

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2017



LEST WE FORGET

ORIGINS OF POPPY DAY – NOVEMBER 11TH

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS — *The Picton Post* — Wednesday, October 26th 1921

Acting on a resolution carried at the Federal Congress, recently held in Brisbane, it has been decided by the R.S. & S.I. League of Australia to proclaim Armistice Day, November 11th, as Poppy Day throughout the Commonwealth. With this end in view, a facsimile of the red Flanders Poppy will be worn by all as an emblem of that date; such poppies will be on sale through the clientele of the R.S. & S.I.L.A. (*Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia*). Colonel S A Moffit, formerly commissioner of the American Red Cross in France and an associate of Madame Mitterand, to the work on behalf of the children in the devastated areas of France, has come to Australia in order to assist the various State branches in organising the Poppy Day, when the poppy will be worn in all allied countries.

The poppies which are of red silk have been made by the women and children of the devastated areas, and are exactly like the little red flower so familiar to men who fought on the fields of Flanders.

This movement has already been adopted by all Allied countries and the returned soldiers and sailors of Australia now join their comrades from other parts of the world in asking the people of Australia to wear the poppy.

Firstly: In memory of our sacred dead who rest in Flanders Fields.

Secondly: To keep alive the memory of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives.

Thirdly: As a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of all allied nations.

In spite of the decision of the authorities not to allow the sale of poppies in the streets of Sydney on Armistice Day (due to a new regulation limiting such street sales to two days a year). Queensland and Victoria have been granted permission. The idea will be carried out. Arrangements are being made through shops hotels, theatres and other means

to sell poppies on that date. On Thursday last, Colonel Moffit was received by Sir Walter Davidson. Both the Governor and Dame Margaret Davidson, willingly extended their patronage to this movement and have agreed to assist the honorary committee which is promoting it.

The poppies are to be sold at one shilling each. After reimbursing the French women and children, who made them, the money remaining will be devoted to the funds assisting Necessitous returned men. Major A. C. Moyes of the NSW branch has been appointed organiser of Poppy Day. The Secretary of the Picton Sub-Branch of the R.S. & S.I. League would be pleased to hear from any patriotic body willing to assist in this movement.

The Poppy of Flanders fields has been immortalised in Colonel John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*.



Pioneers laying a duck board track through craterfield 5/10/1917.

1st Division Pioneers.

TOHS photo archives 782

Stretcher bearers in the trenches, Anzac Ridge 28/9/1917

13th Field Ambulance

TOHS photo archives 781





President's Report

Trish Hill



The Bennett wagon is now at the Museum where the restoration work is continuing. The timber deck has been painted and the remaining timber also painted. ← An interesting mark has been uncovered on the steel. One possibility is a makers mark which could denote the carrying capacity, however this needs further investigation. Two wheels are being rebuilt and indications are they will be delivered in December. Thank you to Keith Polson for the generous donation of timber to renew a shaft. Members from Camden Museum were able to view the progress when they visited last week.



Tegan Anthes, Conservator from Preservation Australia, conducted our workshop 'Caring for Glass & Plastic Negatives' on Wednesday 25th October. This was funded by Museums & Galleries of NSW - 2017 Volunteer Museum Skills Development Grant. The outline of the workshop included a brief history of photography, identification of negative processes, our collection and handling, storage options and conservation cleaning. So with our new skills we are better prepared to care and store collections in our archives, such as those from Roy Dowle and Jim Littlewood. Thanks to Debbie and Colleen for organising lunch and refreshments on the day. Our Grandparents day was a great success. Thanks Bev and Debbie for coordinating this special event and our tireless volunteers who assisted on the day. Robyn Collier, guest speaker on 5th November, will talk about her new book 'Paintings from Burratorang - The Lost Valley' which is hot off the press and available on the night. ■



Bus Visits to the Centre

Louisa Singleman

September & October

Firstly, may I apologise for not giving a report for September Bus Tours. However both September and October were very quiet in relation to bus tours so to all our regular volunteers please don't think we have forgotten you.

Our first visitors in September were from the Bankstown Dementia Carers who enjoyed morning tea followed by a BBQ. No doubt they were pleased to have a day out away from the daily routine. They were followed by a visit from the Wollongong University of the Third Age (U3A). Sunday 10th September the Wollongong Morris Minor Car Club

visited the museum as part of their road trip. Another car club, namely the Hudson Car Club arrived on Sunday 17th. At the end of September a group from Springwood enjoyed the local history of the Wollondilly Shire.

Unfortunately October has been extremely quiet with only two bus tours. Firstly, a group came from Tahmoor and the other was a Probus Club from Penrith.

If you have any ideas in regards to promoting visiting bus tours please contact me on 4680 8358 or 0408 669 287 during the evening. As they say two or more heads are better than one. ■



Acquisitions Corner

Allen Seymour

This has been a very quiet month with just a couple of items. Firstly, there were some notification cards sent to residents of The Oaks when the street numbering system was introduced. Secondly, there is a World War 1 barb wire holder. We have one of these on display in the hall, but it is only on loan. It was donated by Helen Biffin and it was used by her father, Cliff Doust around the farm. ■



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

This report follows on from my last month's report which was part 1 of the review of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference held in Orange on the weekend of September 22-24. "Your Family Story: Telling, Recording and Preserving".

The location of the Conference was in the middle of town in the newly developed Council precinct which is home to the Council Chambers, Civic Theatre, Library, Art Gallery, Tourist Information Centre, Coffee Shop and the Orange Museum. We were encouraged to use all these facilities. The newly appointed library was the location of the History Fair. The shelves are all on wheels and can be moved back to give an open space.

The final day conference speakers were once again inspiring. Actor and writer, **William McInnes**, was very relaxed and entertaining. He reminded us that we should record how our ancestors lived, loved and dreamed. We should go beyond looking for names and numbers when writing a family history but tell the underlying stories.

Catherine Bishop spoke to us about "Strong Women - The Scandalous pre-history of the Hydro Majestic". She showed us how women's traditional roles were not just in the home. She also quoted a wide list of resources that she used.

Sauna Hicks delivered a talk on "Weaving Your Family History on the Web". She encouraged us to record our histories on a blog and gave us many ideas on how we could do this easily.

The final speaker was **Catherine Ziegler** from the ANU Archives. She had recently worked on a project of ledgers and hotel cards from Tooth & Co Ltd.

The collection has been digitised and gives a wealth of information about hotels owned or serviced by Tooth and Co. She also described other records housed at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the University. These include records of businesses, labour unions and professional associations. They have a website that is worth a visit at www.archives.anu.edu.au

In addition to the speakers there were side trips offered such as a history walk up **Byng Street** which turned out to be conducted by a childhood friend of mine! On the final day we also visited historic **Duntryleague** homestead, once a pioneer's mansion and now part of a golf course.

The **Orange Museum** is a modern purpose built structure and although interesting seemed a bit too 'clinically professional' for my taste. It did have a very good children's sheet to complete and assist with learning. I found the visit to the **Millthorpe Museum** far more enchanting in its more rustic demeanour.

Personally I found the conference quite exciting as I had connections with Orange through my mother staying with her aunt during the depression years of the 1930s. I decided to test the Family History section of the Council Library for their records of local and family history. I was not disappointed as they found some wonderful information I did not know about why my great aunt and uncle were in Orange. Another link to the story solved!

These conferences are always very well organised with lots of interest for everyone. The 2018 Conference is to be held in Bateman's Bay from 14-16 September. The theme is "Sailing into History." Keep a look out for when invitations are out.



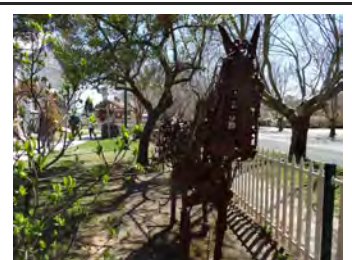
Orange Museum



Byng Street



Duntryleague



Millthorpe Museum

BRISLINGTON PARRAMATTA



ELIZABETH FARM FRONT VERANDAH, LOUNGE WITH CARD TABLE, MAIN BEDROOM AND KITCHEN WITH GUIDE GORDON FEHROSS ↓



PART OF THE SCENERY

Allen Seymour

A lot of us drive past it every day and don't take any notice of it. It's also in the latest Wollondilly tourist brochure. It's been there as long as most of us can remember, but have you ever wondered about its history?

What is it? I'm talking about the QANTAS plane that sits at The Oaks airport. Its registration was VH-ECE and it's a Hawker Siddeley HS-125 3B twin-engine jet. It was one of two identical aircraft ordered by QANTAS on September 8th, 1964, at a cost of 1 million pounds each. At this time the QANTAS fleet was mainly Boeing 707's, and the flight simulators and DC3's that were used for training were not sufficient for the purpose. The use of a 707 for training purposes would have been expensive, hence the two HS125's were ordered. They were built as a series 1B but modified to 3B standard and also modified so that their handling was closer to that of the 707. VH-ECE first flew on December 2nd 1965, and left England on June 7th 1966, arriving in Sydney on June 15th, 1966. The second aircraft was registered VH-ECF and followed about a month later. They were used for crew training, executive transfers, and for promotional purposes.

The sister aircraft VH-ECF took part in the 1970 BP England-Australia air race and won its category. As flight simulators improved the need for the HS-125's declined, and VH-ECF was sold overseas in 1972. In 1990 it crashed in the USA and was written off. In January 1965, the Department of Civil Aviation also bought a HS-125, which was registered VH-CAO. It was used for training their examiners. In January 1967 it did a wheels-up landing at Avalon and was damaged. The Department then leased VH-ECE for a few months, until their own aircraft was repaired.

VH-ECE did its final training flight in May 1981, after which it was deregistered and the engines removed and sold back to Rolls Royce. The aircraft was then sold and transferred to The Oaks. If you look closely you can see the fuselage of another aircraft behind it. This is VH-CAO, the Department of Civil Aviation aircraft.

It's very likely that these are the only two surviving HS-125's in Australia, and they're part of our local scenery.



BAD NEWS FOR HISTORIANS AND RESEARCHERS

Betty Villy

An article in the July issue of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society highlights the problems that historians face now that the Land and Property Information office (LPI) has been privatised. No more tripping to the Queen Square registry office to forage among the wonderful old system title deeds.

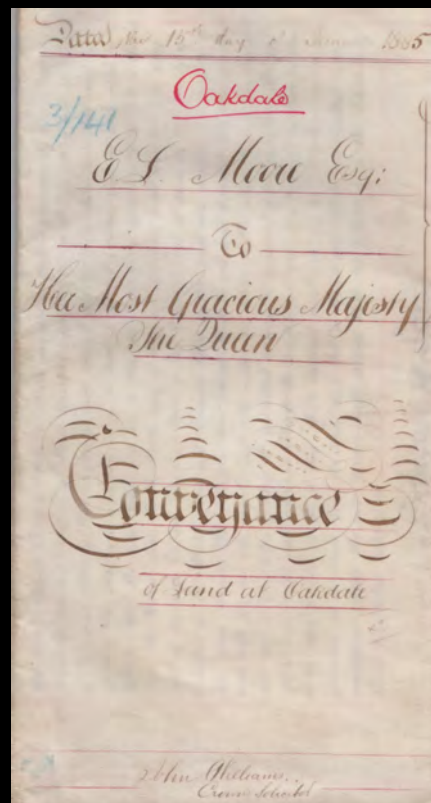
The LPI is effectively closed to historians as now searches are limited to selected brokers charging prohibitive fees. While many records are available online on HLRV some half of the old system deeds created between 1792-1862 remain hard copy as do some Torrens Title properties and Crown Land parcels. One bright note is that many records and maps have been transferred to State Records at Kingswood prior to the sale and are freely available.

The Sale/Lease of the Lands Title Office was a \$2.6 billion deal negotiated between the state government and a consortium of superannuation and pension funds. ABC news of 12/4/2017 reported that the Premier promised that 'it will mean a better customer service and new infrastructure products.' And it, 'was not a sale but a lease.'

We are now experiencing 'the better customer service' and as for the infrastructure projects it was announced when the sale/lease was first mooted that the proceeds would go to hospitals and schools. In a miracle of transfiguration that has been morphed into over a billion going into the upgrading of three stadiums. The rest into 'other infrastructure', whatever that means.

Criticism of the proposed sale/lease was extensive. Objections came from the Law Councils of NSW and of Australia, NSW Real Estate Institute, Institute of Surveyors, History Council, the RAHS, unions, community groups and many individuals. In fact nearly everyone except the Premier. The LPI generated an income of \$130 million, money that is now a long term loss to the people of NSW.

The LPI is more than a commercial opportunity, it is also a custodian of valuable historical material. ■



Oakdale Public School land title deeds dated 15 June 1885—TOHS archives

ARMISTICE DAY

Picton Post (Wed. 9 November 1921)

"The Premier in consultation with His Excellency the Governor, has decided to arrange a ceremony in Martin Place much on the same lines as that which was held last year.

A dais will be erected in front of Challis House, from which Sir Walter Davidson will deliver a 10 minute address. The singing of Kipling's Recessional Hymn and the National Anthem will be features of the proceedings.

Mr Dooley has written to the head of the churches suggesting that special services might be held in reverent remembrance of the men, women and children of the Empire who gave up their lives in the Great War.

Instructions have been given through the Public Service that all work shall cease for 2 minutes directly after the striking of 11 o'clock, and that flags are to be flown from all public buildings. The heads of the various religious denominations in the state have been invited to associate themselves with the ceremony and to occupy seats on the dais in support of His Excellency the Governor." ■

Rare images of WWI Australian soldiers in France



1. "The famous Menin Gate, Ypres 20/9/1917" TOHS archives 767

2. "The cooks at Battalion HQ, 35th Batt." TOHS archives 771

3. "Australian transport in the Ypres mud, Westhock, 9/10/1917, 4th Div" TOHS archives 794

4. "Rather knocked about, but a good one still". Muddy Daimler 21/10/1917 TOHS archives 766



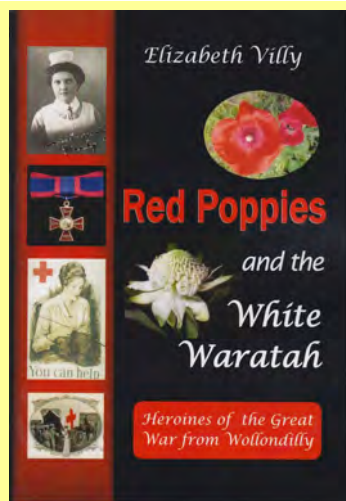
IN FLANDER'S FIELDS by Colonel John McCrae

Composed on the battlefield during the second battle of Ypres Belgium 3 May 1915

"In Flander's field the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard the guns below.
We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flander's fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe!
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to lift it high!
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
blow
In Flander's fields."

Original is
BLOW,
now
GROW???



1790—1818 THE GENERAL HOSPITAL commonly known as THE TENT HOSPITAL

The hospital consisted of two long tent-shaped, thatched roof wooden structures, built to hold a maximum of 50 patients. The occupancy rate was usually above 50 even up to 95 patients. This badly built, unsanitary, hell-hole was Parramatta's Hospital for 28 years.

CAPTAIN WATKIN TENCH of the Marines, an astute observer of contemporary life in the Colony, described the conditions in the summer of 1790 as most unsatisfactory. *"Our wretched hospital is destitute of any convenience. Luckily for the gentleman who superintends it and still more luckily for those who are doomed in case of sickness to enter it, the air of Rose Hill is healthy."* the bad reputation was due to the building not being watertight, the windows were broken and doors were not replaced so the wind and rain blew in at will.

REVEREND SAMUEL MARSDEN stated that *"This Hospital is open night and day for every infamous character to enter; there are no locks and bolts on the door. There is not so much as a room to put a dead man or woman in till they can be buried; the dead lie in the room with the living patents. Patient were distressed for weeks and months for the want of common necessities and were frequently without sugar, rice, tea and wine or any other support than the ration from the King's store, which consists of animal food and wheat, which from sickness many of them could not use. I also observed that there had not been a candle or lamp for two years to see a patient die. I do not believe there was ever such a place for want, debaucheries and for every vice as the General Hospital at Parramatta."*

RICHARD ROUSE, Works Superintendent at Parramatta stated that, *"The old hospital was so dirty and the smell so offensive that I could hardly ever go in—sick convicts had to be carried in against their will."* Dysentery was the rule, not the exception, and the death rate amongst patients was astronomical. Hospital mortality in November 1790 was 25 adults and 2 children from a Parramatta and District population of 600 inhabitants. ■

The Tent Hospital Parramatta

NURSES DUTIES 1887

In addition to caring for 50 patients, each nurse will follow these regulations.

- Daily sweep and mop floors of your ward, dust their patients furniture and window sills.
- Maintain an even temperature in your ward by bringing in a scuttle of coal for the days business.
- Light is important to observe the patients condition therefore each day fill kerosene lamps, clean chimneys and clean wicks. Wash windows once a week.
- The nurses notes are important in aiding the Physician's work. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual taste.
- Each nurse on duty will report every day at 7am and leave at 8pm except on the Sabbath on which you will be off from 12 noon to 2pm.
- Graduate nurses in good standing with the director of nurses will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if you go regularly to church.
- Each nurse should lay aside from each pay day a goodly sum of her earnings for her benefit during her declining years so that she will not become a burden.
- Any nurse who smokes, uses liquor in any form gets her hair done at a beauty shop of frequent dance halls will give the director of nurses good reason to suspect her worth.
- The nurse who performs her labours and serves her patients and doctors faithfully and without fault for a period of five years will be given 12/6 a week, providing there are no hospital debts outstanding. ■

RULES FOR PATIENTS 1886

1. Patients must conduct themselves in an orderly manner and strictly observe the rules of the hospital, copies of which will be suspended in the wards.
2. Patients rise at 6 o'clock, when able to do so, from 1st September to 31st March, and 7 o'clock from 1st April to 31st August, and go to bed at 9 'clock from 1st September to 31st March, and 8 o'clock from 1st April to 31st August. Breakfast hour, 8 o'clock; dinner hour, 1 o'clock; supper hour, 6 o'clock.
3. Patients who are not directed to remain in bed must get up and go to bed punctually at the appointed hours.
4. Patients must properly wash and clothe themselves on rising, and at all times be clean.
5. Patients must sit down orderly and quietly at meals at the appointed hours.
6. Patients must not be guilty of improper behaviour or of using bad language; they must neither smoke, gamble nor play cards, etc.
7. Patients must not go into any wards but their own, not go out of the Hospital without permission, nor on any account remain out at night.
8. Patients who are able to assist in the work of the Hospital will be expected to lend their assistance when required.
9. Patients are expected and requested to protect the Hospital property from injury and improper use.
10. Visitors to patients, being relatives or friends, will be admitted on Thursdays and Sundays, between 2 and 4pm. In case of any patient being in bed in any of the wards, no more than two visitors can be admitted at the same time.
11. No articles of consumption, whether food, drink or fruit, are to be admitted into the Hospital by visitors or patients. Any infringement of this rule will subject the person offending to entire exclusion from this Hospital. ■

Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER

NOVEMBER	
Saturday, 4	Jim & Maureen
Sunday, 5	Debbie & Allen
Saturday, 11	WORKING BEE
Sunday, 12	Trish & Kevin
Saturday, 18	Laurette & Phil
Sunday, 19	Bob & Vivian
Saturday, 25	Colleen & John
Sunday, 26	Ray & Robyn

MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

November	Jenny & Pacita
December	All bring a plate

GUEST SPEAKER

6th November—Robyn Collier
*Paintings from Burragorang—
 The Lost Valley*

Christmas Party

COME AS YOU ARE IN PARTY MOOD

Saturday, 9th December at 6pm

RSVP by 24 November to Trish 0432 689893 and Debbie 4657 1738.

To assist with catering please advise if you are bringing a sweet or a salad.



Bring your cutlery, nibbles and drinks

Come along and enjoy great company, food, music and prizes.



**CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL
 CLASS REUNION
 1953, 1954, 1955**

Saturday 4th November 2017



THE ROYAL HOTEL
 Corner Elizabeth & Argyle Streets,
 Camden TIME: 11.30am

Enquiries contact -
 Betty Yewen (02) 4655 5089 a/h
 Bruno Carmagnola 0412 152 310

Two for the price of one Good value!

Another full bus driven by Kevin Wintle, headed to Parramatta in October to visit Brislington Medical & Nursing Museum and Elizabeth Farm Parramatta. The proceeds of our bus trips are topping up the building fund and extensions are expected to start 2018. *More images on page 3.*



BRISLINGTON

The oldest residence in inner Parramatta was built in 1821 for ex-convict John Hodges and as a condition of his application to Governor Macquarie for a liquor license, "if he built a good solid house, he could have his license". Local history has it that Hodges had won a thousand pounds in gold in a card game at the nearby Woolpack Inn—the eight of diamonds being the winning card. It is believed that to commemorate his luck, he had the convict bricklayers work the diamond pattern into the back wall of the building. ■



Portrait of Elizabeth Macarthur in the farm house foyer

ELIZABETH FARM

The main house of Elizabeth Farm grew from a cottage built by John and Elizabeth Macarthur in 1793, making it the oldest remaining European dwelling in Australia today.

From here, the Macarthurs' efforts in colonial trade and agriculture led the development of Australia's vital wool industry.

This land belonged to the Burrumattagal clan of the Darug people, whose traditional connection to the area gave Parramatta its name. John Macarthur was granted an initial 100 acres (40.5 ha) in 1793. By the 1820s his estate covered over 1,000 acres..... Despite changes to the surrounding landscape, the sprawl of suburbia and constant threats to its survival, Elizabeth Farm has remained intact. It was acquired by the State Government in 1978 and has been open to the public since 1984. ■

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 4 December 2017 & 5 February 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.

Helensvale Library, Gold Coast Qld. where last month's newsletter was composed. What a fabulous facility for locals and visitors alike. The editor thanks the library IT staff for their assistance and the use of their facilities to get The Oaks Historical Society newsletter done by the deadline for printing.—Ed.



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