

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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## Newsletter

JULY 2018

## Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum



*This story was provided by Jim and Maureen Whyte's daughter, Vicki Madeley at the memorial service at St Matthews Church, Old Oaks and the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum on 6th June.*

Jim Whyte wrote his own life story in 2014. This is a short summary of some of his memories. Dad said in his last few weeks, "The Heritage Centre may have thought they needed me but I really needed the Heritage Centre more!" Thank you Jim. Ed

Dad's parents were from Scotland and England. His father was also named James Whyte. They had 3 children before coming to Australia and then had another 2 children, dad being the youngest born in Australia on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1933. He would have been 85 this year. These are some of dad's memories.....



# Farewell Jim



*Mourners at St Matthews Anglican Church, Old Oaks*

the army as a lot of young men did, I remember him coming home on leave, to me he seemed so big in uniform with all his gear including this "BIG" 303 rifle which I could hardly lift.

In primary school it was decided to prepare for the war should it come to us, so it was decided to dig trenches in the playground for all to hide in case of a raid so the children were instructed to start digging. We were working almost shoulder to shoulder with a great assortment of tools with instructions not to lift the implement higher than your shoulder. I had a hoe which, being quite light I raised it as high as could be and promptly hit another kid across his head sending him off to hospital. I lost that job!

"They lived in Five Dock Sydney, it was here that World War II started I must have been about 6 years old, seeing the newspaper headlines. There was a lot of anger from mum and dad probably as they could remember the First World War having lived through it, Dad having fought in it and their family being in Britain was a worry. Brother Bill put his age up and joined

When the war ended, I was about 12 years old in high school at Leichhardt Public School, we were immediately sent home. With much excitement we climbed onto the running boards of the trams, they were that packed, nobody payed their fare, there was so much excitement and crying.

I found schooling very hard and strug-



*Me, Mum and Dad, 1943*

gled a lot, maybe I was too young when I started at 4½ years, but was unable to leave before 15 so the last few months at school I did no schooling but assisted the woodwork teacher. That was where I made a Silky Oak serving tray which Vicki has now, this probably led to my enjoyment of woodwork. Around this time I became involved with the Salvation Army. I would go to the "Captain's" house for lunch on a Sunday, it was here that I started to learn the cornet and started playing on street corners as they did in those days.

*Continued over ....*

## Farewell Jim—continued

During my teen years, my sister Janet's husband Keith would take me to his father's Service Station called Marchant's Garage at Glebe to work in the school holidays for pocket money. It was here that I met Keith's brother Ray Marchant who played drums in the Glebe District Silver Band and approached me to join, although it was at Glebe it was only a tram ride from Five Dock.

I was working at Dulwich Hill in those days and would ride my bike from there over the Harbour Bridge, stay for dinner, ride to Central railway station and catch a train to Granville then ride home in the dark, then back to work the next day.

There were some good times with the band and we would play in parks. Anzac day was always busy sometimes doing the march in Sydney up to three times, often in the rain. In those days the marches were quite big being after the Second World War. A highlight at that time was the first time I played *The Last Post* at Glebe Point Road.

At the age of 15½ I managed to obtain an apprenticeship at a joinery factory in Western Timber Co. in Dulwich Hill where we made windows, doors and various joinery items for the building industry. It was very hard to get an apprenticeship in those days as the building industry had just about shut down due to the war, then there was a huge shortage of building materials. One of the biggest problems was buying tools. They were in short supply as industry was still trying to tool up after the war. Every Friday I remember Dad, who worked in the city, would call in to Nock & Kirby's hardware store to see what new tools had come in that week for me. Supplies of all hardware and all building materials were in short supply.

Mum and Dad decided to buy a house and land package. With the new house delivered to the site the builder could not finish it, he had our money and we had no more money so it was decided that I would attempt to finish it. This entailed me asking the tradesmen at work how to do the next step. So each Monday I would mount my new push-bike with a large bag attached to the seat full of my tools for work and ride 22 miles to work at Dulwich Hill. One of the chaps at work had shown me a short cut through Rookwood Cemetery to get to work. I would load up again, ride home and do a bit more. I made all the windows plus all of the remainder of the cottage to the finish. At times I would pick up 1 or 2 pieces of timber from a timber yard at Lidcombe and ride home with it on my shoulder (I must have been a bit crazy).

After a year traveling to Western Timber Co. at Dulwich Hill I applied and received a continuing apprenticeship at James Hardie at Camellia just out of Parramatta where I stayed for another 4 years. The work was quite varied as we did a lot of maintenance where we repaired anything from office furniture, factory buildings and new buildings with fitouts. Some pattern making. Machines were used only in the workshop for milling etcetera, then the rest was all done using hand tools.



We never had a portable electric tool of any sort. In those days the only protective clothing supplied to us was a pair of overalls and a pair of gum boots once a year. Although the company knew about the dangers of asbestos for 50 years before, we were never informed, so at times we would stand and work in clouds of the stuff. I found out when I was 50 years old, when I went to a doctor with a persistent cough and was diagnosed with Asbestosis and with Pleural Plaques on the lungs, with a 40% loss of lung function.

After my apprenticeship.... we were living at Henson Street, Merrylands where I built a garage and another one also at Janet and Keith's place at Mitchell Street, Ermington. From here I would go with them to Masonic balls and parties and they would have a baby sitter for their three children. The babysitter was Shirley Sheppard who lived nearby in Stevens Street. I took her out once or twice but one time Shirley couldn't babysit so her sister Maureen did and this was the start of a relationship that is still going strong after 60 odd years.

Maureen and I were married in St Johns Church Parramatta on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1958. Unfortunately Maureen's father died just prior to Christmas and it was decided to have the reception in Uncle John's home on Woodville Road, Merrylands.

Catering was beautifully done by the family. We went on our honeymoon and toured up the north coast in a small plywood covered caravan that I had built. We continued to camp and caravan for another 50 years.

We first lived in Maureen's mum's home at 23 Stevens Street, Ermington where we bought a milk run at Gladesville. In those days you owned a section of a suburb as you delivered

every day direct into homes starting at midnight, we never could get used to sleeping during the day, so after a while we sold the run.

Then we teamed up with a mechanic friend Charlie Pakes into a service station on the corner of Forest and Stoney Creek Roads, Peakhurst. The hours didn't suit us either so we looked around for a place for ourselves to live and found a little 2 bedroom fibro cottage on the corner of Telopea Street and Barrawing Street, Telopea where, in 1962 and 1963 Vicki and Jim were born which was the highlight of my life watching them grow up to be the beautiful people they are now.

It was here that we started making concrete products in the back yard that would be mixed by hand each day. This was the start of Jays Precast Concrete. We moved to a rented piece of land in Jenkins Road, Carlingford before purchasing an acre of industrial land in Justin Street, Smithfield joining onto the Prospect Creek. We ended up being the largest supplier of precast concrete steps in the Sydney metropolitan area. We were busy with sales, with Maureen in the office I had to be the sales rep which I didn't enjoy."

*Continued next issue ....*



## President's Report

Trish Hill

This month we have lost a very valued member of our team in Jim Whyte. The Centre evolved in 1988 under Jim's guidance as a builder and along with Maureen they were committed to excellence in every aspect of the museum. Our thoughts are with Maureen and the family.

Our kitchen upgrade has settled in well with everyone getting used to the new utilities and additional space but there are challenges sometimes locating items. The new window is scheduled for installation in the immediate future followed by wall tiles. Thanks everyone for your patience during the upheaval and it's only the beginning. Next is the kitchenette in the Drill Hall which will be underway early July, thanks to funding from Veolia. Additionally, we are getting closer to starting the main extension.



Our schoolies volunteers with our cheque from Veolia cheque

'This is Where Whey Travelled', the touring exhibition of historical Aboriginal lives in Sydney by Dr Paul Irish, is on display in the Drill Hall and has been extended till 9<sup>th</sup> July for anyone wanting to take the opportunity to view. Thanks to our members who have renewed memberships and a reminder that fees are due and we can supply our bank details for direct credit. ■



## Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

We welcomed Margaret Battam to the team last Thursday. Margaret filled in as our time keeper in a most efficient manner. Thanks also to John Hickey, one of our regular reserves, for filling in the mine while John Mainwaring is away. Kadrienne Ireland has also been on deck working in the cottage.

Reserves are extremely important in the smooth functioning of the Schools Program and we are always looking for people. The program runs from 9.30 until 1pm on Thursdays and re-

serves usually get a week or two notice. If you have something on there is no problem. Initially you would be in an assistant role, ensuring things run smoothly until you felt confident to speak to a group. Groups are usually 6 to 10 children. An orientation is a good idea before your first time and that can happen any Thursday. You would always be working with a more experienced person. So if you think this could be something you would like to do give me a ring on 0409913679. ■



## Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

Thank you for those who were able to help with the von Frankenberg local history request from last month. The researcher was very pleased and has been to visit the property. What a good time winter is to get more involved with Family History and Local History. Maybe an excursion to a cemetery is on your Family History Adventure Checklist. It is not too hot to be checking out a cemetery and worrying about the odd snake that might be lurking! Some records of gravestones can be found online but if you know the cemetery in which your ancestor is buried then it is much more rewarding to visit the grave and see for yourself. Some tips to help you come from "Family History for Beginners and Beyond" Compiled by Sue Fallon....

- There are three types of cemetery records: monumental inscriptions as recorded on gravestones, burial records kept by the administrating authorities, and undertaker records.
- Visit local cemeteries in districts where your ancestors

lived because you may find more details as well as links to related families.

- Search out information about older cemeteries that have been closed and/or where headstones have been removed to other locations (such as from Burragorang Valley)

We are currently planning our September (5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>), History Week event which will involve excursions to some of our local cemeteries under the banner of "Peeps At Pioneers". Please keep them in mind to attend.

This month we have had some new and interesting requests from researchers. They include:

- Do you know where Timothy Lacey's father John Lacey is buried?

If you have any information that might help us, please do not hesitate to contact me. ■

Happy researching! Sue Davis, Local Archives and Family History. Phone 0414703204.



## Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Very quiet this month with only a few new items.

The first of these was a portable Bakelite powder compact for a ladies purse. There is also a packet of Flora Macdonald extra long needles, and a quantity of horse harnesses.

We also recently acquired bound copies of the Chronicle's Wollondilly edition from the 1990's. At one stage they produced different editions for Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly, and these bound copies were the paper's own

copies. They were no longer required and the Campbelltown/Airds Historical Society was able to acquire them. They gave the Camden ones to the Camden Historical Society, kept the Campbelltown ones for themselves and gave the Wollondilly and some Southern Highland ones to us. At present they are stored, as time and space doesn't permit us to sort them and index them, but once the new extensions are finished we will try and do something with them. ■



## Marketing & Bus Visits Report

Louisa Singleman

### May & June Bus Tours

Fortunately May was a quiet month with only four bus tours so it gave plenty of time for the kitchen wreckers to get to work and the new kitchen to be install. We had a group of Salvation Army Seniors enjoy a day out, two groups from Legacy House Moss Vale and a group of Troopers from Werrington.

June has proved to be considerably busier with seven bus tours. We had groups from Bowral, Moss Vale and two groups from Carrington at Camden as well a group from the Illawarra region. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June we hosted the Chrysler Restorers Club and no doubt there were some interesting vehicles on show.

Welcome to our new volunteer, Margaret Battam who was initiated into her new role by Vivian and Bob to host one of the groups from Carrington. Also many thanks to Vivian, Bob and Kevin who were able to host the group from Illawarra at such short notice.

July, one of our coldest months is off to a good start with a group from Baulkham Hills arriving on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July with a few more later in the month so you can expect a few phone calls for help.

**Wollondilly Tourism Association Inc (WTAI)** held a very successful Tourism After Five event at the Wollondilly Visitors Information Centre which has its new home in a room in the Wollondilly Shire Hall, Picton. The Wollondilly Arts Group (WAG) added to the evening with a delightful art display in the Art Space. Jeanette Baldwin from the Wollondilly Shire Council showcased the new centre from the disastrous day two years ago when a flood ravaged Picton through to today's up-to-date modern and informative information centre. Congratulations to WSC on a job well done.

On another note we were treated to a lovely supper provided by our hard workers from The Oaks Historical Society. Thank you to Trish and Debbie and Doreen and any other helpers for such a delightful faire. ■

## Bennett Wagon update

The Bennett Wagon fitted with the two new small wheels from Nobby Forge and only two more to go. Photographed by Trish Hill where our new extensions will eventually be.



Wollondilly Council did a site inspection for our Blacksmith facility on Thursday afternoon, the 28th leading up to the meeting that evening to determine the DA. ■

**St Andrew's Church of England, Mayfield, Newcastle Recipe Book c.1940s**

### Onion Scones

Half lb. flour, 1 cup grated cheese, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 onion finely chopped, 1 egg well-beaten, 1 cup milk, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 oz butter. Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Rub in butter, mix in cheese and onion. Add eggs and milk, blend carefully. Bake 10 minutes.—

*Supplied by Mrs S Giggins*

# CARLONS FARM, GREEN GULLY, MEGALONG VALLEY

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

From 1788 all land in the colony was owned by the Crown. In 1824 Surveyor Hoddle undertook surveys for the colony, and in 1832 the first parish map was drawn up. Then in 1861 conditional purchase was introduced to distribute crown land. This enabled land to be taken up after improvements had been made to a farm, which could include slab huts, yards, sheds, etc.

Combined with the land distribution and settlement patterns, the isolation of Burragorang and Megalong Valleys served to produce a hardy breed of people who survived in trying times, making do with what materials they had to hand, to provide for their families.

Carlton's farm, Green Gully is one of the earliest farms in the Megalong, and the remains of former buildings and other infrastructure can still be seen.

The Carlton (Carolan) family was one of the first to settle in both Valleys and the following is a brief description of settlement there and the beginnings of Green Gully, with a view to place in context why it is vital that the remaining features of the farm be preserved for future generations.

## BURRAGORANG VALLEY

Bryan Carlon was born in Ireland in 1780. He eventually married Ann Reilly. However, in 1820 Thomas Reilly and Bryan Carolan were transported from Ireland, being convicted of conspiracy to murder against the British. They both served John Jamison at Emu Plains for about 15 years, after which



they settled in Burragorang Valley. In 1828 Ann and their two children Patrick and Margaret followed him out from Ireland. He received his ticket of leave the same year, and in 1835 he received his unconditional pardon.

The centres of Upper and Lower Burragorang and Cox's River settlement began in 1828. Bryan's name morphed to become Carlon, but Carlons were still not listed in the 1828 census at Upper Burragorang. Once established the Carlons cultivated the river flats, and then later selected them.

Young Patrick had been born in 1807, and Margaret was born in 1811. In 1831 at age 24 Patrick bought 80 acres in Burragorang Valley, as surveyed by Surveyor Elliott. The deeds however were not issued until 1838. He also purchased 820 acres in 1835, and then purchased some 2,000 acres from John Campbell.

In 1837 Patrick married Mary Ann Purcell. They had 7 boys and one girl, commencing the Carlon family dynasty. The original 80 acres became known as Carlon Town,

and all the good land in the Valley was selected by the 1870's. The next land to be taken up was the talus slopes below the cliff lined rim of the Valley.

The first crop of any kind in the Valley was planted by John Lacey in 1829, and the first wheeled vehicle in Burragorang Valley was actually built there by Patrick Carlon. Patrick Carlon and his son Bernard had taken the first wheeled vehicle into the Valley, a dray lowered by ropes from the old pack horse track over the cliff side, the "jump down".

The first wheat crop grown in the Upper Burragorang was by Patrick Carlon and his father Bryan, and the first crop grown at Lower Cox's River was by George Pearce. Aboriginal elder William Russell recalls that Michael Quig also grew wheat in the Upper Burragorang about the same time.

Carlon Town, Portion 19 Parish of Nattai, was a central area of the Burragorang settlement, where Patrick and Joseph Carlon had their residences. From Patrick's land three acres were taken for a school site, church, resi-

dence and burial ground as Central Burragorang. A post office was put at Mick Carlons for a time. Mrs Patrick Carlon was to have had the post office located at her residence in 1906, but it remained at the old site.

Catholic mass was first held in the home of Patrick Carlon in 1833. In 1839 the Archbishop actually held mass on the Carlon farm-

house verandah! A church was called for by 1839, and a stone church was built on Carlon's 80 acres, which was used until 1957 when the Valley was flooded. Patrick died in 1883 leaving some eleven properties to his seven sons.

Patrick's son Bernard Carlon was born in 1841. Bernard and his father Patrick were always on good terms with the Aboriginal people and Bernard was reputed for treating ill people.

Bernard Carlon was very active in the settlement of the Valley. He and others obtained permission in 1893 to search for silver and lead near The Peaks.

In 1919 he requested a money order service for the post office, but this was refused.

The Carlons were all educated as their parents were educated. Many other children suffered as their parents were not educated and they had little access to schools, with having to help out on the farm being a higher priority than an education.

*Continued next issue .....*

# BECAUSE OF HER – WE CAN

## GLENDA CHALKER (nee Barrett)



*“Now we can tell the truth of our history and fix the inaccuracies of the past.”*

I was born in the *Sunshine Hospital* in Camden which no longer exists. I am the eldest of five children. This is my country, the borderline here at Thirlmere Lakes. Its Tha-

rawal and Gundungurra tribal country. My father Ken, my grandfather Alfred James, my great grandfather James and my great grandmother Mary Barrett were all born in Camden. Even my great great grandmother was born here. Nanny’s tribal name was Giribungei. I didn’t really discover my own Aboriginality until I was an older person. I had never recognised my own grandfather as a traditional man. He was just grandfather to me. He was very dark and I never even noticed that as being any different to anyone else. Today I can see rewarding things in my own Aboriginal spirituality. I have had some things happen to me that have changed my whole perception on everything and that’s been through that spirituality.

My traditional links are through my dad’s father (Alfred James Barrett) around Camden in the Macarthur area. My grandfather died when I was 23 years old. My grandmother was a white woman, she died when my father was only seventeen so I never got to know her and I never knew my great grandparents at all. I spent a lot of time with my grandfather.

He would take my brother and me fishing, rabbiting and foxing all round Camden Park. My great grandfather was born in 1862. His mother’s name was Mary Barrett. When he was about 6 years old she married James English. Mary’s eldest sister Suzanne Sophaline is buried and recorded as *the ‘last of the local Aborigines’*. She died in 1915 and she was the eldest of five children. They used to call her *Black Suzanne*. That’s how they recorded things back in those days. Now we can tell the truth of our history and fix the inaccuracies of the past. I’m only sorry that I didn’t ask my grandfather things. Because even at the age of 23.... my heritage still didn’t mean anything to me. Even though he taught us a lot about the bush.... there’s more I would have liked to know today. I would particularly have liked to know about his father and his grandmother. I know heritage wasn’t talked about back then and today I probably know more than my father knows. You see I don’t think my father even told my grandfather either. He never told his own son anything. If I knew back then what I know now, things would have been different. Now I have so many questions and there is no-one to answer them. We need the continuity, because our history has been broken, there are gaps that need to be filled. ■

**Glenda Chalker is the chairperson of the *Cubbitch Barta Native Title Group* and a member of the *Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council*. Story taken from *Aboriginal Women’s Heritage, Nepean, for the Department of Environment and Heritage (NSW) February 2007*. Story told to **Mark Simon, Aboriginal Conservation Officer**.**

**Doreen Lyon**

### BOOK REVIEW by Bev Batros

#### *Tales of Old Camden, Wollondilly and Campbelltown*

If your family has lived in Camden, Wollondilly or Campbelltown for generations, there is a good chance you will be featured in one of Liz Vincent’s books about these areas. A handy index will make your search easier.

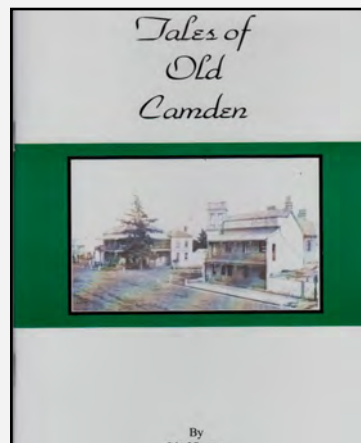
Such was my experience when quite by chance I found an article in *Tales of Old Camden* about my ancestor Ann Cuthel and her excellent farming skills on the property at Werombi where I was born.

Tales of births, deaths and fashionable events are included in the book with stories of ghosts in Macaria, Camden’s first football team and the Cawdor Bench Book of 1825 to 1828. At this courthouse some of the crimes listed were stealing a handkerchief, delaying on the way to hospital, absconding

from a husband, playing cards and being absent from divine service.

In *Tales of Old Wollondilly* there are stories from all the local areas. Farewells, weddings, crimes and special events are chronicled by Vincent, many of them being taken from local papers of the day. In 1930 Vincent quotes a report from the *Picton Post* that “talkies” had been shown in the Town Hall and police were called in to control the queues. Half time schools are also recorded, in areas where few children required schooling and so did not warrant a full time teacher.

Copies of *Tales of Old Camden*, *Tales of Old Wollondilly* and *Tales of Old Campbelltown* are available at the centre for \$7 or \$8 each. ■



# Reminders, News & Info

## WEEKEND ROSTER

JULY	
<b>Louisa &amp; Doreen</b>	<b>Sat, 30 June</b>
Ben & Doreen	Sunday, 1
<b>Sue &amp; Tina</b>	<b>Saturday, 7</b>
Bev & David	Sunday, 8
<b>Working Bee</b>	<b>Saturday, 14</b>
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 15
<b>Colleen &amp; Kathy</b>	<b>Saturday, 21</b>
Allen & Debbie	Sunday, 22
<b>Jenny &amp; Pam</b>	<b>Saturday, 28</b>
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 29

## MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

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

## NEXT MEETING SLIDE SHOW TRIBUTE

### NORBERT O'REILLY AT THE GREAT WAR

by Keith Carlon

Keith and Kristin Carlon visited the Western Front in May this year and viewed the graves of Norbert O'Reilly and Hubert and Leo Cullen. For those interested here is a link to view what Keith recorded <https://photos.app.goo.gl/AhEuAlzbKlzxVDUq2>

We encourage everyone to read *A Life Worth Fighting For* by Norb O'Reilly.

A synopsis can be read on page 5 of our February newsletter this year.

## BUS to MULGOA — Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

We will visit St Thomas Church and cemetery and James Broadbent's Cottage then have lunch at the Settlers Café



*Bimbo's Roadhouse by Rob's Classic Models. This diorama represents Bimbos in the 70s. It was created by Rob Bender in 2013. 1:43 scale including vehicles were built by hand.*

**Now Bargo Pies & Café, it was once Bimbos**

### Review of BIMBO's by Bluey Tucker for Truck & Bus Transportation magazine May 1974

Bimbo's is one of the old-timers among the eating places along the Hume Highway, Bargo, about 60 miles out of Sydney. The roadhouse is close to the highway but there's a huge parking area alongside, and getting off the road is no problem. Day or night, you'll always find a couple of rigs parked there. Into Bimbo's I waltzed. The restaurant is big, much bigger than you'd reckon from the outside. There were eight blokes in blue singlets demolishing T-bones when I arrived and yet the joint seemed empty. I counted seats for 58 at 26 tables. Everything looked bright and clean. The tables were Formica and chrome and the floor was vinyl squares. It was in the middle of the day and the room was good and airy, helped by the big windows. They give you a clear view of the highway and the parking lot, so you're the first to know if someone tries to knock off your rig. A pleasant woman with big brown eyes and arched eyebrows came up and gave me the menu, it was huge. The sheila was back in a flash, because speed is what Bimbo's is all about, but you'd need to do a course in speed reading to get through all the items. There must be a hundred of them. I had time to see you could get breakfast food and two soups, and she was

saying, *What would you like.* (She reminded me of an old girlfriend.) I said *What's your best steak* and she said, *T-bone* and solved a lot of problems. I'd joined another bloke at the table and he was a bit more fastidious. *They serve Chinese meals*, he said brightly and then ordered a salmon salad, which shows you the sort of mind he must have.

The sheila asked me if I wanted a steak with salad or vege-

tables and I said, *salad.* So she brought vegetables. When the meal came there was a huge helping of peas, diced carrot and mashed potatoes burying the T-bone. The steak was tough. I tried to cut it without much luck and the cove opposite gave me his knife, which had a bit of edge left on it. It was better, but I had to work hard on the meat. Still, there was plenty of it. You'd never starve at Bimbo's. The Chinese food fancier did better with his salmon salad. He got a whole tin of red salmon on his plate and enough salad to suggest the cook was trying to clear the refrigerator so he could put the beer in. He finished the salmon a long time before I knocked off my last bit of steak. It was tasty but just didn't like the idea of being sliced or chewed. The steak cost \$1.70 and the salmon salad \$1.50. I had a milkshake for 22 cents and a double ice cream with flavouring for 15 cents. Both items were good and the ice cream acted like cold putty, filling the grooves the meat had cut in my throat. Maybe I just struck a bad day. I'll go back, because everything else I liked, and just to be reminded of an old flame gave me something to think about for the rest of the journey. ■

*Bimbo's 24 hour service. Toilets. Shower block. Parking—huge area. Distillate. Ice. TV. Motel accommodation alongside. No juke box. Not air conditioned.*

**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 6 August & 3 September 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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