

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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## Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

December 2022

# VEOLIA MULWAREE TRUST SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

On Tuesday we were invited to attend the Veolia Mulwaree Trust Grant Presentation at Goulburn to receive funding for re-development of our BBQ area and new fencing. Veolia, in partnership with the Veolia Mulwaree Trust, are able to give back to the communities they operate in and the presentation involved each of the recipients giving a brief of their project, what the funds would do for their organisation and the broader community. The projects that were funded potentially have great benefits to organisations from a diverse area and will enable us all to better serve our volunteers and communities.

During the presentation, Veolia Mulwaree Trustees outlined some of the waste management processes undertaken by them at their Woodlawn precinct and as we all contribute to waste, we found the details interesting.

The Woodlawn Eco Precinct is Veolia's 6,000ha site located approximately 50km north of Canberra and comprises several facilities, including:

**Bioreactor landfill** - a municipal solid waste landfill in which liquids are added to help bacteria break down the waste, actively capturing and extracting gas to recover energy. To date, 8.5 million tonnes of waste have been safely processed

**BioEnergy plant** - recovering clean energy generated by the waste in the Bioreactor.

**Agriculture** - incorporating a working farm that applies nutrient and grazing rotation to help sustainably manage the site.

**Aquaculture and horticulture** - capturing waste heat from energy production and using it for sustainable fish farming and hydroponic horticulture. 3600 kg of fish are produced annually and sold to the Canberra restaurant market

**Mechanical and Biological Treatment** - (MBT) is designed to maximise the recovery of the organic waste by extracting organic content from the waste to produce compost for envi-

ronmental rehabilitation. Stage 1 of MBT facility is capable of processing up to 144,000 tonnes of waste per annum. This waste is transported by rail from Sydney to the Crisps Creek Intermodal facility and then transferred by road to the Woodlawn MBT facility. Based on waste audit data, it is expected that approximately 50-60% of the waste received will be diverted from landfill. After the organic material is recovered and converted into compost, remaining waste is delivered to the bioreactor for further energy recovery.

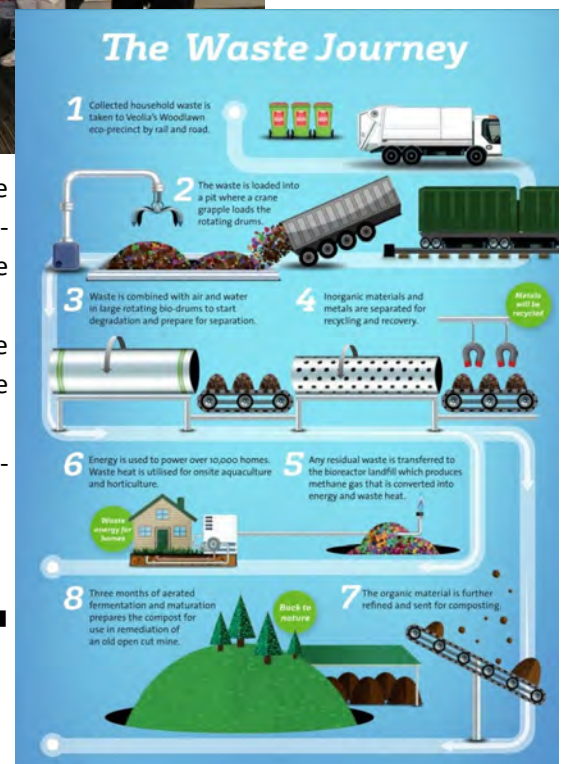
**A Wind Farm** - (operated by Infigen Energy) that harnesses 48.3 megawatts of clean energy per year.

**A Solar Farm** - utilising increased sun exposure from cleared land to produce 2.5 megawatts of clean energy per year.

Pictured centre - funding recipients at the presentation and below



the Waste Journey diagram. More information is available from the website Veolia Environmental Services Woodlawn NSW





# President's Report

Trish Hill

This past month has flown and now it is a count down to Christmas. We attended Marjo Hallowell's book launch 'Bargo-Two Hundred Years in the Making'. Congratulations Marjo, a great success. The last week of November has been a busy one as Margaret, Kevin and I attended a funding presentation by Veolia at Goulburn on Tuesday. The funding is for Re-development of our BBQ area and some new fencing, Thanks Veolia! We have also secured funding from



TRN, Tahmoor Coal and Hi-Quality and we are immensely grateful and thank them for their support.

Wednesday we hosted a Council Meeting at the Centre and in the evening attended the Wollondilly Tourism Association Christmas event at K Ranch. Next week we have our last meeting for 2022. Thank you everyone for your help and support throughout the year and have a Peaceful and Merry Christmas.

## Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

In keeping with the newsletter theme of *weddings*, here are some helpful hints about marriage records for our researchers...

The most recent marriage records available through NSW Births Deaths and Marriages are 50 years from the current day you look. If you are looking for a marriage date of 27 December, 1972 then you will need to wait for 27 December, 2022, to arrive! The certificate can be ordered on line for Family History purposes. Of course, if you want your own record before that date then you can make a special application. For the purpose of this article, we are just dealing with records for Family History. A marriage certificate can provide some very useful information such as: date of marriage; place of marriage; addresses; names of witnesses; occupations; age last birthday; names of parents, including maiden name of mothers and if still living at the time of their offspring's marriage. All useful clues to follow up on your research journey.

Older records may also contain time in colony; ship arrival; and if a convict, who gave permission for the marriage. Convicts, still under sentence, were not permitted to marry without the permission of the Governor. This was not always

granted, and the application was often made more than once. If granted, the record could state 'married with permission of the Governor'; a marriage record with this added is a sure indication that one party at least was a convict still serving their sentence.

Another interesting area to research is a date range according to an outfit worn by the bride in a photograph. White didn't become a popular option until 1840, after the marriage of Queen Victoria to Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, when Victoria wore a white gown trimmed with Honiton lace. Illustrations of the wedding were widely published, and many brides opted for white in accordance with the Queen's choice. Below are some differences in fashion with WWII figuring in the 1945 photo.

Enjoy catching up with family over the Christmas season and remember to ask them questions to help in your Family History journey!

*Happy researching! Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History* ■



Early 1800's



1840 (Queen Victoria)



1921



1945



## Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

The month of November has been very quiet, all we've had is a set of kitchen scales. Nothing happening at the moment as I have Covid, so everything is at a standstill. The other thing I've been working on are the Debutant Ball Albums. We have several albums of photos taken at

The Oaks Deb Balls and these are professional shots which were provided for ordering purposes, so no names, only numbers. I'm scanning them into our system and we may be able to identify the people eventually ■



## Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

Our Schools' Program finished on the 17<sup>th</sup> November with a leisurely lunch at The Oaks Hotel → after our final school visit. It has been a successful year with 25 weeks filled, meaning nearly 1000 pupils have been to the centre this year. Our regulars William Carey, The Oaks and Macarthur Anglican continue to come and we have two new schools, St Marks Coptic Orthodox from Wattle Grove and Kentlyn. Four weeks have been taken by home school groups. Many teachers have told us it was the children's first excursion because of COVID, even though they may be in Year 2.

The age range continues to vary with pupils from Kindergarten up to 18 years of age. Many of our volunteers now enjoy talking to the older pupils because they are receptive and interested.



I am delighted to report that we finished the year with a full team of 10 dedicated volunteers turning up every Thursday, with myself as first reserve. Of course, they take holidays and need time for appointments, grandchildren etc. Fortunately, we have 10 reserves, some of whom can cover any activity and others that have a special interest. This year we welcomed Adelina Austin to the permanent team and Bruce Brown must have had the most weeks as a reserve as he replaced John Mainwaring in the mine for many months.

Coming into 2023 we already have 6 weeks filled with schools who are keen to get an early date ■



### Jam Drops with a Christmas Twist

1 cup softened butter

1/2 cup castor sugar

2 cups plain flour

For a Christmas theme use either jam of your choice, red & green glace cherries, cranberries or smarties .

Preheat oven 180°. Cream Butter & sugar until light and fluffy. Fold in flour and spoon heaped dollops onto paper lined tray. Using the tip of a wooden spoon press a hole in the dough rounds and fill with your favourite decoration and bake for 15mins or until just golden.

If you are creative you may fashion heart shapes in the dough and fill with jam. These can be gifted in an airtight jar ■

# NEWS FROM THE OAKS IN 1953

Featured in The Camden News (Trove) Thursday 19th February 1953 on page 5

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The quality of the produce presented at the harvest festival at The Oaks last Sunday evening reflected the very favourable season being experienced and represented the best produce in the district. Rev. Ian Booth and Messrs. H. Le Goode and H. Hanger received a great welcome when they delivered the large load of fresh farm produce and other goods to the Church of England Children's Home at Burwood on Monday.

## BEREAVEMENT

It was with extreme regret that many friends of the Donohoe family heard of the sudden passing of Miss Frances Donohoe at Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney last Saturday. Miss Donohoe who had been ill for only a few days was the only daughter of Mrs H. Donohoe and the late Michael Donohoe and sister to Tom, Pat and Basil. A large number of relatives and friends attended the funeral at the Catholic Cemetery, The Oaks on Monday.

## LABOUR PARTY

The Oaks – Oakdale Branch of the A.L.P. will hold its annual meeting at The Oaks on Friday evening, 27<sup>th</sup> February. Members have been invited to bring as many interested visitors as possible.

## FREE MILK

Applications by both the Convent and Public School at The Oaks have been made to the Education Department for free milk for the school children.

## PERSONAL

Looking very well after a holiday in Queensland is Mrs Ern Wheeler. Mrs Wheeler and her friend Miss Ann Murphy of Penrith travelled by Pioneer Coach to Brisbane and stayed at Lenin's Hotel.

Alan Matthews very busy on his property at present killing snakes. Alan claims a record, his tally being nine to date.

Holidaying at The Oaks is Miss Mary Reilly of Maroubra who is staying with Mrs A. King and Mr and Mrs Mike Roberts.

Noticed making the trip to the polling booth on election day was Mr Frank Marsh who has been confined to his home by illness for several months.

## STATE ELECTION

Result of the poll at The Oaks booth last Saturday for Wollondilly State Electorate was:-

Hughes, A. (Labour) 114

Pelly, B. (Lib) 107

Informal 1

## CRICKET

Burraborang and The Oaks played a return match at The Oaks last Sunday. Burraborang commenced well and opening



batsman Cox played a sterling innings for 52. Jack Gaudry 13 and Ron Leary 26 also did well with the bat in the team's total of 129. The Oaks was given a good start by two young players Mark Wheeler and Bill Chambers who scored at a fast rate for a first wicket partnership of 90. The Oaks won with 2 wickets in hand. Mark Wheeler 56, W. Chambers 37 and Bill Thomson 11 being top scorers. Next Sunday club members are expected to roll up in force to entertain the team from Royal Standard Hotel, Sydney. The visitors are bringing their families by double decker bus for a picnic day and arrangements are completed to ensure they have a day to remember.

## BUS SERVICE

The Oaks P. and C. Association will protest to the Transport Department and send a deputation to the headmaster at Camden Public School in regard to the 4.30 p.m. bus from Camden. The bus time-table is considered to be extremely unsuitable as children journeying home have to wait 1 hour in Camden and at least an hour and a half at The Oaks for the bus. In winter months secondary school children

from Nattai leave and return home in the dark ■



Pictured -Burraborang Cricket Team c.mid 1930's and Higletts Bus picking up School Children in Camden.

So who would've thought? ..... We had an early version of today's Facebook 'Whats happening in The Oaks, Mount Hunter, Belimba Park ' etc in print and circulated throughout the district—Editor

# A Tribute to Ian Welsh-Member, Volunteer & Author

Recently we received the sad news of the passing of Ian Welsh, a long term volunteer of The Oaks Historical Society, rostered on duty on the weekend roster with Allen Seymour for many years. During that time Ian was researching information for the Valley of Wealth publica-

Ian Frederick Welsh was born to Betty Hilda Dench and Ian Hamilton Welsh at Royal North Shore hospital on 31.03.1943. The family had made their home in Nardoo Street Ingleburn. Ian attended Ingleburn Primary School until 1950 when the family moved to Mount Beauty in Victoria where Ian's father took up a position as a landscape gardener at Mount Bogong.

The family then moved to Bathurst in late 1951 where Ian Snr had accepted a position of Parks Curator with Bathurst City Council. The family moved into the Curators' cottage that is located in Machattie Park.

Ian attended Bathurst Boys' School which is located at the top end of George Street. Mount Panorama motor racing circuit (a public road) was the catalyst that inspired Ian's interest in motor racing and motor mechanics – most Sundays in the summer months, along with his sister and a life long friend, they would ride their pushbikes to the mountain. Walking up to McPhillamy Park they would take a rest before riding down the mountain and back home.

Ian Snr passed away in the Machattie Park cottage in early 1954. Betty (his mother) then purchased a house in Bedford Street Ingleburn and along with her two children, relocated in September 1954. Ian, again returned to Ingleburn Primary School.

In 1956 he was one of the students who attended the newly opened Campbelltown High School. On his fifteenth birthday he left school and took up a position of apprentice butcher with his uncle at the Glenfield Butchery.

His first car was an old beat up 1950 Morris LC3 van that had previously been used to deliver carcass meat to the families' three butcher shops.

After the finish of his apprenticeship in 1964 Ian and two friends took a twelve month working holiday in New Zealand. After his return, he accepted a number of butcher managing jobs with Coles and Woolworths.

tions that he released in 2005 & 2012. Ian later introduced the idea of our 'Truckies Reunion' to provide a get together for those involved in our local Coal Transport Industry, This was in an immensely successful event and continues at The Centre today as an annual event.

On 18.8.1969 he commenced driving a coal truck for Clutha Development

On 9.11.1974, Ian married Roslyn Paxton at Narellan and they made their home at Tahmoor. They had two daughters. Divorce followed in April 1990.

In the mid 1990's, as a hobby, and to satisfy his motoring cravings, Ian began importing Ford Mustang cars from the USA. He liked to repair, drive and then sell them and at one stage had seven classic cars in his collection

Ian enjoyed his driving job at Clutha and made many long-term friends.

He retired from this job on 1.4.2011 after serving an amazing 42 years, three months and two weeks in the same position.

It was one of Ian's life dreams to write a book. In 2005 he completed his first book

on the history of the coal mines in the Burratorang Valley. This book is called "Valley of Wealth - A Burratorang Story" and he went on to write the second book called "Valley of Wealth - A Brimstone Colliery Story"

He relocated from Thirlmere to Raymond Terrace On 22 January 2015 to enjoy his peaceful retirement and his five grandchildren.

Throughout Ian's life, he owned over 30 cars ■

Thanks to Ian's daughter, Martine for her assistance with the information for this tribute and we extend our sincere condolences to Ian's family.



# Wonderful Wedding Reports from Local Newspapers

This month we are continuing the coverage of weddings from our local newspapers. with every aspect described. This wedding event was reported in The Camden News (NSW: 1895-1954) Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 1936 page 7. The wedding was photographed by Roy Dowle and features in our Collection of Glass plate negatives that we had digitised.



material and kindly lent by Mrs S. Butchers. The bride carried a bouquet of cream stocks, lily of the valley and carnations. Miss Mary Ryder attended as bridesmaid wearing a frock of pink chiffon velvet and green tulle halo hat, she carried a bouquet of pink carnations and pink stocks. Mr Les Dunbar,

## DUNBAR—BUTCHERS

The Methodist Church Camden was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday July 25, when Mavis Lillian only daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Butchers of Brownlow Hill was married to Frederick Alton Dunbar, third son of Mr J. Dunbar and the late Mrs Dunbar of Narellan. The Reverend A.E. Putland was the officiating minister. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a classical gown



of ivory satin, her coronet of orange blossoms was worn with an embroidered tulle veil lined with pink of the same

the contracting parties are held by their large circle of friends and relatives ■

brother of the bridegroom was best man. During the signing of the register Mr Whiteman presided at the organ. Some fifty guests attended the reception which was held in the Town Hall. The bride's mother wearing a brown costume with a spray of crimson stocks received the guests. The bride left for the honeymoon wearing a natter blue ensemble with brown accessories and coat. The honeymoon is being spent at Orange. The presents were numerous and valuable as well as useful, showing the esteem in which both

## BY THE WOLLONDILLY poem written by George Armour (Camden) from Trove-The Camden News Thursday 20 December 1923, page 1

If all goes well I'll pitch my camp  
And once more boil the billy  
And spend my Christmas holidays  
Beside the Wollondilly  
I'll pack up all the stuff I need  
The load will be quite bulky  
With tucker, guns and fishing rods  
And camp ware in the sulky

The old Grey Queen will do the trip  
She's old but she is hearty  
And well I know that she enjoys  
A joyful camping party  
When once she strikes the Mountain  
Road  
It's then she likes to travel  
She likes to hear the loaded wheels  
Come grinding through the gravel

Three times a day on chaff and oats  
In camp she'll fill her belly  
And then three times she'll quench her  
thirst  
From out the Wollondilly  
And so like me the old Grey Queen  
Is fond of this old river  
Where oak trees croon a lullaby  
And slim reed sway and quiver

With me, young Charlie's coming too  
I know he has been wishing  
To spend a week at Christmas time  
Along that river fishing  
For many weeks I've been in bed  
Which nearly drove me silly  
And so I long to fish and shoot  
Along the Wollondilly

Beneath the oak trees green and cool  
We'll shelter from the weather  
And there with other mates of mine  
We'll pitch our camps together  
And is there any better scene  
Ah! none I can remember!  
That tents by lanterns all lit up  
At night time through the timber

Oh, there we'll rest and smoke and yarn  
While from the scented sally  
The sweet perfume from golden bloom  
Yes, there beside this stream I love  
This grand old Wollondilly  
We'll make our fires and cook our fish  
And once more swing the billy ■

# Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
DECEMBER/JANUARY	
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 3
<b>Viv &amp; Bob</b>	<b>Sunday, 4</b>
Pam & Margaret	Saturday, 10
<b>Marlane &amp; Cheryl</b>	<b>Sunday, 11</b>
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 17
<b>Trish &amp; Kevin</b>	<b>Sunday, 18</b>
<b>Reopening early -mid January</b>	<b>Volunteers to be determined</b>
Working Bee	Saturday, January 28th
MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER	
December	Bring a plate

## CREATIVE EDGE

### EXHIBITION

Presented by

Southern Table-lands Arts

Includes

Works by Doreen & Ben Lyon

Featuring

Eco printed silk scarves and runners as well as eco printed bird designs



STA PRESENTS...

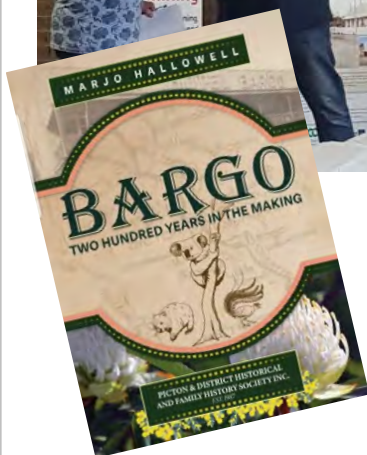
## "CREATIVE EDGE"



9TH - 12TH DECEMBER

OPEN DAILY 10 - 4PM

PICTON SHIRE HALL  
58 MENANGLE STREET



## This Month

Pictured is the launch of 'Bargo - Two hundred years in the making' by Marjo Hollowell and launched by Mayor Matt Gould at Bargo Sportsground Hall. The book has been so successful the first print was sold out and a second has just been released. Congratulations Marjo!



## Tahmoor Scrabble Club

An all ability group, this may be for you!

Meets Mondays 1-3.30pm.

All abilities welcome.

Wollondilly Health Centre

15 Harper Close Tahmoor

Contact Bev on 0409 913679 for details.

## A THANK YOU

I wanted to let you know how much we all enjoyed the excursion to Wollondilly Heritage Centre.

The volunteers go to so much trouble to make it an enjoyable and informative day and we really appreciated it. Thanks to you and please pass on our thanks to them all as well.

Many thanks for your patience in helping me sort out all the logistics also.

Kindest regards,

Susan

Home School Group



**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 Monday December 3rd followed by the next general meeting on February 6th 2023. 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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