

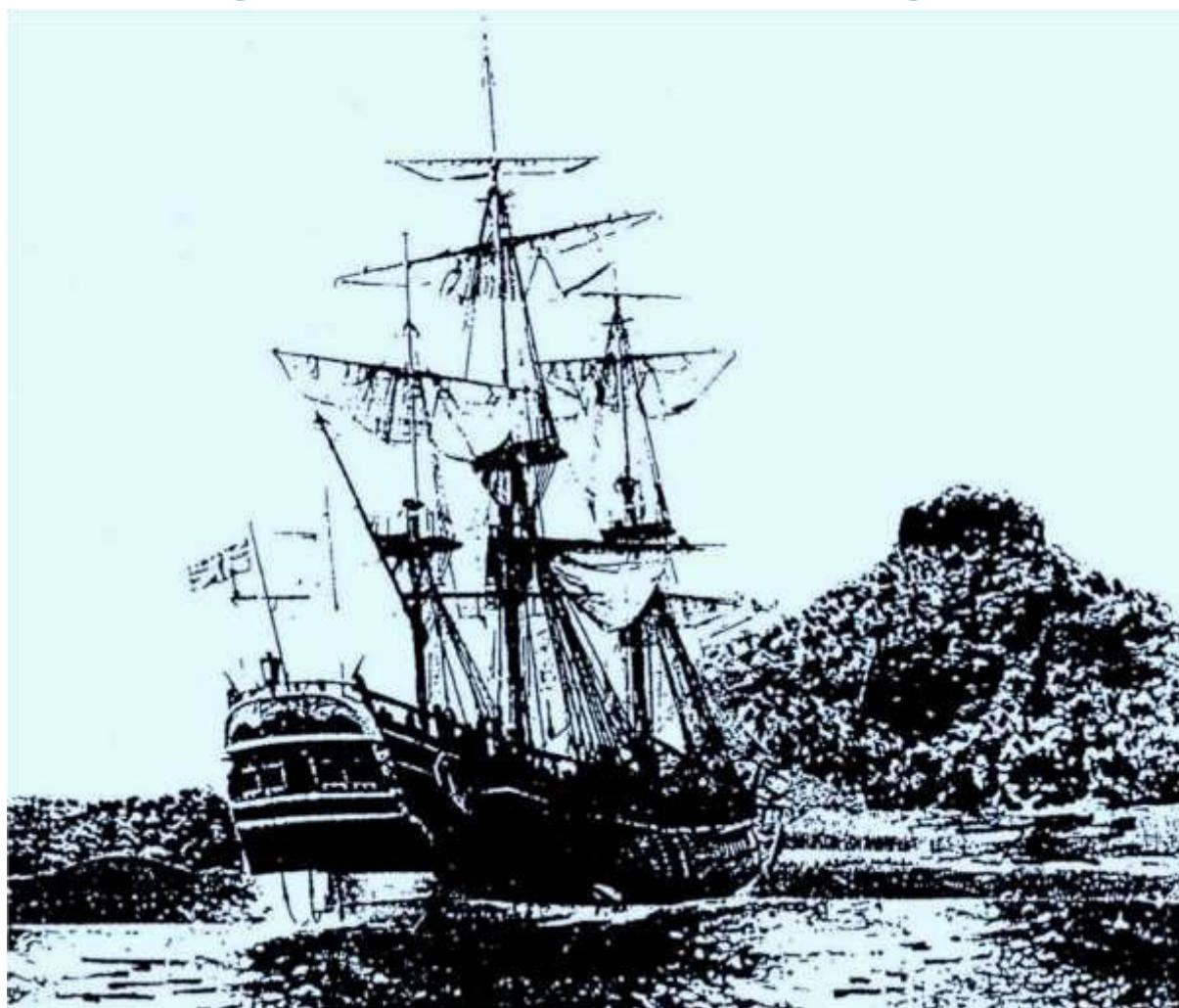
Milton-Ulladulla Family History Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Issue No 56

Pigeon House Tidings



Aims of Our Society are

To encourage research and friendship in genealogy.

*To promote the study and foster the knowledge of family history in the
local community.*

Our Journal is published in June and December each year.

Patron: Mrs. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock, BA, DipEd MP Member for South Coast, New South Wales
Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.

Thanks to Shoalhaven City Council for all their assistance

Office Bearers for 2022-23 – Meet the Team



President	Ron Smith
Research Officer	Graham Ledwidge
Vice President	John Evans
Secretary	Sue Crotty
Treasurer	Rita Newman
Librarian	Marg Magnusson
Assist Librarian	Christine Moss
Publicity Officer	Barbara Lawson
Journal Editor	Julie Gullan
Grants Officer	Judie Rose
Activities Officer	Bev Evans
Welfare Officer	Cheryl Baker
Public Officer	Graham Ledwidge

Sub-Committee Groups:

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Data Base Entry: John Evans and Ron Smith

Information & Computer Technology: John Olle

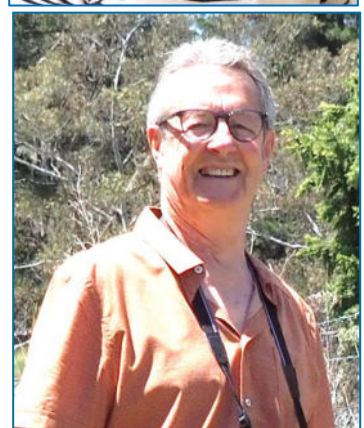
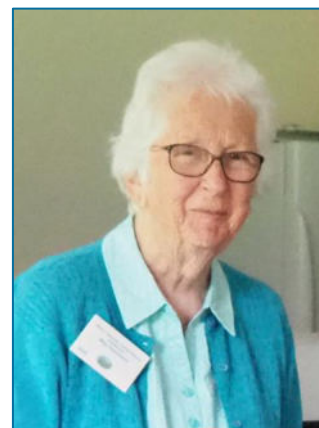
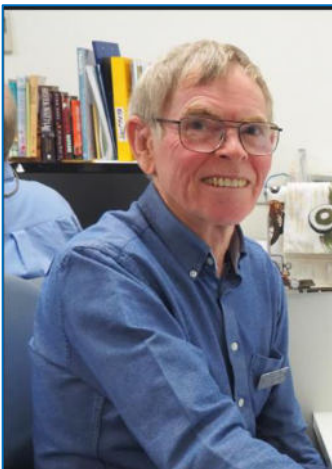
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RESEARCH AND MEMBER MEETINGS

Research and visitor enquiries are welcome every Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, and every Saturday between the hours of 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. A donation is made by members and a charge is required of non-members

Formal Member Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at:

Family History Room (lower floor, around the back – look out for the sign)
Ulladulla Civic Centre
81B Princes Highway, Ulladulla

Visitors and new members are very welcome. A small door fee is charged at each formal meeting to cover catering and other costs.

Disclaimer

The statements made and views expressed by the contributors in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Milton Ulladulla Family History Society Inc.

Cover picture: Representation of Pigeon House Mountain, South West of Ulladulla with sighting by Lieutenant James Cook on April 21, 1770.

© Milton Ulladulla Family History Society Inc., 2016

Cook “.... saw a remarkable peaked hill which resembles a square dovehouse with a dome on top and for that reason I named it Pigeon House.”



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members who have joined us in the past 6 months. **Russell Wray, Debra & Michael Coles, Sydney Rothe, Fiona Evans, Andrew Warden, Chris Allen and John Mulcahy.** We look forward to seeing you from time to time at our rooms and hope you will be able to join us on many of our social events.

We would like to thank our volunteers and also our members who have helped throughout the year. All assistance whether it be small or large has been really appreciated.



Congratulations to Christine Moss who has now been a member for 20 years.

She has been an asset to the society, volunteering many hours over the time. She has achieved many tasks and is always willing to help where needed. Her happy and cheerful manner is also very much loved by all.





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Contributors - The following members contributed articles to this edition of Pigeon House Tidings. Should you wish to correspond with them, please contact our secretary and we will pass on your details to the contributor.

Julie Gullan, Margaret Magnusson, Ron Smith, Christine Moss, Barbara Lawson, Brian Clayton, Wayne Murray



Does anyone recognise the people in this wedding photograph. It was stamped Singleton. The writing on the back appears to be –

Mrs Hill St Marys

If this is your family, please email our secretary and we will forward to you.





From the President's Desk

Ron Smith

I have been reflecting on the development of MUFHSI since joining the group about nine years ago. At first, I found it very difficult. I was not familiar with the new technologies. The electronic revolution was in full swing but few members were skilled enough to give me guidance. The earlier members had created an array of publications detailing pre WW2 settlement and the family stories of past times. Plus, many microfiche and CD records. This became the basis of our now effective hard copy library. On reading the preamble of some of their publications, I noticed the challenge to future members to continue the process. I know our committee has continued this work.

I, and others, began attending conferences run by other family history groups to gain skills. At one such gathering, I

heard from the speaker the statement. "Any group which does not enter into the new technology will fail within ten years". Thus began my journey in support of Milton Ulladulla Family History Society. I am grateful for the insight and glad to have been a part of the New Age of Research.

This year has seen our new look office with a professional shopfront up and running. All thanks to willing volunteer members.

Our computer bank, printers, digital camera, display screen and more are all working effectively thanks to the efforts of our hosts, the Shoalhaven Council staff at Ulladulla and Nowra.

We are indebted to several donor groups who have supported us financially giving our researchers more time to assist the wider community in search of their families around the world.

The website brings a stream of requests for help, all attended to promptly by members.

I am fortunate to have a great team of people around me. All have special skills in many areas and collectively they create a warm, welcoming environment for all who visit us in search of their families both past and present generations.

This August will be our Annual General Meeting when all committee positions become vacant. Several of the team wish to step down to continue other pursuits, so we will be in need of a treasurer. Rita has done a superb job and will stay on to help get a new recruit up and running. Our jill of all trades, would like an editor to take on the preparation of the Pigeon House Tidings. Julie has other projects in mind so we need a new Editor to take on this job, please give it consideration. The publication is twice yearly. Many of the team are "getting on in years" and would be pleased to pass the baton to some younger people.

The book project is nearing completion. The database of residents has been overhauled and continues to grow apace. The digital indexes to our hard copy files are almost complete with more data entry to be undertaken. The need for room attendance staff is ongoing. This is where the most effective training happens as it is one on one with an experienced researcher on duty always.

If you can be of help at any time either on a committee, or a sub-committee, or just in front of the office with a smiling welcome please join the team at MUFHSI.

In summation, I sincerely thank all the volunteers who have helped bring our Society into the digital age and I look forward to another year of development as we seek our families from the past and prepare stories for future researchers.

Thinking of Contributing a story or article for our December edition?

That would be fantastic. You have heaps of time to get it ready. Close date will be around the end of October 2023. Start writing and/or researching. The next editor will look forward to receiving it.



Thinking of Volunteering

That would also be fantastic. Our volunteers are a very diverse group of people bound together with an interest in family history and a wiliness to help others. They all are happy to share their knowledge as well as learn more from others. Our room is filled with smiles. Come join us. We would love your help and input. Start with one day a month or even a day once in two months – it doesn't matter as every little bit helps so much.

Give it a go

A Note from the Editor

Julie Gullan

This is my 17th issue of this journal as editor. It is also my last. The shopkeeper's book has taken control over my life and I feel I can't give the PHT enough time and effort. So please, if one of our members feels they would like a go, let me know. It **is** time for a change.



Our secretary, Sue Crotty has been doing a fantastic job and has settled in. Barb Lawson, our new publicity officer has achieved so much in so little time. Judie Rose has been kept busy looking and applying for new grants. The other committee members have been a great support to me and the others throughout the year and always.

The shopkeeper's book is tracking on schedule. I have learned so much of our local history since starting this project. Along with our researchers who are, and have been amazing, I too have been researching and collating. Driving around the streets of Milton and Ulladulla, the street signs are now not posts. They are a reminder of past people and families, the pioneers and the early workers. It is going to be an interesting book with printing scheduled for November.

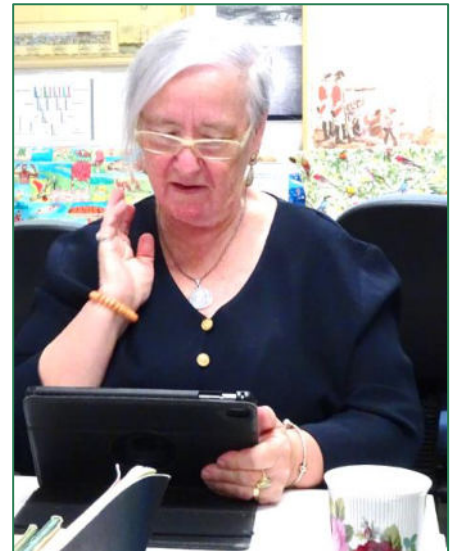
Unfortunately, I have not allowed much time to get this edition ready. While trolling through TROVE for the shopkeeper's book I did come across a few very interesting articles which I copied ready for when I started. That has made a huge difference, rather than starting and finishing it all in one go. The society has been socially active, thanks to Bev for organising our outings. I have added photos of these events into this journal.

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to this edition. So very much appreciated. Enjoy this issue, as I have totally enjoyed and had fun completing this my final PHT.

THE LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

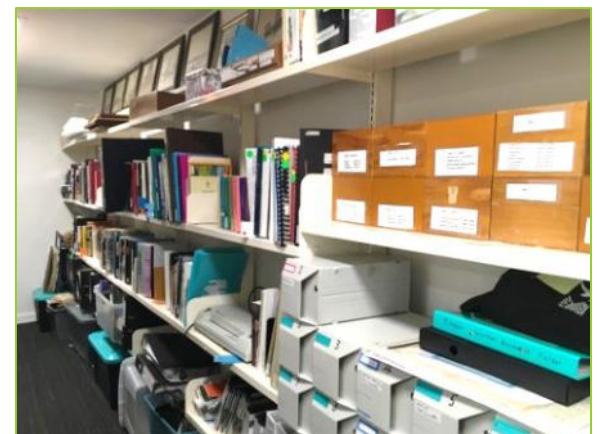
From Marg Magnusson

We have had a busy few months with our books. It was decided to move our library shelves to the other side of the room to make more space. It was such a wonderful idea and has definitely made our room so much better and easier to move around.



I would like to thank Ron Smith, John Evans and Peter Wells, for making the move easier by moving the shelving for us ladies. The books had to be removed and then put back on the shelves in order. The fellas were great for that job too and I would also like to thank Julie Gullan, Cheryl Baker, Bev Evans and my always helpful assistant

Christine Moss. We have a little more work to do. In the mean time we have a lot of books that were donated, to be catalogued and added to the shelves.





John Olle donated many wonderful books - Jervis Bay; A place of Culture, Science, and Education; Living Echoes; A History of the Shoalhaven.

The Twelve O'clock Whistle - This book is about the Author Barrie Wilford's memories of the 1940s and 50s. It is very interesting and at times funny.

Marlin Tales - It is a history of the local hotels in the district.

Wild Birds Rising is a collection of writing and poems about the Shoalhaven.

Our Town Our People - It is a tribute to the people of Bateman's Bay.

The Shoalhaven - Lots of nice pictures and stories

Braidwood Dear Braidwood - A history of Braidwood and the district - An interesting read.

Books from other districts –

Tales and Legends of Canberra Pioneers;

Sydney area, Sydney Cove 1789-1790;

The Sweat of Their Brows, 100 Years of the Sydney Water Board 1888-1988;

Sydney The Harbour City - Pictorial History of City of Sydney, Sydney Cove 1788;

A true story of a Nation's birth;

From Sydney Cove to Duntroon;

A Family Album of Early Life in Australia

Twentieth Century Architecture in Wollongong - This book is an attempt at recording the buildings from Federation houses, and humble miners' cottages to Industrial Blocks and landscape.

Christmas in the Colonies has lovely illustrations and information

The Girl from Botany Bay is about the true story of Mary Broad the convict who escaped by boat with several men and her child.

Strength of Spirit - pioneering women and their achievements from the first fleet

Colonial Heritage - Historic Buildings of NSW

Red Dust in her Veins is about women of the Pilbara. Such a good read.

All About Ships and Shipping. This gives a description of nautical vocabulary and describes many ships from around the world.

Shipwrecks - This is a wonderful book on the shipwrecks in Australian waters. One was the ship *Sydney Cove* where some of the men walked up the NSW coast going through Ulladulla.

Wreck and Rescue - Only a small book but packed with information.

Childhood at Brindabella – A story of the first ten years of Miles Franklin life.

Outback - This is an interesting read with lovely pictures by Bill Peach. From Broome to Birdsville. From No-Tree to the top end.

The Exploration of Australia - From first sea voyage to satellite discoveries, interesting reading.

The Beauty of Old Russia Land of the Firebird - The book deals with Pre Revolutionary Russia from 1987



FAMILIES OF ULLADULLA ASSOCIATED WITH "THE OLD ULLADULLA CEMETERY"

Article by: Ron Smith Member No: 14363

The Old Cemetery was also known as "*The Cemetery at the Harbour, Racecourse Cemetery, Burrill Cemetery, The Aboriginal Burial Ground, The Paddock*" to name a few.

The cemetery was in use by 1854 and the last known burial was in 1900. Grave markers were mainly wooden and were destroyed by bushfires over many years. Few headstones survived and those that did now stand beside the Princes Highway just south of Ulladulla Toyota.

The Highway was last re-aligned in the 1980s and was laid over the graves. There were objections at the time by residents and, as a compromise, the authorities dedicated a small parcel of Crown Land on which the stones have been displayed. Local stories suggest that this was a family private plot but, thanks to the dedicated historians of the day, we have records in our care listing all the known internments.

On the shelves of Milton Ulladulla Family History Society are the notes of Kath and Tom Shields written 2001 for the Little Forest Family History.

The research undertaken by them included Court Applications and many hours of painstaking approaches to various Government Departments. Thank you to these unsung heroes whose work shows us the forgotten people of early Ulladulla.

This is part of their stories and much more is yet to be discovered about pioneers to this area after their arrival as early settlers.

From the notes:

91 People are buried in the area; 9 were over 60 years of age; 11 were in their 50s; 8 were in their 40s; 4 in their 30s; 4 in their 20s; 3 were teenagers; 55 were aged 5 years and under.

67 are of overseas origins; 1 is shown as half-caste; 23 are aboriginal people.

All are named in the records and we hope, in time, to identify the families to whom they belong.

Here are some of the known stories:

- **Mickey Flynn** was an aboriginal artist of note. His paintings are in galleries around the world as well as The National Gallery at Canberra.
- **Millard Family**, 9 members are buried here.
- **Parson Family**, several members.
- **Hession Family**, 11 members. "*When they passed over nobody would have taken it literally to mean by moving vehicles in a modern world*". Perhaps some thought could be given to an appropriate memorial to the forgotten people of the district. Lest we forget indeed.
- There was a member of the **Allan Family**, from Scotland and Ireland. **Robert** was 21 years of age at the time of his death.
- **Billy Araluen** was said to be 90 years of age when he died. He was from an aboriginal clan and said to have been born at Araluen.
- **Elizabeth Bailey** was 81 years of age and born overseas. Nothing is known of Elizabeth's life or family. **Dorothy Beattie** was born and lived for 12 weeks. Her grandmother was **Susan Allen**.
- The **Bell Family** lost their 17 month old boy **Oswald**. The family moved to the Shoalhaven and beyond shortly afterwards.
- **John Bender** came from Germany to settle. His daughter, **Catherine**, was only 6 months of age when she died. The family moved to Grafton afterwards.
- **Annie Maguire**, was 42 years of age when she died by accident. She and her loving husband were farmers at Durras Mountain (Her small headstone is in the garden behind the larger stones on the highway). What became of the family?
- **Bridget Bowen** was 60 years of age and born in Ireland. Nothing more is known of Bridget's life.

- **George Bowie** was born in India c1800. He was a merchant and a schoolmaster. George died aged 56 years. What became of his wife Janet and 9 children?
- **Sophia Bradley** was 16 years old and married to **Richard Bradley** when she passed away. Sophia was the daughter of another pioneer family, the **Whatman Family**.
- **John Brady** was born in Ireland. He was 44 years of age at his death. Little is known of John's life.
- **Stella Buchan and David Buchan** were both infants when they died in 1887. What became of their parents, William and Louisa?
- **Francis Budd** was 62 when he passed. All that is known is that he was fishing off Batemans Bay in 1883 when he and two companions were rescued safely from a boating mishap. He died a widower in 1892. What is the story of Francis?
- An aboriginal infant, **George Bunyah**, was born in 1883. He was 2 ½ years old when he passed. Nothing more is known of his family heritage.

SUDDEN DEATH.

The District Coroner, Dr. Ryan held an inquiry on Friday the 5th inst., at Ulladulla touching the death of Francis Budd who dropped dead at the rear of the Post Office, Ulladulla, that morning. The following jury was empanelled: - Thomas C. Kennedy (foreman) Davis, R. Alien. A. Jones, T. King, J.E. Mitchell, H. Finch; Capt. Johnson, Garbutt, A. Francis, and W. Turl. Jury having viewed the body the following was elicited.

Constable Penlington deposed, that he visited residence of Mr Gambell on the morning of the 5th inst., and there saw the body lying in the back yard which he recognised as that of the deceased. He examined the body and found no marks except a few bruises on the face. In one of the pockets, he found thirteen shillings and ninepence. He believed deceased was a widower and had a house and five acres of land at Ulladulla worth about £120. He knew deceased prior to his death, but did not know whether he died intestate. He considered him a healthy man.

The Ulladulla and Milton Times Sat 13 Feb 1892 Page 3

This is a small snapshot of the forgotten people of Old Ulladulla/Milton. They were left behind and forgotten as families moved on and away from their resting places. They are waiting below the road and properties covering the old Ulladulla Burial Grounds. I hope we may bring their stories out into the light for future researchers looking for family connections along the NSW South Coast.



Selection of historic newspaper articles from the Ulladulla-Milton area

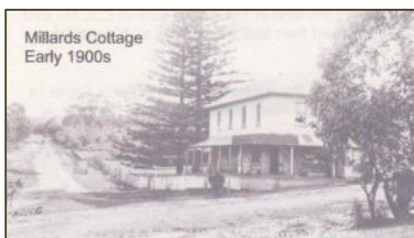
Ulladulla - SINCE our last visit to this important end of the electorate, a great change has taken place. Improvements everywhere abound. Progress has taken gigantic strides in both private and public buildings, and the stamp of prosperity appears in all parts of this enterprising district. The whole community, from the farmer to the volunteer, seem to be imbued with a spirit of "go-a headism" and advancement, a characteristic highly commendable in themselves, and worthy of the initiation of their languid and sedentary Shoalhaven neighbours, who, were the Angel Gabriel really to come and sound the last trump, would only arouse themselves from their lethal state to oppose and obstruct him.



In the first place, the main roads in the vicinity of Milton and Ulladulla, are in first rate condition, and considering the small allowance granted by the powers that be for the maintenance of our roads, the gentlemen entrusted with its expenditure at Ulladulla have exhibited an amount of tact and judgement quite foreign to the generality of road trustees in neighbouring localities. Tenders for the erection of the bridge over the Croobyar or Narawalla Creek, were to be received up to Tuesday last, but it is not expected that any of our local workmen will obtain the contract, the plans and, specifications being at Kiama police office, instead of at Nowra, is rather indicative that it is the desire of the Government that a certain

party, who is at present in that locality, should be the contractor. Be that as it may, the completion of the bridge will be hailed with satisfaction by the people of Ulladulla.

At the Boat Harbor, we notice that the pier, in a shattered state on our last visit, has been made "more beautiful than ever. The whole of the sunken stones have been raised and re-laid in cement, and is calculated now to withstand the battering of the mighty waves, which the easterly gales send in with such terrific force from across that misnomer, the Pacific Ocean. **The light house constructed of iron is being erected about the centre of the pier** and will be completed about the end of the year. On our visit the erection was reared to the height intended, with the exception of the roof. The lighthouse will no doubt be a great acquisition to the steam company; but as regards the benefits to be derived by sailing vessels off the land, the service will be utterly useless. If the light was intended to be a beacon to our fleet, of coasters or vessel making their way along the coast the idea was simply ridiculous, and the party who recommended the Government to spend £3000 in the erection of this lighthouse on its present site, is, in our opinion, nothing less than an ass and as such ought to be dismissed at once from the public service.



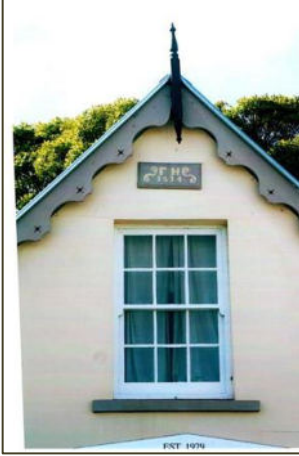
In turning from this wasteful expenditure of public money, our attention was attracted to a building in course of erection situated on the edge of the road about midway between the residence of JV Wareham Esq, CPS and the extensive premises, known as Millard's tannery. This building is intended for the Ulladulla School of Arts, and will be when completed a pretty and commodious structure reflecting credit upon the enterprising and spirited community around it. The walls are being built of rubble stone, to be eventually stuccoed. The height of the walls, we understand, are to

be eighteen feet, which will, from appearance, be ready for roofing in the course of a few weeks.

On the road to-Milton, we noticed several new erections, and at the junction of the Croobyar road stands the two storied block comprising the stores and private dwelling of Mr Adam McArthur, which has been in course of erection for the last two years, and being completed, is now occupied by its spirited proprietor.



The Milton branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney recently established here, is situated between Mr. F. Hall's Post office store and the English Church, and though small compared with other branches of the same institution in other towns, is very snug and suitable for the transaction of the monetary business of the district, and will, we are inclined to believe, turn out a more profitable speculation, than some branches established in more populous communities. We may mention that the opening and temporary management, of the branch has been vested in the hands of a gentleman, well known in the southern districts in connection with banking affairs - Mr J. W. Dargin.



The Post Office Stores, the property of Mr Frederick Hall, has undergone considerable extensions, renovations and improvements, externally and internally, and the magnificent plate glass front, if not excelling, may vie with many of the leading establishments of the metropolis.

Marks' dilapidated old store, which had been an eye sore for a long time, is now converted, after much painting and glazing and extensive alterations, into a first-class hotel under the sign of "The Volunteer," and now has a very smart appearance. This house is conducted by Mr J. J. Russell, formerly of Greenwell Point. The old "Star" is now guided by Mr "Wheatly, while the hotel at the Harbor appears to be well and ably conducted by Mr Harrison.

Immediately in the rear of the Commercial Bank, and nearly opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, the building of the Congregational Church has been commenced. This new edifice is to be forty-six feet in height, twenty-six feet in width, and the walls fifteen feet. The walls of the building are to be of stone eighteen inches in thickness on foundations of two feet. The foundations and base course were just completed at the time of our visit. The roof is to be of galvanized iron. The contractors for this erection are Messrs J. Poole, and J. P. Moore, and the amount of contract price is £577. ...

The Shoalhaven News, Ulladulla and Southern Coast Districts Advertiser Sat 18 Nov 1871 Page 3



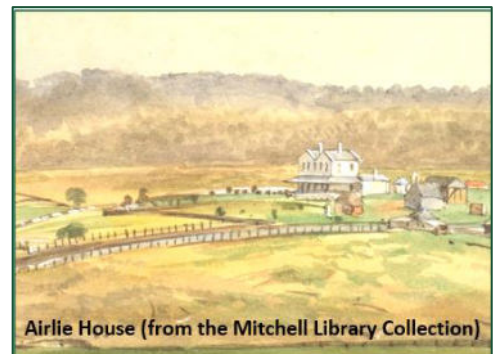
ULLADULLA AND MILTON DISTRICTS. (FROM OUR TRAVELLING REPORTER)

*In years gone-by Ulladulla had a high reputation for shipbuilding, and in the time of the late **Mr. David Warden**, of Airlie House, some of our smartest coasters were launched there. The port, too, has its mystery of the sea. One little ship sailed away from its quiet waters and never returned. But the whirr of the saw, the gleam of the broad axe, and the tap of the mallet are no more; and of the once busy shipyard but a few decaying timbers remain.*

Various events have combined to bring this about; but the predominating cause is no doubt the rapid strides made in iron shipbuilding. There is still plenty of timber in the district in every way suited for shipbuilding. But it has become scarce near the port; and consequently, it is a matter of great labor and expense to make it available.

The fine farming land of Milton also attracted settlers; and, to supply these settlers with their requirements, this town of Milton was built. This drew the business away from the port. At present the port, or the harbor as it is called, is a very quiet place; and its industries are few. They are not, however, dead, but only sleeping. Mr. Millard, J. P., has an extensive tannery and store. Mr. Knapp and Mr. Evans have each bacon curing factories. A tidy and well managed hotel is kept by Mr. and Mrs. Cork; and the Illawarra Steamship Co.'s boats call four times a week, and land and take on passengers and merchandise. A local company of merchants has also the Schooner Elsinore trading to the port.

The harbor itself is a snug little haven, sheltered from every wind save the east. It is of a circular shape. To its shape it is said to owe its name; for, being of the shape of a Spanish dollar, ancient navigators gave it the name of Holy Dollar, which has become corrupted into Ulladulla-at least, so says the ancient chronicle. Surrounded by a sandstone formation, it is yet eminently basaltic information. These basaltic strata are imposed in thin flakes of a foot or eighteen inches in thickness. They overspread the whole surface of the beach and may be quarried by simply pinching out with a crowbar. Many of the blocks have been used for constructing the break- water. The Government made a very fair attempt to build a harbor within a harbor at Ulladulla. But it is the opinion of many that the works ought to have been begun on the farthest seaward point of the harbor, rather than in the little nook where they are. What has been done, however, is



very substantial, and proves a great convenience to the port. A lighthouse marks the outer end of the breakwater, which ought also to have been placed farther seaward. The harbor is supplied with leading lights for the guidance of mariners at night. The fertile lands of Milton, and the growing and expanding dairy-farming and saw-milling business of the district would always secure Ulladulla an existence; but fortunately, she is not wholly dependent on those resources, substantial though they may be. She has resources of her own which her early settlers little dreamed of—such as her inexhaustible manganese beds (still on Government land and hitherto unworked) and her kaolin beds, specimens of which attracted so much attention at the Paris Exhibition and were spoken of so highly in Sydney. Large blocks of this kaolin lie massed on the west of the southern point of the harbor. In addition, there are large beds of fireclay and porcelain clay, so that Ulladulla has a source of wealth in her pottery clays that will someday support a large population and cause her to flourish again.

Five miles beyond Milton there is an extensive coal deposit in the coast range in the Hawkesbury sandstone series of rocks. This someday will be found very valuable in working those clay beds. The town site of Ulladulla is very good. There is an abundance of water; and town lots are selling at about £10 each.



Four miles inland from Ulladulla stands the town of Milton, which was founded about sixteen years ago and is now a thriving place, with three hotels, several stores, two bands, and several churches. It is surrounded by some of the most fertile lands on the southern coast. The formation is granite, and the soil decomposed granite alluvium on the hills and vegetable moulds in the valleys. Dairying is the principal business of the people; and the farms are generally well managed. Feed is largely

provided for the animals by green corn, planter's friend, and green oats, while every farm has its capacious hay shed well filled with oaten hay for the winter - a feature of dairying which is not noticeable on every portion of the southern coast. Butter-making is principally carried on by the De Laval separator method. Fruits and cereals are grown, but not extensively; in fact, not enough is grown to meet local requirements. But there can be no mistake about the samples. The specimens exhibited at the recent local show were equal to any of the products of other portions of the colony.



Mr. King, an old identity of the southern coast, on his almond farm, on a charming peninsula of Lake Burrell, has an orchard which shows the fruit-producing powers of the district. Orange trees thrive wonderfully well; some five years old trees of various varieties being fairly loaded down with fruit. Peaches and quinces are also healthy and numerous, while mulberry trees bear three crops a year. Vines are grown to a considerable extent, and bear handsomely; but the oidium is troublesome. In short, vegetables, fruits and cereals may be found growing side by side on Mr. King's farm in luxuriant profusion, and without any assistance from irrigation. Mr. Faust, a German gentleman, has a vineyard near Ulladulla. This is also very prosperous.

Milton may be called an oasis, as it is surrounded by a densely timbered sandstone country, with a generally poorer class of soil than that to be found around Milton. Large areas of this country still belong to the Government, and in many instances are thickly covered with very valuable timber, though it is too far from the market to be utilised at present. Between Milton and Nowra, a distance of 40 miles, the country is sparsely populated; but there are some rich valleys where settlements have been formed; and owners are beginning to make clearances in many more places throughout this extensive district. In local parlance the soil is described as very poor. Compared with the rich basaltic soils of Kiama, the alluvium deposits of Broughton's Creek and Nowra, and the granite hills of Milton, it is no doubt poor; but it is just such soil as is to be found around Ryde, the Pennant Hills, and Lane Cove, and would, if cleared, no doubt yield fruit as handsomely as these districts do. In-deed this is proved by the productiveness of the small patches which have been cleared.

Lake Burrell [sic] is an extensive sheet of water, sending its arms many miles in various directions, and having a shallow



entrance to the sea. It is fairly well stocked with fish, though very little advantage has been taken of their presence. Mr. Ireland, an enterprising Canadian, who has seen many ups and downs in the colony, has a sawmill on the southern shore of the lake near the sea. He cuts timber, principally blackbutt, for local requirements, and sends a cargo to Sydney.

occasionally to keep things moving as he says. But he complains that it will not pay to send timber to the Sydney market. Mr. Ireland and his family hold a 400 acres selection on the so-called bad lands, some portion of which has been cleared and maize and vegetables planted. These crops look thriving and give every indication of luxuriant growth when proper care and attention are bestowed upon their cultivation. It is Mr. Ireland's intention to clear and sow to grass and begin dairy farming. Whatever may be said of the bad lands of the southern coast, we have evidence that although not as fertile as the lands already cleared, they are sufficiently fertile with proper management to yield sustenance to a large population of agriculturists. In their present barren tangled condition, encumbered with heavy forests and undergrowths, of course they look uninviting, and contrast strongly with the verdant dairying hills of Milton, But the newcomer forgets that forty years ago those hills looked just as uninviting, and it was in just such scenes that the hardy



pioneers of the district, many of whom are still alive and resting under the shade of their own **fig trees**, after the fierce struggle of early times, began operations. And the beginner of to-day should remember that the well-appointed homes and verdant fields of the early settlers were hewn out of just such wildernesses as he sees before him; and if he will go and do likewise, his reward will be the same. There is still room in the southern district to make homes for men of grit, who are not afraid to handle an axe and a brush hook; and there are considerable areas of Government land scattered about. But before proceeding too far, the intending selector should first be very careful as to the locality he may choose.

Australian Town and Country Journal Sat 9 Apr 1887 Page 17

MILTON NEWS

Holidaying at Molly-Moke is Mr. and Mrs. Stan Bartlett and daughter Maree from Milton.

They intend to stay a few weeks, and by all accounts the water is very nice for swimming, also the surf.

South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus Mon 26 Mar 1951 Page 5

A long journey for a holiday – Milton to Mollymook – a five minute drive today!

Captain Cook's Pigeon House, and Early South Coast Exploration.

By R. H. Cabbage, F.L.S.

Bateman's Bay to Moruya.

In June, 1828, Surveyor Florance made a survey of Bateman Bay and the lower Clyde which he refers to as the Bhundoo River. The survey extended up to and included portion of the Buckenbowra River, which is referred to as McLeay's River. Surveyor Hoddle had just previously traversed the upper portion of Buckenbowra, having arrived there from Braidwood and Araluen. It would seem that Bateman Bay and the lower Clyde were known by the natives as Yangary, while the portion above the vicinity of the Bay was called Bundoo. Florance gives the name of the Bay as 'Yangary or Bate man Bay.' On the 8th June, 1828, Florance notes that on the eastern side of McLeay's River, a little more than a mile above its junction with the Clyde, and below the site of what is now known as Austin's Crossing, there was a deserted bark hut and stockyard. He incidentally mentions at this period that he was in possession, of a boat.

The creek now known as "Waterfall Creek" is called 'Gobah' by Florance, and is evidently the native name.

In view of the name of McLeay being applied to the lower portion of Buckenbowra River, it seems not unlikely that the hut and stockyard referred to were the property of **Alexander Macleay**, who may have intended to start a settlement there. This portion of the **Buckehbowra River** is now often called Runnymede Creek or River, after a homestead on its banks which, many years ago, was named Runnymede by Mr. Henry Clay Bumell, after a spot on the Thames near where he went to school, and where the famous Magna Charta [sic] was signed by King John in 1215. As evidence of the amount of adjusting necessary in connection with the old link chain, the following note made by Florance in his field-book on the 28th May, 1828, is of interest: - 'Chain up to this date measured 67 feet, now minus three quarters of an inch.'



Surveyor Florance traversed, the coast from Bateman Bay to Moruya (the native name of which he spelt Mherroyah), and gives Whaynbah as the native name of the spot now called Pretty Point.

On Sir Thomas Mitchell's Colony map of 1834, Pretty Point is called Wainba. Florance records Burrewarra, Tomaga, and Broulee as native names, but with slightly different spellings from that now adopted. He also refers to Tollgate Islands, at the entrance to Bateman Bay, and calls one of the inner ones the Toll house, and as this appears to be the first time that these islands are referred to by any designation, it may fairly be assumed that the name of Tollgates was bestowed upon them by Surveyor Florance.

Thomas Florance, who went to New Zealand from Australia, was a son of James Florance, Barrister-at-Law, Chichester, England, also an uncle of Dr. E. H. Florance, of Cootamundra, New South Wales, and grandfather of Mrs. J. E. Pinhey, of the Commercial Bank, Milton. He died in New Zealand in the sixties.



Surveyor Robert Hoddle Visits the Pigeon House

Surveyor Hoddle visited the Pigeon House and Yadbora in October, 1828, and this was probably the second occasion when white men reached the locality. He was engaged in making some of the early surveys on the South Coast, and was at Buckenbowra as early as March, 1828. When carrying his survey from the Araluen district to the mouth of the Moruya River, he notes that there was occupation at Merrecumbene in that month. On about the 14th March, 1828, he recorded the position of G. D. Browne's house, hut and stockyard on the south side of the creek at Buckenbowra, and refers to the stream as the Buckenbowra or McLeay River. In October of the same year, he refers to the house as the overseer's house.

It would seem that he used **pack bullocks for transport**, a common custom in those days, for on one occasion,

when surveying in the Kangaroo Valley district, he came to a very steep part of the mountains, and mentions that the bullocks refused to walk up without the loads. In one of his field-books is a pencil sketch of a horse and bullock, each with a pack saddle, headstall, and blinkers. On the 14th June, 1831, when in the Bundanoon district, he made the following entry: - "Encamped in the dusk at Marilee Creek, having had an accident in descending the mountain to kill a young red pack bullock, named Shafter, No. 150, bred at Emu Plains."

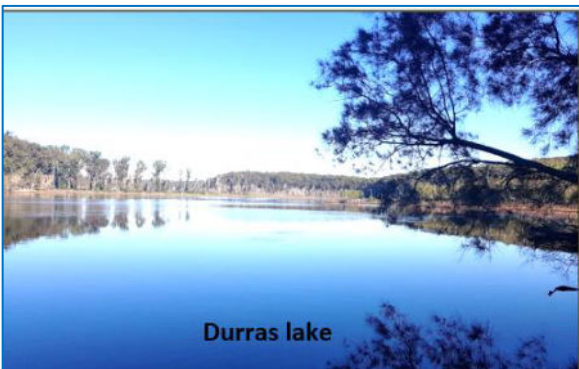


In 1828 he surveyed the Clyde River up to a point just above its junction with the Yadbora Creek, and recorded the native name of the Pigeon House as Tytdel or Diddel, from where he took bearings, to prominent points. His surveys made it clear that the Pigeon House River of Alexander Berry did not flow eastwards to the ocean, but was really the main head water of the Clyde.

On the 27th December, 1828, Hoddle commenced a survey from his camp at Croobyar (which he spelt Croobear), and traversed down Narrawallee Creek until he joined Surveyor Florance's survey a little more than half a mile below the present bridge on the main Nowra Road.

His next work, apparently undertaken the following day, was to traverse the creek upwards to its source from Croobyar, and he mentions the presence of huts somewhere near the site of the present homestead. A few days afterwards he traversed part of Woodstock Creek, which he called a branch of Bhurriel Creek, to the tidal water, and joined Surveyor Florance's survey.

Hoddle's reference to the huts at Croobyar in December, 1828, seems to be one of the earliest authentic records of the formation of the settlement on the Croobyar Estate by Alexander Macleay. Had anyone been in occupation in May, 1828, it would seem likely that Surveyor Florance would have continued his survey of Narrawallee Creek up to this point, and it therefore seems probable that occupation commenced at some period between May and December, 1828. The names of Wolladerrah and Nurrahwhere, as quoted by Surveyor Florance, were given by Hoddle as Ulladulla and Narrawallee respectively.



Durras lake

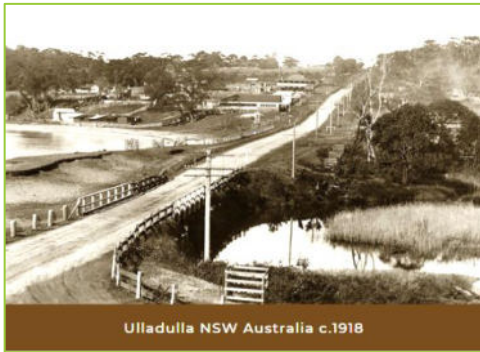
Early in April, 1829, Hoddle made a survey of **Durras Water**, and referred to it as a salt lagoon. The first reference to the name 'Durras' appears on Surveyor J. Larmer's road plan, dated August, 1840. On the 23rd April, 1829, Surveyor Hoddle commenced a survey which ran northerly from 'Mr. McLeay's land, Croobyar Creek,' to St. George's Basin. In this survey he shows the position of a bridge across the creek just below the huts, and indicates the position of a hut and stockyard on the north side of the Creek. He also records the word Maniya, as though it might have been a native name. This survey shows the position of 'Sawyer's Huts' just south of the Yackungarra

Creek, which crosses the present main road on the northern portion of **Kendalldale**; and at a point about a quarter of a mile south of this, a track is shown bearing south-easterly towards Narrawalle across what subsequently, became Mr. James Warden's property. A note regarding this reads: - 'Thick, impenetrable brush; track cut through for the purpose of carrying away the cedar.

(The spelling of names is how it was reported)



The Ulladulla and Milton Times Sat 2 Sep 1916 Page 8



ULLADULLA. "Little Harbour of Safety." (By W. Gilmour)

When a boisterous north-easterly comes rollicking with foam-capped waves into the deep, U-shaped Bay of Ulladulla, the little fleet of fishing boats that send their catches to the Sydney market lies snugly at anchor behind the old stone pier.

Against the substantial jetty built by Elphinston and Shand seventy years ago, the waves leap, sending showers of foam over the stacks of sleepers and sawn timber awaiting shipment. It once carried the **lighthouse that now stands with its never-failing automatic light on the green sward at**

Warden's Head. In 1839, this was a fixed light of 800 candle power, visible at twelve miles, but in 1920 acetylene gas was installed and the light altered to group-flashing white of 1500 candle power, and visible for 15 miles.



Close to the bay and in the centre of the town there is an old creeper-clad stone cottage, which was occupied by David Warden long ago, and in the kitchen window of which he used to keep burning the only guiding light the port possessed. This old identity was a builder of ships in the early days of settlement.



In this connection it may be remembered that that adventurous ex-minister, the **Rev. Thomas Kendall**, grandfather of the poet, Henry Kendall, was drowned near Wreck Bay when transporting cedar to Sydney in his own cutter. Surveyor Thomas Florance had made a survey of the coast in the immediate vicinity of Ulladulla in 1828, the same year as that in which Kendall and his sawyers landed at Ulladulla from Kiama.

As business on the coast grew in volume, steam soon began to take the place of sail. The Kiama Steam Navigation Company was incorporated in 1853, and the company's first steamer arrived from the Clyde shipyards in 1855. It was a paddle-steamer of 104 tons, and its advent caused considerable rivalry among the existing freight carriers. The next steamer mentioned as belonging to the company was **the Nora Creina**, which was followed by the purchase of the steamer William IV, from the Twofold Bay Pastoral Company. The latter, a wooden paddle-steamer of 104 tons, was built at Clarence Town in 1831, and bore the suggestive nick-name of "Puffing Billy." On the year following her purchase, the company changed its name to the "Illawarra Steam Navigation Company."

If you follow the winding, sandy track bordered by wind-twisted trees and bracken to where the lighthouse stands to-day, you will see that the promontory was once occupied by a lighthouse-keeper, for the dome of a concrete well marks the spot, and a few hard-to-kill bulbs still struggle through the matted grass and make a sorry attempt to bloom in the face of nature's enveloping forces. (The residence was sold and removed to Milton, where it now stands facing the main road and the tumbling mountains to the westward.)



Below the bluff headland is a surface of striated rock, and beyond, a channel, where hundreds of mutton birds were seen last summer bobbing like fishermen's floats in the uneasy swell from the south. Over the long black reef that lies farther out, the ocean pours its restless waves in streams of snowy lace.

TIMBER MILL AND TANNERY

The port of Ulladulla was spaciouly planned, and the cottages and bungalows cover a wide area, the centre of which is Millard's Creek. Close to its southern bank, and adjacent to the beach, stands the well-appointed timber mill of Mitchell Bros., Narooma, which turns out quantities of building material for home and overseas trade, whilst on the opposite bank is a lately reorganised tannery, where many classes of leather are manufactured for the city trade. Tanning was done in the fifties of last century on the same site by



Richard Millard, grandfather of the present Mr. Syd. Millard, who is the port's shipping agent. The latter's uncle, **Captain William Millard** (Infantry) was a member of Parliament for the district, and a great friend of the aborigines, who in the old days were camped on the south side of the bay.

On the roadside close to the town a few old tombstones testify to the life of bygone days, whilst half a mile farther south a road-sign, "Racecourse Creek," implies that Ulladulla held race meetings 50 years ago, though today the area is overgrown and wild. Lovely Lake Burrill, with its widespread arms of restful, tidal water, is only two miles from Ulladulla. In the centre of this holiday settlement grows a magnificent kauri pine, 104 feet in height, whilst southward of the lake many aboriginal curios have been dug up. In this locality, too, is situated the Woodburn



State Forest of 4000 acres, managed by an energetic young Australian, and giving proof of the adaptability of **Pinus caribaea** and **Pinus taeda** on poor soils. Other members of the pine family that have been grown on the 1400 acres of cleared land are insignis, muricata, and pinaster. The plan adopted with success is to transplant 16-months-old seedlings 10 feet apart, or at the rate of 435 trees to the acre.

When one surveys the great stumps and charred logs on clearings prepared for the pines, one marvels at the tremendous work it entails. Then, after the seedling is placed in the soil, the vast areas have to be kept clear of rapid regrowth's until the young trees expand and join hands for mutual protection. A number of unemployed have been occupied on this area.

Approaching Ulladulla by the main road through Milton, the eye is charmed by tree-crowned knolls and green-grassed slopes suggesting an English countryside. But suddenly the fast service car that has taken you from Nowra emerges from the bush and reveals a beautiful bay, with its half-moon of golden sand bordering the road, and



in a trice luggage and bundles of daily papers are being dumped at the junction of the jetty road, where two stores and the indispensable bowser mark the centre of this delightful township.

Several interpretations have been given to the name "Ulladulla," but for preference let us take that supplied by Micky the black, who, as he furrowed a semi-circle on the damp sand with his forefinger, aptly described it to one of the old pioneers still living in the district as, "**A little harbour of safety.**"

The Sydney Morning Herald Sat 1 Jun 1935

Page 11



Milton, April 3, 1900.

To Aid. W. Riley, Esq., J.P., Mayor Municipal District of Ulladulla.

Sir, the question of advocating the claims of Sassafras as a suitable site for the Federal Capital has been brought prominently before some of the undersigned during the past few days, and it is thought that a special effort might result in much benefit to the district, and to this end we respectfully invite you to convene a public meeting, say, for Saturday night, April 14, at 7 p.m., to fully discuss this important question. We will do our best to prevent the meeting lapsing for want of supporters. We are, sir, yours faithfully,

James Cork, A. H. Simmons, A. T. Hapgood, Arthur Ewin, S. I. Richardson, C. A. Cork, Jewell Rutter, Henry Rauch, James Francis, William Bryce, P. J. Mandelson, S. Pickering, H.C. Blackburn, Robert Pearman, D. Pearman, John Miller, Albert Sinclair, Thomas Hession, James Trapp, C. F. Warden.

Milton, April 6th, 1900.

To James Cork, Esq., J.P., and other gentlemen signing requisition: —

I have much pleasure in acceding to your request, and hereby convene a public meeting for the purpose required, to be held in the Council Chambers, Milton, on Saturday, 14th inst., at 7 p.m. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM RILEY, Mayor, Municipal District of Ulladulla.

The Ulladulla and Milton Times Sat 14 Apr 1900 Page 5

I selected the above articles from the local newspapers while researching for our upcoming Shopkeepers book. They described our beautiful area and history and I thought they were all very interesting.

I added the last article for the capital of Australia being suggested to be Sassafras. Imagine if that had been agreed.

Sassafras is a locality in the City of Shoalhaven. It lies on the Braidwood Road, where it passes over the coastal escarpment on the road between Nowra and Nerriga. This road continues southwest to Braidwood, and the road has only recently been completely sealed. Sassafras is a small community of orchards in an area of extensive national parks. At the 2016 census, it had a population of 31.



Milton-Ulladulla District History of Shopkeepers, Businesses and their Families



Our Society's sub-committee are working together to produce the above named book. We received a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society to assist us with the printing of this publication. The research is scheduled to be finished at the end of May and will be printed by the end of November this year. We are planning to have it ready for sale in December as long as all goes to plan.



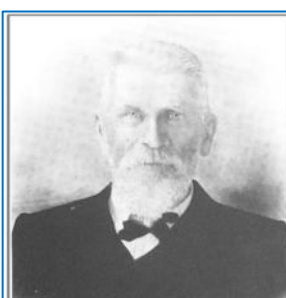
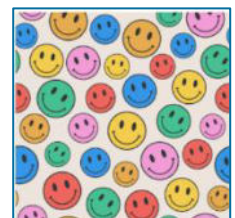
Our dedicated and enthusiastic

team members are (in alpha order) Cheryl Baker, Lindsay Bishell, Bev Evans, John Evans, Julie Gullan, Meg Hammond, Lynn Heller, Barbara Lawson, Margaret Magnusson, Christine Moss, Rita Newman, Judie Rose, Ron Smith, John Sparks.



The concept of the book came from John Sparks, who at the time was our president. He thought it would be a great project to do after the *Timber Workers and their Families* book was completed. I, in all my ignorance offered to be the editor and help with researching. At that time, I was in the middle of setting up and editing our timber book and thought a second book would be easy. Little did I know this was going to take all my time and I would live and breathe it for months on end! I was given

the title of project leader, of a very willing and helpful team. I am enjoying the work however I will be delighted when it goes to the printers. I am certain all of us will be ready for **"PARTY TIME"**.



George Millard, son of **Richard Earnest Millard and Ann Ridler** was born 23rd July 1845 at Wollongong. He married **Jane Ann Cork** 18th February 1867 at Ulladulla.
George was involved with the local tannery business with his brother. Below is a photograph of the tannery by Millard's Creek before it was burnt in the 1939 fire.



In the following 1893 article a few of the locals were misbehaving. This article also mentions some of the local places like the barber shop etc.



This is a small snippet from the shopkeeper's book

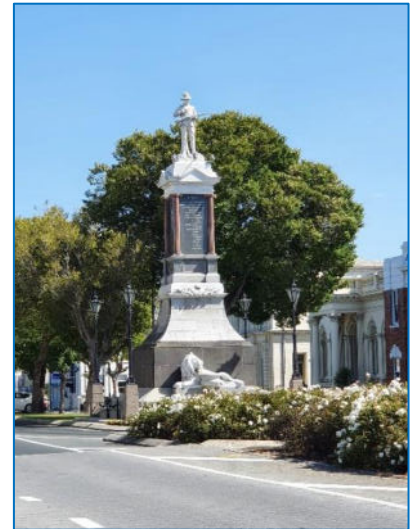
Travelling around Various Cenotaphs in New Zealand Story by Barbara Lawson



During a sentimental journey in February this year to my country of origin, New Zealand, I was struck by the variety of War Memorials in towns, especially small ones, and decided to create a photographic record as I travelled.



Many of these places have populations of only a few hundred although this is increased by the surrounding farming communities to perhaps a couple of thousand. These numbers have not changed greatly over the years.



During both World Wars the majority of soldiers were conscripted but went willingly due to the strong ties to Great Britain or 'Home'. The resulting hardships on the farms due to labour shortages were often permanent when the men did not return.



However, the same surnames regularly recur on

the Cenotaphs as still exist in the local communities.

Befitting the first country in the world to enfranchise women in 1893 (and as the daughter and granddaughter of Registered Nurses) I was gratified to see on some that the sacrifice of nurses was mentioned along with that of soldiers.

I noticed the artistry of the stonemasons, the variety of materials used, the styles (not always a phallic shape), the British lion and the frequency with which the word 'glory' occurred.

Under the level winter sky
I saw a thousand Christs go by.
They sang an idle song and free
As they went up to calvary.

Careless of eye and coarse of lip,
They marched in holiest fellowship.
That heaven might heal the world,
they gave
Their earth-born dreams to deck the
grave.

With souls unpurged and steadfast
breath
They supped the sacrament of death.
And for each one, far off, apart,
Seven swords have rent a woman's
heart.

Poem by Marjorie Pickthall



Mawson, Dinte and Me

Story by Dr D. Wayne Murray

This year (2023) marks a century of a number of significant events within Australian history, including the commencement of construction on what is now referred to as “Old Parliament House” in Canberra. Australia in 1923 was emerging, with the rest of the world, from the death and destruction of World War I. The Great Depression is still in the distant future and life is returning to normal.

My interest in the topic which forms the basis of this story, was first piqued whilst searching the Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages website for a relative’s date of death. The date was listed simply as March, 1923. Now I have seen some unusual things relating to death dates including some in the form thought to have died on a particular date. The assumed date related to someone who had been missing / lost for several days and the date on which they were found was listed as the date of death.

My investigations resulted in this story, which brings together a locally built boat, a fateful voyage a hundred years ago and my extended family.

Mawson - The Boat



The boat which features in this story has been referred to variously by the prefix SS (steamship), TSS (twin screw steamer) or QGS (Queensland Government Steamer). The first two appear to be interchangeable when referring to the *Douglas Mawson* and the last (QGS) refers to the chartering of the vessel by a state government. Throughout this work I refer to the SS *Douglas Mawson* as a boat, as it was a small vessel destined for coastal cargo voyages.

I am indebted to Tracey (2007) for his detective work on the TSS *Douglas Mawson*. If this humble article sparks your curiosity, then I recommend that you seek this excellent publication (available free online). In 1912 spotted gums (*Eucalyptus maculata* (Hook.)) were selected, felled and machined from the forests near Borley (Bawley) Point. At the time there was a thriving colony of wooden boat builders operating in and around Bawley Point. Some of these logs were used in the construction of boats destined for the coastal trade of goods up and down the New South Wales Coast.

The TSS *Douglas Mawson* (Registration Number: 136387) was 43.16 m long, of 333 gross tonnage, with a beam of 9.36 m and a draught of 2.38 m. The hull of the boat was constructed by Mr W. Setttee (Tracey, 2007) for A. (Alfred) & E. (Edward) Ellis, sawmillers of Bawley Point (Magnusson, M. and Milton Ulladulla Family History Society, 2018). The TSS *Douglas Mawson* was a Timber Trading vessel, launched on 11 April 1914, having been under construction since 1912 (Tracey 2007). The TSS *Douglas Mawson* was launched as a hull and towed to Sydney for the fitting of engineering requisites and propulsion units (Tracey, 2007). It was named in honour of the great Australian Antarctic Explorer Sir Douglas Mawson.

After fitting out, the vessel began service between Sydney and Nambucca Heads in northern New South Wales. In the winter of 1914, the vessel was reported as having run aground near Hat Head northern New South Wales. After being re-floated, it continued its trade along the New South Wales coast.

On approximately the 30th of December of 1914, the TSS *Douglas Mawson* encountered an exceptionally violent and heavy storm accompanied by heavy rains and hail whilst *en route* to Nambucca Heads from Sydney.

Tracey (2007) outlines the multiple attempts to drag the TSS *Douglas Mawson* off the sand by the TSS *Our Elsie* and a “considerable rig consisting of three anchors connected with rope blocks and tackle, pulled by a team of 26 horses.”

The *Nambucca & Bellinger News* of 8 January 1915 reported:

“... a very heavy sea was running at the time, and it was believed that the steamer drifted into a current; she then swung around, and those in charge lost control over the vessel and she was driven close nose first on to the beach at a point about a quarter of a mile south of Hat Head”

It has been speculated that the re-floating of a well-grounded vessel would subject the hull to extreme forces, and it was suggested that the TSS *Douglas Mawson* leaked thereafter and indeed was never the same again (Tracey, 2007).

Whilst it has been said that the vessel had been intended to carry wood between Sydney and Bawley Point, Tracey (2007) could find no supporting evidence to suggest it ever returned to Bawley Point. In 1920 it was purchased by the Queensland Government and was known as QGS *Douglas Mawson* (Advocate, 1920)

The 1923 Incident

In 1923, the SS *Douglas Mawson* was chartered by John Burke Pty Ltd for one round trip to Gulf ports, to replace the SS *Kallatina*, the regular ship in the trade. The SS *Kallatina* was being overhauled at the time. Renamed the QGS *Douglas Mawson*, it left Brisbane for Normanton and Bourketown via Thursday Island on March 9, 1923, having recently been thoroughly overhauled. (Tracey, 2007)

The *Douglas Mawson* crew on this voyage consisted of:

George Finch Tune (Captain); **Richard Shewing** (First Mate); **Robert Douglas Thompson** (Chief Engineer); **John Fraser** (Donkeyman); **John Tully** and **Hector Vivian Dinte** (Fireman / Driver); **Robert Nixon** (Cook / Steward); **James Donald Laird**, **Archie McNeill**, **Christian Neilsen**, **William Rowe** and **William Nugent** (Able Seaman); **Maurice Giese** (Ordinary Seaman)

There was no provision for passenger accommodation on the QGS *Douglas Mawson*, and there were insufficient life jackets to provide for the passengers and crew (Tracey 2007). Indeed, the QGS *Douglas Mawson* never carried regular paying passengers (Tracey, 2007). There were no passengers listed for the voyage from Brisbane to Thursday Island. Six passengers boarded QGS *Douglas Mawson* bound from Thursday Island to Burketown and Normanton.

In addition to the 12 crew, the following 7 passengers registered for the return voyage from Burketown to Cairns comprising of the Willett family:

Frederick Thomas Willett (born 1883); **Alice Willett** (nee Stevens) (born 1886); **Alice May Hughes** (born 1909) #; **William Harold Willett** (born 1917); **Elizabeth Martha Willett** (born 1918); **Frederick Thomas Willett** (born 1920); **Norma Florence Willett** (born 1922)

Alice May Hughes was Alice Steven's daughter and Frederick Thomas Willett's step-daughter.

I have included the year of birth of the passengers to indicate the age range of the children from 1 to 14 years old.

Captain Tune, the captain of the QGS *Douglas Mawson*, intended to sail for Thursday Island at daylight on 26 March 1923. The Torres Strait group in Northern Queensland is generally regarded as a cyclone free zone (Tracey, 2007). In March of 1923 a cyclone formed in the Coral Sea, crossed over the tip of Cape York before traversing the Gulf of Carpentaria. Tracey (2007) speculates that although the Brisbane Weather Bureau issued reports regarding the cyclone, Captain Tune was not advised of Tropical Cyclone 40 by John Burke Pty Ltd, prior to crossing the Albert River Bar (near Burketown) into the open sea. The QGS *Douglas Mawson* was last seen approximately 5 miles (8km) west of the Stanley River, heading in a south-westerly direction (Tracey, 2007). *The Rockhampton Morning of Bulletin* of April 28 states that the *Douglas Mawson* was last seen on the 28th of March.

On Wednesday, 20 June, 1923 a Commission of Inquiry was instigated in Brisbane, to investigate and report upon the loss of the QGS *Douglas Mawson* (Tracey, 2007). The Commission's primary concern was the seaworthiness of the QGS *Douglas Mawson* "at the time or close to the time of charter" (Tracey 2007). There were demonstrated design problems, including that the vehicle was underpowered and difficult to steer, particularly in heavy seas and strong winds, which were not addressed. It was also mentioned that the QGS

Douglas Mawson was reported many times to have “shipped water”, i.e. water was leaking into the hull. Much was made of the fact that SS *Kallatina* was licenced to carry passengers and carried the appropriate safety equipment and provided passenger accommodation. As the QGS *Douglas Mawson* was under temporary charter to John Burke Pty Ltd., it was their responsibility to ensure that the vessel met or exceeded its legal responsibilities. Tracey (2007) points out that the 8 members of the Commission may have experienced a *conflict of interest*, as they included J.E. Bourke, of John Burke Pty Ltd and their legal counsel, F.W. Bouchard.

Borchardt (1978) noted that the report and minutes of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the loss of the QGS *Douglas Mawson* were submitted to the Parliament, but were not printed. He went on to say that there appears to be no trace of them now. After repeated requests Tracey was able to track down a copy, having been “lost” for eighty years.

Dinte - The Man Hector Vivian Dinte (1881-1923)



The principal focus of this story, Hector Vivian (H.V.) Dinte, is pictured in military uniform, as published in the Queensland Pictorial, a supplement to The Queenslander.

Hector Vivian Dinte was born in 1881 in Brisbane and died in 1923 in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland on QGS *Douglas Mawson*. He was the younger son of Henry Louis Dinte who was born in 1854 in London, England and died in 1915 in Tambo, Queensland. Henry's wife, Elizabeth “Lizzie” McFarlane was born in 1854 in London, England and died in Brisbane, Queensland in 1911.

Hector volunteered for the First World War, but was discharged, after 112 day's service. In his official military record, he was described by Lieutenant Colonel R.S. Pearce as “*unlikely to become an efficient soldier due to gross misconduct*” (NAA: B2455). Standing only 163 cm (5'4”) tall and weighing less than 58 kg, he was far from an imposing individual. On the date of enlistment, he was 33 years old and father to 8 children, the youngest being born just over a month earlier. At the time of his death in 1923 at the age of 41, he had fathered 12 children, all of whom reached maturity, except for two of his sons (Henry Louis Dinte (1905-1905) and Ernest Gregory Dinte (1907-1909)).

My connection to H.V. Dinte

As noted earlier, in 1923, Hector was one of the crew of the QGS *Douglas Mawson* as a Fireman / Driver, with a mysterious date of death. My connection to Hector is through my great aunt, Mary Jane O'Brien Murray, who was born in 1914 in Dundee, Scotland and died in 1996 in Brisbane, Queensland. In 1935, at the age of 21, she married Hector's fifth eldest son, James Harrold “Harry” Dinte in Brisbane. Harry was born in 1913 in Brisbane, and died in 1980 in Brisbane.

When I retired to the Shoalhaven several years ago, I didn't expect to find any local linkages to my family history. Now, from my great aunt Mary Jane, I have uncovered linkages with H.V. Dinte, the QGS *Douglas Mawson* and the Shoalhaven boat building industry. Just shows that genealogical research can take you in unexpected directions.

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Mary Ann Duncombe (1823 – 1905)

Story by Brian Clayton

A gravestone will tell one the date of a person's birth and of their death, separated by a "dash". While the dates are important, of more importance to a genealogist is the "dash", the person's life story. And while, superficially, this may only be of importance to the family of the person, the life story can often mirror the history of their times.

In short, **Mary Ann Duncombe's** parents arrived in January 1822 and Mary Ann was born at Kurnell on 2 January 1823, the first white child born in what is now Sutherland Shire. In November 1840 she married **Daniel Raycraft Baker**, the son of the convict **William Baker** who arrived on the *Neptune* in 1790, part of the second fleet. Mary Ann died on 18th December 1905 on the family grazing property "Laura Station" at Bundarra.

So much for the "dash".

But surely there is more to the story than birth, marriage and death. Family grazing property in the New England? This seems a long journey for the son of a convict and a girl born in a remote cottage. What of Mary and Daniel's heritage, their parents? What is the story of these early pioneers and their role in building Australia's pastoral industry?

The Duncombe Story

David Duncombe and Mary Ann Wright, free settlers, arrived in Sydney Cove on the *Minstrel*, 18th January 1822, with their three children David William, Henry Archibald and Emily. They eventually had eleven children.

While the first three children were born in England, the first Australian born, Mary Ann, was born at Kurnell. As previously mentioned, Mary Ann was the first white child born in what is now Sutherland Shire. The rest of the children were born after David obtained his grant at Windsor.

The place she was born, Alpha Farm, was located at what is now Cook's Landing Place, the extremity of settlement south of Sydney Town.

Her father, my g-g-g-grandfather, was David Winter Duncombe (1784-1848), her mother, Mary Ann Wright (1793-1837) my g-g-g-grandmother.

David Winter Duncombe could trace his family history back to the establishment of Duncombe Farm at Barley End, near Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire in the 14th century. The Duncombe's were an ancient family, probably of Saxon origin and were "landed gentry", owning estates and property in England. David's father and grandfather had established a trading business operating from Bristol and owned coffee plantations in Jamaica. Common at the time, these plantations were run by slaves. David was born in Jamaica at his father's plantation, "Muff Castle". When his mother died, he was returned to England to be raised by his maternal grandparents, the Winter family. Educated in England, he returned to Jamaica to run the "Muff Castle" plantation. With the abolition of slavery, it became uneconomic to grow coffee so David sold "Muff Castle". The family were well connected with the English establishment. Lord Bathurst was the Colonial Secretary and provided David with letters of introduction to the Governor of New South Wales. The Bathurst family had bought the family estate of Battlesden.

The Duncombe family arrived as privileged settlers in the new colony.

After arrival in Sydney in January 1822, David, his wife and three young children were accommodated at the farm of Captain James Birnie, a family friend, at Kurnell, where he managed the convict labour of the farm.



David was granted extensive property at what is now Lucas Heights and Menai (the current site of Menai Marketplace). He was appointed Chief Clerk (effectively CEO) of the Surveyor General's Department in 1828 and soon acquired further land, by grant and purchase, at Wilberforce. Here he was appointed Coroner in 1833, resigning his position at the Surveyor General's.

Mary Ann spent her early childhood at her father's home in Elizabeth St in Sydney. She was baptised at St Phillips in York Street, 24 February 1823.

In the 1800s education was the domain of the churches before being taken over by the State. From its beginnings St James was involved in education for both children and adults. Richard Hill, the first chaplain, began Australia's first kindergarten and William Cape managed a school based on new educational principles, where David Jones now stands on Elizabeth Street. By 1823 Greenway's school building had been erected in Elizabeth Street eventually used by the Courts.

The Duncombe family, now with 7 children, moved to Windsor with David in 1833. The last two children were born at Wilberforce. The children were educated in the school built by Governor Macquarie at Wilberforce. One of Mary Ann's fellow students was Fred Ward (who became Thunderbolt, the bushranger).

Many of the original settlers in the Windsor district were ex-convicts and the children Mary Ann grew up with were "Currency Lads and Lasses", or "Cornstalks", the children of convicts. One of these was **Daniel Raycraft Baker**. Daniel and Mary Ann were married on 14th November, 1840.

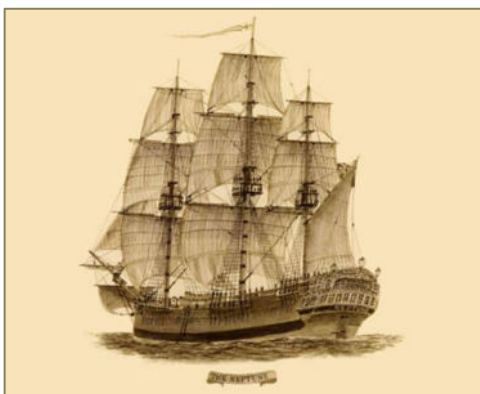
Daniel was the son of **William Baker**, a convict transported for seven years.

Economic conditions in England resulted in much reduced prices being paid for agricultural products in NSW. This caused David to become insolvent in 1841. On 21st October 1841 David resigned from the office as Coroner at Windsor. By 1843 David moved from the Hawkesbury to Goulburn where he was appointed the Sheriff's Bailiff, executing court process and orders. He died in 1848.

It was at the Hawkesbury that the Duncombe family associated with the Smith and Baker families, the descendants of convicts William Baker and Joseph Smith, *Neptune* 1790. The children descended from slave traders and the currency lads and lasses of the ex-convicts became friends and, in some cases, married. This could only happen in the Colony.

The Baker Story

The story of my branch of the Duncombes in Australia cannot be told without recognising the connection of **David Winter Duncombe's** descendants with those of **William Baker and Joseph Smith**, for in the telling of these tales one can see the contribution of these families to the development of Australia and, in particular, the character of Australians.



William Baker and Joseph Smith arrived as convicts on the notorious ship '*Neptune*', referred to as the death ship. It was part of the second fleet and arrived in Sydney Cove in 1790. Captain Donald Trail realised there was profit to be made by starving the convicts and rationing water. The sooner they died and the more who died the greater the surplus stock would be available to sell at a profit on arrival in Sydney Town. Both lads were tried at the Old Bailey, London, for what today would be considered minor crimes. William Baker stole two silver spoons from his employer, Thomas Ingram, of the Castle Ale House. Joseph Smith was indicted for stealing two linen shirts, two linen neckerchiefs, three

pair of cotton stockings and a linen waistcoat. Just 14 years old, both were sentenced to 7 years transportation to the Colony.

The infant colony, just two and a half years old, under the governorship of Captain Arthur Phillip, was on the verge of starvation when the Second Fleet arrived. Many years later Joseph Smith, who was one of the most

successful emancipist farmers from the Second Fleet, was interviewed by Caroline Chisholm and his memories of that horrific voyage and those early days in the colony are now documented and often quoted in relation to the arrival of the Second Fleet, giving us a glimpse into the early lives of the two lads who became lifelong friends.

Nothing is known of William Baker's convict years. It is possible that he served his time at Rosehill, where over two hundred acres were under cultivation. William's later activities in the Windsor district point to having gained a background in farming. William Baker married Sarah Draper, '*Britannia*' 1799, and had a daughter Sarah, born at Green Hills (Windsor) in 1801. William and Sarah agreed in 1806 to go their separate ways but Sarah Draper remained William's legal wife until her death in 1827. William continued to support her with a regular cash stipend. In 1802 William held 375 acres of land, some cleared for farming wheat and maize, with 37 hogsheads. Around 1805 William established himself as a merchant in 49 Chapel Row (Castlereagh Street), today the site of the MLC tower. From this location William began to sell all sorts of necessities and luxuries to the colonists. He later moved his enterprise to The Rocks in Sydney Town, while continuing to buy property in Sydney. In time he became an auctioneer. His marriage to Sarah having failed he formed a lifelong relationship with **Mary Ann Raycraft**, '*William Pitt 1806*', who he met during his time as a merchant in Sydney. William and Mary had five children. William Baker returned to the Hawkesbury and became a relatively wealthy and successful entrepreneur and responsible Windsor citizen. He is described as a 'small enterprising man'. On gaining his freedom, William Baker soon established himself as a landowner in the Hawkesbury, which, with its fertile river flats became the Food Bowl for the colony, saving it from certain starvation. From the very early days, following the example of the wealthy officials and officers, he saw the benefit in owning and renting land and over the years established his family's future, gifting land to his elder children, Sarah, William and Elizabeth and securing the future of his younger children after his death. William also became the proprietor of the Royal Oak Inn, Baker St, Windsor.



When Governor Macquarie set out his five towns in the Hawkesbury, he named Baker St, where William Baker kept his inn. Macquarie also appointed William Baker as the auctioneer and appraiser for the Windsor district. William Baker owned some of the best farming land in the district along the Cornwallis/ Richmond Bottoms lowlands.

William Baker also acquired land at Millfield in the Lower Hunter Valley, which he gifted to his eldest son, William on his marriage to Joseph Smith's daughter, Mary Ann. Other land held alongside was bequeathed to the younger Baker children.

Sadly, Mary Ann Raycraft died leaving her young family. William appointed his good friend Joseph Smith as the executor and trustee of his estate and so it rested on Joseph Smith and the older Baker children to care for and educate the younger children following William Baker's death in 1829.

Joseph Smith's interview with Caroline Chisholm describes the harsh treatment in those early days. After one and a half years of suffering starvation and the hellish conditions in the hands of cruel overseers, Joseph Smith, with will and determination, took a bold chance to escape the colony in January 1792, stowing away on the '*Admiral Barrington*'. Not discovered until the ship was at sea, he sailed to Norfolk Island with Phillip Gidley King, who was to become the governor there. Joseph served out his time as the Governor's gardener, returning to the mainland in February 1796. Norfolk Island was an auxiliary settlement to Sydney and not yet a penal colony. Darcy Wentworth, who also arrived on the '*Neptune*', had been appointed the assistant surgeon on the island and superintendent of convicts.

'After seven years I got my liberty and then started working about for a living where I could get it. Old Darcy wanted me to take charge of his Home-Bush property but I took to the river (Hawkesbury) till I saved money to buy old Brown's farm at Pitt Town. No man worked harder than I have done.'

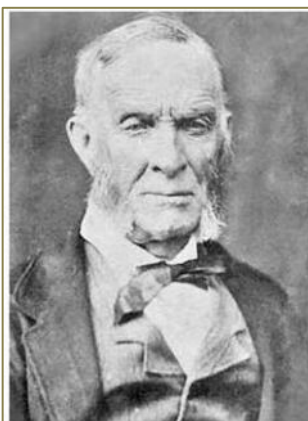
It was here Joseph Smith settled on Old Brown's farm, at Pitt Town Bottoms, the third settlement in the colony, it was here that the first Hawkesbury settlers established their fertile riverside farms supplying their

produce to Sydney Town. Joseph took in a housekeeper, **Margaret Holmes**, a third Fleeter, who arrived on the Mary Ann, July 1791. Margaret Holmes became Joseph's partner, later his wife. She already had children from previous relationships, together they had three children. Joseph took up more farming land at Pitt Town before moving to land he held at Central Macdonald, a lush valley on the lower branch of the Macdonald River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury River.

Perhaps from his years of suffering, Joseph could be a gruff, blunt spoken man to those who he had little time for, but to those he respected he was a loyal reliable companion. It was here at his large and comfortable stone farmhouse that he was interviewed by Caroline Chisholm in 1845. Joseph was 71, described as *having a large featured handsome military sort of face, of red-brown complexion, shaved clean. His dress consisted of a red flannel shirt, with a black bandanna, tied sailor fashion, exposing his strong neck, and a pair of fustian trousers.* Joseph and Margaret are buried on their property in the valley they loved so much. All his Central Macdonald land was bequeathed to his daughter Mary Ann Baker, wife of William Baker jnr. William Baker and Joseph Smith, through their inner strength and determination, against all odds, survived their convict youth to carve prominent positions as productive, civic minded and upstanding members of society. They never forgot their past. If anything, it strengthened their character and perhaps their determination, proving wrong the Exclusives' image that the Hawkesbury settlers were useless, emancipists would never amount to anything and should never have been granted land. Both created a comfortable life for themselves and their children, painting their own happy ending. In Joseph's case it was the large comfortable home by the river, a loving family and cash in the bank. William enjoyed his town life as the popular licensee of the Royal Oak Inn and a member of various committees. He provided a comfortable life for his family in their new home in George St.

Mary Ann Duncombe and Daniel Baker

Daniel Baker, the third son of William Baker, Settler, and Mary Ann Raycraft, was born in Windsor. His baptism is recorded in the register of St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor. 'Baker, Daniel, son of William Baker and Mary Ann Raycraft, born 21 May 1820, baptised 25 June 1820. In later life Daniel added a second name Raycraft in memory of his mother Mary Ann Raycraft. Daniel was the son of convicts, a 'cornstalk' or 'currency lad'. Daniel was raised in Windsor where his father, William Baker Senior, by 1814 was the licensee and owner of the Royal Oak Inn on Baker Street.



Daniel Racraft Baker

On 14 November 1840 Daniel married **Mary Ann Duncombe**, daughter of free settlers, **David Duncombe and Mary Ann Wright**. **Daniel Raycraft Baker** and his wife Mary Ann spent their early married years at the Hawkesbury, probably in the Cornwallis area where Dan's sister Elizabeth and her husband William Smith had a portion of Endeavour Farm.

By 1831 the convict built Great North Road opened up access to the north. The Wollombi settlement developed as the centre for the farming community and for travellers on the Great North Road, It provided a pathway for the



Mary Ann Baker nee Duncombe

Hawkesbury settlers to head into the Hunter and then on to the New England. The Smiths and Bakers held a considerable amount of land extending on both sides of Wollombi Brook at Millfield, parishes of Ellalong and Millfield, County of Northumberland.

About 1820 William Baker Senior extended his land holding into the Wollombi District. He was amongst the first petitioners to seek grants in this soon to be established prosperous farming area. The initial application was made 28 June 1820. He was able to take possession of the land but the grant wasn't confirmed until after his death. Millfield was established as a corn and wheat area, as well as timber getting. The town was

named for the flour mill first established beside the brook, where it took advantage of the good water supply and abundant crops. The mill was on land originally taken up by William Smith.

Daniel Raycraft Baker was one to benefit from his father's estate, receiving a portion of the land on Wollombi Brook, in Lot 96. The registration of the baptism of Daniel Winter Baker, born 1846, states that he was the son of Daniel and Mary Ann Baker, settler of Oakvale, Wollombi. The service performed by the Reverend R T Bolton. Winter stems from the maiden name of his Duncombe great-grandmother Eleanor Winter. This name was continued on through the Duncombe family as a Christian name.

In 1849 Daniel Raycraft and Mary Ann Baker and their young family moved north to Bundarra, where Daniel's brother-in-law was already well established as a grazier on his 60,000-acre squatter's run, indicated on a map of the time as 'William Smith's Cattle Station on Laura Creek', later known as Laura Run. It was on the northern side of the Bundarra (Bundarra) or Gwydir River and extended almost to Bundarra. William Smith was granted a licence to depasture stock in 1837, in "The Northern District beyond Peel's River". By 1842 there were three people living on Laura, William Smith, his superintendent Henry Archibald Duncombe (Mary Ann's brother) and a shepherd. Henry Archibald Duncombe settled on Lots 3 and 121. Lot 3 was on Laura Creek with a boundary on Daniel Baker's pre-emptive purchase being Lot 7.

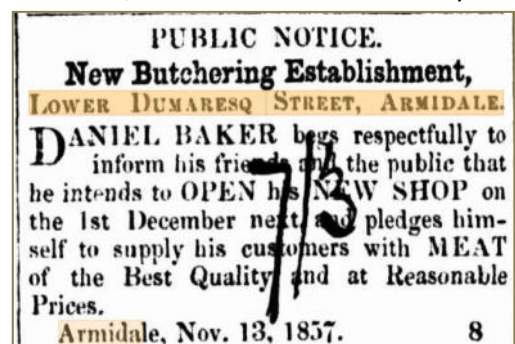
Life as a squatter was not easy. At first there were only a few men on the runs, their job was to keep stock straying on the unfenced land and to protect stock from theft and menacing dingoes. Stealing stock was a quick and easy way to stock a property. Neighbours depended on each other as they were a long way from their family and friends and medical help was unavailable. If someone was sick or injured, they had to rely on their own resources and bush remedies.

Rough bark huts were usually the only form of primitive shelter, built from bark and timber and sometimes lined with canvas. Apart from these discomforts the early pioneers had the threat of bushrangers and escaped convicts.

On 13 October 1852, the property Laura was transferred to a partnership between William Smith and Daniel Raycraft Baker. William Smith was Daniel's brother-in-law. It is also most likely that William and Elizabeth Smith (nee Baker) raised Daniel after his father's death, in which case the bond between the two was not only brothers-in-law but father and son which may go further to explain the partnership on Laura. William Smith owned various farms around the Hawkesbury and Wollombi area, but 'Laura' was his only pastoral run. It appears he continued to live at Cornwallis leaving Daniel to manage their New England property. William remained in partnership until they dissolved the partnership in 1881 when they retired.

Daniel continued to hold his properties at Wollombi, part of which was known as 'Iron Bark Diggings'. Both farms commanded extensive back runs of unoccupied grazing land for stock. The land under cultivation yielded in all seasons some of the finest crops grown in the Wollombi District. The land was eventually purchased by Dan's brother John Thomas Baker who owned the adjoining land.

Two of Daniel Raycraft and Mary Ann Baker's children were born in Armidale, where Daniel and his family were living at the time. Mary Ann was born 1859 and Elizabeth Jane in 1861. He bought several town allotments, the Title Deeds describing him as "Butcher of Armidale". An advertisement in the newspaper, 13 November 1857, announced his new butchering establishment to commence business on 1 December 1857 at Lower Dumaesq Street, Armidale. He pledged to supply his customers with meat of the best quality and at reasonable prices. Daniel was able to slaughter his own livestock having a ready market through the butcher's shop. By 1863 Daniel was preparing to give up his Armidale butchering business to return to Laura. Thereafter he was described as a squatter or grazier. His last



two children's baptisms were registered in St Mary's Church, Bundarra, Joseph Edward 1864 and William Francis 1867. The records showed their parents residing on Laura Station.

George Baker, Dan and Mary Baker's eldest son married Mary Ann Duncombe, daughter of Henry Archibald Duncombe and Margaret Mary Baker, in St Peter's Cathedral, Armidale in 1865. They lived in a slab hut on Laura Creek not far upstream from where it joins the Bundarra River (Gwydir).

In 1865 the particulars for 'Laura' were given as Lessees W Smith and D Baker, area twenty-six thousand six hundred and eighty acres. In 1881 William Smith & Daniel Raycraft Baker advertised, 'For Absolute Sale to Close Partnership Account' for Laura Station, together with the stock consisting of seven hundred cattle, six thousand mixed sheep and a few head of horses, as well as eight hundred and forty-seven acres of Conditionally Purchased land, fully improved. It was estimated Laura Station carried ten thousand sheep in all seasons. It was described as 'one of the best grazing Runs (particularly adapted for sheep) on the famous Western Slopes of the New England. It was six miles from Bundarra, and forty-four miles from Armidale and Uralla and the adjoining stations were Abington, Clerkness, Tenderden and Winscombe. The country was particularly sound and healthy consisting chiefly of sound open Box ridges with an abundance of water in all seasons supplied by Laura and other creeks. There was also a frontage onto the Bundarra River. A large complex of station buildings was put on the property sometime after 1870 to serve the consolidated holding. The buildings included a granary, hay shed, meat house, salt shed, dairy, blacksmith's shop, killing pens, yards, stables and machinery sheds. Laura was transferred to Dan's son George Baker.

When Commissioner Macdonald made his tour of the New England in 1844, he found that there were over one thousand head of cattle on 'Laura'. William Smith held the licence and Henry Archibald, brother of Daniel's wife Mary Ann Baker (Duncombe), was the superintendent. By the time Daniel joined William on 'Laura' it was carrying one thousand five hundred head of cattle. Various advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald, Maitland Mercury and Hunter River Advertiser informed readers of store bullocks for sale. By 1881, when the property was advertised for sale, 'Laura' had focused on the wool industry carrying six thousand mixed sheep, but Daniel Baker and William Smith still carried seven hundred well-bred mixed cattle.

Daniel Raycraft Baker died on his property 'Laura Station' 1 September 1882, aged 62 years, and was buried the next day in the local Bundarra Cemetery, the witnesses being Joseph Reynolds and Jose Layton. On the death of Daniel Baker, the house block he still owned remained in the care of his wife Mary Ann Baker for her lifetime so that she could enjoy all the benefits. Mary Ann in her later years employed a general servant to care for her. She died on Laura, aged eighty-two and eleven months after a long illness, on 18 December 1905 and was buried in the Bundarra Cemetery, Church of England section, the next day. Her cause of death was senility. Daniel Raycraft and Mary Ann Baker were buried beside each other. An impressive headstone marks the passing of these true pioneers of the New England district. Witnesses to the funeral were John Cameron and George Duncombe. Her obituary recorded in the Bundarra and Tingha Advocate on 23 December 1905 mentioned that she had been ill for some time so that her death had been expected. It referred to her age, her devotion as a wife and mother, also noting her fifty-eight years in the district and that she and her family had been well respected and active members of the community, so that with her passing the district had sadly lost another of its early settlers.

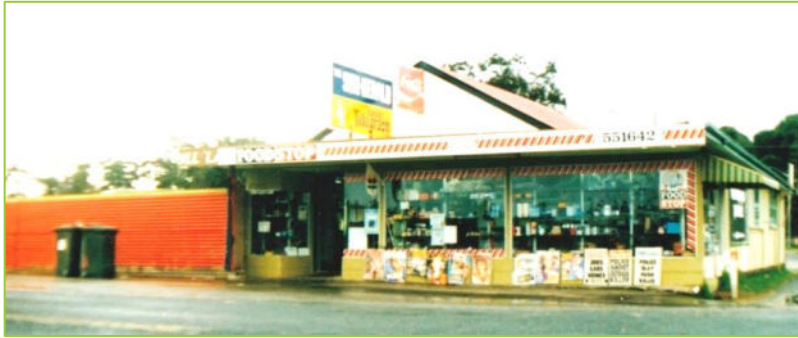
Daniel Raycraft and Mary Ann Baker (Duncombe) had eleven children, Phillis born Cornwallis 1841, George born Wollombi 1843, Daniel Winter born Wollombi 1846, Frederick Raycraft born Wollombi 1849, Herbert Henry born Laura 1850, David Duncombe born Laura 1854; Charlotte Laura born 'Laura Station' 1856; Mary Ann born Armidale 1859; Elizabeth Jane (Bessie) born Armidale 1861; Joseph Edward William born 1864; William Francis born 1867, both baptisms registered in St Mary's, Bundarra.

Daniel, the son of a convict, and MaryAnn, the daughter of a well-connected "gentleman" had very different backgrounds but together epitomised the pioneering spirit of our ancestors who opened up Australia and laid the foundations for future generations in the days when family background meant little and hard work and nation building meant everything.

MAGUIRES' SHOP BURRILL LAKE

Story by Christine Moss

Not much information was able to be obtained about this old fashioned Country Shop.



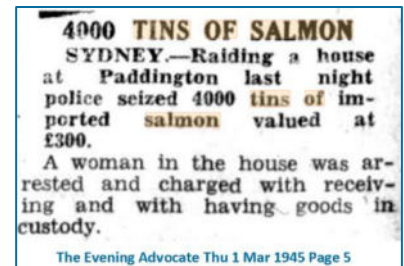
It had everything you could possibly want from a Supermarket country shop. The only difference with this store was everything was behind the counter and you were served personally. There was Lyall, Arthur, Mrs Maguire and their daughter and son helping out in the shop.



The Sun Sydney, Sat 5
Feb 1944 Page 3

Keen buyers bidding
for tins of salmon at a
police auction sale of
unclaimed property at
Central Police Station
today.

In 1944 when my parents first came to Burrill Lake, they stepped inside this wonderful shop and their eyes just popped. In the City everything was rationed due to the war, tins of salmon were unheard of to buy and here it was displayed behind the counter.



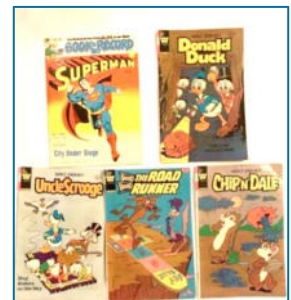
To view the shop from the outside, it was sitting on dirt ground, for at that time there was no paved footpath around it. When it rained it was quite messy having to wipe your feet before entering the shop. The window display consisted of all kinds of things and towards the Bungalow Park side of the window was an area where you could buy blocks of ice from a

window of the building.

As you came into the Shop, on your left hand side was the grocery section counter, and behind the counter, were shelves on which were displayed all kinds of food and they even sold fresh bread which was wrapped in fine paper. You were able to order your bread for each day.

I was told they used to store boxes of breakfast cereals and other tinned food items in the bedroom of the building ready for the camping season.

The counter in front of you was long and, displayed behind glass, were all kinds of lollies which were very tempting for the kids. The milk bar had about 4 different flavours of milk. They were served in aluminium long cups with a straw, and malt to be added if preferred, at an extra price. Above you were all kinds of comics. The Phantom, Archie, Donald Duck, Dick Tracey, Superman and loads of others which were hung up high held by a clip on a beam so as to tempt the kids.



I remember trying to buy some coloured pencils and the price was 7/6 (75c) and that took up a lot of my pocket money, so I did not buy them. Also on the counter was a small stand which turned around, so you could choose postcards of the area. They were mostly being in black and white along with humorous coloured post cards. Some were quite crude and would not be allowed on public display today.

The Lemonade was Marchants brand and you would receive 3d (3c) on the return of the bottle.



The shop was always open during interval when the open-air picture theatre was operating. The Maguires always had a member of the family walking around the shop when it was full of customers to make sure that no light fingers were around. When the theatre finished with the movie reels, these were placed outside the shop ready for the coach passing through to collect and return them back to Sydney.

These were wonderful memories of times gone by.

To a child that was wonderful as you could then buy more lollies.

On your right hand side was another counter again with clear glass to display various items. This was for souvenirs of Burrill Lake, which were mainly bric-a-brac, ashtrays and other small various items. Fishing lines were also sold along with rods, prawn nets and all kinds of things necessary for fishing. It was an amazing shop.



AS TIME GOES BY

Story by Christine Moss

Would you like to go back to the good old days when it was washing day for the housewife? Things have improved so much in this modern age, that it must have been a back breaking job for the average housewife.



Monday was always washing day for the housewife. The copper was boiled and in went the sheets and clothes to boil. A special prodding stick was used to swirl or stamp down the linen or clothes into the copper.



It was then transferred by the stick into the concrete tub to rinse out the suds in the clothes. From there the blue bag was added to make sure that the whites were much whiter and the starch added for those things that needed starching. Even sheets were starched in those days.

Then came the wringing out of the water, my grandmother had the sheets climbing up to her shoulders and over as she was doing this job. She would end up just as wet as the clothes she was handling. If you were lucky enough to own a roller machine with a handle to turn (called a wringer) the clothes would then go through the process to press out the excess water.



There were occasions when you had to be careful not to get your fingers, hair or clothes caught into the wringer, for you would end up with a serious injury.



Clothes lines consisted of a heavy wire, or even a rope across the backyard with a clothes prop that could be a long branch of a tree with a fork at the top to push up the line to catch the breeze.

The pegs in those days were called dolly pegs and these were used before the spring pegs came into fashion. The clothes were pegged together. For example, sheets were grouped together as were towels, underwear and so on. If your neighbour caught one thing out of place, you could be the talk of the street.



At the completion of the day, the clothes were folded into a clothes basket and the shirts, doilies, sheets and other things were then rolled up and water sprinkled onto them by hand, or a bottle with a cork and holes in the top as my mother had. No steam irons then, so this was done to iron out the creases in your washing. Everything was ironed.

My grandmother had a large old blanket that she put onto the Kitchen table and she would iron the clothes that way.

The floors were washed by hand or even scrubbed, even the kitchen table might get a scrub. Dusting was achieved with a special dusting cloth. Next the polish was added to the furniture. My mother used a Lavender one and the house smelt so nice and clean.



The men they had a push mower. We lived on a hill and mowing with this was quite a chore. A sickle was used to cut down the grass when we visited the Cemetery. The grass shears were a pair of blades which came together with hand movements from the circles at the top of the blades. Wheel barrows now have pump up wheels which makes life so much easier.

We had a corner shop where we would buy our groceries. Eggs came in a paper bag and broken biscuits were much cheaper than a full biscuit.



You would get your milk by putting out an empty milk bottle with the money. The milkman would replace it with a full one and change would be given if required.



Bread was delivered by a Bakers Cart, but our corner shop supplied us with bread.

At Botany, a man came around to collect contribution for your hospital funds insurance. We would pay him and he would stamp our book. He said he liked coming to our area as everyone paid immediately, whereas in the North Shore, he would be chasing the money all the time.

When you went out for the day, or even only down the road, everyone would be dressed up, not in casual gear like today.

Women wore hats and good clothes and made sure their stockings had no holes or ladders in them and the seam of her stockings were straight. If we were to travel to the city, we had to wear gloves as well.

Men were also dressed up and always had their hats on. Shoes were polished and they would look so smart.

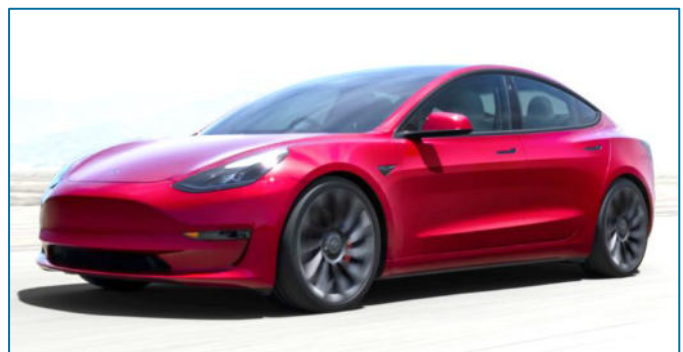
I guess I am old fashioned, but it does look nice when you see someone dressed up on an outing. I was horrified when I went to a show at the Opera House and saw the slovenly way some people dressed themselves. I cannot see the sense in paying good money to buy jeans with holes in them or torn in some way. In my young days that was considered poverty.

How things have changed, the modern world has great labour saving devices, but in other ways, we have gone backwards. What is your opinion?

VERSUS



Petrol versus electric



THE LOSS TO FIRE OF A WELL-KNOWN GARAGE IN MILTON

HERBERT GATEHOUSE and JACK WOODS
Story by Margaret Magnusson

The site was first bought and built on by Herbert Gatehouse and Jack Woods in 1935. Herb and his wife Pearl came to the district from Cooma with their son Peter. They bought the house on the corner of Myrtle Street and the Highway, and the garage was built adjoining the house.



The garage was only small, about 1500 square feet. It had a small work area with a 110 volt generator, used for lighting to charge car batteries. They also had a dealership for Chrysler-Morris cars. In 1939 the garage became the NRMA depot. Herb and Jack later expanded the garage and installed the AMP Petrol

pumps. (Australian Motorists Petrol Companies).



It would have been a hard time in the war era as petrol was a little hard to come by because of rationing. But they did stay afloat.

The South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus in 1950, both mentioned the origins of the garage and how Herb and Jack managed to make do with what they had.

Jack was a fitter and turner, and Herb was a self-taught electric welder, and their motto was *there is always a way out of it* and that motto was applied to the building of the garage. The portable electric welder was powered by a 27 hp Buick motor

with an automatic governor. This was Herb's idea and it was a valuable acquisition.

This is one thing Herb didn't think he would be doing under the bonnet of a car. Herb must have been a good shot as there was no mention of damage to the motor or car.

Two Sydney men raced about 15 miles into Milton today with a four-foot black snake coiled around part of their car engine. The men who later refused to give their names, discovered the snake when they lifted the bonnet after having engine trouble. When they failed to move the it, they closed the bonnet and raced into Milton, where they stopped outside the house of a garage proprietor, Mr Herbert Gatehouse. While he fetched a gun, the men prodded around under the bonnet with sticks until they found the snake behind the battery casing. Mr Gatehouse killed it with a 22-rifle bullet.
Sydney Morning Herald 21 Jan 1953



In 1949 the front covered area was expanded. That same year the GM Holden franchise was obtained. By 1952 Herb sold his side of the business to Jack and in late 1959 Jack sold the business to **Albert Readhead**.

Albert kept the NRMA side of it as well as the Holden dealership. The garage was called *Albert Readhead Motors Pty Ltd Holden Sales and Milton Service*.

Lenny Bartlett and Ted Walker bought the property and business in 1967 from Albert. Len had started his mechanics apprenticeship with Gatehouse and Woods and had also worked for Albert Readhead. While working for Readhead Motors, Lenny had been the Serviceman for the NRMA. He adopted this service into his own business. Ted Walker also started with Albert as car salesman. He also worked with the NRMA insurance side so that when he went into business with Len, the insurance was extended with Homesure House Insurance. In 1970-71 a total of 1029 callouts were taken and attended to.



L-R: Irene, Len Bartlett, unknown, Albert



L-R: Len Bartlett, unknown, Jenny McAdam, unknown, Ros Porter, unknown, Marion Croker



Ted Walker, Ken Mansfield, Len Bartlett handing over garage keys

Ken Mansfield bought the business from Bartlett and Walker c1976. He had a General Motors Dealership on the Gold Coast. An article in the NRMA magazine stated that - *Resulting from the sale of Bartlett, Walker Motors, Milton The NRMA are pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Mansfield Pty Ltd as NRMA district depot Milton. Residents of Ulladulla and surrounding districts are directed to Ken Mansfield Pty Ltd Milton for NRMA.*

Dave Bonnett next bought the business from Ken Mansfield. Linda Lewis worked there in 1982 to early 1984. Lynette Bass also worked in the office. She had also worked for Bartlett and Walker. Dave sold it to Barry Dixon in early 1984.

Dave later opened an NRMA office in south Ulladulla on the highway. He sold this to John Abel who still owns it today.

Barry Dixon bought the garage business from Dave Bonnett. Its name changed to Barry Dixon Motors Holden.

Barry and Dot Solomon were the next owners of the business in 1978. He also bought the premises from Len Bartlett. The name of the business was now Milton Tyre Service





Solomon family plans to rebuild after devastating fire. This was reported in TIMES Wednesday September 9, 2015

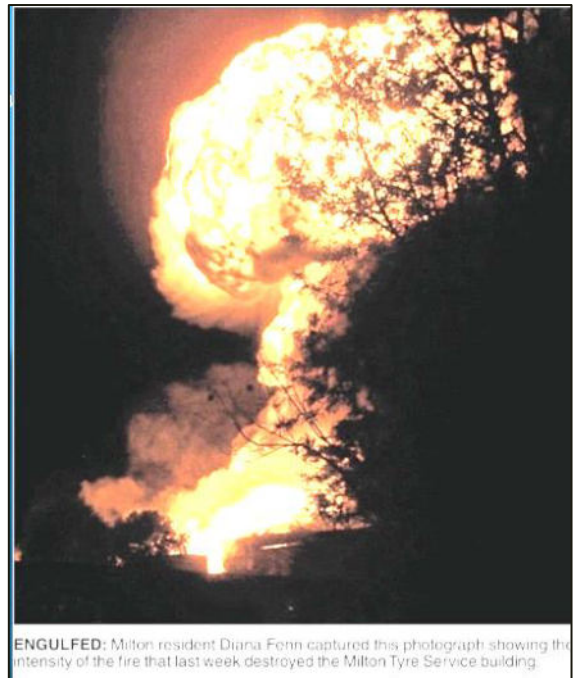
Close to 40 years of business history went up in flames on Wednesday night when Milton Tyre Service was destroyed by fire. Yet while the business was destroyed, fire fighters have been praised for managing to prevent the flames spreading to neighbouring shops and houses.

The firemen and police were fantastic, I couldn't give them enough thanks said Kerrie Solomon, the daughter-in-law of the building's owner Barry and Dot Solomon.

Her sentiments were echoed by neighbour Catherine Hughes, who said the fire fighters and police were amazing. Catherine woke on Wednesday night and heard crackling, so she opened a window and saw a glow in the front office.

Within minutes the building was engulfed. When fire fighters arrived "they ran in without fear" Catherine said, despite the explosions being heard from within the burning building. Barry and Dot Solomon bought the historic building at Milton's north edge in 1978 and set up a family-run tyre and mechanical business that established a band of loyal customers. "we have people coming from Canberra, Sydney to have their work done by us, because they liked the work we did" Kerrie explained. "While it was a family business run by Barry and Dot, their children Darren and Kerrie Solomon and Kim and Mark McCarthy, it also had 9 staff members who had been with the business for decades and are pretty much family" Kerrie said.

The report goes on to say that 000 was dialled and emergency crews were there in minutes, but the building was engulfed with fuel drums and diesel tanks erupting and that flames were leaping high into the air. It was an aggressive attack on the fire, but the building could not be saved. It was reported that there were 5 vintage cars, two vintage bikes, in addition to vehicles owned by customers.



The land was cleared and to date there has been nothing done with this land.



A Brief Productive Life of an 1860s Settler Story by Julie Gullan

Francis Smith was gentleman and the superintendent for William Bradley of Coolringdon. He arrived from England to settle in Australia c1840. He met and married **Mary Jane Roberts**, who was the eldest child of Thomas and Hannah Roberts of Exeter Farm, South Creek. The marriage took place on 7th November 1850 in St Johns Church of England Parramatta. Mary was 18 years of age.

By July 1851 their first child, Francis Charles Caley Smith was born in Cooma. Their eighth and last child, Constance Smith was born in 1861 and died the same year. There were two sons and six daughters all born in Cooma. By now Francis was working for William Bradley as his superintendent at Coolringdon.



During the winter of 1855, heavy rains had fallen. This resulted in many of the rivers being flooded in the southern part of NSW. Francis was heading home during this time with a laden horse-drawn dray. He needed to get to the other side of the Cooma Creek. He studied the flow of the river and considered there was no danger. Unfortunately, he was mistaken and lost a bedstead, mattress, stretcher, and a woolpack off his dray that day. He was unable to retrieve them at that time. Finally, when the rains abated and with a fresh horse and dray and a helper or two, they went back to collect those goods. To his surprise they were not there. Asking

around he found William Harrold, a shepherd, had purchased these items from another man and had paid for them with two bottles of rum. Whether William knew they were stolen would be hard to prove. Francis reported this to the police at Reid's Flat who arrested William for stealing the property. In court William was found not guilty and discharged.

Registrar General's Office, Sydney, 1st June, 1857.

*IT is hereby notified, that, under the provisions of the Marriage Act, (19th Victoria, No. 30,) Robert Cassells, Esquire, of Island Lake, and **Francis Smith, Esquire, of Coolenden**, have been appointed by their Honors the Judges, by Commissions bearing date the 27th ultimo, to give consent to the marriage of persons under the age of 21 years, within the District of "Cooma".*

CHRIS. ROLLESTON, Registrar General.

New South Wales Government Gazette Tue 2 Jun 1857 [Issue No.82] Page 1210



Francis was a highly respected gentleman and in 1857 he was appointed by the Registrar General to approve marriages in the Cooma area for those under the age of twenty-one years.

A few years later it was reported in the papers that he had lost a chestnut horse. A reward of £5 was offered for the horse to be returned.



In June 1858 Francis had another very lucky escape. This time he was riding across Dairyman's Plains, in the Snowy Monaro region. He was thrown from his horse with great violence and received some serious bruising and cuts to his face. He had been very lucky.

Early in 1860 Francis visited the Gibson's Plain, Snowy River gold fields. He arrived at Mr Russell's station on the evening of the 7th February, and on the following morning they both headed for the gold-field. They diverged from the beaten path, and following a track by which, with very little trouble, a laden dray weighing a ton could be taken to the diggings.



On reaching the gold fields, Francis was astonished to find so large a population which he estimated at approximately 2000 people. He rode round the diggings, and followed the river for about four miles to the highest point, where a party was at work. Francis personally knew many of the diggers. They chatted freely and were happy to brag about the amount of gold they were procuring. In almost every instance the riverbed and bank claims were turning out well, one of the parties having washed out during the week 120 ozs (ounces) and another party for the last eight days averaged one pound of gold for each of those days. After leaving the river diggings, he mounted his horse and cantered to the dry diggings, where he found they were



procuring gold in good payable quantities. It was a happy environment with smiles on everyone's face. Some of the gold specimens procured were very large, from 15 ozs downwards. While at the fields, Francis too made time to do a little digging and like the others he found himself with a piece of gold weighing 4ozs 16dwts (penny weight). Through the grapevine, a whisper travelled around the fields that a nugget was found weighing nearly 2lbs (pounds).

During the night he was there it came on to rain, with a strong wind from the south-east, and though well prepared with a tent and blankets and abundance for the inner man, he never experienced so cold a night. On the following morning it was really pitiable to see the rush into Mr Pollock's store of persons asking for dry clothes and provisions, neither of which were procurable at any price. In fact, when he left late on Thursday, 9th February there was not an ounce of flour in any of the stores. Considering the rains which had since prevailed, he was not surprised to hear of many of the diggers having actually perished from cold and hunger. A calico tent and a pair of blankets form but poor protection from such weather. The day before he reached the diggings, he was assured there was ice fully an inch thick.

Much of the money from the gold was needed to be spent on provisions. These were both scarce and expensive. Flour was one shilling per pound. Tea prices varied between 4 shillings and 6 pence to 5 shillings and 6 pence. Sugar prices also varied between 8 and 10 pence. Meat however was in plentiful supply with beef selling at 4 pence per pound and mutton at 5 shillings per pound. A long-handled shovel was 20 shillings whereas a short shovel was only 15 shillings. Picks sold for 12 shillings and 6 pence. Calico for tents was 1 shilling and 6 pence per yard and boards for sluicing were 1 shilling per foot.

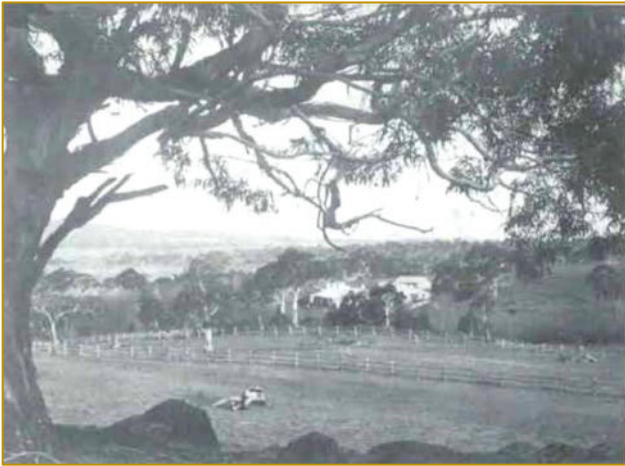
The gold was coarse and scaly, and the large specimens were blended with quartz and all very much water-worn, even those from the dry diggings.



After returning home he gave a few words of advice to those proceeding to the diggings stating in his opinion no one should proceed to the gold fields unless thoroughly equipped to contend against frost, rain, and bitterly cold winds.

Francis believed these diggings would be the richest ever yet discovered in New South Wales. He predicted that during the next summer a population of from eight to ten thousand people would travel there, to try their luck at finding gold. *"Many who have now rich claims, which cannot be worked out during the summer, propose waiting at Russell's unless other diggings are uncovered which can be worked during the winter"*. He added, *"the discovery of the Gibson's Plain gold-field is certainly due to the Messrs Pollock, who as far back as three years ago told him of the existence of gold there, and even so late as August last wished him to join them in forming a party; and if it turns out as well as anticipated, they are certainly entitled to some substantial reward."*

Over the next couple of years Francis was involved with the Cooma Cattle Stealing Prevention Association and was the Chairman of the group. He also worked and managed the extensive estate of Mr Bradley Esq's Manoroo property along with being an intimate friend for many years.



At a very early age and leaving seven infant children, Mary died 12th October 1863 in Cooma at age 31 years.

The death of Francis Smith, Esq., of Coolringdon was reported with melancholy when they had to announce his unexpected death. He was aged 40 years.

When the district of Cooma received news that Francis Smith, Esq, superintendent of the station of William Bradley, Esq., was lying dangerously ill at his residence, and before his friends had time to reach him at his home in Coolringdon, the late lamented gentleman had ceased to hold communion with this sinful world. The effect produced on the inhabitants was truly painful. All who had known Mr. Smith and who did not seem disposed to doubt the truth of the statement, that a gentleman who a few days previously had been amongst them, to all appearance in the possession of a sound constitution and vigorous health, was then a creature of the past. Francis had expired at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the 8th of December. As far as was known, the actual cause of death seemed to have been inflammation of the membranes of the brain, brought on by Influenza. Eight days before his death Francis had joined in a game of cricket, and after being heated in the course of the play had laid down to rest on the grass, which being damp caused him to catch cold, and finally resulted in inflammation.

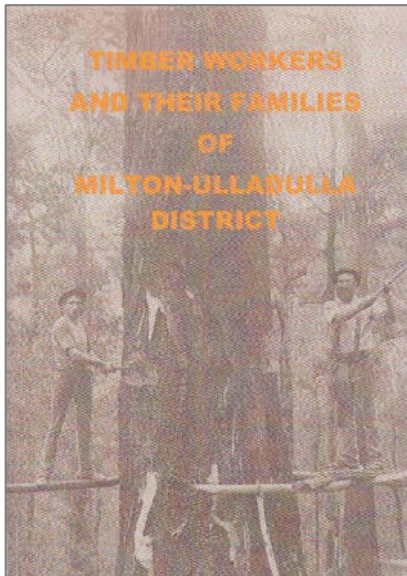
His body was conveyed from Coolringdon to the Episcopalian burial-ground in Cooma, and deposited by the side of his late wife, whose death had preceded him by only eight or nine weeks.



The procession was a very large one, comprising close to two hundred people. Their emotions could not be restrained at the sight of the bereaved orphans mourning over the remains of a truly affectionate parent, as they had done only weeks previously for their mother.

Mary and Francis had eight children - **Francis Charles Caley, Alice Emma, Charles Arthur, Ada, Mary Jane, Edith Hannah, Laura Emily and Constance**. They left seven little orphans aged between 3 years to 12 years.

Our Society Books for Sale



TIMBER WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES OF MILTON-ULLADULLA DISTRICT

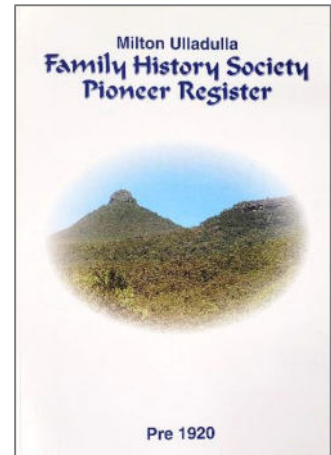
The cost per book is \$40.00 and is available for purchase from our room in the Ulladulla Civic Centre. You can also order by emailing. The Postage would be an extra charge – see below.

PIONEER REGISTER-PRE 1920

The cost per book is \$5. A postage charge would be extra if needed – see below.

\$15 cost for Postage and handling. Postage packs are able to take up to 3 copies for the \$15.00. The price includes GST where appropriate. For further details on how to purchase these books please contact our

secretary, by email: secretary@mufhsi.org or look on our website.



Our new book **Milton-Ulladulla District History of Shopkeepers, Businesses and their Families** should be available for sale at the end of this year. Keep an eye on our website for details as the time draws near.

Roma Robbins Award – 8th February 2023

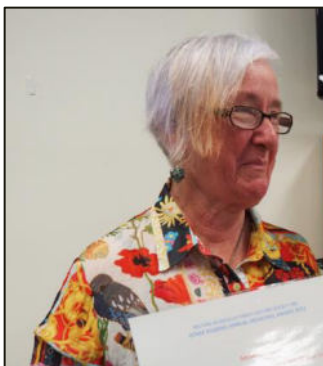
Cathryn Burns, the Ulladulla Customer and Community Resources Manager for the Ulladulla Library was asked to judge the stories from the June and December 2022 PHT issues. She was very happy to do this for our society.

After reading all the stories she commented as follows -

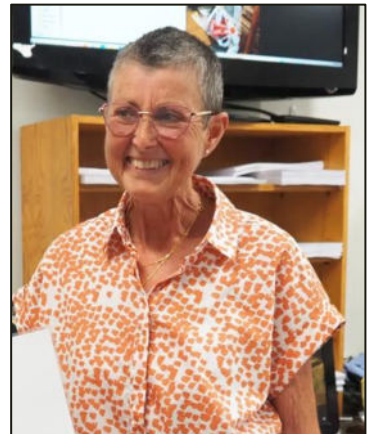
"It was a pleasure to read each of these stories and get a small snapshot into the lives and experiences of such a range of people and places."

Her findings were -

1st Place: Memories of Bungalow Camping Ground by Christine Moss – December issue. *It was a well written piece, full of names and details which are so important to be captured before they disappear from memory. I could picture driving over that wooden gate which vibrated the car and stepping into the world of the camping ground in the 1950s, with all its adventures and communal fun.*



2nd Place: A timber worker and his life by Marg Magnusson – December issue - *A wonderfully detailed recount with a strong voice. I felt a connection with this timber worker and his family and the struggles they faced, reflecting on my own heritage throughout.*



3rd place: A tragic ending by Julie Gullan – December issue - *The writer has chosen a subject that appeals to our empathy and compassion. The interesting details kept this reader engaged to the end.*



Coffee and Chat



17th March at Akora Café Ulladulla on a hot summer's day.

A few indulged in very tasty treats. A long walk or maybe a swim was required after they left for home.



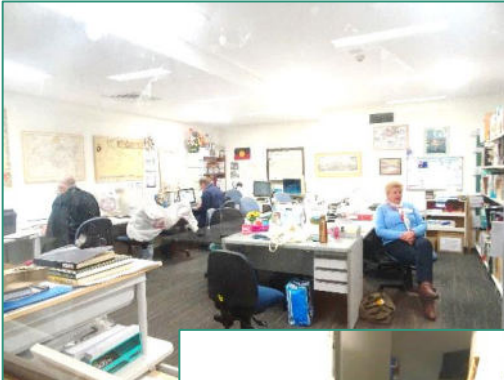
Lots
of Chatting
and laughter



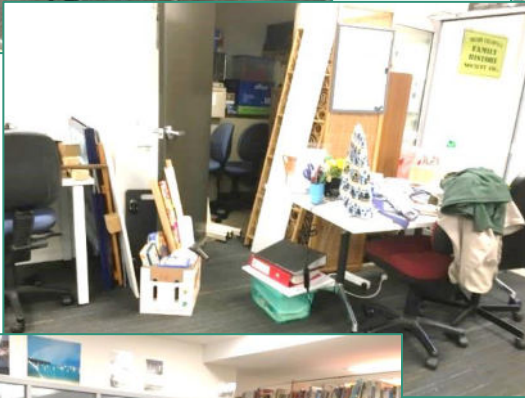
19th May Emmersons weather unreal - beautiful. An absolutely fantastic turnout – 18 in total – well done Bev for organising this.

Special Event Days

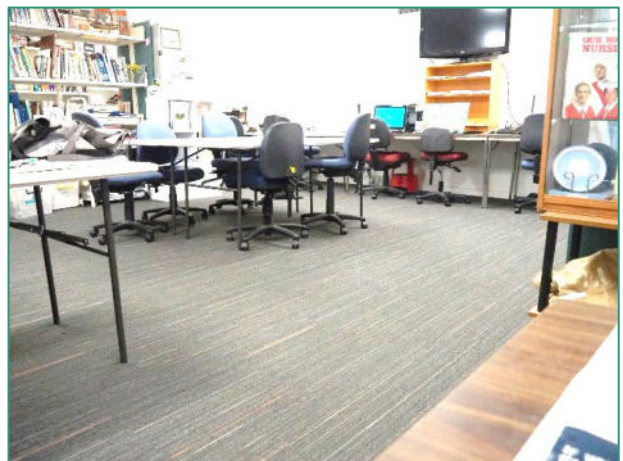
This was not a social event; however, it was a special event. A room change was on the agenda and wanted by most.



From this layout on the left, with a lot of culling, boxing up, cleaning and relocation of all the bookshelves, tables, computers, everything.

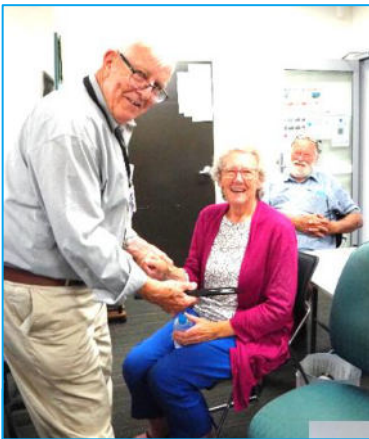


Those who were unsure if it was necessary, were more than delighted with the end result.

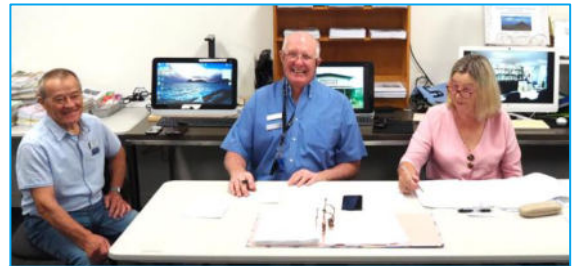


A more spacious, welcoming room.

8th February – Members Meeting - It was good to see how our new room layout worked with our first meeting after it was finished. Plenty of space for everyone. We had a good turnout. The Roma Robbins Award was given along with an Appreciation Award to Marilyn Boyd for all her time and work she has done for the society over many years.



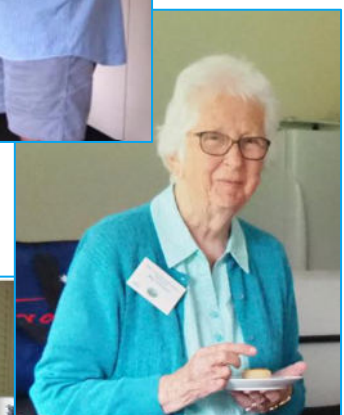
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Our guest speaker for the day was Julie Bozza who enlightened us on Storyfest.



The meeting was followed by afternoon tea. A great spread was enjoyed by all.



A happy fun and social day

19th March was the day we held our delayed **Christmas BBQ** party at Burrill Lake. Unfortunately, it had to be delayed due to many of our members having covid. The weather that day was sunny but windy. Having the under cover area was perfect as it was out of the wind and gave us shade. Lots of conversations all day and laughter. The cooks worked well together.



All enjoyed.



Friday 24th March - Ron was asked to give a talk on family history researching at the Ulladulla Library.

Cathy introduced Ron and thanked all who attended.



Ron's information was very informative and well received. Many questions were asked at the end and well answered.



12th April Members Meeting – a fantastic attendance. Our room was full. Our invited guests were Julie Bozza and Jennifer Jackson who spoke on Storyfest. Jennifer is part of the committee who runs the writer's festival. It will be in our area from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th June. Jennifer also gave an overview of the Organisation - how it works and its objectives. A very interesting speaker.



Then time for our Easter raffle.

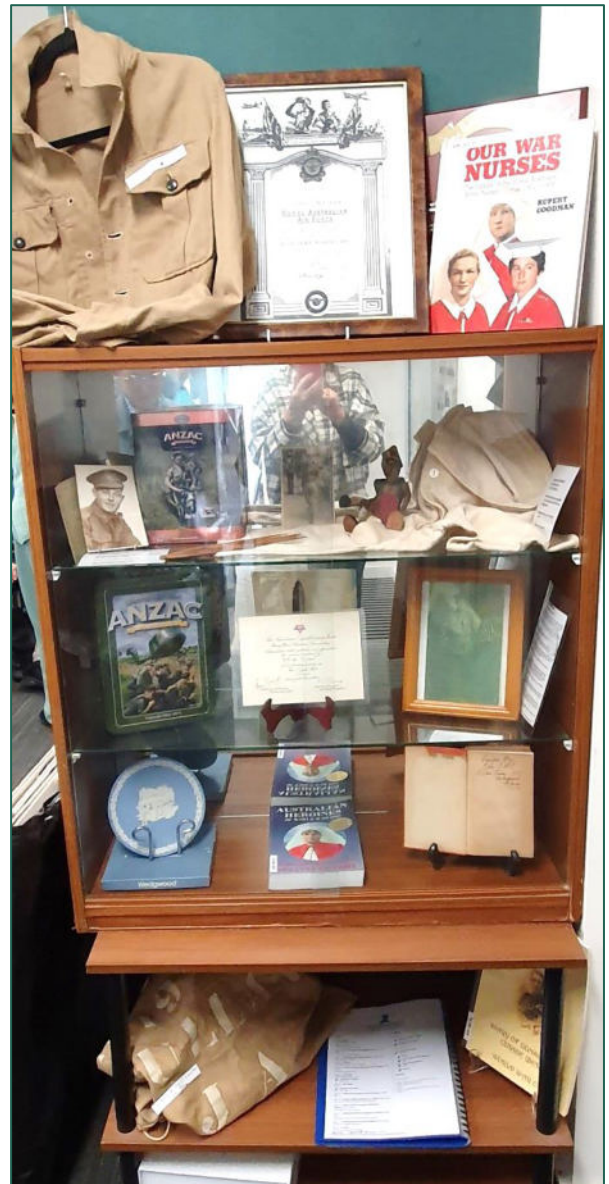


Remembering the Anzacs.



Our publicity officer, Barbara Lawson asked our members to loan items relating to the war years. These items loaned were varied and many. Barbara showcased them in our room, Ulladulla library and the Dunn Lewis Centre.

There were precious photos, books, biscuit tins, summer air force jacket, knapsack, commemorative plate and other items of interest too.



*Lest we
forget*



Bawley Point and Kiola History Tour – 2nd May 2023. A perfect day, the sun shining, the wind had abated and it was one of those autumn days you wanted to be outside to enjoy.

A group of eleven starting out on the tour at Bawley Point. Margaret Hamon was our tour guide. She was so informative and easy to listen to.



We took three cars to various points of interest. A little walking but not strenuous.



First stop Kiola boat ramp area.

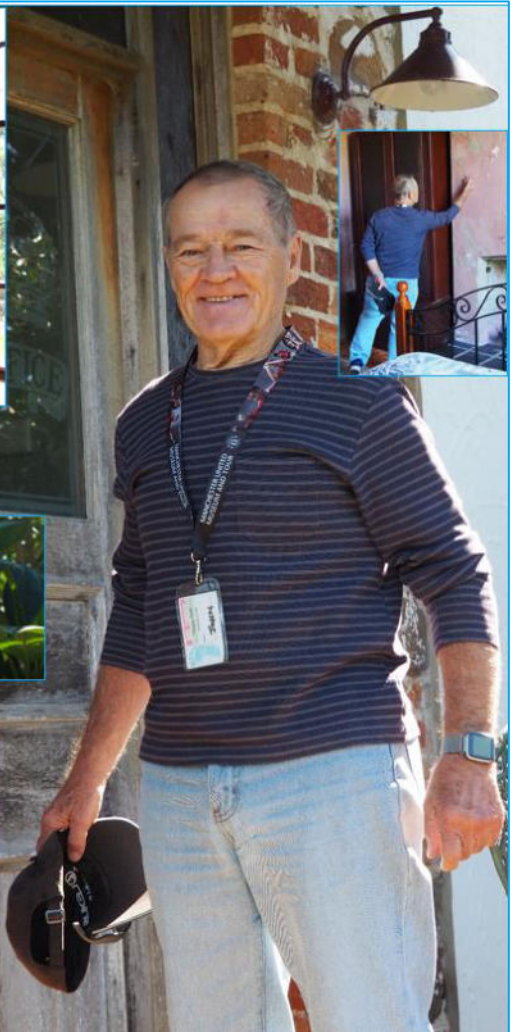


We were shown objects we would never have noticed.

Back to the cars for our next stop.

Then onto Murramurrang road for another history tour. The property is for sale and we were permitted to view it. Many of us looking at its potential but not willing to do the work.







Moving onto the next part of the tour – the Bawley gantry.



Viewing one of the oldest accommodation homes.





Then a short stroll for the final part of this wonderful tour.



And for any of us who were interested in all this history and more Marg showed us a book **“They Came to Murramarang” by Bruce Hamon**. It’s the history of the area – well worth a read.



Anyone interested in purchasing the book or going on this tour please either email our secretary or the Historic Society and we will pass on the information to Margaret Hamon.



To end the day a few of us had lunch at Luci’s café before heading home.

