

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

Est. May 1979

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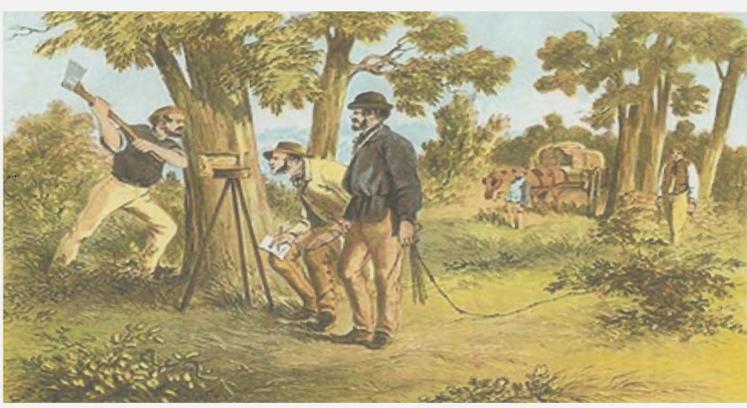


## Newsletter

August 2019

### Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

# SURVEYING DOWN UNDER



Very little was known about this land we call Australia when the First Fleet arrived in 1788, so surveyors were essential to chart and map the land. The first Surveyor General came on the First Fleet.

Surveyors embarked on heavy drays pulled by horses or bullocks, carrying camping equipment and the surveyor's chains, theodolites and axes to cut down timber or mark trees to measure the land.

They were given instructions from England

*You will make at least one reserve for each town or village...and will assign to each parish a name founded upon the native appellation of any hill or place therein.....*

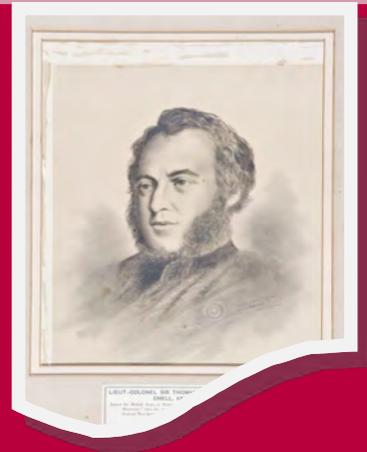


They usually sought out local guides to help with these instructions. The work was often dangerous and arduous as they spent most of their work outdoors in all types of weather.

Prominent surveyor, William Urquhart (left) commented

*The frequent exposure to wet, heat and cold has rendered me very unfit for the duties of a field officer; at the same time the life I led for upwards of ten years*

*under canvas in the bush has unfitted me constitutionally for the close confinements of office life. I find it absolutely necessary that I should retire before my system is broken down completely.*



Sir Thomas Mitchell was one of the Surveyors for our local area. His observations about the country which he was exploring are important in our perceptions of the district in 1830.

*The land is ...open and available, in its present state, for all the purposes of civilised man. We traversed it in two directions, with heavy carts, meeting no other obstructions other than the softness of the rich soil; and in returning over flowery plains and green hills, fanned by the breezes of early spring...."*

He often sketched in his journals and consulted with Aboriginal leaders to name the features of the land.

A preview of a Storyboard produced by Doreen Lyon for the Memories & Landscape Exhibition . See page 5 for further information .



# President's Report

Trish Hill

At last we have our new extensions almost complete. The admin/ research area is finished, organised and operational .

The toilet block is undergoing the final fit-out and should be ready to go in the coming week and then the focus will return to the kitchen and the second stage of the upgrade there. It wont be long now and the entire project will be finished. A huge thanks to all of our volunteers who have laboured long and hard to achieve great results, well done everyone!

Our thanks to Wollondilly Council and the Community Grants Program for funding that will enable us to complete the furniture in the research area and also to Picton Rotary for funding towards a new large screen for the Drill Hall.

Last week we visited Gavana Dairy at Glenmore to see how a modern dairy operates. Gavin Moore was an excellent host and outlined the long history of the farm and the problems they face in the industry today as well as those imposed by the drought. He gave freely of his time to ensure we were all well informed and it was completed when

'Lisa', an obliging dairy cow (yes, they all have names) was brought in to milk so we could view the process from start to finish. Thanks Gavin for an informative and interesting day and also to Betty Villy for role in organising the tour.



Recently I have seen some special and unique donations to our collection and realise how fortunate we are to be able to add these to our collection and they not be discarded . The objects in our collection are what we use to tell a particular story or an aspect of our local history and it isn't always immediate that objects make it into an exhibition . It does take time to coordinate and research a theme so those objects can be displayed and fully appreciated.

Our thoughts are with the Scarlett and Lang family with the passing of both Phillip and Val ■



# Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis



Welcome to Family History Month, August 2019.

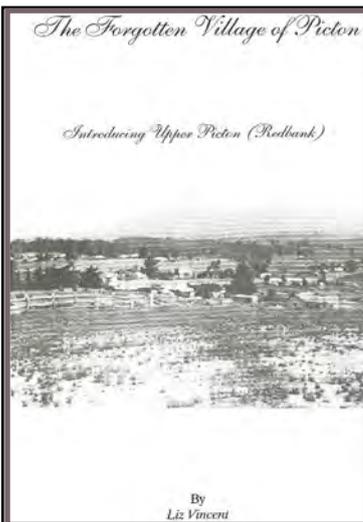
We hope you will make a special effort to use the wonderful resources that are at the Heritage Centre in the amazing surroundings of the new research room! Comfortable atmosphere and willing volunteers to assist! As a special offer we are providing Family History Research at no cost this month! However any photocopying and postage will be at the usual fee.

At our Monthly Meeting for August we will have a fireside chat format in learning more about the Carlon Family. An

exciting experience to learn about those who once lived in Burragorang Valley.

I hope you are collecting some memorabilia you might have about your ancestors which may include: autograph books, birthday books, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings, photographs, medals, mortgage payments, passports, person records, service records, marriage certificates, references, and more! How many of these things do you have carefully filed? I try and to do some family history research of my own on a Tuesday so I don't let the stories pass me by. I have recently found a convict ancestor I didn't know about!

Happy researching!



## The Forgotten Village of Picton –Introducing Upper Picton (Redbank)

By Liz Vincent

Though the government named its town Picton and then Upper Picton, many people called it Redbank. It was never officially Redbank. An excellent reference book, it details the forgotten government village of Picton, the people, the businesses and their stories. It also has great photographs of early areas of Picton along with maps and snippets of advertising.

The book is available from the museum and the cost is \$25.



## Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

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During the past month Bargo blacksmith Ray Lincoln paid us a visit, and as a result donated some items for our blacksmith shop including:

- ◇ One of his leather aprons.
- ◇ A couple of display boards showing all different types of horseshoes.
- ◇ A sign giving the reasons for shoeing horses.
- ◇ Display boards he used around the shows, and some miscellaneous items.

Thanks a lot Ray, these are greatly appreciated.

From the Maxwell family are some World War 1 items that belonged to Mitty Maxwell. These include a pay book receipt, demobilization card, thank you letter from Buckingham Palace, a card issued to the troops for sending from

Salisbury Plain while they were waiting to be sent home and some printed sheets of poetry from the WW1 period. Also a hand written and illustrated diary by Rita (Garlick) Maxwell giving details of a holiday spent at Thirroul in April of 1919. Thanks to the Maxwell family for these wonderful items.

On the mining/blacksmith side, we received from Barry Hooper a number of items that were used at the Big Pit: including:

- ◇ 2 cross cut saws.
- ◇ 3 steel wedges.
- ◇ Miners crib tin.
- ◇ An early type shifter spanner.
- ◇ A wooden sledge hammer.

Thanks Barry ■



## Marketing & Bus Visits

Louisa Singleman

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### July Bus Tour Report

We have had three bus groups in this month plus a car club visit organised by John Hyland. One of our regular visitors is the Campbelltown City Council who bring a group of students from their sister city, Koshigaya, in Japan. Other groups came from Revesby and the Illawarra Region. Once again thanks to our volunteers who host these tours.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July I attended the Rotary Club of Picton who kindly donated \$1000 to be used towards the purchase of a larger TV screen for the meeting room. Other worthy groups were in attendance who also received \$1000 to assist their organisation. This was made possible as a result of all the hard work the members of the Picton Rotary Club did in

running The Thirlmere Steam Festival. Many thank to Rotary for their generous donation.

### Marketing

I attended the June meeting of the Wollondilly Tourist Association Inc. (WTAI). It was reported that the Wollondilly Tourist Information Centre has closed down and tourists will be able to access information from the Wollondilly Shire Council's foyer.

Debbie has made some lovely informative brochures to send out to prospective visitors. If you have some ideas as to who to send them to please let her know ■



## Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

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The last 6 weeks of Term 2 were filled by some delightful children from Macquarie Fields Public School. It is worth reflecting that some of the things we taught them about "the olden days", especially in the laundry, received comments like "Oh yes we did it like that in Bangladesh". It is just another reason for us to appreciate how fortunate we are in Australia.

Our group received a lovely email from the school after the first week. Here it is.

*"Dear Bev, I am writing to thank you for an amazing day Macquarie Fields PS had at the venue yesterday. Although I was unable to attend the staff and children came back raving about what a fabulous day they had. The teachers said that all the facilitators were fantastic, very knowledgeable and handled the children well. Thank you for providing such an amazing day for the children. The remainder of our classes are in for a treat. Kind Regards Cathie".*

Well done to our volunteers■



# Display Officers Report

Doreen Lyon

## NAIDOC 2019

The first National Aboriginal Day of Culture was held on Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Burragarang Lookout. This was organised by local descendants of the Gundungorra people of Burragarang Valley Aunty Sharyn Halls, Aunty Ruby Williams and Kazan Brown, with the support and assistance of the National Parks & Wildlife Service/OEH and Blue Mountains World Heritage. Many families and friends enjoyed a beautiful winter day against the backdrop of the Blue Mountains above the Wollondilly River. A smoking ceremony was followed by speakers who spoke of their knowledge and reverence for the history and heritage of the Country and the people, both settlers and Indigenous, who have lost their heritage under the waters of Lake Burragarang. Special mention was made of the Creation Story of the Wollondilly River valley by The serpent Gurangatch as he swam away from the fisherman Mirragan.



*The smoking ceremony was an invitation to cleanse the mind and body before the celebration of NAIDOC*

Staff from NPWS served lunch and a special touch was provided by a young family who brought a delicious grazing platter of bush foods. They have started a business called Earth, Seed & Fire specializing in bush tucker and also provided a play table for the children using bush plants and clay which was very popular and creative. The Wollondilly Heritage Centre supplied a display of photos and books.

The Lookout is a popular destination for visitors to Wollondilly and many of them were curious about the Aboriginal culture and joined in the activities on the day. For many of them it was the first opportunity to learn more about Australian Aboriginal culture and were keen to learn more.

It is hoped that this will be the first of many such events at the Burragarang Lookout which will celebrate and share our local history ■

### Surveyor Harold Clyde Manning and The Township of Yerranderie

If there is a common thread running through Yerranderie history it is represented by the interesting figure of Harold Clyde Manning. A land and mining surveyor, Manning first visited the Yerranderie district in 1879, and selected land there in 1881. It would be a good guess to presume that Manning's interest initially in 1879 was in his capacity as a mining surveyor, following the discovery of galena by Billy Russell and Billy George in 1871. He may also have had conventional surveying interests as he was involved in working out an improved route for the Camden –Burragarang Road down the Bluff Mountain in 1891. The first building erected was probably the simple slab dwelling occupied by Danny & Catherine Maher acting as caretakers for Manning but there is every likelihood that this was also Manning's first dwelling. The building, still standing, could date as far back as the year of Manning's taking up the land, namely 1891. The building was later extended to enable the Maher's to take in some of the very first miners as lodgers and it became known as Maher's Boarding House( later Barnes Boarding House). Manning's second residence , a brick building with an iron roof was built in 1896 and located at the Police Station/Court House Complex .

*Information from 'Yerranderie –Story of a Ghost Town' by Jim Barrett– available in our shop.*

# History Week 2019

## Memories & Landscape



Longacre near The Oaks

NSW History Week in Wollondilly will be hosted by three Historical Societies in The Oaks, Appin and Picton and in partnership with Wollondilly Council. The Surveyor General, Narelle Underwood, will launch a new online Wollondilly Street Name database and open the Memory & Landscape exhibition in the Picton Shire Hall Art Gallery.

Included in the Exhibition will be:

**Online Street Name Database:** 'Wollondilly Street Names' is a searchable online database of streets in Wollondilly. Find out

the history of your street, including the story behind the name and photos.

There is also capacity to add oral history through video.

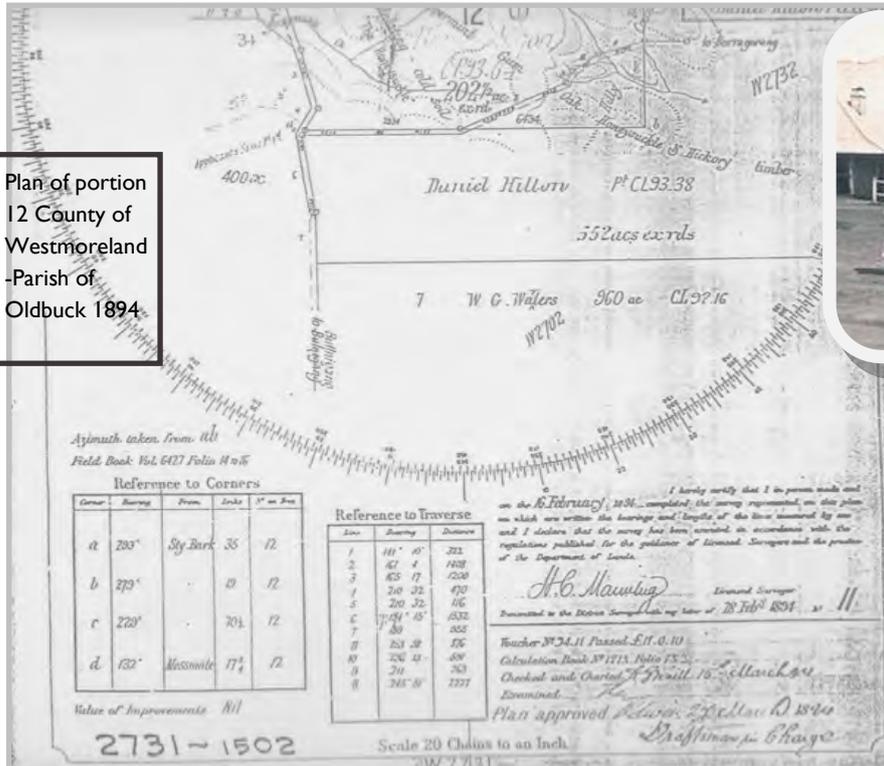
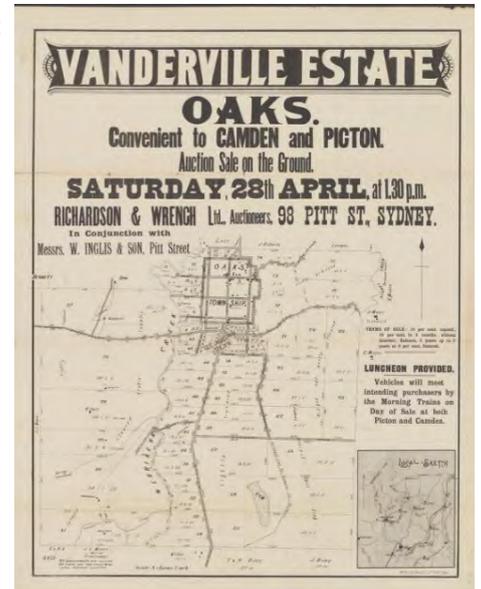
**Memory & Landscape Exhibition:** The Historical Societies have mined their extensive records of maps, photos and local history to uncover early subdivisions in Wollondilly and have presented them, together with photos of people and places of the times, to illustrate the changes to our shire over the decades. They are extended by oral and video stories presented by John Churchill with village banners 'Then & Now' created by Bob Clayton.

Come along and see the early maps and subdivisions with the photographs and stories of the changing face of Wollondilly since it was first settled, land was allotted and subdivided. The front page is a preview of some of the information that has been compiled for the exhibition.

Launch: Friday 30th August at 6pm in the View Room, Picton Library.

Exhibition: Saturday 31st August - Sunday 8th September from 11am- 4pm.

Please contact Doreen Lyon by email to [dlyon1@bigpond.com](mailto:dlyon1@bigpond.com) or 0448 571 211 for more information.



Plan of portion 12 County of Westmoreland -Parish of Oldbuck 1894.

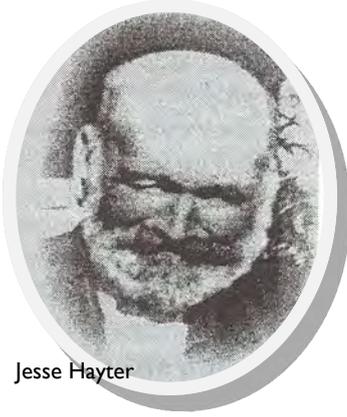


John Street The Oaks from the vicinity of Russell St intersection some 100 years ago.



Map showing the land purchased for a town to service Warragamba Dam 4th Aug 1961

# GLENROCK– WEROMBI



Jesse Hayter

Glenrock Farm, Silverdale Road Werombi was settled in 1861 initially by Jesse Hayter, the fourth son of Jeremiah and Sarah Hayter. The area then was known as Mulgoa Forest and was renamed Werombi when the first Post Office was established around 1880. In 1864 Jesse lost his right arm after the gun he was handling accidentally discharged. Not to be deterred he soon learned to write with his left hand and do most farm work. Jesse married Sarah Louisa Hillier at St Johns Church Camden in 1871 and Glenrock became their home. He was a very progressive farmer and always planted the crops and slaughtered the animals by the phases of the moon. This method of farming was found in the “Aspro” book published by the Nicholas family. (Aspro pharmaceuticals) Each successive generation continued to farm and dairy at Glenrock through to the current generation today. The farm had milking house cows to

start then the dairy began in 1900. Ayrshire cattle have been bred at Werombi since early 1900 and in 1905 Jesse won the ‘Champion bull’ award at the Camden Show. The milk was put into milk cans which held 10 gallons. The quota at Werombi was approximately 3 cans, which 20 cows supplied.

Around 1968 a bulk milk vat was installed which meant 3 phase power was needed. At this time some local dairies closed as it was a big expense to supply 3 phase power and buy the vat.

Earlier times washing the milk cans was done with a bucket of water and a brush—a hard job. You had to be careful as the bottom edges of the cans were very sharp from being scraped on the concrete floor. In early dairies milk was separated with the skim milk discarded and fed to the pigs. The dairy did have a cream separator.

Oats were grown in the winter and millet in the summer for fodder. Glenrock also had an orange orchard and grew peas in winter to supplement income.

Charles Hayter on the wagon with Bob Cuthel making silage.



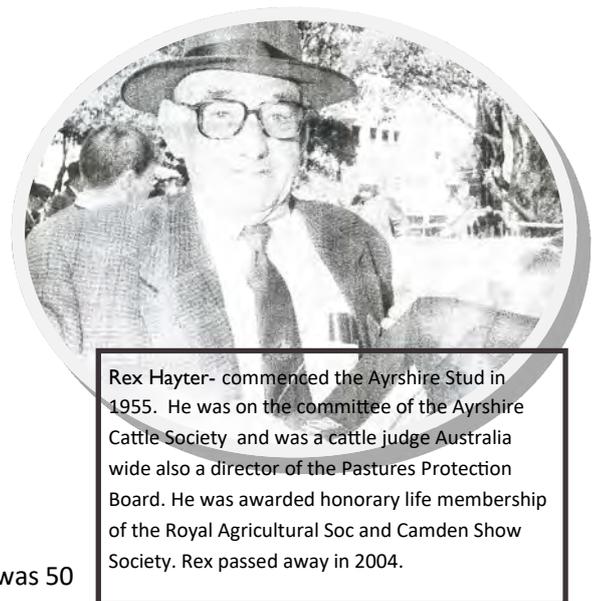
The loft was the first building on the farm, built approximately 1880 and it still stands today. The loft was used to store seed high and dry to replant the next summer. The hay shed was built about the same time and it had a bark roof. The hay was bundled to sheafs, laid lengthways and tied together after reaping. The reapers and binders were horse drawn. A hay baler was purchased

about 1940. Chaff was also cut, which was a very dusty and dangerous job. Feed was stored in Silage pits and in drought or hard times it was dug up to feed the cattle.

The existing dairy building was built approximately 1940. Previous to that there were 2 other dairy buildings. Cattle were hot branded with the brand J2H. The dairy was always family run and in fruit picking time pickers were employed.

The wider family is well known for their involvement in sawmilling and livestock transport.

These days in 2019, the dairy milks about 140 head of cattle. In 1960 it was 50 head. Originally the farm was 750 acres. In 1955 the land was shared between brothers and the land the dairy stands on now is 420 acres and is still operated by the Hayter family.



Rex Hayter- commenced the Ayrshire Stud in 1955. He was on the committee of the Ayrshire Cattle Society and was a cattle judge Australia wide also a director of the Pastures Protection Board. He was awarded honorary life membership of the Royal Agricultural Soc and Camden Show Society. Rex passed away in 2004.

These stories will support our upcoming exhibition on the local dairy industry ■

# Reminders, News & Info

## WEEKEND ROSTER

### AUGUST

<b>Pacita &amp; John</b>	<b>Saturday, 3</b>
Kaye & Jim	Sunday, 4
<b>Trish &amp; Kevin</b>	<b>Saturday, 10</b>
Sue & Paul	Sunday, 11
<b>Doreen &amp; Ben</b>	<b>Saturday, 17</b>
Maria & Betty	Sunday, 18
<b>Jenny &amp; Pam</b>	<b>Saturday, 24</b>
Debbie & Allen	Sunday, 25
Laurette & Phil (Working Bee)	Saturday, 31

## MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER

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



## REDUNDANT SHOP ITEMS (FREE)

A number of Desks-Tables / Cabinets/Shop Counter-Glass/Timber & other assorted items are available

Contact: Trish 0432 689034



## AUGUST MEETING

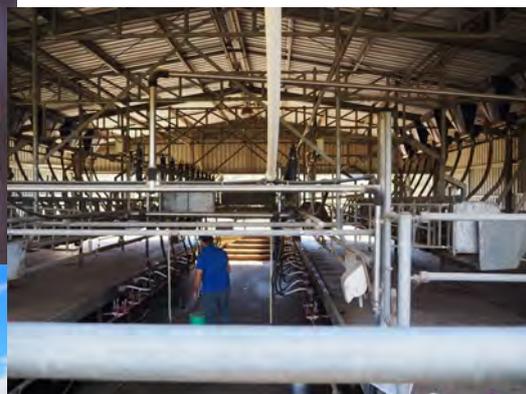
### GUEST SPEAKER

Family History Month

Fireside Chat with

members of the Carlon Family and the Burragarang Valley.

Photos of our visit to Moore's Gavana Dairy at Glenmore



## HISTORY WEEK 2019

### MEMORY & LANDSCAPE

**AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 7**

**Picton Shire Hall Galleries**

History Week 2019 will be celebrated with an exhibition of subdivision plans and local maps to be held in the Galleries in the Picton Shire Hall. Surveyor General, Narelle Underwood will open the exhibition on the evening of Friday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Council Library.

Please contact Doreen Lyon by email to [dlyon1@bigpond.com](mailto:dlyon1@bigpond.com) or 0448 571 211 for more information



**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 5th August 2019 followed by Monday 2nd September 2019. Our patrons are Richard Booth and Judith Hannan. 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:-  
**The Oaks Historical Society Inc.**  
**P O Box 6016 The Oaks NSW 2570**

