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

SEPTEMBER 2018

SEPTEMBER IS HISTORY MONTH

This article (right) was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday 08 July 1845 →

MULGOA COTTAGE

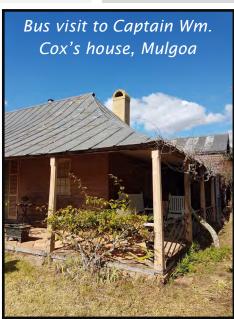
commodious and convenient require comment; Family Cottage, in the Vale of immediate feet by 17), drawing, five bed advantage of ient out-offices, an established num. well stocked orchard and For further particulars, referfor a pipe of wine.

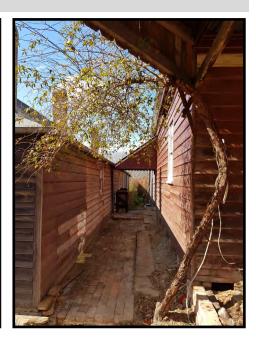
nificently grassed.

O LET, for a term of The beauty of its position is three or five years, a generally too well known to vicinity of Mulgoa, containing dining (30 Thomas's Church, has the rooms, and a large cellar, with school, and in seven miles every description of conven- from Penrith. Rent, £100 an-

garden, with grape vine that ence may be made to M. W. produces several tons of fruit, Lewis, Esq., Colonial Archiand a small vineyard sufficient tect, Sydney; Francis Beddek, Esq, of Windsor; or to Mr The land attached is about four Edward Cox, lately taking hundred acres, and divided possession of a newly erected into four convenient paddocks, cottage on another part of the exclusive of one for cultiva- estate of Fern Hill. This advertion, well watered, and mag- tisement will not be repeated after one week's insertion."







MULGOA COTTAGE

Members' visit on 22nd August 2018

Mulgoa Cottage was quite a surprise to those who thought they were 'visiting some old house.' Well, it was old, built around 1810 and believed to be the oldest house still inhabited in Australia. The present owner, Dr James Broadbent is a distinguished historian, author and conservation consultant and his care and preservation of this old home is a testament to his skills.

We received a wonderful surprise when he invited us into the cottage. It was stepping back 170 odd years into Georgian times. The wide vestibule indicated the home of a family of substance, as indeed the Coxes were. Two rooms led off this, one the drawing room and the other a bedroom, both crowded with colonial furniture, carpets on bare, unpolished boards and walls full of pictures. A motley collection of chairs with sagging cushions added to the sense of a house being lived in. The fire place in the bedroom, which had a four poster bed, was original with a small shelf above whereas the one in the drawing room had a stone surround added at some later date. It was an interesting comparison of styles. Edward Cox married Jane Marie Brooks in 1827. It was after the marriage that extensive improvements were made. Rooms were added to accommodate their growing family, the wainscoting in the drawing room was removed as it was considered 'old fashioned.'

Sue Davis, a descendent of William Cox, was delighted to view several pieces of the family's original furniture that James has collected. She kindly gave us a talk on her family at morning tea. Elsewhere in this newsletter Sue reveals further information.

The entrance, two front rooms and the corridor at the back had a ring of authenticity. We visited Elizabeth Farm last year and although the two houses are different in their scale and interiors, both give a good idea of life in the early years of New South Wales.

Mulgoa Cottage sits on a ridge facing northwards. It was originally built as a three room house with a shingled The verandah was extended roof. around the house in the 1820s and the roof replaced with zinc coated roofing tiles some 20 or so years later. These flat sheets of iron, now very rare, allowed the sweeping roof line to be maintained. There is no front gutter but sufficient overhang to prevent rain from splashing on the flags. Weatherboard cladding covered the brick nogging, a common building practice in those times. There is a wonderful ambience when you look out over the sloping paddocks from the verandah. There is a sense of timelessness and this is enhanced by plantings in the garden, which despite drought and severe frost, retains its uniqueness. There are big agaves and white cedar trees mentioned by Lady Franklin when she visited in 1839. It is an informal garden with many interesting specimens. In the paddock was a great, twisted elm tree with it skeletal limbs held upright by ropes. Mulgoa Creek is to the east of the house and native plants are regenerating along its banks. Once the estate would have contained farm outbuildings and huts for the workers but these have all gone. Lt William Cox arrived on the Minerva in 1799 and is best known for supervising the new road over the Blue Mountains.. In 1809 his four year old son Edward received a grant of 30 acres. Over time the Cox family had 3,760 acres in Mulgoa Valley with three of his sons building fine estates at Winbourne, Glenmore and Fernhill, the later becoming the home of the adult Edward. Nearby is St Thomas's Church that we visited after lunch. Built by the Cox family it is the burial place for many of them during the 19th century.

The word Mulgoa is a corruption of Mulgownie, the name of the Aboriginal people who lived there. It means black swan. Mulgoa Cottage advertised for lease in 1845 and the following advertisement in the SMH of 7th July 1845 reveals its evolution from a three room house to a home of comfort.







St Thomas Anglican Church and cemetery Mulgoa built 1838 (images from Jenny Wood & Allen Seymour)

Edward's eldest son, Edward King Cox lived at Mudgee but operated a racing stud at Mulgoa until 1885. He had many wins and bred the Melbourne Cup winners Chester and Flanneur. The family sold the cottage in 1913 and had a succession of owners and enterprises including a dairy farm. Over the years it fell into dilapidation and disrepair until bought by James Broadbent's parents in 1974. He has spent the intervening years restoring it and reclaiming the garden.

-Betty Villy



President's Report

Trish Hill

Welcome spring and a little rain and hope there is more on the horizon!

Another month passed and we now have the go ahead for our blacksmith facility and the sign for the front fence with advice to commence within 2-3 weeks. However we are still awaiting documentation that will allow us to commence the long awaited extension.

Mid-month we had a morning tea with Vanessa Toparis, representative from Veolia-Mulwaree trust to acknowledge and thank them for their support in funding our Drill Hall kitchenette.

The School Education program filming has been compiled and edited and we've had a preview. Our volunteers and The Oaks School Students look great, Congratulations all. Nik Kaapro has created an excellent overview of the program and look forward to viewing it on our website, thanks Nik.

"Peeps at Pioneers", Guided Walks through our local Historical Cemeteries is our History Week event and you can see the details for all cemeteries in our brochure further on.

Our best wishes to Eileen O'Brien for a speedy recovery Happy Father's Day to all next Sunday, have a great day! Thanks to James Broadbent for welcoming us and allowing our group to visit The Cottage at Mulgoa. His interesting commentary was based on his life's work as an historian, architect and author. Thanks also to Betty Villy for planning a great day. ■





Left: Lunch at Settlers Mulgoa after our tour of The Cottage at Mulgoa



Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

Family History Month was very busy for me with quite a few Remember to presentations. One of my favourites was at Cawdor Public keep your rec-School where I had the privilege of being guest speaker for ords for each of the Education Week celebration of the 160th year of the your ancestors school. I enjoyed sharing some stories I had unearthed when in an orderly researching for the 150th year of the school when I was the manner so that school principal. The current students presented an amazing it is easy to skit on comparing the life of students from the 1850s, now retrieve and in the future! What a creative group they are!

I hope you have found out more about the characters behind the names in your family tree. Archives and libraries are great sources of information that add detail and character to your Don't ancestors and their lives. The NSW Archives at Kingswood secrets! Share have very helpful archivists who can help you find any records the knowledge! relating to your ancestor through NSW Government records. Their records are as old as our country from the landing of the First Fleet. You would be surprised what you can learn there and it is well worth a day trip.

share with other family mem-

keep



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

30 YEARS OF THE WOLLONDILLY **HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM**

Apologies to Allen Seymour for not inserting his name as author of this very detailed museum history last month. Ed.

PART 2 - THE NEXT TEN YEARS

With the museum now open, the society settled into the In 1991 we were at the Camden Show and the Heritage Week business of running it. The schools program got under way Fair, while on April 21st an Applefest Gala Day was held and early, and the buses soon started to arrive, with three coming was very successful. Social activities included a trip to St Marys in October. At this stage the museum was open Wednesdays Towers at Douglas Park as well as a trip to Yerranderie. The and Sundays. Members were also still busy with outside annual ball in September was a great success, raising \$1,388. activities, with a stall at the Buxton Fair, and a display at the August 9th saw the launch of William Russell's 'My travelling Bicentennial exhibition at Blacktown. There was also Recollections' book, with a crowd of around 100 people a visit to the paper mill at Nowra, and an art and craft show at present. On the 8th December, Owen Pearce's book 'Rabbit the Centre. Busy times indeed. In December there was the Hot, Rabbit Cold' was launched at the Camden AH&I hall. Christmas party and the launch of a book on the history of the February 1992 saw the donation of the Priest's bed, which was Wollondilly Shire.

making, spinning and the Drover's Camp. Entertainment was and Agview. provided by The Flying Pieman and his keyless organ.

Centre, while in July a further 113 adults and 30 children was officially dedicated on 4th April at the Burragorang reunion visited. In September, Wollondilly Council presented the by Alderman Theresa Testoni. We participated in the Camden Shire during the Bicentennial year. Outside displays were still Elizabeth Farm. Work was underway on the new Parallel Paths taking place, with displays at the Queen Victoria Hospital, an exhibition for the main building, and this was scheduled to Tourist Association at Liverpool. The new Warragamba display book, 'Timbermen of the Wollondilly'. was unveiled, and time was found for a cruise on the August proved to be a very busy month with some 14 groups Shoalhaven River.

now to become the meeting room and the library.

Show and Agview. Social activities included a trip to the replaced by Jim Whyte. In June the Centre was visited by Doris Whyte was elected Treasurer, a position she held until 2017. A responsible for the flyer that resulted in the formation of The new book on Burragorang was being written.

he travelled around visiting relatives of those locals who had 28th by the mayor.

The annual ball had been moved to September and was a masquerade ball. Other social activities included a bushwalk at realistic. The BBQ shed, made possible by a bequest from the Rideouts farm and a Melbourne Cup fashion parade and lunch was held for the ladies.

October saw the Centre host the October meeting of the Illawarra/Southern Highlands Chapter of the Museums Association. In November we were offered the old timber slab school from Lakesland. It was some time before this was stage 2 of the Parallel Paths exhibition, which included the sorted out, but it eventually became our school room.

to become one of our most treasured items. April saw a The new year saw the Council provide money for ceiling fans. Burragorang reunion held with some 140 people in The Centre closed for a week in early April while the displays attendance. Social activities included trips to Mamre were altered. An open day was held in Heritage week to unveil Homestead at St Marys, Huskisson, Braidwood and Gerringong the new Burragorang display. Activities included steam Museum. Unfortunately the annual ball was cancelled due to machine demonstrations, apple peeling and grading, butter lack of interest. Outside activities included stalls at Gledswood

The dairying and mining displays were moved out of the The annual ball was on again in May, and a trip to Burragorang cottage in 1993, and a decision made to extend the Machinery also took place. In June, 80 adults and 200 children visited the Shed. The cottage was transformed into it's present form, and Centre with a Bicentennial Album with photos of Wollondilly show, Belgenny Farm, and a three day stall took place at open day at The Hermitage, and the Macarthur Country open on October 10th. Colin Sproule was working on a new

visiting the Centre. This carried over into 1994 with 15 groups 1990 saw some changes take place. Prior to this, what is now in April, 18 in May and 12 in June. July saw 11 groups, 14 in the drill hall, was filled with displays of local industries, with August, 16 in September and 10 in October. There were also the grader, mining and dairying all featuring prominently. The 174 people at the Burragorang reunion. A display was again grader was moved to the machinery building, while the mining mounted at the Camden Show, and a stall was mounted at the and dairy displays were moved to the cottage. The hall was Appin Pioneer Day. In amongst all this activity, time was found for a trip to The Rocks.

Outside activities included Thirlmere Steam Fest, the Camden After 15 years as President, Mert Daley stood down and was Balmain History Trail and to Goat Island. In May, Maureen Woods, one of the foundation members. It was Doris who was Oaks Historical Society. Doris had moved away from the Colin Sproule's Boer War research resulted in the Picton To district before the museum was built, and this was her first Pretoria book. A massive amount of work went into this and trip back to see it. She was impressed with what had resulted from those first steps.

been involved in the war. The Council had donated money for In the main building, work was proceeding on the construction an honor board for the Boer war, and this was unveiled on July of the coal mine. In order to carry out this work, visits were made to some of the local mines so that they could see what the inside of a mine was like, and ensure that it looked Keith Jessop, was under construction and the machinery shed was being concreted. At the end of the year, a volunteers lunch was held at the Country Club Motel in Camden.

> The Burragorang reunion continued to be a successful day in 1995, and on May 21st, a gala day was held for the opening of new mine display and the water display. Continued

30 YEARS OF THE WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM

PART 2 - THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Continued

In October a new book was launched: 'A Peppercorn School' about the Lakesland school by Doreen. October also saw a decision made to erect a new building which was to be sixty foot by thirty foot - the Federation Building. The Drill Hall received some attention with the addition of a roof hatch and a porch over the front door. The year finished with a Christmas extravaganza - 'Cinderella and her fairy godmother'.

1996 saw the launch of a 'Guide to The Oaks' book in June. Outside activities continued, with stalls at the Belgenny open days, Agview and the Appin Pioneer Fair. In September eleven coaches visited and in October we hosted the Southern Highlands Chapter meeting, with over thirty people attending. Late in the year, the concrete was poured for the new building.

The new year started off with the planting of a Lemonscented Gum tree in memory of Joyce Jeffree, our schools co-ordinator who had passed away in the previous October. This is the large white trunked tree up among the machinery. A while back one of the visiting school children said that a tree had been planted here in memory of her grandmother. At the March meeting, Jim Whyte displayed the newly

restored Priest's bed, which remained on display in the hall. April saw the Burragorang Reunion continue with over 100 people in attendance.

Heritage week saw the Wollondilly library come along and record people's reminiscences and in conjunction with this was the launch of a new publication: 'Women's Voices', edited by Doreen. Time was also found to attend the three-day display at Elizabeth Farm. In July the frame for the new building was erected. This was made possible following the receipt of a successful grant of around \$8,500 from the Ministry of the Arts. With the help of volunteers, this enabled the building to be completed to the lock-up stage.

The Centre also got a new computer and an internet connection. The computer meant that desktop publishing could be done, and the first book done in this manner was Nell Weir's 'From Timberland To Smiling Field' about Werombi/ Orangeville, scheduled for release in October.

May saw a two-day event take place on the 23rd and 24th to celebrate the Centre's first ten years. The new building was used for a district produce display, a parade of vintage cars took place through the main street, there was a schools spectacular, La Perouse dancers, community displays and much more. Food was provided in the form of home made soup and a sausage sizzle, while John Fahey and Liz Kernohan presided over the formal part of the proceedings, so the first ten years ended as a 'Decade of Achievement'.

— Allen Seymour

Continued next month



Marketing & Bus Visits Report

Louisa Singleman

August Bus Tours August started off Marketing seum as part of their tour to Australia. On some valuable information. the same day we had a retirement village from the Illawarra so it was a busy day so thanks to our volunteers Trish, Kevin, Doreen and Ben for their expertise and help in making it a great day.

The following weekend kept our volun- vertising throughout the shire. teers busy with a group from Macarthur Community Connect and Blue Gum tirement Village Thirlmere with extra help from Debbie. Trish and Allen.

Another two groups, one from the Illawarra Museum and EBC group visited us the following week.

However the second half of August has been rather quiet so it gives our volunteers a short break . Thanks to Pam, Betty and Colleen who helped out on bus tours.

The Wollondilly Tourism Aswith a bang with six bus tours which in-sociation (WTAI) has been busy acquiring a cluded our regular group from Japan. Our gazebo to be able to set up an information Koshigaya visit Camp- tent at the various events throughout the belltown every year and come to the mu- shire. This will give visitors to the area

> The Rotary Club of Picton is organising an Open Garden Day on Sunday 28th October and the Wollondilly Arts Group (WAG) is displaying their works of art at the various gardens so keep an eye out for further ad-

> The WTAI will be giving out information and brochures of the various attractions in the shire to promote Wollondilly as a great place to visit.

> **Picton Show** Doreen and Ben will be manning a stall at the Picton Show on Saturday, 13th October. Anyone who can assist our volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Contact Doreen or Ben on 4681 0472 if you can help.

CRUMPETS

1920s recipe from Mrs AA Donaldson, Finley

(140 kms west of Albury on the intersection of the Newell and Riverina Highways)



I cup of strong yeast, 3lbs flour, I teaspoon of salt. Mix to thick batter with buttermilk and leave overnight. Then add I teaspoon bicarb soda dissolved in warm water. Beat well and fry in a very hot greased tin or pan till bubbles rise—then turn over.

A large quantity—break down to suit.

First of three stories leading up to ARMISTICE DAY event at the centre in Nov.

WILLIAM LAMBERT DUNN 1891-1962 Service #1113



Mt Hunter to George Lambert Dunn Squadron on the 26th July that year. and his wife Elizabeth. Along with He quickly rose through the ranks siblings George, Amy, Minnie, Kath- and on the 25th August 1917 was sent leen, Bertha and Lillian they all at- to the School of Instruction as a tended Williamwood Public School, a Training Sergeant. After becoming a small country school built on the qualified instructor in the use of the Dunn property.

Boer War over and following Federation, Australia began to organise its own defence force. Many training establishments sprang up over the for Australia departing Suez on the country and prior to enlistment William Lambert spent three and a half In January 1920 he married local girl, years in the 9th Light Horse at Winifred May Dibden from Spring

Camden and twelve months in senior cadets.

Britain declared war against Germany on 4th August 1914 and it was expected that those with prior military involvement would be amongst the first to sign up. William enlisted at Liverpool, South Wales on the 23rd of June 1915 and

was attached to the 7th Reinforcements 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment on the 27th July that same year. He embarked on HMAT Marere A21 leaving Sydney on 16th August 1915 bound for Egypt. Later he proceeded to the Western Front on 14th January Tilliam was born on the 12th 1916 and was transferred to the First August 1891 at Spring Creek Light Horse Brigade Machine Gun Vickers Gun he was commissioned as At the turn of the century with the an officer with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on the 9th March 1918. Following a bout of malaria, he was sent home aboard the HT Leicestershire 23rd December 1918.



Photo: Welcome Home for the Dunn boys

Creek and together they raised one son, Gordon Lambert. With the declaration of World War 2, William once again enlisted at Cootamundra as a Lance Sergeant in the 8th Battalion but did not see active service. His service in the Great War earned him the Victory Medal, British Medal and 1914/15 Star. There is a War Memorial in Mount Hunter to commemoforty diggers who fought in WW1 and after its refurbishment in 2014 a dedication ceremony was held on the centenary of his brother, George Iley's enlistment. On the 1st June 1962 William passed away at Sutherland and is buried at Woronora Cemetery.

Just one of the stories that we are featuring through to November to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice on 11th November 2018 from the TOHS publication 'Burragorang Boys & Beyond in WW1. ■



Very proud father, Harry Albert DOBSON with (left to right) wife Annie Margaret, Anne (nee DUNN —daughter of John and Jane) and baby son Harry Albert Inr and Edith Muriel.



Wishing dads everywhere a very Happy Fathers Day



WEEKEND ROSTER

SEPTEMBER			
Pam & Debbie	Saturday, 4		
Bev & David	Sunday, 5		
Phil & Laurette	Saturday, 8		
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 9		
WORKING BEE	Saturday, 15		
Bob & Vivian	Sunday, 16		
Pacita & John	Saturday, 22		
Sue & Paul	Sunday, 23		
Colleen & Kathy	Saturday, 29		
Bev & David	Sunday, 30		

MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

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

NEXT MEETING SPEAKERS

September

LIFE & DEATH
Overview of 'Peeps at Pioneers'

October

Members Show & Tell

November

Michelle J Morgan. Lyric writer for songs, playwright and novelist

ARE YOU STILL A FINANCIAL MEMBER FOR 2018/19?

Those members who want to continue receiving newsletters need to ensure their membership is paid. We can supply our bank details on request.

Reminders, News & Info

BURRUNG MURRUWAY | SKY TRAILS | MASARAT ALSAMA

YOUNG—10 Sept at 5pm—Young High School

GOULBURN—11 Sept at 5pm—Goulburn North P.S. Hall

PICTON—13 Sept at 5pm—Picton Botanic Gardens

Sky trails is a free community event that explores the intersection of science, culture and art through a series of panel lectures and practical star gazing evenings in Young, Goulburn and Picton

More information contact Caitlan on 4823 4407 or ao@southerntablelandsarts.com.au

PICTON SHOW

at the Picton AH&I grounds in Argyle Street on <u>Saturday 13th October</u>

Anyone who can assist volunteers on the stall would be greatly appreciated

Contact Doreen and Ben on 4681 0472

OPEN GARDEN DAY

Picton Rotary Open Garden Day is Sunday 28th October

FABRIC OF WAR—OUR EVENT

Armistice Centenary at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre
<u>Sunday</u>, 11 November 2018 at 2pm

SENIORS WEEK EVENT

'HAPPY SENIORS' MUSICAL BBQ-February 2019

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Thursday, 27 September—Goulburn

Object Loans 10.30am-12.30am Cost: FREE At the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences

Thursday, 4 October—Berrima Museum

Managing Your Collection Cost: FREE

Learn how the MAAS registration team move, track and store a diverse collection of objects. Contact Berrima Museum direct.

Tuesday, 9 October—Mittagong

Oral History Workshop Cost: \$35-\$40

Bowral & District Historical Society, Mittagong—Contact B&DHS direct.



Christmas Party

Saturday, 8th December at 6pm

Mark the date on your calendar



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 the 1st October and 5 November 2018</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.

The Oaks Historical Society "Peeps at Pioneers" - 5th & 8th September

Bookings essential via the website: www.wollondillymuseum.org.au

Date and time	Pioneers at	Address	Coordinated by
Wednesday, Sept 5 th at 10.30-11.30	St Marks Anglican Church Cemetery	7 Menangle Street Picton	Betty Villy
Saturday, Sept. 8 th from 10am -11.00am	Wollondilly Heritage Centre for morning tea	43 Edward Street The Oaks	The Oaks Historical Society
Saturday, Sept. 8 th from 11am-12 noon	St Matthews Anglican Church	Old Oaks Road The Oaks	Sue Davis
Saturday, Sept. 8 th from 12 noon to 1pm	St Aloysius Catholic Cemetery	Cnr Timothy Lacey Lane & Silverdale Road, The Oaks	Trish Hill
Saturday, Sept. 8 th a from 2.30-pm to 3.30pm	Glenmore Uniting Church Cemetery	Moores Way Glenmore	Marlane Fairfax

If undelivered, please return to:The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
P O Box 6016 The Oaks NSW 2570



