

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

September 2022

HISTORY OF BURRAGORANG LOOKOUT

The Burragorang Lookout as the name infers is a lookout over Lake Burragorang and the Valley. The old "Jump Up" Mountain road traverses near the present day Burragorang Lookout and was opened in 1868 and had its own lookout named "Flynn's Lookout" on the side of the road near the top.

Later, a second road was built 1901 and was called the "Bluff Road" and this by-passed the old road and it also had a lookout named "Braithwaites Lookout", after the Engineer who made the road.

It seems that the present lookout was reported in various newspapers from at least the 1920's and you had to walk to get a view, as there was no road access to it. Views would have been enjoyed by others prior to this as the difficult access to the valley was used before any road being built.

Both Flynn's and Braithwaithe lookouts are no longer available to the public as they are within the restricted area and have safety concerns and the present view would not be as good as it was in earlier days due to the increase in vegetation and tree growth in the area.

After Warragamba Dam was completed a new "tourist" road was built and it was listed in the NSW Government Gazette 13 October 1961 (page 3245) Tourist Road No 4001, with a description: *From the main road No 259 at approximately 17.6 miles west of Camden to the lookout over the Burragorang Valley within the Shire of Wollondilly.*

Within the area are several aboriginal sites and it is understandable why they would have frequented and travelled to and through the area as it was part of their Gundungurra Country and their Creation Story.

The Water Board developed the area for a lookout and picnic area so people could enjoy the view of not only the beautiful

Burragorang Valley but also their newly completed stored waters behind Warragamba Dam as access to the Valley and general area was now not allowed.

The Water Board installed picnic shelters, table and seats, BBQ's, toilets, safety barriers and provided fresh water. They also later installed a fire observation tower to monitor and report on bushfires both within the extended Burragorang Valley area and the residential and rural areas of Wollondilly Shire.

There was also a Kiosk that provided refreshments on site. A popular book, *"A Place to Remember – Burragorang Valley"* by Claude N. Lee was sold at the kiosk in those early days. A

small shop at Nattai Village also provided refreshments for tourists up until around the late 1980's early 90's.

The Water Board allowed and assisted with a rotunda upgrade dedicated to the mines and miners that worked below the lookout in various mines scattered throughout the area.

The Board managed and maintained the lookout area from the early 1960's until the early 1990's.

As mining developed electricity was supplied to the mines below the escarpment and the two large concrete power poles that were located on the edge of the cliff in the middle of the lookout for that power supply were removed by a large Russian Kamov helicopter c1994, after the mines closed, to improve the view. On 13th December 1991 the government gazetted the area Burragorang State Recreation Area (now State Conservation Area) and this included Burragorang Lookout and the area is now managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Photo depicts an early 1960's Burragorang Reunion at the Lookout. Information and photographs supplied by Dennis Ashton.

Continued page 4....





President's Report

Trish Hill

With another reasonably busy month having flown by Spring is looking great, especially the work done by Council with the newly planted trees in our parks and gardens.

Our thanks to Wollondilly Council for supporting us through their Community Grants Program which along with some of our own funds has enabled us to install a dehumidifier to control some mould issues and further protect our collection. Last weekend several of us joined the Camden Historical Society walking tours. The tours appeared to be very successful with lots of interesting information conveyed, Congrats Camden!

We are thrilled to have been successful with funding through both Tahmoor Coal and TRN to further

enhance our entire BBQ area. Planned work will include accessibility, earthworks and decking so it can be utilised by all of our visitors and groups and be a really useable area of our facility. Thanks Tahmoor Coal and TRN!

Last week I was updating some system information and thought I would share some of our statistics with you. We email 100 Newsletters and post out 75 hard copies. Not bad!

Last month we received the sad news of the loss of one of our valued volunteers, Louisa Singleman and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family

Also a get well message to Vivian Allen my newsletter co-editor for a speedy recovery ■



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

I hope you enjoyed Family History Month and that you have moved further along on your journey to understanding who your ancestors were and where they came from. My journey this month took me to Muswellbrook where an old school friend had done some investigating for me during lockdown days. He helped me find some of the resting places for my ancestors which would have taken us a much longer time. We had a chance meeting in one of the cemeteries with a local builder who didn't know the location offered for where my Great Grandmother was born. After a few phone calls he had the name of the people who currently live on the property where she was born! As I have mentioned before, "You just have to ask the right questions!" I was able to contact the new owners but we couldn't visit them as they were locked in due to recent excessive rain! They have offered to let me know when conditions are better! It sounds like another road trip will be coming for us in the future.

While in the Hunter Valley we also visited the Wollombi Museum. The road from Cessnock to Wollombi is far worse than any road we have seen and grumbled about in Wollondilly.



They too have had an abundance of rain and damaging floods. The museum is very different to ours as it is housed in the old courthouse (pictured left) and comes with the challenges of an old building that we are fortunate not to have! It does, however, have interesting rooms that were once holding cells and various chambers. Some of our readers would be interested in the display of miners' equipment as in the picture below.



We have been busy with a few research requests, over the last few weeks, that have kept Helen and I using our detective skills! One family, researching the Gittoes who lived in the Glendiver area, wanted to know exactly where they lived. We finally found the answer when I visited Jim and Janet Moore who kindly shared a map they had of the right era. Another family we researched were James and Hannah Mitchell and the request was why had Hannah moved away when James died. I think we have found an answer! We just need to confirm our idea as you do with all research.

Happy researching! Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History ■



Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

A bit quieter this month with a real mixed bag of items. There is a pair of children's black leather shoes and a recorder (complete with knitted woolen cover). Three small landscape paintings, two in the Cobbitty area and one of The Oaks. From the Woods family comes an Aladdin kerosene lamp, a bottle of port commemorating Douglas park School in 1993, and a bottle of Sherry from Campbelltown's 150th in 1978.

More artwork has come in the form of two framed drawings by Steve Roach (not the footballer), one of Emily Cottage at Campbelltown, and one of St Johns in Camden. From Bruce Brown comes some photos of a Grant tank and a Fiat artillery tractor that were left in Burratorang and reappeared in the



80's during the drought when the dam level was low.

The collection audit is proceeding well. Store 1 is finished and I'm now looking at the objects displayed in the cabinets.

Recently we were successful with Community Grants funding from Wollondilly Council through their small capital equipment section for a dehumidifier pictured left in situ. This was initiated in an attempt to combat problems with mould and is installed and being trialed in the Drill Hall. It is a requirement that it remains operating so please do not turn it off ■



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

There is normally great excitement on Thursday mornings because for most schools visiting, it is their first excursion, despite many being in Year 2. COVID has meant there have been no opportunities for excursions. Even a ride on a bus is new.

Term 3 is fully booked and we have 3 bookings for Term 4. If all goes to plan it will be getting closer to one of our best years with 25 weeks booked. It is not hard to beat the COVID ravaged 2021 (12 weeks) or 2020 (5 weeks). New to our school list are St Marks Coptic Orthodox from Wattle Grove and Kentlyn Public School. St Francis of Assisi School from Warrawong keeps revisiting so we must be doing something right for them to come so far.

This year we have 4 weeks booked by Home School groups. These pupils are registered as learning from

home under approved NSW Education guidelines and often have a district network to undertake educational and social activities, such as excursions.



Our team goes on strongly. Shirley Carlon has experienced some mobility issues but it is a testament to her determination and dedication that she continues volunteering. Shirley has been involved with the Schools' Program for over 30 years, an unequalled record I would think and one

that is unlikely to be beaten. Best wishes to Adelina Austin, our newest recruit, who has proved to be invaluable but is currently nursing a broken wrist.

And our laugh of the week! When asked in the cottage what the bowl by the bed might be (the potty pictured), a child suggested something to wash the baby in! ■

HISTORY OF BURRAGORANG LOOKOUT Continued....

On the 8th January 1964 The Canberra Times reported the following;

The Sydney Water Board ran into trouble when it decided to take a census of the picnic facilities needed at Burragorang Lookout. It stretched a rubber road counter across the approach to the lookout to find out how many cars visited the spot.

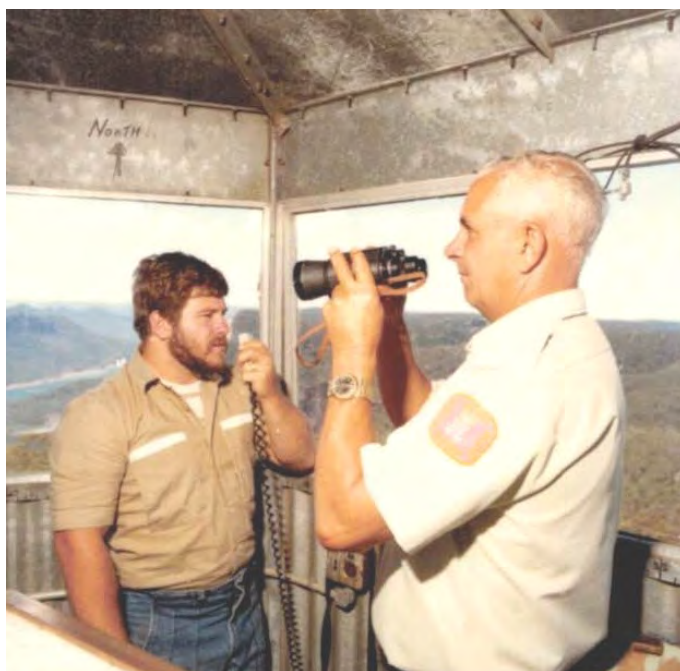
Earlier counts showed that an average of 500 cars went to the lookout each week. Suddenly, the number of cars jumped to more than 5,000 in a week. Officials were stunned. At first they thought kangaroos might have been hopping onto the counter and speeding it along, then they thought it might have been other animals. Observant rangers solved the riddle. They caught holidaying schoolchildren stomping on the rubber tube just to see the counter turn over.

On the 6th August 1982 the Geographical Names Board advertised 'Burragorang Lookout' as the proposed Geographical name for the Lookout and on 15th October 1982 it became an official place name. At the same time the Nattai Post Office geographical name was a proposal to be discontinued.

Pictured below and right the Fire Tower built at the Lookout to assist in monitoring and sighting bush fire events and long since demolished ■



Photo of Dennis Ashton (RHS) and cousin Ken Chalker at about the time of the opening of the lookout, early 1960's.



BOOK LAUNCH OF BARGO-TWO HUNDRED YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Marjo Hallowell



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 BETWEEN 10AM-2PM
AT THE BARGO SPORTSGROUND HALL

STALLS, FOOD, FACE PAINTING, COMMUNITY
INFORMATION STANDS

For details contact: Marjo Hallowell; marjofrombargo@gmail.com

EDWARD AND SARAH TICKNER

An extract from the book 'Tickner' by Max Laidley in our reference library

Edward and Sarah Tickner came to New South Wales in 1839 as free immigrants and even though they were too old to qualify for the government assistance under the Immigration Scheme then in operation, they were brought out by the government.

Edward and Sarah (nee Towner) were both born in the southeast of England, Edward at Wittersham, a village in Kent and Sarah just across the border in Sussex in the village of East Guldeford.

Edward pictured, was born at Wittersham on the 19th September 1789, child of Thomas and Susannah (Bailey) Tickner but it was not until 5th June 1808 when he was almost nine-

teen that he was baptised at East Guldeford. Sarah was the daughter of Henry and Mary Towner, born on 14th August 1784 and her death certificate gives her birthplace as Baram, Sussex and in other records it is known that she was born at East Guldeford. Prior to her marriage to Edward, Sarah had a daughter Mary born on the 27th April 1810 at New Romney in Kent and although Edward was not the father, Mary was raised as a Tickner. Edward and Sarah married at East Guldeford

on 12th October 1810 and baptised their eleven children there. Five of their children died within two years of their birth and they were Thomas, Edward, Ann, June (or Jane) and Susannah. Thomas and Edward were buried on the same day making it likely their deaths had a common cause possibly an infection or poor living conditions. Jane and Susannah died only five months apart. The surviving children married and emigrated to New South Wales. The first to emigrate was daughter Sarah and her husband John Haisell arriving in Sydney on 31st August 1838. Next was the group consisting of parents Edward and Sarah and the rest of their family except Mary, who had married William Dowle. Mary and William Dowle arrived in 1854 with their eight children. Whatever the reasons were for emigrating, the Tickner family embarked on the ship 'Florist' at Gravesend on the Thames River on 14th June 1838 and the ship departed four days later. The ship arrived in Sydney on Saturday 26th October 1839. With Edward and Sarah were their children Peter (and his wife Mary Ann), John and his wife also Mary Ann), Henry, Elizabeth and Maria. Also on board were two grandsons Edward and Robert, sons of Peter. During the voyage the family increased with the birth of a child to John and



Mary Ann. The child was born one month and a day before the ship reached Sydney and she was named Eliza Florist-the name of the ship. Generally immigrants were younger than Edward and Sarah who were forty nine and fifty four respectively when they arrived. The shipping records show the Tickners were Protestants and all in very good health and likely to be very useful in the colony. Edward could read and write however Sarah could only read and all other adults of the group could read and write. On arrival, immigrants brought out by the government were housed in barracks to recover from the long journey and arrange employment if not engaged before leaving home. From a Return of Disposal of the Immigrants who arrived by the 'Florist' it is known

that Edward, John and Peter were engaged by Mr Macarthur of The Cowpastures with wages, term and rations unknown. Henry was engaged by Mr Manning of Sydney for one year at twenty one pounds and rations. All four were described as shepherds. Undoubtedly the employers would have provided transport to the workplaces and immigrants imported by Macarthur's on the 'Royal George' in March 1839 were taken by steamboat to Parramatta and by horse and dray from there.

After a few years working for the Macarthurs, Edward and his sons acquired leases of land owned by Macarthurs. It was the policy of the Macarthurs to at first lease small areas and if the tenant was a successful farmer they allowed him to lease more land. By 1845 Edward was occupying 320 acres of land just south of Cawdor called 'Richfield'. On June 30 1845 Edward's son John began leasing 32 acres of *Richfield* and named his portion *Camberfield* and by 1868 John and his brother Henry had leases for about two thirds of *Richfield*. Later, John leased all of *Richfield* and it became known as *Camberfield*.

Mary Tickner, Sarah's first child married William Dowle, born 24 September at Lydd, East Sussex. He was a son of Abraham Dowle and Mary Beiney and he and Mary were married at Lydd on 20 August 1832. William was a 'looker' when their sixth child Maria was born in 1846. A looker was a person who looks after sheep or a shepherd. His occupation was a shepherd according to shipping records when he arrived in Sydney.

Edward & Sarah Tickner *Continued...*

The Dowle family emigrated aboard the ship 'Sabrina' and arrived on 10 July 1854. William paid two pounds for their passage and another thirty pounds was paid by Mary's brother John Tickner. All the family were Protestants and in good health. Mary, William and the children, aged 10 and older could read and write. After their arrival this family lived with John and Mary Ann Tickner at 'Camberfield' until they were able to lease land there too.

Unlike most farmers in the area the Tickners used the greater part of their land for grazing cattle rather than growing wheat possibly because of their experience as shepherds but more likely it was because much of the land was better grassland than arable land. In any case the decision to raise cattle proved to be very fortunate as the bountiful wheat crops obtained for a few years were transient.

In the early 1860's crops were ruined by floods and drought and the arrival of a fungus which caused stem rust, put an end to wheat growing in the Camden district. Old Edward lived just long enough to see the change it made. Another advantage of raising stock was that it allowed the pooling of

resources. All the stock could be herded together over all the land available, using men, women and children in this work.

Conditions for the Tickners must have been very difficult if they only had one dwelling there. It is unlikely that a family as prosperous as they seemed, would have lived under such conditions and the map of

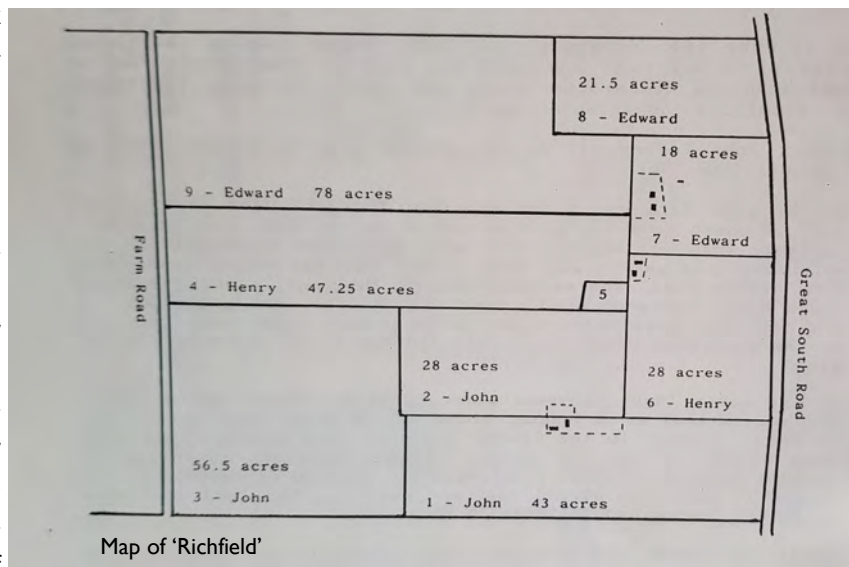
'Richfield' shows several symbols which might represent houses, barns or kitchens. A kitchen in a bark hut often caught fire so it was common to build it separately away from the house. Edward's lease was part of the 'Brisbane Estate' given to John Macarthur by Governor Brisbane but it has not been discovered when this lease was made or if it was one large lease or several smaller ones made over a period of time but it seems that Edward had leased the 320 acres before June 1845.

Edward and Sarah lived at *Richfield* (or *Camberfield*) for the remainder of their lives. Sarah died at age seventy five from natural decay on 7th June 1860 and Edward also age seventy five on 14th October 1864 after suffering cancer of the face for 7 months. Both buried at St Johns Churchyard Camden. Upon Edwards death six of his children and at least thirty seven grandchildren were alive.

Nearby neighbours were Cox, Dowle, Dominish, Rootes, Smart and Veness and members of all these families except Cox, married Tickners.

Edward and Sarah lived through times of great change and would have experienced hardship and sorrow. Losing five

children very young perhaps would have been balanced by the pleasure of seeing the other children grow, marry and produce many grandchildren. They had the heartache of leaving their home in England to face the unknown perils of a sea voyage half way around the world but they survived to become moderately prosperous and live long lives in their new land ■



APRICOT SLICE RECIPE

- 1 cup of All Bran
- 1 cup of Milk
- 1 cup of firmly packed Brown Sugar
- 125g Dried Apricots, chopped
- 1 tablespoon Honey



Soak all of the above (the recipe says overnight, if mine gets a couple of hours I consider that long enough)

Then add 1 cup of SR Flour and mix.

Bake in a moderate oven, fan forced at 180 in a loaf tin for about 50mins depending on your oven.

Full of fibre obviously, serve slices buttered (I use butter as opposed to margarine as it stays on top and tastes better)

Recipe supplied by Margaret Battam via Suzy Freestone

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
SEPTEMBER	
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 3
Bev & David	Sunday, 4
Vivian & Bob	Saturday, 10
Doreen & Ben	Sunday, 11
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 17
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 18
Working Bee	Saturday, 24
Marlane & Cheryl/Kate	Sunday, 25
MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER	
September	Shirley/Noelene & Trish
October	Vivian & Pam

Memberships Fees

Single- \$10.00

Family -\$18.00

Hard Copy Newsletter postage is an additional \$10.

Emailed newsletters are free.

Bank details below for direct credit with your surname as reference

Account Name: The Oaks Historical Society Inc.

BSB: 062516

Account # 00904093




September Guest Speaker

Pauline Downing

Gardens of Camden Park

With a PowerPoint presentation Pauline will outline the work of volunteers in the Camden Park House gardens. Camden Park House and Garden Open Weekend 2022 is on the 17th and 18th September.



OPEN DAY FOR HISTORY WEEK
SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER AT
THE MUSEUM from 10am

Come and experience some of the activities we use in or Hands on History Program with the Schools



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL



SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION 2022

ENTRIES OPEN 18 JULY
Close 4pm 16 September 2022

Scan the QR code or visit www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au for more information



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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 Monday September 5th followed by the next general meeting on October 3rd. 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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