

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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www.wollondillymuseum.org.au



Newsletter

September 2024

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

AN AWKWARD REUNION - PATRICK COLEMAN OF UPPER BURRAGORANG

By Damian John Gleeson

Coleman's Creek and Murphy's Flat in Upper Burragorang are thought to have been named after Patrick Coleman and his son-in-law, Edmund Murphy. Some new information has come to light about Coleman. We knew that 1825 Patrick Coleman was convicted of stealing a small piece of cloth in Drogheda, County Louth in 1825 and sentenced to seven years transportation (*Regalia* 1825). He left behind a wife and three children.¹ Coleman and Catherine Carroll, transported per *Almorah* (1824), were amongst the convict servants of Thomas Burke, a 1798 revolutionary who became a wealthy emancipist at Airds, near Campbelltown.²

In 1832, Coleman and Carroll gained their Certificates of Freedom. Being 'free' meant it was an error by Father John McEncroe to apply to the State for permission for their marriage banns in 1833.³ The State's permission was only required when one or both applicants were serving convicts. Colonial officials rejected the application on the basis that /of 'Coleman being already married.'⁴ Coleman had made no petition – as convicts often did – that their Irish wives were deceased. When transported Catherine Carroll had left a husband and two children in Ireland: in 1833 no mention was made of whether the Irish husband remained alive. Government refusal however, did not deter Father John Joseph Therry, who married the couple a day later, endorsing what appears to have been another irregular marriage celebrated by the priest. It was likely a double bigamous marriage.⁵

On Christmas eve 1841, Patrick Coleman's Irish-born daughter, Mary, arrived at Port Phillip as per *Gilmour*. She was listed as a 24 year old dairymaid from County Louth. Unfortunately, no parish or townland was stated. On 24 April 1843 Mary married another free settler Edmund Murphy from County Tipperary, at St Francis' Church, Melbourne. The young couple moved north to the Burragorang Valley in New South Wales, where Mary was reunited with her father, whom she had last seen when eight years old. Mary Coleman also met her step-mother, Catherine Carroll, which may have been awkward meeting given there is no evidence Mary's mother was dead

when her father Patrick married Catherine Carroll.

Edmund Murphy and Mary Coleman had seven children, including the youngest, Bridget Murphy who married Philip Peter Carlon of Burragorang. Bridget's oldest sister, Elizabeth married John Bede Carlon, the eldest member of the first generation Carlons. Such intermarriages were common amongst Irish families in the nineteenth century ■



Above- Murphys Flat

Left -The 7 Carlon Brothers c1920.

with Philip back row 3rd from right

& John Bede centre front row.

1. Damian John Gleeson, *Carlons' Town: A history of the Carolan/Carlon Sept and related Irish Pioneers*
2. 1828 New South Wales Census
3. Catherine Carroll, Certificate of Freedom, 12 January 1831 No. 31/0010, 4/4304, Reel 987; Patrick
4. Convict Applications to Marry, Coleman, Patrick, Carroll
5. NSW BDM, Vol.129, No.75/1833. Married at Campbelltown.



President's Report

Trish Hill

This past month has been relatively busy. The upgrade work in the machinery shed has seen the paved section removed and concreted (pictured) and the earth wall on the same end now drained and retained which will better protect our collection and exhibition space from extreme wet conditions, a great result. September is a busy month with a few group bookings. Our Dairy Exhibition opening is Sunday 15th, please come along and join us. The Back Then coach tour to Camden and Western Sydney airports is later in the month and more details on these events can be found further on. There are still coach seats available so please share the details to help fill the seats.



I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to June Hickey who has given freely of her time to run our website for the past 10 years. Secretary Sue delivered a beautiful rose which we hope June will be able to incorporate into her garden. October is the Cranfield Reunion and the flyer with all of the relevant information can be found on page 6.

This week was the final visit of 3 weeks of Broughton Anglican School bookings. I watched as Volunteer Glenis give the students a warm welcome and explanation about how they were about to proceed and was reminded what great work our volunteers do ■



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

Do your children or grand children like to write stories?

In conjunction with our opening of the Dairy Exhibition we have a story writing competition about Daisy our cow. Stories need to start with one of the following.

“Daisy could not have been prouder ...”

OR

“When Daisy looked over the fence she was quite surprised ...”

Judging will be based on originality and expressive language.

ENTRIES

Close Sunday September 8th. They can be dropped at Wollondilly Heritage Centre or emailed to bevbatros@yahoo.com.au

Must be on A4 size paper

Can be illustrated

Categories K-2, Yrs3-4, Yrs5-6

Prizes – a choice of small toys from our shop plus a free family entry to the centre

Entries will be displayed on the day and prizes awarded during the opening.

Please place your name, class group and phone number on the entry.

Any enquiries phone Bev on 0409913679 ■



Marketing Officer

Vicki Madeley

Another busy month in marketing..... I am continuing to distribute pamphlets this month to Wollondilly Council Chambers. The website with the help of Vanessa from MHA Digital Media is looking good and the feedback from Wollondilly Councils Tourism team and Tourism Connect is that it is a great fresh rebrand. Our content is slowly getting updated as we improve the webpage each week. We have new events happening and you can now RSVP on the website for the Dairying Exhibition, just go to our website, click on more details and RSVP will come up click on that and fill in your details. Its very simple and we need to know numbers for catering. Hope to see you at this event. There is also a 'Back Then Tour' on in September, RSVP for that by phoning the number on the flyer. Vanessa and I attended a Business Wollondilly Marketing session over at the Council Chambers and learnt lots about

marketing again. www.wollondillymuseum.org.au

The Collectors series Carnival glass exhibition is closing on August 31st, the feedback from visitors has been very positive, everyone loved it and enjoyed learning about the origins of Carnival Glass. Our next Exhibition in The Collectors series will be announced on the 31st August and will be available to view from this date...I wonder who 'The Collector' will be?

We finally have our EFTPOS machine and it will soon be up and running for tap and go sales.

We need to train staff and get to know the system so please be patient with us as we navigate a new system. Cash is still always accepted ■



Family History & Local Archive Report

Sue Davis

Family History Month is now over and hopefully people have been reflecting on the branches of their Family Trees and what to do next! The next step is finding the stories about your ancestors and finding where they lived. One area that will help is looking at Land ownership records and of course Land Title. I won't go into too much detail here as I am thoroughly looking forward to hearing what our guest speaker for September, Jeff Madsen, has to share about Land Title.

I have used Land Title records when helping researchers find where their ancestors lived and what areas they owned and for what they used the land. In my own research for a book I was writing, I was able to find information about the first land owners in the Soldier Settlement Area of Kingsvale and why the railway was built along this line. Many leads can come from Land Title and looking at old maps. The attached portion of a map of Camden in 1866 shows some interesting names that I am sure people will recognise.

Our Thursday team have been busy getting the Cranfield Family resources organised so that they are easier to access

when the Cranfield Family Reunion visit at the end of October. (See flyer elsewhere in the newsletter)

If you would like some help in your family history research then please contact us on tohs1988@bigpond.net.au or call in on a Saturday morning and I can try and help you! Call first to make an appointment to ensure we have someone rostered on that can assist you- 02 46571796 Or 0414703204 ■

Happy researching!

Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History

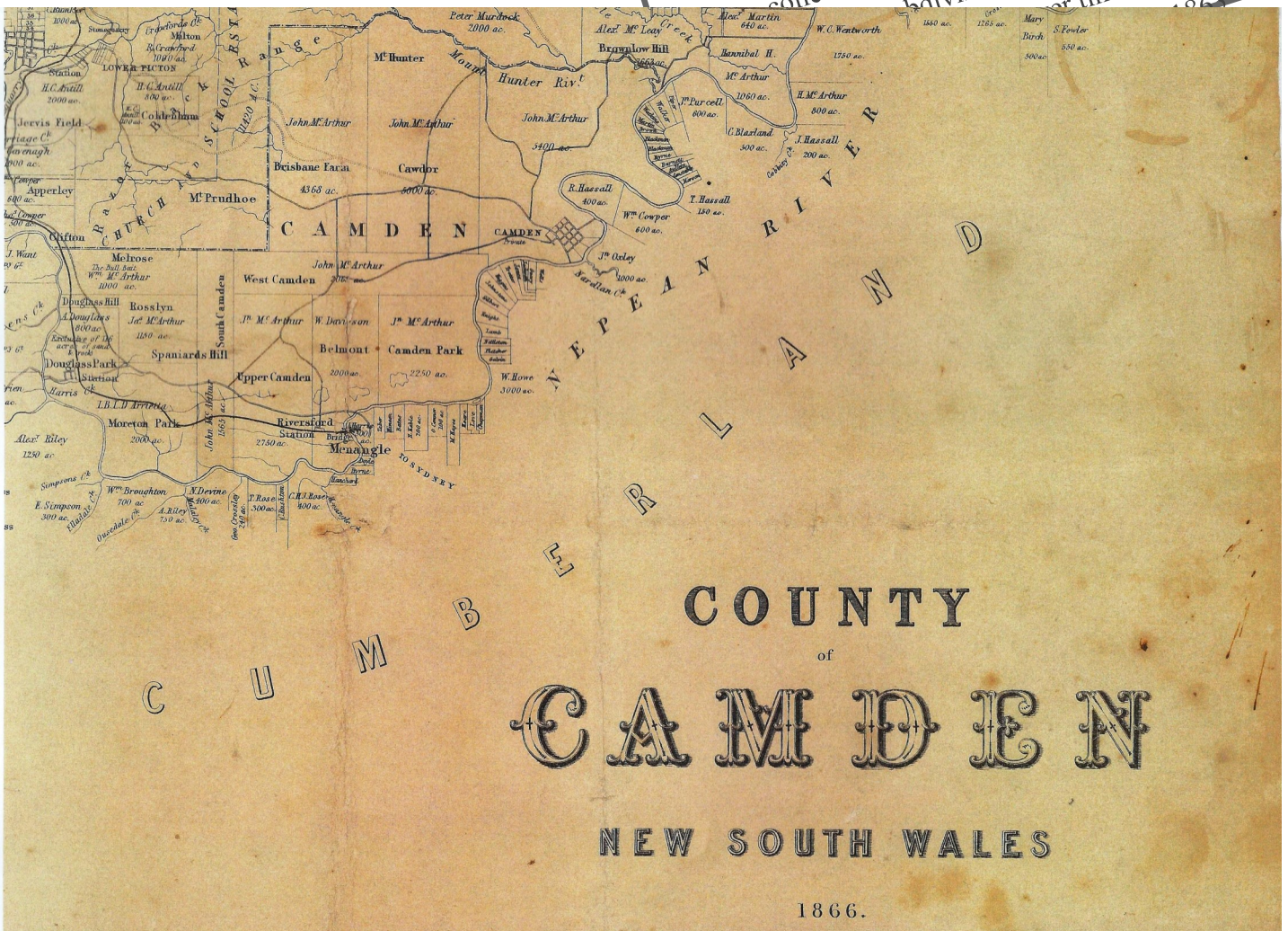


LAND
REGISTRY
SERVICES

What records can I search in HLRV?

HLRV contains a range of records that can be searched and viewed. They are:

collection of parish maps and town maps
divisions and other actions
over time.



An Up-to Date Dairy

a find from our archives of 'The Liz Vincent Collection'

Published in the Macarthur Chronicle in 1997 as the History feature by Liz Vincent, the article goes.... The Camden Times of March 15th 1906, had a front page story entitled An-Up-To-Date Dairy.

It told readers about the dairy property Corstorphine at Brownlow Hill, owned by the Porter family. *The property name is an old Scottish word meaning 'a river flowing adjacent to or at the foot of a village'. The founder of the dairy farm was born in Corstorphine, a suburb of Edinburgh back in Scotland and the property was named after that area. The manager in 1906 was John Porter who was responsible for the running of the dairy on behalf of his mother and sisters.*

His late father had gradually bought other farms surrounding Corstorphine including Mayfarm. This was the property of the late Alfred Bennett. The total area in 1906 was some 1000 acres of 'rich dairy country'.

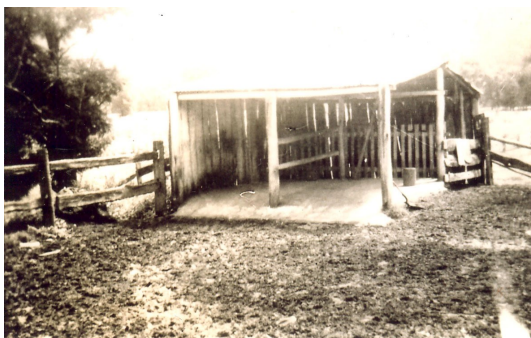
John Porter was most welcoming and spent some time showing the Camden journalist over the farm. The farm was totally devoted to dairying, milking and breeding cattle to improve the herds and nothing but milk was sold off the farm. Of the land, 150 acres was devoted to the cultivation of cattle feed, lucerne, maize, sorghum, barley and corn.

On average 150 cows were milked every day. The cattle were mainly Ayrshires with a few crossed with Holstein. The bulls used were mainly the Durhams and Guernsey ■

More Dairy Stories from the archives

An extract from our publication '**My Most Memorable Job or Mode of Transport**' where our dear Eileen (Holohan) O'Brien told us about some of her jobs in particular the role she and siblings Joyce and Gordon Holohan had on their dairy property, Moore Park in Burrarang.

Like most children of our era we worked from the time our feet hit the ground when we began to walk. My father had many roles, ran the dairy, had a horse and dray on the road, snigged logs out of the mountain and carted sleepers for his brother Jack. So it was just the way it was that we grew into these roles from an early age and quickly became as proficient as our parents. My father would tell me to stay on the high side when snigging logs but little did he know that we rode them. When I was seven my father suffered a stroke which restricted his ability to carry on farm work. Gordon had received a bursary gone off to school at Katoomba so it was left to Mum and us girls to continue on. Mum and I did the milking and if there was enough milk we would separate and keep the cream to make



our butter. Joyce and I and any other kid that was around would then carry a milk can and pint pot from the dairy up to the road, sometimes I think we used a barrow. We would wait for either the mail car or the bus and catch whichever came first. Sometimes if we were late or just coming up to the road the transport would wait for us. We departed the bus or the

mail car at Nattai Post Office, picked up what mail may be waiting and worked our way around and back down past the mine and houses delivering the mail and selling the milk as we went, at 3d a pint or 6d (pence) a quart. The mines often had strikes and money was short, mostly we got paid but if they couldn't pay we still delivered the milk. We often got a shilling a week from Bill Clinton for mail service. Some of the

kids who came along included my cousin Bobby Cochran also David Auld and in the school holidays Cliff Harman, Ron Cochran and Roy Morgan. The Knoll Guesthouse would get milk, butter and fresh cream. They would walk up bringing a big billycan to get the milk for the guests. We just fitted in school whenever we could ■ Photo-Moore Park cow bails

SALE OF DAIRY CATTLE AT THE OAKS

On the 10th September 1896 The Camden News reported;

On Saturday Mr. RH Inglis will hold his opening sale of cattle at his newly constructed and spacious saleyards at The Oaks, attached to The Oaks Family Hotel. It is over twenty years since there was a public saleyard in that important vicinity and it is hoped that the venture proves profitable and so adds to the prosperity of the district.

At any rate it is a feature to know that several noted breeders of The Oaks district have entrusted Mr R. H. Inglis with the disposal of their cattle. It is well known that Mr. R. H. Inglis is an expert Judge of stock and commands the confi-

dence of sellers as well as buyers. On the occasion referred to Mr. C. Dunn, J. P. sends 50 head of dairy cows, besides first class dairy heifers, principally bred by that gentleman, the cattle are very forward and in good condition. Mr. John Lakeman also forwards a choice lot of store bullocks. Other breeders in The Oaks district forward a lot of mixed cattle. In order to meet the convenience of buyers, arrangements have been made for vehicles to start from Mr. Hennessy's hotel, Camden at 12 o'clock on Saturday. We understand that Mr. Inglis has received much support from breeders in the surrounding districts for future sales at The Oaks ■

MONTPELIER MEMORIES

Compiled by Doreen Lyon for our exhibition stories

William Panton purchased the *Seabright Estate* from Daniel Ross in 1825 and renamed it *Montpelier*, which is derived from the name of the French wine district. He worked hard to improve the property and sold the estate in 1836. The estate was subdivided and one portion of 269 acres was purchased by Donald McKinnon of *Spring Hill*, Illawarra, originally from the Isle of Skye. He established a dairy and the property has been worked by five generations of McKinnons...from *The History of The Oaks* by Sonja den Hertog.

Montpelier was more than 1000 acres in Stanley McKinnon's (Muriel's Dad) hands. Milking was by hand and the milk was carted in milk by horse to Picton daily. Mechanisation occurred and in 1938, this same year the house was also built. The milk was then trained to Sydney in 'Milk Pots' (tankers). Usually 100-120 cows were being milked, Australian Illawarra Shorthorns, then later an increasing number of Friesians. The farm was sold in 2018....Jan Allen 2024.

Muriel McKinnon and her husband Sydney Allen purchased 89 acres in 1984 and she has recorded some of her memories of growing up on Montpelier Farm, The Oaks.

Milking was a very tedious job which occurred twice daily seven days a week and 52 weeks of the year. For most families it was a family concern with the first riser getting up at 4am to get the cows in. If you were hand feeding, the cows would be waiting at the gate to come in, otherwise you would have to round them up. In the meantime, feeders would be prepared, buckets at the ready, and can set up with strainers which consisted of a 10 gallon can with a straw over the mouth fitted with a fine hole strainer or gauge strainer or cotton pad strainer to filter out the dirt. Cattle udders had to be washed by hand with a cheese cloth to remove any dirt, the morning milking was always a lot heavier as the cows had longer between milking to gather more milk and hands were always very tired at the finish. Farmers milked between 30 to 120 cows and needed up to 4 milkers to milk by hand per sitting. On a cold morning with the wind whistling around and your hands damp it was very chilly and chilblains were an ailment of milkers. The warmth of the cow's body was often appreciated, although there were hazards such as ticks you could pick up in your head or on wet days drops of rain on you or a smack across your face with a wet and often dirty tail.

The invention of milking machines around the 1930s was a godsend. Where 4 people were need for hand milking only 2 were for machines. They were quite expensive but the saving in work power evened out the

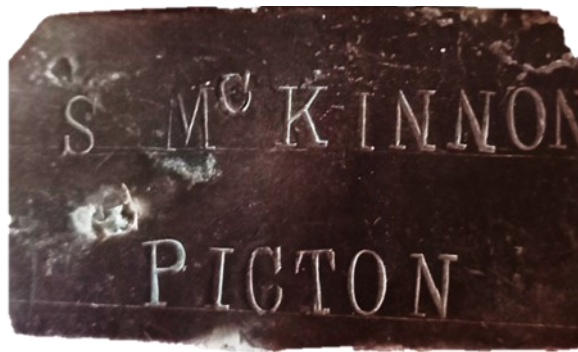
expenses. Many improvements were made to the machines over the years such as strippers, measuring sections to test the quantity from a particular cow, and an eliminator for cow's milk with 'off milk' and other improvements.

Because of technical improvements to breeding of cattle, cattle now gave up to 12 gallons of milk per day whereas in the early 1930s 6 gallons was considered an excellent supply per cow.

The dairy industry is controlled by Dairy Farmers COOP and quotas are the way the supply is kept to the requirement of the country; all farmers supplying milk must have a quota. Prior to this 'Block days' were the order, informed the pickup before by your carrier. This is why many farmers kept pigs to drink your excess milk. Our milk was picked up daily by truck; milk contained in 10-gallon cans until around 1965 when large refrigerated vats were installed and milk picked up every 2 days.

The local milk carrier around The Oaks was the Noakes family who also owned the local garage. Sam Hind was the carrier in Picton way. Now, with so many restrictions by the Water Board as this area is water catchment, farmers began to give dairying away ■

Pictured-Muriel at home on the farm.



Cranfield Family Gathering celebrating 200 years



SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2024

meet. discover. and celebrate...

Between 9am and 10am (optional) St Johns Anglican Church Cemetery, 6 Menangle Rd, Camden**

Visit the resting place of William Cranfield, his wives and their descendants. **For those who would like to visit the cemetery at other times, maps of the cemetery will be available at the lunch at Barenz.

11am - 4pm Barenz Function Centre, 2/130 Argyle Street, Camden

Join your extended family for a sumptuous lunch to celebrate 200 years of the Cranfield family in Australia. \$48 per person (kids 5-12yrs \$24 each, kids <5yrs free). Drinks to be purchased at the bar separately. Includes a talk presented by Jo O'Brien, President, Camden Area Family History Society, and family history/information displays and photographs.

5.30pm Guided Camden Heritage Walking Tour *(also available on Sunday)

Camden features a large number of well preserved historical buildings. Hosted by Jo O'Brien, President, Camden Area Family History Society, you will be guided through Camden's rich and varied history. Gold coin donation.

Dinner at your leisure. Enjoy more social time with new family connections.



St Johns Anglican Church and Cemetery



SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2024

meet. discover and celebrate...

8am - 10am BBQ Breakfast hosted by The Oaks Historical Society at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum, 43 Edward Street, The Oaks

Enjoy a delicious home-style cooked breakfast and discover or confirm your family details with Greg Crawford. Browse the family history displays and photographs. Wander around the interesting, thought-provoking museum (open from 10am to 3pm). \$15 per person (kids 5-12 yrs \$7 each, kids <5yrs free) includes entry into the Heritage Centre and Museum.

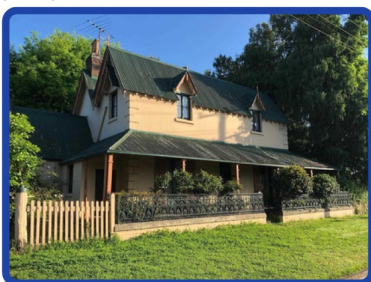
1pm and 3pm* Guided Camden Heritage Walking Tour - hosted by Jo O'Brien, President, Camden Area Family History Society. Gold coin donation. (*3pm tour will be dependent on demand)

Between 11am and 4pm Camden Museum, 40 - 42 John Street

The history of the Camden district is as old as Australia itself. This unique heritage unfolds in the exhibited stories and displays as you wander through the large collection of Aboriginal and 20th century material which has been donated by the people of the town and district. Gold coin donation.



Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum



Nepean House, Camden

how to book in for this very special occasion?

Bookings will be open from 10 June 2024. A booking form will be distributed by mail or email and posted on Facebook. Please keep an eye out for it. If you have recently changed your contact details, please let us know by email to cranfieldreunion@gmail.com or on (02) 6777 8191.

Camden Museum



staying a while? book your accomodation now!

explore the area ...

- ✔ Visit **Camden Museum** 11am- 4pm Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
- ✔ Find **'Cranfield Place'** in Camden
- ✔ Visit **'Burraborang Lookout'**
- ✔ Visit **'The Australian Botanic Garden'**
- ✔ Visit **St Johns Anglican Church Services** Sunday 8am, 10am and 6pm

✉ cranfieldreunion@gmail.com or PO Box 152, Walcha, NSW, 2354 ☎ (02) 6777 8191 (Dale) or 0417 440 307 (Darren)

Follow us on Facebook: Cranfield Family Gathering 2024

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
SEPTEMBER	
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 1
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 7
Vicki & Linda	Sunday, 8
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 14
Sue & Judy	Sunday, 15
Pam & Margaret	Saturday, 21
Kaye & Jim	Sunday, 22
Sue & Helen (Working Bee)	Saturday, 28
Marlane/Cheryl & Kate	Sunday, 29
SUPPER ROSTER	
September	Trish & Noelene
October	Vivian & Pam McV



General Meeting

Monday, September 2nd 2024 at 7pm
Meeting followed by supper/ All welcome

Our Guest Speaker is **Jeff Madsen** involved in a role with the Lands Dept talking about the Historic Records Land Viewer.

Locally Owned
Est. 1997

The District
Reporter

Independent
02 4655 1234

Back then... Live Tour

BOOK NOW - Seats limited

The District Reporter in conjunction with The Oaks Historical Society are offering a living history experience from Back Then.

Hop on a coach and learn how the past shaped the present.

It all happens on **Wednesday September 25th**

For \$40 visitors will be taken on a coach tour from Camden

(beside Camden Sports Club) departing 9.00am and The Wollondilly Heritage Centre The Oaks at 9.15am) for a guided tour within Wollondilly and of the new Western Sydney International Airport. The Back Then tours offer readers an opportunity to see sites that have been written about in the well-read historical page. Some of the sites have changed over the decades, while others are still recognisable. It's a great day out for history buffs or anyone interested in learning about this vast area we call home. The cost includes morning tea and a short presentation at the museum before heading off – a light lunch will also be provided before returning to The Oaks and Camden at 3pm. Money raised assists The Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum – which is run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

To find out more and to confirm your booking call Trish on 0432 689 034.

Payments can be made to: **The Oaks Historical Society Incorporated**

Reference payment: **Back Then Tour and your surname**

BSB: 062 516 Account number: 00 90 40 93.



DAIRYING IN WOLLONDILLY

EXHIBITION OPENING

on 15 September at 1.30pm

at Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum
43 Edward Street, The Oaks.

The afternoon will include the launch of the "Dairying in Wollondilly" publication.

Entry by gold coin donation will also include light refreshments and demonstrations of agricultural displays.

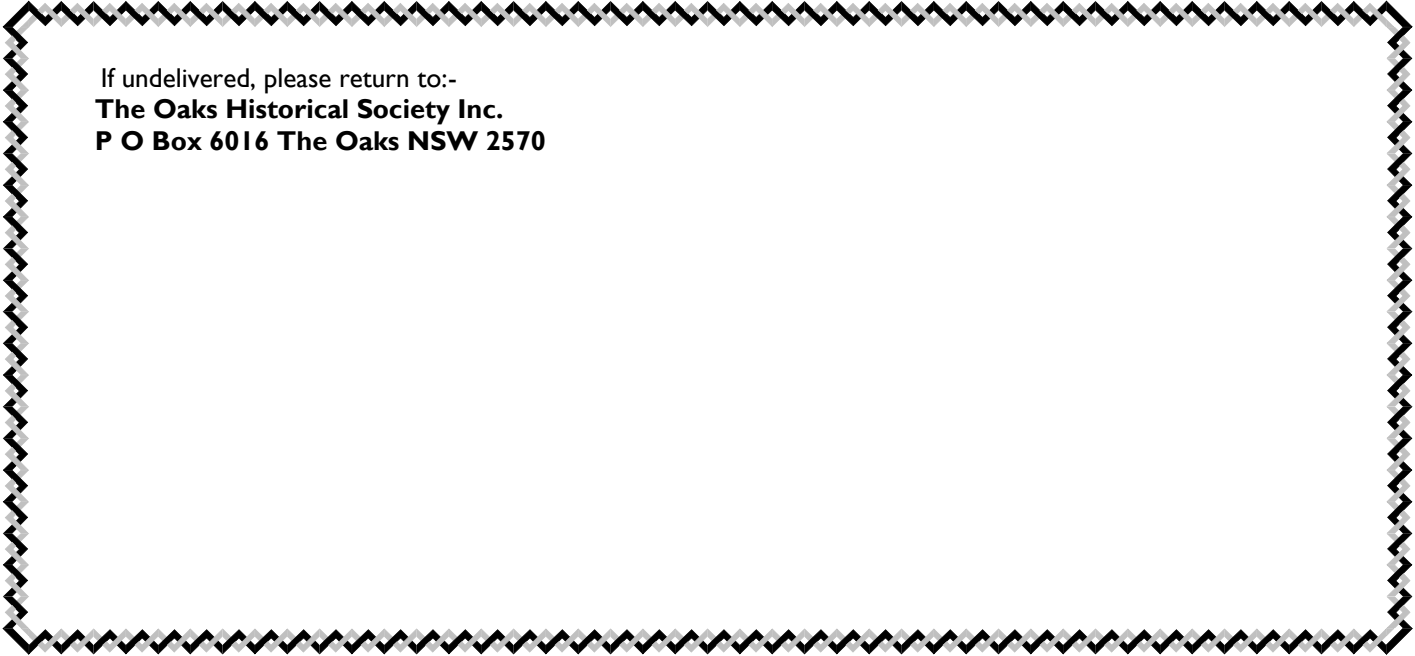
RSVP: tohs1988@bigpond.net.au
or phone 46571796 (by 12 Sept. 2024)



Entries for the 2024 Wollondilly Spring Garden Competition close Friday 27th September



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 September 2nd followed by our October 7th meeting. 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.



If undelivered, please return to:-
The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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