed greatly from Sylvester and Catherine's and John and Jessie's day. I doubt that there were any Thai Massage, IGA or similar shops. As for Stoney Creek Road, Oportos, on the corner of Freddy and Stoney Creek Road, the Ju Jitsu clinic and my favourite Pool Shop would not have been present. Automobiles were very small in number, traffic lights did not exist until 1928 when the first set were installed in Melbourne. Up until that time a Police Constable was usually assigned to a 'busy' intersection or it was just, catch as catch can!

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The other side of Bexley is almost hidden, in the back streets behind Stoney Creek Road, Harrow Road etc. While there are naturally new homes being built, upon the carcasses of older ones, there are still many fine examples of old fashioned homes, built during the 1920's and 30's. They give an air of permanence and peace to the suburb, which makes it quite sought after. The Bexley Golf Course adds a lovely touch of greenery to the suburb, as does the Bexley Park and swimming centre.



(Ellis T. , Thai Massage Studio)The Thai Massage Studio stands proudly at the junction of Forest Rd and Stoney Creek Road. It is a very visible presence when one comes up Stoney Creek Road and turns left into Forest Road.



(Ellis T. , Intersection of Forest Rd and Stoney Creek Road)The Intersection of Forest Rd and Stoney Creek Road today. I don't think John Alexander and Jessie May would recognise the IGA nor the ANYTIME Gym nor the traffic! When they arrived in 1911 the road would have been basically dirt, shops would have been almost non existent and you would not

have seen traffic lights, and such an array of signs and poles. I suggest general noise levels would also have been much more tolerable and carbon dioxide levels lower. However, there would have been piles of lovely horse dung along the road from their buggys! Is anyone here a gardener? Good compost.



(Ellis T. , Oportos and Bexley Pool Palace) On the left is a shop that my relatives would never have seen, the Oportos Chicken shop, complete with drive through. Below this is another shop that my ancestors would never seen but now exist in nearly all suburbs, the ubiquitous pool shop.

Bexley Pool Palace



A shop that we know as part of the local layout, like the local cafes.



One of the spectacular older buildings in Bexley. (Collection' F. a., Bexley Edwardian Homes)

I must point out that one of the joys of my research into this story was finding the treasure trove of lovely old homes and buildings in my travels around the suburbs. In the quiet back streets, away from the mayhem of Princes Highway, Rocky Point Road, Stoney Creek Road and Harrow Road lie wonderful examples of late Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Indeed, our own home, built in 1906-07 in the Edwardian style has lovely old high ceilings, polished hardwood floors, a marble fireplace and a timber one in the formal rooms provide an element of peace and harmony, which many more modern homes seem, in my opinion, to lack. It would be interesting to be able to bring Sylvester, Catherine and their children who lived in Bayside to see the way architectural styles have changed, and get their opinion.

CARLTON TODAY

As I previously mentioned, Carlton has tended to be (no offence to the residents), a small somewhat sleepy suburb and this is still true today however, in my opinion because it is away from the Princes Highway, it has been saved the rough and tumble of cars, trucks, motor bikes, etc racing like the clappers down the road. Arncliffe streets, as well as some of Bexleys back streets and likewise with Carltons streets are quiet, tree lined and provide a somewhat better lifestyle than living on the 45th floor of a unit with no access to grass (do I sound biased)?

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The Royal Hotel Carlton – leading to Jubilee Oval (Facebook.com, Royal Hotel Carlton)

The Royal Hotel has a similar internal and external structure as most hotels of the era. On the ground floor is the main entrance to the Public Bar, but now also has a small dining area which is very popular for local lunches. Around the corner to the left is the Saloon or Ladies Lounge. The street on the left is Jubilee Avenue and leads about 1 km to Jubilee Oval, home of the once great St George Dragons and connects to the Princes Highway, then on through past Beverley Park Golf Course and to Rocky Point Road which leads to Captain Cook Bridge.



North end of Carlton shops with park and station lift. The introduction of lifts at train stations was a huge improvement, allowing parents (not just mums) with prams, old folk with walkers and even incapacitated folk with ride on scooters, access to the Platform without requiring a body like Arnie!!

(Ellis T. , Entrance to Carlton Train Station)



Jubilee Oval Carlton – new stand on the top right. Carlton Shops on the East Side of the Train Station (Ellis T. , Jubilee Oval and Carlton Shops (East Side))

Jubilee Oval, home of the once great St George Dragons, is a two minute walk to the St George Leagues Club, once known as the Taj Mahal because of it's opulence. The ground is a 12 minute walk to Carlton station (via the Royal Hotel). At the shops, there is a small collection of a Thai restaurant and a few other small shops used by locals. There are also a couple of cafes and the Gym in what used to be a photo processing lab. The Railway Parade leads north to Kogarah and south the Allawah and Hurstville, which has a Westfields shopping centre.



(Ellis T.)Carlton Train Station with Heritage Platforms and Waiting Rooms – Note the Chimneys! Unfortunately, owing to vandalism the waiting rooms are now locked. If you look at the architectural style of Carlton train station, and you compare it with that of Arncliffe Train Station and others on the T4 line, you will see similar styles and colours on

other T4 platforms such as Allawah, Tempe, Banksia and Arncliffe as they were built at the same time but never had to expand like Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville to cater for more travellers.



(243) The East side of Carlton shops, looking North. Cafes are the newest addition and unfortunately, the old chap who serviced your lawnmower has now retired. There is a bottle shop on the left corner near the bushes and on the right, a very good mechanics who always do a great job. There is a small supermarket on the right hand side which caters for most things that you need in an emergency, a couple of cafes and a small newsagent that you can

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hopefully get your winning lotto tickets from. The street sign points left to Mills St, previous home of the Ellis Family but it also has a nice park across the road from it.



Old Homes at Carlton

(Ellis T. , Carltons old houses) Carlton still has a large number of delightful old houses, built during the 1910-30 period. They are conspicuous by their towering chimneys, tiled entrance steps up to a bull nose verandah and, most importantly, even in 2023, they still fit comfortably into the environment and

atmosphere of Carlton.

Dolls Point today

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Earlier in this novel I mentioned that in 1893 The Scots College was begun at Brighton Le Sands. It is now a thriving Preparatory and Secondary School with a special campus called Glengarry. Recently Scots opened a new Preparatory School at Dolls Point in a lovely old building Primrose House, which used to be a Convalescent Home. Both of my sons, Andrew and James now 43 and 39, went to Scots and Bellevue Hill and to Glengarry at Kangaroo Valley as boarders.



The Scots College Preparatory School – Opposite Depena Reserve at Dolls Point (Ellis T. , Scots College Prep School Dolls point)

The Scots College, which began its life at Brighton Lee Sands in 1893 before moving to Bellevue Hill, has a second Preparatory School in what used to be Primrose House, a lovely old convalescent home. It is just metres from the beach and park and also close to the St George Sailing Club. In fact, it is not unusual to see groups of small boys in Scots colours out on the water.

The site of Moorefields Racecourse 1888-1953 Today



(246) Unfortunately, (or fortunately, depending on your viewpoint), the Moorefields Racecourse is gone now, replaced by a TAFE, High Schools and row upon row of homes. This is a part of the original course called the swamp. Makes the turn into the home straight a bit heavy and damp for most of the horses. There have been a number of books written about the history of the racecourse but, amazingly, it was only while researching my family in Bayside that I discovered it. My dog and I went

exploring and, if it can be cleaned up and the lantana removed, it could become a lovely family picnic area.



Streets and houses where Moorfields Racecourse used to be and Moorefields Girls High School. The swamp is still there and is home to many ducks and various aquatic birds. I am unsure as to what the future plans are for this area but it must be preserved and used to enhance our wetlands at Rockdale.



Rockdale today 2023

Rockdale today is in the unfortunate position of having the Princes Highway run through the main shopping centre, although another reasonable centre opened some years ago at Rockdale Plaza with a number of larger shops and reasonable parking (and Maccas)!



The Rockdale Town Hall, now the revamped Rockdale Library which was opened by the NSW Governor in October 1940 at a mere cost to the wealthy local citizens (maybe not so wealthy after this) of 20,000 Australian pounds. Isn't it good to see your rates money at work (247). At least with the Library you get more value for money and less wheeling and dealing.

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On the left is the entrance to Rockdale Plaza, a shopping centre located on the Princes Highway at the bottom of a hill. On the right, out of the photo is a Maccas with Drive through on the way to Kogarah Shopping Centre (Ellis T. , Entrance to Rockdale Plaza). The shops on the sign at Rockdale Plaza are there because of the conditions for shopping are inadequate at Rockdale. Possibly an entire new startegic plan needs to be designed.





Home Units, Electricity Poles and Maccas (on Princes Highway opp Rockdale Plaza) (Ellis T. , Rockdale Heading South)



St George Tavern Rockdale. The art deco façade of the St George Tavern which, back in the 1970's like the Arncliffe Pub had Friday afternoon strippers to entertain the Tradie crowd from 4-6 in the evening. (Ellis T. , The St George Tavern Rockdale)



Princes Highway Rockdale looking south (Ellis T. , Princes Highway Rockdale looking south)

This photo was taken by me as I was about to drive through Rockdale shopping centre. In the distance you can see a large block of units with more being built. Traffic is heavy and shops such as Woolworths and Coles, which used to be here at Rockdale, have moved out. The Shopping Centre suffers from a lack of off street parking with a majority of traffic flowing through, on their way to some other destination. The train station and bus centres are to the right, but that side is also crowded and lacks parking. It will be interesting to see what changes the new tunnel makes, if any.

Recreation in Bayside - 2023

Botany Bay has always been a major feature of Sydney's South and over the last 2-3 years Bayside Council have put a significant amount of time, money and effort into improving the foreshore along Lady Robertson Beach around to Taren Point. More tables, new and improved playgrounds for young children and improved parking have made it much more attractive for families to picnic at. The use of Groins along the foreshore some 25 years ago has greatly improved the amount of sand on the beach.



An early Sunday Morning at Botany Bay (Ellis T. , Botany Bay)

Scarborough Park, not far from Botany Bay, has had new watering systems, dressing sheds, toilet facilities and kiosk sheds to cater to Saturday and Sunday sports crowds of hungry parents. This work has also been carried out at Arncliffe and other parts of Bayside. A reasonable sized creek runs through Scarborough Park and now an area has been set aside for model radio controlled boats near the Barton St end with a new clubhouse for those folk dedicated to the sport. A refurbished set

of cricket nets, pavilion and playground are also in this immediate area. Meanwhile Hockey, which is gaining in popularity, has had a new full sized field installed at Kyeemagh near Cooks River and Muddy Creek



The St George Hockey Field at Kyeemagh near Cooks River (Ellis T. , St George Hockey Field)



The junction of Cooks River and Muddy Creek. The creek to the left travels along the banks to Moore a number of various fishing and personal boats. Some might lament it's passing however you could always, well, usually, get a good feed of fresh fish and chips at the Kyeemagh Fishermans Club, better known as "The Fishos". (Ellis T. , Muddy Creek)



Muddy Creek boat mooring near the old Fishos Club. (Ellis T. , Muddy Creek the Fisho's)

This is a mooring area for privately owned fishing and other craft used for recreational purposes. It is at Muddy Creek and is a very safe mooring.

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(Ellis T. , Tonbridge Park change sheds)

Tonbridge Park (Ellis T. , Tonbridge Park Chuter Avenue)

Tonbridge Park Ramsgate – it is next to Ramsgate Public school and has a cricket pitch, Aussie Rules posts and a great playground for the little kiddies,





etc.



Bi-Centenary Park Rockdale (before earth moving gear arrived for the new tunnel)

The Ellis Clan and Bayside Today

Technically we live on the border of Georges River and Bayside Council (the East side of Rocky Point Rd is Bayside and the west side is Georges River Council. In 1980 my wife, Linda with our 2.5 year old daughter Katie, plus our dog Mandy moved into our 117 year old home at 52 Ramsgate Rd Ramsgate as it then was called in the Winter of 1980. The house had been built around 1906-07, still has a couple of lovely fireplaces, one of marble, ornate ceilings with ceiling roses and

lovely original timber floor boards which we have had polished. Since then we have had two lovely sons, and the three children have left home, come back, etc. Indeed, our daughter, husband and two teenage children (and dogs), are preparing to move back in once their renovations are approved by Bayside Council. The family have grown up with a number of large German Shepherds (I travelled overseas a fair bit working for a Japanese Multinational and wanted large dogs to protect the family). We have made alterations to the yard with the addition of a 10m by 3m pool, a lovely garden and, pride of place, an English Oak tree planted when the house was built and it is still going strong. English Oak trees tend to live to 400-500 years old so I can only assume that it shall be here (developers willing), long after we have gone.

We have seen numerous changes to the small set of shops at Ramsgate (not Ramsgate Beach), and the wider Georges River and Bayside areas. Cafes have sprouted up, nail and beauty salons, Sam the ever friendly chemist and the changes will keep on coming. Queens Pastry House is our favourite coffee and pastry shop. There was an old discount petrol station around the corner, now units, a lovely seafood restaurant unfortunately closed and various shops have come and gone. It is the way of things. Whereas we began here in Kogarah LGA, that has now been absorbed with Hurstville and now we are part of Georges River LGA. If you look at maps or pictures in 1906 you will see the introduction of the Ramsgate Causeway which now goes past the front of our home, but about 4 metres below us. The 1934 map from a Gregorys shows some streets have changed near the causeway and, in 1943, the swamp was turned into the popular Beverley Park golf course. It would be interesting to see what happens to our home and lovely Oak Tree in the next 100 years. Hopefully the desire to build countless, soul destroying units will be moderated and homes like ours can be saved from future destruction. However, there is no question that Governments and developers have a way, a bit like a magic act, of making things disappear, no matter how lovely and elegant.

I met my cousin Judy today for the second time as a result of my research and she is an 'Ellis' and while her husband has passed away, she and her two sons are still living at 8 Stewart St Mount Arncliffe. She came for morning tea and we spent the morning discussing our shared family heritage. She still lives in the same home that Sylvester and Catherine bought in Arncliffe all of those years ago. My daughter and family are firmly ensconced in Carlton and my wife, dog and I are still here at (now called) Beverley Park. The Princes Highway is still the main road through Rockdale, but there are roads which run off it which take you to Hurstville, Kogarah, Carlton and Arncliffe shops. The old pub is still at Arncliffe, on the corner of the Highway and Forest Road but now is the Airport hotel for travellers. I have witnessed it go through a few variations, including, some years ago, Strippers at the Pub from Friday at 4-6 pm. This live entertainment mainly catered to the Aussie Tradies who knocked off from work around 3.00-3.30! One of the Rockdale hotels also had that 'live entertainment' but while the Pub is still there, the Friday afternoon entertainment has gone.

Bayside has, quite naturally changed from 1911-20 when the Ellis Clan first moved to Arncliffe, Bexley and Carlton. Obviously the Bayside of today is larger and more complex with people from many different countries now resident. Not only are our suburbs much busier, and more complex, but the age in which we live has become much faster. What was the Technology Revolution has moved on to

become, I believe, the Information and Media Revolution. Now that we are retired, when we wake my wife and I take turns making each other raisin toast and tea which we have in bed. She picks up the novel which she put down last night and I pick up my phone to look at the news, what is happening not only at home, but around the world. There, flashed to my phone are events happening in Russia, the Ukraine, the Atlantic Ocean plus information about which celebrity is marrying which (this almost returns me to sleep) and what are dodgy Pollies are up to. The salient point is that, in Sylvesters day he would read the Sydney Morning herald, news and events. . Life was, it seems, far slower, gracious and civilised. Even when I grew up in the 1960's and 70's, manners and courtesy were expected. Now, if you retrieve something a person has dropped and hand it to them, you may, unless that person is of my generation, get a monosyllabic grunt, if that.

The Princes Highway still runs on the same course as it did back then. It diverges at West Botany St which is used as a bypass around the Rockdale Shopping Centre and comes out at President Avenue The highway travels through Rockdale, down to Tom Ugly's bridge and southward. Possibly one of the reasons that suburbs such as Carlton and Arncliffe still have that semblance of a village feel about them is that to get to them, one has to get off the highway and do a detour. While enormous blocks of home units, my view, shield these suburbs from the Highway, to those driving along this road I think that all of the old charm has gone.

What is the Future of Bayside and the Ellis Clan?

The future of Bayside is, in my opinion, in the melting pot. Bayside, like Georges River and a number of other Local Government Areas was created in 2016 from an amalgamation of smaller councils with the idea, I expect, that increased size brings certain economies of scale. Operating costs should be reduced and efficiencies in operation should happen. At this stage, I believe that the jury is still out on this question. Our rates continue to rise and local politicians continue to get pay rises and some from Georges River Council get an all expenses paid outing to see ICAC! Unfortunately, like any merger or amalgamation, whether on Government or business, the financial and human cost of demerging can be a significant burden and could quite possibly be placed upon local ratepayers as State Governments of all persuasions cry poor when asked to fund various local government exercises.

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Now however, in order to control traffic we have and are resorting to huge underground tunnels. Traditionally these speed up traffic flow through the tunnel but slow it significantly when the tunnel comes out into the light of day. In the same way as residents, likely including the Ellis Clan would have complained about the odours from the Arncliffe Sewerage Works and the 'Fart Tower', now local residents must contend with the extraction systems of carbon monoxide from the tunnels. Traffic noise and congestion will, despite the promises of politicians and town planners probably continue to increase. This continued funnelling of traffic away from local shopping centres such as Arncliffe, Tempe, Bexley and Carlton will likely see them fail to gain patronage. Already at Carlton we see a large Aldi store on the highway, because that is where the passing traffic is.

So, for Judy and the Ellis family living at Stewart Street, Sylvester and Catherine's home in 1915, it is likely that life shall continue as it currently is, the same as for my daughter and family at Carlton. Hopefully though, those State Governments, Local Governments and town planners will not lose sight of the fact that suburbs are made up of people, their families, Saturday sport etc and these residents must be taken into consideration when formulating the future.

Appendix 1

Certificate of Freedom of John Ellis – my Great Great Grandfather and washed away in the Great Gundagi Flood of 1852.

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.

No. *44/1156*
Date, *2 August 1846*
Prisoner's No. *38/1030*
Name *John Ellis*
Ship *Bengal Merchant 2*
Master *Campbell*
Year *1838*
Native Place *Lancashire*
Trade or Calling.... *Indoor servant*
Offence *stole goods under false pretences*
Place of Trial..... *Lancaster 24th*
Date of Trial..... *10 April 1837*
Sentence..... *Seven years*
Year of Birth..... *1802*
Height..... *5' 10" 1/2 inches*
Complexion..... *dark yellow*
Hair *Brown*
Eyes *Brown*
General Remarks... *Set a front tooth under of*
upper jaw. Scar under the outer corner of left eye
Scar on hairy. Scar back of lower left arm
Scar outside right leg. Top of head bald
M

Appendix 2

Biography of the late Rex Ellis OAM

The Sydney Morning Herald

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National Obituaries

This was published 13 years ago

Concert master extraordinaire

September 2, 2009 – 12.00am

REX ERNEST ELLIS, AM

PILOT, NAVIGATOR, ABC EXECUTIVE

22-10-1922 - 14-8-2009

By **STUART REVILL** and **MARTIN ELLIS**

REX Ellis, the ABC's former federal director of concerts whose tenure coincided with the flowering of the corporation's six symphony orchestras, has died of Parkinson's disease at a nursing home in the Sydney suburb of Summer Hill. He was 86.

Ellis, who served with RAAF squadrons in Bomber Command in Britain during World War II, rejoined the ABC after the war. He was manager of concerts in Queensland (1953-55), Victoria (1955-57) and NSW (1960-65), before being appointed federal director of concerts in 1965.

The latter appointment that lasted for 18 years put him at the heart of a giant musical entrepreneurial organisation. He ensured that tours of regional Australia were as important as capital city performances. In those years, ABC orchestras performed 800 concerts annually, dwarfing the 150 a year in the corporation's first decade, and exceeding its current 700 performances a year.

Leading artists who performed in 23 regional centres ranged from Dame Janet Baker and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, to Claudio Arrau, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Maxim Shostakovich and Roger Woodward.

Other major artists who appeared during the Ellis period were Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Jacqueline du Pre, Paul Tortelier, Alfred Brendel, Rudolf Serkin, Jessye Norman, Yvonne Minton, Birgit Nilsson, Lorin Maazel, Erich Leinsdorf, Zubin Mehta, Walter Susskind, Hiroyuki Iwaki and Dean Dixon.

No one knew the concert business better than the entrepreneurial Ellis. A visiting violinist in Melbourne in the 1950s bet him one United States dollar to 10 Australian shillings that his recitals would not sell out. Ellis, assessing the virtuoso's popularity, in fact arranged for 100 extra seats to be placed on the stage, surrounding the artist, his accompanist and piano; all but 30 of these additional seats were sold on the first night.

The violinist reluctantly agreed to accept the 10 shillings thrust on him, but when he was farewelled at the airport, he graciously presented Ellis with an American dollar note inscribed "to Rex, cordially, Isaac Stern".

One of four children born to Mary and Perce, a bricklayer, Ellis joined the Commission, as it then was, in 1939, as a cadet. He was a music librarian when he took leave to enlist, first in the Royal Australian Engineers, then in the RAAF in 1942, and served in Canada and England.

As a pilot then navigator, he was a flying officer in Bomber Command in 1944-45, and flew 33 missions in Lancasters with 463 and 467 squadrons over Europe. He wore his war medals only once, on an Anzac Day in Canberra.

After the war, Ellis rejoined the ABC, where he met his future wife, Betty Nicholson, then an 18-year-old typist.

In the 1960s, the ABC received the London, NHK (Japan), Hungarian State and Boston symphonies, the Czech, Israel and London philharmonics and the Polish Radio Orchestra. It fell to Ellis to make the complex logistical operations work. And in the late '60s and '70s, he organised Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra tours to Europe, Canada, the US and China. He also took the Australian Youth Orchestra to Japan.

In *Playing for Australia* (1982), Charles Buttrose, the former assistant general manager of the ABC, wrote that the SSO's first overseas tour, to the Commonwealth Festival of the Arts in London, "first brought to light the full extent of the talent of ... Rex Ellis. Ellis planned (that tour) and, as things have turned out, every subsequent major ABC foreign tour".

The current historian of ABC music, Martin Buzacott, describes Ellis as the ABC's "undisputed touring guru, a man with a mind of uncommon precision. His achievements in pulling together the orchestra's itineraries endure to this day in ABC folklore."

Ellis was also a courageous member of his union, the Senior Officers Association. In the 1960s, he articulated a claim for payment for regular weekend and evening work. The six-year case, marked by vigorous and aggressive opposition by then general manager, Charles Moses, ended in temporary defeat. Five years later, however, the ABC began to pay overtime for the various classifications involved.

Ellis remained philosophical about the probable effect of this experience on his career.

He was promoted to controller of administrative services in 1982, and retired in 1985, the same year as the Tribe Report recommended all orchestras owned by the ABC be divested to independent local ownership. This, together with the merging of the music and concert departments, marked the end of an era.

A gentle and private man, Ellis' long and tranquil retirement was marked by picking a rare winner from the Saturday race guide, fine carpentry, good company and meticulous attention to domestic paperwork. He retained his sense of humour almost to the end. Although barely able to talk, he delighted in bewildering nurses attempting to calculate his state of mind by mischievously whispering that it was "Smith".

In 1988, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to music.

Ellis is survived by Betty, their children, Damian, Pauline, Martin, Christine, Robert and their partners, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

World War Two Service



**FLYING OFFICER
REX ERNEST ELLIS
424627**

SERVICE	ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
DATE OF BIRTH	22 OCTOBER 1922
PLACE OF BIRTH	CARLTON, NSW
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	6 OCTOBER 1942
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	SYDNEY, NSW
NEXT OF KIN	ELLIS, PERCY
DATE OF DISCHARGE	25 FEBRUARY 1946
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	463 SQUADRON



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

World War 2 – RAAF Flying Officer Rex Ernest Ellis

Appendix 3

Last Page of Leslie Albert Ellis Flight Log Book (note final entry)

Time carried forward:—		295:00	29:00
REMARKS (Including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Times		
	Day	Night	
<u>OPERATIONS - MARSHALLING YARDS AT</u> <u>DULMEN - GERMANY - SLIGHT HEAVY</u> <u>FLAK</u>	2:25		
<i>No 61</i>			
<u>OPERATIONS - MARSHALLING YARDS AT</u> <u>BERGSTEINFURT - GERMANY - SLIGHT FLAK</u> <u>ON RETURN -</u>	3:00		
<i>No 62</i>			
<u>OPERATIONS - MARSHALLING YARDS AT</u> <u>BORKEN - G.H OP - GERMANY</u>	2:40		
<i>No 63</i>			
<u>OPERATIONS - MARSHALLING YARDS AT</u> <u>BOCHALT - GERMANY - ACCURATE HEAVY FLAK</u> <u>NEARLY COLLIDED OVER TARGET</u>	1:50		
<i>No 64</i>			
<u>OPS. RAILWAY JUNCTION AT</u> <u>DULMEN - GERMANY - ACCURATE</u> <u>HEAVY FLAK.</u>	2:30		
<i>No 65</i>			
<u>OPERATIONS MARSHALLING YARDS AT</u> <u>BOCHOLT (GERMANY) - BARRAGE OF</u> <u>HEAVY FLAK - BOMBS EXPLODED IN AIR.</u>	1:05		
<i>No 66</i>			
<u>NOTE: THIS AIRCRAFT AND CREW DID NOT</u> <u>RETURN FROM THIS OPERATION.</u>			
TOTAL TIME....	308:30	29:00	

Appendix 4

In Memoriam – Flying Officer Leslie Albert Ellis

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In Memory of
Flying Officer

Leslie Albert Ellis

422151, Royal Australian Air Force who died on 21 March 1945 Age 21

Son of Norman Cyril and Evelyn Margaret Ellis, of Arncliffe, New South Wales, Australia.

Remembered with Honour
Reichswald Forest War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Appendix 5

Bayside Local Government Area

The Bayside Local Government Area (LGA) was formed in 2016 and is located in the southern suburbs of Sydney. It has an estimated population of 180,000 people¹. The suburbs that make up Bayside LGA are: Arncliffe, Banksia, Banksmeadow, Bardwell Park, Bardwell Valley, Bexley, Botany, Brighton-le-Sands, Carlton (parts are located in Georges River Council), Daceyville, Dolls Point, Eastgardens, Eastlakes, Hillsdale, Kingsgrove (parts are located in Canterbury-Bankstown Council), Kogarah (parts are located in Georges River Council), Kyeemagh, Mascot, Monterey, Pagewood, Ramsgate (parts are located in Georges River Council), Ramsgate Beach (parts are located in Georges River Council), Rockdale and Sans Souci

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Some Basic Facts

Population

Figures taken from the 2016 Australian Census show the Total LGA having a population of 180,000 people. The 2021 Census has a figure of 178,000 which shows a small decrease 1.1% over 5 years. There are 0.4% more females than males.

Bayside has, from the 2021 Census a figure of 1,962 people who declare themselves to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent.

Regarding Educational Attainment, the Census shows the following:

33.7 % have a Bachelors Degree or greater

10.4% have an Advanced Diploma

17% Year 12

7% Year 10

These figure do not add to 100% as I have deliberately not included them as they are too small.

Country of Birth – top responses

Australia 46.7%

China 6.8%

Nepal, Indonesia, Greece and the Philipines each average approx 2.4%

Religion

Nil or non stated 26.0%

Catholic 22.6%

Eastern Orthodox	11.8%
Islam	8.7%
Not stated	7.0%

Dwelling status

Separate House	34.5%
Semi Detached	12.3%
Flats or Apartments	52.2%

The Census information is quite informative and I have only provided the smallest snapshot here. The Census does go on to give figures for Employment Status, hours worked, housing density, etc. I would expect that the Council would use these figures as part of their strategic planning for the future of the LGA

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