The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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Newsletter

June 2020

A GLIMPSE OF HIDDEN TRIGONOMETRICAL STATIONS IN OUR BUSHLAND

Trigonometrical stations are the traditional backbone of a classical survey control network and form the primary or highest-order network, from which all other surveys are controlled. The Trigonometrical Survey of New South Wales as it was known then commenced in 1867 with the selection of the first baseline at Lake George and continued with little interruption for almost 50 years until it was suspended for reasons of economy and war in 1916. It was resumed between the two World Wars with much of it's progress attributable to the Royal Australian Survey Corps. In the 1950s and 60's the division of National Mapping (now Geoscience Aust) extended the first order networks into the western part of the State and other networks were established by the NSW Dept of Lands now LPI. Over recent years, the rapid uptake of Global Navigation Satellite System technology amongst the surveying profession has seen the perceived importance of traditional trig stations wane as surveyors became less dependent upon line-of-sight to propagate datum. The establishment of CORSnet-NSW (Continuously Operating Reference Stations Network, which commenced in earnest in 2009, has compounded this effect.

Trig stations come in a variety of forms and structures (example left) and usually consist of a primary monument or standpoint surrounded by witness or eccentric marks. The primary monument can take on a multitude of forms, ranging from survey pillars (concrete or steel) to plugs in stone underneath rock cairns or galvanised iron pipes or stainless steel rods in soil. A metal plate on the top of a pillar may provide a mounting point for a theodolite or

reflector and stations are grouped together to form a network of trian-Trig gulation. points or triangulation pillars are another way of spotting the top of a mountain on a map and the map symbol for a trig point is a small triangle. Last month whilst bushwalking Phil & Laurette Hughes



sent through photographs of a couple of our 'hidden trig' stations at Oakdale. Pictured above is 'Ditton Trig', in a state of disrepair, the timber post not having survived a past fire event but still visible on the plates is the trig name, pictured



Local photos courtesy Phil Hughes

President: Trish Hill 0432 689034 Editor: Trish Hill 0432 689034 Museum Bookings: Trish or Sue 0414 703204



President's Report

Trish Hill

Last week our senior executive had a meeting to discuss reopening the museum and this will happen next weekend commencing Saturday 6th June. Initially shorter hours will apply, so from 10-1pm and then we will undertake cleaning and the normal volunteer roster will apply. We want to make the transition to re-opening as easy as possible for volunteers so if anyone has concerns about any aspect please give me a call.

In last months newsletter a photograph in 'a selection of photos from our treasures ,The Vice Regal Albums' was incorrectly captioned and one of our members, Catherine Williams brought this to our attention. The correction and information can be found on the back page. Thanks Catherine.

Ivy Brookman, passed away last month. Ivy co-wrote the publication *Gungarlook* with Jim Smith and was both proud and passionate of her Gundungurra heritage. Our thoughts are with her family.

Our Secretary Sue has been busy overseeing the 'Bears' journey through our amazing museum and their 12 chapter tour around the exhibitions has been captured and features on our Facebook page. Great job Sue!



Kevin & John have been completing a few odd jobs and also scored some quality seating from a local kerbside giveaway



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

If you are a member of Facebook I hope you are enjoying our page, https://www.facebook.com/Wollondilly-Heritage-Centre-Museum. We have a 12-part story of 'The Bears Adventure in the Museum'. It is a bit of fun showing how some teddy bears have enjoyed looking around the museum while it has been closed. Many of the pictures are taken using a paint mode on camera to

create a bit of mystery. Here, on the right, are the bears having a rest...



Research can also be

a bit of fun! When looking through TROVE, for more information about The Oaks Hotel, I found an article from the publication, *Australian Worker (Wednesday 11 January 1939, page 16)*. The article was headed, *News From Everywhere*. All articles were arranged so that not one seemed more important than another. Here are a few for you to decide what you think may really have been important! (There are over 3 pages of the random articles)...

- The Science Congress, which opened at Canberra this week, is being attended by more than 1000 delegates.
- It is claimed that the accuracy, rapidity and destructiveness of the British Navy has been increased by at least 33 per cent in the last three years.
- Two old-time hotels in New South Wales were destroyed by fire last Friday. One was The Oaks Hotel at The Oaks, near Camden, and the other was the Girral Hotel, near Ungarie. Both were wooden structures and practically nothing was saved.
- Four people were killed and 13 injured when a Swiss airliner crashed near Paris.
- Leaving Yorkshire, where he had been visiting,
 Prime Minister Chamberlain expressed the opinion that 1939 would be a more tranquil year than 1938

Happy researching!

PATRICK AND MARGARET PURCELL

My great, great grandparents by Noelene Mainwaring

Patrick Purcell was born at Kilkenny, Ireland 1776. He arrived in Sydney as a free settler, aged 30 years old, 19th August, 1806. He came on the 'Albion', a full rigged whaling ship, built at Deptford, England. The voyage was under the command of Captain Richardson and took 4 months and 17 days. The cargo was general merchandise for Robert Campbell Esquire (1769-1846).

Robert Campbell was a cattle and sheep grazier, being one of the colonies biggest landholders. Campbell built Australia's first shipbuilding yards in 1807. He was a magistrate, politician, merchant and one of the founders of the N.S.W savings bank in 1819. Mr Robert Campbell Esquire and his family were also passengers on the 'Albion' returning to Sydney, 1806.

Another passenger was Patrick Purcell's wife to be, Margaret Taylor, born at Hereford, Herefordshire, England in 1776. Both Margaret and Patrick became a gardener and the cook for the highly respected Robert Campbell.

Patrick Purcell married Margaret Taylor at St Phillips Church of England, Sydney 17th May, 1807. It was the only Christian church in the colony at that time. The original wattle and daub constructed church was built in 1793, using convict labour. The church had a thatched roof and earth floor and could seat 500 people. It was later burnt down by convicts. It is the oldest church parish in Australia. Patrick and Margaret Purcell had five children. Eliza (1808-1831) James (1809-1883) William Patrick (1811-1835) Phillip (1814-)Mary Anne (1817-1888).

In 1812 Patrick Purcell features in a number of reports in Trove including;

August - Land Grant in the parish of Narellan. Cowpasture Road Camden (now Valley way). Portion 34. Grantee-**Patrick** Purcell. Area of 60 acres. (Camden Municipal Council street name register states that Purcell St at Elderslie, is named after Patrick Purcell).

Head of the state of the state

Saturday, 27th June-The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser – 'Sales by Auction- *On Tuesday, the 30th instant, on the premises, at ten in the forenoon.*

A substantial and commodious dwelling house, weather-boarded and glazed throughout, most eligible situate for Trade of Business of any kind, being in the centre of Cumberland St, Rocks, with every necessary convenience for the immediate reception of a family.

Immediately after the above, an unfinished stone dwelling house, two stories high, being most delightful situate in Prince street, commanding a view of the harbour, and of the whole town of Sydney, capitally situated for business and may be finished at a moderate expense both the property of Mr Patrick Purcell, of Liverpool. Prompt payment in currency. N.B. Should any person wish to become a purchaser of the above previous to the day of sale, application is requested to be made to Mr Peter Murphy of the Dock Yard.'

In Sept it is noted Patrick Purcell has executed necessary bonds to receive cattle assigned from the government stock yards at South Creek and in July of 1813 it is noted that Patrick Purcell subscribed £2 to fund for building a courthouse at Sydney.

In March 1815- Deputy Commissary General's Office, Sydney-A list of persons who have tendered supplies of fresh meat for the use of his Majesty's Stores, and from whom the quantities expressed against their respective names will be received at the following stations: When to be received - 8th April 1815. By whom tendered - Mr P. Purcell. The quantity to be received-1500. Residence-Airds.

In 1816 Patrick is on list of persons to receive grants of land at Airds and in August Governor L. Macquarie grants Patrick Purcell 60 acre of land at Upper Minto.

To the constable on duty in the Cowpasture and to all others concerned- Mr Purcell and son of Liverpool road, have hereby permission and authority to pass through the Cowpastures and the County of Argyle to the County laying to the southward and Westward of Cookbundoon Range,

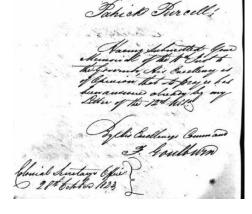
with the under mentioned cattle and stockmen: Thirty steers, sixty cows and heifers. William White and Michael Fennell are Prisoners and stockmen.

In December of 1821 convicts Ian Billingsby and William Aldridge landed from 'Minerva' and were assigned to Purcell at Liverpool Road. In 1822 Patrick Purcell applies for grant of land at Burragorang Valley, spelt as

Burowgowrang in the memorial.

Continued over page...

Left –1823 response from the Office of Colonial Secretary.



tary - In reply to your memorial addressed to His Excellency He came to Australia to join his convict father, Bryan Carlon Sir Thomas Brisbane, I am directed to acquaint you that the (original spelling Carolan), who had arrived in the colony Governor will allow you to hold one thousand acres on the 1820. Patrick Carlon was born at Bailieborough, County Cavtenure of a Ticket of Occupation, but the spot which you may an, Ireland, 1807. Mary Ann and Patrick Carlon had 8 chilselect for this purpose must be at a distance from any Land dren: Margaret Mary (1839). John Bede (1839). Bernard Patlikely to be Holden by Grant. By His Excellency command, Goulburn.

The 1828 Census records Patrick Purcell at Brush Farm.

Ship: came on 'Albion' 1806. Class: Came Free. Age: 52 years. Employment: Pound keeper. Religion: Catholic.

Residence: Brush Farm, 16 mile stone. District: Botany Bay. Farm of establishment: Brush Farm. Land or Stock: yes. Acres: 300, Cultivated: 30 acres, Cleared: 50 acres, Horned cattle: 38, Horses: 1, Sheep: 11.

Farm name: Brush Farm, district of land at Botany Bay. Proprietor: Patrick Purcell, tenant to Mr Meehan.

in Sydney 12th May 1803. Hugh was assigned to Humphrey or Sandhills cemetery, and was located between Eddy Ave, Evans at Windsor Road. 1818 Hugh received land grant on Elizabeth St and between Chalmer and Devonshire streets at the Windsor Road and he also acquired further land. He established an inn on Windsor Road known as 'the halfway by 1860 it was full and it closed 1867. Between 1860 and house', later changing the name to 'Bird in the Hand' inn. 1870 it was known as the Sydney Burial Ground. 1901 this When Eliza Purcell became Hugh Kelly's third wife she was cemetery was resumed to allow for development of central their 3 year old son, Joseph, were living with Hugh's other sons were given two months to arrange for exhumation and children, at this Inn, when there was a terrible accident:

The Australian, Saturday, 19th February, 1831 reports a were borne by the government of NSW. The remains that dreadful accident- as Mrs Kelly, wife of Hugh Kelly, of the were unclaimed were relocated to a purpose built cemetery and Windsor, was on Saturday evening last, racking off some were transferred to a number of other cemeteries. spirits on fire, which catching the clothes of the unfortunate the removal of re-casketed remains as simple as possible. agony. Mr Kelly is thus a widower for the third time, with a the Eastern suburbs memorial park. large young family bereaved of mothers care. The 'Bird in the Hand' pub is still operating today at Pitt Town. Today's sub- Patrick Purcell's death certificate August 16th 1858 states he urb of Kellyville is named after Hugh Kelly.

and Spirituous Liquor was issued in favour of Patrick Purcell, Montgomery JP. Cordeaux JP.

The Sydney gazette and NSW advertiser, Thursday, 21st January 1836, states that the 'Lansdowne Bridge is complete Plains is no longer used as a suburb name. It is now a parish name.

In September of 1823 from the Office of the Colonial Secre- a free settler on the 'Borodino', on 12th July 1828, aged 21. rick (1841). Patrick Joseph(1844). William Thomas (1845). Joseph Andrew (my great grandfather (1848)). Michael Joseph (1853). Phillip Peter (1855).

> Patrick Purcell, and his future son-in-law Patrick Carlon, were both living at Banks Town in the early 1830s, and both had convicts assigned to them while at Banks Town. Bankstown region was originally known as Irishtown, because of the large number of Irish settlers.

On August 14 1839 Margaret Purcell, Patrick's wife, died aged 63. Margaret passed away 12 months after their daughter, Mary Anne, had married Patrick Carlon. Margaret was buried with their son, William Patrick Purcell, who died 1835 Patrick and Margaret's first child, Eliza, married Hugh Kelly in aged 24. They were buried at the Devonshire street ceme-1827. Hugh Kelly (born 1770 Ireland), was a convict arriving tery. This cemetery was also incorrectly known as Brickfield Brickfield, Sydney. The cemetery was consecrated 1820 and aged 19 and Hugh was 57 years old. In 1831 Eliza, Hugh and railway station. Sydney and representatives of deceased perremoval of remains from the cemetery. All reasonable costs 'Bird in the Hand', halfway public house, between Parramatta named Bunnerong Cemetery. Remains that were claimed

spirits into a bucket, a spark from the candle she held, set the Bunnerong cemetery had a tram line constructed to make woman, burned her, so that she only survived the accident 41 Bunnerong cemetery was next to Botany cemetery and in hours, during which time, she endured the most excruciating the early 1970s it was absorbed by that cemetery to create

died at Burragorang Valley of old age (82 years). His son-inlaw, Patrick Carlon, was the informant for the registration of By 1836 records indicate a License to retail Wines and Malt death, and also the undertaker having conducted the burial. Patrick Martin and William Dennis of Burragorang Valley, for the house known by the sign of 'Lansdowne Bridge' at witnessed the burial. William Dennis was the step son-in-law Liberty Plains. Amount of Duty received £25.00 per year. Cer- of Bryan Carlon. (Bryan's 2nd marriage was to Ellen Murphy, tificate of the above mentioned: Patrick Purcell, being a fit nee Riley. William Dennis married Ellen's daughter, Mary person to keep a Public House, granted by - Kinghorne JP. Murphy). At the time of death only two of Patrick Purcell's children were alive, James Purcell aged 46, and Mary Anne (Mrs Carlon) aged 40.

and will be officially opened 26th January, 1836. - Liberty Records show Patrick Purcell was buried at St Paulinus Catholic cemetery, Burragorang Valley, 1858. The first burial in this cemetery, which was on land that Patrick Carlon donated to the Church, occurred in 1841. Archives at the museum In 1838 Patrick and Margaret's youngest daughter, Mary Ann detail graves being transferred to The Oaks or Camden Cath-Purcell (1817-1888) married Patrick Carlon at Bankstown. olic cemeteries. No record has been found of Patrick Pur-Mary was born at Liverpool, N.S.W, when her mum, Marga- cell's grave coming out of Burragorang Valley. Patrick Purcell ret, was 40 years old. Patrick Carlon had arrived in Sydney, as is most probably buried beneath Warragamba Dam water

OVER THE RANGE TO THE OAKS By Betty Villy

In the days of early European settlement, a series of tracks through the bush led to John Wild's Vanderville estate. Some of these have crystallised into roads serving modern transport needs, others have disappeared. Mt Hercules Road is one that, although in existence today, no longer stretches to The Oaks. This original track is shown on an old map.

Mt Hercules Road came into being sometime after 1829 when the Razorback Range, some 4500 hectares, was leased to provide monies for the Church of England schools, churches and orphanages, a grant known as the Church and

School Corporation. The range was surrounded by large grants given to John Macarthur on the north, Major Henry Antill with 2000 acres to the south and westwards, was Adjutant John Wild's land holding. He leased some 1500 hectares from the corporation which he sub-leased to tenant farmers. It seems that he cut a track along the ridge to a point near where Mt Hercules homestead stands today, allowing his tenants access to markets.

Spring Creek

Mt Hercules Road

Bridle Track cut 1821

Network of early roads and tracks leading to The Oaks across the Razorback Range.

The Great South Road, built 1830s by convicts, is now called Old Razorback Road.

This

met the original bridle track from Cawdor to Antill's home near Stonequarry Creek. Wild was familiar with the area as he had been charged in the early 1820s with rounding up the final herds of wild cattle and killing them at the Cawdor cattle station. In all probability, this network of these very early roads followed ancient ways made over the centuries by the Aboriginal people.

Work on the Great South Road continued through the 1830s and at some time after that, the track met up with this new road. It was called The Oaks Road and went from the junction of the main road, along the ridge, crossed Spring Creek, down a gully then up to what is now Glendiver Road to Vanderville and the little settlement clustered there. It was used by locals well into the 20th century.

In 1872 the Church and School Corporation auctioned off its land on the Range. Blocks went from 20 acres to nearly 300 and all were sold, many above the reserve of £1 an acre. It was the first time that land was offered for sale to small holders with some earlier tenants buying up as well

as speculators. Charles Arnold, a previous tenant and Camden hotelier, bought several lots on the main road and build a road through his property which, being initially private, he called Arnolds Road although later known as Donald's Range Road. Dairy farming became the principal industry on the Range with many of the farmers living a tenuous existence as tenants.

The Oaks Road straggled along with potholes and ruts, slimy, treacherous in wet weather and things did not improve when in 1911, Wollondilly Shire Council resumed

15 acres of land along Spring Creek Road that was part of Dobson's holding. A quarry was established to extract the high quality blue metal that the Council could use on road building and this resumption allowed them a cheaper road base than that that was available from Bowral. Some of it was carted to Westbrook, some along the Oaks Road to Picton for use on the southern parts of the shire. The road became known as Dobson's Quarry Road until 1936 when the whole became officially gazetted as Mt Hercules Road. All these name

changes made little difference to the state of it as numerous complaints over the years testify.

Mt Hercules Road is very different from the original track that ran through thick woodlands with water courses flowing from natural springs. It still snakes and turns and of all the dairy farms, one remains, that of John Fairley who runs a state-of-the-art establishment trading as Country Valley Milk. There is an olive grove, vegetable growers and some run cattle on their acreage. There are side roads leading to nowhere speckled with fine mansions and the rare old farmhouse renovated and gentrified unrecognisable to the original inhabitants. Government grants have enabled landowners to eradicate noxious weeds such as the wild olive, the seeds of which escaped Camden Park all those years back. Serious attempts are being made to replant native species native to the Razorback.

The road no longer goes to The Oaks or even to Spring Creek as the last steep hill near that road has been fenced off and is no longer open to the public. But it still retains spectacular views to the mountains and even Sydney Harbour Bridge on a fine day

A GLIMPSE OF HIDDEN TRIGONOMETRICAL STATIONS IN OUR BUSHLAND CONT...

Further on, Tumbledown Trig, pictured below fortunately is in better condition as the vegetation indicates the most re-

cent fire burnt very close. Of course there are many more trig stations throughout Wollondilly, mostly hidden from view in bushland.

The map below shows the triangular icons denoting the trig stations. Other trig's located in the vicinity include Toppleover, Coal Hill and Tomahawk, all visible on the map.



Trig Stations in NSW appear on NSW Government's SIX Maps Page and upon searching you find the digital system trigs are marked with a small triangular flag and labelled with their registration number and site name. A trig with a 'D' at the end of it's registration 70 E number has been identified as destroyed. For example the mark number for 'Toppleover' Trig is 4423. Under the Sur-

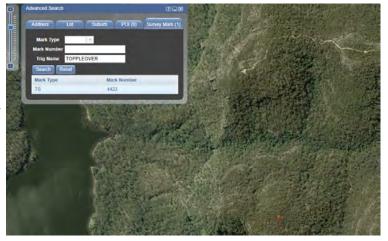
Information Act, by default, the Surveyor General is responsible for maintenance of survey marks. The Surveyor General may delegate maintenance of survey marks on public lands to the relevant public authority, but in practice this does not occur. Instead, LPI is the custodian of the survey control network in New South Wales (NSW) and acts on behalf of the Surveyor General to carry out such maintenance

veying and Spatial

in cooperation with other public authorities where applicable. Nevertheless, looking after the State's survey control network is in everyone's interest because survey marks support billions of dollars of investment, property rights and infrastructure. Loss of marks can significantly degrade the integrity of legal property boundaries and spatial infrastructure. LPI champions the preservation of survey marks through its "Survey Marks: All About Protecting Them" campaign and Surveyor General's Direction No. 11: "Preservation of Survey Infrastructure" (http:// www.lpi.nsw.gov. au/surveying/publications/surveyor generals_directions). This effort is everybody's responsibility. Historically, trig stations were built and maintained by LPI staff (i.e. Piling Overseers) on an ongoing day-to-day basis. The last Piling Overseer retired towards the end of the 20th century and since that time trig stations have received minimal or no maintenance, except those close to regional offices or by special request on an ad-hoc basis. However, the ongoing maintenance of trig stations is of particular importance due to their significant structures and placement in what are usually high profile locations (e.g. lookouts and hilltops). Such marks in the public eye would reflect poorly on the surveying profession if they were to be indefinitely kept in a state of disrepair. Furthermore, it is critical to show landowners that the survey infrastructure located on their land is valued and maintained by LPI – this provides an incentive for landowners to identify with 'their' trig and maybe help look after it. It is also important to maintain trig stations in order to keep LPI's records contemporary. Regular visits will keep track of changes in land ownership, variations to access paths, such as fire trails or 4WD tracks and any new structures or improvements near the site

Information sourced from

https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/ pdf_file/0015/203073/2015_Gowans_etal_Azimuth_564_prese rvation and upgrade of trigs in NSW.pdf



JUNE Laurette & Phil Saturday, 6 Debbie & Allen Sunday, 7 Pam & Trish Monday, 8 Colleen & Kathy Kaye & Jim Sunday, 14 Doreen & Ben Saturday 20 Debbie & Allen Sunday, 21 Pacita & John (Working Bee) Trish & Kevin Sunday, 28

Vale Ivy Brookman

Ivy Brookman's ancestors were the Riley family from Gungarlook in Burragorang. In her recollections written for the publication 'Gungarlook -The story of the Aboriginal Riley family of the Burragorang Valley 'with Jim Smith, Ivy wrote....As I remember Gungarlook, the land I loved, was like a fruit bowl, a sunken valley with mountain peaks all around our shack. When the bushfires would surround us in a circle around the mountains the only way out was into the Wollondilly River. It was also very bad during the flood times. We would have to go to the highest peak on Gungarlook where there were shelters in the caves. Our house consisted of a kitchen, one bedroom for my mother and father, another room with a double bed, which the three girls slept in, part of which was partitioned off for my brother. Now you have a picture of our old shack. When my aunts came to visit they slept in a crowded room on the floor with us children.

Reminders, News & Info

Wollondilly Heritage Centre Re-opening

On Saturday 6th June the Heritage Centre be re-opening with limited hours.

Hours are initially from 10am till 1pm with general cleaning undertaken upon closure.

We have prepared a schedule of procedures to assure safeguards are in place for volunteers and visitors.



Hello Newsletter Team

I read with interest the May newsletter. Thank you for your efforts.

I would like to advise some details on the photograph on the left hand side of the treasures "The Vice Regal Treasures" from Government House.

The photograph depicts a Seam of coal ${\bf Stamford\ Uerthyr}$ at Kurri Kurri, NSW.

The correct place is **STANFORD MERTHYR.**

Stanford Merthyr is near Kurri Kurri. The mine employed local men and was very important to the local community.

On 29th October, 1905, five miners and one of the directors of the colliery were killed trying to extinguish a fire in the pit.

The deaths rocked the small mining community and represented the greatest loss of life on the South Maitland Minefield at that time.

An inquest found that the mine had caught fire in the middle of the night in a spontaneous combustion.

While nobody was in the mine when the fire started a massive explosion killed or injured many of the men working to seal off the mine.

The six men were killed after sustaining serious injuries or burns caused by flying debris.

My interest in this matter is due to the fact that my great uncle Raymond Harold Carr (11.9.1896-20.12.1958) worked in the mine during his working life.

He died as the result of a heart attack at the bus stop in Kurri Kurri on his way to visit my family in Willoughby (Sydney).

Would you be able to put a "correction" in the next newsletter.

Stanford Merthyr is a very unusual name. I am not sure the origins of the name.

Thank you.

Kindest regards,

Catherine Williams nee Herring

Footnote: Merthyr/Tydfil was a coal mining area of Wales. Many welsh miners came to NSW in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Vivian Allen.

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. <u>Due to the Covid-19 restrictions are meetings are currently suspended.</u> Our patrons are Richard Booth and 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.

REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE NOW

Thank you to all of our members who have already paid their membership

SINGLE -\$10 FAMILY -\$18

Membership includes newsletters emailed free.

FOR HARD COPY POSTAGE OF NEWSLETTER PLEASE INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$10. Our bank details are:

BSB 062516 Account # 00904093

Account Name: The Oaks Historical Society Incorporated

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