

# The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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The Oaks Historical Society Inc.  
43 Edward St The Oaks 2570  
(PO Box 6016) T: (02) 4657 1796  
E: tohs1988@bigpond.net.au  
www.wollondillymuseum.org.au



## Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

## Newsletter

March 2022

# Cemeteries of Burragorang Valley

In the 1950's part of the clearing of Burragorang Valley for the Warragamba Catchment also involved the removal of the graves within those cemeteries at Central and Lower Burragorang. The process is not widely known or understood and it is often a question asked by groups visiting the museum. Simply put, the MWS&DB (Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board) undertook the extensive process which involved mapping the cemeteries and numbering of the graves in the cemeteries. Plans, including the numbering system were also made for the reinterment location and the entire grave removed to the new location within the cemeteries at The Oaks and Camden. 21 graves from St Paulinus Catholic Church Cemetery came to St Aloysius Cemetery at The Oaks with the remainder along with those from Coxs River Catholic Cemetery went to Camden. 23 graves at the Anglican Cemetery at Coxs River came to St Matthews at The Oaks. This process was funded by the MWS&DB and done in negotiation with the families involved. In the documentation, several graves have a notation alongside which reads 'Special-reburied as specified', possibly indicating they were removed to another location as desired by the family. The MWS&DB created a Warragamba Catchment Area Cemeteries Act 1952 which

was a register of the burials in those church grounds and included a document titled 'Act No. 35, 1952-Warragamba Catchment Area Cemeteries Act'. It reads—*Clause 4 of the above mentioned Act provides:- "That the Board shall....compile with respect to each of the said lands a separate register of the names and other relevant information in respect of the persons buried therein, so far as such names and information can by reasonable diligence be obtained, and shall deposit such registers relating to the lands described in Parts I and II of the Schedule to this Act with the Church of England Proper Trust Diocese of Sydney and such registers relating to the lands described in parts III and IV of the Schedule to this Act with the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of Sydney. The Registers have been prepared with all diligence and it is*

*submitted that they now be forwarded to the Church Authorities with covering letters as per copies attached. It is suggested that the registers be delivered by hand. Dated 7.12.1956. It is believed these documents*



were also lodged with the local Clerk of the Courts.

The photograph is of the Cemetery at St Paulinus in Burragorang showing the numbering at the commencement of the process. Continued page 4...



## President's Report

At our business meeting last week we decided to resume general meetings and so our first is next Monday night, March 7th at 7.00pm. We have no guest speaker but it will be a good opportunity to catch up and chat. We have a some guest speakers in mind for the coming meetings. It is pleasing to see our visitor numbers increasing again.

Our working bees are the last Saturday of the month and last Saturday we had 20 members turn up. How good are you all? With the extended inclement weather there is lots to do outside as well so if you would like to come along and help out you would be most welcome. Even if you have a couple of hours to spare it is of immense help and we do a great morning tea and lunch as an enticement.

We have commenced researching our local dairying industry to develop an exhibition in our Farm to Table building later

in the year.

Once again we have groups booking on our calendar and there are some school group bookings in the coming weeks as well. The Schools Group Development day for volunteers was scheduled for this week but was postponed due to the extreme weather.

Pictured—our new outdoor heaters under our verandah.



## Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

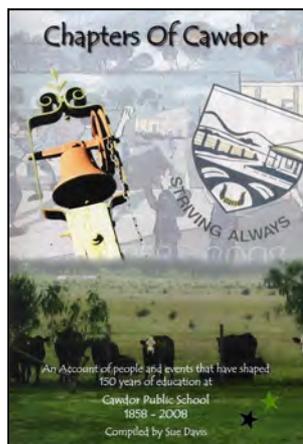
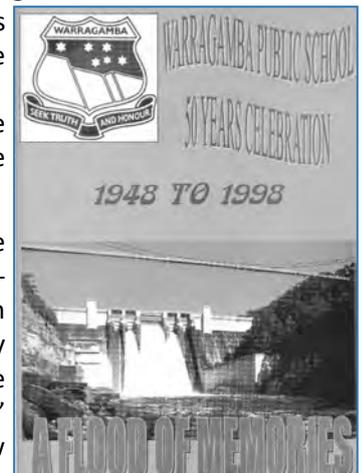
Sue Davis

Family History and Local History are very closely linked when it comes to researching your family. One area that combines the two so closely is through the history of a local school. The NSW State Archives has begun a project of digitising School Files. Currently they have 200 school files (Dated between 1876-1938) across NSW that have been digitised and available to view online. Gradually other schools will be added to this resource. The link is

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/magazine/news/digitised-school-files>



school file also revealed a picture of my husband's late grandfather whom he had never met. Along with personal attachments a school file has records of businesses in the local community who dealt with the school; what occupations families had; and issues that effected the community. There might be maps to show original locations of the school and the buildings erected. Not to mention there is always a record of the problems schools have had with the ablution facilities!



This is an amazing resource and convenience for researchers to view from their own home. It not only enables you to view from home but also allows you to save a digital copy. When I researched for the *Chapters of Cawdor Public* book it took several trips to the State Archives at Kingswood and developing a very fat folder of photocopies.

School records give a lot of information on buildings and staff but also have information about students enrolled and therefore the families that lived in the area. There are also records written by the Parents and Citizens Association to the NSW Department of Education. One of these files was the first time I had seen my late grandfather's writing which was a wonderful find for me. A

At the Wollondilly Heritage Centre, we also have resources that can help with school research. In the library we have books recording the start date of schools in NSW..." Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 to 1993".

Our library and Local History Archives also have a number of researched histories of schools in the Wollondilly Shire. Our extensive photographic file also has a number of local school related images. Please contact us if you think we might have something that could help your research through our school records ■

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



# Acquisitions Report

Allen Seymour

This month has been fairly quiet. We have another set of church doors, these are from St Lukes at The Oaks. The plan is to put them in the Federation building in the existing religious /church exhibition area.

We've also received a phone that was used at the Appin Hotel. It's a bit different than the normal phone, much big-

ger and has a number of buttons for transferring calls. Thanks to Rob Thompson for this one.

Last item is the minutes book for the Mechanics Lodge at Nattai Bulli 1962-1974, and Nattai North from 1974-1987. This one is from Ken Mumby.

Our thanks to all those who have donated ■

## Woods -Marden Wedding at St Johns

Old newspapers are an invaluable resource for local and family history researchers and our Museum has a large collection in our archives. While many are available online through The National Library of Australia website Trove we are always pleased to accept donations.

A recent donation was an issue of the Camden News, Thursday 16 November, 1939 from Pat Woods, daughter of Dulcie and Laurie Woods.

An earlier edition had reported that the Werombi Hall was the scene of a very pleasant gathering when Miss Dulcie Marden, the popular daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Marden of Werombi, and Mr. Laurie Woods, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Woods were the guests of honour at a kitchen tea arranged by their many friends.

The Camden News, 16 November 1939 published the following description of their wedding.

### WOODS — MARDEN.

On 21st October, 1939, a very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. John's Church of England, Camden, by the Rev. T. G. Paul, when Dulcie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Marden, of Werombi, and Laurie, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Woods, of Rhodes were joined together in holy matrimony. The bride who entered the Church on the arm of her father, chose a gown of magnolia satin, which was cut on classical lines, the train of which hung in the shape of a shamrock leaf. At her throat was a lily designed gold 'brooch, being seventy-five years old, which belonged to her grandmother. Over her frock hung a hand embroidered veil held in place by a coronet of orange 'blossom. These were kindly lent by Mrs. Stan Laybutt. A sheaf of lilies was the bride's choice for her bouquet. The bride was attended by Miss Ivy Kelloway, who favoured a frock of mushroom satin backed romaine. On her head was a top-knot of pink sweet peas, which held

her shoulder length veil in place. Her bouquet was of sweet peas of various shades of pink. This and the bride's sheaf were made by Mr. Alf McIntyre. The part of best man was carried out by the bridegroom's brother Mr. Donald Woods, of Rhodes. While the register was being signed Miss Ruth Roberts, cousin of the bride, very delightfully rendered 'Until.'

The bride's mother who chose a black light-weight costume, assisted by the bridegroom's mother who wore navy and white printed sheer, received the guests at the Agricultural Hall where the reception was held.

Afterwards the happy couple left by car for Saratoga where the honeymoon was to be spent. The bride travelling in a grey tailored costume with accessories to tone.

*Note: Dulcie (Marden) Woods was the last of the Marden family to*



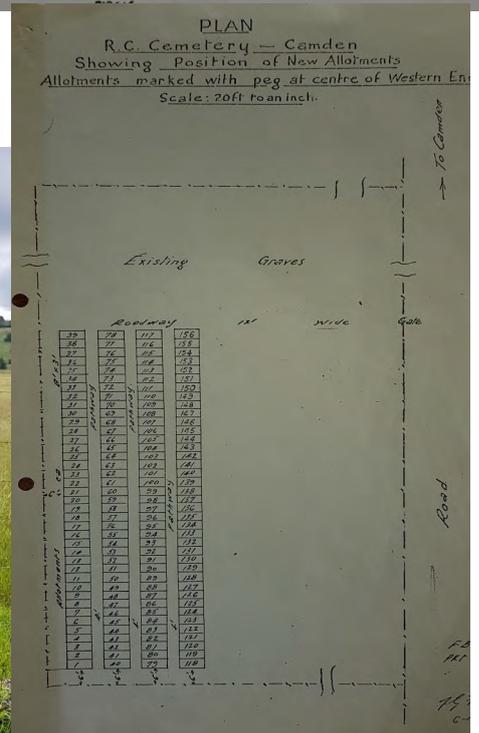
*live at the Lomar property (Marionvale) at Werombi ■*

Pictured above Dulcie and Bridesmaid Ivy and right Golden Wedding Anniversary photo.



# Cemeteries of Burratorang Valley *continued...*

There were some one hundred and thirty five graves removed from the Catholic Cemeteries of St Paulinus and twenty nine from Coxs River and there were twenty three from the Anglican St Johns Coxs River. Removal of the Cemetery at Yer-randerie was discussed at the time but as it was outside the inundation area the decision was against removal.



The photographs and documentation are from our archives and the entire transfer can be traced from the outset.

- ⇒ Top B&W –St Paulinus Burratorang
- ⇒ Grave of Esther Dunn at The Oaks beside the location in Burratorang
- ⇒ Plan of St Paulinus Cemetery
- ⇒ Plan of the Camden reinterments
- ⇒ Row of Clarke graves in Burratorang and now Camden
- ⇒ Mary Carlons grave in Camden (also on front page photo.



# An Extract of Early life in Orangeville by Raymond Small

from **A History of Orangeville and Werombi** by Nell Weir (from timberland to smiling fields)

I was born at Orangeville in 1917. During my early life, which only seems a short time back, there have been big changes taking place, especially in our lifestyle, ways and means of travels. In my young days the horse played an important part either ridden or driven in a spring cart or sulky. Then on special days such as New Year and Boxing Day, when sports days were held you would go and compete in horse events such as the flag and bending race, thread the needle etc for sports and enjoyment. The horse was also used for ploughing and tilling of the soil and harvest of crops.

People living in the Burratorang Valley would take three days to visit Camden and obtain their supply of rations and do whatever other business was necessary. Day one would be to a relative or friends home for an overnight stay, day two would be into Camden and return to relatives or friends for another overnight stay then back to The Valley on the third day. Can you imagine seeing a large mob of pigs being driven by road from Burratorang to Camden? Farmers along the way would allow them to use their yards or paddocks for an overnight stay. In front of the pigs would be a wagon load of corn, food for the pigs which would be spilled on the road so the pigs followed. I can recall seeing them around Mt Hunter of a Sunday

evening where they stayed overnight, moving into Camden on Monday to be sold at the saleyards on Tuesday. The saleyards at the time were situated directly behind the Plough and Harrow Hotel. The auctioneer was the late Mr William Larkin known as 'Captain', he lived in 'Larkin Place.'

A wagon drawn by eight grey horses would be a very attractive sight in Camden's main streets today but in the days when the silver mines were working at Yerranderie it was common. They were owned by the late Mr Gander and were known as 'Ganders Greys'. A son Jack and daughter Ettie (Mrs Taplin) of Mr Gander still live and are well known in Camden. I have been told Dr West, whose residence 'Macaria' in John Street, had been known on receiving an urgent call from Burratorang, to make the journey in an hour on horseback. He changed horses frequently by borrowing good horses from farmers along the way.

School days were so different. School was compulsory of course but not before seven years of age or after fourteen, some children were given special permission to leave sometimes (not being quite fourteen) to help with the work on the farm. Not many children from outlying areas such as Orangeville and Werombi attended high school even when they qualified. Parramatta was the closest high school. You would have to travel from home to Camden, catch the 7.00am train, arriving back at Camden at 7.00pm. All reading, writing, sewing, everything in the house after dark was done by candlelight or Kerosene burning lamps. Electricity never came until after World War Two. There was one farmer who wouldn't allow it through his property. I'm not sure why....

Electricity changed the lifestyle of the dairy farmers from hand to machine milking. It took a very good hand milker to milk ten cows an hour so a farmer milking fifty cows would need at least three milkers.



Money was tight in those days, five shillings or fifty cents a day was a good job. You could buy a really good pony for eight to ten pounds (\$16-\$20). My Uncle Ern bought a pony at the Camden sale for eight pounds (\$16) and a year or two after she won her class at the Sydney Royal Show.

Mr Bill Williams, the local Blacksmith (pictured) would make and fit a set of shoes when necessary and refit for four shillings (40 cents). Cattle were big business to some people buying and selling, you could buy a good type and breed of a dairy cow in her first year of production for five pounds (\$10).

The first motor lorry I can remember seeing was a T model Ford owned by Otto Halliday, a brother of Olive and Freda Noakes and lived at Werombi. Another early motor lorry was a 'Reo' with the petrol tank fitted in front of the driver and owned by Stan and Harold Noakes also the early owners of a car, they had a 'Rugby'. My cousins Milton and Gordon Small were the first I remember having a car at Orangeville, a 1924 Buick and Joe Keane of Camden was the agent.

Continued over page.....

## An Extract of Early life in Orangeville by Raymond Small *continued...*

Farm produce such as milk, fruit and vegetables were conveyed to Camden by horse drawn vehicles, then to Sydney by rail. Aeroplanes were a rare sight during my school days at Orangeville. When one did appear we were allowed to go out of school so we could see it. There were no school buses and some children walked almost three miles. There were two families whose children drove a quiet pony in a sulky. Occasionally a pushbike may be ridden if the road was in a suitable condition. One time koalas and possums were very common and found in almost every tree and before my time the dingo was also in our area.

The first butcher I remember at The Oaks was Mr Arthur Lavercombe and he delivered around the area and Orangeville from a 'cutting cart'. It would be dark when he reached Orangeville, some people say it was to beat the

flies, others said it was so you couldn't see the condition of his cart. His shop was in the vicinity of the corner of Merlin Street and Burragorang Road. Ted Rofe was also a butcher at The Oaks.

One of the very early contractors, perhaps the first to carry milk from the area was Stan Moore. He owned a T-model Ford Lorry and lived at 'Glendiver'. Most of your groceries would also be brought to your door. Herb Marden driving four horses in a four wheel covered wagon, employed by F.C. Whiteman & Sons would leave Camden about midday Friday Travelling via Theresa Park and would serve most of the homes on the way. He would travel as far as his property on the corner of Silverdale and Werombi Roads, stay overnight and continue up through Werombi on Saturday, down Bobs Range Road arriving back in Camden 'all hours' Saturday night ■

# Happy 60th-Congratulations Doreen & Ben

This month two of our museum stalwarts have celebrated a milestone 60th wedding anniversary and we would like to take this opportunity to express our Congratulations with a little of their history.

Ben was studying in Lancashire at Winmarleigh Agricultural College when he attended a local dance in Garstang with a few mates after a few pints! It was here he first laid eyes on one of the belles of Garstang, Doreen Fowler an Art student and a local farmers' daughter. He says he didn't think he stood a chance.

Acting the fool he attracted her attention and she must have seen potential in this tall dark and handsome newcomer from Tooting Bec in London. Ben was keen on becoming a farmer due to positive influences from his evacuation to the country during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war as a young boy.

In the next few years despite Doreen's father sending her to Finland to 'teach English' in an attempt to change the course of this blooming romance, and numerous job changes up and down the country, love grew and on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1962, on a cold spring day, they were married at Barnacre church in Garstang.

They began their married life in flat above a fish shop in Warminster and Doreen, with the help of a Robert Carrier

Cookbook purchased by Ben, and meal scores out of 10 also by Ben, Doreen honed her skills as the excellent cook she is today. They then purchased a stone cottage in Frome which they enjoyed restoring and turning into a home, It was there they began their family with Kate arriving in July 1965. Soon after that they bought an ambitious renovation project in Leigh on Mendip in Somerset and Kate was soon joined by Fiona in 1968.

After much thought and yearning for adventure and opportunity, they decided to immigrate to Australia in 1972. Together they have remained unified and

have embraced opportunities and challenges together. They have educated themselves in Australian history and culture and continue to be community minded, inquisitive and inspirational.

Together they have been

instrumental in the origins of the Wollondilly Heritage centre with Ben having his term as president and Doreen museum curator after achieving a degree at Sydney University in Museum Studies ■

Congratulations Doreen and Ben!



# Reminders, News & Info

WEEKEND ROSTER	
MARCH	
<b>Pam &amp; Margaret</b>	<b>Saturday, 5</b>
Bev & David	Sunday, 6
<b>Sue &amp; Helen</b>	<b>Saturday, 12</b>
Vivian & Bob	Sunday, 13
<b>Colleen &amp; Kathy</b>	<b>Saturday, 19</b>
Marlane & Cheryl/ Kate	Sunday, 20
<b>Working Bee</b>	<b>Saturday 26</b>
Trish & Kevin	Sunday 27

MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER	
March	Please bring a plate
April	Sue & Jan
May	Marie & Debbie
June	Doreen & Ben

## YOGA AT OAKDALE WITH HELEN PERRY

The type of yoga I do is adaptive, so we can give options to everyone. There will be a sign on sheet which will ask if you have any difficulties, so that we can be aware of these and give you options in the class. If you have any concerns and have not exercised for a while, you may want to check with your GP first.

The yoga is gentle. The first principle of yoga is: Ahimsa – which means – do no harm and I always emphasise this at the start of classes.

We will be using a chair – as a support. Some of you may wish to stay seated and others may want to stand and use the chair as a support.

If you have a yoga mat – bring it along – if you opt to do standing – it is useful – to prevent slipping and if you are using the chair it acts as a good anchor.

I plan to make the first class 20-25 minutes. We will start with a 5 minute grounding practice and finish with a short relaxation.

If you would like to lie down for relaxation, bring a towel or blanket for support. You can also do the relaxation seated. Wear comfortable clothes.

I will be around at the museum on Thursdays – if you have any questions, I am happy to chat.

NSW PREMIER STEAM EVENT

## THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM

### EVENT SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY 12TH MARCH**  
SUPER SATURDAY

- ☛ Steam Train Rides & NSW Rail Museum Activities
- ☛ Festival of Steam Family Carnival  
*Thirlmere Sportsground 3pm - 9pm*

**SUNDAY 13TH MARCH**  
FESTIVAL FUN DAY

- ☛ Steam Train Rides & NSW Rail Museum Activities
- ☛ Street Festival with Food & Market Stalls
- ☛ Live Music & Entertainment Stage
- ☛ Festival of Steam Family Carnival
- ☛ C91.3 Broadcasting LIVE

Detailed Program available in the coming weeks.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- ☛ Display event Program & Poster
- ☛ Offer Festival Specials for each Day or the Weekend
- ☛ Share social media posts to your business social page
- ☛ Donate a voucher or prize for the C91.3 chocolate wheel to have your business promoted on-air and at the festival

### DONATION IDEAS

- Food & Beverage Vouchers
- Gift Packs
- Service Voucher
- Grocery Vouchers
- Experience Vouchers

### ROAD CLOSURES

For the main festival there will be Road closures implemented from 6am and re-opened at 5pm on Sunday 13th March.

- ☛ Northbound Thirlmere Way between Station and Oaks Street will have controlled Traffic Flow from 10.45 – 12 noon
- ☛ Station Street between Thirlmere Way and Bell Street
- ☛ Oaks Street between the railway station roundabout and Carlton Road
- ☛ Mason Street from Barbour Road to Goodlet Street
- ☛ Close St from Barbour Rd to Campbell St
- ☛ Barbour Road between Oaks Street and Lakes Street
- ☛ Westbourne Avenue from North Street to Oaks Street
- ☛ North Street will be one way from Westbourne Ave to Carlton Rd

There will be traffic control staff at all of these points to assist with directing people to the accessible areas.

## FREE

If you have a printer that uses the inks pictured right #651 for a Canon printer Margaret Battam is happy to pass these on to you. Just email or give us a call →

**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 7th March 2022 followed by Monday 4th April 2022. Our patron is 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**

