# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

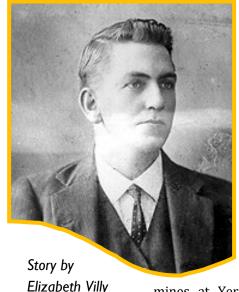
Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc. 43 Edward St The Oaks 2570 (PO Box 6016) T: (02) 4657 1796 E: tohs1988@bigpond.net.au www.wollondillymuseum.org.au



Newsletter **JULY 2017** 

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum



# A Man of Great Promise

## CHARLES STUART FERN

Fern's career and to his early death.

Yerranderie. He was 18 years of age when he arrived at The epithets were borne out by his extraordinary career. the mines to work as a miner. This was 1903. Within a year he had met and married Ruby May Gorman [Burragorang Scroll #8 Series #6 LXXVII]. She had a German heritage and her parents, like everyone else at Yerranderie, had travelled there to earn a living from the rich silver fields.

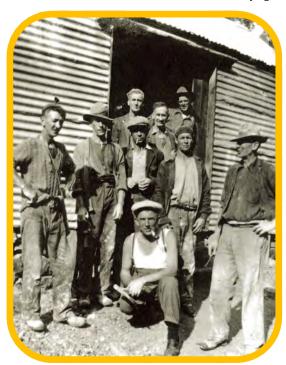
He joined the Amalgamated Miners' Association and was elected secretary, an office he took seriously and acted for the miners in labour disputes. As secretary he took a pivotal role in the union's affairs and was the legal entity in that he represented miners and was held legally responsible for its affairs. He made a close study of mining laws and arbitration and quickly made a name for himself as a successful campaigner for miners' rights. Soon he was elected president of the NSW branch of the AMA and eventually vice-president of the Australian union.

Fern was active in Yerranderie during its boom years. There seems to have been little industrial unrest during these years although Tom Hilder, owner of the Yerranderie Mine, was reputed to have said that Fern was 'a thorn in his side'. The AMA concerned itself mainly as a friendly society offering accident relief, assisted members and deserving widows as well as operating a funeral fund

The funeral ser- that cost a miner threepence a week above his sixpence vice in St Mary's membership fee. Mining companies did not compensate Cathedral of Sgt. accidents or deaths, instead they gave wood for a coffin **Stuart** and black crepe to drape around it. Mining is dangerous **Fern, MLA**, on the work and apart from the physical risks, there were se-21st April 1918 vere health problems from the dust and many miners seemed a long way suffered, and died, from silicosis. Fern himself contracted the silver tuberculosis while working at Yerranderie. Despite this, mines at Yerranderie. Yet Yer- he remained active and in 1910 was the auctioneer who randerie was the keystone to sold the resumed Manning land for the new government town.

Charles Fern, long before serving in the war and becom- After his death at the age of 33, Charles Fern was called 'a ing a Member of Parliament, had lived and worked at man with great promise' and 'above ordinary ability'.

Continued on page 3 .....



Yerranderie miners at the turn of the century



## **President's Annual Report**

Trish Hill

My how those weeks fly by, here we are doing another newsletter and soon into July.

The horse mill that has been the focus of some restoration work is now back in place with the machinery. It was during the Metal Conservation Workshop in February that it first came under scrutiny and I believe on the day a comment was made to the effect, "It's in the too hard basket". So perhaps to prove a point it became the focus of attention for Frank Mackie and Kevin Wintle with no cost incurred and a great result. Thanks guys, a great resto project.

Khans Supermarket in Picton have generously donated funds towards an instant hot water system for the Drill Hall. Thank you for your support. Guest speaker for our July meeting is retired Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney RFD with a presentation titled 'The Battle of Fromelles'. Peter is a military historian and a battlefield guide and we all look forward to his presentation.

Our congratulations to Camden Historical Society on their upcoming Diamond Anniversary event on 24 July. Well Done II

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Jan and Sid Moppett who are recovering from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.



Frank Mackie demonstrating the mill



## **Display Officer's Report**

**Doreen Lyon** 

On Wednesday 14 June, Ben, Ray, John Hickey and I visited the Trades Hall in Sydney. We were shown the building and the collection of trade union memorabilia including processional banners by the curator Neal Towart??? My intention was to compare our Nattai Bulli lodge banner to the ones in their collection. We showed Neal a photo of our banner and he said it was very different in design from most of the banners in their collection, but he did show us one banner with a similar design produced in the 1930s. Otherwise the majority of designs used images of flowers and women, representing Peace and Harmony. Our banner represents hard earned labour!

Neal also showed us around the building which still retains much of its original Victorian architectural details in some of the rooms, especially the beautiful library this is well catalogued but seldom used now. It represents a period following the success of the push for an eight hour day, when the nonworking hours should be spent in rest and self improvement. Libraries and Literary Societies were built for this reason and can still be seen in towns across the country.

We were also intrigued to see the banners representing some of the early Craft Unions which were later amalgamated into bigger unions. Neal was intrigued that we hold the tickets to the Rabbit Trappers Union and I promised to send him a scan of them for his collection. In return he promised me an eye catching poster for our collection! It was an interesting morning and I hope to follow up with a visit to the Fred Moore House in Wollongong. ■



## **Bus Visits & Marketing Report**

Louisa Singleman

#### **June Bus Tours**

Well, it is either feast or famine and June has certainly been a feast with ten bus groups visiting the museum. Groups have come from the Blue Mountains, Goulburn, Bankstown, Peakhurst, St, Andrews Parish and Windang. Once again thanks to our volunteers who give their services on the day to make our visitors welcome and also to those who make the delicious slices. I am always looking for helpers to assist in the kitchen for a few hours once a month so don't be shy and give me a ring on 4680 8358 if you a little spare time.

At this stage July is looking as though we are back to famine but it is early days yet so hopefully we can look forward to a few more bookings.

### **Marketing Report**

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June I attended the Family Fun Day at Taara Garden Retirement Village Thirlmere. Taara Gardens was originally the Estonian Retirement Village which was built by the Estonian community and is now managed by the RSL Life Care. As there are still many people living in the village who came from Estonia I thought it might be a good idea to take some copies of our publication "Estonia to Thirlmere" as some residents and their families may not have had the opportunity to purchase a copy.

## A Man of Great Promise CHARLES STUART FERN

Continued ....

On 1st October 1884 Charles began life as the son of Scottish migrants in Sydney, James Fern a gardener and his wife Elizabeth. Charles won a fought at Gallipoli. The Australians gathering that included his parents, a scholarship to the Marist Brothers at were sent to the front at Armen- brother who also served in the army North Sydney and it was from there tières, south of Ypres. The conditions [another brother was still in France] that he decided on a career as a miner. After seven years at Yerranderie ly winter caused flooding in trenches friends and many admirers. He was and well known in union circles, he opted for parliament.

Fern first presented himself for pre- Pumps could not cope with the water Rolls at The Oaks and in Parliament selection for the seat of Illawarra but seeping from the sodden earth and House in Sydney. ■ was unsuccessful. Luck changed trenches were little more than waterwhen he was selected as the Labour filled ditches. Mud clogged the men's candidate for Wollondilly but was boots making movement slow. Wind defeated at the ballot box in 1910. He and sleet lashed at bare skin. Those really had little chance as Wollondilly men not in the trenches were placed was held by Liberal member William in working parties to dig fortifica-McCourt who held a large majority. tions and reclaim water-logged com-Undaunted, and on the death of the munication trenches against a relentsitting member for Cobar in the far less bombardment from mortars and west of the state, Fern contested this rifle fire from German forces in opposeat and won handsomely. He was 26 site trenches. Tear gas was another years of age and the youngest mem- hazard. ber of the Legislative Assembly. How These conditions were hard enough he managed the affairs of his elec- for healthy men but for Charles Fern torate in this far western area while they catapulted his tuberculosis to living in Paddington and later in Lid- the critical, terminal level. He did not combe is intriguing.

1914 and to add to his duties as an would not have accepted him as a MP and vice-president of the Amalga- recruit. He spent just seven weeks in mated Miners Assoc. (AMA), Charles France before being hospitalised at Fern became an enthusiastic agent Etaples, where doctors diagnosed for recruitment. He attended many shell shock and tuberculosis. rallies, where as an inspiring speak- Charles Fern was discharged from ence and said that women were the his wife and young family received a best recruiters. True to his own be-

liefs and one year after the outbreak pension of £4 a week. This was bareters, the eldest only 10 years of age.

and after several weeks in England, arrived in France late in March 1916. He was attached to the 17th Battalion, part of the 5th Brigade that had His funeral was attended by a large

declare this ailment on enlistment World War 1 broke out in August and had he done so, army authorities

er, he encouraged men to join the the army, returning home to the care war effort. On one occasion he noted of his wife on the 5th August 1916, a the numerous women in the audi- year and a day since he enlisted. He,

of hostilities in Europe, Fern enlisted. ly adequate to sustain a family of six He left his wife Ruby and four daugh- yet there were medical and other expenses needed for the care of a Fern left Australia in November 1915 very sick man. Possibly there was an added source of money; but Charles Fern's final year was one of suffering and poverty.

were frightful. The heavy rain in ear- the premier and politicians, union and dugouts and the whole basin of buried at Waverly Cemetery. His the Somme was awash with water. name is inscribed on the Honour

> This article has been prepared with the help of Raymond Gill. The Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum opened the exhibition Burragorang Boys and Beyond in WWI on 8th November 2015. — Elizabeth Villy

> The photograph of The Oaks Honour Roll shows C S Fern 7th from the bottom of first column. Photo by Robyn Gill.

	300 PRINCE OF AR	
E.L. ADAMS	E.R.GRIGG	P. A.OHARE
J.G.ADAMS	B.W.HENNESSY	J.B ROBERT
H BRIGDEN	J.HUTCHINSON	J.R.ROBERTS
A.BRIGDEN	TJ.HOSKISSON	G.A.ROWNE
W. BRIGDEN	P. HAYES	A.M.RIDEOL
J. BLATTMAN	T.P. HAYES	K.RAE
W. BLATTMAN	H HARRIS	E.RAE
W.H.BUCHOLTZ	C.HOULAHAN	V RAVEN
S.B.BUCHOLTZ	P. HOULAHAN	W. L.ROWE
C.S. BRIGGS	R.E.INGLIS	P. ST CLAIF
E.BENSLEY	TLINGLIS	C.STEVEN
A.BARRETT	G.W. ARVIS	E.SOUELC
P. CLARKE	E.W.L. NGHURST	F SOUELC
W.L.DUNN	CS.LONGHURST	R. STAFFOR
G.I.DUNN	H.J. COMES	T. SEYMOU
C.DUNK	M.LIODY	G.SEYMOU
O.M.DOYLE	E.LIDDY	H.W. STATHA
R.J. DEVITT	E LEECE	J.SMALL
W. DEVITT	J. LECKY	E.SMALL
W.DUCK	F.H. MARSH	J. H.TAYLOR
G.FOOTE	G.M.MARSH	C. P. TAYLOR
D.FRASER	G.E. MOORE	A.TOMKINS
G.FRANKLIN	S.M. MOORE	C.THOMAS
L.FRANKLIN	H.G.MOORE	I.WILLIS
C.S.FERN	C.W.MANN	E.WILLIAM
J. GREENUP	A P MEVOY	C. WATSON
W. GAUDRY	B. MACKENESS	S. YOUNG
H.J.GRIGG	D. NASH	R.TOMK
L.DUNBAR	H.MITCHELL	C.TAYL
J.F. EGAN	H.L. STEVENS	C.C.WHE
C.MITCHELL	E.W.STATHAM	





### TRADE UNION BANNERS

Ray Gill and John Hickey at the Trades Hall in Sydney—Photos by Doreen Lyon



# Agriculture in The Oaks 1897 - Part 2

With one thing and another, Part 2 was omitted from the newsletter, apologies for this. Part 1 appeared in our March issue and Part 3 appeared last month in the June issue. Many thanks to Allen Seymour for these stories. Editor

Courtesy of Trove. This is second in a series of articles on agriculture in The Oaks. It appeared in the Camden News on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1897. The author is not named. Sourced by Allen Seymour.

#### Agriculture In The Oaks (Part 2)

In the centre of the Vale of the Werriberri, on an isolated hill, deserted *Vanderville* surveys a sweep of undulating pasture land, bleached to whiteness by the withering drought. To the south-west, where the hills ascend to the primeval bush nestles *The Hermitage*, a homestead younger than *Vanderville*, but hoary with age. Scattered over its broad space, graceful groups of native trees lend a park-like aspect to the scene, green shrubberies guard the waters of the creeks which border its boundaries, and the umbrageous foliage of trees borrowed from cooler climes protects the handsome old homestead from the scorching summer heat.

Here the brown pastures, drooping corn and stunted sugar tell the tale told from Burragorang to Camden, of blasting winds, blazing sunshine, and rainless months, but a paddock of native grass on the hill-side, where the country climbs westward, rank in growth, heavily seeded, and reserved for winter use, is a pleasing break in the monotony of surrounding desolation. A large crop of oaten hay, harvested in the spring months, will all be wanted now, for it is the only provision wherewith to meet a winter whose anticipated severity is chilling the hearts of the dairymen. Here, as on almost every holding in the district, breadths of ploughed land await the advent of rains which do not come. The orchard, consisting chiefly of orange trees, is old, somewhat neglected, and sadly in want of skilled attention – but every farm orchard tells the same tale.

In the length and breadth of The Oaks district there is but one orchard worthy of the name, and that is *Auradell*, the property of Mr W. J. Moulder. *The Hermitage* is sufficiently provided with outbuildings for the proper protection of vehicles and machinery, and the housing of stock. A splendid milking shed, with the exception of the nails, was built entirely from timber

on the estate. The machinery, including a self-acting horse rake, mowing machine, chaff-cutters, etc. was obtained from Lasseter and James Martin and Co. and the fact that these machines, though in use for sixteen years, have given satisfaction throughout and illustrates the wisdom of dealing only with firms who have a reputation to sustain. On this farm the chaff-cutter has served the novel but useful purpose of cutting about twenty tons of wattle bark into 2in. lengths. An ingenious device has been adapted for filling chaff bags. The bag is placed in a cask, sunk into the ground to the proper depth, an iron ring of the right size keeps the bag in position, the filler descends, and treads the chaff as he fills. When the operation is completed the bag is hoisted out by means of a pulley.

The Hermitage is a dairy farm pure and simple, with no great breadth of cultivation, but in better seasons ordinary farming might well be added to the dairying industry. Even this year an experimental patch of early sown potatoes, manured with the sugar company's fertiliser, yielded at the rate of five tons per acre. This estate is the show place of the district. Behind the homestead the waterfall creek comes tumbling down through a labyrinth of foliage and ferns, in a cool, sequestered beautiful spot, where art has added attractiveness to the charms of nature, where the orange and the Cherimoya blend with choice indigenous shrubs, and the rare ripple of water soothes the ear. Here, in the bed of the creek, the blacks sharpened their tomahawks in bygone days, the traces yet deeply graven in the sandstone. But the Vanderville blacks have vanished, and only the badge of Moruyn remains to grace The Hermitage drawing room, and The Hermitage itself, with its sculptured heads and quaint architecture, is an interesting relic of the past. Its small paned windows, with their iron casements, are still vividly reminiscent of the old bushranging days, when the iron heel of ruffianism drove the down trodden convicts to desperation, and now, in the riper years of the century, it has passed into the possession of Mr W. G. Hayes, a well informed and widely read gentleman, within the refined atmosphere of whose charming home circle the culture of the city lends grace to the felicity of rural life. (To be continued)

Our guest speaker next week is Peter Sweeney. Peter served for 35 years in the Australian Army Reserve as an infantry officer and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration for his service. Peter is a military historian, battlefield guide and military history speaker. He is currently studying a Master's Degree in Military History through the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra.

He is a director of the battlefield touring company Battle Honours Australia Pty Ltd which arranges tours of Gallipoli and other significant Australian battlefields.

# July 3rd Guest Speaker

Peter is an associate member of the UK based International Guild of Battlefield Guides.



He recently returned from cruises to the South Pacific on which he was an enrichment speaker on Australian Military History.

His presentation will be "The Battle of Fromelles".

## Mothers to the Australian Character Part 2

Extract from The Kerry Girls—Emigration and the Earl Grey [Famine Orphan] Scheme by Kay Moloney Caball



## MARY BRANDON

Continued from May 2017 .....

Neal Chiddy (Mary's great, great grandson) contributed this story to the book, *The Kerry Girls* by Kay Moloney Caball

When Mary Brandon joined the family she was treated more like a daughter than a maid. From the day she arrived until the day Mary Collins died in 1890 whenever Mary Brandon needed help she was there. The Catholic Church was not far from the Collins farm which they both attended regularly. It was at this Church that she met Henry Chiddy.

Henry Chiddy was born at St James Parish Bristol 1823. His parents were Henry and Mary, who were married in 1819 and there was a sister born in 1820. Henry was arrested on 5th March 1835 and charged with stealing the goods of Charles Wintle and was ordered to be imprisoned at hard labour for three months. He was released on 14th of July 1835. He was again arrested on 19th of November 1835 for stealing candles to the value of 8 pence and was sentenced to transportation for 7 years. His son John said his father always maintained he was innocent of this charge and was sitting on the side of the road when arrested.

Henry was transferred from the local gaol onto the hulk *Justitia* and after being examined by a doctor he was transferred onto the convict transport *Lady Kennaway* a short time later. The doctor's report states, "Henry Chiddy age 13 years was in good health and was well behaved". The Lady Kennaway departed Portsmouth on 11th of June 1836 and on 12th October 1836 they entered Sydney Harbour, then next day Henry was transferred to the juvenile prison where new indents noted he was 16 years. [Why this was done I think was that it was easier to assign a 16 year old than a 13 year old].

Henry was quickly assigned to Patrick Carlon of Irish Town on the outskirts of Sydney. Patrick Carlon had been granted 80 acres of land in Burragorang Valley and he and Henry regularly travelled to clear land and prepare for the Carlon Family to move there. Patrick Carlon was Catholic and missed not having a church in the area and so he donated land in order that a church could be built.

In 1836 there weren't many people living in upper Burragorang but there were enough Catholics and they rallied around to build their church. Henry being a Protestant was encouraged by Patrick Carlon and the visiting priests to convert to Catholicism and on 26th July 1840 at St John's Church Campbelltown he did so.

On 8 October 1841 Henry was given his Ticket of Leave. A letter from Colonial Secretary's Office states:

It is His Excellency the Governor's pleasure to dispense with the attendance [at] government work of Henry Chiddy [who] was tried at Bristol 2nd sessions 4th January 1836 and transported for seven years, arrived per ship Lady Kennaway in the year 1836 and to permit him to employ himself (off the stores) in any lawful occupation within the District of Yass for his own advantage during good behaviour.

Henry remained in the Yass district for only two years and then moved back into Burragorang Valley where he had a lot of friends and he felt at home:

In 1850 while attending church at Upper Burragorang he met Mary Brandon and on 26th September 1851 they were married in St John's Church Campbelltown. Henry purchased 34 acres of land on a section of the Tonalli River known as Tin Kettle Creek, not far from the church and the Collins family. He built a house and cleared the land, planting fruit trees. Some were still there in the 1950s when the old house was pulled down and the old fruit trees were uprooted before it was flooded by the rising waters of the Warragamba Dam.

Even though Henry and Mary sold the farm in 1853 it was still known as Chiddy's Farm until the day it was pulled down. They raised eleven healthy children and as there were no schools Mary taught them the three Rs. She also taught them to play the fiddle. Two of the boys had bands and played in Burragorang.

Henry and Mary moved from their beloved farm at Tin Kettle Creek—(I love that name, apparently when the first explorers went into the valley they found a tin kettle with a large hole in the bottom on the bank of the river). Mary was having heart problems and needed to be closer to a doctor, there weren't any doctors in the valley, so they sold their farm and bought a 120 acre farm at Cedar Creek not far from Picton where there was a Catholic Church. They lived there in semi-retirement for the next twenty years.

Mary died on the farm on 17th December 1902 of Enteritis, and heart failure, and was buried in the Upper Picton Catholic Cemetery. Henry died on 8 June 1909 at his daughter Elizabeth's home in Picton and was buried next to Mary in Upper Picton. ■

105 young women journeyed south to Yass—Ed.

## The Walled Garden—Illawarra 1770 - 1920

Last month's guest Speaker John Shipp, gave a Powerpoint presentation on how the geography affected the development of Illawarra and its unique physical setting that led to the epitaph—Garden of New South Wales.

Illawarra is essentially a narrow 100 km coastal strip that begins just south of Waterfall about 45 km south of Sydney. It encompasses the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama local government areas. The region is split by a high rocky escarpment that commences in the north at Stanwell Park and runs south to Gerroa. The escarpment is less sheer in the south but nonetheless is like the wall of a fortress enclosing the north, west and southern sides of the garden. The sea provides protection to the east and provides few safe anchorages. These boundaries defined the use of the land pre— and post-colonisation, the nature of early

European settlement, the development of industries and infrastructure, and the characteristics of its inhabitants.

Despite its proximity to Sydney and the known fertility of the area, European settlement and development was slower than areas further afield such as Bathurst and Goulburn and often more difficult to access.

Twenty six years after James Cook sailed into Botany Bay in 1796, the defences were breached at Towradgi and later at Lake Illawarra by Matthew Flinders, George Bass and William Martin in the *Tom Thumb*. They didn't venture inland as their task was to chart the coastline.

The following year a ship heading for Sydney ran aground on Preservation Island off Tasmania. The long boat with 17 crew sent for assistance but was wrecked at Cape Howe at what is now the border between NSW and Victoria. The long boat crew set out to walk 419 km to Sydney. Only two lived to reach Sydney. On the way, the survivors reported the existence of coal seams at present day Coalcliff.

George Bass was sent to verify the discovery. His report indicated substantial deposits .... And he was prescient in his comments. The difficulty transporting coal out of Illawarra affected the future development and viability of the industry.

For many years, the accepted wisdom was that European occupation of the district began in 1815 when cattle belonging to Charles Throsby of Moss Vale were brought overland via Appin and a track down the escarpment near Bulli. In fact, cedar cutters were in the district within a couple of years of Bass, Flinders and Martin visiting.

In 1849 a coal mine was opened at Mt Keira and the first wagon loads were taken in a grand procession to the harbour at Wollongong. Other mines opened along the escarpment, particularly north of Wollongong and the need for efficient transport became essential. Road transport was not possible even if the roads had been better. Shipping was the only solution but Wollongong was the single port in the region.

It was the railway that helped reduce the isolation of the Illawarra. The line from Sydney reached Wollongong in 1887 and Nowra in 1888. The extension of the railway beyond Hurstville was complicated by the need to cross the Georges River and traverse the rugged country from Waterfall south. The river was bridged in 1885 and the route from Waterfall involved sharp curves and several tunnels until it reached Otford. From there a 1.7 km tunnel took the line down the escarpment to Stanwell Park beach.

By the end of WWI, the isolation of Illawarra was breaking down. The railway had replaced ships as the main means of passenger transport. Motor vehicles were becoming more popular although the punt at Tom Ugly's meant a slow journey especially on Sundays. Getting up the escarpment, however, was still dependent on Bulli Pass which was steep, winding and narrow.

Shipping through Port Kembla increased as coal production increased and the port was linked by rail to the mines. Later in the 1920s, the establishment of the steel works assisted the development of the region and the shift from an agrarian society. Compared to Newcastle and the Hunter region, however, Illawarra was stymied by the narrowness of the coastal plain and the ruggedness of the hinterland that was reserved for Sydney's water catchment.

## A Mason's Pledge

"Walk and act in such a way
That the world without can see
That only the best can
Meet the test
Laid down by

**MASONRY** 

Be always faithful to your trust
And do the best you can
Then you can proudly tell
The world you are a Mason and a man
So mote it be "

This quote ought to have appeared in the April or May newsletters with Tony Morrice's two part Picton Masonic Temple story.

Everyone should live by this code. Ed.



## **WEEKEND ROSTER**

JULY		
Saturday, I	Ben & Doreen	
Sunday, 2	Jan & John	
Saturday, 8	WORKING BEE	
Sunday, 9	Ray & Robyn	
Saturday, 15	Jim & Maureen	
Sunday, 16	Bob & Vivian	
Saturday, 22	Colleen & John	
Sunday, 23	Trish & Kevin	
Saturday, 29	Phil & Laurette	
Sunday, 30	Ben & Doreen	

SUPPER ROSTER		
July	Maureen & Jim	
August	Aileen & Pam	
September	Shirley & Trish	
October	Vivian & Pam McV	
November	Jenny & Pacita	

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**3 July**— Peter Sweeney— Military History

7 August — Allen Seymour on Rabaul

### 4 September—Christine Yeats

(Royal Agricultural Historical Society) on Shady Acres by the late Lesley Muir

#### 2nd October—Lorraine Neate

(Illawarra Historical Society)
Misbehaviours by early Illawarra
residents from her publication,
Scandal, Slander and Interfering with
our Neighbours

## Reminders, News & Info



#### **BOOKS ON SALE**

**BOTH TRUCKIES BOOKS—Brimstone Story** 

and Valley of Wealth Coal Transport books are \$40.

AND ALSO AVAILABLE from the author in colour is .... A History of the Prospecting and Development or Coal Mining in the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Burragorang Valley (\$70).

### **BELGENNY FARM**

WED. 19 JULY—2 HOUR TOUR

Arrive at Belgenny Farm by 10:30am Tour and Devonshire Morning Tea is \$20/person

Check with Trish to hop a lift





## HISTORY SHOWCASE—BELGENNY WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST

Belgenny Farm is presenting a local family and history resource day. Tour the site, enjoy a Devonshire Tea and talk to local history and family history groups. Belgenny Farm contact: 4654 6800

### PREMIER'S VISIT TO THE ELECTORATE

Local Wollondilly Member, Jai Rowell invited The Oaks Historical Society to help welcome the Premier, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP to the electorate. Bradman Museum was the venue for this event on 6 June and Jenny Wood represented the Wollondilly Heritage

Centre & Museum

Hopefully Gladys will visit our area and hand over a big cheque soon!. 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. <u>Upcoming meetings are 7 August & 4 September 2017</u>. 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.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2017 /18 ARE NOW DUE

\$10 for single • \$18 for family

Plus \$10 postage for newsletter

EMAILED newsletters are postage FREE

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P O Box 6016 The Oaks NSW 2570





Phone: 02 4622 8100

Email: <u>info@premiererealestate.com.au</u>
Website: premiererealestate.com.au

