

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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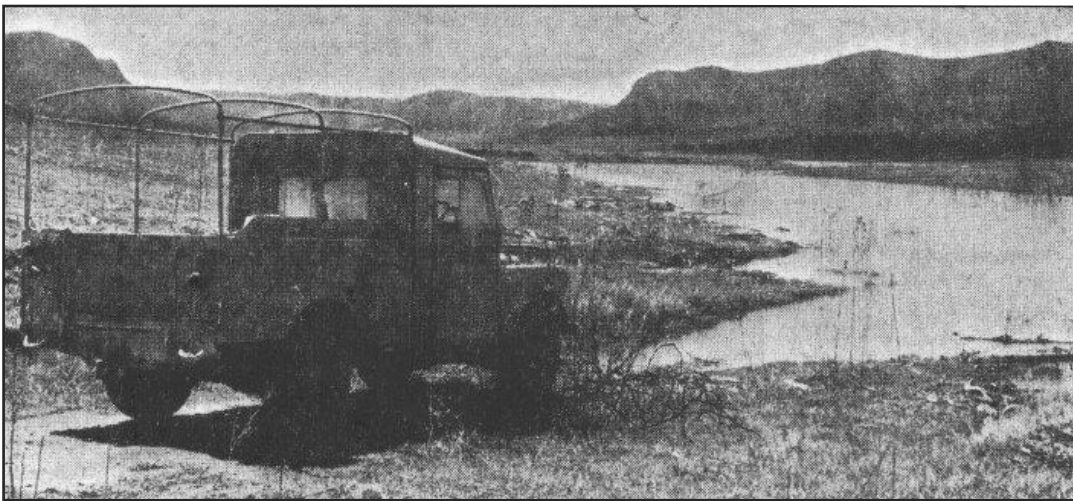


Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016

## Long Way Round for Langs



◀ *The end of the road which Mr Neville Lang used to take to Camden from his property in the Burragorang Valley.*

ba Dam began to back up and cut Mr Lang's access to Camden and Sydney. The road now passes several unoccu-

### CUT OFF FROM WORLD

(SMH Tues. Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 1960)

#### Dam Alters Life of Bush Farm

Murrumbidgee farmer Neville Lang is bulldozing a road through wild mountain country so his property will have access to a town. Today his property can be reached only by four-wheel drive vehicle or tractor. Yet he has television, a telephone and all the usual comforts of a farm. Mr Lang, 43 lives with his wife Valerie, 29 and their three children, Jenelle 4, David 3 and Sue-Ellen 18 months, at Bindook, not more than 70 air miles from Sydney. But even when his road is built, he will have to travel 165 miles to get to Sydney. The one thing that has cut off Neville Lang, his family and his two neighbours from the rest of the world is man-made... the Warragamba Dam.

#### Built First Road in 1941

In 1941 Neville Lang built a road into his Bindook property, tucked away in the Murrumbidgee, near the Burragorang Valley. The Road joined a Stock Route in the Burragorang Valley which gave him access to a road to Camden. About a year ago, the waters of the Warragamba

properties before disappearing into the dam waters. Mr Lang said that when the access was cut farmers sold out to the Metropolitan Water Board. But the Lang family and their neighbours, Ralph and Morris Gardner of Tomat Creek decided to stay and cut 16 miles of road to link with the road through to Oberon, 50 miles away. The Lang-Gardner road is nearly finished. Mr Lang has estimated the road has cost him nearly £6000.

#### Higher Costs of Transport

I used to travel 89 miles across the Burragorang and through Camden to Sydney, he said. "Today, I travel 165 through to Sydney. The travelling time was three and a half hours and now it is seven through Oberon." Wool once was sent to Sydney for £1 a bale now it costs 56/-. To get the wool through last year, a bulldozer was hooked to a six wheel drive truck. This hauled the wool over the two-mile long Big-Plain, a swamp on top of a mountain. At the weekend, Mr Lang took the Liberal MLA for Wollondilly, Mr Tom Lewis, two Wollondilly Shire Councillors, the Deputy President Mr John Downes and Councillor Ron Rofe, and the Shire Clerk Mr Bob Love, to see the property.

*Part 1 continued over...*



**Sue Davis**

Have you decided what you want to know about your family history? You need to decide so that you have some direction on where to look. Maybe it is.... your mother's or father's line; when direct ancestors arrived in Australia; tracing an occupation through the family; or family members you have heard stories about. When you have decided it will give you a focus for your research and you are bound to find out other information along the way. Keep your research in an organised manner so that it is easy for you to find and especially to share with relatives that you may only see once a year in the approaching Christmas season. Don't hesitate to contact us if you need some ideas for your research.

Recently we have had a couple of visits from John Hough who has shared a very interesting collection of his Family History

that he has organised in a number of loose leaf folders. They are an amazing resource for future generations in his family.

Recent requests for research at our centre have been:

- John Hough - any information of Hough Family burials. A picture of his ancestor and one of our pioneers, **Timothy Lacy**. (We have pictures his properties but not of the person!)
- Barabara Toohey – information on George Smith (1864-1930) who lived in The Oaks area in the 1890s. Married Alice Guerin in 1895 at The Oaks.

If anyone has any information that might help then please contact me at [tohs1988@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tohs1988@bigpond.net.au) or phone 0414703204

Enjoy your research journey. ■

## Long Way Round Langs

### **Part I continued ....**

#### **'Island' from Shire**

Mr Lang's property is now an "island" cut off by the Dam from the rest of Wollondilly Shire.

The Council now cannot get it's road plant into the Murrain Ranges area. The only telephone line covers the four and a half miles between Lang's property and the Gardner's. The Dam cut the telephone service through to Camden.

A rough 16 mile ride in a four wheel drive vehicle brought Mr Lewis and the Councillors to Yerranderie, a 'Ghost Town' in the mountains.

Once a thriving mining town, Yerranderie finally died. The dam was the final blow to Yerranderie, which during the early 1920's had a population of about 2000. A big brick building, formerly the Catholic church, overlooks part of the old town. The hotel has crumbled but the police station and court house remain. The Lang's and the Gardner's go to Oberon to collect mail and groceries on alternate Friday's.

The nearest doctor is at Oberon, so when David Lang swallowed ant poison recently he had to be taken there over the rough 50 mile drive. During the winter snow cuts the Lang's and Gardner's off from town. The children have no playmates –except the children they see on tele-



*Discussing their problem, Mr & Mrs Lang point to a map of the area, watched by (left to right) the MLA for Wollondilly Mr T Lewis, the deputy president of Wollondilly Shire, Councillor John Downes, the shire clerk Mr R Love and Councillor R Rofe*

vision. The television set was brought in over the valley road before it was cut. The big television aerial comes as a surprise to visitors but reception is good. A diesel engine supplies 240 volt power to the four bedroomed homestead. Mr Lang said his property has dropped by at least £15000 in value because of the loss of access. "The Water Board has so far offered no compensation for the loss of the road", he said. Mr Lang has three properties in the area,-Bindook 4500 acres, Colong 1800 acres and Bullnigang 2741 acres. ■

# President's Report



**Trish Hill**

As we go to print this week, we have received the new chairs for the Drill Hall (see image). Funded by Glencore, the comfortable conference seating adds style to the room and replaces our mismatched lot of plastic and cinema seats. Anyone interested in the cinema seats? Thanks to Glencore for supporting our organisation.

The Clutha Cup event (see group photo) held earlier in the month was a successful event with many miners attending from afar. Also members had a great day at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens on Wednesday 26th. (See Doreen & Pacita top right) We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas party this year. The date is Saturday 10 December commencing at 6.00pm with a broad theme of 'Neighbours/pioneers' or just come as you are.



This year has been busy for our Schools program. Bev Batros and her team continue to do a marvellous job showcasing our pioneer history and giving the children hands on insight into our

past. Figures for the year reflect an increase of school groups from 17 in 2015 to 29 for 2016. Congratulations to all of the 'schoolies' volunteers for their great work.

Termite monitoring continues within the grounds of the Centre and during a recent annual inspection further activity was discovered and treatment is underway. ■

*Photographs by  
Robyn Gill*



# Acquisitions Corner



**Allen Seymour**

This has been a very busy month with lots of items coming in. A lot of it was a result of the Clutha Cup reunion day that was held recently. There is a Clutha Cup jacket that belonged to Dave Marshall and T-shirts for Valley Coal. Other mining items include:

- ◇ A number of carbide lights used in mines,
- ◇ Miners safety lights, including an American one with an aluminium hood,
- ◇ Some anemometers for measuring air flow in mines,
- ◇ Some methane gas detectors,
- ◇ An ICI shot firer for setting off explosives,
- ◇ A surveyors aneroid barometer for determining the distance underground,
- ◇ Stanley miners dial for determining direction underground,
- ◇ A couple of surveyors dumping levels,
- ◇ A miners head made from a piece of Oakdale coal,
- ◇ Miners safety light key rings,
- ◇ Brass plumb bob,
- ◇ An Abney level for measuring angles,
- ◇ A whirling psychrometer for determining humidity,
- ◇ A Stadia computer for measuring distance,
- ◇ A Clutha tie,
- ◇ A Clutha badge commemorating the closure of Wollondilly Colliery,

- ◇ Copy of a Clutha share certificate,
- ◇ Copy of some plans for Valley 3 mine,
- ◇ Metal nameplate off a 'Joy' miner,
- ◇ Some albums full of stickers issued by the mines and their suppliers,
- ◇ A wooden mine prop measurement gauge,
- ◇ A wooden first aid box from Nattai Bulli.

We are hoping to do some rearranging where the longwall miner model is and to get some of the items displayed in a cabinet there.

Other items include a sterling silver cigarette case, and a small aluminium box made during WWII by a Lieutenant G.R. Bennett from the 2/19 whilst a prisoner of war. We've also received more items from the Cabrera family, including documents and correspondence from Frank Cabrera whilst he was on service in WWI. There are also certificates for Margaret Elizabeth Cabrera and a framed copy of the Wollondilly Shire Council certificate presented to Frank Cabrera for his WWI service.

Thanks to all the people who have donated items, they are welcome additions to our collection.

We've come up with some information on the roller mentioned last month, thanks to Bob and Viv Allen. It came from a property on Burragorang Road at Belimbla Park. Any more info would be most welcome. ■

# Exhibitions Officer's Report



**Doreen Lyon**

I was fortunate to win a bursary from Museums Australia to attend the Victorian Museums & Galleries Conference 2016 which was held in Cowes, Phillip Island on October 6/7. I elected to attend both days of the conference and not the Museums Australia Education group the previous day. The bursary covered my motel and registration, \$840, and part of the airfare was covered by our society, thank you.

I had not realised just how far the island is from Tullamarine Airport! It took all of 3 hours on a very slow bus. It was with a welcoming sigh of relief that I saw the small village of Cowes



and the sea in sunshine the next day!

The Bass Coast are fortunate that they have a Mayor, Jordan Crugnale, who is an ardent supporter of the arts and culture and that she gave all the delegates such a warm welcome to open the conference after the official welcome from a representative of the Boon Wurrung traditional owners. The executive Director of MA (Vic), Laura Miles steered the speakers and programs effi-

ciently and with good humour. The main subjects covered for the two days were the future of museums. festivals are a more effective use of funds. Using new technologies to deliver dynamic programs and provide exciting experiences can be learned by all museums if they are prepared to embrace change. Define your purpose – not with mission statements but by really asking why you exist! Then provide programs and use social networks to promote them.

**Patrick Greene, CEO Museums Victoria** also advised strategic use of modern technology. His museum is networked across several sites which spreads the load effectively. They also use their own museum Apps to add content to their collection of natural history. Patrick mentioned a recent visit to Beamish museum in UK and their special programs for dementia patients and children with autism. The Melbourne museum now has similar successful programs and work with [WWW.AMAZE.COM.AU](http://WWW.AMAZE.COM.AU) and provide a Creative Dementia Tool Kit for use in their museums.

From the plenary sessions in the afternoon I enjoyed the speakers from Future Storytelling. **Elle Credlin**, History & Heritage Program Officer for Glen Eira City Council took us through their Story Telling Festival which holds 45 events over 2 weeks and brings together such different organisations as museums, libraries, schools, ABC, cemeteries, historical and genealogical societies, ethnic communities and men's sheds! They run exhibitions, historical tours, films, talks, open mic sessions and interactive collaborative art installation, all of which highlight the different ways to tell and share stories. They offer *My Brother Jack Awards* with prizes for short story writing, poetry and photography of all ages. The *Storytelling Festival* is held in a range of venues, including Glen Eira Town Hall; Council's Libraries and Learning Centres; local cafes and bars; and other venues across Glen Eira, with events to suit all age groups, budgets and interests. Storytelling is a common and shared human experience that transcends culture, language and time. Through storytelling we can come together as a community, to share our histories, our experiences and the important stories that have been handed down through generations. We can learn lots of ideas from this! Cont'd....

ciently and with good humour. The main subjects covered for the two days were the future of museums.

The first keynote speaker was **Adam Rozan** from Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts USA who addressed the importance of really listening to what visitors want from museums. He also criticised governments who build expensive museums on the premise of "build it and they'll come" with no thought for how the collections will be maintained and the museums staffed. He believed we need a new model to reflect our communities but until we have one he thinks that



Local group of artists produced this painted mural inside the cultural centre to tell the story of Phillip Island

# Exhibitions Officer's Report *continued* .....

One of the events which interested me was a **quilt project**. To commemorate the Comforts Fund in WW1 when children made 'comforts' for the troops, the committee engaged a local quilt maker to run a series of workshops in June with local children aged from 10-16. They were asked to create calico squares which told stories from their own families or from the ANZAC files of WW1 soldiers or nurses. They could use any means to do this. The pieces were sewn together to make a beautiful quilt.



**Dr. Dorris Paton** spoke about her role in the *Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages* in collecting and reviving Aboriginal languages. "*Story telling is an act of living resistance*" was a quote she used to explain how Aboriginal people were punished for using their own language so they then used it secretly, which is how it has been passed down. Today

many of these languages are being researched, studied and taught. (like our own *Jim Barrett and his book of the Gandangarra language and Fran Bodkin's stories in D'harawal language*). When languages are re-discovered so are the stories of people and their relationship to their lands. Many people still believe that there was only one Aboriginal language, even though Norman Barnett Tindale AO, [1900-1993], (an Australian anthropologist, archaeologist, entomologist and ethnolo-

gist) identified 250 languages spoken in 1800 when he created the Language Map, with 600 dialects! David Horton produced the map now used in all museums which is on our display. Dot said that each of those language places was unique, in the same way that a map of Europe also shows many language places which are celebrated culturally. Australia needs to share these stories and knowledge to understand our place. Dot is using Apps to share the language stories and testing them on her granddaughter! The new Victorian school curriculum is involving the learning of local Aboriginal language.

*NB You can hear her on Youtube. Go to: Dr Dorris Paton Sharing the Journey [EGSAHP-Youtube](#) (East Gippsland Aboriginal Health Program)*

The second day had interesting speakers from Murray Art Museum and Scienceworks Victoria and plenary sessions on future engagement, but none were directly applicable to our museum. I was impressed with the special sessions during the lunch break for students and volunteers to talk to the academics and practitioners. There was a strong current of equity throughout the days so no-one felt left out or ignored. I caught up with Richard Mulvaney who was CEO at Bradman Museum in Bowral and at Train Works before moving to run Queen Victoria Museum & Gallery in Launceston. Richard is on the organising committee for the Museums Australia Annual Conferences, which will be in Brisbane next year. Check out the MA website for bursaries to attend. There is always something to gain from attending sector conferences!

*Doreen Lyon*

*If you're a bit squeamish you'd better skip this one!!!*

Courtesy of Trove

*Camden News Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1897*

## **Burraborang**

(From our own Correspondent)

Weather very bad indeed, severe frost, heavy winds and no rains. The rivers are a series of waterholes. Outlook most serious. I regret to have to report that Mr John Flinn has met with a most severe and serious accident, in point of fact, his escape from death was most miraculous.

On Sunday morning last after his family had left for divine worship, he placed a few of his cows in a paddock containing stunted or badly grown 'sugar' – due to the drought. Mr Flinn in watching the cattle feeding on the sugar noticed that something was wrong with the cattle and at once proceeded to ascertain the cause.

He found that several of the beasts had been poisoned and two or three of the best milkers he applied the usual remedy of putting fat down their throats, amongst the many cattle affected, two died, one valuable cow had strayed away and to this animal Mr Flinn paid his attention. It had strayed onto the edge of a deep pit or gully, the beast was suffering acutely and

in order to relieve its sufferings Mr Flinn stabbed it in the stomach. This relieved the beast for the time but in its struggles kicked out and struck Mr Flinn in the thigh inflicting a severe wound.

Mr Flinn had in the meantime ventured too far to the edge of the gully, some six or seven feet deep, the kick of the cow threw him headlong into the pit, into which Mr Flinn had been in the habit of throwing the farm refuse and the prunings of his orchard. In falling, one of the twigs entered just below the jaw of Mr Flinn, penetrating for some distance, and in the fall Mr Flinn was rendered unconscious. After sometime in this state he regained knowledge of his position, and fortunately extricated himself.

In the meantime the cow overhead had died and was as near as possible on the edge of the cliff. Had the cow fallen in the pit nothing could have saved Mr Flinn from death. Every care and attention is now devoted to the injuries sustained by Mr Flinn, both to his throat and to injuries to almost every part of his body. My latest reports on Wednesday morning is that you may inform your readers that Mr Flinn is very ill, his face has swollen enormously. I will ride over and let you know how he is in a day or two.

*We are still searching for the follow up on this article. — Allen Seymour*

# Bus Visits & Marketing Report

**Louisa Singleman**



## October Bus Tours

October has been a rather quiet month for bus tours. In all we have had four groups visit us from Bankstown, Bradfield Park and a group from the Campbelltown Historical Society. May I give a great welcome back to Pat Catt who helped out on one of our bus tours just recently. Hope to see more of you in the near future. Also thank you to all our regular volunteers. Your help is very much appreciated.

November is starting to look a bit busier so listen out for a few phone calls.

## Marketing.

Wollondilly Arts Group (WAGs) is holding an Art Exhibition in November at the Wollondilly shire hall in Menangle Street, Picton. We have been invited to have a stall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Any help would be appreciated. Give me a call on 4680 8358 if you can spare a few hours. ■

## OUR BUS TRIP TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BOTANIC GARDEN, MOUNT TOMAH

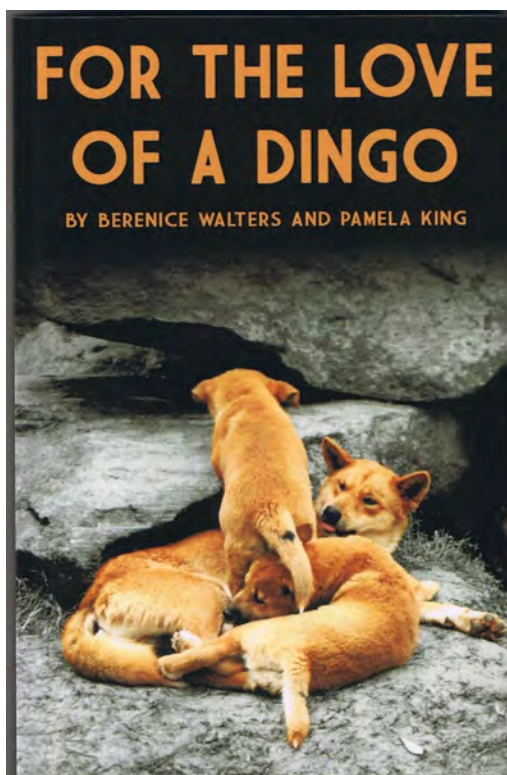
The other Wednesday Sydneysiders sweltered in an oppressive heat but our group, 1000 metres above sea level, strolled around in the pure, fresh air. From the terrace the mountains rolled beyond the foreground of colourful low-lying plants scattered among the rocks, across the gullies and canyons to the far distance where they seemed miniscule.

The waratahs were spectacular with their vibrant jewel-like red flowers glowing. The northern hemisphere plants thrived – the woods with red maples coming into leaf, oaks, birches and rhododendrons as well as a myriad of perennials and bedding flowers. In pride of place near the entrance were several Wollemi pines and elsewhere native Australian plants flourished. There was much that we did

not see as the place is vast, some 252 hectares and time did not permit us to visit the outlying areas.

Lunch was a picnic in the shelter as the kiosk is only open at weekends. As on all our trips, members produced home-made cakes and two people – Shirley and Trish – have been constant in providing morning tea on all our trips. Thank you both and to others who also have baked something good for us to enjoy.

Our next trip will be in late April to Joadja in the Southern Highlands. As the bus will jolt too much over the gravel road we will car pool. Hopefully some of our members will be happy to drive. As there is no limit on bus numbers this excursion is open to friends.



Berenice became fascinated by dingoes at a very young age. Her fascination became almost an obsession and as a young woman she spent many hours researching and studying the dingo and devoted over 40 years of her life as the dingo's advocate. Committed to observing, studying, breeding and being at one with the dingo's spirit she became a recognised authority on Australia's native dog and rewrote what people believed about the dingo.

She became known worldwide simply as the "Dingo Lady" and founded the Australian Native Dog Training Society (ANDTS), later known as the Australian Native Dog Conservation Society (ANDCS).

As the dingo's champion she took every opportunity to promote understanding of the dingo, fight for its recognition and acceptance as the native dog of Australia and to educate the public on the truth about its characteristics and behaviour.

The stories in this book about three of her dingoes, Dora, Napoleon and Snowgoose, demonstrate the love she had and dedication to a falsely maligned Australian native animal.

*This little book is now available in our shop for \$18.00.*

# Volunteer Weekend Roster

# News & Info

NOVEMBER 2016	
Sat, 5th	Jim & Maureen
Sunday, 6th	Sue & Paul
Saturday, 12th	<b>WORKING BEE</b>
Sunday, 13th	Allen & Debbie
Saturday, 19th	Bob & Viv
Sunday, 20th	Kevin & Trish
Saturday, 26th	Jenny & Jan
Sunday, 27th	Sue & Paul
Saturday, 3rd December	Colleen & June
Sunday, 4th	Louisa & Doreen

## Supper Roster



November	Jenny & Pacita
December	Please bring a plate

## Guest Speaker

NOVEMBER— Ray Gill—disaster management preparedness in the museum

Guest Speaker Marlane Fairfax presented us with the story of the naming of Tahmoor, one hundred years ago. This is a short precis...

Prior to the official naming of Tahmoor in 1916, the area was generally referred to as Bargo, Bargo Road, Myrtle Creek, sometimes Picton and at one time Cordeaux. The first land grants were made in 1822 but growth in the area was very slow and perhaps that is why it had no permanent name. Certainly Sam Emmett deserves credit for the establishment of the township, it was he who created the first subdivisions and laid out, in a neat grid pattern, the streets of modern day Tahmoor.

In April 1916 when he was before the Court at Mittagong for using insulting language, he describes himself as a grazier from Picton Lakes, Couridjah of today. At that time his address also appears in post office records as Elphin Cottage, Picton Lakes. Sam ran for Council for Wollondilly a number of times and served from 1931 to 1934. He was married twice, firstly to Alicia Patterson and together they had five children. Alicia died in 1917 and Sam later married Ethel Doust. He died at Tahmoor in 1949.

In 1922 Tahmoor was becoming an established township, the post office was operating from Denfields, run by Mr & Mrs Stewart. Sam Emmett 's residence was almost directly across the road. ■



## GOING, GOING, GONE...

Contact the centre ASAP if you are interested in our old cinema seats, located on the Federation Building verandah

Trish 0432 689034

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$10 single ♦ \$18 family



if you don't receive your newsletter by email

## TRUCKIES REUNION 2017

Sunday, 6 May 2017— Family Day BBQ

## SENIORS WEEK FESTIVAL 2017

Council has arranged many events, such as

3rd March—Warragamba Healthy Living Expo

4th March—Picton Ukulele Workshop

6th March—Tea Dance at The Oaks (OUR EVENT)

8th March—International Women's Day Tahmoor

9th March—Trivia Nepean Dam

& Seniors Festival Picton

10th March—Music & Movie Festival, Botanic Gardens

Contact Emma-Jayne Gardiner at council on 4677 9550

## Christmas party

Saturday, 10 December 2016

Nibbles and drinks at 6pm

Fun and games before the Christmas feast



**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 Street, The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. Upcoming meetings are 5 December 2016 and 6 February 2017. Our patrons are Mr Luke Johnson and Mr 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 minutes are availa-

If undelivered, please return to:-  
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