

Let's ENJOY the Shire this Summer!

It's the "We've got it all here!" Shire

by Bob Walshe, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Why pay for a trip by plane or by ship
When all you desire waits here in the Shire!



Enjoy a National Park beach! There are many like this to choose from.

It's all here!

Waiting to be explored, waiting to be enjoyed... right now, this Summer.

Whether you want vivid experiences for the children or excursions for the whole family, or adventures with groups of friends, you can find all you desire right here in the Shire.

Remember, we Shire residents are the luckiest folk in this big "world city" of Sydney, the favoured 215,000 among 4.2 million! Think of the treasures at our beck and call. We've got

- ❖ To the east, splendid Sydney beaches
- ❖ To north, mighty Botany Bay
- ❖ To south, beautiful Port Hacking
- ❖ To west, Woronora River and Dam.

Only a start! We also have

- ❖ Four national parks,
- ❖ The Royal, oldest park of all
- ❖ Three of Sydney's five rivers, and
- ❖ Kurnell, "birthplace of the nation".

If you do nothing else but visit and explore these eight "physical features" of the Shire you'll have little time to do more in January.

Yet a host of other features will beckon: Cook's Landing Place (Kurnell), Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve (Jannali), the Esplanade Walk (Cronulla), the Sydney Tramway Museum (Loftus), the Hazelhurst Arts Centre (Gynea), the

Camellia Garden (Caringbah), the ferry trip to Bundeena (Cronulla), the Pleasure Grounds (Como), Lady Carrington Drive (Audley), the Bee Garden and Museum (Sutherland), and for the starry heavens above the Shire, the Astronomical Society (Oyster Bay).

Visit the vibrant Cronulla Plaza, which is only two minutes walk from the beach; there you can call into the Plaza office (at the north end) for abundant "visitor information".

Or ask at the Shire's Central Library or any of its seven branches for what's doing in the Shire.

There's so much! The Library is the CCC of the Shire, its Core Cultural Centre, which caters to all ages and all tastes, certainly to some interests of every member of every family.

Books galore of course, but also videos, cassettes, CDs, PCs and photocopier and fax services, plus games, toys and activities for children.

At the Central Library (Sutherland) you'll find a remarkable Notice Board which offers hundreds of opportunities, events, courses and clubs through leaflets pinned up by community organisations and individuals, a smorgasbord of activities of our Shire's vigorous social life.



Enjoy a sparkling day! Just one of many spots on Port Hacking: Swallow Rock Reserve, with Royal National Park in the background.

Vigorous indeed! The Shire has scores of Arts and Crafts clubs, Bands, Orchestras, Drama and Musical societies. Ring the Council for information (9710 0333).

Why Travel?

So, think twice before you spend hundreds or thousands of dollars on travel to Perth or Paris or... As you well know, travel means time and trouble and pots of money before you even get to see anything. Long plane trips are unsettling. Likewise strange food. Tourists are charged to the hilt, and tipping adds to the rip-off.

Reasons pile up for staying at home and making short trips to any of the inexhaustible attractions within Sutherland Shire. (I ramble two or three times a week in a little area of Woronora bushland only five minutes walk from my home and find its interests inexhaustible.)

Don't push the argument that "travel broadens the mind". Of course it can.

But short trips can do that as well. Everything depends on the observation, knowledge and curiosity the traveller brings to the trip.

The most truly deserving members of Sutherland Shire – I mean those who most deserve to live in this remarkable Shire – are those who explore and observe and intelligently study its many precious places. You will find such active people among Bushwalkers and Cyclists, Bushcare groups, and members of the Australian Plant Society, Historical Society, Environment Centre, National Parks Association and Precinct Committees.

They have learnt the lesson that it isn't the travel you do that counts, it's what you do with the travel – the active questioning, observing, thinking, learning. And you have ten thousand opportunities to do such things within the Shire.

Some great teachers have taught us that lesson. The philosopher Kant, for example, who shook the world of 18th and 19th century thought, never travelled from his German birthplace. And Shakespeare, who reveals a teeming world of human relationships and imagined places, travelled little.

Care for the Shire

If President Kennedy could say "Ask not what America can do for you, but what you can do for America", we who are privileged to live in this special Shire are duty-bound to ask, "What can I do for the Shire?"

Well, get to know it, read about it, explore it, talk about it, write to friends about it. In visiting places, try to use public transport, use the car

only when unavoidable, and do as much walking as possible. (For example, take the train to Cronulla, the ferry to Bundeena, then walk or picnic in any of its many attractions.)

And let us adults remember the Golden Rule of Education: example is the best teacher of the young. Let's ask, as we lead our children on exploring trips within the Shire, Do my words and actions show that I VALUE

- ✓ all green things, and insects, birds and animals?
- ✓ natural beauty of clouds, bush, waterways, sunsets?
- ✓ small things, shells, pebbles, seeds, leaf-forms, fungi?
- ✓ clean environment, conserving, recycling, no littering, saving water?
- ✓ health, exercise, skin-care, nutritious food?
- ✓ local history, old buildings, talks with older citizens?
- ✓ local Council works, services, parks, facilities?
- ✓ talking, drawing, writing about outdoor doings?

Domestic Tourism

Every weekend, thousands of relatives and friends pour into the Shire to visit us locals. How do you entertain them? What! You only show them the back-yard and the barbie? Take them out. Show them our waterways, national parks, special places. This is "domestic tourism". There's far more of it than you think – and your friends and the Shire's business people will thank you for it.

See! There's so much to do and say about living-to-the-full in our Shire that I've run out of space and I've scarcely begun! *



Enjoy a cruise! Here's the ferry *Curranulla* returning to Cronulla from Bundeena or from a tour of Hacking River.



Enjoy Kurnell! Old Alpha House is only one of a host of historic sites of "The Birthplace of Australia".



sutherland
shire

discovery guide 2004

For a great guide to the attractions of the Sutherland Shire, pick up your FREE copy of the new *Sutherland Shire Discovery Guide 2004* available throughout the Shire from libraries and places of interest in December. The guide provides lots of great information about where to go and what to do in the Shire this summer. *Sutherland Shire Discovery Guide 2004* is a Shire Life Publication.

For more information:
phone 9526 6199, fax 9524 1661,