

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Newsletter

July 2023

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

OAKDALE WW2 HONOUR ROLL

During World War 2, churches and community organisations were seeking the names of soldiers who had enlisted from their communities to be able to honour their service on local honour rolls. These honour rolls were generally erected in public places and the local community halls within the townships were a favourite place. So was the case with the Roll of Honour for the Residents of Oakdale Township who served during 1939-1945.

It is unclear when this Honour Roll was completed but it was erected above the stage area in the Community Hall on the corner of Egan Road. Pictured only partially, as the photograph was taken during a football presentation and so obscured by those on stage. It was to remain in its location until recent years when it disappeared, possibly during some renovations to the hall.

Local halls were very much a part of the life of the community and the Honour Roll a mark of respect to members of the community. Certainly in the sixties and seventies Oakdale, The Oaks and Mount Hunter halls hosted dances on a weekly basis on rotation with the band comprised of locals, often self taught playing for the duration of the night. Many other events were held at the hall. Supper was provided by the ladies who brought along a 'plate' to be shared in the supper room at the relevant time and large tea pots served endless cups to the seated participants.

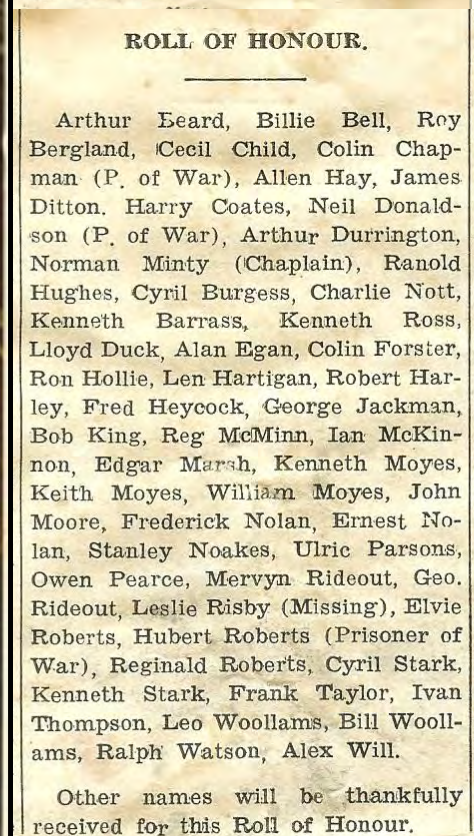
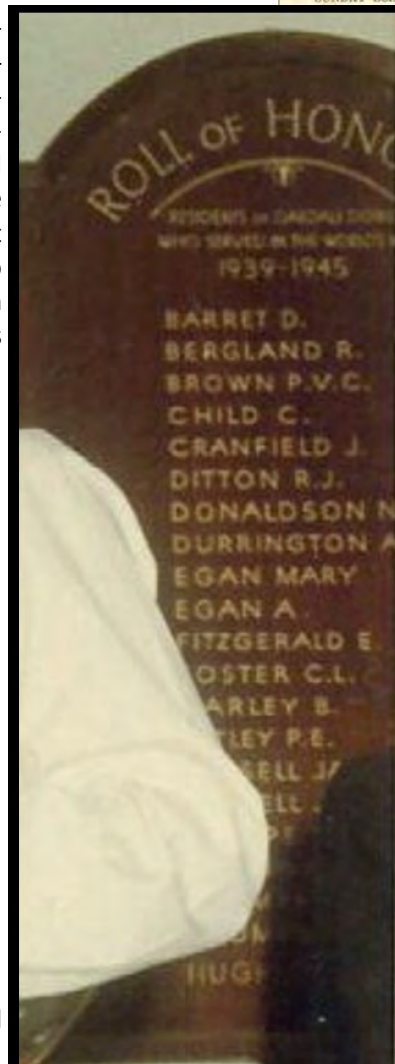
Oakdale Servicemen listed on the Roll of Honour include

- D. Barrett
- R. Bergland
- P.V.C. Brown
- C. Child
- J. Cranfield
- R.J. Ditton
- N. Donaldson (POW)
- A. Durrington
- Mary Egan
- A. Egan
- E Fitzgerald
- C.L. Foster
- B. Harley
- 5 not legible but F.W. Taylor likely one
- S. Thompson
- I. Thompson
- R.K. Hughes

I believe there have been searches within the hall and

under the stage area but to date, the whereabouts of the Roll of Honour is still a mystery. To locate the Honour Roll would be a great result but to also obtain a complete photograph would be a bonus if anyone can help ■

1943→
Church
Review
& an
extract



Continued on page 5



President's Report

Trish Hill

This past month has been a bit quieter although our school group visits have kept the schoolies team of volunteers busy.

The Wollondilly Tourism Association June event (pictured)→ was held at the museum. Our kitchen crew did an excellent job of catering for a very successful evening. Though it was cold, many attending took the opportunity to tour through our exhibitions and admin space.

The seating for the BBQ area is underway and we expect delivery in the coming weeks. We had an impromptu group of two families visit last Sunday who looking for a BBQ area as well and were able to utilise our new area.

Our working bee events on the last Saturday of the month have been well attended with 17 volunteers getting through

a variety of jobs last Saturday. Thank you everyone■



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY VALERIE LHUEDE

We are pleased to send our congratulations to our mentor, friend and benefactor Valerie Anne Lheude, AM, BArch (Restorer) on her amazing 100th birthday! One significant event in her eventful life has been her preservation of the old silver town of Yerranderie which she purchased from her father Aubin Rene Lheudé. He had formed the Tonalli Mining Company in 1946 to inject activity into the mines after the earlier strikes and closures but was deterred when the proposal to build Warragamba Dam was ratified.

In our extensive archives at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre we hold a letter in which Val explains her reasons for purchasing Yerranderie and the surrounding mines.

“ I bought the Company which owned Yerranderie, a former silver mining town. It was derelict, deserted, and a true ghost town. No one had been there for 10 years. Was I mad to do so? Having travelled the world, I considered Yerranderie ranked with the most scenic and legendary spots in other countries-and it was close to Sydney's burgeoning metropolis. “

Val explains in the document how she gradually restored

the derelict buildings – the Post Office, Tailor's Shop, Mrs Barnes's Boarding House, Slippery Norris's Cottage, the old shops and a miner's cottage for the caretaker. She also constructed a small air strip to enable her to fly in to the town from her home in Mosman because the road in from Oakdale was submerged by Lake Burragarang for the Warragamba Dam. The alternative route via Oberon took 5

hours. Her dedication to this project is widely recognised and the significance of Yerranderie historically and environmentally continues in the work of the National Parks and Wildlife Association who now manage the village. The Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum holds many items



from the collection which ex residents donated to Val. Some of the stories of Yerranderie are told in the Museum in objects and storyboards and the archives hold documents and photos and her book 'Yerranderie is my Dreaming'.

Congratulations, Happy Birthday Val!



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

Our very busy school calendar, with 32 weeks booked, was on target to be our highest ever in a year. However, an unexpected cancellation of 2 weeks, means that 31 weeks in 2016 will keep the record. Unfortunately, the cancellation was too late for us to get a school to fill in.

Our schools this term have been William Carey Christian School, Wilton, Camden, Tahmoor and Thirlmere. Our weekend volunteers were delighted to have a visit from one of the Tahmoor pupils who wanted to show his parents where he had been. His parents said he had enjoyed it so much he wanted to bring them. We were able to let him and his younger sister experience some of the activities he had enjoyed and we have since had another school family visit us.



We have had a few of our weekly volunteers absent this term and have been occasionally short on numbers so a special thank you to Sue Davis for filling in at the last minute. Sue has many other duties at the Centre, so it was

appreciated. Another person needing a special mention is Judy Murdoch who is officially on the reserve list but has been there so often, we started to think she was permanent! She fills in very capably wherever she is asked to work.

Our amusing snippets from children continue. The freezer in the kerosene fridge ←always causes interest and we ask where they think the family would keep their ice-cream, hoping to get the answer that there was no ice-cream. One creative thinker suggested they could keep it in Antarctica! Not quite close enough for a midnight snack! ■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Quieter than last month, but still a bit happening. One of the interesting items is a painting of Yerranderie school by Kevin Kelly who was the headmaster there. Apparently the building was moved to there from Burragorang. The painting was donated by Ellen Glover who was a pupil there. We also received an original copy of the publication "The Town of Camden" by Sidman. This was written back in 1939 but never finished but somehow a few copies went into circulation, no idea how many. I know Miss Davies in Camden had one because we borrowed it from her and

copied it. The donated copy came from Maria Ewing-Terry. Liz Vincent had it printed and we sell copies of it in our shop. It's interesting and it was a help to me when I first started looking at the family history as it mentions the Seymours, but only mentions three of the five brothers.

On the mining front we received twenty four signs that were originally at Oakdale mine, and were pulled out after it closed. There are also some knitting books and for the young at heart, the "Complete Adventures of Blinky Bill" ■



MADE FROM SCRATCH

By Vivian Allen

"Made from scratch" is one of the many expressions often used in cooking and manufacturing processes. Just how many know its original meaning?

The term dates back to the 1800s, when it related to races or sporting events instead of cooking or baking. Bicycle and foot racers were said to start from scratch if they had no advantage. Non-scratch racers were given the advantage of an early start or shorter distance. Scratch racers had no lead and began the race at what was then called the scratch line, which was simply a line scratched into the ground to mark the start of a race.

The official definition describes it as creating or preparing

something from the beginning, using basic ingredients or materials but like many other such expressions the meaning has changed.

Following a recent conversation about "scratch", an example of how meanings change through the years reminded me of a tale told by a young mother about her son. Several years ago when he was in kindergarten in a small country school, on his day to tell his news to the class he proudly reported that his mother made bread each day from scratch. The young teacher was most impressed and so approached his mother, when she came to collect her son from school, to inquire if 'scratch' was a special type of flour for bread making ■



Family History & Local Archive Report

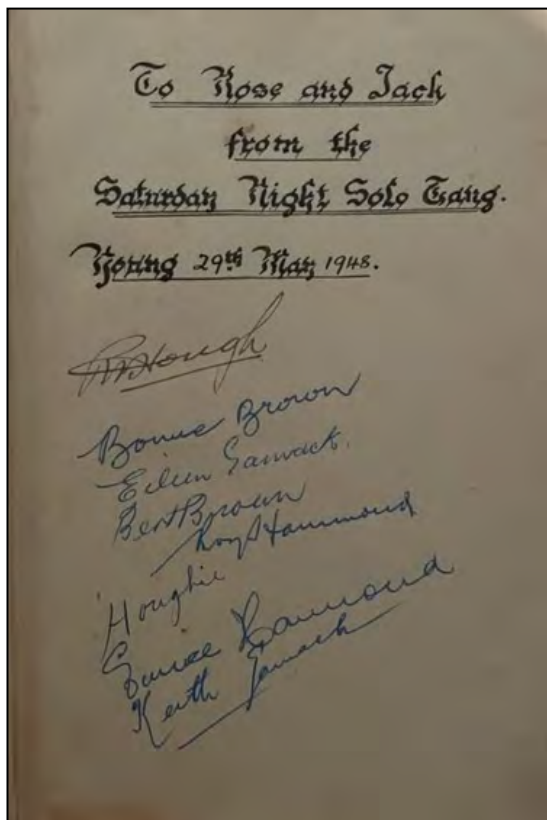
Sue Davis

We are always looking for different ways to find out more about our ancestors. Once we have a **family tree** we become eager to know stories about the people we might only know by name. These people then become real and we might identify something in their life that is similar to ours. There are many avenues to use to find the stories such as **TROVE** – the search engine of the National Library that has scans of many newspapers from all over Australia. However, there are some things already in your home that you could access, right there on your bookshelf. Many will have books that have been handed down through generations. Have you ever looked inside the cover of this books? Recently I was listening to a replay of an interview with Sir James Hardy from 2008. He had passed away on the 14 June 2023. He nominated one of his favourite

books as, "My Love Must Wait", By Ernestine Hill. This is also one of my favourite books! I had found it among my grandmother's effects and thought I would read to see what type of book she once read. I was enthralled as it was a very "human" story of an explorer I greatly admired, Matthew Flinders. My copy has an inscription on the inside cover from my paternal grandmother to my paternal grandfather. The title of the book sounded like it might be for a female reader but that is so wrong. You can't tell a book by its cover! I have since investigated other vintage books on our shelves and found not only family history but local history as well. Following are some examples of inscriptions in books that sometimes provide answers and sometimes give leads of what to look for next.

- (Great aunt) *Evelyn Dobson* for best kept school garden, *Sup. Public Girls School, Marrickville, 1907* (at least we now know where she went to school!)
- (Paternal Grandmother) *Marie Dobson*, first prize for best exercise. *Newtown Cookery School. 1911.* (What exercise could that be?)
- (Maternal Grandfather who became a bank Manager)

Jack Folkard, special prize for Arithmetic, 1911 (but what school did he attend?)



- (Maternal Grandparents) – inscription pictured left. The signatures of local identities that they played cards with on a Saturday night before leaving Young and moving to Taree)
- (Aunt) *S. Folkard, Commonwealth Bank, Taree. 1949* (Can now confirm using electoral records.)
- (Possibly Paternal Great Grandfather)- inscription pictured below. *To Mr/Mrs Granger with love and best wishes S.A. Moffault. 1906* (Includes a photo of the giver. Who or what is this one about?)

What will people of the future research when books are less given for gifts and awards as in past days? Have a look on your shelves

and see what gems you can find. (I have used family mem-



bers as that is what was available to me and to show you how easy finding information on your own shelves can be)■

Happy researching!

Wonderful Wedding Reports from Local Newspapers

This wedding report came as a snippet from The Camden News and without newspaper date details. The wedding was held on 29th November 1980 and is too recent to be searched on Trove. John is part of our Schoolies Team and Noelene also one of our volunteers and the following is the description of their wedding.

Wed in Lace at The Oaks

Noelene Carlon and John Mainwaring celebrated their recent wedding at The Oaks Catholic Church.

Noelene is the daughter of Joe and Shirley Carlon of Egan's Road, Oakdale and John is the son of Tom and Carol Mainwaring of Binalong Road, The Oaks.



The bride was escorted down the aisle of the church by her father, looking very pretty in a gown of white lace with a chiffon overlay. She wore a short veil with a coronet and carried a bouquet of cream roses.

The bride's sisters Debbie, Julie and Lynne Carlon were the bridesmaids and looked very attractive in dresses of pale blue crepe with a floral chiffon overlay.

The bridesmaids carried bouquets of dark red roses.



Flower girl at the wedding was the bride's niece Melanie Elferson. Mr Ray James, a friend of the groom was the best man with Tommy and Peter Mainwaring as the groomsmen.

Relatives and friends of Noelene and John celebrated the special day with a reception at the Camden Bowling Club ■

OAKDALE WW2 HONOUR ROLL continued.....

Some of the Oakdale servicemen whose names appear on the Roll of Honour are pictured from Left to Right - Col Forster top, Roy Berglund below, Frank Taylor, Jim Ditton and Ron Hughes .



FUNDS FOR THE FRONT

BY GEOFF HOWE

Patriotism ran deep in The Oaks with the outbreak of the South African War in 1899, men volunteering and comfort funds raised for the troops.

The School of Arts, founded nine years earlier, was packed on Saturday evening, January 27, 1900 for a meeting to set up a local branch of the Patriotic Fund recently established in Camden. Charlie Dunn, JP, took the chair and speakers included Colonel Onslow, Lieutenant George Onslow, Camden's Mayor Alderman George Furner and John Lakeman, JP.

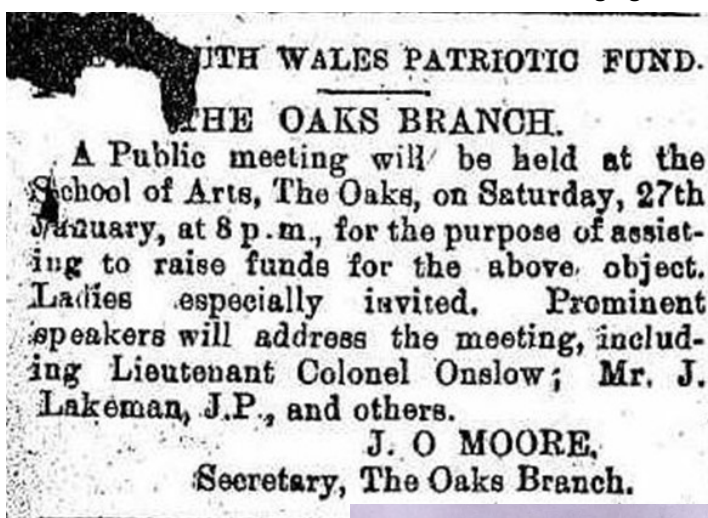
Colonel Onslow went over the background to the war which broke out between the Boer republics and the British Empire on October 11, 1899. He said the British were not prepared for the war, had hoped to avoid it but now it had come to actual war they were determined to see it through. To applause, he said: "We, Australians, have now a chance of showing our loyalty by helping the mother country." Cheers rang out as he praised the colonials who had volunteered to serve in the war especially the Mounted Rifles from the Camden and The Oaks districts. At the conclusion of his speech, he proposed and John Lakeman seconded that a branch of the Patriotic Fund be established at The Oaks. The motion was passed unanimously.

After talking about the history of the Boer nation, Lakeman took sympathy as the theme for his address, suggesting those who had not volunteered to support the mother country should help, according to their means, any wounded or disabled friends on their return. Lieutenant Onslow spoke briefly on the position of Britons in the Trans-

vaal and the Boers living in Natal. He moved that subscriptions for the Patriotic Fund be opened forthwith, seconded by Alderman Furner. Camden's Mayor said it had been the intention of the lieutenant and himself, as treasurers of the Camden committee, to call a meeting at The Oaks. He was pleased that local residents had taken the matter into their own hands and "so enthusiastically".

Mr J.O. Moore thanked the speakers on behalf of The Oaks residents. He was elected secretary and Mr A.V. Moore the treasurer for The Oaks branch. After the speeches, a total of £17 was collected. The meeting was closed with the singing of *God Save The Queen* and hearty

cheers for Her Majesty, the local men serving in South Africa and the speakers. Before the gathering broke up, Colonel Onslow said he had received a letter that day from his brother in the northern Cape Colony who had gone with the local contingent on the *SS Langton Grange*. The letter, dated about Christmas time, said the men had had a good time on the way over but had a lot of work to do. The heat was terrible and the dust ankle-deep in places. His brother and his men were awaiting orders to proceed to the front ■



Advertisement from the Camden News, Thursday 25 January 1900. (Trove)

Lt W.E. Wintle after serving with 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles

Training Day at Picton c1898



Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
JULY	
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 1
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 2
Sue & Helen	Saturday, 8
Bev & David	Sunday, 9
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 15
Marlane & Cheryl/Kate	Sunday, 16
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 22
Sue & Judy	Sunday, 23
Working Bee (Vicki & Trish)	Saturday, 29
Kaye & Jim	Sunday, 30



General Meeting

Monday, July 3rd 2023 at 7pm

Mick Weber from NPWS Oakdale

Meeting followed by supper/All welcome



Exhibitions Development

Doreen Lyon

Our Dairying Exhibition is currently being implemented after searching the collection for potential objects and their stories. One of the problems has been the lack of technical equipment to show how a milking machine from the early days actually works. Allen has agreed to create a technical drawing behind the equipment to explain how it would have worked. Trish can input memories of objects and Kevin is starting the tedious job of re-painting the old cabinets. David Campbell has offered his sign writing skills – we are at last ready to go!

(I am always reassured when exhibitions are planned as to how much knowledge and skills we have in our volunteers!)

Changes to displays: when the dairying is ready to go I am suggesting that the Estonian exhibition wall be 're-hung' to allow for cleaning and possibly re-painting. I would like to condense it somehow to allow for a cabinet to display our collection of farm tools ■

Thanks to David Campbell for painting the plaque for the bird bath in honour of Richard Booth.

Our Congratulations Doreen on winning the Camden Art Prize Traditional Section with your amazing 'Shorebirds' artwork.

The Bob Baker Memorial
TRADITIONAL SECTION

WINNER
WP25
Shorebirds
Doreen Lyon



Membership Fees 2023/2024

Single- \$10.00

Family -\$18.00

Newsletter postage is an additional \$12.

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

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 on July 3rd followed by the general meeting on August 7th 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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