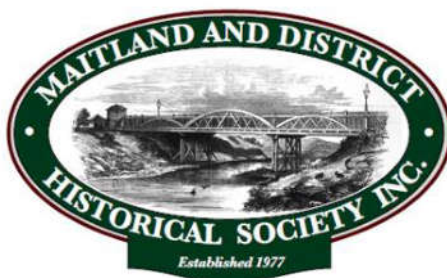


**President:**

Kevin Short OAM

**Patron:**

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## COVID-19 **NEWSLETTER** N<sup>o</sup> 56

31 October 2023

I began last month's newsletter giving credit to Council for their competency in the cleaning of racist graffiti from gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in Louth Park road.

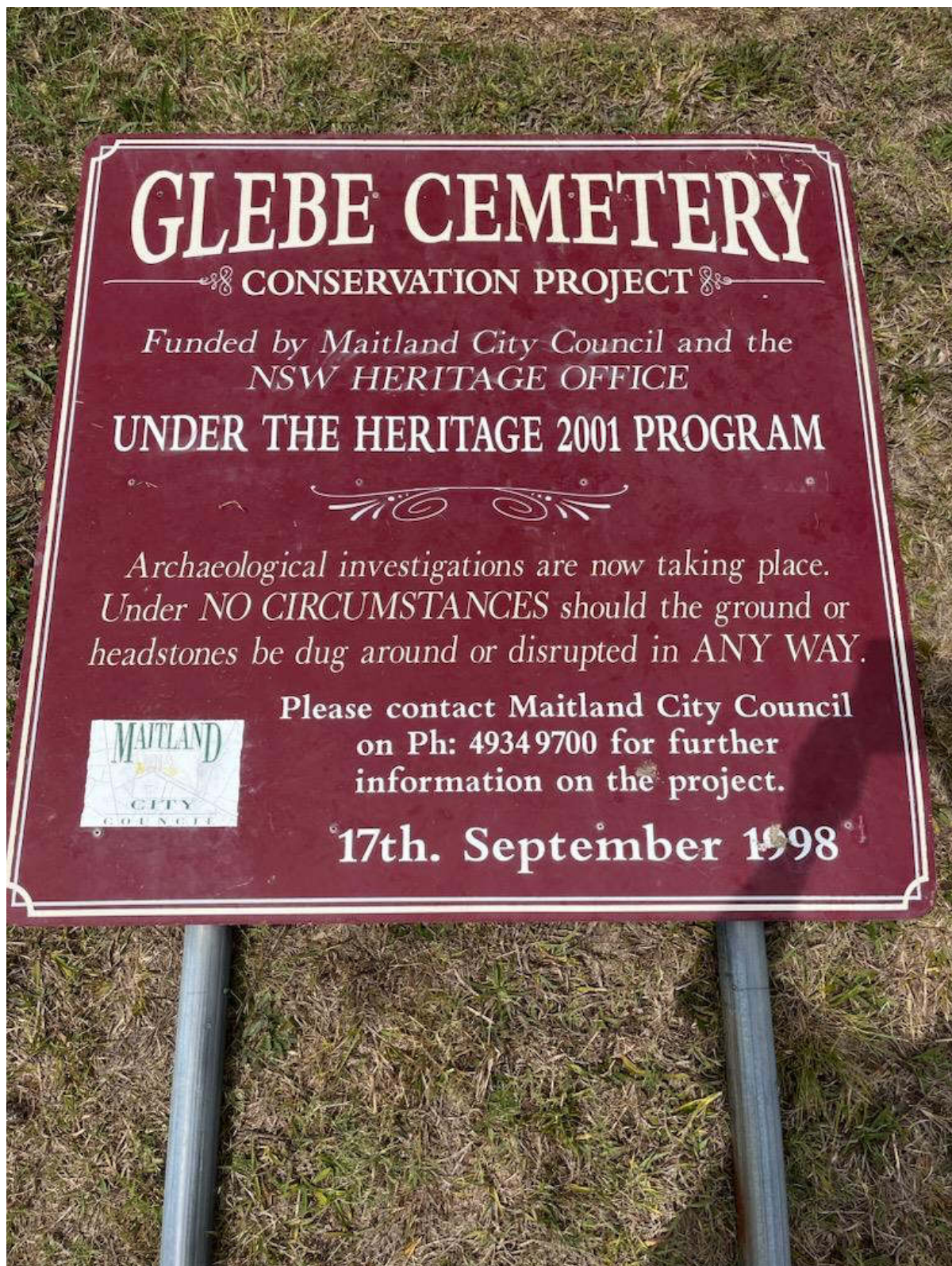
There's a chance I was premature ....

Yesterday, I received a phone call from a gentleman who was concerned by the encroachment of a housing estate on the 'old' St Peter's cemetery (Glebe) in East Maitland. Yes, I was aware that there was to be development on the cemetery's southern boundary but it seems, I hadn't been paying attention. The following photographs need no explanation, the encroachment of the housing estate disturbingly obvious:





The turned-over sign from 2001 in the centre of the photo to the left on the previous page, is reproduced here. Perhaps I'm just a cynic?







The above aerial photograph, although taken before building began, clearly shows the placement of the residential subdivision directly against the cemetery fence and adjacent to the oldest graves.

The Glebe cemetery formed part of an application to the State Heritage Office in 2011 whereby St Peter's Church group of buildings, the William Street curtilage from Brisbane to Newcastle streets and the Glebe Gully burial ground were added to the State Heritage Register. Whilst not binding, the original recommendation from the heritage architects was that there be a 'buffer' zone between the cemetery and any future development application.

This development seems to be clearly at odds with that recommendation.

In fairness to Council and whilst not pretending to have any expertise in legislative controls appertaining to land development, there is a recent example at Lochinvar that leads me to believe that developers very much hold the 'whip handle' in these matters.

At Lochinvar, the developer was asked by councillors to modify a development application (DA) to accommodate a 'softer' environment impact; a buffer zone was part of this asking. The developer returned the DA six months later unaltered, totally ignoring the request by councillors. You can imagine the debate; the three West Ward councillors voting as a bloc against the development.

The disturbing part is that it was pointed out to the remaining councillors that the developer need not comply with the request of councillors, their only requirement being to meet the minimum standard under the Act. The upshot was that if the development was refused and the developer took the matter to the Land and Environment Court, Council would lose and be lumbered with not only the previously refused DA but also be encumbered with two lots of legal fees, namely theirs and the developers.

Whilst I think we should voice our anger and annoyance at this insensitive development, my thought is that our displeasure might be better directed to those that sit in Macquarie Street?

Last Sunday we participated in a *Regional Family History and Heritage Fair* run by Maitland and Beyond Family history. Whilst attendance from other societies was disappointing (remembering that it rained on the two days beforehand), those that attended enjoyed the camaraderie and the connections made between likeminded groups.

~~~~~

## Bunnings BBQ's

Tis on again. Another BBQ to be held at Bunnings this coming Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> November). As has been said many times before, these BBQs are essential to the financial viability of our Society. If you can help on Sunday, please give Steve either a ring or an email.

~~~~~

## The Next Lecture Meeting:

### **David Brouwer to speak to Maitland and District Historical Society**

The Maitland Historical Society's November guest speaker will be David Brouwer, whose topic will be *'The Eales of Duckenfield'*. His talk, on Tuesday 7 November, will begin at 5.30pm in the Society's Rooms, 3 Cathedral St, Maitland.

David lectured at the Tocal Agricultural College for 40 years, developing courses and textbooks on a wide range of agricultural and land conservation subjects. At the same time he documented key historical moments of Tocal, its land and its people and over the course of his career he produced more than 60 publications. In 2011 he was invited to write a book about the remarkable Eales family of Duckenfield. The book was five years in the making and was published by the Paterson Historical Society in 2016.

His *'John Eales of Duckenfield – the men and the mansion'* documents the rise and fall of three generations. The original John Eales took up land just downstream from Morpeth in 1823, one of a group of wealthy young Englishmen who were granted land in the Lower Hunter. He set about expanding his empire by fair means and foul. Three generations – three John Eales – each contributed to creating a magnificent mansion, Duckenfield House, as the crowning glory of a pastoral empire. The glory lasted just 65 years, as the third generation lost the lot. It's a sad and dramatic – but oh so familiar! – story of the rise and fall of one family's fortunes.

Members of the Society and of the general public are most welcome to attend. There is no need to reserve a seat, but the Society asks for a donation of \$5 to cover the costs of supper before and after the talk.

## William Arnott

*I must be getting old and grumpy .... Recently, the ABC Newcastle ran a podcast that was subsequently repeated on 702 Sydney concerning William Arnott and of his connections and beginnings at Morpeth. I bristled, the consequence being that I attempted to contact the journalist author to correct the record only to be ignored. My retort has been to write a piece which is reproduced here for your enlightenment.*

It's hard to imagine an Australian who hasn't heard of *Arnott's Biscuits*. It's equally hard to imagine an Australian who hasn't eaten and enjoyed an *Iced VoVo*, a *Monte Carlo* or a *Scotch Finger*, to say nothing of a chocolate *Tim Tam* or a *Mint Slice*.

Predictably, there has been much written about this iconic Australian company and of William Arnott, the man who founded it. Most biographies more or less agree on the history of the family following William's move to Newcastle in September 1865; the same cannot be said for the period between his arrival in 1848 and the migration of the business and family to Newcastle almost two decades later.

William's more recent biographies seem to rely heavily on material provided by Stephen Arnott, a great-great grandson who owns and operates the *Sourdough Bakery* at Morpeth and tell a story of William establishing his bakery in this same building. ABC Newcastle's podcast in October 2023 leaves the listener in no doubt as to the origins of the family and business in Australia at Morpeth<sup>1</sup>.

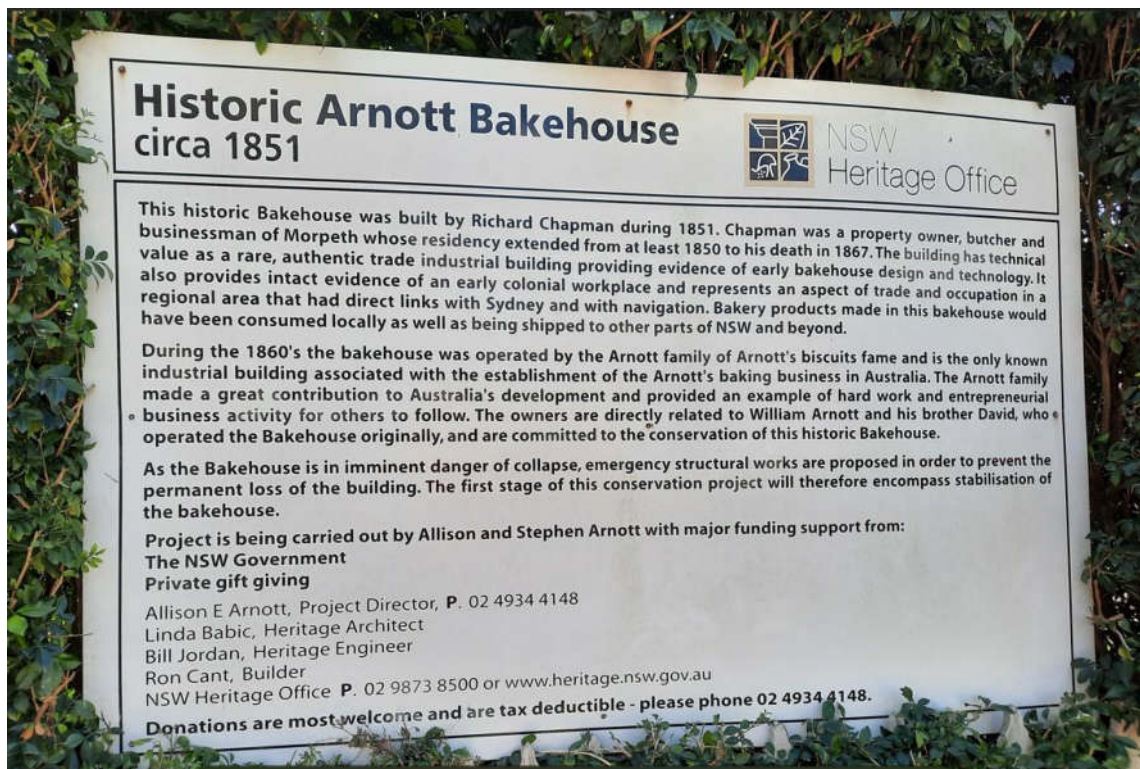


The Morpeth Sourdough Bakery (Photo by Steve and Allison Arnott)

One is, however, left to ponder the veracity of Stephen's story as there are obvious omissions and some known inaccuracies. For example, in the ABC podcast and its supporting written dissertation, he (Stephen), openly states that the Morpeth building (above) was where the 'Arnott' story began, the implication being that William lived and baked in Morpeth from his arrival in New South Wales in 1847 before relocating to Newcastle in 1865. This is almost certainly not the case. The Morpeth building in



question is presently undergoing restoration and the sign alongside from the heritage architect tells a different story:



The fact that it wasn't constructed until 1851, the same year as William and David separately travelled to the Turon River gold fields, leaves a five-year hiatus between the arrival of William and David Arnott on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1848<sup>2</sup> and their return to Maitland from the diggings, sometime in 1853.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 1854, John Smith Arnott, William's younger brother,

**Confectionery ! — Confectionery ! !  
Confectionery ! ! !**

**WM. ARNOTT** begs to return thanks for the kind patronage he has received since he commenced business in the above line, and begs respectfully to call the attention of the public to the under-mentioned GOODS, warranted free from any adulteration whatever :—

**ALMONDS**  
Corianders  
Carraways  
Cloves  
Lozenges  
Lollies  
&c, &c., &c.

Orders executed on the shortest notice.  
N.B.—Rich **BRIDE CAKES** always on hand, and ornamented in first-rate style.

**WM. ARNOTT,**  
Baker and Confectioner,  
High-street, West Maitland.

1580

**New Tailoring Establishment.**

**JOHN SMITH ARNOTT** respectfully announces to his friends and the public generally that he has **COMMENCED BUSINESS** in the above line in the house lately occupied by Dr. Douglas, and nearly opposite Mr. Wm. Arnott's, baker and confectioner, where he trusts, with strict attention to business, keeping a good article, and reasonable prices, to merit a share of public patronage.

**J. S. ARNOTT,**  
Tailor and Draper.

**•• WANTED AN APPRENTICE. 1027**

advertises in *The Maitland Mercury* and *Hunter River Gazette* that he has commenced business as a *Tailor and Draper* nearly opposite Mr. Wm Arnott's, baker and confectioner.

Less than a month later on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1854, William is telling existing and potential customers that he is now also selling *confectionery* and *Rich BRIDE CAKES*. Note that his address is given as *High Street West Maitland*, not Morpeth.

| Maitland School of Arts.  |      |     |    |   |
|---|------|-----|----|---|
| <b>A</b> DDITIONAL Subscriptions for the ERECTION of a BUILDING for the Maitland School of Arts:— |      |     |    |   |
| Amount previously advertised  | .... | 176 | 0  | 0 |
| Collected by Mr. Stark—   |      |     |    |   |
| Mr. Alex. McPherson.  | £2   | 2   | 0  |   |
| Mr. David Arnott ..   | 1    | 1   | 0  |   |
| Mr. David Arnott, jun.  | 0    | 5   | 0  |   |
| Mr. Wm. Arnott....  | 2    | 2   | 0  |   |
| Mr. Wm. Drew ....   | 1    | 1   | 0  |   |
| Mr. John Phelps....   | 0    | 5   | 0  |   |
|   |      | 6   | 16 | 0 |

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September that same year, a list of subscriptions for the erection of the School of Arts<sup>3</sup> is very illuminating in that it tells one that not only are William and John Smith Arnott West Maitland residents, but also their father (David Millie Arnott) and brother David.

There are further notices and advertisements that clearly tell us that William at least, was firmly ensconced

in West Maitland by 1854, clearly dispelling the notion that Morpeth was the birthplace of the Arnott story, 1854 was after all, a full seven years before the Morpeth bakehouse was leased by the Arnott's.

Interestingly, neither of the two most credible of the pre-1865 Arnott biographers, his granddaughter Phyllis Mander-Jones<sup>4</sup> and Phil Thomson (*Secure a Place in Heaven*)<sup>5</sup>, make mention of a residence or a business operation in Morpeth, and most certainly not by William.

So, what is the story of William Arnott in the period prior to the establishment of the business in Newcastle in 1865? Almost certainly, Phil Thomson gives the most comprehensive account of the family and its circumstances in the United Kingdom and their subsequent arrival in New South Wales while Phyllis Mander-Jones, offers the most creditable account of William Arnott's life in New South Wales of the period up to 1865, albeit with the three-year gap between 1848 and 1851.

In the preamble to his story, Thomson tells something of himself:

*I grew up in the same town (Maitland) as William Arnott and I worked as a reporter for the newspaper that covered much of his story, albeit a century later. I walked to school past the place where one of his first bakeries would have stood, and the graves of some of his family members were within walking distance of my childhood home ...*

Thomson continues ...

*William Arnot – the extra 't' would come later – was born in Pathhead, Scotland, on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1827, the first child of Isabella and David Millie Arnot.*

*David bleached textiles, which required lots of water and sunshine, so he worked outside where the south-westerlies could strip the grain from a farmer's crop.*

*Bleachers like David struggled as the 1830s wore on, particularly in a market where established manufacturers held the capital (and the power to set the prices they would pay bleachers) and soon he was supporting five children – William, David, Euphemia, John and Thomas – as Scotland's textiles sector sailed into a financial storm.*

*A flax shortage closed dozens of mills and bleachers consequently received less work so David sold some of the flax he was meant to be bleaching to cover debts, hoping to replace the stolen flax before his clients found out <sup>6</sup>.*

*His actions plunged his family into greater hardship and forever changed William's destiny.*

*Five days before his court hearing, David was declared insolvent with an advertisement in the Fife Herald giving people six weeks to come forward with their claims before his assets were sold.*

*After months aboard the prison hulk Justitia in England, he boarded the Earl Grey 2 at Portsmouth with 277 other male convicts bound for Australia on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1838. A fortnight later Isabella birthed their sixth child, Robert, and the family moved in with her 70-year-old mother.*

*William, two months before his 10th birthday, was now the man of the house.*

William began his working life as a weaver's apprentice but at some point, followed his brother David into the bakery trade. Wages were poor and hours were long.

Thomson continues, taking us down an unexpected path:

*Caroline Chisholm was a gale in the body of a Catholic housewife who blew into the NSW colony from England.*

*Without her, Arnott's Biscuits would never have been established in New South Wales because she rescued the Arnott family from the harsh colonial bureaucracy no less than three times.*

*In the early 1840s, Chisholm had interviewed David Arnott, along with other ticket of leave holders and convict settlers, about the detrimental effects of family separation.*

*Using her research, she lobbied for family reunification.*

*In January 1843, Governor George Gipps approved David's application for his wife Isabella and their six children to be brought to New South Wales.*

*However, while the family members had permission to travel, they had no way of travelling to New South Wales, assisted migration programs having stalled.*

*Chisholm campaigned for this as well, and secured places on a ship for most of the Arnott family.*

*In 1847 Isabella and four of her children – Euphemia, John, Thomas and Robert – sailed on the convict ship Asia, which was taking female criminals to Australia.*

*William and David stayed behind.*

*The brothers' chances of securing a place on a ship were unlikely.*

*This is where the fiery Chisholm stepped up again to secure just such a ship.*

*By October 1848 the 575-tonne British barque Sir Edward Parry left Plymouth for Australia carrying only migrants for the purpose of family reunification with William and David on board.*

*William found love when he met Irish house maid Monica Sinclair, escaping the peak of Ireland's potato famine. They were married in Maitland in 1850.*

*The Arnott brothers were reunited with their family.*

Phyllis Mander-Jones takes up the story:

*... with his younger brother David, William followed his family to Australia, arriving in Sydney on the Sir Edward Parry on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1848. Both brothers were bakers in Maitland until 1851 when they went with separate parties to the Turon River diggings. William had no luck as a gold miner but did well baking bread and pies on the field and by early 1853, he was back in Maitland as a baker and pastry cook. He prospered until the two great floods of the Hunter River in 1857 brought disaster. The new building he had put up in 1856 was flooded and he had hardly recovered when he was flooded out again in 1861. In 1862 he was forced to compound with his creditors and in 1864 there were more floods. In February 1865 one of his creditors demanded full payment and in April his wife Monica, nee Sinclair, died; he had met her on the voyage to Sydney and they were married in 1850.*



*Arnott moved to Newcastle in 1865. By September he was established in Hunter Street, Newcastle, and quickly built up a successful business, helped by his second wife Margaret Maclean, nee Fleming, whom he married in Morpeth in October (1865).*

*The move to Newcastle was made possible by loans from friends but he repaid all his debts within 12 months.*

*In the next few years the name of Arnott became famous for bread and cakes but especially for sweet and plain biscuits and ships' biscuits, in which there was a big trade with the growing number of ships in port. Between 1869 and 1876 he acquired land in what was to become Union Street and built a family home and factory fitted with the latest machinery.*

Whilst devoid of much information on the period between 1848 and 1853, Thomson tells much the same story after William returned from the gold fields:

*... William failed on the Bathurst goldfields and settled in Maitland as a baker with wife Monica where through the 1850s they occupied a two-storey brick building in High Street, which had a shop and three rooms on the ground floor, and on the upper floor three large bedrooms and a balcony at the rear. There was a kitchen, storeroom, baker's room and servant's room plus a bakehouse and a room for storing flour...*



The building believed to be William Arnott's home and bakery in the eastern end of High Street, Maitland

(Photo courtesy of Google Maps)

*The multi-purpose premises combined his passions - family and work - and was big enough to suit his growing family, however three floods in several years bankrupted him by the mid-1860s.*

*One of the floods washed away 10 tonnes of Arnott's flour and nearly killed him as he drove his dray across a floodway.*

*Then Monica died, leaving him four children to raise.*

*Losing everything after years of hard work in the new colony must have been crushing, but the next 20 years would be the making of a colonial legend and his legacy.*

*He married Margaret Maclean (Fleming), with whom he would have eight children, and with money borrowed from friends moved to Newcastle.*



*He paid his friends back within a year but he left behind larger debts in Maitland which had been written off.*

*Twenty years after bankruptcy, at age 55, Arnott, big and bearded, the owner a factory with steam-powered machines producing 1.5 tonnes of biscuits a day, tracked down his creditors from two decades before and paid them back.*

*His ex-creditors were so astonished they threw a party for him and presented him with a gold medal inscribed Labore et Honore (labour and honour).*

*Hearing their tribute speeches brought Arnott to the verge of tears as he remembered the "grief and sorrow" caused by liquidation.*

Three members of William Arnott's family are interred in this grave in Oakhampton Cemetery:

Son David Mille (1854)

Son William (1860)

Wife Monica (1865)

There are any number of further advertisements placed in *The Mercury* by or on behalf of William Arnott. A couple are of direct significance. Firstly, it seems he sold his West Maitland property in June 1862, no doubt a consequence of his financial worries however, the

**SPLENDID INVESTMENT.**

**VALUABLE HOUSE PROPERTY,**  
KNOWN AS  
**MR. WILLIAM ARNOTT'S,**  
**HIGH-STREET, WEST MAITLAND**  
SITUATE OPPOSITE THE THEATRE.

**MR. THOMAS CADELL** has received instructions to sell by public auction, on the premises, on **SATURDAY, 21st June, 1862, at Twelve o'clock,**

**All that VALUABLE PROPERTY, known as Mr. W Arnott's Baker's Shop, Dwelling-house, Bake-house, &c., &c., comprising a two-storied Brick Building, with all requisite out-offices.**

**Full particulars in Tuesday's Mercury.** 3673



evidence implies that he continued trading, presumably as a tenant, the business later being sold in March 1865, immediately before the death of his wife Monica; there's little doubt this was a direct consequence of his creditor's demands.

**NOTICE.**

**T**HE undersigned begs to return his **SINCERE THANKS** to his numerous customers for their patronage during the last twelve years; and, at the same time, to intimate that he has **DISPOSED** of his business to **Mr. WILLIAM HORSLEY**, on whose behalf he respectfully solicits a continuance of the favors hitherto accorded to himself.

**WILLIAM ARNOTT,**  
Baker.

West Maitland, 27th March, 1865.

---

With reference to the above notice, the undersigned hereby notifies that he now **CARRIES ON** the **BUSINESS** hitherto conducted by **Mr. WILLIAM ARNOTT**, and trusts that by strict attention to the interest of his customers, to merit a continuance of that patronage so liberally bestowed upon his predecessor.

**WILLIAM HORSLEY,**  
Baker.

27th March, 1865. 2060

From this point on, there seems little argument among William Arnott's biographers as to the family's and the company's forward pathway through history.

It does however leave the question as to what happened to William's brother David. Researching the NSW Registry, it seems David married Elizabeth Taylor in 1853 with 12 children born to the couple between 1854 and 1872.


The entry of most interest is without doubt that of son David Jnr, born in August 1862 and whose birth was registered at Morpeth. Does this mean that it was David and not William who was residing at Morpeth at this time? David was also listed in the *Mercury* as a trustee of the Morpeth Wesleyan church on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1864.

Whilst it is impossible to be certain, the most likely scenario is that it was David who resided and baked in Morpeth, William firmly ensconced in West Maitland at the bottom end of High Street.

In fairness to Stephen Arnott, he possesses a copy of a lease for the Morpeth property, clearly signed by William in 1861. My thought is that it was probably on behalf of his brother David who became insolvent in June of that same year and as such, would have been unable to enter into any legal tenancy.

The two-storied portion of Arnott's High Street holdings remains but are unfortunately in poor repair. One wonders that if this state of disrepair was brought to the attention of the global conglomerate, they might rustle up a few dollars for its restoration.

Well, you might ask as to where Maitland Council sits on this question. I think the answer is readily available when one views the entry in their 'Digital Hall of Fame', the errors in their version clearly evident.



## William Arnott

**Year of induction:** 2016

**Field of endeavour:** Business and public service

**Lifespan:** 1827 - 1901

Born in Scotland, William Arnott was a biscuit manufacturer who worked in Morpeth for 15 years as a baker with his brother David. He then established a bakery in Newcastle (1876) and soon had factories in Sydney (1894) and Homebush (1908). William retired in 1899 and his family continued the business and Arnott's remains a popular and successful household name. William was active with philanthropic work and valued hard work, integrity and quality.

1. [Baking an icon, the Arnott's way - ABC listen](#)
2. A variety of dates are cited in the various biographies for the arrival of William and David Arnott in New South Wales. According to the website *Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters*, the **Sir Edward Parry** departed Plymouth on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1847 and arrived in Port Jackson on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1848 after having called enroute to Port Phillip on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1848. <https://marinersandships.com.au/1848/02/017sir.htm>
3. Maitland School of Arts building is in Victoria Street and is now part of St Mary's campus of All Saints Catholic College.
4. Phyllis Mander-Jones, 'Arnott, William (1827–1901)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/arnott-william-2903/text4169>, published first in hardcopy 1969, accessed online 6 October 2023.
5. <https://www.familyonmission.com.au/biography/ecojrx78ipnbniowfbgqkhba7fmdlt-xtkbb>
6. One presumes that the flax belonged to either the grower or the weaver (manufacturer).





## The 'Heritage Hub' – the Old Council Admin building?

This is still very much an option.

A group of community representatives, together with Council officers travelled to Bathurst recently to have a '*Cook's look*' at their storage facility. Whilst impressed, there were some misgivings as to whether such a facility would 'work' here. There was also an ongoing annual cost of some \$600k which worried some ...

The members of the 'Group' who are leading this chase to procure a home for ours and 'like' organisations, are to be commended for their efforts, especially Janece McDonald who has given countless hours to the task. We owe them all a collective thanks.

Until next time .... Stay safe.



Kevin Short  
President

In my dotage I've become  
interested stories about  
eyes:

The cornea the better !

# A rail link between Sydney and the Hunter via Wisemans Ferry and Wollombi wasn't to be

By Lawrie Henderson

September 18 2022



The Hunter railway that never was

While researching the Great Northern Railway, I noticed on the Allandale Parish Map (1903) a line curving southwards from a point west of Allandale Railway Station. On closer inspection I noticed it was labelled 'Wollombi Railway' and looking at adjoining maps, the line went all the way to Wollombi. Obviously, further research was needed.

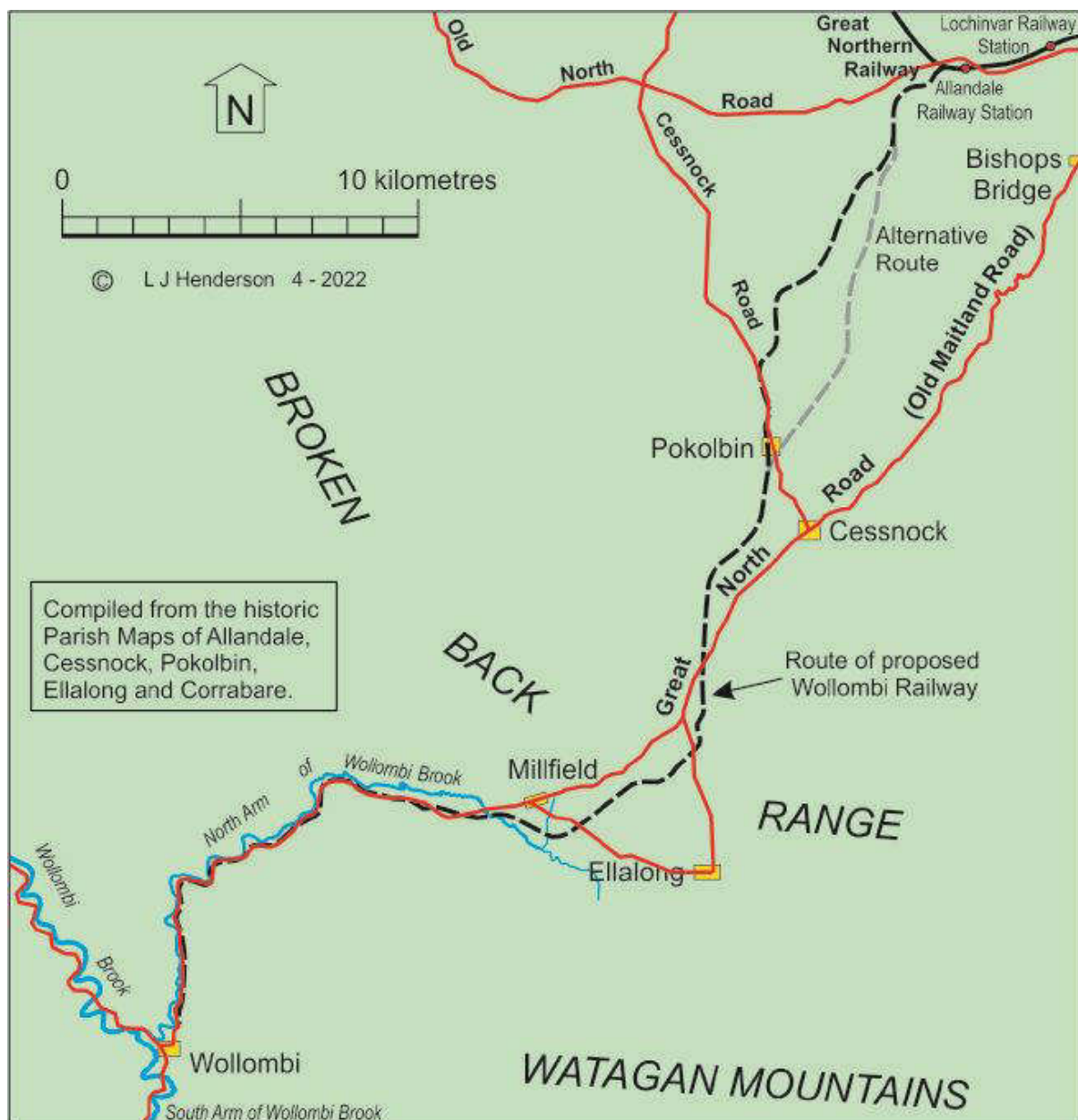
On December 30, 1848, the Maitland Mercury carried an article advocating a rail link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley via Wisemans Ferry and Wollombi. Railways in Sydney began in 1850 and Newcastle in 1854.

The Newcastle line reached East Maitland in 1857, West Maitland 1858 and Singleton 1863. At the start of building the Great Northern Railway, in 1854, the Mercury was again advocating an inland link to Sydney, avoiding the formidable width of the Hawkesbury River.

The Mercury on July 15, 1856, reported that a meeting was to be held at Wollombi on the 17th "to take into consideration the need to petition the government to form a tram or railway to unite the Sydney and Hunter River lines, the cross line to start



from the station nearest to Windsor, pass through the Wollombi District, and to the station nearest Singleton.



The Hunter railway that never was

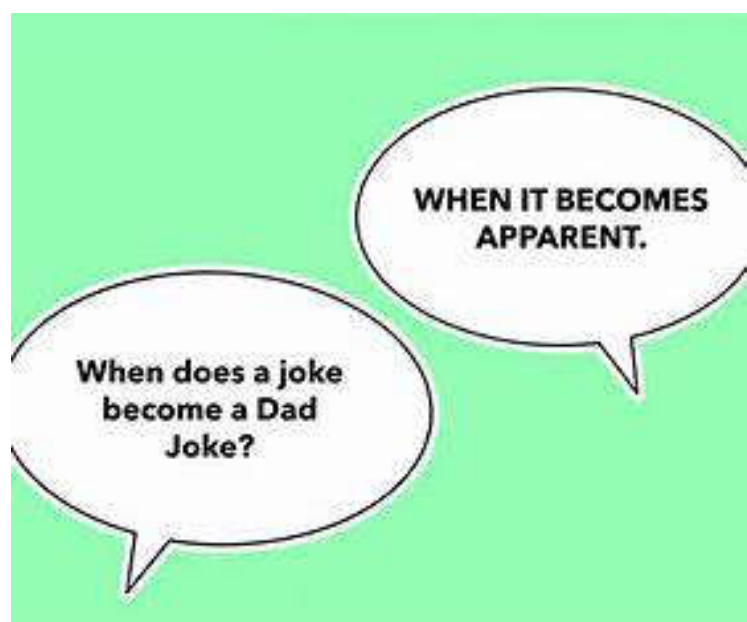
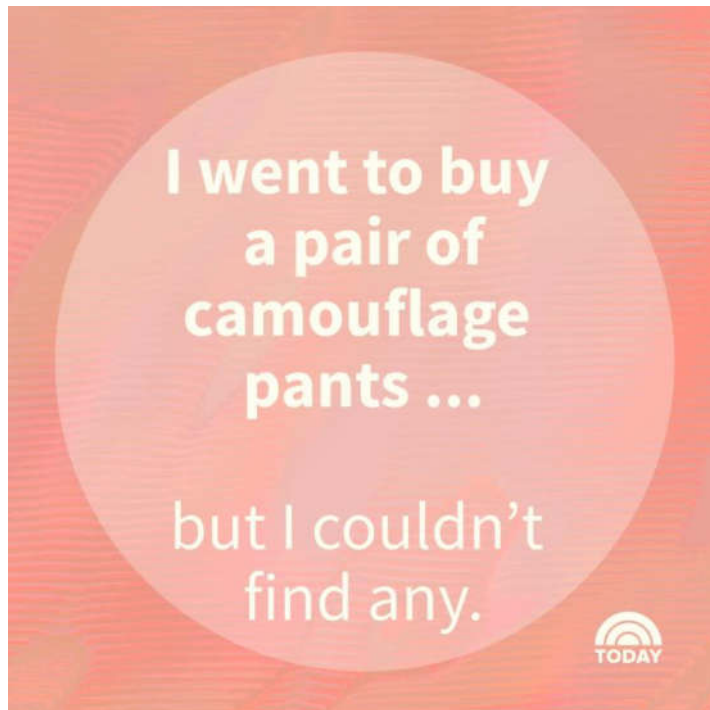
On August 2, 1879, the Mercury published a letter from a Mr W Snape, of Ellalong, complimenting the government on starting the survey of the line from Allandale Railway Station on the Great Northern line to Cessnock and Wollombi. By August 30, the Mercury reported: "The railway survey party are rapidly approaching Wollombi, and hope runs high that the chosen route will be through our district."

There were two other options. One was from Mulgrave Station, on the Blacktown-Richmond line to Lower Portland and to follow the Putty Road to Singleton. The other was from Homebush to Peats Ferry (now the Pacific Highway Bridge across the Hawkesbury) and then to Gosford and Waratah. Singleton Borough Council petitioned the government for the Sydney link to pass through Broke and Wollombi, and East Maitland Council advocated a link from there to Wollombi.

West Maitland considered itself the centre for the larger population on the Hunter River and as the nearest point for traffic from the Paterson, Williams and Manning

rivers. The Allandale to Wollombi route was advocated as it was flood free, central and the line would pass through an important agricultural area.

The Homebush-Waratah option was adopted an estimated £2,000,000, including the Hawkesbury Bridge costing £750,000. The railway from Allandale to Wollombi was largely forgotten, but the idea didn't die altogether. Meetings in Ellalong, Pokolbin and Cessnock advocated the construction of a light railway between the two places. A letter to the Mercury of October 8, 1887, by Mr K K Milson, of Wollombi, briefly fanned the flames once again. However, the railway never eventuated.





# History: Maitland's Musical Marmaduke applauded

Lawrie Henderson  
September 25 2022



Marmaduke's headstone at Campbell's Hill Cemetery.

Marmaduke Henry Wilson was born in London on June 3, 1833 and arrived in Sydney in December, 1858. He was well known in the United Kingdom as a pianist and composer of music, and he continued his musical career on arrival in Sydney.

By 1860, it appears that Marmaduke Wilson was living in Maitland and the Mercury reported on January 1, 1861, that the New Year's entertainment that evening at the School of Arts would be by a number of artists, including the pianist Marmaduke Wilson.

Two days later the newspaper said of the concert: "The overtures and fantasia were most brilliantly executed by Mr Wilson, who certainly is the best pianist that has visited Maitland for a long period".

Marmaduke Henry Wilson married Miss Margaret Teys, the daughter of David Teys of Murrurundi, at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle on April 9, 1861. Their first son was born in Murrurundi on December 15, 1863.

On March 5, 1863, the Mercury reported on the Maitland Musical Bijou, a monthly publication produced by Mr JW Hillcoat, music publisher of High St, Maitland. The first issue highlighted *The Night Parade Waltzes*, composed by Mr Marmaduke Wilson, and stated that they could not fail to become popular.

Mr Wilson's compositions also appeared in subsequent issues of the publication. The May issue included the *Singleton Railway Galop*, specially composed for the opening of the Great Northern Railway to Singleton and played for the first time at the Railway Ball. The music was dedicated, with permission, to the Governor General Sir John Young.

The Newcastle Choral Society was formed at a meeting of interested citizens under the joint conductorship of Dr Charles H Horn (vocal) and Mr Marmaduke Wilson (music), in August 1866 and was considered a great success. *The Mercury* complained in its pages soon after that Maitland had a fine hall (the School of Arts) but no choral society while Newcastle had a fine choral society and no hall for concerts!

*The Mercury* noted a "very well deserved compliment" to Mr Marmaduke Wilson when he was given a grand complimentary concert at the School of Arts on 4 August, 1868. He was a prolific composer of music and one of his final compositions was the Peach Blossom Waltz, published in August, 1870. *The Mercury* stated that it "will be a welcome addition to the ball-room repertoire".

By September, 1870, Wilson was suffering a protracted illness which prevented him from continuing with his concerts and music teaching and he died on 16 May, 1871, aged 37 years. He left a widow and three young sons. He was interred in St Mary's Cemetery, Campbells Hill. Later a headstone was erected bearing the inscription: Erected to the memory of Marmaduke H. Wilson, Professor of Music, died 16th May, 1871, aged 37 years.