



LACHLAN VALLEY GOLD

ISSN14406772

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Welcome to our first Journal for 2024.

We would like to thank the members who have contributed items for this month's Journal or helped in any way with its publication and hope our readers enjoy the read.

If any of our members have articles they would like to be included in our Journals, please let us know.

COTTON'S WEIR

Have you ever wondered how the weir at Forbes came to be called Cotton's Weir? Hopefully the following will provide some answers.

Western Champion (Parkes)
Friday, 23rd December
1898:

After ten years of persistent agitation through the Press and in Parliament, Mr Frank Cotton, MLA, has succeeded in inducing the Government to devote the sum of £500 to an experiment in the direction of water conservation in the valley of the Lachlan.

Mr Cotton has contended that by the adoption of the "timber crib" system (which has been in use in the great

irrigation systems of California for some 25 years) water could be conserved in our dry western districts at a merely nominal cost.

Hitherto, the system followed here has been based upon Indian methods which, though admirably suitable for a country with a tropical climate and swiftly-running rivers, is far too expensive for our requirements, besides being absolutely unsuitable for sluggish rivers fed by a scanty rainfall.

The Premier has consented to place the sum mentioned in the hands of an honorary board, consisting of Mr Frank Cotton MP,

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**ALL
MEMBERS'
FEES \$25.00
PER ANNUM**

DUE 1ST JULY

**(This covers
the period
from 1st July
to 30th June
the following
year)**



FORBES FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
SPECIALISING IN FORBES AND DISTRICT HISTORY

2023-2024 COMMITTEE

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 First Vice-President K. Smith
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 Journal Editor C. Barton
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 Public Officer J. Toole
 Membership Secretary .. E. Doughan
 Heritage Council Rep M. Wren



RESEARCH ROOM

The Forbes Family History Group research room is situated in Harold Street, at the back of the Forbes Shire Library. It is open each Wednesday, from 10am to 12 noon and also each Saturday from 11am to 3pm.

Research Fees are as follows: -

- 1) Free to members attending in person, except photocopying.
- 2) Written enquiries: \$30.00 payable upon enquiry—photocopying, postage and handling additional.
- 3) Non-Members: \$10.00 per day for the use of the facility, plus photocopying.

MEETINGS

- 1) Meetings are held in the Group's rooms, at 3pm on the third Saturday of the month.
- 2) The Annual General Meeting of the Forbes Family History Group Inc. is held at 3pm on the third Saturday in September each year.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

ffhg@westserv.net.au

WEB SITE: <http://forbesfhg.wordpress.com>

Follow us on Facebook:

facebook.com/Fbs.family.history

The Secretary
 Forbes Family History Group Inc.
 PO Box 574
 FORBES NSW 2871

COTTON'S WEIR (cont.)

Mr J.B. Reymond MP, and the Mayor of Forbes. These gentlemen are to select a site and superintend the work. The experiment, if successful, will, it is contended, open up great possibilities for water conservation and make practicable various projects which, from a departmental point of view, have always been considered impossible on account of the vast expense it was supposed they would entail.

Western Age (Dubbo)

Friday, 9th March 1934

COTTON'S WEIR

INTERESTING HISTORY

RESULT OF A BET

ABOUT FRANK COTTON

About forty years ago Frank Cotton, still going strong, was one of the band of intelligentsia cast upon the political shore by the wave of single tax enthusiasm which followed the wake of Henry George's visit to New South Wales (states a writer in the Sydney Mail).

He was regarded by people who knew nothing about the subject as a crank on water conservation and had a big brain chock full of schemes for making the back-block wilderness bloom like the rose.

Among them was one to impound the flood-waters of the Lachlan by a weir at Forbes.

This was suggested by way of a start. What could be easier, he asked, with the fall of the river so insignificant that in normal times the water could scarcely crawl along the bed from point to point which marked its course when the dry season prevailed?

On Its Dignity

Officialdom got on its dignity.

Was it to be told how Government water conservation schemes should be carried out by any Georgian enthusiast, who did not know red tape from sealing wax?

The Forbes people, who wanted a town water supply however, liked the idea and badgered the Reid Government to give the scheme a try.

To keep Cotton quiet as much as anything else, the departmental engineers were ordered to furnish a report.

The work might be done, they admitted, but at a cost of not less than £5000.

The Government sniffed. It asked Cotton to look at that and consider himself flattened out. The taxpayers had no £5000 to pay for providing a few people up country with cheap and easy water. Let them go down to the river, where they could always get a bucketful like others out that way had to do.

GENGE'S CORDIALS

I'm sure many of our readers will have fond memories of the old cordial factory and the cordials sold by J. & R.A. Genge.

The building at 23 Dowling Street was erected in 1895 and originally housed a sawmilling business run by Mr Dugald Campbell. Messrs Marren & Vincent purchased the building, added to it, and began a brewery there in 1899.

Two brothers, Jack and Roy Genge, began their cordial manufacturing in 1950 in the building, following their purchase of the business from Reg Astley. Another brother, Frank Genge, also sold Genge's cordials from a branch in Grenfell.



Genge's Cordials
"Deliciously Different"

Following Roy Genge's death in 1965, Jack went into partnership with his brother-in-law Allan Bullock and formed Lachlan Valley Cordials. When Jack retired, Allan closed the Dowling Street premises and built new premises at 22 Farnell Street where he continued to trade under the Lachlan Valley Cordials name from approximately 1967/68 until 1991.

Genge's boasted nine different cordial flavours—Cherry Cheer, Passiona, Lemonade, Creaming Soda, Orange, Lime, Ginger Beer, Cola and Pineapple. Some of the bottle tops were labelled "Snice" which was not a flavour, but an advertising gimmick taken from the phrase "It's Nice".

The building at 23 Dowling Street housed several business over the years, but in January 2006 it was unfortunately destroyed by fire. It had stood for 111 years. Flood levels from 1916 until 1990 were marked on the bricks of the building.

The site is now occupied by Roylance's Tractors.



GENGE'S CORDIALS (CONT.)



*John ("Jack")
Genge*



Roy Genge

*(Above)
J. & R.A. Genge's
Cordial Factory c.1965
(Picture shows local
Stuart Tomkins point-
ing out the various
flood levels to
interested onlookers)*

*and (below, right)
following the fire in
January 2006*



FORBES HOSPITAL IN THE 1890s

Sydney Morning Herald, 4th February 1890

At the annual meeting of subscribers to the Forbes District Hospital, there was a good attendance of members. The reports showed that the institution was in a most satisfactory condition, both financially and otherwise. The medical officers (Drs. Baldford and McDonell) report that the death-rate for last year was only 4-5. The number of in-patients during the year 1889 was 156, and out-patients numbered over 200. A sum of £145 was received from paying patients. The medical officers strongly recommended the establishment of an isolation ward.

Australian Star 29th January 1892

FORBES HOSPITAL

Forbes, Thursday

The annual meeting of the subscribers to Forbes Hospital was held yesterday. The committee's report showed a falling off of £73 in the amount of the general subscriptions received, as compared with the previous year, but this loss had been counter-balanced by the very liberal donations of Mr William Thomas, Mayor. The number of admissions during the year was 149, a total of 160 received treatment and 132 were discharged as cured. There had been a decrease in general hospital maintenance of £41. The special grant of £300 from the Government has been expended on the building and on the purchase of instruments. There were 46 paying patients, from whom £138 had been received. The friendly societies had contributed £30, and Mr Thomas gave £112. The report states that

the people from the country districts had contributed very little, the burden remaining on the townspeople. Miss Keys was unanimously re-elected matron and Mr E.B.S Strickland elected as president.

Albury Banner & Wodonga Express 10th February 1893

THE FORBES HOSPITAL

The report of the committee of the Forbes Hospital is not altogether pleasant reading. The number of patients during the year has been "unusually large", necessitating an expenditure of over £900, while the subscription lists have been just as small. The various station properties throughout the district contribute very largely in the matter of hospital patients, but for some reason or other, the money receipts therefrom are nothing like what they should be. £7/4/8d cannot be considered a large sum, reckoned as the "entire contributions of the working men of the district", towards an institution whose doors are ever open for the admission of sick and suffering humanity.

There is a bright lining, however, to this somewhat dark cloud and it is to be seen in the amounts received from paying patients. Of these, 42 persons paid in a sum of £155/11/3d during the year, so after all it may be that people who fail to recognise their obligation to support a hospital from purely charitable motives, are willing and ready to pay for any services they may receive when necessity compels them to become inmates of one.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

*We have decided to hold a Mother's Day Raffle again this year
Tickets are \$1.00 and the draw will be held on Wednesday, 8th May.*

*If you receive your Journal by email and would like to buy or sell tickets,
please call into our Rooms during our opening hours to collect these.*

*Any donations towards our Mother's Day raffle may be left at our Rooms
and we thank everyone for your support.*



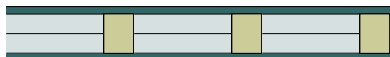
FORBES HOSPITAL IN THE 1890s (CONT.)

Molong Argus

15th April 1898

FORBES HOSPITAL

According to the "Forbes Times" of Saturday, the Hospital finances are not in a very flourishing condition there. The accounts for the month amounted to £78, but to meet this they have only £18 in the bank. The Government subsidy has not, however, been paid over yet.



**Some people
talk in their
sleep.**

**Lecturers talk
while other
people sleep.**

- Albert Camus



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!

The winners of our Christmas raffle were:

1st—John Job

2nd—Linda Finn

3rd—Peta Constable

4th—Jenny Dawes

*Congratulations to our winners—we hope you enjoyed your prizes.
Thank you to everyone who bought or sold tickets—your support is
very much appreciated.*



Rex Barton assisted Michele Herbert to draw the winning tickets in our Christmas Hamper raffle

CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

Last year, we entered the Rotary Ipoema Christmas Tree Competition which was held in December. Our entry consisted of photographs attached to a frame which was made by one of our members — the idea was to ask people to identify the subjects in the photos.

We understand our entry attracted quite a bit of attention and interest in the photo display.

We look forward to entering the competition again this year.



**Our
“Family His-Tree”
entry in the Rotary
Ipoema Christmas
Tree Competition**

COTTON'S WEIR (cont.)

"But why £5000?" demanded Cotton. Nobody was asking for a dam built of marble with artistic carvings on the wall. "I'll undertake to put a good enough weir there for about the price of the red tape used up in the preparation of your report", said he. The Government sniggered, and for a time it stopped at that.

How did the funding amount come to be agreed upon?

Later on, Parliament was breaking up for the Christmas recess. They laid aside the shovel and the hoe, hung up the fiddle and the bow, and all assembled to shake hands in the refreshment-room. Speeches were made with the party stings taken out. When it came to Frank Cotton's turn, he concluded with a sporting offer. Although Cotton himself was a tee-totaller, it does not follow that water was the dominating influence to which the gathering was subject. All the same, back he came to the old story, and challenged the Premier to put up £500 on condition that he (Cotton) was to build the Forbes weir for that amount or find the balance himself.

Applause greeted the challenge, and as a man of sport, what was the Premier to do?

Wager Taken

"Done", said Mr Reid (he was not yet Sir George) and a hundred glasses clinked approval.

Within a few days, logs were being cut, clay tempered, stone gathered and for four rushing weeks the local community stood looking on in wonder.

At the end of that time, a telegram was received by the Premier signed "Cotton". Its contents were: "Weir completed; everything satisfactory; total cost £442."

That accounts for an unexpended balance of £58 lying to the credit of the weir construction vote, and that is why, for the past forty years, Forbes has had one of the best (and by far the cheapest) water supplies enjoyed by any town in the State.



As to the man—not a Forbes resident either—to whom the Forbes Council owes this inestimable boon, the best the Mayor and aldermen could do was to offer him a cup of tea made from the first billy of water drawn from the dam.

- T.C.

*** **

The original weir was replaced in 1929 by a concrete structure, with the cost shared by the Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission and Forbes Council. The maintenance of the new weir was to be the responsibility of the Council.

*** **

COTTON'S WEIR (cont.)



*Cotton's Weir, Forbes
(Photo courtesy of Rex Barton)*

SAGACIOUS DOG

160 Miles Droving Trip without Master

Mr J.G. Garner, of Tumut, recently leased "Killara", a property forty miles from Forbes. He drove his sheep from Tumut to his new holding. While absent from "Killara", his two saddle-horses strayed. A search for them proved unavailing. Then his dog disappeared. A month later, word was received from Tumut, 160 miles away, that the horses had arrived at Mr Garner's old homestead, unharmed, with the dog behind them. It appeared that the dog had found the horses, and had either driven them or followed them back along the road they had taken on the way to Forbes



(The Farmer & Settler, Sydney) Thursday, 18th January 1934

OLD BOGABIGAL

About 400 acres of land on the north side of the Lachlan River, accessed by Gaymard's Lane, was the original homestead area of Bogabigal and was referred to later as "Old Bogabigal". It has river flats and hill country and is in the Bocobidgle Parish on the Forbes boundary.

George Rankin, who lived at Bathurst, was the first person to hold the licence for Bugabigal, as it was named then. It also encompassed a Run named Mundabong to the east, where gold was discovered, with Forbes town located to the north. Mumberbidgle adjoined where Rankin had a fifty-cow dairy producing cheese, increasing to one hundred cows in the 1850s. This was a superior cheese and Rankin cheese was well-known in Sydney.

The Bugabigal Run stretched from the Lachlan River on its south to the Billabong Creek to the north, with an area of over 50,000 acres.

(See map, page 16)

With selection commencing in the 1860s on these holdings (which were only by that time held by a lease), land when surveyed was usually taken up as a Conditional Purchase and initially residence was required. However, these requirements changed with later Acts.

The 400 acres in question was taken up in 1876 as a Conditional Purchase by Thomas Morris who had the Bogabigal holding. It was later changed to an Improvement Purchase, though there may have been a dispute over the changed title, as the purchase was not finalised until 1888. Thomas Morris had died in 1878, so the finalisation of purchase was enacted by his representatives. The land passed to his wife Jane who sold in 1900 to Norman Gatenby's wife Minnie, he being the owner of Jemalong Station. In 1911, Mrs Gatenby sold to William McRae who then sold to the King for the settlement of discharged soldiers.

The first farmer on the property was George Turner, a local who had been working on a nearby property. By 1929 there were two following, Sydney Catlin in 1926 and Bert Whitlock in 1929 who sold in 1942 to Arthur Hughes, a Forbes store-keeper. His son Reg who had joined the RAAF was a partner, but sadly he was killed in 1843 in a plane crash in Canada whilst flight training.

During Hughes' ownership, some of the land was subdivided but an interesting subdivision was one



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch was held at Club Forbes on Thursday, 30th November. Several of our members enjoyed a tasty lunch and the opportunity for a chat.



MEMBERSHIP FEES ...!

***Membership fees for 2023/2024 fell due on 1st July 2023.
The fees for the current year to 30th June are \$25.00 per year.***

Anyone wishing to pay their membership may either send a cheque to us at P.O. Box 574, Forbes, 2871 or pay the fees directly into our bank account, details of which are as follows:

Bank: Westpac Bank, Lachlan Street, Forbes
BSB: 032-822
Account No. 123487
Account Name: Forbes Family History Group Inc.

(Please also include your name if making a direct deposit to our account)

Our opening hours are as follows:

Wednesdays: 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Saturdays: 11.00am to 3.00pm

We are always looking for more volunteers to assist in our Rooms during these times, so any assistance would be very gratefully received.

FEE INCREASE

Unfortunately, due to rising costs, we have made the decision to increase our membership and research fees as follows:

Membership fees will increase to **\$35.00** from **1st July 2024**.
Research fees will increase to **\$30.00** from **1st January 2024**.





Among the winners of the 2024 Australia Day Citizenship Awards were two of our members, Rex and Cheryl Barton.

Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thank-you for all the work you do in our community.



2024 Citizenship Award Winners

***Rex & Cheryl Barton (Citizens of the Year), Deirdre Quirk (Senior Citizen of the Year)
and Jessica Ashcroft (Junior Citizen of the Year)***

(Photo courtesy of Forbes Advocate)

Exits are on the way out.



- W.G.P.

OLD BOGABIGAL (CONT.)

Forbes Times

Tuesday, 9th December 1913

Getting Stone Across the River

AN AERIAL ROPEWAY

SHIRE COUNCIL'S ENTERPRISE

If anything was needed to prove the ability of the Engineer of the Jemalong Shire Council, it is to be found in the construction at Old Bogabigal of an aerial ropeway for the purpose of getting stone across the Lachlan River from the northern to the southern side. When this scheme was first proposed because of the scarcity of metal for the roads on the south side of the river, there were many who predicted for its failure. But the Council had already had a taste of the foresight of Mr A.J. Booth, who a few years ago recommended the installation of a road-making plan and the venture has been so successful that the Council had no misgivings in trusting to the judgment of their Engineer on this occasion.

After some weeks' preliminary work, the present scheme for getting stone across the river has been carried to a successful issue, and the Council is now putting over from 10 to 12 tons per hour. Could the Council cope with the haulage of the metal on to the roads, the present output could be almost doubled by the employment of a few more men.

The stone is quarried from the hill which was recently purchased by the Council from Mr W.A. McRae and is conveyed by drays into the huge buckets which are suspended from a double cableway. The cables are so constructed that whilst a loaded bucket is being taken across the river, an empty one is returning. The buckets are pulled to and fro across the river

by a couple of horses working in a certain direction and then reversing. It is for this purpose that the Council is on the look-out for a small h.p. donkey engine.

When the buckets reach the other side, the door of the cage opens and the stone drops into the Council's trucks and is carted away by the traction engines. The Engineer hopes that this work will be allowed to go on for some months, as a great deal of stone will be required for the two main roads on the south side of the river.

With a view of showing ratepayers the utility of the scheme, the President of the Shire Council (Mr. R.E. Rawlins) invited some 40 or 50 ratepayers, together with representatives of the local Municipal Council and other prominent citizens, to attend a trial of the ropeway to be given at Old Bogabigal, about four miles from town, on Friday last. Owing to the busy time and for other reasons, only about 20 persons put in an appearance. Apologies were read from the Mayor (Ald. Edwards) and the Engineer of the Lachlan (Condobolin) Shire who expressed the intention of having a look at the contrivance at a later date. After a demonstration of the scheme had been given, a few speeches were

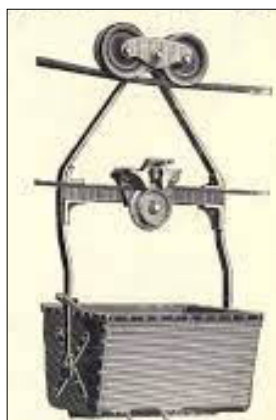
OLD BOGABIGAL (CONT.)

made and Ald. Patterson congratulated the President and Council on the enterprise shown.

President Rawlins thanked the speakers for their remarks. He was sorry that the busy time and weather of the past week had prevented a bigger audience of ratepayers. They had practically been compelled to install the present system, as there was an immense amount of work required on the Marsden and Boyd Roads and there was no suitable stone on that side. It was no use making earth roads.

Two acres of land had been purchased for the quarry and the metal was being quarried and carted a distance of eight miles at a cost of about 5 shillings per cubic yard.

Afternoon tea was then served by Mrs Rawlins (the President's wife), assisted by other ladies and after some of those present had been given a ride across the river and back again in the "flying fox" the party broke up and made tracks for home.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Forbes Advocate—
Friday 23rd May 1924

TELEPHONE FACILITIES

Mr Moore, postmaster, advises that trunk line communication has now been arranged direct with Sydney, via Parkes and Orange. It is to be hoped that subscribers will recognise the benefit of this arrangement, as calls can now be made to Sydney with only a minimum wait. Mr Moore is also endeavouring to have another trunk line, from Orange to Parkes, extended to Forbes and if successful this will further expedite the telephone traffic between here and Orange.

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FOLDING "THE FORBES ADVOCATE"

Folding up over four thousand copies of "The Forbes Advocate" every week for the post and delivery was no small matter. It meant wearisome labor (sic) for many pairs of hands.

Now that is all past history, for a new machine has been installed this week that folds "Advocates" at the rate of 2000 an hour. This is only one of many progressive steps taken by "The Advocate" of late, and there are more to follow.

*** *** ***

NEWS FROM OTHER JOURNALS

"GhostBuster", Campbelltown (November)

It's a Long Way From Tipperary; My Irish Ancestor—Margaret Coffey (nee Legass); The Sea-Faring Irish Kearon Family.

"Blayney Diggings", November)

Vale John Davis OAM; Rings, Rolls & Tight Ropes—Circus Stories; In the News—1923; The Hill Brothers.

"South Australian Genealogist" (November)

The Tallyman—George Johnson; Sailor Home from the Sea—George & Harriet Wright; Belle Vue—A Bush School in the Flinders Ranges; Oswald Pryor Returns Home to Australia's Little Cornwall.

"Golden Links", Bendigo (Oct/Nov/Dec)

Two Different Christmases; Christmas Cards—A Blessing; Santa Claus (*how German refugee Thomas Nast invented Santa*); Christmas Pantomimes.

"Furphy Murmurs", Shepparton (December)

Death of a Great Townsman (Walter Nathaniel McMillan, 1883-1858); Death of Francesco Paolo Cursio in 1935; Florence Bilton (nee Wilson).

"The Patrick Plains Gazette", Singleton (December)

Mr & Mrs O.H. Brooker & Mrs T. McClymont; Agnes Knell/Neal/Neil (1815-1863)



EMAILED JOURNALS

"The Crossing Place", Casino (November)

How Casino people spent holidays in 1923; The Suicide of Ralph Reid; Finding Old Place Names.

"The Argyle Bulletin", Goulburn (November)

Goulburn's Hidden Military History.

"The Cedar Log", Ballina (December)

Walter Joseph McNamara (1872-1916); Snapshots of Events of 1983 in Australia; Finding a Hidden Photo; Photos That Fool; The Long Lost Walker Brothers.

"The Fig Tree", Taree (December)

Horace Beeton—His Life & Times; William James Hoy—The Sailor Passenger; Tips For Using Trove; The Irish Laws of Genealogy.

Orange Family History Group (December)

Celebrating 150 Years of Cook Park; Wentworth Mine (Lucknow); Two Young Men at War—Fred Smith & Jack Adams; Billy Dargin—Aboriginal Police Tracker.



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Forbes Cemetery, 2006 (Volumes 1 & 2)	\$45.00
Eugowra Cemetery, Monumental Inscriptions	\$15.00
Bedgerabong Transcriptions	\$10.00
Gooloogong Cemetery, Monumental Inscriptions	\$15.00
Bogan Gate General Cemetery	\$15.00
Trundle Cemetery Transcripts.....	\$20.00
Small Cemeteries and Isolated Graves South of Forbes	\$15.00
Cudal & District Cemeteries (<i>includes Cudal, Toogong, Reedy Creek, Bumbaldry, Cookamidgera</i>)	\$20.00
Grenfell Cemetery Transcripts, Vols 1 & 2 (Bks in set)	\$40.00
Unmarked Graves, Forbes Cemetery 1861-1918	\$20.00
Unmarked Graves 1861-1918, Vol 2	\$20.00
"Remember When" stories of Forbes & District	\$20.00
Remember When Too	\$20.00
Early Days of Forbes (<i>from Forbes Times Newspaper, 1888-1895</i>)	\$20.00
Index to St. John's C of E Marriage Registers, Forbes (1870-1907)....	\$15.00
Index to St. John's C of E Marriage Registers, Forbes (1908-1928)	\$15.00
Index to Wedding, Death & Obituary Notices, Forbes Advocate, 1911-1919	\$10.00
Index to Wedding Notices in the Forbes Advocate, 1920-1929	\$15.00
Index to Death & Obituary Notices in the Forbes Advocate, 1920-1929	\$15.00
Partial Index to Forbes History Book	\$15.00
Forbes & District Pioneer Register, 3 volumes	\$60.00

**Prices for postage and handling
are available on application**