

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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Newsletter

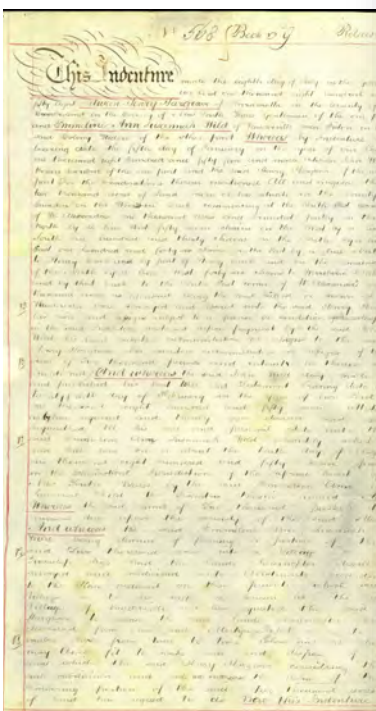
July 2021

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

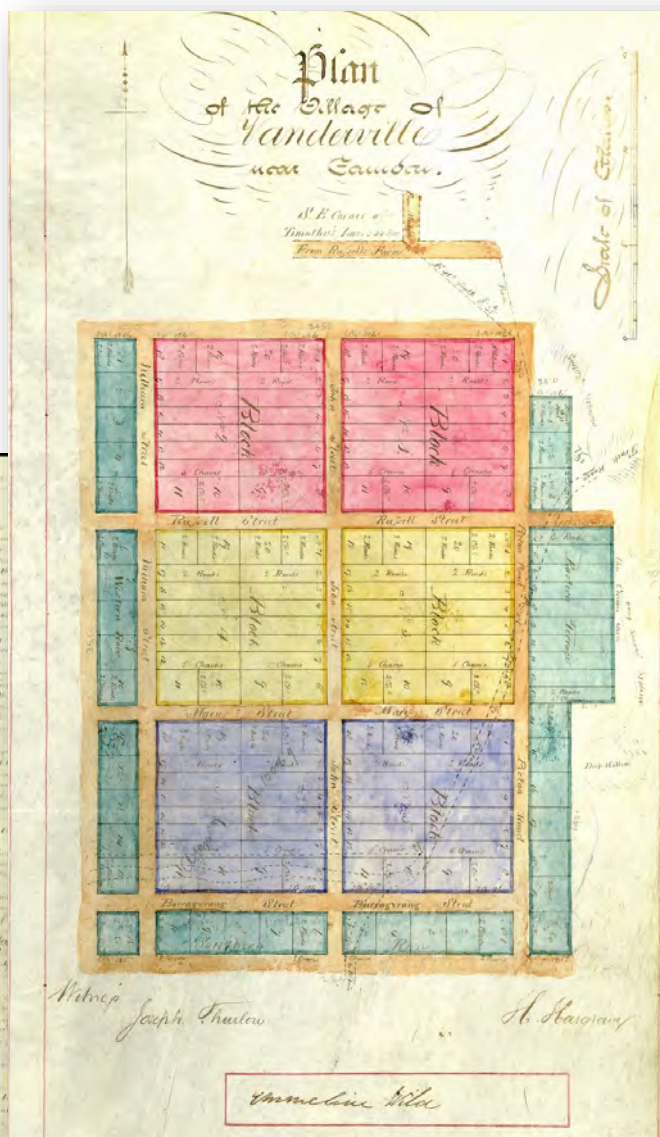
A GLIMPSE OF THE OAKS AT THE BEGINNING

Several months ago our March newsletter story featured the Pakenham family and their home *Eastview Villa* at The Oaks. Whilst there is some indication of the location of the home in our archives, the location can be explored further. Discussion with Marlane Fairfax resulted in this amazing find – the early plan of **Vanderville Village** a part of a four page deed detailing how it began, and which we were able to obtain through the NSW Land Registry Services. This very colourful plan has some interesting details for follow up. *Eastern Terrace* is the name on the centre section of the eastern row of properties-so does that suggest a connection to *Eastview Villa*?

An extract of the legal wording



of deed document for the Village of Vanderville broadly reads....*This Indenture 8th July 1858 between Henry Hargrave of Parramatta and Emmeline Ann Susannah Wild of Vanderville near Picton, widow of the other part by indenture on the 5th January 1854 made between John Wild and Henry Hargrave for a mortgage on two thousand acres of land on Werriberri Creek for the sum of £2000.*



Emmeline Wild desires to form a village for a township which has been surveyed and subdivided into allotments as per the endorsed plan (deed attachment). She requests Henry Hargrave to release 100 acres from the mortgage so as to enable her from time to time and as she sees fit to sell allotments. Hargrave considered that such subdivision and sale should increase the value of the remaining portion of the two thousand acres and agreed.

A premium (token) of 5/- of lawful British currency was paid by Susannah Wild immediately before signing the deed document and Hargrave released the land portion of one hundred acres two roods and sixteen perches. So the land was 'Freed and absolutely discharged from the mortgage of two thousand pounds'.

We have incorporated this plan into a small but interesting exhibition of The Oaks which has replaced the story of cycling in the far corner of the main building. Thanks to Marlane Fairfax for her help and expertise with maps and plans■



President's Report

Trish Hill

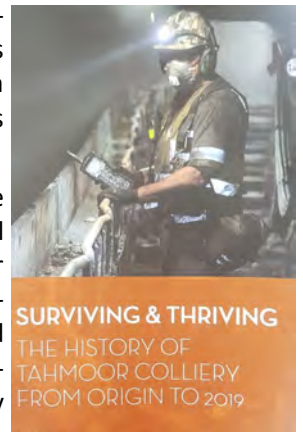
How time flies with another month gone by. Having gotten back into a routine with school group and bus group bookings, we were moving along nicely anticipating the 3 groups booked for the week when lockdown was declared and the Centre closed again.

Last month we were contacted by Matt Murfitt, an amateur film-maker who wanted to do some museum promotion for us. Last week he released the short clip entitled Penny Ackery's History of Wollondilly. It can be viewed on our Facebook page and Matt has suggested users share it as much as possible. It has proved to be very popular with lots of views, shares and comments and I hope when we reopen after lockdown



those people come and visit us. Re-opening and the end of lockdown is still unclear and we will make a decision as information becomes available.

Some exhibition changes have been happening with the removal of Cycling in the kitchen corner currently being replaced with an overview of early The Oaks.



Peter Vale from Tahmoor Colliery has given us another box of 'Surviving and Thriving' (pictured) the History Tahmoor Colliery publications. Thanks again Peter for your valued support.

A reminder that we have a good stock of publications and merchandise in our shop area and we can be contacted by email or phone if you are wanting anything ■



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

Last month I encouraged you to find more about your family history by searching Births, Deaths and Marriages and purchasing the certificate of an ancestor. This month I would like to encourage you to look for something about an ancestor for free! I have promoted this website before but when we have more time, during the current stay at home restrictions, it is a great opportunity to find out more!



The free online service is the search engine of the national Library of Australia: trove.nla.gov.au

Trove is the place to explore all things Australian. It is a single point of entry to a treasure trove of artefacts, curiosities and stories from Australia's cultural, community and research institutions. On Trove you can find more than 6 billion digital items on any topic.

Trove connects you to digital collections from [hundreds of Trove Partners](#) across Australia, including libraries, muse-

ums, galleries, the media, government and community organisations and more.

The newspapers on Trove can show you a wealth of information, particularly regarding births, deaths, engagements and marriages. I remember being told that my grandmother's first-born child was stillborn. We didn't talk too much about it as we could feel her grief. Recently, while looking through Trove, I found the birth notice in a Sydney Morning Herald of 1922. I was astonished to see that the baby girl had been born on the 2 October, the same date (but 58 years before) our son was born! I hope you will find some interesting insights into your family history while looking through Trove online. Of course, you can find articles not just related to people but also places and events ■

Happy researching in this time when we need to stay at home during the pandemic!



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Last month I mentioned the old dairy at Buxton, and I can now give more detailed info on this. The 40 acre property was brought by William (Billy) Cairns in around 1955. Bill was born at Lake Cargelligo and was at Walgett and Sydney before coming to Buxton. He also worked on the Snowy scheme. He cleared the land and established a dairy farm and grew vegetables as well. He had experience with earth moving and built a dam using a Fordson tractor with a blade on it. He used to deliver milk around the area using a Harley Davidson motorcycle & sidecar. He rated a mention in the Daily Mirror newspaper when reported that Billy Cairns delivered milk to billy cans around Thirlmere. There was a second mention the following week as people said that he didn't deliver milk in Thirlmere. The columnist pointed out that he'd said around Thirlmere, not in Thirlmere. The dairy was closed in the 1970's and he then delivered milk for Dairy Farmers and had beef cattle. Ruth was his second wife and they were married in the late 70's. Bill passed away a couple of years ago, and the property is now for sale. The original house was burned down in the 2001 fires, and the existing house dates from the 1970's. Ruth contacted us to see if we were interested in anything, and we've made a couple of trips there to collect items and take photos of it.

Among the items are some metal milk crates and a lot of milk bottles. Some are one imperial pint bottles with a broad mouth, different to the bottles I remember. There are also quite a few one third pint bottles which we believe are what was supplied to the schools. There was also a Malley's official one quart measuring container. Another unusual item was a dairy farmers bottle with an ad for cream on it. There are lots of books and booklets on farming and dairying and quite a few Department of Agriculture publications on growing various vegetables. One very interesting item is a Moffatt-Virtue catalogue. Can't find a date on it, but it is very comprehensive and has a lot of items in it. There is also a copy of Frank Clune's book "Wild Colonial Boys" dealing with the bushrangers in the central west district of NSW and this has Bill's name in it. Other items include a meat plate that belonged to his grandmother and a TV set from the 1950's.

We spent time dismantling a lot of the equipment in the dairy and were able to retrieve the petrol motor and vacuum pump. The motor is an Austral, a pretty common motor from that time and I understand the main bearings may be the roller ball type instead of slipper bearings. The pump and motor were very heavy and we wouldn't have been able to save them without help from Kevin Wintle. As I know nothing much about the workings of a dairy we could use some help identifying what we actually have and how it works. We also were able to salvage the two-wheeled barrow that he used to move the vegetables with. This came in



very handy when we were moving the motor and vacuum pump.

Our thanks go to Ruth and her daughters for contacting us and allowing us access.

At our Truckies Reunion in May, Ian Welsh donated his collection of photos used as research when writing his books. There is a lot of interesting information here covering trucks and the mining sites and a lot on the people as well. I've scanned most of these and they are now available for viewing in the directory 'filemanagement/mosaic photos/Ian Welsh collection'.

From Dennis Ashton comes a middy beer glass which was retrieved from the old well at the Yerranderie hotel site. There is also a set of false teeth, picked up at Colong whilst fighting fires.

From Mick Haynes comes a couple of bottles of commemorative port for Nattai and Kemira mines and some branding irons. Two of the irons come from Wally Apps on Razorback, while the other belongs to an Eli Latham from the Central Coast. We haven't established whether there is a local connection to this.

Other items are a baby walker in the form of a dog on wheels and a toy dump truck. There are also some cameras, a couple of box brownie's and one that is much fancier. Finally there is also a wooden hod brick carrier. This object is quite heavy, and I can't imagine what it must be like when it was filled with bricks and you were climbing a ladder ■

Pictured are some of the items from the Buxton dairy

YERRANDERIE MEMORIES

The final instalment of Yerranderie Memories from our archives-written by Maurice Cowan. Continued from last month.....more about the people, buildings and landmarks.

More on the people.....There was a piano in the pub, not in the bar but in the living room. If Roy Quig wasn't actually a pianist he was certainly proficient in two songs. One was 'The Wild Colonial Boy' and I can still remember all of the words. This was played at a rapid clip not moaned as in some as in some modern renditions. The other was a parody on 'After the Ball' and this too was played at a rapid clip. It wasn't risqué but told of a newly-wed couple who, after the ball, retire to their room. The groom is astounded as the bride prepares herself. Her false teeth go into the glass and these are joined by a glass eye. Her hair is a wig and so on and I remember only the last line, the final blow to the groom, when she stood her cork leg in the corner, after the ball.

One time Roy and I rode out for a harrowing task which was to 'stand up' sheep. I can't recall if he had an interest in the sheep or whether he was just helping out. We rode to a property some miles towards the Valley on the left of the road and might have ridden via Newtown. We stopped at the gate some distance from the house. Roy had a stock-whip and passed this along his horse's right cheek. "Whip, Dinah", he said and then there was a volley of whip cracks and the horses never turned a hair. This was to signal the householder who then joined us and we rode to the sheep strewn gullies. Sheep 'strewn' was the operative word, the poor things were down with many attacked by crows. We stood the live ones to try to give them a chance. The drought was terrible and I doubt if many survived. Roy and Marg (another great scout) had a daughter Ellen. They retired to the Wollongong area where my mother and I visited them.

The Burkes were first class people and became good friends. Jim was tall and Mrs Burke tiny. Jim looked fit but was a dusted ex-miner and any prolonged exertion knocked him about. He couldn't walk very far without having to rest but he could always make it to the pub. He could ride though and was a very good shot. On a couple of occasions Henwood and I stayed overnight at their house when we came back from the Kowmung and a hot bath was first on the agenda. More trivia.... Jim who was bald was the first person I ever saw to wear a beanie, a knitted multi-coloured affair like a tea cosy. Perhaps it was a tea cosy.

The Martins....what a fine family. The two boys, John and Wallace became good friends of mine. In 1955 I had driven two geology students to Yerranderie where we were to spend the night. I would have stayed at the pub but they wanted to save their travelling allowance and so courtesy of Wallace we bunked down in the woolshed at The Peaks. The Martins had horses but the horses I had anything to do with belonged to Roy Quig and Jim Burke. Roy had two hacks, Dinah and Trixie and both were a bit wayward. Usually of an afternoon they were ridden or led to drink at the dam across the road from the Courthouse.. It didn't pay to daydream if mounted while they drank as both were capable of having a nip at your left foot. They were kept in the pub paddock where there was a garage/ stables for shelter. The watering routine was varied sometimes if it was thought the horses were 'stale', they were ridden to Basin Creek to drink and galloped home.

Freddie Edwards (pictured with a caving group) was another Yerranderie identity. He was a pensioner and a very active fellow despite having one leg shorter than the other. I think I'm right in saying that this was the result of having been wounded in WW1. He was the local expert on the



Colong Caves and when required would conduct parties to and through the caves. The first time I went to the caves was with my parents, the Dayes family and Bill Patterson. We all rode on local horses while Freddie went on foot. I can't quite remember that he walked all the way with us. A local, perhaps Lennie Norris did ride with us, perhaps

as a guide but certainly to look after the horses while we were in the caves. I rather think that Freddie met us at Colong Swamp. He had a shack somewhere in one of the gullies south east of Yerranderie Peak which leads me to believe that he had a track to the swamp which saved him going via the Tonalli. At the caves, his tour took you in by the upper left hand entrance and out by the lower, larger, right hand opening. The exit route was via the Fattorini Squeeze Hole where you had to lie on your back and push your way along by hands and heels. Not recommended for portly people. We must have had torches but at points of interest Freddie would light a strip of magnesium tape to illuminate the formation. This was quite dramatic and Freddie had a suitable spiel. On later visits I was able to take photos, not having a flash, by opening the camera shutter and igniting the magnesium tape, from Paddy Pallin of course. Freddie lent me his map which I traced but I forget who first mapped the caves ■

BOXING MATCH AT HARVEY'S BOXING SALOON

By Catherine (Herring) Williams

After reading "Yerranderie Memories" with much interest in the May 2021 Newsletter, I thought I would write and share some of my family history research on my grandfather William Herring (1880-1963).

My grandfather William Herring was born at 'Mt Pleasant' Bongongolong, Gundagai on 20th May 1880. The third child and eldest son to William Snr and Jane Isabella Jenkins after they moved to the Gundagai district around 1876 following their marriage at St Matthews Church of England, The Oaks (Picton, NSW District)

In December 2018, I received an email from my cousin in Wagga Wagga telling me of a newspaper article she found about a boxing match at Yerranderie, NSW in 1908.

The story was from Trove, THE PICTON POST, Wednesday 20th May, 1908 (my grandfather's birthday)

Yerranderie (from our own correspondent)- On Saturday night last, a large crowd gathered at Mr Harvey's boxing saloon to witness a contest between Mick Regan and W. Herring which ended, as did their last contest, in a win for Herring. The men, on entering the ring looked fit and well, Regan appearing much the larger of the two, the weights being announced Regan at 11 stone and Herring at 9st.5lb. The first round was in Regan's favour, Herring being on the defensive. In the second round Regan sailed into his opponent and delivering some severe punishment and things all his own way. Herring being down several times for 8 and 9 seconds. The third round was uneventful but in the fourth, Herring seemed to be much revived and towards the end of the round Regan began to tire and from then on Herring took command, until near the close of the sixth round when he delivered the "knock out" and when the gong sounded for the seventh round, Regan being still unable to rise, the referee, Mr G. Preston awarded the fight to Herring amidst deafening applause from the onlookers in appreciation of the pluck and determination shown by the winner in again defeating his much larger and experienced opponent.

I decided to check again myself and found two more references to W. Herring.

THE REFEREE (Sydney 1886-1939) Wednesday 29.04.1908

Contest at Yerranderie- A very exciting boxing contest took place at Yerranderie on the 11th last in Harvey's marquee tent between Mick Regan of Cobar and Billy Herring of Gundagai. The "house" was crowded. The lads signed to box the best of 20 rounds, one to win for a side wager of ten pounds and a purse presented by Mr Harvey. Mr W. Preston was chosen referee at the ring side. The referee declared it a draw. Next came Jack King and Charley Fletcher in a three-round spar. Both lads are clever boxers.

For the battle of the night Regan was attended by Bull Williams and Clark while Jack King and C. Fletcher saw to the wants of Herring.

In the first round each got to business in great style. It made one think of the good old days of Sydney. In the second round they were at it hard and willing. They clinched and the referee cautioned Regan. Both fought with great determination until the gong sounded. In the third and last round Regan hugged to avoid punishment and then fouled his opponent with the result the referee declared Herring the winner, to the satisfaction of the public.

And again reported in THE REFEREE, Wednesday 20.5.1908

Herring defeats Regan- A return fight took place here on Saturday night, the 9th instant, in Mr Harvey's marquee between Billy Herring and Mick Regan. The lads signed article to box the best of twenty rounds, one to win, for a side wager of ten pounds and a purse presented by Mr Harvey. Mr Preston again acted as referee. Fred Knight held the watch. It go from start to clearly knocked Re-sixth round.



was a ding-dong finish. Herring Regan out in the

We have some good who have travelled of our best fighters Herring went to under a good man would have a man in Australia at 10.7, as he is a natural born fighter.

sports here, men and seen some and they think if Sydney and got for a while, he chance with any



Pictured top William 'Billy' Herring
Bottom Jack King and Tony 'Tiger' Karkoe in a boxing match in the boom days of Yerranderie

UPDATE ON THIRLMERE LAKES

From the Community Science Day on Wednesday 16 June 2021 by Doreen Lyon and David Eden

When we moved to Thirlmere, Ben and I joined the Friends of Thirlmere Lakes (FoTL) because we enjoyed walking in the Park and learning more about the ecology. As lake water levels dropped, we and others became concerned about water disappearing from the lakes, coinciding in 2000 with the closest approach of coal mining by Tahmoor Colliery. The community pressed the NSW Government to hold the Riley Inquiry. Dissatisfied with its tentative conclusion that a changing climate was the cause, not mining, the community was incensed that further investigation would be needed before a remedy to the problem could be implemented. Undermined Inc was formed by people politically active and independent of FoTL. "Undermined" kept pressing for answers, resulting in the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment funding nearly \$2 million and four years of collaborative scientific research into the lake geology, hydrology, climate and chemistry. This is the last report from them on the "mysterious hydrology" of the lakes. They gave this heading to the project to create a conceptual model showing the formation of the lake system and how the system is functioning now. Their model explains up to 98% of lake level behaviour and clearly shows the inputs and evaporation in each of the lakes. Each of the five Lakes behaves differently, best illustrated by the mystery of the persistent 1m level of water in Lake Baraba.

A team from Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (ANSTO) sampled chemistry and stable isotopes in each of the lakes to identify water inputs. Others drilled to measure the depth of peat layers and the depth to bedrock. The peat acts as a sponge and water flows horizontally and vertically. The deepest level of peat is in Baraba, which holds its water the longest; the shallowest is in Lake Nerrigorang which dries out the fastest.

University of Wollongong researchers drilled into the substructure under the lakes and revealed the age of the lake system, becoming separate from the original river 125,000 years ago. Core samples and carbon 14 dating revealed a major drying period 21,000 to 12,000 years ago. The lakes achieved their present state about 12,000 years ago and have a history of fluctuations during these periods. Most water level variation can be explained by historic climate variability, so the lakes are at risk from anthropogenic climate change. No evidence was discovered of the lakes

being drained by mine subsidence or the cracking clearly visible in nearby Redbank Creek. The researchers commented it would have been helpful to study more data from the mine had it been made available. The link between greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide and methane from coal mining) causing atmospheric warming, increased evaporation and possibly reduced rainfall is still being investigated.

The studies have given us a more complete story of the World Heritage listed Thirlmere Lakes National Park and revealed exciting new data. Close studies of the lake waters in Nerrigorang and Werri Berri recorded 66 micro invertebrate species included two rotifer species (microscopic aquatic animals) which had never been recorded before. There were significant differences in water quality between the two lakes. Nerrigorang had more rotifers than Werri Berri and consequently better water quality.

In addition the grey sedge found in all the lakes is unique to Thirlmere Lakes. The highest genetic diversity is found in Lake Werri Berri.

For more information please go to: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/our-science-and-research/our-research/water/freshwater-and-wetlands/Thirlmere-lakes-research> or Martin.krogh@environment.nsw.gov.au



From a personal point of view, I think this has been a valuable project in which many young scientists have been assisted in their understanding of the science of water – which is so important to understand in a rapidly drying climate. I also feel a more complete picture would be important and significant if a cultural and historic study could be undertaken to reveal more stories.

Although not back to 1975 levels, today the lakes look amazing in comparison to a year ago. Covid pandemic restrictions mean their natural value is increasing, attracting many visitors. The NPWS and SIMEC and World Heritage have combined to produce a map of the walking trails in the park aimed at young people, which is available in our museum shop. Friends of Thirlmere Lakes (FoTL) welcome new members to help in citizen science projects and sharing the caring for the park with NPWS ■

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
JULY	
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 10
Kaye & Jim	Sunday, 11
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 17
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 18
Vivian & Bob	Saturday, 24
Debbie & Allen	Sunday, 25
Working Bee	Saturday 31

**Memberships Fees Re-
minder**

Single- \$10.00
Family- \$18.00

Newsletter postage is an additional \$10.

Emailed newsletters are free.

Bank details below for direct credit with surname as reference

Account Name: The Oaks Historical Society Inc.

BSB: **062516**

Account # 00904093

VOLUNTEERS

are just ordinary people with extraordinary **hearts**.

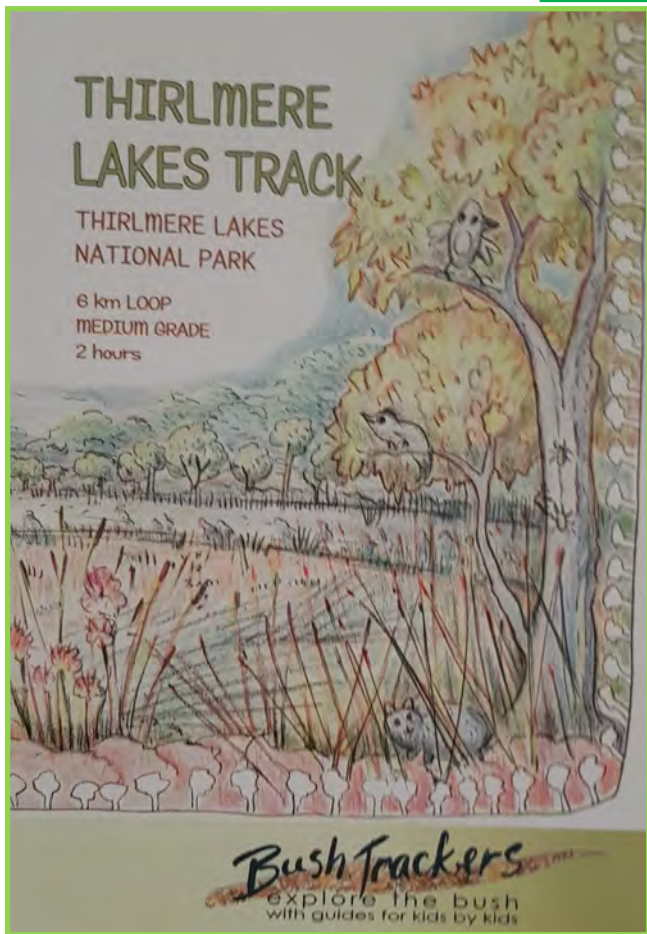
They offer the **gift of their time** to teach, to listen, to help, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn.

They expect no pay, yet the **value** of their work knows no limit. They've known the **Unexpected joy** of a simple hug. They've planted tiny **seeds of love** in countless lives.

Volunteers are just ordinary people **who reach out** take a hand and together make a **difference** that lasts a lifetime.

Sourced by Margaret Battam

MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER	
August	Debbie & Pam
September	Shirley & Trish
October	Vivian & Pam McV
November	TBA
December	Please bring a plate



The Bush Trackers program helps engage children and families in nature. The Team worked with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers to guide school children on local bushwalks, enjoying nature and learning about natural and cultural heritage. Further information and a vast range of maps are available on the following websites;
www.bushtrackers.com.au
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au
 We have limited stocks of this one available at our Centre.

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 meeting of Monday July 5th is cancelled and the next general meeting is scheduled for Monday August 2nd. Our patrons are Judith Hannan and Richard Booth. 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.

If undelivered, please return to:-
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