

NOW YOU KNOW!



MONUMENT TO ABORIGINES SACKVILLE CEREMONY

Many prominent visitors were present at the old aborigines' reserve at Sackville recently to witness the unveiling and dedication of the memorial to the former aboriginal tribes of the Hawkesbury.

This ceremony coincided—almost to the hour—with the 163rd anniversary of the passing of that spot by Governor Phillip and his party in their exploration of the Hawkesbury River on July 3, 1789.

The function was arranged by the Hawkesbury Valley Tourist Association with the co-operation of the Colo Shire Council, on the suggestion of Mr. P. W. Gledhill (President, Manly-Warringah Historical Society), who donated the obelisk which forms the memorial. This was "dressed" and inscribed by public subscription, and transported to the spot and erected by the Shire Council, which also prepared the site.

The ceremony of unveiling the monument was performed by the President of Colo Shire Council (Cr. H. C. Matheson), and the dedication by the Very Rev. Dr. Barton Babbage, Anglican Dean of Sydney.

In a brief address before the unveiling, Mr. Gledhill exhibited a polished and fearsome-looking nulla nulla which belonged at one time to a member of an aboriginal

tribe in this district. He made the suggestion (which was roundly applauded) that the Shire Council give this reserve the aboriginal name for the Hawkesbury River, "Deerubbin" or "Venrubbin."

On one face the monument bears the inscription "This obelisk was erected as a memorial to the aborigines of the Hawkesbury, for whom this area was originally reserved." On another face is the inscription "This memorial is the gift of P. W. Gledhill, Esq., F.S.A.G., and interested friends."

Other speakers included Mr. W. A. ("Bert") Oldfield, former international cricketer (who gave an absorbing and at times amusing address on feats of aboriginal cricketers of the past), Mrs. Long (who was appointed as a missionary to the aborigines on this reserve in 1901), representatives of the Aborigines Welfare Board in Supt. Blackley (police nominee) and Mr. Michael Sawtell, Mr. Roy Mitchell (who complimented the Shire Council on the manner in which the monument had been erected) and Mr. Ridgway, of Chullora (who, as a descendant of the aborigines, represented them at the ceremony, and thanked all concerned for the remarks of the various speakers and the provision of this memorial).