

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

The Oaks Historical Society Inc.  
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## Newsletter

April 2019

## Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

### OUR BLACKSMITH'S SHED AND THE WAGON



Top –the completed Blacksmith facility and the restored Percival Wagon under cover beside it.

Above RHS is the interior of the Blacksmith.



Left is The historic Percival wagon in the forecourt area next to Macaria, placed there by the Camden Historical Society in 1977 where remained for a number of decades. (photo courtesy Camden Historical Society)



## President's Report

Trish Hill

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Our saviour, Maurice Brown vacuuming the office water leak

During March we received some much needed rain which produced a transfer of water from the building work into the office. This created wet carpet to a small area and in an attempt to arrest the problem Sue put out an SOS on our facebook page which brought immediate help from a generous local. Maurice Brown popped in with his wet vac and promptly vacuumed out the moisture. With heavier rain the following day Maurice called again and repeated the process and was also able to locate the source of the problem and slow the process until the builder could sort it on the Monday. Our building work is

progressing well with the blacksmith facility almost complete and the focus shifted to the main building extension. The Wagon is now finally undercover, possibly the first time since Camden Historical Society brought it to Camden in 1977 and it looks at home beside the blacksmith shed.

'Her War' fabric display will be available to view locally from the 8th of April when it comes to Michael Watts Optometrist in Camden and remain there over Anzac Day ■



The display when it was at Campbelltown Library earlier in the year. Right now it's at the Ingleburn Library .



## Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

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I am so delighted to now have a team working with me to organise local history archives. Many thanks to Helen, Judy, Jim, Di, Pam and Peter for being part of this team. Helen has



been working on the organisation and cataloguing of the CDs and DVDs and they are now up to date! We don't often have the opportunity to complete a task as

items are continually being added to our collection. Thank you to Helen for her dedication to this task. We are now looking forward to the CDs and DVDs finding their new home in the extension when that is complete!

During the last month we have been able to help the Picton CWA with some references and also suggestions on how to best store their historical records. We have also some requests we are currently working on that people may be able to assist us with information.

They are:

- George and Patricia Scarlett who owned a post office and general store in the valley. George did the school run from 1951 to 1954-5. He was also in local cricket and tennis teams.
- Patrick O'Donohue who was a teacher and drowned in the Cox's River in 1884.

Enjoy your family history journey ■



## Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

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Acquisitions have been very quiet this month. We have received some commemorative and uniform issue work shirts from Tahmoor Colliery and been offered a blood pressure monitor. With the blacksmith's shed nearing completion, we will have some sorting

of items for display use. I've also been going through the photographs that we have in Mosaic, ensuring they are also in the photo register ■



# Marketing & Bus Visits

Louisa Singleman

## March Bus Tours

We have had three bus tours in during the month of March but I am sure they all enjoyed their visit to our wonderful museum. One group came from a retirement village in Heathcote and another group from Mittagong. Last but not least we had another of guests who get out and about.

Welcome back to our hostess Kathy DeBritt who is back on deck. Nice to see you hail and hearty again.

**International Women's Day** was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We had a stall at this event which was so well organised by Community Links. The event was well attended by those who enjoyed a hearty breakfast followed by some interesting and informative talks. There were many stalls with a great array of crafts and a lovely art exhibition organised by the

Wollondilly Arts Group (WAGs). Hopefully some of the people who visited our stall will come to the museum in the near future.

**ILLUMINATE PICTON Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 12pm - 9pm** Once again we are having a stall to promote the museum as well as sell some of our publications. It is a long day so it would be appreciated if you could give an hour or two to man the stall.

Volunteers are required for five shifts (2 hours) and the evening concludes at 9pm so pack up shift requires a suitable vehicle for the gazebo/tables/chairs and trolleys of publications etc.

Please phone me on 4680 8358 or 0408 669287 or email lsinglem@bigpond.net.au if you can assist. Your help would be gratefully appreciated ■



# Display Officers Report

Doreen Lyon

## Out and About—NSW History week 2019

The first meeting of the History Week Project: *Memory & Landscape*, took place on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> in Picton Library. This was attended by Gail Dunn, [facilitator], John Churchill, Kate Holmes, Marlene Fairfax, Ian Tait, Cheryl Ashton, Bob Clayton, Robyn Clayton, Sue Davis, Helen Perry, Louisa Singleman, Ben Lyon, Doreen Lyon. Judith Hannan joined us for the first session. Kazan Brown sent apologies. Gail Dunn outlined the reason for the gathering and the morning session explored ways in which the Theme could be shared through the Shire via local collections and archives. Ideas were written up onto white boards and explored further after lunch. Initial ideas include:

- Creating an online data base of street names in Wollondilly with information and photos
- Investigating how other Councils have set up their databases and also the present WSC listings
- Involve the schools by talking to them about the project and inviting their participation to create an A3 poster/ story on "The Street where I live"...or "My Street"
- Start a video interview project of local people and their memories of changing landscapes and memories
- Investigate sponsorship through local Real Estate Offices
- Investigate funding requirements

## GURANGATCH & MIRRIGAN

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the project to install an art work telling the Creation Story of the Wollondilly River at the Lookout in partnership with NPWS and the Gundungurra Traditional Owners began. We had a site visit with two national park

Rangers, Jackie Reid and Adam. Aunty Sharyn Halls and Kazan Brown represented the Gundungurra people.

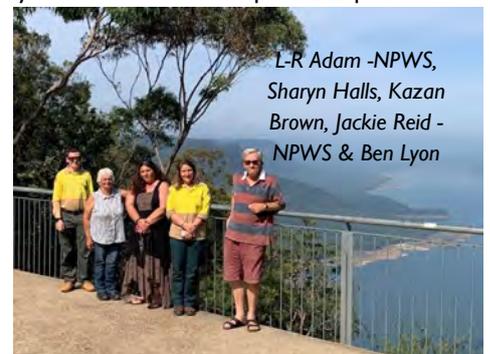
It seems that it is a good time to plan this because NPWS are looking to upgrade the site. Several ideas were discussed involving a map of the area and stories associated with places in the story. Ongoing discussions will be held and funding explored.

## FORGOTTEN STORIES: WHY DOCUMENTARIES

The second of the filming for this History APP was held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Sandra and Xavier from Why Documentaries began interviewing with Kevin Wintle and went on to Bob Cochran and Wallace Martin. Before they could finish a storm blew in and halted work for the day. Mick Starr has still to tell his story and Trish Hill will tell the outline of the history of Burragorang Valley. Shirley and Joe Carlon joined us for lunch and shared yet more tales of Burragorang!

The filming at the George Inn was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February and stories were told by Mick Fairfax, Ian Tait, Mr. Apps and Mr. Doust. Kate Holmes Archivist with Picton Historical Society, provided the "Historian's overview". There were some very interesting anecdotes and historical facts provided! Did you know that Caroline Chisholm stayed at the George to shelter from a rain storm when bringing her Irish Orphan girls to Sydney?

One of the girls actually gave birth while they were staying there! I wonder what happened to that baby ■



# Do you remember Lan Choo Tea coupons?



Lan Choo tea is now owned by UNILEVER one of the multi conglomerates that have bought out their rivals in the grocery business...

Unilever's blurb is - *Lan-choo was first introduced to Australians in 1948, at a time when quality tea was a precious commodity. With its distinctive smooth, mild*

*blend, Lan-choo soon became one of the most popular teas on the market. In 1957, it became part of the Bushells Tea family, and for over 40 years, Lan-choo and Bushells have offered Australians teas for every taste and occasion. Today, Lan-choo continues the tradition of quality small leaf tea.*

... *Unilever began with British soap-maker company named Lever Brothers. Their revolutionary action in business was by introducing the Sunlight Soap in 1890s. That idea was from William Hesketh Lever, founder of Lever Brothers. ... On the other side, in 1872 Jurgens and Van den Bergh created a company that produces margarine ...*

OK now that's the stuff on the internet. The reason I want to trip down memory lane with you is that yesterday my daughter-in-law was saying that during her childhood, her family very, very rarely visited the city, Sydney. She lived way out of the city and Oh! the joy of going into the Lan Choo coupon redemption store in Kent Street on the train and the exciting prospect of getting a book in exchange, or some other exciting gift. Christmas came twice a year when it was time to cash in the coupons. I was not aware that Lan Choo was still *'sharing their profits'* in the 1970s, when she was a young girl.

I lived in the inner city with my grandmother up until I was 18 and loved the walk up the hill and through Hyde Park towards the harbour to visit to the Lan Choo redemption store with our bundles of labels in my grandmother's beloved string bag, made from finely plaited cotton, not string. A catalogue of 'bonus gifts' could be posted out showing over 400 items redeemable from the company

and I was surprised that my D-I-Law's generation was still collecting and redeeming the labels. My grandmother drank nothing but Lan Choo Tea. A Welsh woman who came out to Australia in 1919 with her soldier husband, she retained all the standards of the British, their food and the addiction to a brew of tea, sometimes so 'stewed' on the stove it had the viscosity of maple syrup.

I see there was a minimum of 35 labels to claim a gift, the smallest being a pair of salt and pepper shakers advertised actually in a 1957 Australian Womens Weekly, on the National Library of Australia site, Trove. Lan Choo had three redemption stores; Sydney, Melbourne and Newcastle.

Drinking Lan Choo and collecting the bonus labels, meant many women in the post-war period were able to indulge themselves with homewares they could not otherwise 'splurge' on their budget, as the catalogue carried high end brands such as Wedgewood, Crown Crystal, Grosvenor Plate, Supertex, Actil and Agee Pyrex.

I have in my kitchen cupboard two Pyrex dishes bought for my 'glory box' by my grandmother, slightly chipped, but still frequently used. 35 labels gifted you a moulded glass mixing bowl, Pyrex. That is a LOT of tea, but then we drank a LOT of tea in those days.

And today while browsing through that catalogue on the internet, I found the wedding gift from my grandmother. A Grosvenor Bone Handled Carving set. It could be posted out for 2/- (20c). A hair broom, rubber-bound to protect furniture, surely the most awkward of items to send by post nevertheless would be posted to you for 1/6 (18c) ■ Pauline Downing



# THE WOOLLAMS FAMILY in BURRAGORANG VALLEY

## part 2

The children of Joseph and Ellen Woollams

- William Thomas Woollams -

the first of Joseph and Elizabeth's children, was born 1868 in Mackie Creek, Adelong. He remained in Adelong when the family moved to Burragorang Valley and in 1891 was married to Anne (Annie) White. William worked on the railways and was an active member of the Harden Methodist Church. He died on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1938, in Sydney. The following death notice was printed in the Sydney Morning Herald, dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1938.

*WOOLLAMS June 18, 1938 at Prince Henry Hospital, William Thomas Woollams, beloved husband of Anne Woollams and loving father of Richard and Edward Woollams of Harden, NSW aged 72 years.*

Anne Woollams died on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1952, aged 86 years, at Mar-  
rickville, late of Harden as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald.  
Thomas and Anne had two sons. Richard and Charles.

- Charles Woollams -

was born on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1869, at Mackie Creek, Adelong. In 1898 He married Susan Margaret Elizabeth Jeffery at Wellington. Susan, known as Elizabeth, was born on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1875 in Burrendong, NSW, the daughter of James Jeffery and Martha Lee. When the family was living at Wellington he had a gold lease at Stuart Town from about 1904 and in 1915 moved to the Bringelly area where he farmed.

Three sons of Charles and Susan, namely Frederick, Wilfred and Leo, served in WW2. The local paper, the Nepean Times, published the following article on the front page on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1941, regarding the capture of 832 Italian servicemen in Bardia, Libya

### Four capture 832, District Boys' Exploits. Bardia Incident

*Privates Fred and Leo Woollams of Rossmore, brothers of Mrs R McLellan, High Street, Penrith, with Lance Corporal F Squires (Goulburn) and Pte. W Dunne (Willoughby) carried out a daring exploit at Bardia, when they captured 832 Italians. It was all a "mistake" it is related.*

*Writing to his wife, Fred Woollams states, "Fred Squires, Bill Dunne, Leo and I must nearly hold the record for the proportion of prisoners taken and that without firing a single shot. It was all the result of a mistake. We were sent to the top of a ridge in Bardia to take a few prisoners who had surrendered. When we walked around them we found that we were on the edge of another position, about a mile long, which had not surrendered."*

*"We could not turn our backs on them, so the four of us went on and brought them all in— 800 men and 32 officers. By the time that they realised that we were only bluffing, we had all but 50 rounded up. When the remainder open up with their artillery we were too close for them to bring their guns down on us. The shells just whistled over our heads. After a couple of minutes another section of Aussies came up. Their number one gunner walked in firing his Bren from the hip and just blew those enemy gunners off their guns and enabled us to finish the job.*

*Woollams concluded modestly: There was nothing heroic about it. There were no medals won or expected -it was done as a matter of course."*

*"On January 21 Leo Woollams was wounded, and but for his tin hat, which protected him from enemy shell, he would have been killed. He is now all right and has rejoined his unit at the front. Fred and Leo Woollams were pupils of Penrith Intermediate High School.*

Elizabeth Woollams, wife of Charles died on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1923, registered at Penrith. Her death notice was printed in the Sydney Morning Herald, dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1923.

*"at Nepean District Hospital, Penrith, Elizabeth, beloved wife of Charles Woollams, aged 48 years."*

Charles died on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1947, registered at Kogarah. The following obituary was published in the Nepean Times Thursday, 10th April, 1947.

*Mr. Charles Woollams who died in hospital in Sydney on March 26 was born in Adelong 77 years ago. For about 16 years he lived in the Wellington District and in 1925 came to Badgery's Creek. Some 18 years ago he removed to Luddenham, where he resided until some three years ago, when he went to St Leonards. Daughters and sons are Mary, Annie, May, Arthur and Fred Wilfred. Leo and Eileen.*

*Mr Woollams also leaves a brother, Mr Fred Woollams and a sister Mrs Langtry, both residents of Burragorang. His mother was of the Maxwell family, pioneers of the Burragorang district, and she was understood to be the first white child born in that district. The funeral took place on 28th ult. in the Church of England portion of Penrith cemetery.*



Woollams, Cedar Vale, January 1927

- Julia Woollams - was born on 21st September, 1871 at Mackie Creek, Adelong. She married John Peter Hayes in 1893, registered in Camden. John was born in 1863 and died in 1934. Julia died in Ashbury, NSW on 12th May, 1930. They had four children all born in Burratorang .

- Joseph Woollams - was born in 1873 at Mackie Creek and died on 19th March, 1894 at Lackey's Creek, Burratorang. His death was reported in the Evening News, 21st March, 1894.

*Picton, Wednesday. Joseph Woollams, aged 19, was drowned at Lacey's Creek, Burratorang on Monday night while attempting to swim his horse across. The animal plunged wildly when in the middle of the creek, and threw Woollams into the stream, which was running very strongly. The body has not yet been recovered.*

- Frederick Woollams - was born on 19th January, 1875 in Mackie Creek. On 15th January 1908 he married Edith Annie Wheeler, born 1884 at Camden, the daughter of Samuel and Annie (née Richards ) Wheeler.

Frederick and Edith raised their family on the farm at Cox's River, Burratorang.

Fred was mentioned in the following report in the Sydney Morning Herald 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1915



*Sale of an "Australia Day" Pig. At their sale yesterday at the City Corporation Yards, Messrs. Hill, Clark and Co., Ltd., disposed of a pig for the benefit of the "Australia Day" Fund. It was presented by Mr Fred Woollams of Burratorang and realised £29/10/6.*

Frederick Woollams died on 19th June, 1947 at the age of 72 years, late of Cox's River, Burratorang, and his wife Edith died on 14th January, 1969 in Picton. The

following death notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald, 20<sup>th</sup> June 1947.

*Woollams, Frederick at his residence Cox's River, Burratorang, beloved husband of Edith and loved father of Nora (Mrs Hartigan). Laurie, Vera (Mrs Whitmore) and dear brother of Mrs Langtry.*

Fred's son, Laurie, was one of eight property owners planning to fight the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board in court over compensation offered for the resumption of their properties for the construction of Warragamba. The property owners complained that they were being offered only a fraction of the true value of their properties. An article appeared in the Sun-Herald, on Sunday, 19th December, 1954.

- Alice Woollams - who was born on 22nd September, 1877 at Mackie Creek married Arthur Buchanan Wakeham at Annandale on 16th September, 1905. Arthur was born about 1879 in Sydney. Alice and Arthur had at least four children. Alice died in 1930.

- Edwin Woollams - was born in 1878. His name on the NSW BDM Registry is recorded as Woollame

- John Woollams - was born on 26th August, 1890 at Mackie Creek, was known

to the family as Jack. Jack married Bertha Maud New on 9th September, 1908

at St John's Church of England in Camden, NSW. Bertha was born on 23rd September 1886 at Cawdor to parents William Henry New and Sarah Lavender. Jack and Bertha moved to the village of Yerranderie where Jack was employed in the Silver mines. They then moved to the Cox's River area of the Burratorang Valley and lived in a slab cottage built on John's brother Fred's property "Cedar Vale". One of John and Bertha's sons, William served during the Second World War. The tragic death of John Woollams on 18th February, 1940, was reported on the front page of the Picton Post on 6th March.

*Bush Fire Victim. Whilst engaged with a number of other men in fighting bushfires in the Brimstone Gully, Cox's River area last week, Mr John Woollams well known resident of Burratorang and Cox's River, lost his life when a burning tree crashed on him. The fire fighters were striving to prevent the flames from reaching the home of Mr Frank McMinn at the time of the tragedy.. Aware that a large tree close to the house was in danger of falling, Mr Woollams several times warned his companions to be careful. When the crash eventually occurred he was himself unable to clear in time. Mr Woollams, who was 59 years of age leaves a wife and family.*

- Mary Isobel Woollams - was born on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1883 at Mackie Creek and on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1912 she married Henry Stewart Langtry at St Matthias' Church, Paddington. Henry was born in Belfast in 1881 and was a soldier and a seaman. His parents were Charles and Sarah (née Stewart) Langtry. Mary died December 9th 1950 At Wellington



Edith Woollams and her daughter Vera c.1925

Story by Marie Larnach.

Sources. NSW State Records, NSW Registry of BDM's, The Little Slab Church St. Matthews C of E, Noel Collison, Rabbit Hot Rabbit Cold, Owen Pearce, National Library of Australia Trove Newspapers.

# Reminders, News & Info

## WEEKEND ROSTER

### APRIL

<b>Debbie &amp; Allen</b>	<b>Saturday, 6</b>
Marlane & Cheryl	Sunday, 7
<b>Doreen &amp; Ben</b>	<b>Saturday, 13</b>
Sue & Paul	Sunday, 14
<b>Colleen &amp; Kathy</b>	<b>Easter Saturday, 20</b>
Bev & David	Easter Sunday, 21
<b>Kaye &amp; Jim</b>	<b>Easter Monday, 22nd</b>
Trish & Kevin	Anzac Day Thursday, 25
<b>Working Bee</b>	<b>Saturday, 27</b>
Trish & Kevin	Burraborang Reunion Sunday, 28

## MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

April	Jan & Sue
May AGM	Louisa & Marie
June	Doreen & Ben
July	Colleen & Bev
August	Debbie & Pam
September	Shirley & Trish
October	Vivian & Pam McV
November	Jenny & Pacita
December	Please bring a plate

**Desperately seeking a duo to help out and join our meeting supper roster team. If you think you can help please**

## FOLLOW UP PLANNING MEETING FOR HISTORY WEEK EVENT

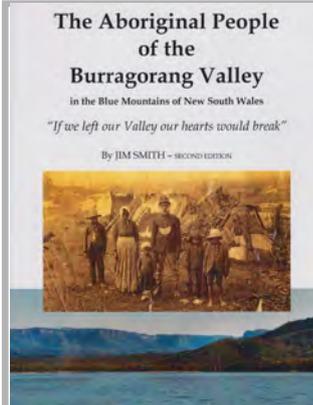
The next meeting of History Week planning is on the 29th March 2019 at 10am in the View Room of the Wollondilly library. History Week is the annual state wide celebration of history.

## APRIL MEETING

Date: 1st – Time: 7.00pm

Guest speakers-Gwyneth Noakes & Richard Booth

Topic—Fireside Chats



## RILEY FAMILY REUNION WOLLONDILLY HERITAGE CENTRE

Saturday, 13th April 2019

Families—Karkoe, O'Brien, Shephard, Hilton, Grimston, Green. All Welcome

Bring along photos, stories etc

Contact Kazan Brown for further details.

[kazanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:kazanbrown@gmail.com)

## TRUCKIES REUNION

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019— Family Day BBQ Doors open at 10am

Open to anyone who was involved in the transportation of Burraborang Coal—owner drivers, subbies, company drivers, mechanics, loader drivers, supervisors etc. Entry fee is \$3 ☐ BBQ \$5 (sausage or steak sandwich/drink). Alcoholic beverages are not available however participants are welcome to provide their own drinks. Contact Ian



Welsh on 0403 823 934 or Wollondilly Museum 0432 689 034 or see our website for further information .

## Volunteers Community Bus Tour

Our next bus tour is to Australiana Village at Wilberforce.

Date- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Time - bus will leave centre 9.am

Cost – \$15.00 pp + byo lunch or café

Please add your name to the list at the front counter.



**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. Next meeting is Monday 1st April 2019 and Monday May 6th 2019(our AGM). Our 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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