

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Newsletter

June 2024

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION

Television was introduced into Australia in September 1956. Since then it has had a major impact on the lifestyles of all Australians. This introduction was controlled largely by government policy and derived from the findings of a Royal Commission on Television.

The Royal Commission (1953–1954) was established to report on matters such as the number of national commercial television stations which could be effectively established and operated and the standards to be observed in programs to ensure the best use of television broadcasting in the public interest.

On September 16, 1956 Bruce Gyngell was the man who spoke those first warm and welcoming words on TCN 9 in Sydney "Welcome to television". At 7pm, he appeared for the very first time, even credited as the "First Host" on the screen. He wore a suit and a bowtie, and viewers in Sydney and Melbourne were warmly ushered into a new age of modern information and entertainment.

Australians had been shown the possibilities of wireless images beamed into their homes at a number of demonstrations over the previous two decades.

Experimental transmissions were happening in Brisbane back in 1934, and others around the nation were able to see local demonstrations of television in town halls throughout the country in the 1940s.

Demonstrations aside however, come September of 1956 not everyone was able

to see Mr Gyngell welcome them into the future.

At the time, a television cost hundreds of pounds – back when Australia paid in pounds, of course. By the 1960s, you could still expect to pay the equivalent of \$6000 for a 23-inch black and white set for your home. While some TVs still cost that today, you can expect to get a whole lot more for your money.

So, instead of watching from home, many gathered outside store windows to watch the future come to pass. Hundreds congregated under a sign outside the famous windows of Myer in Melbourne Emporium which heralded the arrival of

television. This was also happening here in Wollondilly where locals gathered outside their local electrical store in the evening to glimpse television broadcasts.

Kevin Wintle recalls "Here at The Oaks we would cross the paddock to Bill Presnells (known locally as Blinky Bill) shop and watch television through the shop front window opposite the school. Coal trucks would be thundering past and hearing was difficult"

Bruce Brown also remembers "Early years of TV at The Oaks....Bill Presnell's Electrical shop had the first TV. At 5.30pm closing time he would set up about 4 rows of bench seat timber planks on 4 gallon drums on the footpath for the locals to watch the marvels of TV, then at 11pm when broadcasting ceased he would pack up the bench seats"

Continued page 5 & 6....

CLIFTON BROS.

RING TODAY 239 announce unbeatable terms **RING TODAY 239**

for **Kelvinator Television**

PUT YOURSELF IN THIS PICTURE. Here is a typical Australian scene with Kelvinator Television. Children sitting in rapt attention watching their favourite serial. Later there are big feature programs for older members of the family to enjoy.

- ★ Perfect cabinetry for the discerning—hand polished to perfection.
- ★ Special Kelvinator Filter Glass Safety Screen.
- ★ Electronic Picture Control laughs at passing aircraft and cars—eliminates flutter and fade.
- ★ Simplified tuning and focusing—so simple even a child can operate it!
- ★ Hi-Fidelity sound through two special synchronised speakers.
- ★ Special focusing arrangement eliminates lines—produces rock steady picture just like a photograph.
- ★ Remote Control (an optional extra).

KELVINATOR 21-inch CONSOLE with swivel base in Walnut veneer, Rosewood or Maple finish. 245 gns.

KELVINATOR 21-inch Table Model complete with legs in Walnut, Rosewood or Maple finish. 207 gns.

KELVINATOR 21-inch Lowboy Receiver. Walnut veneer, Rosewood or Maple finish. 239 gns.

You can have Kelvinator TV in your home tonight
CALL OR RING NOW
Choose from 7 new models

CLIFTON BROS.



President's Report

Trish Hill

Our AGM last month saw no changes to our committee, congratulations everyone and look forward to another successful year. Thanks to all of our members who have renewed their membership and just a reminder to those wanting to renew, the details can be found on the back page. Thanks again to our Patron Judy Hannan for coming along on what was a busy evening for her.

I was pleased to be able to join Julie and John Wrigley for morning tea recently where they told me of their move to their city apartment. They will be still doing their roster duty at Camden Museum and I wish them all the best for the future.

The Coal/Truckies Reunion last month was a

successful event with good weather and attendance .

Thanks Kevin and John for organising the transfer of the Pulpit from St Marks at Picton to the Museum (pictured), great job fellas!

Our first Back Then bus tour for 2024 to Western Sydney Airport was a huge success and we were inundated with bookings. We have booked a second one for September 25th and have a short list already so urge anyone interested to contact me to confirm a booking and the details are on our back page.

To Brian McVey from all of us here at the Museum we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery ■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Picton & Wilton Anglican Churches have donated the Pulpit from St Marks Anglican Church at Picton this month. This is believed to be around 160 years old and made of timber. Having been retired from use for some time it has been moved on because the policy these days is that the minister is at the same level as the congregation. It has been installed in the Federation building in the religious exhibition. Thanks to Kevin and John Mainwaring who did the hard yards picking it up and installing it. It will be roped off to discourage people climbing on it.

From Christine Parkin comes a sewing book that belonged to her mother, Lillian Ashton, and was done while she was at Thirlmere Public School in 1941 and won 2nd prize. Included is a baby's bib and an apron done by Lillian in 1939 and 1940. Also from Christine comes some pony club competency certificates that were awarded to Colin Parkin in the early 60's and a number of show ribbons.

From Phil Hughes comes a portable TV/clock/radio, that has a screen that is about 100mm in size. A bit different to the TV's we have today. Thanks to everyone for their donations ■



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

This newsletter finds the Schoolies in the middle of a busy few weeks. Robert Townson School had booked for 65 pupils for each of 2 weeks, which is above our maximum of 60 pupils. So there was scrambling to find enough chairs for the pupils and their accompanying adults, let alone a few for our volunteers! Fortunately, the eventual numbers were closer to 60. Then this week we are taking 2 buses on the one day as Moss Vale School visits the Thirlmere Steam Museum and us. We are starting an hour earlier and finishing later so it will be quite taxing. Our wonderful group of volunteers always seem to find a way though.

Coming to the Heritage Centre children are well prepared that things will be old, so it wasn't surprising when a child asked how come there was a TV in the seating area. A volunteer also heard 2 others discussing the toilets, with the comment that they couldn't believe how beautiful and clean

our toilets were when everything was from the olden days! They would have got a surprise when they got to the "dunny"!

From the cottage come some other interesting observations. A child, when asked what the mosquito net was, replied it was a veil for a Queen and I can absolutely see that!

The old 'Mortein' pump spray was thought to be a pump to blow up balloons, which was pretty creative. The pot by the bed, always a source of interest, has been described as an alarm clock (not sure about that one), a bowl to drink from and a rice cooker! One child was very concerned about having to empty it and asked could you wear gloves. Symptomatic of the times, several children knew that leather comes from cows, because apparently you must kill the cow to get the leather in Minecraft. It is always interesting to reflect on children's observations ■



Family History & Local Archive Report

Sue Davis

Autograph books can be a wonderful source of information from the past. Often given to a family member by a precious parent, aunt, uncle, godparent. They are used less today with social media but in the past, they contained entries that may have been witty, inspirational, or emotional. Some may have some clever drawings or signatures of famous people. I have autograph books back to my great grandmother's time and find them fascinating and often wonder of the stories behind them.

When organising our archives we often find treasures! Recently Tony Jackson found a copy of an autograph book in the Liz Vincent Collection that may have entries of names of the past that some readers may know. The copies are too scratchy to copy here so I have typed some of the entries for your enjoyment. The book belonged to Maude Hilder of Maldon. Her first entry is her own and is dated 24.3.13 (that is 1913 for young folk!) Some entries are even earlier!

Does anyone have some family history about Maude Hilder or her friends? Autograph books can sometimes give some good leads to family history stories.

Do you have an old or current autograph book?

In this book so pure and white
Let none but friends presume to write
And may each line in friendship given
Direct the readers thoughts to heaven

M. Hilder
24.3.13

Take this gift of true affection
Keep it and remember me
It will bring to recollection
One who always thinks of thee.

Emily Eagles
Mt Kembla
26/12/1911

Maud is your name
Single is your station
Happy is the man
That will make the alteration

A.E Baxter
26=2=1912

The day is done and the darkness
"Spreads on the wings of nights"
As a feather is wafted downwards
From an eagle in his flights.

Reta Nash
31-12-11

I am a plain-spoken young man
And have little to say for myself (cheeky)

William Baxter
3/1/12

Remember me dear Maud
When on these lines you look
Remember it was Elsie
Who wrote this in your book

Elsie Starr
Menangle
25-2-12

An autograph book, also known as an autograph album, a memory album or friendship album is a book for collecting the autographs of others. Traditionally they were exchanged among friends, colleagues, and classmates to fill with poems, drawings, personal messages, small pieces of verse, and other mementos. Their modern derivations include yearbooks, friendship books, and guest books. They were popular among university students from the 15th century until the mid-19th century, after which their popularity began to wane as they were gradually replaced by yearbooks. Recently, researchers have come to see the historical value of these books in assessing the biographical data of those who composed them and the cultural backdrop in which they wrote. The autograph books of Ludwig van Beethoven and Babette Koch are among the most famous ■

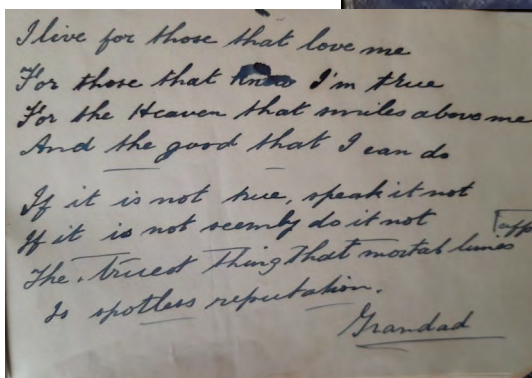


Above an image of 1888 Autograph Book

Happy researching!
Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History



Above & left
An autograph book from our collection donated by Jeanette Ferguson Pilt and a lovely page from within contributed by Grandad.





Marketing Officer

Vicki Madeley

Introducing—The Collectors Series.

Commencing this month we are developing a new exhibition which will be located in the front foyer called “The Collectors Series”

Are you a collector? Do you have a collection of something that means a lot to you?

What is a Collector?.....A Collector is someone who collects certain things for a job or as a hobby.

We'd like to hear from you if you have an interesting collection that would suit the Historical themes of The Heritage Centre. We would like in the future to display a small part of your collection with some information and a spotlight of your journey as the collector! If you would like to be involved, then please send an email outlining what you collect and a brief description of it with some of the History of the pieces and why you started collecting it. No more than a paragraph please. We will contact you and discuss with you if it will be a suitable collection for exhibition at the Heritage Centre and a timeframe for when it could be on exhibition. It may be next year. Email to tohs1988@bigpond.net.au and put in the subject *Attention*

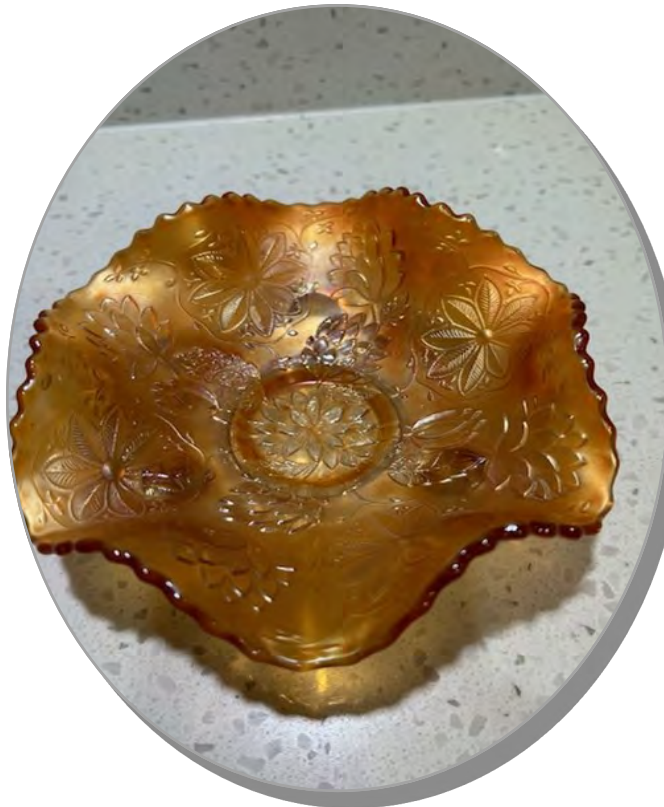
Vicki: The Collection Series.

To Launch our first **Collection** we will be displaying a collection of **Marigold Carnival Glass** by Maureen Whyte. Maureen started collecting many years ago and just liked the Marigold colour range of glass ware. I bet your Nana or Aunty has a piece in a China cabinet. It was a very common form of glass-ware and was made all over the world. It was seen as a cheaper version of Tiffany glassware and was often given out

as prizes at carnivals or was even mail ordered by housewives who wanted to brighten up their homes. The range that is Uniquely Australian carnival glass has Australian motifs such as the Kangaroo, Emu, Swan, Kingfisher, Magpie and Kookaburra imprinted in it surrounded by native gum leaves or wattle. Made by Australian Crystal Glass Ltd from 1920's through till 1930's.

Come and find out more and enjoy a loved collection that will be on display for a limited time only (8-12 weeks) until we find the next collector ■

Pictured is a piece of Carnival Glass from Maureen's collection.



IMAGES FROM OUR BACK THEN BUS TOUR TO WESTERN SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY 29TH

Western Sydney International Airport is named after one of Australia's greatest aviators, Nancy-Bird Walton. Opening in 2026, it will be able to service ten million passengers annually with international and domestic services under one roof. It will have Metro connection from day one and built to grow significantly to meet the needs of travellers. Included is a large scale business park and purpose built freight facility and will create thousands of job opportunities.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION continued....

For the first few years, the only available method for capturing TV programs was the kinescope process, in which a fixed movie camera filmed broadcasts screened on a specially adjusted TV monitor. Similarly, the playback of pre-recorded programs to air was only possible at this stage through the telecine process, in which films or kinescoped TV recordings were played back on a movie screen which was monitored by a TV camera.

Because of these limitations, it was relatively difficult and expensive to record and distribute local programming, so the majority of locally produced content was broadcast live-to-air. Very little local programming from these first few years of Australian TV broadcasting was recorded and in the intervening years the majority of that material has since been lost or destroyed.

As the price of televisions slowly fell and more sets landed in homes, Aussies were enjoying the collective experience of content. Sports matches were enjoyed together set against the backdrop of the Aussie barbecue and serialised shows became popular. We came together to experience defining moments in our history. Our recreation had largely been self generated but television added a new dimension and the next decade saw Australian television go through an incredible golden age. Australia's TV legends were minted in this time, and many of them are still with us today.

Graham Kennedy, Bert Newton and more came to delight Aussies in their homes every night. Their class popularised television formats we still enjoy today, from quiz shows to talk shows and everything in-between.

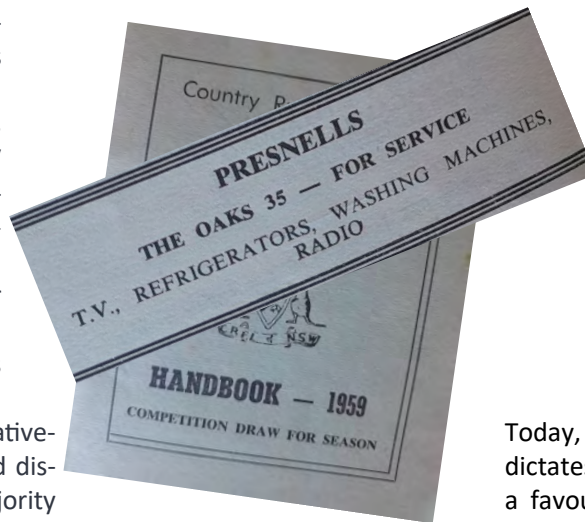
Sport and sport analysis came to our screens thanks to *World of Sport* and AFL games were televised for the very first time.

The 1960s saw the continued growth of television in Australia, particularly into regional areas. The first regional TV services began in Victoria in 1961 with the first being Gippsland's GLV-10 followed by Shepparton's GMV-6 and Bendigo's BCV-8. NBN-3 in Newcastle was the first regional service in New South Wales commencing broadcast in 1962.

While the first television services were being established in regional areas, larger cities including regional areas, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth began to receive their second and, in the mid-1960s, third stations. Over time these stations merged and became the national metropolitan networks Seven and Nine that we know today.

In 1964, a third licence was granted in major cities, which became Channel 0 in Melbourne and Channel 10 in Sydney. These were followed by other capitals and regional cities over the next few years and by the late Sixties these stations joined forces to create Australia's third commercial network now called Network 10.

The power of television was truly demonstrated in 1969



when man first set foot on the Moon. NASA struck a deal with Australia to help broadcast from the Moon, live through Australian equipment, including the Honey-suckle Creek Tracking Station just outside Canberra and the Parkes Radio Telescope in regional New South Wales, as well as the control facility in Sydney owned by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission.

Today, the idea of "channels" no longer dictates viewing habits. Everyone has a favourite streaming service and everyone has their own show. Australians are

now untethered from their lounge rooms, with the ability to watch content on the bus, the beach, in fact anywhere at all . Continued overpage

These images are from our archive collection.

*Front page image is from The Camden News 20th November 1958

*The 1959 Rugby League Handbook included Presnell's advertising along with many other businesses.

**Television in Picton* from The Picton Post Wed April 24, 1957

Information sources National Archives of Aust, Telstra & National Film & Sound Archives.

W. S. (Bill) HUGHES for
TELEVISION IN PICTON

AFTER EXHAUSTIVE TESTS AND EXPERIMENTS WITH VARIOUS DESIGNS OF ANTENNA I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
VERY SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION IN MOST AREAS OF PICTON.
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF MOST MAKES OF TELEVISION SETS
PLUS 100 PER CENT. AFTER SALES SERVICE DEPOSIT £23/10/-

FOR FULL DETAILS AND ADVICE RING THIRLMERE 84 OR PICTON 119

**Pye-Tecnico
Television**

THINKING ABOUT T.V. ?

Call, Write, or Phone, for a
FREE BROCHURE on various
Aspects of Television Reception
and Transmission

Handley's have a complete
Television Sales, Installation and
Service organisation with fully-
qualified Australian and Over-
seas Technicians.

SEE all the leading Brands of
Receivers



Superb Tone, Brilliant
Picture, Beautiful Cabinet
17in. Screen

**Table Model, Cash—
£217/7/-**

Or, by Easy Weekly Payments
of 45/-

ES EXPERT AFTER-SALE SERVICE

Above an extract from Trove/The Nepean Times 15th Nov .1956.

DONOHOE FAMILY REUNION by Steve Devitt

A Donohoe Family reunion was recently held in Oakey, Queensland over the week-end of 4th and 5th of May 2024.

Thomas and Jane Donohoe arrived at The Oaks in 1854 after being married in Melbourne and they eventually settled on the Hardwick estate, where they had 13 children.

Their 5th son, William Denis Donohoe, married Mary Margaret Kenniff at St. Aloysius Church on 4th November 1903. In January 1906, William formed a partnership with Mr. E. P. (Percy) Moore and they decided to move north to Queensland with their young families to start a new life on the land of the Darling Downs.

They were given a fond farewell by the residents of The Oaks and were presented with elaborate testimonial plaques.

They purchased adjoining lots of land at Mt. Darry, which is about 60 kms north of Toowoomba. The property was named "Glenmore" after the Moore property between Mt. Hunter and The Oaks. The Donohoe family still run the Glenmore property, with William's grandson, Mick, and great - grandson Gerry living there.

The Moore family left the area around the 1920's. In 2006 the family erected a memorial plaque on the Glenmore property to mark the 100th anniversary of William and Mary's arrival from The Oaks.

There were about 80 people at the reunion, with many travelling long distances. The Oaks was represented by Mick Haynes, his sisters Angela and Kathryn and his daughter Michelle. The Haynes family are descendants of Joseph Donohoe, a brother of William.

My connection with the Donohoe family goes back to Ireland where my great-great grandfather, James Devitt, married Alice Donohoe in c.1830. Alice was an older sister of Thomas Donohoe and aunt of William ■

Cecilia Donohoe, Mick Donohoe and Frank Donohoe →



← Memorial Plaque – Mt. Darry

"Glenmore" – Mt. Darry, Queensland



A BRIEF HISTORY OF TELEVISION CONCLUSION - 'IS YOUR TV SET LICENSED' ?

Though radio licencing was instituted in the 1920's with the commencement of official transmission of television came the need to also obtain a viewer licence. From 1 January 1957, TV viewers were required to pay 5 pounds for their viewing pleasure and an additional 2 pounds 15 shillings for radio. Non-payment was a punishable offence with fines of up to 50 pounds.

The Postmaster-General placed ads in local newspapers warning that house-to-house inspections were imminent, as seen in this advertisement for inspections in western Sydney. To avoid fines people took to hiding their TV antennas in chimneys and roofs and TV sets were even hidden in cupboards.

The Postmaster-General also ran advertisements reminding people to purchase radio and TV licences.

This 1969 ad focuses on the promise of passion for those renewing their licences: *Cumberland Argus* newspaper advertisement, 1 October 1956, p 3 →

Broadcast /listeners licence 1959-60 →

Television Licences Wireless Licences

P.M.G. Licence Inspectors are now carrying out a house-to-house inspection for unlicensed TELEVISION and WIRELESS receivers in the Lidcombe, Auburn, South Granville, Granville, Harris Park and Parramatta areas. Licences may be obtained or renewed at any Post Office now.

IT IS COMPULSORY TO HAVE A LICENCE BEFORE OPERATING A TV OR WIRELESS RECEIVER.

THE INSPECTOR MAY CALL AT ANY TIME.

DON'T RISK PROSECUTION

No. 498614

ORIGINAL BROADCAST LISTENER'S LICENCE

IN PURSUANCE of section 129 of the Broadcasting and Television Act, 1963-1964, and subject to the provisions of that Act and the Regulations for the time being in force thereunder, a licence is hereby granted to the person specified in the schedule to this licence in respect of the address specified in this schedule for the period ending on the date specified in that schedule.

Issued on behalf of the Postmaster-General:

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]* Inspector General

Time of Issue: *[Stamp]* DATE: *[Stamp]*

(SEE REVERSE SIDE)

IMPORTANT

This licence applies to every broadcast receiver which is—

- in the possession of the holder of the licence or of a member of his family, at the address specified in the licence;
- in the possession of that holder, or of a member of his family, being a receiver which is ordinarily kept at that address; or
- installed in a vehicle which is ordinarily in the possession of that holder, or of a member of his family and which is ordinarily kept at that address while not in use.

Licence Numbers are not inserted in initial licences but are added to licence holders in renewal notices.

Any Change of Address must be notified within fourteen days of such change to the Accountant, Accounts Branch, General Post Office, Melbourne (Telephone: 95111).


Licences are not transferable from one person to another, and must be produced on demand to an authorised officer.

Penalty for contravention of Act or Regulations—**not exceeding £55, or imprisonment for six months.**

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
JUNE	
Kaye & Jim	Saturday, 1
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 2
Vivian & Bob	Saturday, 8
Debbie & Allen	Sunday, 9
Pam & Margaret	Monday, 10
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 15
Bev & David	Sunday, 16
Trish & Vicki	Saturday, 22
Marlane/Cheryl/Kate	Sunday, 23
Working Bee	Saturday, 29
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 30
SUPPER	ROSTER
June	Margaret
July	Bev & Colleen





General Meeting

Monday, June 3rd 2024 at 7pm
Meeting followed by supper/ All welcome

Guest Speaker is Andy Macqueen –Author of ‘The Frenchman’ -Francis Barrallier– Life & Journeys 1773-1853

Locally Owned

The District
Reporter

Independent

Est. 1997

02 4655 1234

Back then... *Live Tour*

BOOK NOW - Seats limited

The District Reporter in conjunction with The Oaks Historical Society are offering a living history experience from Back Then.
Hop on a coach and learn how the past shaped the present.

It all happens on Wednesday September 25th
For \$40 visitors will be taken on a coach tour from Camden

(beside Camden Sports Club) departing 9.00am and The Wollondilly Heritage Centre The Oaks at 9.20am) for a guided tour within Wollondilly and of the new Western Sydney International Airport. The Back Then tours offer readers an opportunity to see sites that have been written about in the well-read historical page. Some of the sites have changed over the decades, while others are still recognisable. It's a great day out for history buffs or anyone interested in learning about this vast area we call home. The cost includes morning tea and a short presentation at the museum before heading off – a light lunch will also be provided before returning to The Oaks and Camden at 3pm. Money raised assists The Wollondilly Heritage Centre – which is run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

To find out more and to confirm your booking call Trish on 0432 689 034.
Payments can be made to: **The Oaks Historical Society Incorporated**
Reference payment: **Back Then Tour and your surname**
BSB: **062 516** Account number: **00 90 40 93.**



REMINDER


Membership Fees 2024/2025 are due

Single- \$10.00 / Family -\$18.00
Newsletter postage is an additional \$16.50 / Emailed newsletters are free.

Our Bank details below are for direct credit & please use your surname for the transaction reference.

Account Name: The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
BSB: **062516** Account # **00904093**

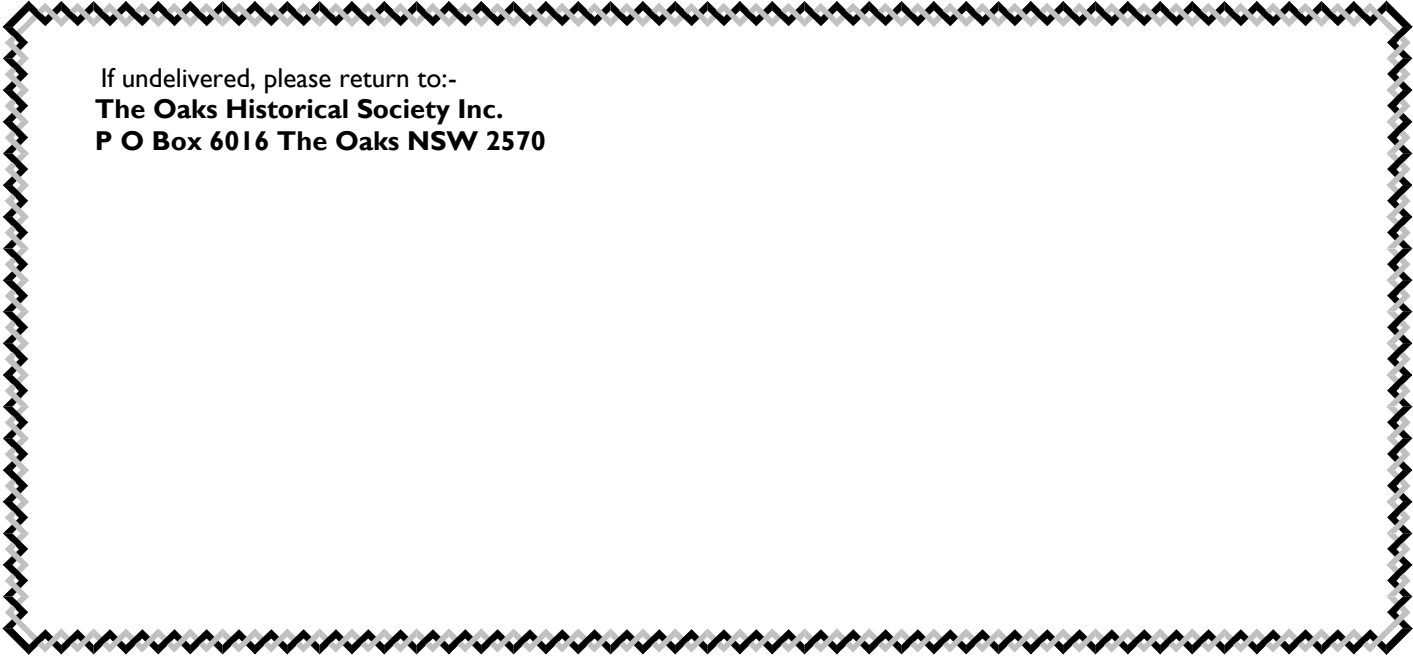
A History of Camden
Chinese
Market Gardeners
1899-1993



Edited by Ian Willis and Julie Wrigley

A new addition to our reference library is the publication ‘A History of Camden Chinese Market Gardeners 1899-1993’. The Chinese were upstanding citizens who contributed to local society and the economy, and their story adds a rich layer to the small country town of Camden, its sense of place and community identity. The importance of sharing these histories cannot be underestimated for their enduring influence on the nation’s narrative. Whether indigenous, colonial, agricultural or migrant stories, all have a part to play in who we are. Edited by Ian Willis & Julie Wrigley, it is available from Camden Museum.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. The next meeting is our General Meeting June 3rd followed by our July 1st meeting. Our patron is Judith Hannan. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.



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