

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.  
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Newsletter

OCTOBER 2018

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum



## Vale Eileen O'Brien, Our Valley Girl

Miner's interview in BURRAGORANG NEWS by Mick Starr 2013 — *The Valley Girl*

### Eileen May O'Brien 1929—2018.

A life-long association with the Burratorang Valley Coalfields, Eileen O'Brien was born in the Burratorang Valley in 1929 where her family, the Holohans, worked a farm called Moore Park Estate. Eileen attended the Nattai River Public School until age fourteen. The latter part of her schooling after sixth class was done by Government correspondence, but still under supervision at the school. From an early age prior to school, Eileen delivered the milk to the miner's cottages that were situated at Nattai, near the mines that were operated by the Clinton and Fox families, and did so for many years.

Eileen's father suffered a stroke when she was seven years of age and much of the hard work on the farm, had to be done by the three children before and after school. The Burratorang Valley was no stranger to hard times, as were most places in this era. So as a young lass Eileen knew all about hard work, she also knew all the miners and their families that lived in the Valley. Eileen recalls the good times as well as the hardships that were experienced in the depression years leading up to the outbreak of World War II. The entertainment in the Valley in those times was swimming in the Wollondilly River that ran beside their farm. Also the dances that were regularly held at the numerous guest houses located there, the most popular being "The Knoll", which was located just down from their farm. Eileen on occasions took guests from the Knoll underground into Clinton's Pit (Nattai Bulli) to give them a look at a mine. So coal mining and the underground environment was no stranger to her, but it wouldn't go down real well today I'm sure.

Eileen went into Sydney and worked at the Metters stove factory for a time, but the Valley was home and so after two years she returned to the environment she loved. Eileen married Eugene (Hughie) O'Brien in 1952. Hughie had been driving trucks, but shortly after they were married he entered Fox's Big Pit

(Wollondilly Extended). During their marriage they raised a family of seven children, two girls and five boys, four born in the Valley, the younger three at Oakdale.

The O'Briens, and most of the Burratorang Valley residents were forced to leave in 1957, before the valley was flooded (Warragamba Dam). Eileen was a voluntary worker when the Oakdale Workers Club was formed, and was a major force in its success over many years as a tireless worker, involved in all the various activities needed to build the Club. Eileen had a lifetime interest in Rugby League, and her husband and sons were all very

good players. Because of her commitment to the game, Eileen holds life membership of the Burratorang Junior League, life membership of the Oakdale Workers Rugby League Club, as well as life membership of the Oakdale Workers Club and is also an active volunteer with Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum.

Eileen was also involved, since 1960, in the Burratorang Valley Retired Mineworkers Association. She knew all the inaugural members, and some 53 years on is still actively involved in the Association's activities. Eileen organises the bus trips for the members during the

years, the Christmas luncheon held at the Workers Club that is always a great success and many other activities that go unrecorded. Eileen was awarded Associate Life Membership of the Burratorang South West District Retired Mineworkers Association in 2011 in recognition for her untiring service over the many years to the membership. I am of the opinion that Eileen knows more about us Coalminers than we know about ourselves. She has always been a staunch supporter of the working class people and has never been backward in letting all and sundry know it. The Valley has produced some great men, but Eileen is an outstanding example of the great women who stand amongst them, and is a well liked and a much respected lady in the District.

*Eileen will be greatly missed.* ■



Eileen at her favourite spot. Photo by Kevin Wintle



# President's Report

Trish Hill

Our September History Week event with the theme, 'Life and Death' gave us the opportunity to look at the pioneers in four of our Wollondilly Cemeteries— St Marks at Picton, St Matthews and St Aloysius at The Oaks and Glenmore Cemetery. Preparing for the St Aloysius tour I also learned more about some of our pioneers and the associations they formed with other pioneering families, as occurred when Mary Devitt married Thomas Fallon Jnr in 1881. Another of our WW1 servicemen, Arthur McEvoy who was killed in France in 1916, is remembered on the headstone of his parents Mary and James. Arthur enlisted in Western Australia so was not identified when we researched our servicemen for our exhibition. An excellent History Week event!

Kaye and Bruce Brown have donated a beautiful quilt for us to raffle and tickets are available now at the front counter. The raffle will be drawn at our Christmas function on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you Kaye and Bruce for your support.

This month we've lost a treasured volunteer, Eileen O'Brien, a dear friend, Burragarang identity and part of our community

on so many levels and she will be sadly missed. As a tribute to Eileen we have again featured her 'Valley Girl' story by Mick Starr.

Our Remembrance Day event at the museum — Commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice of WWI featuring *Echoes of The Great War*, a dramatic presentation with Picton Theatre Company from letters and diaries written by local service men and their families during WWI. *The Fabric of War*, a display of textile art from Macarthur Textile Network which tell their own and other stories in fabric, paper and paint. *The Music of War*, a performance by Picton Harmony from songs written in WWI. A free event, it will be held from 2pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November and will include light refreshments. Contact Doreen Lyon on 46810472 or dlyon1@bigpond.com

In past months, I've talked up our building plans and the process has been a protracted one ticking all the boxes so all I'm saying is, we have a construction sign fixed on the front fence, waiting..... ■



# Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

Our History Week event involved excursions to some of our local cemeteries under the banner of "Peeps At Pioneers". The presenters learned a lot in their preparation and I am sure our visitors learned much about some of our early pioneers. Descendants of John Giddy travelled from Ryde to hear more about their ancestor who is buried at Glenmore Uniting Church cemetery. They are still searching for where he may have lived. We think it may have been the Silverdale area. Can anyone help?

At St Matthews Anglican Church at Old Oaks there are buried many interesting pioneers. Does anyone know why the Dunn Family and connections are buried north-south instead of east-west as the other graves are oriented? Some are pictured below in 1, 2 and 3.

- 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.



Grave 4 of George Halliday above, is an excellent example of the tools of trade being displayed on a headstone. Mr Halliday was a stonemason. Grave 5, above, is a fine example of flowers used as a symbol of emotion on the Stevens tombstone. The final grave (6), above, is Julietta Jones, who was a pioneer storekeeper and Post Mistress in The Oaks. Cemeteries are a great resource for family historians.

A recent request has come from Kelly Williams who would like to know any history of Berkley Lodge, 1545 Remembrance Driveway, Razorback. If you have any information that might help us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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



# Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

Things have been quiet on the acquisitions front. I have been busy auditing the collection and now have a list of missing/unlocated items. We will be working through this to try and track these down.

New items that have come in are some mining text books used by Jack Hurst while at Oakdale, some horse harness, a

ceramic half dolls head for fitting to a tea cosy, a miniature manicure set and a school jumper from The Oaks school.

The new version of Mosaic is still being installed, and when finished it will be possible to access Mosaic from any of the computers and two people will be able to use it at the same time. ■

## 30 YEARS OF THE WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM

### PART 3—INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

By Allen Seymour

Following the celebrations for the first ten years, it was back to work for the volunteers. First off was the construction of store 2 in the Machinery Building. This enabled the metal, leather, and other bulky items to be moved out of store 1, allowing this to be reserved for the more delicate paper and fabric items. The release of Nell Weir's book, 'From



Nell Weir signing her books



Jaelyn Larnach with the Wollondilly Shire Honour Roll

Timberland to Smiling Fields' on Orangeville and Werombi took place on October 24<sup>th</sup> in the new building. The building was used again in November for the Christmas party. The hundred year anniversary of the Boer War was occurring in 1999 so we had a Wollondilly Shire South African (Boer) War honour roll specially made for the occasion. A display was mounted in the Drill Hall and the lining and insulation installation of the new building was still occurring. Another successful Burragarang reunion was held here and there was a dinner at The Oaks Hotel to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of The Oaks Historical Society on May 14<sup>th</sup>. In August we hosted a Chapter meeting and were shocked by news of the passing of David Hill, one of our very hard working members.

A new book on Yerranderie had been written by Sonja Den Hertog, and this was launched on November 21<sup>st</sup> in the new building. This was a big event with Phil Costa hosting and Sonja Den Hertog coming back to Australia for it. To cover the bare walls of the hall it was decided to use something that we had in storage, the Ron Mills Yerranderie—Burragarang scrolls!!! This was the first time I had seen these, and having spent a large part my working life on a drawing board, I could probably appreciate the work involved in these more than most people. They are done on mylar tracing paper which is very high quality, very expensive and practically indestructible (have you ever tried to tear one – please don't, take my word for it, this stuff is very strong). It's also very difficult to work with, special ink being required and a very long drying time, so the work involved in preparing and researching is astounding. These are a valuable asset and we are very lucky to have them. At this point the scrolls were very long rolls, and we were able to pin them at the top of the wall and let them hang down to the floor. The day was very successful and it also drew attention to the scrolls, and people started looking at them and wondering what could be done with them.

Following the launch, planning started for the displays that were going to be installed in the new building. This was to include a school room using slabs from the Lakesland School. The Christmas party was again held at the Centre.

With the dawning of the new century, work was proceeding on the school room, and other events included a display of sporting memorabilia for Heritage Week in one of the local shops. The Burragarang reunion continued to be a popular and well attended event. Discussion was also taking place on the possibility of a covered walkway and entrance for the Centre.

The school room was finally previewed on October 28/29<sup>th</sup>, and was well received. It continues to draw praise from visitors, and school groups. The school visits started very early in the Centre's history and we must thank all those who have been involved in them over the years. Without these volunteers our history would be a lot different.

New displays being prepared were on The Oaks Debutante Balls, and Children of Federation. The year finished with the Christmas party at Oakdale Workers Club.

The new year of 2001 saw the Channel 7 program, *Sydney Weekender* come out in March and film the Centre. The Debutante display was opened on March 29<sup>th</sup>, with the book launch being done the day before. The Children of Federation display was opened by Christine Towndrow, Peta Seaton and Liz Kernohan. *Continued .....*

# 30 YEARS OF THE WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM

## PART 3— INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

*Continued ....*

At the May annual general meeting, Jim Whyte retired as President, and the position was taken over by Ben Lyon. Cynthia and Noel Collinson had started the huge task of indexing the Yerranderie-Burraborang scrolls, and this was to be unveiled at the Burraborang Day in 2002. With the passing of Clara Lavercombe, the Mt Hunter Creamery was to be sold and the Society was able to go into the building and collect remnants of what was left.

In September it was reported that in the previous twelve months, 350 adults and 1000 children had passed through the Centre. In five years some \$58,000 had been received in grants, while in the same period our turnover had exceeded \$200,000. Our annual Christmas party was held at The Oaks Hotel.



Noel and Cynthia finished up preparing some 15,000 index cards for the Ron Mills Yerranderie-Burraborang Scrolls, requiring a special cabinet for

them. The scrolls index was unveiled at the Burraborang reunion day on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002. This also saw the launch of the journal, *'Selected Stories, Poems and Reminiscences from Ron Mill's Yerranderie-Burraborang Scrolls'*.

Security at the Centre was updated following the theft of some items and a grant of \$4200 was received for air conditioning in the Drill Hall. We also attended a function at Wooglemai commemorating Francis Barrallier. The Christmas party was held in The Oaks hall. The one thing that stands out in my mind about this party was the weight of the portable tables. These things were straight out of the ark, and needed two men to carry them.

2003 saw the start of the Estonian project, in conjunction with the Migration Heritage Centre and the Powerhouse Museum. This involved many hours of interviewing, copying photos, and writing stories. We also collected a lot of items from one of the poultry farms, resulting in the displays that are still in the Machinery Shed.

Improvements to the Centre were the addition of fire extinguishers and signs, provided by the council, while Picton Rotary Club donated an overhead projector, screen, trolley, flip chart and magnetic whiteboard, so the hall could be better utilised.

Seniors Week saw us inviting seniors to come along and bring their own objects and talk about them. This was to be the starting point that was to result in a number of similar days, documented in books.

Work was proceeding on a display about the Lavercombe family and the Mt Hunter Creamery. This was to be titled, *'Only Fragments Remain'*, and was opened in August. We lost another hard-working member with the death of Elaine Sporne, a former Burraborang Valley resident and big supporter of the Burraborang Reunion days. A tape for the school room was prepared by Alice Martin, using her grandchildren, and this is why our teacher is named Mrs Martin. Alice was our social director for many years and also cleaned the Centre. Our Christmas lunch was at The Oaks Hotel.

—Allen Seymour

*Continued next month ....*

### BOOK REVIEW

## Elizabeth Macarthur: A Life at the Edge of the World by Michelle Scott Tucker

The author spent twelve years writing this book, and she has certainly done her homework. She uses rich resources of Elizabeth's own letters and diary, and the works of her contemporaries like Watkin Tench and Matthew Flinders, who said he held her 'in great regard'.

Michelle Scott Tucker gives a lively portrait of the country girl from Devon who fell in love and married the handsome but penniless army officer from Plymouth, John Macarthur. They left the social mores of Jane Austen's England to arrive in the raw colony of New South Wales on the infamous second fleet in 1790. Elizabeth was twenty three when they arrived, and eighty three when she died in 1850, so her story is also the ear-

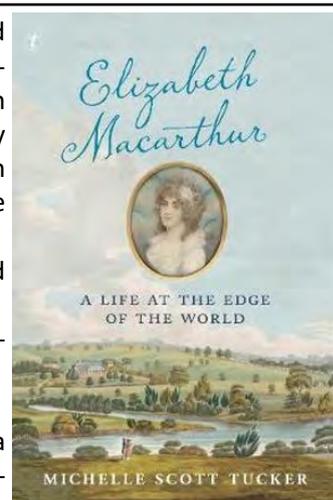
ly history of New South Wales.

We all know (or think we do) about John Macarthur, his duels, the rum rebellion, and the 'fact' that he is the founder of the wool industry in Australia, and I knew Elizabeth managed his properties while he was in England, but I didn't realise that he was away in England twice, the first time for four years 1801-1805, and the second time more than eight years, 1809-1817. During these years his remarkable, capable and ever-loving wife Elizabeth (she had seven surviving children, two died) managed their properties at Elizabeth Farm, Camden Park and elsewhere. She did have the help of John's nephew Hannibal Macarthur, and many convicts as shepherds, etc., but it is still a remarkable achievement. She also was able to stay friends with the governors and their wives, and others her husband insulted.

Elizabeth organised the education of those of her children who didn't go back

to England for schooling, and in her early days in Sydney she studied botany and astronomy with Lieutenant Dawes. Always a keen reader, she fostered a love of books in her family, and she was a faithful correspondent to friends and family in England all her life. This resilient woman should be more widely recognised as the joint founder of the wool industry.

I recommend that we add this book to the library.



*Pacita Alexander*



## FREDERICK TOOVEY

1894 -1916

Service #1772

Fred George Toovey was born to James and Florence Louise (nee Karkoe) and his place of birth was Burragorang Valley. Fred was one of a large family including Nugget (Stanley). On enlistment his address was given as To[o]nalli

Farm, Upper Burragorang, he was a miner and his father was listed as next of kin. He was 6'1" tall with brown hair and eyes and fair complexion and was 20¾ years old on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1915.

The initial hand written entry in Fred's service record reads, 'Proceeded to join M.E.F. (Military Expeditionary Forces) Gallipoli 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 1915'.

Details from the various layers of information at the AWM coupled with Fred's service record, navigates his path of active service with the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19<sup>th</sup>'s original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19<sup>th</sup> left Australia in late June 1915, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 19<sup>th</sup> August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive, the attack on Hill 60, before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion was responsible for the defense of Pope's Hill. After further training in Egypt, the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October.

Fred's record goes on to describe that he 'Disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1916 proceeding to join the B.E.F at Alexandria'.

Mudros comprised a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos. It gained wartime significance with the determination of the Allies - chiefly the British and largely through the enthusiasm of Winston Churchill - in the early part of 1915 to attempt to seize control of the Dardanelles Straits, some 50km away.

Fred ..... disembarked at Marseilles on 25.03.1916. He detached with the division to attend grenade school 10.05.16 returning to duty on the 17<sup>th</sup>. He was admitted to Anzac Rest Station from 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> August for a septic leg wound, returning to duty on the 18<sup>th</sup>. In August he was promoted to Corporal and then on 5<sup>th</sup> November to Temporary Lance Sergeant.

*Certified Copy*

2MD

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1772 Name TOOVEY F. G.  
Unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 19<sup>th</sup> Batta  
Joined on 21 3 15

Questions **asked** of the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Frederick George Toovey
2. In the Parish of Burragorang in or near the Town of Burragorang in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural Born
4. What is your age? 20 3/4 years
5. What is your trade or calling? Miner
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) James Toovey, Burragorang
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
14. (For Married Men and Widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and other fever? Yes

I, Frederick G. Toovey do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

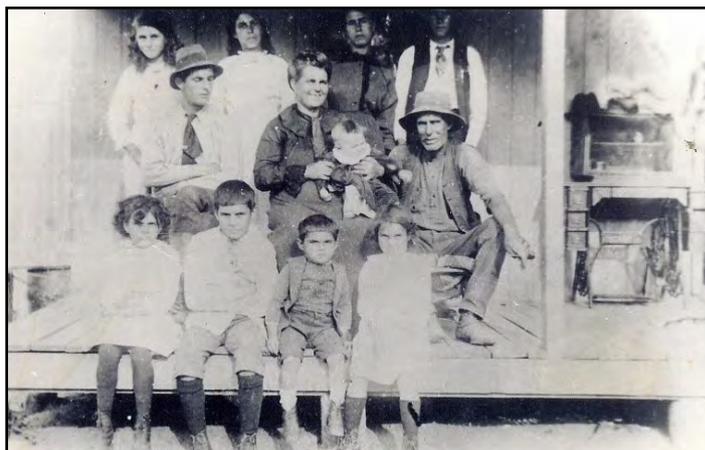
\* And I further agree to not not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children three-fifths

Date 21 3 15 Signature of person enlisted. Fred G. Toovey

\* This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

The 14<sup>th</sup> November record indicates he was **WOUNDED IN ACTION**. Followed by, *previously reported wounded, now missing in action* and another, **NOW REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION**.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF. *Continued.....*



Florence & Jim Toovey and family

# FREDERICK TOOVEY

1894-1916 Service #1772 Continued ....

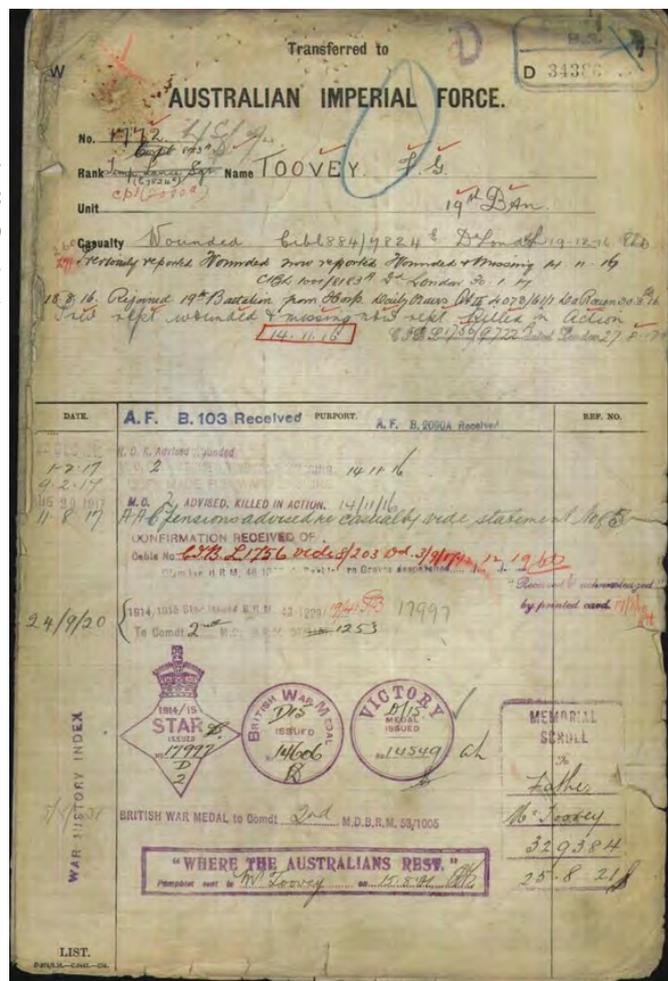
The Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files 1914-18 documents many reports from his comrades and enquiries by Fred's parents in an attempt to obtain detailed information about what had happened to him. Their attempts to find more information continued for several years after the war ended.

In 1920 and 21 the 1914/5 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal were issued to the Toovey family along with a Memorial Scroll and *Where Australians Rest* pamphlet.

The fob chain medallion in our collection was donated by Laurel Darmody who said that Nugget had always carried it with him.



Fob chain medal



'Presented to Mr & Mrs Toovey in recognition of services rendered by their son Sgt F.G. Toovey killed in action November 14<sup>th</sup> 1916.'

19<sup>th</sup> A.I.F. Corporal F.G. Toovey 1772

Wounded & Missing 14.11.16

Corpl. Toovey was a very big, heavy man. He had his leg broken in 2 places in a trench we had taken at Flers which was supposed to be the German front line trench. The Germans counter-attacked and then we had to go. Toovey was too big and heavy to be moved and had to be left behind in the trench. I think he must be a Prisoner. He was a Lance/Sergt. at the time of the fight.

Reference: Pte W.C. Clark 509 B.Coy

Convalescent Camp Rouen 2.5.17

### Cemetery or Memorial Details

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

### Source

AWMI45 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

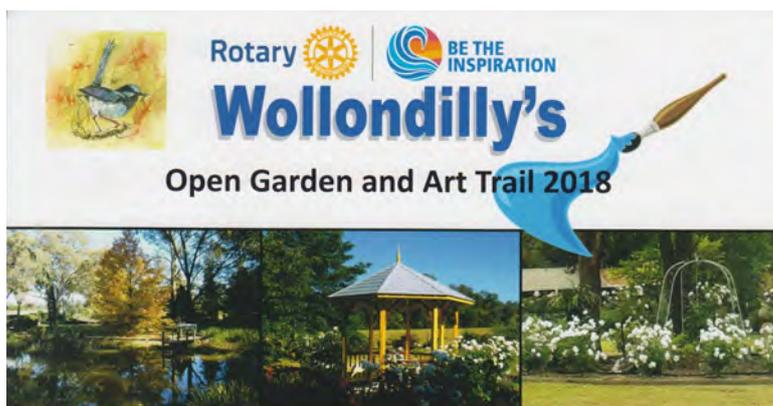
WWI REMEMBRANCE—

### Roll of Honour name projection

Frederick George Toovey's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on: Monday, 1 October 2018 at 1:12am.

## OPEN GARDEN DAY

Picton Rotary Open Garden Day **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October**



Windsong Thirlmere	Coldenham Picton	Anna & Michael Thirlmere
Visit 6 of Wollondilly's beautiful private gardens with exhibitions highlighting local artists of Wollondilly Arts Group & Friends Sunday 28th October 10am - 5pm		
Lavinia Zammit Thirlmere	Mary Campbell Picton	Hazel & Tony Picton

Funds raised support local Rotary charities and projects

# Reminders, News & Info

## WEEKEND ROSTER

OCTOBER	
Louisa & Doreen	Monday, 1st
Doreen & Ben	Saturday, 6
Jim & Kay Cuthel	Sunday, 7
<b>WORKING BEE</b>	<b>Saturday, 13</b>
Trish & Kevin	Sunday, 14
Debbie & Allen	Saturday, 20
Bob & Vivian	Sunday, 21
Sue & Helen	Saturday, 27
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 28

## MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

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

## NEXT MEETING SPEAKERS

**October**—Members Show & Tell

### November

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



*Flying through Clouds* was published in paperback and eBook Kindle in 2017 and is now available in paperback on Amazon and in other eBook formats. *Racing the Moon* was published by Allen & Unwin in 2014 and released in the UK and USA in 2015.



Saturday, 8th December at 6pm

Mark the date on your calendar

## Christmas Party

## PICTON SHOW

at the Picton AH&I grounds in Argyle Street on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
Anyone who can assist volunteers on the stall  
Contact Doreen and Ben on 4681 0472

## FABRIC OF WAR—OUR EVENT

Armistice Centenary at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre  
**Sunday, 11 November 2018 at 2pm**

## SENIORS WEEK EVENT

'HAPPY SENIORS' MUSICAL BBQ—**February 2019**



Lake Burragorang  
BLUE MOUNTAINS – NEW SOUTH WALES

A beautiful postcard from Eileen O'Briens collection

## Remembering Burragorang Valley

*Wily sheep raced out of there as all they'd heard was frightening  
The blueys yapped behind their heels, the anxiety was heightening  
And as word travelled through the town the folks came in to musting  
Most felt grim and the rest 'let down' while pollies grinned on hustings  
The villagers were told they had to shift and that engineers were planning  
All they could see would disappear and the damn! jobs would need manning  
With decisions made the locals had no choice and their land would soon be taken  
But with all the farms and the community lost were their dreams also forsaken?  
As they moved on would most look back, wondering if their lives had ended?  
They could no longer gather at the inn, with so many hopes surrendered  
The schools came down as did the church and all the graves were shifted  
With homesteads gone and heritage too – who of them felt gifted?  
All had heard 'with water stored a city could grow boundless'  
Yet if some extolled the progress made ...  
Were the regrets of others groundless?*

*Changes happen day by day, it's the reality of living  
But should big-towners always win if others know misgiving?  
And as we all face drought again with Warragamba levels falling  
The losses borne by Valley dwellers then need much more recalling.*

Gregory Hall, August 2018

A gift to honour William Edward ('Bill') Hall and his wonderful memories  
With our love and admiration on Father's Day 2018 from Maryanne, Gregory and Fiona

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. Upcoming meetings are the 5 November & 3 December 2018. Patrons are Luke Johnson and Richard Booth. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.

If undelivered, please return to:-  
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**P O Box 6016 The Oaks NSW 2570**

