

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.  
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Newsletter

AUGUST 2018

## Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum



## 30 Years of the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

May 28th 1988 saw the opening of the Wollondilly Bicentennial Heritage Centre, but the story actually started much earlier on Tuesday, May 1st 1979 at The Oaks Pre-School, with the inaugural meeting of The Oaks Historical Society. This occurred in response to a flyer that had been circulated and the call was answered by lots of interested people. Those present at the foundation meeting were:

Gwenyth & Elwyn Noakes, Shirley & Joe Carlon, Jan & Eddie Gall, Les Murdoch, Doreen & Ben Lyon, Vivian & Bob Allen, Janelle Allen, Brenda Wintle, Elva Macdonald, Clarice Barr, Jean Wheeler, Mary Clarke, the Montgomery family, Michael & Mary Caldwell, Zillah Brown, Mert & Coral Daley, R E Nixon, Mary K Tunks, Freda Noakes, Rex & Jan Noakes, Colin & Clarice Noakes, Lindsay Brown, Noel & June Hewit, Denny & Jackie Haynes, B Wilson, Mr McIntyre, Doris Woods and Mr & Mrs Val Moore. By the end of the night the following committee had been elected. President: Mert Daley, Treasurer: Mrs V Allen, Secretary: Mrs J Haynes and Publicity Officer: Mrs D Lyon. Committee: Mrs B Wintle, Mrs E McDonald, Mrs D Woods, Mr E Gall. The first guest speaker was Mary Caldwell of Gosford, a descendant of John Wild.

In March 1980 the Campbelltown Airs Historical Society donated a copy of the book, *History of Campbelltown*. This was the beginning of our library. Donations of other items followed soon after, and the first recorded item is a cast iron

2-pot steamer used to soften wood glue which was donated by Doris Woods. This is still in our collection. Don't know whether it has ever been on display but if we have a display for our 30th anniversary, then perhaps it can be included. By the end of 1980 over 120 items had been donated, and this didn't include photos. It soon became apparent that some permanent home would be required.

In 1980 news had come through that grants would be made available for projects to celebrate Australia's Bicentennial in 1988. Over the next few years representations were made to Wollondilly Shire Council to acquire land for a suitable museum site. In August 1981, the council offered us a lease on land adjoining the reserve in Merlin Street.

In order to understand what would be required to build and run a museum, the members embarked on a number of bus trips to visit other museums, such as Kangaroo Valley, the Shoalhaven, Newcastle and others. Many fund raising activities also took place with street stalls, garage sales and attendance at various fairs etc. A number of books were produced by Doris Woods and Sonja den Hertog. Sonja had been appointed the honorary Research Officer and did a massive amount of research work. These included *Historical Guide to The Oaks*, *Yerranderie Silver Fields*, *A Brief History of The Oaks*, *The Hermitage*, *The History of The Oaks from The Records* and a cook book.

*Continued .....*

## 30 YEARS OF THE WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM *continued ....*

Sonja also recommended in 1981 that the Heritage Council should be approached for funding to restore St Matthews church. Nothing was forthcoming, but two years later, with very limited funds, a start was made on April 19th, 1983 by volunteers from the society.

Supervised by Jim Whyte, and with Harry Nolan providing new corner posts cut and shaped by himself, the work was finally finished in 1985, and the church reopened. The work and the history of the church was detailed by Sonja in a book on St Matthews.

Another fund raising activity was the Annual Ball. The first of these was held in The Oaks hall on May 5th, 1980 and was a resounding success. It became an annual event and was enjoyed by all those who participated.

On September 1st 1984 a Development Application was submitted for the erection of museum buildings. This was approved but lack of funds prevented a start. The plans included the main building, a settlers cottage, a mining and aboriginal building, machinery shed, blacksmiths shop and a dairy. Applications were made to the Bicentennial authority for a grant, but there was no success.

In October 1985 we were advised that our grant application had been lost, and a photocopy was submitted. In June 1986, with nothing forthcoming, it was decided to leave the project in abeyance for five years, then on July 1st, 1986 came an official announcement from the Minister, John Aquilina, that a Bicentennial grant of \$150,000 was to be made to The Oaks Historical Society to develop the Wollondilly Folk Museum.

Wollondilly Shire Council showed their support for the project with the Mayor, Frank McKay, and a number of councillors attending the August meeting of the Society. Negotiations continued with the Bicentennial Council, and in September 1986 their Mary Louise Williams suggested a name change to *Wollondilly Bicentennial Heritage Centre*, and this was agreed to by the Society. In December, Jim Whyte was appointed as building Supervisor. In February 1987 a ceremony was held on the site for the presentation of a cheque for the first portion of the grant. By March, the

foundations were in place and the fence and gates complete.

20,000 bricks had been laid by the beginning of May and the shed construction was in progress. The date of the opening was set for May 28th, 1988. The main building was at lock-up stage by November and painting and electrical work were underway.

The fourth milestone



*Enid Roche & Son, Margaret, Jean Wheeler and Vic Boardman*

was completed in December, with the main building, car park, walkways, landscaping and the machinery shed all complete. The mining and Aboriginal building (now the Drill Hall) was under way, with the floor down and the frame and roof timbers ready to start.

February 1st, 1988 was a memorable night, with The Oaks Historical Society having a meeting in the museum for the first time. May 28th soon arrived and the program for the big day was as follows:

- 11am Arrival of the official party in buggy and vintage cars. Official welcome, speeches, children's items and the official opening*
- 12.30pm Flypast from the local airport, inspection of displays and lunch at the drovers camp run by Vic Boardman*
- 1.30pm Cow and goat hand-milking and butter making*
- 2.30pm Hand shearing and spinning*
- 3.30pm Fence splitting*
- 4.30pm Chaff cutting and meeting display*
- 5.30pm Damper and billy tea at the camp fire*

Certainly a full day of entertainment. The official opening was done by local MP John Fahey, who arrived in a horse drawn buggy, driven by Joe van der Molen. Other official guests included the Mayor, Frank McKay and Bicentennial Authority Officials. Eddie Gall provided some steam driven equipment, while Ray Lincoln did the blacksmithing duties.



*Ray & Heather Lincoln working together*

*Continued next month ....*



*The Oaks school choir*



## President's Report

Trish Hill

I hope everyone is managing to keep warm and well during these colder couple of months and I'm looking forward to spring.

Completing documentation for our building improvements have been ongoing and almost there, with the Blacksmith facility ready to go and we are awaiting a document to complete construction certificate requirements for the main extension. As we go to print each month I hope to be able to say that we have actually turned some soil, maybe next month.

July has seen the kitchenette in the Drill Hall completed (see photo). Our thanks to Veolia for their funding support which enabled the project, also to our volunteers and businesses - Stuart Eagles of Cobbitty Grove Kitchens, Dan Parry Plumbing, Matthew Sharkey Tiling and Michael Haynes. Debbie Seymour, our treasurer, has worked relentlessly towards all of our building works, in fact I'm sure she sleeps over in the Buragorang Cottage some nights, thanks Deb. We have extended an invitation to Veolia for morning tea on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am to officially thank them. Our meeting next week will

showcase the kitchenette and its functionality.

Our can and bottle recycling continues to generate funds for us thanks to our members, children and grandchildren who drop them into us.

Thank you Camden Historical Society for your generous financial support towards the wagon restoration. Our blacksmith facility will house the wagon undercover and so further protect it from the elements.

During a visit from The Oaks School our education program was filmed. Coordinated by museum neighbour and Tahmoor teacher, Ian Booth and filmed by Nik Kaapro (who coincidentally had been a student of Bev Batros), we hope to include this film on our website when completed.

August is family history month and to celebrate our archivist, Sue Davis has a presentation entitled 'A Suitcase of Treasures' which I'm looking forward to. ■



## Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

The Schools' Program now has a lot of film stars after a video was filmed at the centre last term. The concept was suggested by Ian Booth from Tahmoor School as reciprocation for our centre loaning furniture and items from our school building for use in their Centenary celebrations. Nik Kaapro, an aide at the school, spent three hours filming the children undertaking their activities. He even used a drone for some aspects! With another 10 hours of editing to undertake, the video should be

ready soon and will be uploaded to our web site. The Oaks School children were filmed and their behaviour was excellent.

Our year now is virtually filled with 26 weeks being booked to date in 2018. Each of those weeks some 40 to 60 children take part in the activities, meaning well over 1000 children pass through the centre each year learning what life was like in the olden days. That sounds pretty impressive! ■



## Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis



Welcome to Family History Month, 2018.

As a special offer we are providing Family History Research at no cost! However any photocopying and postage will be at the usual fee. We hope you will make a special effort to use the wonderful resources at our Heritage Centre.

(or boxes in the attic!) can often tell the story of an ancestor and solve some mysteries!

Some memorabilia you might have about your ancestors may include: autograph books, birthday books, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings, photographs, medals, mortgage payments, passports, person records, service records, marriage certificates, references, and more! How many of these things you have carefully filed?



Happy researching!

At our Monthly Meeting for August I am going to give a presentation I have called, "A Suitcase of Treasures". I hope you will come along and see how objects found in suitcases



# Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Another quiet month for items coming into the museum. We received a scrapbook of The Oaks cricket team in 1984 and a medallion which was presented to James and Florence Toovey in 1916 on the death of their son Frederick. The medallion is a fascinating item, and we haven't found out whether there were others like this or if it is a one-off item.

While it is quiet on the incoming side, we have been busy re-arranging our maps and these are now much easier to access and find. The large photos that are in store 1 have also been re-organised and copied so that digital copies are now available. ■



Sgt Frederick Toovey  
1894-1916



# Marketing & Bus Visits Report

Louisa Singleman

## July Bus Tours

July turned out to be quite a busy month despite the school holidays when grandparents often have to do babysitting chores. Altogether we had seven groups come along and enjoy a wonderful day at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum.

We had three groups from the Illawarra region, a group from Glenmore Park, Moss Vale and the Marrickville Historical Society. We also had a happy band of residents from the Aminya Retirement Village who showed their appreciation by sending a lovely card to say what a wonderful day they had.

## Marketing Report

The Wollondilly Tourist Association Inc. (WTAI) held their last general meeting at the Antill Golf Club. The WTAI will soon

make its presence seen at the Open Garden Day to be held at the end of October. This event is being co-ordinated by the Rotary Club of Picton. It has also been suggested that a Walking Track be developed to the top of Vault Hill where the graves of the early pioneers of Picton. Apparently these graves are in a state of disrepair and would need restoration. No doubt there will be interesting discussion ahead.

The Wollondilly Shire Council has distributed a draft Wollondilly Destination Management Plan compiled by Stafford Strategy. This document's aim is to guide sustainable growth and to help ensure the viability and resilience of the tourism industry in the shire. Council has requested that organisations and individuals submit their thoughts on the document. You can get a copy of the document on the Council's website. It is very interesting reading. ■

## CLARENCE RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GRAFTON

On a recent road trip from Brisbane I phoned ahead to the Clarence River Historical Society enquiring about my G/grandmother's uncle, 'Tom the Boatman' Howlett (born 30 May 1808 Birmingham, England). When I arrived several hours later the wonderful volunteers had index cards, files and paintings of Tom and his wife ready. What a surprise! I spent some time with Roz Palmer the Librarian and Netta, Ruth and Robyn in the very grand Schaeffer House Museum. The oldest museum (1931) in NSW outside Sydney. The house was built by architect FWC Schaeffer in 1900.

I am a descendant of *Australian Royalty* on my mother's side. *Tom the Boatman* (b.1808 England—d.1870 Grafton), was the first person to buy land in Grafton and the first person to build and work his boat on the Clarence River. The publication, *The Bawden Lectures 1886 to 1888, The First Fifty Years of Settlement on the Clarence p.57* says "... During the first years of occupation... of the settlement... goods entirely and occasionally passengers

also—was carried on by that genial old soul familiarly known then, and up to the time of his death in 1870, as "Tom, the boatman", otherwise Tom Howlett... Howlett was thoroughly careful and trustworthy. He had a large boat, and occasionally two, in which the cargo was conveyed.... Poor old Tom. I have had many a bit of fun with him, and have experienced many acts of kindness from him. He was one of those men of whom there are too few in the world—to whom the expression is often applied, 'He would not hurt a mosquito'. He was also one of those men who are too good natured to assert his rights."

Tom's mother, Mary (Davenport) Howlett married Matthew Howlett in Warwickshire on 14/2/1803. He was sentenced to 7 years for larceny and transported on the *Marquis of Wellington* in 1814. Mary was sentenced to 14 years (Parramatta) for larceny and transported on the female convict ship *Janus* in 1820 to Sydney Cove. She was accompanied by sons Thomas & William. Mary married five times and had 24 children (2 sets of twins). *Tom (the Boatman)* and his wife had no children.

—Jenny Wood, Editor



# Farewell Jim

Continued ....

"We then purchased a lovely older home in 7 Windermere Ave, Northmead [now listed as a heritage home] which was a concrete panel construction on a large block, and did some renovations and installed an above ground swimming pool. We continued holding family parties enjoying our children, life was pretty good, we would commute to Smithfield, with Maureen looking after the office while I handled production and sales. Then one afternoon Maureen went to collect the children from school and while waiting to make a right hand turn to the school a truck rear ended her into a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction with catastrophic results. Luckily her sister Shirley (a nurse) was nearby and without her preventing anybody from moving her till the ambulance arrived, I'm sure she would not have survived.

She was operated on that night with a split liver, collapsed lung and a lot more, it was days before we knew she would survive and a long time recuperating."

*Vicki.....Dad and I and Jimmy ran the house hold at this time, both of us learning to cook and clean together. We had some disasters and some fun times during this time when mum was in hospital for months. This is when Dad and I became especially close.*

Jim wrote —

"We decided to have a tree change and purchased 25 acres in 12 Dairy Road, The Oaks in 1974 and proceeded to build a home. Going back to the tools, I started doing work in the area which I enjoyed. Unfortunately I had to have a back operation which laid me off for 6 months and caused hard times for Maureen and the children. Without Maureen I do not know how we would have survived.

With the help of our neighbour Joy Brislane, who introduced us to country life by jointly buying a milking cow, Maureen shared the milking and grew some vegetable crops which we sold to Coles in Camden. We settled in and started to become known by working in the district. This was more the work that I enjoyed with Maureen's help, working in the shed and locally building an occasional home, doing repairs and alterations. Two interesting jobs were a home for a solicitor replicating a home in Parramatta (Experiment Farm). Another was a copper tile covered Lebanese style dome for a shop on the corner of Dairy Road. This was done in the yard at home and craned over the power lines onto the roof of Back Creek Store.

Maureen became more and more involved apart from working with me, in the district, in the tennis club, Meals on Wheels. And youth groups which she, as always, became involved in organising tournaments, and raising money within the district, and always keeping the family reunions going every year. I became involved through work building a

canteen for the football club, repairing the tennis shed, and when Vicki took up pony club, they required upgrading the club house.

As we got older we became involved with The Oaks Historical Society which evolved into starting a building complex of six buildings in Edward Street in 1987 to open in 1988 and continued till completion over a number of years. Using my builders licence, a Bicentennial Grant, a lot of volunteers doing a lot of work which is ongoing with displays being designed and built with ongoing maintenance. We also repaired St. Matthews Church (built in 1838) before it was demolished, and now has one service each month, (I designed and installed the leadlight window and timber sashes in the church.) Maureen continued to be treasurer as one of her jobs, (She did this for over 30 years and only gave up in 2017). I did less physical work and graduated to computer cataloguing and photographing the collection. During these years we sold Dairy Road and bought 27 Binalong Road with 10 acres to look after. I built a home, a larger workshop, continued family reunions and enjoyed life for about 15 years before retiring from building. We sold up and bought 9 Casuarina Close, The Oaks, a 950 square metre block of land with a four bedroom house. We did some work on it

for our lifestyle, continued to enjoy our life especially our grand children watching them grow up enjoying voluntary work at the Heritage Centre. Our life was very satisfying."

*Vicki... Dad made a good life, he spent hours with his grandchildren. He was a wonderful Pa and made Eliza the wonderful person she is.*

*Dads health started to deteriorate in the last few years with his lungs becoming less and less able to function, this restricted him in many ways but he fought*

*hard, he beat prostate cancer as well.*

*They moved to Carrington in January 2018 in their 60<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. It was a difficult time of adjustment but they settled in well and dad continued to 'fix' his apartment and mums to get it right, he had a plan though he set up mums room with everything, the better TV, the phone, the fridge and kitchen supplies, they sat together at night it was the 'meeting room' to have their afternoon beer and a glass of wine after tea. He knew he didn't have long, he struggled to breath every day, he was brave, stoic and never complained and he looked after mum till the end.*

Dad you did us proud — we loved you and we always will.

We would like to thank .... The Heritage Centre people for doing a lot of the organisation here today, especially to Trish Hill and Sue Davis who pulled the church and the Centre organisation together for me. Thank you to all who sent flowers, best wishes, cooked cakes, slices and all the other little things that helped us out at this time. We will always be grateful to you.

— Vicki Madeley for Maureen, Jim Junior and families. ■



# Carlons Farm, Green Gully, Megalong Valley *continued...*

Written by Patsy Moppett. Story from 'HERITAGE'—Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Assoc. of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc. JAN-FEB 2018 Issue 54

## PART 2 .....

Bernard and his wife Mary, settled in at Burragorang, and had nine children – Bernard, Francis, Patrick Luke, Margaret, the twins Norbert and Mary Anne, Teresa, Alphonsus and Agatha. Their daughter Teresa was a teacher. The elder Bernard was blind in later years and was known as the “*grand old man of Burragorang*”. He died in 1925.

In 1907 lots were sold at the Yerranderie township, and Bernard's son Norbert Carlon bought Lot 73 on Taylor Street. A new school site was pegged in 1915 for a school at Portion 109 Parish of Nattai, on land owned by the younger Bernard and Alphonso Carlon, facing the main road. It was built by 1917. The Upper Burragorang school was then closed.

A Mr T Carlon had a store at the Yerranderie mines and Carlons also ran a boarding house. The Upper Burragorang had wider river flats and better access to Camden, therefore the settlers were able to build a better style of housing. They were always conscious and proud of their convict heritage.

The Carlons remained in the Burragorang Valley until 1957 when the valley was flooded to form Warragamba Dam. Eight generations of the family were spread across the district. Over time, many moved further afield to Megalong Valley, but there have always been close links between the two valleys.

**MEGALONG VALLEY** There are various routes between the Burragorang Valley and Megalong Valley, mainly based on old Aboriginal trails, and the two valleys are closely linked through people, industry and history.

1818 saw Thomas Jones, a naturalist, looking for horticultural specimens in both valleys. The first official settlement in Megalong was undertaken in 1838, when the first survey was done by W Davidson for George Aspinall.

The first land uses in Megalong were agricultural, with guest-houses and timber supplementing incomes. The guest houses catered for the bushwalkers and trail riders who later frequented the valley throughout the year.

In 1866 European access into the valley was from Hartley. There was an Aboriginal track from Blackheath, Megalong Road and Nellies Glen from Katoomba, and via Devil's Hole and Redledge Pass.

There would have been squatters in Megalong Valley before the first land grant by Norton in 1824. By the time the coal and oil shale seams were mapped in 1865, the first land was taken up by George Aspinall. Miners were brought in from Joadja in 1890 by the company AKO & M, and a road to the mine was constructed in the 1890s. Blacks Ladder had been a

former tenuous access route for the fit and healthy, a former Aboriginal route.

Kerosene shale was discovered in Nellie's Glen in 1870, and in 1885 JB North started shale mining.

In 1884 a search was carried out to find a horse track from Katoomba to Jenolan Caves. When completed it became known as the Six-Foot Track. The south end of Megalong Valley obtained access from Megalong Valley Road.

The population grew, and a hotel, butcher, general store, bakery, billiards room, boarding house, post office and public hall were established. Once the mines closed in 1904, all buildings were demolished and removed to Katoomba.

A village was established near the Diamond Creek/Megalong Creek junction, with a hotel, stables and vegetable garden. A school was located on England's property near where Nellies Glen road goes to Megalong Creek. It was moved to the Nellies Glen mining village. There were no police, but in 1893

there were some 70 children at the school. In 1892 the post office was operated from the Megalong store by Elizabeth James, and the timber industry had begun to thrive with timber needed for fuel, heating and mining.

Development was generally close to the track. Early settling families included Boyd, Tolhurst, Duff, Duncan, Carlon, Kirby, Grady, Ward and Gracey.

**GREEN GULLY** The Carlon family's property Green Gully was first selected in the 1890s

by Mr Tolhurst, having been surveyed by Mr Chapman in 1891. Tolhurst forfeited his selection in 1905, although the site was first known as Green Gully in 1903.

Green Gully is on Portions 44 and 45, and was known as Green Gully from the 1890s, bounded by Galong Creek to the north and Carlons Ridge to the south.

At New Year in 1903, following a serious drought in 1902, a bad bushfire hit the valley, burning most of the timber houses. Following the fire some people left the valley, but many remained, and houses were replaced. A road was opened to Blackheath via Blackheath Glen, and the next generation of houses were built of sawn timber and pise earth walls. Then in 1905 there was a rabbit plague.

Green Gully was leased by Bernard Carlon in 1908 at age 67, and then sold to his son Norbert. Norbert and his sister Teresa were the only children left at home by this stage. Patrick and Phillip Carlon were pound keepers, Joseph kept a slaughterhouse, and Bernard C Carlon was an auctioneer.



*Carlon family at Green Gully 1908*

*Continued next issue .....*

# Reminders, News & Info

## WEEKEND ROSTER

AUGUST	
Phil & Laurette	Saturday, 4
Ben & Doreen	Sunday, 5
<b>WORKING BEE</b>	<b>Saturday, 11</b>
Jim & Kay Cuthel	Sunday, 12
<b>Debbie &amp; Allen</b>	<b>Saturday, 18</b>
Bob & Vivian	Sunday, 19
<b>Sue &amp; Helen</b>	<b>Saturday, 25</b>
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 26
<b>Jenny &amp; Pam</b>	<b>Sat, 1 Sept</b>
Bev & David	Sunday, 2 Sept

## MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

August	Debbie & Pam
September	Shirley & Trish
October	Vivian & Pam McV
November	Jenny & Pacita
December	Please bring a plate

## NEXT MEETING SPEAKER

Sue Davis—"A Suitcase of Treasures"  
August is Family History Month

## SCALLOPED RABBIT

*Early 20th century dish from Mrs Jas Rawsthorne, Forbes*

Butter a pie dish. Put in layer of bread-crumbs, then a layer of sliced bacon, pepper and salt and a layer of meat off a nice young rabbit that has been well boiled; pour some Holbrooks's Sauce over it and then repeat until the dish is full, having breadcrumbs on top.

Beat up two eggs and mix with a quart or more of the broth that the rabbit was boiled in and pour over the top of all. Dot with a few lumps of butter and bake brown. If the meat is all taken from the bone, it cannot be told from chicken. ■

## FUND RAISER BUS TO MULGOA

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Departing the centre at 9.15am for St Thomas Church cemetery, James Broadbent's Cottage, and lunch at the Settlers Café .

The bus is full so if you wish to join us, feel free to drive yourself.



## HOME-MADE SPONGE CAKE

*A recent letter from member Paul Downing ....*

It was a special birthday for one of the members—and at the July meeting Trish presented a real home-made sponge to celebrate.

Now I am of the opinion that the best sponge anywhere is the supper put on by the TOHS especially bringing to mind the stand-out, sad afternoon tea I experienced attending a presentation by the Bowral Garden Club at The Bowral Oval Pavilion a couple of years ago.

Yesterday's scones were presented on paper plates, the cheapest supermarket branded, runny strawberry jam and cream out of the container that successfully dribbled all over our clothes as we attempted to eat the scone, was probably the worst. Industrial food is the norm at most suppers or afternoon teas. So congratulations supper volunteers, delicious.

But back to Trish's sponge cake, tasting of fresh eggs (yes she has chooks), strawberry jam with thickly beaten cream—it was delicious, but there were rumblings about a long gone relative who's sponge cakes must have been difficult to taste as Allen was proclaiming that the sponge was so light, the slices floated off your plate.

I thought I would add to this note a recipe for sponge cake, one that I can guarantee works. It's the only recipe that I have used to successfully make a sponge cake and it was received at Camden Park Garden Volunteers morning tea with eager outstretched plates! If I make it too often, it won't be as amazing.

**NEVER FAIL SPONGE** Alec Goldsmith (from a New Zealand Cook Book)

4 eggs separated	3/4 cup castor sugar
1/2 cup corn flour	1 teasp. custard powder
1 teasp. cream of tartar	1/2 teasp. Baking soda
Jam and cream to decorate	

Beat egg whites until stiff. Gradually add sugar and beat until stiff and shiny. Beat egg yolks lightly and lightly fold into whites. Sift together cornflour and custard powder, cream of tartar and baking soda. SIFT TWICE. Fold all flours into egg mixture. Spoon equally into two deep sponge tins lined, greased with butter of course and floured. Bake mod. Temp 15 to 20 mins on 375-400° Fahrenheit. **DROP (CAKE TINS) ON FLOOR WHEN OUT OF THE OVEN.**

This last instruction I followed—and it works, it prevents the sponge from sinking! - Pauline Downing

*Pauline, thank you for this funny tale on good and bad suppers—our volunteers really do a great job, especially in the cooking of homemade delights. I'm sorry I missed the last meeting and the wonderful supper but look forward to another sponge cake meeting night, hopefully tasting the DROP sponge— Jenny, Ed.*

**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. Upcoming meetings are the 3 September and 1st October 2018. Patrons are Luke Johnson and Richard Booth. 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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