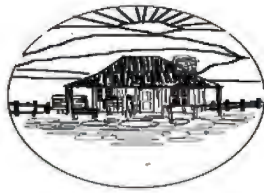


The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979



The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Newsletter

September 2023

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

THE OAKS RECREATION GROUND 70 YEARS AGO

One of the documents in our collection is the Vanderville Tennis Club Minute book commencing with the inaugural meeting of the club on 12th September 1951. With eleven members in attendance, the office bearers for the following year were appointed with G. Franklin as President, W Dunbar-Vice President and N Seymour as Secretary/Treasurer. Some of the business included the club be named 'The Vanderville Tennis Club,' the opening of a bank account and membership fees be 5/- (five shillings) per annum. They placed on record, thanks and appreciation to Mrs J Chapman and L Crane for their splendid effort in the formation of The Club and that the monthly meetings be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Progress for the community must have been rewarding with the following events recorded in the Camden News. *Wollondilly Shire Council introduced town improvement schemes to several villages within the Shire, one of which was The Oaks. It will take some months for the scheme to operate but with the additional money available it is believed that substantial improvement to The Oaks will eventuate.* In November 1952 The Camden News reported *Vanderville Tennis Club have the heartening news that Wollondilly Shire Councillor, Mr Val Moore, will make every effort to expedite the commencement of work on the two courts to be built on the new recreation ground. Many promising players were denied the chance of competing in last season's competition owing to the lack of suitable courts and when the new courts and shelter shed are complete they will be a big asset to the area.*

The same month it was reported the Progress Association would be planting 100 native trees on the 'New' recreation ground and children's playground on Saturday 8th November. Following on in December, The Oaks Cricket Club held a match to mark the opening of the 'new' recreation ground. By February 1953 News From The Oaks again reported- *Members of*

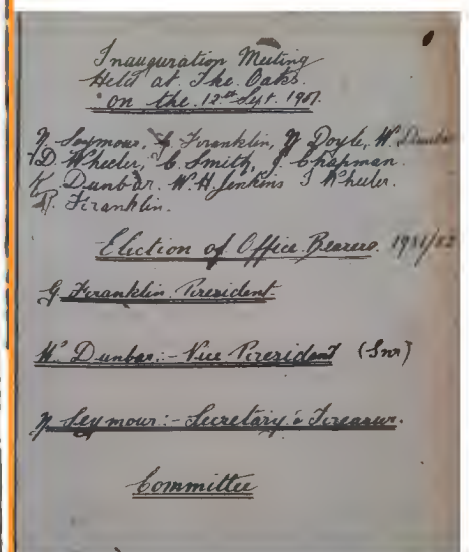
Vanderville Tennis Club amazed everyone by their speed in erecting the poles for the new tennis courts last Saturday, however they later explained that they were very appreciative of the post hole digger and tractor made available by Hugh LeGood and Harold Clinch. Cricket, tennis and football clubs are endeavouring to expedite the building of lavatories on the ground and Councillor Val Moore will take the matter up as one of urgency at the Wollondilly Shire Council meeting to be held this week.

With the support of the community the recreation ground and the facilities grew to encompass the needs of the community and many locals were involved over time. Initially the entrance to the oval was on the western side beside the airstrip and adjacent to the tennis courts and later as road alignments were altered the entrance was changed. The ground was renamed 'The Dudley Chesham Oval' in honour of his community involvement and with new development planned in the following months the recreation ground will undertake major changes along with another change to the entrance ■

NEWS FROM THE OAKS CRICKET

To mark the opening of the new recreation ground pitch, a match between the "Old and Bolds" and "Youngsters" was played last Sunday. Mike Roberts gave the older members a good start with a chanceless 31, but many of his team-mates, evidently trying to hit the first six on the ground, were out cheaply. Dud Wheeler 14 and Milton Wilson 10, did well in the total of 94.

The "Youngsters" took the game as serious as the First Test until Tom O'Brien and Vic Byrnes decided that every bowler was easy, and, besides giving Harold Noakes and Bazil Devitt some long chances in the outfield, put the issue beyond doubt. Mark Wheeler 36, Tom O'Brien 29, Vic Byrnes 23, and D. Chesham 10, batted well, while Milton Wilson showed good form behind the stumps in the "Youngsters" total of 127.



The Minute Book is currently displayed in our Main Museum in 'The Oaks Exhibition.'



President's Report

Trish Hill



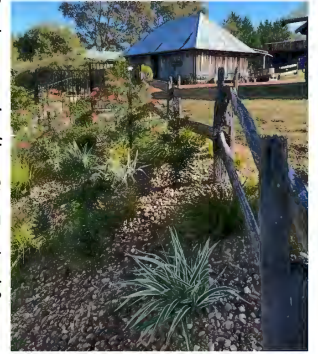
Oh dear, where has another month gone? Welcome to Spring. Our museum gardens are looking rather spectacular and the photos taken by Margaret Battam this week show just how good they are. Thanks to our great volunteers for your input at the working bee last week with

lots of jobs done. Pam McVey aided with assistance from Jim Cuthel transformed the front garden area, well done everyone! There is now some real progress in our new Dairy Exhibition Space with revamped cabinets, milking parapher-

nalía mounted on the wall, the bail in position and a cow enroute to the museum to add authenticity.

Our Treasurer has been busy this month with grant applications and I know we don't fully realise the effort that she puts in so on behalf of all of us thank you Debbie for your dedication, time and energy.

Congratulations Doreen for your vision in sending the photos off to the Estonian Embassy (see page 4) and the recognition from them with the lovely gift of chocolates and of course for sharing with us all ■



Family History & Local Archive Report

Sue Davis

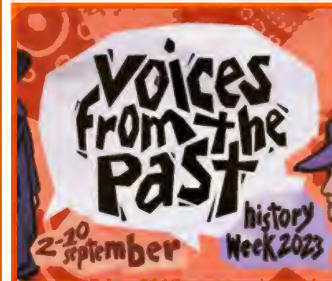


Cookbooks or recipe books come in many different shapes and sizes. They can be commercially produced or handwritten in an exercise book. They can be for different age groups. They can have different themes. What ever the purpose I think we all have at least one in our kitchens (or perhaps a big collection of every variety!)

History tells us that early cook books date back to 1700BC! But most people might remember their first cookbook as being, "The Commonsense Cookery Book" that was given to them by their mother when they left home to make way in the world 'on their own'! There are many stories to tell about cookbooks or recipe books. We hope you will have some or even one recipe that you can bring and share with us at a special afternoon tea on Sunday, 10th September from 2pm. You could bring just the recipe or bring a cooked version of the recipe to share. We hope to be able to document the recipes and make a new collection.

Start searching for ancestral recipe books for our special event in History Week, 10 September...**Voices from The Kitchen** ■

Happy researching!



Come and join us at the Museum on Sunday 10th September at 2pm with 'Stories From the Kitchen'. Bring along an old Recipe book (maybe grandparents) that provide recipes or stories and bring a dish cooked from the book to share at The Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum. Entry FREE if you bring along a recipe book.





Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

This month we've received some more mining souvenirs from the Tweddle family. A framed picture of a horse team bringing ore out of Yer-randerie has come from the Camden Area Family History Society. There is also a 1994 Macarthur Advertiser. This has an article on the proposed new airport at Badgerys Creek which gives a very optimistic completion date.

An interesting item cropped up → on the internet last week where a copy of an overloading report was posted having been found under the seat of a Fargo truck. It was issued to Lester Harold Noakes in July 1962. He was stopped on the Hume Highway and then taken into Camden Rail yard to be weighed. Ironic as he was carrying

a load of milk, so was probably headed into the milk depot anyway. The rear axle weighed in at 10ton 12 cwt., and I think the maximum weight should have been 8 ton. The truck itself , pictured below was restored some years ago and still looks to be in good condition. There was no mention of what the fine was ■

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 3. Registration No. _____
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Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

The Schools' Program rolls along at full pace with every Thursday, bar one, filled until the end of November. Our schools so far this term have been Macarthur Anglican, The Oaks and Broughton. The Oaks bring their Year 2 pupils every year. Later in the term we have a new school St Pius of Unanderra, plus Macquarie Fields. Macquarie Fields will take up 4 more weeks next term as they have large numbers. They are also regular visitors.

We were very pleased to receive a thank you email from Broughton Anglican after their visit this week. It said, "Thank you for your time and energy today. The whole team were fantastic. Our students had immense joy written all over their faces as they experienced the fun



activities you had prepared for them."

The 'fantastic' team was Pam Stephenson, Shirley Carlon, Pam McVey, Margaret Battam, Pat Rawnsley, Kevin Wintle, Les Watton, Glenis Pride, John Mainwaring and Jacquie Finley. The fun activities that caused so much joy included cleaning eggs, grading apples, washing with a

washboard and mangle, using slate boards, being miners, beating cream to butter and painting boomerangs. Congratulations team. You were appreciated ■

Pictured-this week's volunteer team minus John Mainwaring & Les Watton.



Display Officer

Doreen Lyon

Now that the project to install the Kungla storyboard on the former co-operative in Thirlmere is fixed at 1.00pm Saturday, September 30th – and the invitations have been sent by Mart Rampe and Trish – I can share another Estonian-related story.



Maie Barrow centre with guests in Estonian Archives

When I originally researched the Estonian community for our exhibition in 2005 I spent some time in the Estonian archives in Estonian House in Sydney. Here I met Maie Barrow, the volunteer archivist and her team who helped me find the material for the Thirlmere farmer's Co-op. She also edited a Newsletter which I occasionally read. Her daughter Kristi now runs this and I happened to see last year a mention by the Estonian Embassy in Canberra that they were planning to hold a photo exhibition of images from the Es-



tonians who arrived after the wars. I looked through the photos we have in our collection and selected two to send.

One photo showed Roland and Laurel Silm and their family



at Cedar Creek Orchard in Thirlmere and another of Paul Maidla pushing a home-made wheelbarrow in Kaljusto's chook farm on Scroggies Lane, Thirlmere. Paul and Ilma had never farmed before and had much to learn as we can hear from the video she made for our display.

Some months later I received an email to say that this was the photo chosen to represent Thirlmere Estonian Poultry Farmers. I was invited to the opening of the exhibition 'sometime in 2024'. I had forgotten about this but was reminded last week when I received a Post office box in the mail which contained a big box with a beautiful photo on the front of a building in Tallinn, a card to thank us for our



cooperation with their project, and a key ring in the shape of Estonia. When we opened the box it contained chocolates!

Now we look forward to seeing the photo alongside others selected from across Australia and meeting the new Ambassador. From locally raised funds, **Sydney Eesti Maja** became the first Estonian community hall built outside Estonia. The previous Ambassador opened our exhibition "From Thirlmere to Estonia" and we were entertained by the Estonian dancers ■

THE VAL LHUEDE COLLECTION OF YERRANDERIE ARCHIVES

An archive collection of documents, maps and photographs collected by Val Lhuede over many years holds an interesting and sometimes personal glimpse into the lives of many Yerranderie residents and families.

One of those more personal stories relates to a forever young Ernest Victor Edwards. Ernie, as he was known ↓

was accidentally killed in the New Burragorang Mine at Yerranderie on the 8th of October 1913 by an explosion. A Coronial Inquisition was held at the Yerranderie Court House on the 9th & 10th of October by Coroner William Edward Wintle J.P. finding there was no evidence to attribute blame to any person or

persons. There were sworn statements from medical officer Dr Reginald Henpt, Mine Manager Thomas Henry Hooper(tragically also uncle to Edwards) and miners Frederick Freestone, Joseph Deacon Snr and Edward Ebinizer Woolley who were working with Edwards at the time of the explosion.

During the inquiry, Manager Thomas Hooper recalled—*on the day of the accident the men were working about 10 feet from the bottom of the shaft and to the best of my knowledge the last shot that was fired in the mine was at about 11 o'clock the previous day. Under oath, Frederick Freestone stated in the afternoon of the*

8th, I was working with Edwards in the west end of the Burragorang Mine. We were shovelling mullock out of the end. When I last saw Edwards he was using a pick. I heard an explosion and do not remember any more until I

found myself at No 4 level, I was dazed from the shock of the explosion having received several wounds myself.

In an extract from a hand written letter to Val Lhuede from Ernie's sister, Eleanor Campbell Bone (undated but possibly 1977) wrote- *at the time of Ernie's death his uncle Thomas Hooper was the mine manager. His wife Bessie*

was my fathers sister. Bessie's Mother, Annie Edwards lived at Yerranderie at the time and also one of her sons, Will. Ernie was born at Gympie on 9th May 1895 and when still a baby moved to Charters Towers which was his home until the time of his death. He was at Yerranderie two months waiting for his

Grandmother, Mrs Annie Edwards to accompany him to New Zealand as he had plans to go on a working tour of the world. He was very adventurous and at the time of his death he was 18 & 5 months which is inscribed on his headstone at Yerranderie. In the photo of the football team

Ernie is in the middle of the back row. Ivy Hooper, his cousin is the girl on the left. The young man holding the ball is Bert Beaumont and on Bert's left is Ernie's Uncle, Will Edwards.

←Pictured here on the right is Ivy Hooper, next to her is her father Henry Hooper mine manager & his wife Elizabeth nee Edwards, then Henry Hooper. The blonde

girl front left is Ernie's sister, Eleanor Edwards (Campbell-Bone)■

*Editors note —whilst some spellings may seem incorrect they have been reprinted as they appear in the coronial documents.



UPDATED INFORMATION ON JUST AN OLD TRUNK OR IS IT?

Following up on last month's cover story, Author Noelene Mainwaring contacted the Hyde Park Barracks curator and received the following email from Perry McIntyre which clarifies the history of the trunk.

I've just read your great article re the old trunk found in your family goodies. It is terrific that it has survived and it surely seems to be a 'sea trunk' of some sort. I remember my parents had a very large 'cabin trunk' that stood on its end and hinged open like a small wardrobe. This was for the travellers who could afford long sea journeys in the late 19th and early 20th century. It certainly need servants to lift it and move it around. My father's father was a consul to Brazil and I've always assumed it was his and he needed to travel with suits etc.- as they did.

That said the trunk you picture may have been one of those travelling trunks but was definitely not one of the sea chests or trunks required under the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for assisted immigrants to Australia in mid-19th century - these included the 4114 workhouse orphan girls. They had to be able to stack in the hold and thus the curved top was a problem.

The CLEC trunks were required to be 2 feet long, 14 inches wide and 14 inches deep with lock and key; to be painted with the Emigrant's name and a catalogue of contents pasted on the inside. If they were all the same size they would have stacked better as well.

I've attached that portion of the regulations and an image of the only surviving one of these (pictured) that we know about - Margaret Hurley's per Thomas Artbutthnot - this was displayed in the Irish Australian Exhibition 'Not Just Ned', at the National Museum of Australia in 2011 and is now on permanent loan and on display at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney.

Nevertheless, I loved your article. Keep up the good work ■

Cheers

Dr Perry McIntyre AM -Historian for the Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee

Section of the engraved wall at Hyde Park Barracks →



OUTFIT FOR EACH OF THE EMIGRANTS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6 Shifts. | 2 Aprons. |
| 6 Pairs of Stockings—2 worsted, and 4 cotton. | 1 Pair of Stays. |
| 2 Pairs of Shoes. | 1 Pair of Sheets. |
| 2 Gowns—one of warm material, (woollen plaid.) | 1 Pair of Mitts. |
| 2 Short Wrappers. | 1 Bonnet. |
| 2 Night Wrappers. | Day and Night Caps. |
| 2 Flannel Petticoats. | 2 Towels. |
| 2 Cotton do. | 2 lbs. of Soap. |
| 1 Stout Worsted Shawl, and a Cloak. | Combs and Brushes. |
| 2 Neck and 3 Pocket Handkerchiefs. | Needles, Thread, Tape, &c., and whatever other articles (such as a few yards of Cotton or Calico) the Matron may know young females to require. |
| 2 Linen Collars. | |

Books:—Bible and Prayer Book for Episcopalians.
Bible and Psalm Book for Presbyterians.
Bible (Douay) and Prayer Book for Roman Catholics.

One Box for each Emigrant—length 2 feet, width 14 inches, depth 14 inches—with lock and key; to be painted, and the Emigrant's name painted on the front, and a catalogue of the contents pasted on the inside of the lid.

All the Articles to be new, of good quality, and of various patterns.

The boxes should be strongly made, so as to bear a strong voyage, and the locks be secure; and besides being locked, the boxes should also be strongly corded.

Copy of a Certificate to be given for EACH of the Emigrants.

UNION WORKHOUSE.

We hereby truly and sincerely Certify that _____ has been in this House for a period of _____, that her conduct has been [here a full statement of her behaviour, and such as the strictest veracity will admit, is to be made,] and that we believe her to be a girl of unblemished moral character—all of which we unreservedly attest, with a due sense of the responsibility it involves.

Date: _____ Master.
_____ Matron.

In addition to the above, testimonials of character are to be procured from late employers, and other respectable parties, by those who have been at service, and by those who have not been long enough in the House to be thoroughly known by the Officers of the Establishment. The whole of the documents, as soon as obtained, and the sooner the better, to be forwarded for inspection to

C. A. Bailey
REGIMENTARY HENRY, R.N.
Emigration Officer,
Custom-House, Dublin.

To the list of the names of the party, which is to be sent with them to the Port of Embarkation, is to be annexed a Medical Certificate testifying to the perfect soundness of the health and constitution of each, and that they have either had the small-pox or been vaccinated, and are free from any kind of skin disease.

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
SEPTEMBER	
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 2
Kaye & Jim	Sunday, 3
Kaye & Jim	Saturday, 9
Sue & Judy	Sunday, 10
Pam & Margaret	Saturday, 16
Doreen & Ben	Sunday, 17
Sue & Helen	Saturday, 23
Marlane/ Cheryl/Kate	Sunday, 24
Pam & Margaret (Working Bee)	Saturday, 30
Vivian & Bob	Sunday, 1



General Meeting

Monday, September 4th 2023 at 7pm

Guest speaker Mick Webber RFS talking about fire preparedness for the approaching fire season and revisiting aspects of Green Wattle

Meeting followed by supper/All welcome

BUTTERSCOTCH SLICE from our Country Selection Cookbook

125g butter

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla

1 & 3/4 cups S.R. flour

3 tablespoons golden syrup

Cream butter & sugar, add syrup and vanilla. Mix until light and fluffy. Stir in sifted flour and mix well. Push into a greased or paper lined oven tray and bake for 15-20 mins. Cut into squares when cool.



VOICES FROM THE KITCHEN AT WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE

10 SEPTEMBER

Do you have a favourite cookbook? Or perhaps you have an old family recipe book which has been passed down through the family? You may have a story you can share with us for History Week at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum.



(This example is from Meroogal House Museum in Nowra and has stories of Auntie 'Tot' in the house collection.)



(One of our volunteers with a page from her grandmother's recipe book.)

Come and join us at 2pm for afternoon tea on Sunday, September 10th and bring your memories, your stories and a sample from your recipe book. We plan for a fun afternoon in our gardens and perhaps we can create a Cookbook book from your stories and voices! (Contact Sue on 0414703204)

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

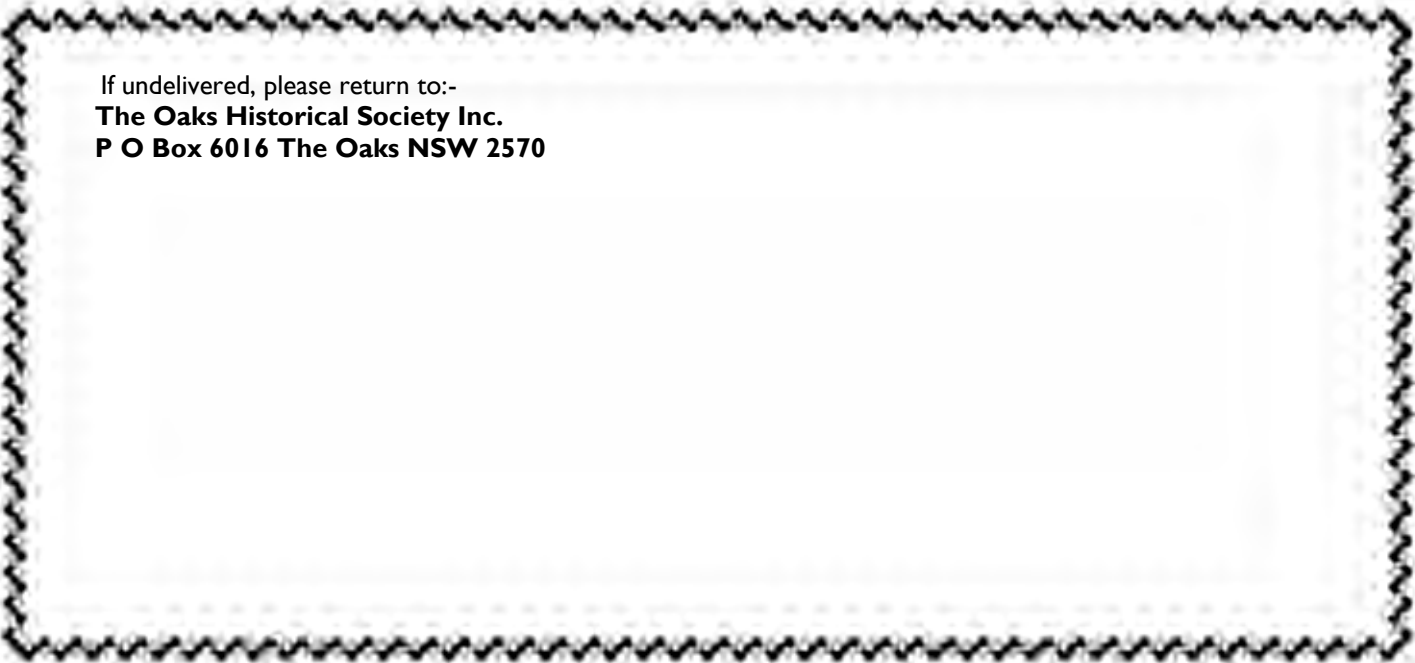
2023
SPRING
GARDEN
COMPETITION

ENTRIES OPEN 17 JULY
Entries Close 22 September 2023

Scan the QR to enter & find out more

Wollondilly
P 4677 1100 | E council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

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 September 4th followed by the general meeting on October 2nd 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.



If undelivered, please return to:-
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