

**Presentation of Catherine Bouffier (1857-1840) photo  
at  
2 Catherines Café, Scotland Island, NSW**

**Vivianne Byrnes' talk**

**14 March 2021**

It is a pleasure to be here today at the Scotland Island Community Hall. I know that this much-loved building was opened in 1982 because my mother, Elvina Holmes (nee Fitzpatrick), attended the opening as a special guest. My mother had a special interest in Scotland Island because her parents (my grandparents), Herbert and Florence, owned the entire island.

My grandfather, Herbert Fitzpatrick was a builder and developer involved with land around Church point, Newport, Scotland Island and Avalon. He was a keen yachtsman who was a foundation member of the Royal Motor Yacht Club and Commodore. He instigated a famous race called the Scotland island cup and he owned a very famous boat called the Bona. There are still some old yachting trophies in the family. I'm very proud of my grandmother Florence Fitzpatrick who was one of the first lady members of the club, one of the first lady committee members and actually won some female sailing races such as the 1928 Ladies handicap race on a boat, aptly named 'Elvina'.

The story goes that Herbert and Florence honeymooned on the island and named the parks and tracks after members of the family. My grandfather wanted to subdivide the island and sell the waterfront blocks. He also named Elvina Bay after Florence's aunt, Katherine Elvina Bouffier, who had been instrumental in them meeting. Unfortunately, Herbert fell into bad health and died in 1938 at age 48. After his death, the island was sold and my grandmother moved from Manly to Lewisham.

So how was Catherine Park named? Herbert named Elizabeth Park after his mother, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (nee Finneran) and Florence named this park after her mother, Catherine Bouffier (nee Gattenhof). Catherine Gattenhof was born in 1857 along the Rhine River area in Germany. Her family migrated to Australia in 1855, because there was a lot of unrest in Germany. When she was aged 21, Catherine married another German, Frank Bouffier. The Bouffiers had a similar history to the Gattenhofs in that they also originated from the Rhine River in Nassau and had immigrated in the mid-1850s. Frank's parents were vigneron and they were pioneers of the Hunter Valley wine industry. Their winery, the Bouffier Brothers Vineyard (*Marcobrunner*), won a lot of medals and trophies.

Catherine Bouffier, after whom this café is partly named, was a strong German Catholic woman who bore six children between 1881-1890, with two children dying in childhood. Catherine and Frank were very involved in the early NSW wine business and promoted it overseas. They owned a wine shop in Oxford St., Paddington. Catherine was also a wine judge at the Royal Easter Show. When Her husband Frank died, he left the winery and the two shops to Catherine in 1898. It was unusual for a woman to run a business but she kept the wine shop operating for a few years. She was also involved in charitable work, such as raising money for the Waitara orphanage by organising a Ball at the Sydney Town Hall. Catherine died in 1940 aged 83 and is buried at Randwick cemetery.

On behalf of my family, I'd like to thank you for naming your new café 'Two Catherine's', one of which was Catherine Bouffier. Thanks to Robyn also for organising the two family photos which I am proud to give you. The first photo shows Catherine, Frank and three of their children: Katie Elvina (standing), 7 years, known as Elvina; Stephen Vivien (standing), 5 years, known as Vivien, and Hilda Mary (sitting), 3 years old. (Note: Their fourth daughter, Agnes Florence (known as Florence), was born in 1890.)



**Catherine and Frank Bouffier, 1887**

(photo supplied by Vivianne Byrnes)

**Catherine Bouffier, wearing a 'grape motif' lace, 1897**  
(photo supplied by Vivianne Byrnes)



I wish your café all the very best and hope it will be a success for your community!!

Vivianne Byrnes, Wentworth Falls, NSW  
10 March, 2021