

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Newsletter

JUNE 2015

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

Burraborang

Another popular event held at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre

Coal Truckies Re-union



Congratulations to organiser Ian Welsh and all the volunteers who assisted the very successful reunion of drivers and their families at the museum on 2 May. About 150 people attended the gathering and BBQ and said they would meet again in two years time. Special thanks goes to the drivers who supplied the six prime movers for static display for this wonderful event. *Men and their machines !!!* Ed. *Thanks to Robyn Gill for the photos.*

Betty's Berrima bus tour - positively a great day out



More info inside.
Below: Trish & Betty



President: Trish Hill (02) 4657 1129 ■ Editor: Jenny Wood ■ Museum Bookings: Maureen Whyte (02) 46571224

President's Report

by Trish Hill



Congratulations to Ian Welsh for organising a very successful truckies reunion on 2nd May. A small fleet of restored ex-Clutha trucks generously supplied for the event were the centre of attention. Successful on several fronts, those attending commented on the great venue and our building fund was boosted by the proceeds of the day. There are plans to hold the event again in the future.

Appreciation also goes to Betty Villy for arranging and attending the very successful Berrima bus tour.

I would like to express our gratitude to June Hickey, our webmaster for the great job she does with our website readily accommodating our requests and reminding us when we forget to send through our newsletter for inclusion on the website. June, you have helped us increase our profile. Great job.

We had a visit from Pat McGowan (Captain Pat) from C91.3 radio initially doing some research. He was so impressed with our Centre and displays he invited me to do a radio session on his Sunday night program. It was a good public relations

exercise for us and Pat has suggested a follow up radio interview.

Doreen and Ben have been working on the new displays, Clara's Story (Lavercombe) and The Tale of Two Brothers (Littlewood) which is now complete and looking good.

Our bus group bookings are still down but on a positive note our school group bookings have increased.

Don't forget our community bus tour of Picton on 10th June. Booking sheet is at the front counter.

Following up from our AGM last month our schedule of fees for researchers have been adjusted and are shown at the back of the newsletter.

Oh, here is a friendly blue tongue lizard that dropped in for a look around the archives in the office. ■



Exhibitions Report

MUSING ON PHOTOS AND FILMS

I explained last month of the need to transfer the Littlewood display from the Face & Places building to the main building, in order to put the new WWI display, *Her War* in that location. So that is what has happened this month. You will see a new, smaller display to replace the Lavercombe/Mt Hunter Creamery display.

This one is called **CLARA'S STORY** and uses a selection from the Lavercombe collection which relates to Clara and her brothers lives in Mount Hunter with their parents, Annie and Ted. Next to this display is a new one called **A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS** which is the story of Ted and James Littlewood. James was the photographer who took many local photographs between 1919 and 1970 and his brother Ted grew flowers, kept bees and made wooden objects including the photographer's stand featured in the display.

In assembling objects from the Littlewood collection of photographic material I was struck by the changes to the art of photography which can be documented in the collection. Jim used glass plates in his big camera in the early days – and those glass images are as good today as when he made them!

He moved with the contemporary changes to add new techniques he learned from trade journals which included hand touching and colouring the plates with assorted chemicals and pigments – many of which are very toxic!

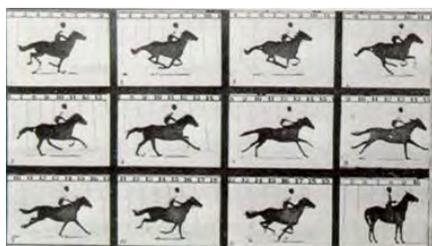
There is a tattered, much used trade journal in the box which shows all the ways he could add to his art – and many are still in use today. The use of frames to lay over the image for instance is used in scrap booking and the practice of inserting an image into a vignette or caricature is often used in photo studios and amusement parks and even in museums to entertain children today.

The steps towards motion pictures are interesting too. Does anyone remember the zoetrope? I remember being totally enthralled by one which belonged to a neighbour of my family in England when I was about 4 years old. It looked just like this!! And you could buy the sheets of animations to make your motion picture...

And talking of moving picture – we will again have copies of **THE MAN FROM COX'S RIVER** for sale in the museum shop next week. Thanks to Russell Kilby. PRICE \$27.00.

And make sure you come to Louisa's showing of **PIG IRON BOB** next month. We saw the preview by Sandra Pires in Wollongong Town hall with 1,000 people and it is very challenging view of the history of Port Kembla and also of China and the Nanking massacres by the Japanese during the Second World War! ■

Doreen Lyon – with thanks to online Wikipedia for images and information.



Family History & Local Archive Research

by Sue Davis Family Historian/Archivist



This report is written while Doreen and I are half way through our attendance at the Australian Museums National Conference. We will have more to report next month. The conference is being held at the Sydney Town Hall which itself is a beautiful building that displays its' wonderful heritage to all who enter.

One workshop I have attended was about Trove. Many of us have used Trove to find extra information for our Family History investigations through the online newspaper database. However, Trove is more than the newspapers. Trove is created and maintained by the National Library of Australia. It brings together the amazing collections of libraries, museums, archives, galleries and research organisations under one umbrella! We can also contribute to Trove to help promote what we have in our collection. This one definitely will receive more investigation.

Happy researching! ■

Acquisition Corner

by Allen Seymour



This month we have a souvenir scarf from the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. It was donated by John Fergusson who was one of the runners who carried the Olympic torch on its journey through Picton on its way to the Melbourne Games. Thanks a lot John. ■

Marketing Report

by Louisa Singleman



Bus Tour Reports

May has been a very quiet month for bus tours but for those who did get out and about they had a wonderful visit to the centre. Not only do we thank our volunteers for their work on bus tours but also the workers who look after those with some form of disability so they also can have some quality time. "Word of mouth" is the most valuable marketing tool we have so pass on the word about "Wollondilly's best kept Secret".

Thanks to the organisation of the Truckies Reunion by Ian Welsh, the number of visitors for the month has swelled by 200. Our volunteers were run off their feet buttering bread, cooking sausages and steak and serving cups of tea and coffee. Fifteen volunteers turned up on the day so a big thank you and I am sure you slept well. The Wollondilly Heritage is a great venue for a reunion with undercover seating for over 50 people, BBQ and kitchen facilities so if you are planning a party for ex-husbands, old school friends or work mates keep us in mind.

Marketing Report

The Wollondilly Tourist Association Inc. (WTAI) has gained some momentum and is having a meeting at the Heritage Centre on Thursday 11th June at 6.30pm to discuss its future plans. Blair Briggs of Mowbray Park Farm Stays will chair the meeting. Blair is very active in promoting the Wollondilly Shire to local and overseas visitors so his knowledge and expertise are very valuable. A light supper will be served. All welcome.

WOLLONDILLY PREMIERE OF "THE DALFRAM DISPUTE"

The story of the Port Kembla Waterside Worker's Union and their fight against loading ships with pig iron destined to Japan to become bullets and bombs, and the 1938 Minister of Trade, Bob Menzies, who became eternally known as "Pig Iron Bob"



Screening at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum
43 Edward Street, The Oaks

Saturday, 13 June at 6.30pm

Supper supplied

Entry donation to the Heritage Centre Building Extension Fund



Fund Raising—Wollondilly Premiere of "The Dalfram Dispute" — A Movie night will be held on Saturday 13th June at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. Contact Trish Hill on 0432 689 034.

Camel Corps at Menangle Camp



MEMBERS OF THE CAMEL CORP AT MENANGLE, NSW BEING INSTRUCTED

1. The camel saddled and ready for the word "HOOSTAH" which means "GET UP".
2. The riding lesson.
3. Putting the saddle-cloth on the hump. The Afghan is showing the men how it is done before putting in the saddle.
4. The five camels belonging to the military used for training: the little camel to the left is only a fortnight old.

THE CAMEL CORPS

SMH, 29 June 1916, p10

It is stated at Headquarters that Mr Abdul Wade, of Bourke has lent six camels to the military for the training of men in Menangle camp as members of the Camel Corps. Four of the animals are riding camels, the other two being pack camels. They have been sent by rail from Bourke under the care of an Afghan camel driver. ■

SMH 8 November 1916 p.7

Men who have been selected for service with the camel corps are trained in Menangle camp under Colonel Lenehan. The camels used were brought down from up-country under special drivers, who have been accustomed to them and understand their ways. The men are given instruction in riding, loading, and looking after the animals.

Most of the work consists in teaching the men to learn "camel talk," for the camel has to be addressed in a manner he understands, or else he declines to budge, being one of the most obstinate of animals. The men have to be taught how to persuade a camel to go down or rise up, as the case may be, and also are instructed in the saddling of these "ships of the desert." When it comes to mounting the camel with full kit there are many amusing incidents, for if the animal rises quickly before the recruit is firm in the saddle, the recruit more often than not takes an impromptu toboggan slide down its back and lands on the ground spread-eagled, with his helmet and rifle on either side of him. Australians who are good horsemen, however, quickly learn the "tricks of the trade" many, in fact, having had more or less to do with camels in pre-war days, with the result that the men forming the Australian Camel Corps know their job from A to Z before they leave for the front. ■

Sydney Mail, 2 May 1917, p25

An officer of the Camel Corps writes from Egypt:- May I be allowed to correct a false impression created by the illustrations shown in your very interesting paper of January 24—"Breaking-in Camel Corps Recruits at Menangle". The statement that "many men have to go through a period of sea-sickness when first riding camels" is not correct. Ladies even can ride camels without the slightest discomfort. You also publish a picture of a jibbing camel. Now, whatever they may do at Menangle, jibbing camels are unknown in the Imperial Camel Corps, where there are exactness, precision and uniformity. ■



Camel Corps at Menangle Camp



Photographs & Stories from National Library Australia
Trove web page and the Australian War Memorial

Australian Camel King

Toodyay Herald, WA—11 February 1922

Abdul Wade, the camel king of Australia, is leaving for Afghanistan to prospect for gold. Abdul can claim part parentage of the Australian Camel Corps. He lent the Light Horse Camp at Menangle three or four specimens of these animals from his herds. They were insufficiently numerous for actual camel corps' work of course, but they served at least to accustom the Menangle Diggers to the smell, bad temper, and appearance of the tricky beasts. They were useful also to the stodgier class of weekly.

From time to time when a paper such as, the Sydney Mail wanted to brighten the lives of its readers with a scoop, it would send to Menangle and photograph the camels. These photographs were planned on the lines of a stage Army, They were to convey the impression the country side seethed with camels. First there would be the stock photograph of the four assembled camels each mounted by a Digger. Then there would be a photograph of one of the four drawing a gun, of another drawing a water-cart, and so on.

The grateful country which accepted this loan from Abdul, in the end refused to pay truckage for railing the creatures back to Bourke. ■



Soldier from the Imperial Camel Corps practises mounting a standing camel, Menangle Park, NSW



Top: Soldiers observing a man saddling a camel at camel corps training, Menangle Park, NSW, 1916 Source: NLA

Left: Four camel corps soldiers on the back of a standing camel at Menangle Park, NSW, 1916 Source: *National Library of Australia*

FEES FOR RESEARCH

\$10 if researching in person

\$15 if WHC volunteers research for an enquiry

\$20 for commercial/professional researchers including members

Payment includes ten (10) photocopies.

Conditions apply in all areas

Researchers are required to make an appointment subject to:

- ◆ *availability of personnel,*
- ◆ *resources and computers,*
- ◆ *consideration of hours required and exchange of information*

Office Bearers for 2015/16

President: Trish Hill

1st V/ Pres: Allen Seymour

Secretary: Sue Davis

2nd V/Pres: Ray Gill

Treasurer: Maureen Whyte

Archivist: Sue Davis

Marketing: Louisa Singleman

Exhibitions: Doreen Lyon

Librarian: Vivian Allen

Minutes: Jenny Wood

Membership fees for 2015/16 are now due

Single \$10 ◆ Family \$18

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email ?

Cawdor Primary School

Robyn and Ray Gill represented The Oaks Historical Society at the Cawdor Primary School Anzac Day event commemorating 100 years. The pine tree is from Lone Pine at Gallipoli, as is the plaque. The certificate pictured on the right was presented to every child at the school. Ray laid a wreath on behalf of the Wollondilly Heritage Centre. —Robyn Gill.

*“Thank you for supporting **Soldier On** and helping our current service men and women to overcome the many physical and emotional challenges that war delivers.”* www.soldieron.org.au
www.australiagreatwar.com.au

The Gallipoli Pine Plaque

The ‘Lone Pine’ tree planted here at Cawdor Public School on 18th May 2006 is descended from seeds brought back from Gallipoli after World War I.



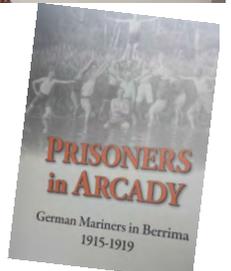
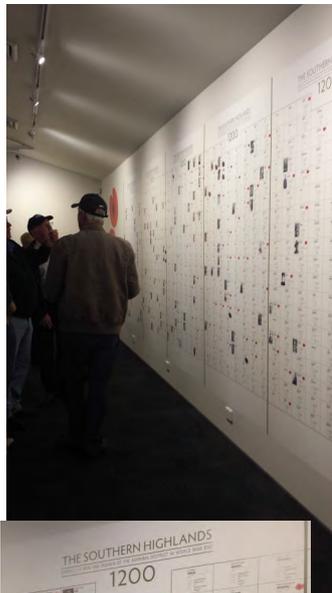
**ANZAC
We
Remember**



Photos by Robyn Gill

Berrima Bus Tour 'The Southern Highlands 1200'

Members and friends of the museum travelled to Berrima on a cool autumn day to view the new wing of the Berrima & District Historical Society Museum. Before going in, we enjoyed a delicious morning tea in the park adjacent to the museum. The Anzac Centenary Exhibition was many years in the making, involving thousands of volunteer hours, eleven major grants, sixty-five local building companies and suppliers and many generous donations from the Southern Highlands community. It is complimented with a digital tour on any digital device by typing into your *browser address bar* (not in your search engine bar). www.thestorycentre.com.au The complementary iPads are central to the well laid out showcases and wall displays. The walls have 1,200 stories of men and women of the Berrima District in WWI. Our group was welcomed by volunteers who made themselves available to us while we explored the new story centre and the primary museum. Focus is mainly on the German mariners who were interred in Berrima Gaol during WWI 1915-1919. Afterwards the group looked around the village, then had a delightful lunch at the Courtyard Café. The next bus tour to Picton is on Wednesday, 27 May. *Editor*



Volunteer Weekend Roster

News & Info

For the month of JUNE	
Saturday, 30 May	Phil & Laurette
Sunday, 31 May	Louisa & Doreen
Saturday, 6 June	Sue & Tina
Sunday, 7 June	Allen & Ian
Monday, 8 June	Jim & Maureen
Saturday, 13	WORKING BEE
Sunday, 14	Maria & Betty
Saturday, 20	Robyn & Ray
Sunday, 21	Trish & Kevin
Saturday, 27	Jan & Jenny
Sunday, 28	Bob & Vivian

2015 Supper Roster



June	Doreen & Ben
July	Maureen & Jim
August	Aileen & Pam
September	Shirley & Trish
October	Vivian & Pat Catt
November	Jenny & Pacita
December	All to bring a plate

FREE EVERY SATURDAY

Preston McIntosh & singer Sheila Strahan rehearse each Saturday in the Drill Hill here at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre. Come and listen to old fashioned music at its best.



Get Well Message

Jan Noakes is well and recovering slowly from a recent operation. She is missed by the Thursday Schoolies team, her weekend roster team mate and attendance at our meetings. Get well soon Jan, we need you fit and healthy back at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre with your mates.



UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

JUNE meeting—**Jeff Fitzgerald**—postcards

JULY meeting—**Pauline Downing**—Huts in the High Country
(Adversity of the Vernacular in the High Country)

AUGUST—**From our Collection** (a hidden gem)

COUNCIL BIO-BANKING INFO SESSION

Saturday, 13th June from 10am to 12.30pm at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre. Tea/coffee & biscuits are provided

Newsletter P&H next year

At the Annual General Meeting it was decided to increase the cost of sending the newsletter by mail **after next years AGM**. At the moment membership fees are \$10 for singles and \$18 for families and the cost of printing and postage cannot be absorbed indefinitely.

Therefore from May 2016, \$10.00 will be added to membership fees for postage and handling which is still reasonable compared to other historical societies. (\$20/single & \$28/families)

We currently have 30 members receiving their newsletters by email but still have to post over 100 each month.

So if you would like to give us your email address we will send the newsletter to you on the day of printing which is one week prior to the monthly meeting. We will not relay your email address to anyone.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE PIG IRON BOB

Saturday, 13 June 2015 at 6.30pm

Wollondilly Premiere of "The Dalfram Dispute"

A Movie night will be held on Saturday 13th June at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.
Supper supplied—Contact Trish Hill on 0432 689 034.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre, 43 Edward Street, The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. **Upcoming meetings will be held on 1st June & 6th July 2015.** Our patrons are Mr. Philip Costa 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 the Minutes are available at the Heritage Centre.