

HISTORIC MEMORIAL AT CRONULLA

Visitors to the northern headland of Port Hacking at Cronulla South have recently noticed a memorial to Bass and Flinders, who discovered Port Hacking in a small craft, named the Tom Thumb, on March 30, 1795, a hundred and fifty-five years ago at the end of this month. The memorial was erected there, known only to a few persons, without ceremony or publicity. It was never publicly unveiled, consequently very few people know anything about it. With the exception of Captain Cook's monument at Kurnell it is the only memorial in the district relating to the discovery of this historic district. Cook's monument at Kurnell was erected by a local resident at his own expense—by the late Thomas Holt, one of the first grantees of land in Sutherland Shire, and the founder of the Holt-Sutherland Estate. The new memorial at South Cronulla was erected also at his own expense by Mr. Frank Cridland, C.B.E., an old resident of Sutherland Shire, on a foundation provided by the Shire Council. At his request no mention has been made of this very creditable act, and no unveiling or any ceremony has taken place. However, the "Propeller" has always maintained that "credit should be given where credit is due," consequently today is published a photograph of the obelisk so that the public shall know of a worthy act performed by a worthy citizen for the benefit of posterity. [A public unveiling should be held on the anniversary date of the discovery at the end of this month.—Ed.] On the new obelisk the following lettering appears:—

"Memorial to Matthew Flinders, George Bass, and the boy Martin, who sailed past this headland in Tom Thumb II. on March 30, 1795, and discovered and named Port Hacking."

At the base of the obelisk in small lettering appears the words:—"Erected by Frank Cridland, C.B.E. (R.A.H.S.), A.D. 1949."

After Governor Phillip had established himself in Sydney Cove he set out to survey the country surrounding Port Jackson, but it was not until the arrival of his successor, Governor Hunter, in 1795, with Bass and Flinders, that an attempt was made to explore the foreshores and land south of Botany Bay. Nothing was known of Port Hacking. Cook himself had named most of the prominent bays and headlands of the eastern coast of Australia, but he failed to see the entrance to Port Hacking. The arrival of Bass and Flinders marked the beginning of an epoch of great discoveries along the seaboard, and the coastline south of Sydney received much attention. Bass, who arrived in Australia as surgeon of H.M.S. Reliance, brought with him a small boat, eight feet long with a five feet beam, which he had named Tom Thumb. On the

coast. Soon after their arrival the Tom Thumb was launched. In company with a boy named Martin they sailed round from Sydney into Botany Bay, and traced George's River further up its course than had previously been charted. As a result of their report to Governor Hunter the area now known as Bankstown was founded. This trip had nothing to do with the Port Hacking area, except that from their little craft they surveyed its northern boundaries from Cape Solander to the junction of what are now known as the George's and Woronora Rivers near Como. Bass and Flinders then went to Norfolk Island, but on their return some months afterwards they

natural harbour, now known as Wottamolla, or pronounced by the aborigines as Watta-Mowlee. They named this refuge Providential Cove. After staying there the night they left and found their goal. They sailed into Port Hacking on March 30, 1795. They named it after a pilot named Henry Hacking, who was the first to suggest its existence, he having heard of it from blacks who lived in the area. To the blacks the port was known as Deeban.

voyage from England he became very friendly with a midshipman in the same vessel named Matthew Flinders. They decided to explore and chart the unknown coast. Soon after their arrival the Tom Thumb was

again paid attention to the coast south of Botany Bay. However, they did not use the same boat; they had another built in Sydney of about the same dimensions, which they called Tom Thumb II. After an adventurous voyage — sometimes being blown out to sea—of about five or six days from Sydney, they found themselves in a small cliff-faced natural harbour, now known

