

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

December 2023

WELBOURNE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

By Trish Hill

After a recent discussion on childhood memories I was keen to 'shed some light' on a cottage in Oxley Street Camden where my grandmother would visit friends, sometimes with me in tow. I discussed this further with friends and did some research with the following result.

The cottage was known as 'Welbourne' and located behind the Foresters Hall which is today the premises of Lifeline and the 'Welbourne' site, part of Councils carpark. It was a small simple cottage close to the street with a front fence, gate and a path up to the verandah and front door and the resident friends were Miss Keller and Percy Peters. It soon emerged the cottage had been 'Welbourne Private Hospital' run by Nurse Taplin. It had offered hospital care and was a birthing hospital for many local babies.

Details on its history are scant but it was offered for sale as part of the Estate of Dr West → in 1946. Dr West had operated out of 'Macaria' which of course is in John Street and behind the location of 'Welbourne'.

Over many years Miss Keller featured prominently as a volunteer organiser in many of the fund raising events held in Camden for a variety of organisations as did Nurse Taplin.

Percy was the son in the W.F. Peters & Son who were undertakers, monumental masons and timber merchants in Camden and was also Miss Keller's brother in law.

On 21st June 1925 Percy Peters and George Thorn were rescued from flood waters by Ted Taplin and Harold Lowe when, returning with the hearse from a funeral at Cobbitty they were caught in flood waters on the Cowpasture bridge. The horses were cut



AUCTION SALE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Under instructions from the PERMANENT TRUSTEE CO. of N.S.W. as Trustees, in the Estate of Dr. Francis William West (Dec'd). The undermentioned valuable property to be offered at Auction on the site

AT 3 P.M. ON

Saturday, 14th December, 1946.

IMPROVEMENTS include "Welbourne," an attractive eight roomed W.B. Cottage with roof of iron, situated handy to shopping centre and standing on spacious grounds, situate Oxley Street, Camden.

LAND. Frontage of about 67ft. with depth of about 132ft.

TITLE. Old System Freehold.

Annual rentals £71/10/-.

INSPECTION by appointment with the Auctioneer ONLY.

SOLICITORS. Messrs. R. A. C. Adams and Higgs, Camden.

NOTE. The above property is offered for sale subject to EXISTING Tenancies.

KEITH C. SMART,

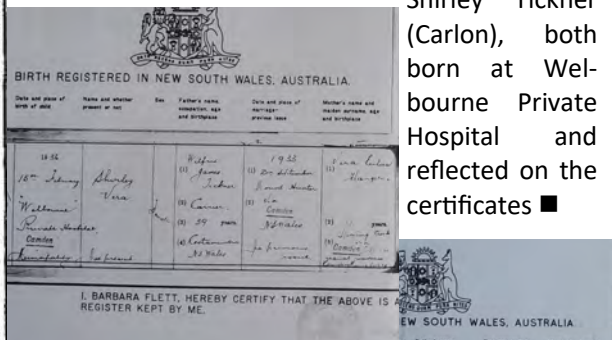
Licensed Auctioneer and Real Estate Agent,
178-180 ARGYLE ST., CAMDEN,
Tel.: 63.

free but perished after washing away and the hearse overturned eventually disappearing into the river.

From the records it appears that both Miss Keller and Percy passed away in the 1970's.

Pictured above is the Taplin Family at Welbourne c 1918/9. Front -William Snr & wife Nurse Taplin & granddaughter Nita with back- sons William(Toby) & wife Elsie, Ted & wife Vera, Trevor & Victor.

Below the birth certificates of Joe Carlon and Shirley Tickner (Carlon), both born at Welbourne Private Hospital and reflected on the certificates ■



Taplin photo supplied by Camden Historical Society
Certificates supplied by Shirley Carlon





President's Report

Trish Hill

The last month or so has been generally quieter however with November coming to an end it has seen us very busy. With 2023 coming to end I would like to extend my thanks to our amazing team of volunteers who are always ready to give freely of their time. It is only with this support that we have the success we do, thank you everyone.

Thanks to my 'team' of story writers/contributors to items and suggestions for the newsletter. This is invaluable to both me and our readers as we publish a diverse range of stories including little known local history items. Your support with this is very much appreciated.



One of those successes was our recent win of 'Best Community Garden' in Councils Garden Competition. A fantastic effort by our dedicated volunteers given we made the decision to enter at short notice. Congratulations team!

Our bottles and cans recycling effort has been rewarding again this year with a total of \$940 raised for in-house programs.

Our Schools Education Program has seen another successful year with bookings already secured for 2024.

Merry Christmas everyone and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year ■



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

It has been a record equalling year for the Schools' Program with 31 weeks filled. There are always a few weeks at the beginning and end of the year when schools do not want bookings, so this is an incredible result, especially with a last-minute cancellation of 2 weeks in July. We recorded 31 weeks in 2016 also.

We were delighted to welcome Oakdale School for the first time as well as other newcomers Wilton, St Pius Unanderra and Bundanoon. Our team has 11 regular volunteers who turn up every Thursday, which is a remarkable commitment. We have also used 8 reserves at various times. The average number of pupils each week is approximately 45 which means the program adds close to \$200 profit to the Centre's finances each week we are in operation. This, of course, is not the purpose of the program, but it is certainly a bonus. We are proud of our 'hands on' program which gives children

insight into our history and certainly the feedback we get from schools is very positive.

Our year has finished with the last of 5 weeks booked by Macquarie Fields as their numbers are so large and our limit is 60 per day. A visit recently by a home school group saw 51 children and some 20 parents enjoying the program. Bundanoon also brought 39 pupils from Kindergarten to Year 2 and they were impressed with the day.

One of our long-term members John Mainwaring is taking a break in 2024 to undertake some more of his adventures. John has been teaching children about mining for over 10 years and his knowledge and cheerful disposition will be missed ■

Happy Christmas everyone.

The 2023 Imagine Awards were held at the Art Gallery on Wednesday evening. Our Volunteer, Kevin Wintle was one of the nominees in the Volunteer Achievement Award category which was for an outstanding contribution of an individual demonstrating leader-



Senior from Miss Porters House for her role in the UNESCO Memory of the World Listing

There was a large crowd in attendance and on arrival we bumped into Joanna Nicholas from Museums & Galleries who was part of our Stand-



ship in a significant project. Kevin was nominated for his crucial role in the restoration of the Bennet Wagon and the development of the Blacksmith shop. The award for this category went to Annabel

ards Program last year.

Our Congratulations to the Winners, the highly commended and all of the nominees ■





Family History & Local Archive Report

Sue Davis

We have had a steady stream of researchers both online and in person. On Thursday there is a dedicated team who work in the *Jim Whyte Room* to better organise resources for easier access to researchers. In the last 6 months we have been very busy and I would like to give a special thanks to the team. In the Library we have Vivian doing an amazing job. In Local History Archives Pam, Judy, Sharon and Helen have been finding and cataloguing hundreds of articles. We have added a huge number of entries to our card catalogue. Geoff has started indexing our newspapers, a job that has been waiting a very long time. Tony has done a huge job in sifting through the Liz Vincent collection and getting it ready to type a data base to make this valuable resource easier for people to use in research. In Family History, Janet is working her way through files that have not previously been catalogued to make life easier in that area. Helen and I have been fielding the research requests and doing our best in not only using the resources of the Wollondilly Heritage Centre but also those further afield that can be accessed online. It has been a very rewarding semester.



As the year comes to an end and people have some family gatherings, I hope you will take time to ask questions and get new leads on family stories to enrich your family history journey. Here are

some points that might help your thinking if you are just getting started:

- ◇ Begin with yourself and work back one generation at a time.
- ◇ Look for certificates of birth, death or marriage; family bible; old photographs; medals; birthday books, address books; letters. Online searches. Remember to check TROVE.
- ◇ Don't throw out unopened boxes. You never know what treasures may be inside.
- ◇ Visit the local studies section of your local library.
- ◇ Visit your local museum.

Things to be aware of:

- ◇ Online family trees may not be accurate so confirm with formally records. Good researchers always list their source.
- ◇ If you are not convinced of family information given then thank the relative politely and check later with births, deaths and marriages records of your state. We don't need to upset people!

Happy researching_■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

When we arrived for the last meeting we found two leather rifle boots at the entrance along with the head of a scythe. If anyone knows anything about these please let us know. The rifle boots are the type that would be fitted on a horse to carry a rifle.

There have been a few items that belonged to Joe Carlon, namely a riding crop, a carpenter's plane that was used by his grandfather, a kettle and a pair of hames. Thanks to Shirley for



these items. Other donated items include a speedy snack maker, a 1960's portable record player and a 1994 Camden & Wollondilly Times newspaper.

So far this year we've had about 100 items added to the collection.

I've commenced updating the index cards. These provide a back-up to Mosaic but are very out of date, so it will be a long slow process ■

GLASS INSULATORS - FROM OUR PAST

Long before the modern era of computers, cell phones, smartphones, fibre-optic cables and the internet, long distance electric/electronic communication consisted primarily of the telegraph and telephone. The electric telegraph in the United States was developed by Samuel Morse in 1837, and the first message was sent by Morse in 1838. The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

As time went on, networks of "open wire" telegraph lines and later telephone lines were developed and built throughout the country and these lines required the installation of insulators. Insulators were necessary by serving as a medium for attaching the wires to the poles, but much more importantly, they were required to help prevent electric current loss during transmission. Insulators were originally designed to keep the wires linking telegraphs and telephones insulated from the wooden poles that held them aloft. Prior to 1925, Australia relied solely on insulators imported from other countries.

The glass material, is itself an insulator (not a 'conductor' or 'transformer' as insulators are often incorrectly labelled).

Glass insulators were first manufactured in Australia in c. 1926 by Australian Glass Manufacturers. Their factory was on South Dowling Road in Sydney. Australian Glass Manufacturers (A.G.M.) had developed a toughened type of glass very similar to Pyrex glass.

Since the Pyrex name could not be used due to trademark infringements, they called their glass AGEE for Australian Glass. Many fruit

jars, insulators, pie dishes and other glass items were manufactured with this

←AGEE trademark during the 1926 to 1940 period. A.G.M. stands for Australian Glass Manufacturers and C.C.G. for Crown Crystal Glass. The shades of green in this style were plentiful in Australia but most of the glass was taken down in the late 1960's and early 1970's

Around 1940, A.G.S. amalgamated with another Sydney glass manufacturer (C.C.G.) Crown Crystal Glass. C.C.G. assumed responsibility for glass insulator production at this time and, in some cases, used the same moulds previously used by A.G.M. All insulators produced during this 1940 - 1950 period are attributed to the C.C.G. plant in Sydney. Several smaller glass factories joined this A.G.M.-C.C.G. amalgamation during the 1940's with the resulting parent firm becoming known as Australian Consolidated Industries (A.C.I.). Certain items including insulators, con-

tinued to be produced under the old trade names, however. The A.G.M. division once again assumed responsibility for glass insulator production in 1951, this time at their Hobart, Tasmania glass factory. Insulators were manufactured at the Hobart plant from 1951 to 1964 and were embossed A.G.M. Glass insulators never rivalled the manufacture or use of porcelain ones in Australia though and glass insulator production ceased completely in 1964 due to decreased demand.

Pinholes in Australian glass insulators are the standard one inch size with the exception of the CD 490 (152.9) which is one and three-eighths inches. Australian insulators have more threads per inch than their North American counterparts and cannot be used properly with North American pegs.

Glass insulators rapidly became a thing of the past in Australia with the decline in use of open-wire communication lines and open wire lines being abandoned and dismantled everywhere very few insulators were saved as interest in them in Australia was quite limited. In Hobart, Tasmania, barge-loads of insulators were pulled out into the open Tasman Sea and dumped as the most expedient means of getting rid of them, although most have been discarded by dumping and back-filling at land fills. Australian glass insulators that have found their way to North America will undoubtedly become more desirable items as it becomes more and more difficult to acquire them, especially the rarer insulators.

Dating Australian Insulators
Some AGEE insulators and all C.C.G. and A.G.M. glass units are dated or have coded dates. AGEE units are known to exist with (19)30, 33, 37 and 38 dates. Some

C.C.G. and A.G.M. units are dated directly, i.e. (19)42, 49, 59 and 61, but most of these units have coded dates with double-dots (:) representing years. Under this system, 4::: becomes 1943, 5:::: is 1955 and, to show a few of the unusual ones, 61: is actually 1962, 58:: is 1960 and 4:::::::::: is 1950. The extension of these dots was simply an expedient means of up-dating moulds in use without having to make new ones.

Mould numbers will also be embossed on CD 154, CD 422 (124.6) and CD 490 (152.9) Type II AGEE insulators and on all C.C.G. and A.G.M. insulators. Mould numbers are always embossed on the front of insulators except for the CD 422 AGEE's which have the mould number on the back. Dates are embossed on the front for all dated AGEE units and on the back for all C.C.G. and A.G.M. insulators.

Pictured -top-recent donation by Shirley Carlon from Joe's Collection & Below-Editors own ■



ST SENAN'S CELEBRATORY MASS

Many years ago I'd heard there was a priest who shared the name of our Catholic Church at Yerranderie and was interested in visiting. The remoteness, the travel distance, conditions of the Colong Stock Route and the organisation involved to get Fr Senan Ward to Yerranderie was significant and after many years it all came to fruition on the 10th September this year.

The best laid plans often fall apart due to extreme poor weather but on this occasion everything went to plan, plans that began early this year with Fr Peter Jones OSA undertaking the organisation to get Fr Senan Ward to Yerranderie. Travelling in early Saturday morning and staying overnight in preparation for the Sunday Mass.

Those attending of some twenty plus included Mayor Matt Gould, Judy Hannan MP, Mark Bailey-NPWS representative, community members, residents and family of Val Lhuede.

Fr Senan Ward OSA was born in Dublin, Ireland in December, 1945. After completing High School at the Augustinian College in Dungarvan, County Waterford (St Augustine's College he entered the Augustinian Novitiate and professed religious vows on 16th September, 1964. Studies then followed in Ireland and Rome. Senan studied for a BA degree at University College, Dublin (1966-1969) followed by theological studies at the Gregorian University in Rome (1969-1972) obtaining a STB degree (Bachelor in Sacred Theology). Senan studied for a STL degree (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute Sant' Anslemo in Rome, 1972-1974. Ordained in March 1973, Fr Senan arrived in Australia in late 1974 and his ministry has taken place all that time – teaching and later chaplaincy at St Augustine's College Brookvale parish ministry (where he is ministering at present) and for many years Catholic AIDS ministry in Melbourne and Parramatta. Senan came to learn that the only church in Australia dedicated to Saint Senan is at Yerranderie and hence his desire to visit there and celebrate Mass in the church ■

Pictured top –Fr Senan Ward in Church/below scenes inside and outside

Photos by Kazan Brown Riley & Senans information Fr. Peter Jones



It was lovely to meet Fr Senan and Fr Peter. We travelled to town/Yerranderie on Saturday, stopping at a place that's rather special to me and I was able to share that Indigenous site with our group of travellers. We spent the night at 'Sam Meldrums Tailor Shop' and then attended Mass on Sunday. Mass hasn't been held at the Church since 2019. It was a bit of a bucket list thing for Fr Senan. Our Church is the only one in Australia dedicated to St Senan and Fr Senan has for many years wanted to hold Mass in the church of his namesake. He did in September in his 50th year since being ordained. I'm not really a church person however the Mass was lovely and very personal for Fr Senan. It was a unique experience and I feel honoured to have been a part of it. I'd like to thank Mark Bailey who cleaned the church and made us all feel so welcome and Matt Springall from NPWS also. To Matt Gould who transported Fr Senan and Fr Peter, Trish Hill for taking me, everyone who attended and the community groups involved. As was said at the service it really was a community effort to make the day possible!

Kazan Brown Riley



A PLAGUE OF ANTS

by Geoff Howe

Would he or would he not? John Perry, → the Minister for Public Instruction had a reputation for supporting rural schools. He had a personal stake in the country, representing Ballina and with farming and business interests in his district.

In any event, he agreed to meet the delegation from The Oaks in September, 1901, introduced by his Government colleague, John Kidd, the Scottish-born Minister for Mines and Member for Camden. The eight local worthies did not mince their words; they wanted a new public school building for the settlement – built as a matter of urgency.

The present arrangements – a building rented from the local Catholic Church for £52 a year – had provided valiant service in the past but after 25 years was well past its prime. With 70 children on the roll, the old building was completely inadequate for the needs of the district. It had reached the stage where it was injurious for the children's health. One of the delegation suggested their dairy stalls would have been condemned by the Board of Health if they had been in a similar condition. The slab hut was much decayed by white ants



while the many holes and cracks between the slabs made for cold and uncomfortable conditions – not conducive for proper schooling. In a nutshell, the local parents were up in arms.

In the past, the stumbling block for a new school had been finding a suitable site as well as the cost of the land. However, a corner block in the centre of the settlement was on offer from John E. Moore of "Ellensville", Glenmore, a member of the delegation. He was prepared to hand it over at cost price but only on the proviso a new public school

was built at once.

Perry (pictured) was a hard worker with little time to waste on niceties; he got straight to the point. Yes, the case presented to him by the delegation was a good one. He suggested the Department would save money as the interest would be less than the rent paid at present. He would order a report from his officials and have the matter dealt with. No doubt the delegation left with smiles on their faces; the Minister was known for his high sense of honour ■

100 YEARS OF ABC RADIO

The development of radio transmission has been significant in overcoming the challenges of populating this vast country. Although patented in 1895 by Guglielmo Marconi in 1897, his Wireless Telegraphy Company was not built until 1905 at Queenscliff in Victoria. A two way telegraphed conversation between the governor general and Prime Minister from Melbourne to Tasmania was achieved the following year. The Wireless telegraphy Act of 1905 made the Federal Government take sole responsibility of the new technology.

After several recommendations and differences of opinion, the Conservative government in 1927 chose not to nationalise the service as recommended but to outsource it to the National Broadcasting Service (NBS) to maintain the studios and transmitters and created the Australian Broadcast Company (ABC) to provide programs. The Scullin Labour Government turned this around in 1927 and nationalised the ABC to provide content and oversee the NBS. The leaders of the three major political parties made the first broadcast in 1932 – a remarkable experience for listeners to hear from Mr Scullin in Melbourne, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons in Canberra and Dr Earle

Page of the country Party in Sydney.

The ABC took its charter of providing radio services for all Australians very seriously. In each state capital it provided two radio services: one for popular programming, consisting of drama, quizzes, sport, variety and music; and another featuring classical music and drama, speeches, debate, and federal parliamentary broadcasts. It was originally funded from

licensing but the Chifley government introduced funding from the Treasury. Its charter was reflective of the time and forbade swearing, blasphemy, controversy over politics and religion – no sex problems or insanity or 'bodily defects'.

Radio technology was challenging at times but eventually became an essential part of daily life and families gathered together around their radio to listen to the news, sport, children's programs or drama such as *Blue Hills* and political talks and concerts.

In Sydney the station began as Radio 2SB at 8pm November 23 1923 and over the next 100 years was renamed 2BL, then 702 and now ABC Radio Sydney ■



Supplied by Doreen Lyon

Reminders, News & Info

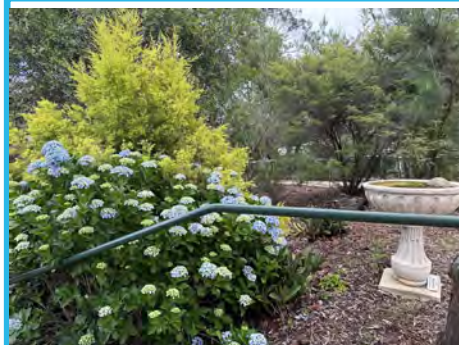
WEEKEND ROSTER	
DECEMBER-JANUARY	
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 2
Viv & Bob	Sunday, 3
Everyone	Saturday, 9
Doreen & Ben	Sunday, 10
Pam & Margaret	Saturday, 16
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 17
January	2024
Volunteers	Saturdays / Sundays 6th to 21st opening 10-1pm only
Colleen & Kathy	Australia Day Friday 26th January
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 27
Vicki & Linda	Sunday, 27
SUPPER	ROSTER
December	Bring a plate



General Meeting

Monday, December 4th 2023 at 7pm

Meeting followed by supper/All welcome/Please bring a plate



Scenes of our garden by Margaret Battam



BOOK REVIEW BY DOREEN LYON – 'REACHING THROUGH TIME' BY SHAUNA BOSTOCK

As Sue will tell you – I am not a great fan of family history stories – but I have made an exception with this book recently. It is exceptionally well researched but also easy to read and to follow the story. Shauna Bostock was studying to become a primary School Teacher and in discussion with fellow students in the lectures on Indigenous History realised that they had very little or no knowledge of the history of Aboriginal people in Australia, their reaction on learning more was to say “Why weren't we told?”

As an Aboriginal historian herself, Shauna has continued her studies into a doctorate and this is the book from her research. The story is unusual in that it begins with the Bostock family in England and their involvement with the Slave Trade in England and subsequent sentence of transportation to Australia.

The early chapters about the Slave Trade are taken from family history but also from intense research by historian Emma Christopher and her 2018 book *Freedom in Black and White*:



a lost story of the illegal slave trade and its legacy. They offer another window into Australian history and make fascinating reading. The book continues the story of the Bostock family and August John Bostock's marriage to a Bundjalung woman One My, from Mount Warning. The lively research switches between archival records, oral history, press reports, Youtube and film. Many of her family were involved in the Arts and politics but the whole book is a microcosm of Australian stories. When I was researching our own Aboriginal history in the early days of the museum I would have really valued such an insight into Aboriginal/Australian/ British history. Shauna has no bitterness nor apportions any blame for the colonisation of her people. Her belief is in a shared history which can be achieved through listening to our stories of our people – wherever we

are from – so we can value the small piece of the planet we all share. This is something we can all do. The book will be available in our research library soon or from your local library.

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 on Monday December 4th followed by the general meeting on February 5th 2024. 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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