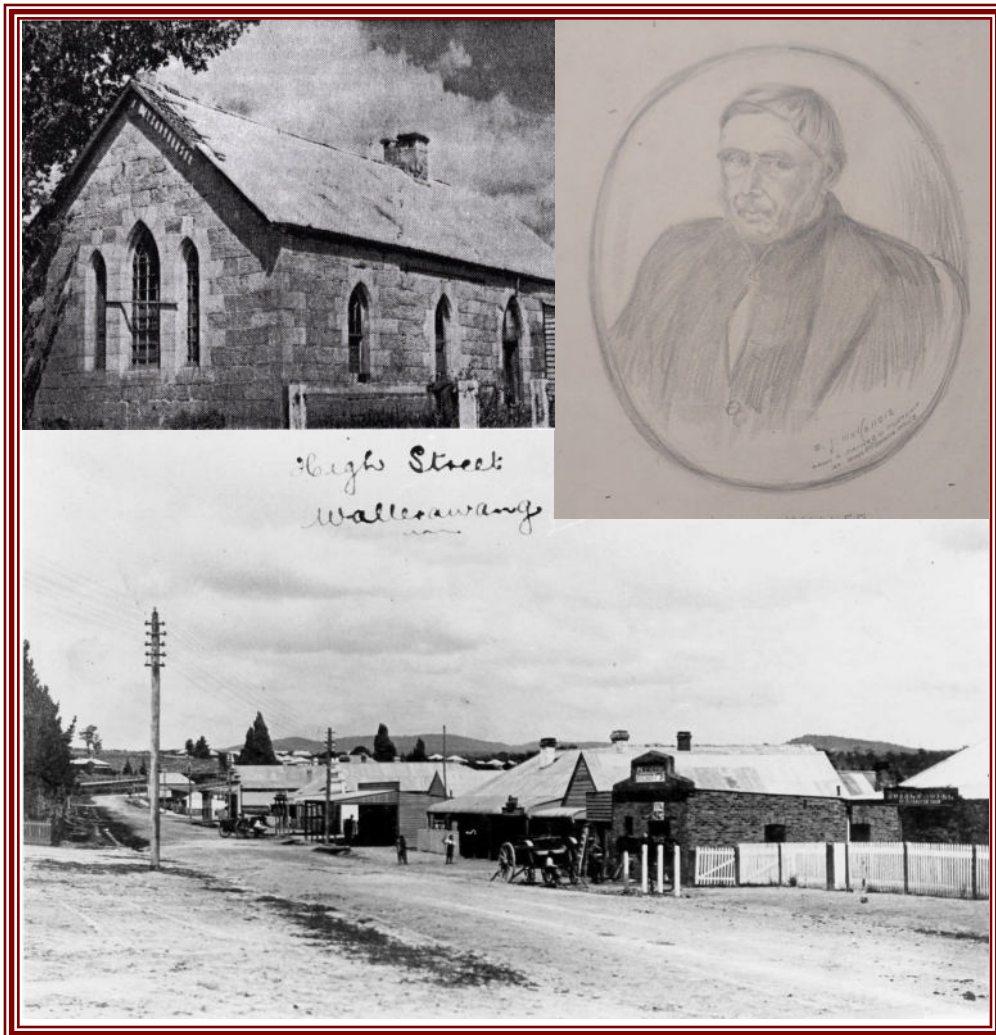




Lithgow Pioneer Press



WALLERAWANG 200th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE - PART 2

WALLERAWANG BECOMES A COMMUNITY.

FOCUSING ON THE FIRST 50 YEARS -

LAW & ORDER, EARLY MINING, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
CHURCHES, NATIONAL SCHOOL, POST OFFICES.

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LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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**Committee of Management meetings are held on the third Monday of each month
at 2 pm.**

Meeting dates: 2024: 17 Jun, 15 Jul, 19 Aug, 15 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, No meeting in
December.

Members are welcome to attend or submit ideas for discussion.

FEES

MEMBERSHIP (1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025)

Membership yearly - 3 journals (mailed journals) \$45

- 3 journals (emailed journals) \$40

Membership from October 1st 2023 - 1 journals \$25 posted or by email \$20

RESEARCH:

Research fees: for non-members mail enquiries minimum 2 hours \$40

Members who live outside the Lithgow area can request 3 hours research by our research
officer at no extra charge.

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GREVILLE'S POST OFFICE DIRECTORY

WALLERAWANG POST OFFICE 1872

&

WALLERAWANG RAILWAY STATION POST
OFFICE 1872

Greville's listed 202 names in these directories, all males, whose registered postal address was at either at Wallerawang Post Office or Wallerawang Railway Station Post Office. Listed were 8 x blacksmiths, 2 x butchers, 7 x carpenters, 40 x carriers, 2 x coachmen, 1 x contractor, 3 x dealers, 70 x farmers, 2 x fencers, 4 x fettlers, 1 x gardener, 14 x innkeepers, 15 x labourers, 4 x masons, 4 x porters, 2 x quarrymen, 1 x Railway Station Master, 3 x saddlers, 2 x sawyers, 4 x storekeepers, 1 x teacher, 4 x wheelwrights and 5 whose occupations were unlisted.

Edwin Barton was listed twice, as a Justice of the Peace and a squatter.

Unfortunately, the society's journal is limited to 16 pages, and we are unable to list the names.

Members of the society are researching as many of these people as possible with a view to printing their stories in a publication dedicated to the first 50 years of the history of Wallerawang.

CONTENTS

3 Greville's Post Office Director 1872

4 Origin of Lidsdale. Early Development in Wallerawang.

5 James Walker's Stone church, Reverend, Colin Stewart, Roman Catholic Church. ,

7 Lidsdale Wesleyan Chapel., St John the Evangelist Church

8 Wallerawang National School

9 Law & Order in Wallerawang, Post Office

10 Mining - Kerosene Shale, Iron and Coal

10 President's Report 2023-2024

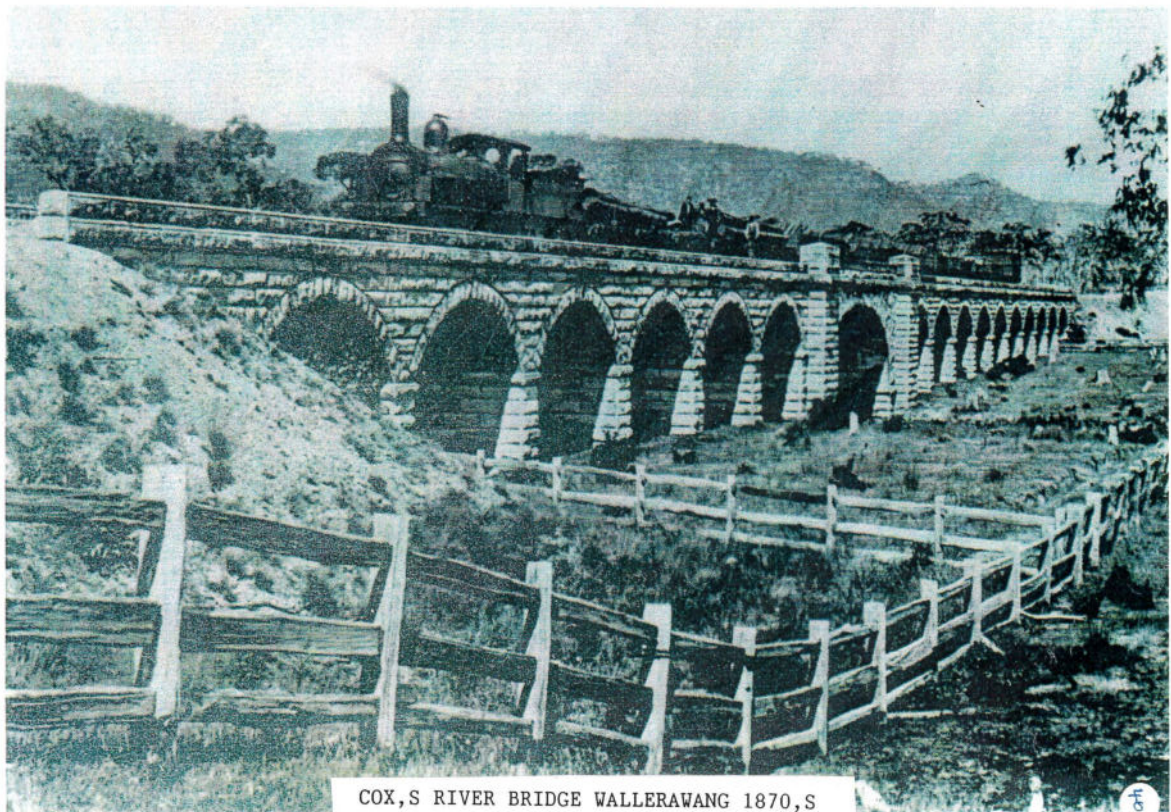
2023 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Essay Entries:

12 My Grandfather by Helen Butler

14 My Grandfather by Marcia Farr

15. My Grandfather by Liz Kitto

16 Everlasting Rain by Kathy Merrick.



COX,S RIVER BRIDGE WALLERAWANG 1870,S

LIDSDALE PARISH

In 1829 Governor Ralph Darling defined the borders of the Nineteen Counties which were the 'limited of location in New South Wales. Settlers were permitted to take up only land within the counties due to the dangers in the wilderness. From 1831 the granting of free land was ceased and the only land that was to be made available was within the Nineteen Counties.

The area covered extended to Taree in the north, Moruya River in the south and Wellington to the West.

Squatting was allowed on these lands beyond the boundaries. Legally from 1836, a squatter paid £10 per year. From 1847 leases were allowed for up to 14 years.

Surveyors were employed to survey lands for sale, mapping private properties, access roads and government owned property and natural features on the landscape.

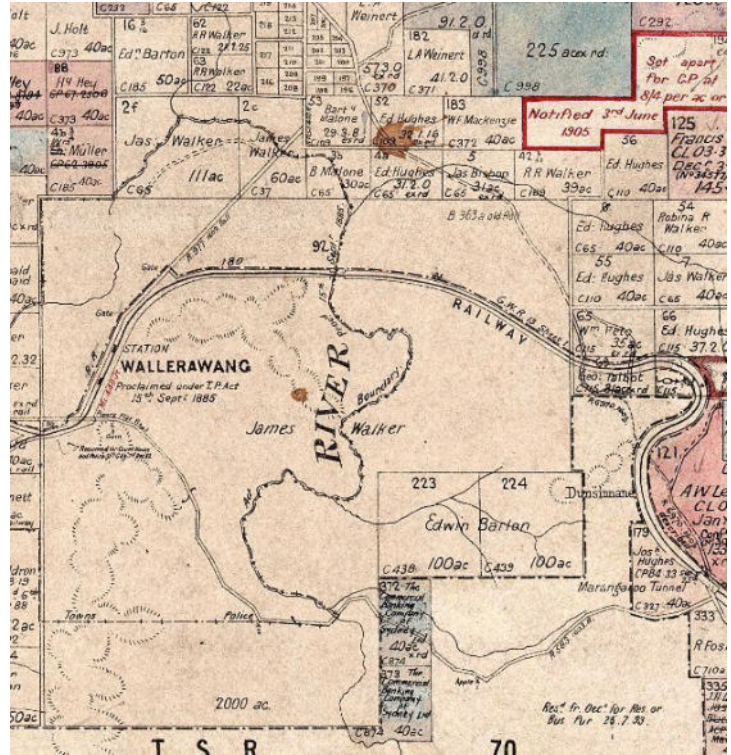
The counties were divided into parishes, the naming of which were the prerogative of the surveyor who surveyed the parish boundary, possibly influenced by the original grantee or major land holder.

Government surveyor McBrien, who mapped this area in 1823, recorded the first use of the word *Wallerawang* (sic)

Both McBrien and James Walker, were natives of Perth, Scotland. Conjecture is that this may have resulted in the naming of the parish of Lidsdale after an area of that name in Perthshire, Scotland.

Liddesdale, sometime spelt Lidsdale, and meaning 'valley of Liddel Water', extended more that 20 miles (32 Kms) southwest from Peel Fell to the River Esk, which flows into the head of the Solway Firth. Located within the Scottish borders area (historic county of Roxburgh). For seven kilometres, the Liddel forms the Anglo-Scottish border, and its dale was long ravaged by border warfare and cattle raiders. The most important fortification is Hermitage Castle. Sheep farms of the enclosed valley sit between steep hills of rough summer grazing.

A perusal of the Lidsdale parish map shows the names of James Walker, Robina Walker, Edwin Barton as original landholders in the area. Other



names that appear are those of some of the convicts assigned to James Walker, and who purchased land after they became free men. Names of immigrants originally employed by the Walker family also feature on the map.

James Walker encouraged several of his employees to become self sufficient, establishing their own businesses and contracting to him. One of these was Alois Joseph Neubeck, whose blacksmith's shop was at Lidsdale.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT - WALLERAWANG

In the report *Wallerawang, New Town* by Devine Erby and Mazlin (Architects) in 1971 we read:

"The earliest settlement as such appears to have been at Lidsdale along the Mudjee Road" (now the Castlereagh Highway). The road to Wolgan branched off from the Mudjee Road and gave access to the Walker pastures in the Wolgan Valley.

"In Wallerawang, an old road, now known as Blackberry Lane, parallel to Main Street, but behind it from the railway, seems to have existed before the coming of the railway with old inns (behind the present existing hotels and shops) ". When the railway line opened a string of hotels and shops were erected along Main Street and alongside the station.

"The earliest housing in Wallerawang was in the area west of Commens Street. This seems to have been the nearest land owned by the railways and made available for housing outside the Wallerawang Estate and not on marshy ground.

However, it was on the opposite side of the railway line from the station and shops - an inconvenient pattern that exists still today for most of the housing."

THE CHURCHES

JAMES WALKER'S STONE CHURCH

James Walker had erected a little stone church on his property in 1829 for the benefit of his family and friends, and his assigned convicts and employees.

It was demolished at the same time as the other buildings on the Barton Park Estate. There is no known photo of the building, which was described as being built of stone with several layers of reddish brick along the top of the walls.

Visiting preachers from the Presbyterian and Church of England churches were welcome to use this church for services.

REV COLIN STEWART



Reverend Colin Stewart was an itinerant Presbyterian Minister, based at The Hermitage in Lithgow Valley, and whose parish covered thousands of square miles across New South Wales. One of the early entries in Rev Colin Stewart's registers was the baptism at

Loowie (sic) of John and Margaret, the children of Archibald Cameron and Ann (nee McEachern) on 21 July 1839. Archibald's occupation was noted as storekeeper.

William, son of William Cook and Esther (nee Wyllie) was baptised on 4 March 1839 at Wallerawang. The father's occupation was stated as cook.

The marriage of William McKay and Jane McBeath, of Wallerawang, was performed by Rev Stewart on 30 January 1840. The witnesses were James Walker, Robina Walker and William Turner.

On 23 July 1841 Clement Leith married Mary McLennan (nee Cameron), residents of Lowee (SIC), at Wallerawang. The three witnesses mentioned above were noted, as was William Archer.

No doubt these and other services were held by Rev Colin Stewart in that little stone church built by James Walker.

Rev Stewart met the spiritual needs of many people during his ministry. A perusal of his records indicates that he also visited the Walker and Brown sheep stations on the Castlereagh.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dean Thomas Slattery and Father Michael Kavanagh were two of the early travelling priests who visited this area. Father James Dunphy, appointed resident priest of St Bernard's Hartley in 1843, travelled the circuit to Mudgee, via Lidsdale. Unfortunately Father Dunphy drowned in the Cudgegong River on one of his visitations.

A traveller on a tour to the north western interior who passed through Wallerawang enroute to Mudgee in 1874 described the Roman Catholic Church as a "weather boarded building, zinc roofed" located a few hundred yards from the railway station and Father Phelan was the clergyman".

The exact location of this Catholic Church is curious, because the site of the first known Lidsdale Roman Catholic Church was at Lidsdale. two miles from Wallerawang Station.

This timber-constructed Catholic Church in Neu-beck Street, Lidsdale was relocated from Petrolea (Hartley Vale) about 1875.

.Father James Phelan, appointed to St Bernard's Hartley in 1858, served this church until 1877

Services were held in this church until 1919 when it was closed because of a suicide in the priest's room.

For a couple of years, Mass was celebrated in a hired room in Wallerawang, possibly in the Car-

rington Hall where bazaars, balls and fund raisers for the church were held.

A new wooden church was opened in Wallerawang 1921.

The Sacred Heart Church, a new brick building, was opened in Lidsdale Street in 1964.

LIDSDALE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

The spiritual needs of the Methodist people in many small communities were usually met by preachers appointed to a Circuit based in a larger township.

From the 1850s the names of J Pemell, Lonsdale Abell, George Pickering, Henry Youngman and William were 5 of the 13 preachers appointed to the Oberon Circuit, and who took to the roads on horseback, accepting the hospitality of one of the local adherents, sharing the gospel in a crowded room in a house, on a verandah or under the shade of a large tree.

Wallerawang was included in the Oberon Circuit from the 1850s until the 1880s.

Mr W D Corderoy Esquire of Bowenfels, subdivided one acre of Portion 201 of his property at Lidsdale. The title deed reads: Transfer dated 30 September 1872 from William Corderoy to



The Reverend William Glasson, William Thomas Corderoy (storekeeper), John Bulkeley (Storekeeper), George Michael Diehm (Mason) and Irwin Shaw (Blacksmith) all of Wallerawang, George Kosten and John McAndrew both of Sawyers Swamp (Farmers), George Thomson of Piper's Flat (Farmer), William Conn of Cullen Bullen (Contractor) and William John Scott of Rydal (Farmer) as joint tenants of part of the land within described Produced and Entered 7th November 1872.

William Corderoy had purchased portion 201 in 1870 at the cost of eight pounds fourteen shillings.

On 29 October 1873 the foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Chapel at Wallerawang, was laid by N C Kelk Esquire of Bathurst after an address by Rev T W Ward.

The entire cost of the church, without inside fittings, was expected to be £232 of which £90 was raised on the day.

Rev W Clarke of Mudgee was expected to open the building by preaching at 2:30 pm on Thursday 26 March 1874, but on account of illness was absent and in his stead Rev W Glasson, Wesleyan minister of the Oberon Circuit officiated. About 400 people attended.

Trevor Perceval writing about this event, pictured the attendance of 'ladies in long frocks men with their waistcoats and fob watches, little girls dressed with bonnets and boys in shorts and caps. Horses, buggies and sulkies would be a common sight.'

The sandstone building was constructed by Mr G M Diehm at a cost of about £250. One report suggested that the stone was hewn from a quarry at Tunnel Hill. Another suggested, that there is evidence of stone being hewn within several hundred metres from the church site. Perhaps both are true.

Early services in the chapel were conducted by Revs. George Woolnough, Henry Youngman and William Glasson.

A tea meeting held on 17 March 1880 resulted in the raising of £31.4.3 for repayment to the loan fund being the total debt on the chapel, built as a result of the labours of the Rev W Glasson, Mr Bulkeley, Mr Corderoy and other friends.

Common wooden pews, a high pulpit and pedal organ were meagre furnishings. Two kerosene lamps mounted each side of the pulpit now reside in a similar position in the Uniting Church in Wallerawang after the installation of electric lighting by the Whalan family.

Some years later the old slate tiles were replaced by corrugated iron paid for by Mrs Sommers. In the 1950's the wooden floor was replaced by Trevor Perceval, Messrs White and Bird, and contractors plastered walls and

inside walls and outside timbers repainted.

The first marriage ceremony performed in the church was that of Joseph Arthur White of Lidsdale and Sophia Ruth Murray of Lidsdale on 2 October 1889 by Rev J Keil Turner. The witnesses were William Arkinstall and Jane Murray.

In 1977 ownership of the property passed to the Uniting Church of Australia Property Trust (NSW) when the Methodist, Congregational and some of the Presbyterian Churches formed the Uniting Church.

The chapel ceased to be a regular place of worship in the 1980's. It was reopened for the wedding of Raymond Day and Wendy Osborne in March 1996 by Rev Malcolm Fellows and the funeral of Dorothy Madge 'Molly' Bird in October 1996.

The property passed into private hands in 2016.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

Designed by Australia's greatest Colonial and Ecclesiastical Architect Edmund T Blacket, the work was supervised by Blacket's son Cyril and constructed between 1880 and 1881 by George Donald, the well-qualified builder from Lithgow.

Most of the stone for the church came from a quarry on nearby Tunnel Hill.

After the death of her husband Edwin Barton in 1876, Georgina, youngest daughter of James Walker, made the decision to build a church on a scale reflecting the ecumenical spirit of her parents.

The foundation stone was laid on 29 September 1880 by Bishop Frederick Barker, D.D., then Bishop of Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney, assisted by the Anglican incumbent from Hartley and the Presbyterian Minister of Bowenfels.

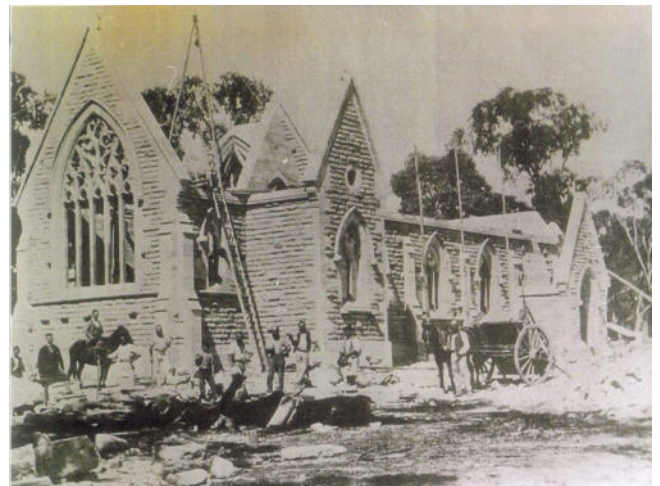
The opening ceremony in 1881, was led by Rev Robert Steel, M.A., Minister of St Stephens Presbyterian Church, Phillip Street, Sydney and the Anglican Church was represented by Rev W J Debenham, B.A. of Sydney and Mr Morgan, the local Catechist, with the Presbyterian Church being represented by Rev William McKenzie, M.A. minister of Bowenfels and Wallerawang, and the pioneer Minister the Rev Colin Stewart.

The building has never been consecrated in the



Anglican sense, or dedicated by the Presbyterian Church. It was a private church and was for the use of both denominations.

Built in the Victorian Gothic Revival style, the building included a vestry and a chamber for a pipe organ. John Warner & Sons of Cripplegate,



London cast the bell in 1880.

The pipe organ, originally built about 1954 by S T Noad & Son, was installed in 1981. Originally installed in the Methodist Church, Mort Street, Lithgow, it found a new home at Wallerawang when the Methodists in Lithgow joined the Uniting Church in 1977, and the church was closed.

The stained glass window, representing the Prophets, Apostles, Christ, Martyrs was installed following the death of Georgina in 1906.

In 1952, Miss Hazel Gowring Walker, the sole surviving member of the family after the death of her brother Lyon Walker Barton and Lue Loveday Walker Barton, passed the ownership St John's to the Trustees of the Church of Eng-

land, Sydney Diocese and the Presbyterian Church NSW as tenants in common.

Listed in the Register of the National Trust of Australia, the church was subject to a proposal to be demolished and removed stone by stone to be re-erected in Canberra. This proposal was rejected by residents, as was a later proposal to sell the church.

At the time, neither the Anglican or Presbyterian Church Trusts were able to afford the cost of repairs to make the building safe for future use.

A local committee was formed to investigate all legal aspects regarding the conditions of the bequest by the Barton family, several aspects of the sale and to seek a solution that would retain the building in the community, not only as a relic but as a working church in the community.

Long story short, the Anglican Church was persuaded to graciously hand over their portion of the ownership of the church to a community group called *The Friends of St Johns*.

The charter of *The Friends of St Johns* is as follows: To adhere to the bequest of the Barton Walker families; To retain historic St Johns Wallerawang at its current site; To conserve the building in a manner suitable for Public access; To maintain St Johns as a place of worship and To assist the Church owners in sourcing funding from the Public and Private sectors.

The *Friends of St Johns* was able to obtain grants to allow the repairs to the damaged bell tower as well as other necessary repairs.

The Presbyterians hold services at St John's twice monthly as well as holding services at Easter and a service late on Christmas Eve.

St John's has played a pivotal role in creating the social fabric of Wallerawang and surrounds. The church has been, and continues to be, the site of many weddings, funerals and christenings, and represents a multi-layered and until recently a dual denominational past.

While many of the registers from this church were consigned to a well, the Society is thankful for family historians who painstakingly transcribed some of the registers before this unfortunate event, and who continue to do so as copies of other registers are discovered in private collections.

WALLERAWANG NATIONAL SCHOOL

Wallerawang was the second town west of the Blue Mountains to establish a National School. The first steps towards the establishment of the school were made in November 1859 when Reverend Simon McKENZIE and Mr Charles SIDEY of Wallerawang signed a petition on behalf of the district and applied to the Board of National Education.

Prior to this James Walker provided an education programme for the children of his employees. Schooling may have been conducted in the original church built near the Walker homestead.

James Walker's widow, Robina, bore the cost of the sandstone building consisting of one school room measuring 30 foot 6 inches by 18 foot, , a kitchen, parlour and two upstairs bedrooms to be used as the school house and teacher's residence.

At the end of 1860 there were 19 boys and 20



girls enrolled at the school. Mrs Walker was highly respected in the district and appointed the first and possibly the only woman as a local Patroness during the term of the Board of National Education.

The first teacher was Charles Hill Thomson. In April 1860 the Western District Inspector reported: 'The school is a handsome stone building. It is in excellent repair and suitable in every respect. The pupils are particularly clean, tolerably punctual, but not regular in attendance. The order is good. The general tone of the school is very pleasing.'

The scale of fees was as follows:

- 1 child of a family, 9 pence per week.
- 2 children of a family, 8 pence per week each
- 3 children of a family, 7 pence per week each.
- 4 or more children of a family, 6d per week.

During the years of 1860 to 1881 little maintenance had been done on the building and in 1879 residents petitioned for a new school to be built as there were about 100 children who would attend.

The original Wallerawang School can still be seen opposite the St John the Evangelist Church in Main Street.

LAW & ORDER IN WALLEROWANG

In 1824 James Walker, or his farm manager were responsible for upholding law and order.

Recorded in the Vale of Clwydd, Hartley Court House Bench book records in April 1836, is the case of James Lynch, a convict who arrived in 1835 and Peter Rogers who arrived in 1832, both of who were sentenced to transportation for seven years. Edward Quirk, a hut-keeper at one of the out-stations at *Loowee* stated that he found a ewe with two broken legs in the sheep yards. The men were accused of breaking her legs with the intention of having an excuse to kill her, retaining the hind part and giving the rest to their dogs. Quirk was assaulted when he challenged the men. Lynch and Rogers were found guilty of assault by Magistrate Edward D Day and were to work in iron leg chains for 12 calendar months.

In August 1836 Thomas Maddox, sentenced to transportation for life, charged by John Dawson, overseer, with habitual neglect of duty, using threatening language to his overseer and having property in his possession reported to have been stolen three months prior. The property listed a belonging to Mr Dawson as being a new bed, an opossum cloak, a plaid cloak and about half a bushel of wheat and some small articles which I do not at present recollect.

At Maddox' trial Andrew Brown, superintendent at Messrs Walker's establishment at Wallerawang Estate, stated that Maddox had been assigned to Walker from the ship. In 1828 he was sent to a penal settlement for 3 years for harbouring bush-rangers. At the expiration of his sentence he was returned to Messrs Walkers.

On the same day Robert Daniels, who arrived in

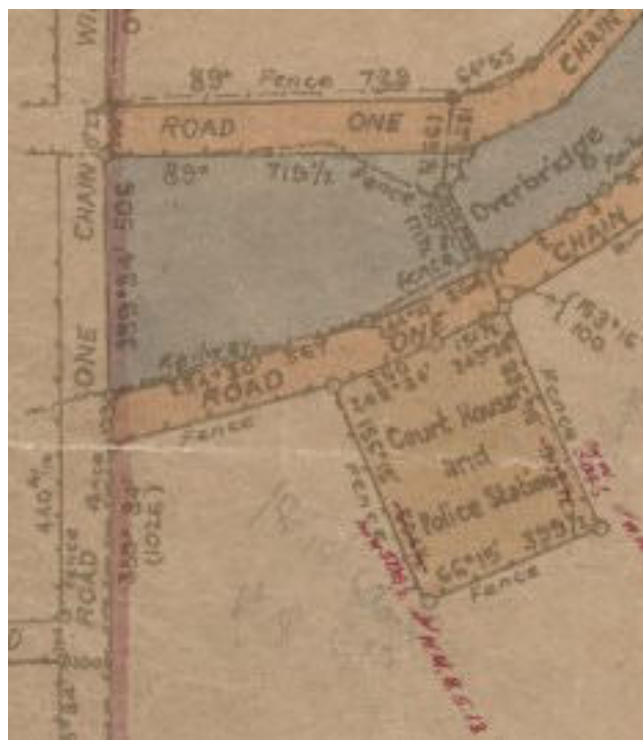
1831, serving a sentence of 7 years, was charged with habitual neglect of duty and using threatening language to his overseer, John Dawson. His charges included refusal to get some boughs to place at the top of the stockyard for the purpose of keeping the dogs out, removing dung from the sheepyards and not keeping the yard in order. It appears that this neglect lead to killing of sheep by native dogs between 20 April and 9 July.

Prior to this charge Mr Brown stated that Daniel's conduct was 'quite to my satisfaction, and in consequence I recommend him for a ticket of leave, but before he obtained that I was obliged to get him punished for losing sheep, which he believed to about 23.'

Both men were found guilty, sentenced to be worked in irons for 12 calendar months and returned to their assignee at the expiration of his sentence.

In 1876 a Police Station was established and one constable was stationed there.

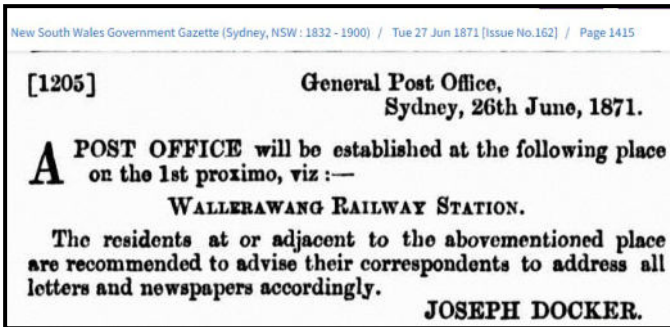
The present Police station and Court House was duly erected, containing a court room, quarters for the police, two cells and an exercise yard.



LOCATION OF COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION
CROPPED FROM CROWN PLAN 1494-3030

POST OFFICE

William Corderoy was in charge of the Wallerawang Post office when it opened in April 1870. It was situated on the Main Road about one mile from the railway station (at Lidsdale).



After the opening of the Wallerawang railway station, approval was given for the establishment of a post office on 1 July 1871 at the station under the control of the station master, J B Gould. The post office closed 3 days later due to staffing issues. Cobb & Co appear to have collected the local mail from Mudgee and Wallerawang, delivering mail bags to the guard of the mail train at Wallerawang.

The Wallerawang Station Post office was re-established on 1 October 1871. John Wilson received £20 per annum as Post Master. Cobb & Co conveyed the mail between the Wallerawang Station Post Office and the Wallerawang Post Office.

The name of the Wallerawang Post Office was changed to Lidsdale Post Office on 15 August 1873 and the Wallerawang Station Post Office became known as Wallerawang Post Office.

John Shaw, hotelkeeper and Cobb & Co agent, took charge of the Wallerawang Post Office on 5 April 1875, on an annual salary of £75. The Telegraph Office, located at the railways station, was in the charge of Mr Mead, the railway telegraph operator.

MINING - KEROSENE SHALE, IRON & COAL

In 1874 the Australian Town & Country Journal published an extract from a report by Professor Archibald Liversidge about the Minerals of Wallerawang:

English born, Professor Liversidge's previous education included attendance at the Royal School of Mines in 1866. Awarded an open scholarship in science at Christ's College, Cambridge, Liversidge emigrated in 1874 to take up a post at the University of Sydney.

"The village of Wallerawang stands on a drift lake and like a diamond drift, it contained specimens of conglomerate. The neighbourhood is rich in iron and coal. There is a large vein of magnetite of iron. ..The brown hematite is scattered over a wide extent.There was no evidence of the boundaries of the vein being reached except on the north. There were reasons for believing this to be a true lode.The coal measures in the district are very valuable".

Liversidge found at one place several seams, the lowest being 17 feet 6 inches in thickness.. "The coal is hard and good. It is very free from sulphur. The coal contained 9 per cent ash... Here in a district of four miles diameter, are most abundant deposits of iron, coal and limestone. The district is of great interest to science, and full of promise to the material wealth of the colony"

Accompanying this report was a sketch of the Great-Western Iron & Coal Mine, the property of Messes Watkins, Winters and others.

Some years before this report, Dr W F Mackenzie operated a kerosene works, adjacent to a rich kerosene shale deposit at Wallerawang. This was located near to what was to become the Wallerawang Power House Ash Dam in later years.



McKenzie abandoned this mine when he discovered a smaller, but richer deposit on his property at Marrangaroo, which he named *Bathgate* after a deposit in Bathgate in Scotland that was as rich as his Marrangaroo deposit.

Later Dr W F McKenzie and C K Moore were to mine kerosene shale successfully on their 500 acres at Hartley Vale.

Other early mines in the area:

1872- Mr C Mitchell was mining coal at Wang.

1873 - Bulkeley's Colliery opened at Blackman's Flat (closed 1876);

1873 - Development of Irondale Colliery at Blackman's Flat commenced. Opened 1883.

1873 - Messrs Croaker, Campbell, Mitchell, Bulkeley and others opened collieries by tunnels into the Lithgow seam at Piper's Mount between Lidsdale and Wallerawang.

These small ventures were just the beginning,. Although outside the 50 year scope of this document, those that followed were to make an important contribution to the life of the community in the years to come that they can not be ignored: Black Diamond/ Western Main, Wallace's Colliery/Huon, Folley and Queensland and Vale of Clwydd at Angus Place. Neubeck's/Brown's/Wallerawang Collieries colliery at Blackman's Flat, Cullen Bullen Colliery (1885), Ivanhoe (1893), Commonwealth Colliery (1895 - which erected the first coal washing plant in the western districts), Great Western Mine/Tyldesley (1904), Invincible (1905), Newcom (1951), Angus Place (1978) and Springvale (1926)

LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY

HISTORY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023/2024.

March 2023. Danny & Robyn Whitty were honoured for their service to Wallerawang with the naming of the Whitty Room at Black Gold Motel.

April 2023. The AGM was held with many people standing again for positions to allow the Society to function. Thank you to all who stood again.

May 2023. The Acquisition Committee was created to allow the Donations to the Society to be processed for easy access. This work has become quite intense as donations have accumulated for a number of years due partly to Covid restrictions and lack of members available to deal with the work appropriately.

June 2023. A successful meeting was held in our rooms with many local groups with Heritage collections and Tegan Anthes, (Conservator.) about Disaster Training and cross group co-operation.

July. 2023. The Committee of Management validated new rules for copying our resources. This is to maintain ownership and fund raising abilities.

August. 2023. A successful Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award Essay Completion was held with Jan Saundercock as the Speaker. Lisa Marie Patterson from Dubbo was the winner. Thanks to all who helped on this occasion.

September. 2023. Started the process of applying to Andrew Gee's office for a grant to assist Volunteers. This was the start of a very complex procedure, of Expressions of Interest, cross purpose information and then the actual application.

October. 2023. Started a review of our Insurances to see if we can save money. With the change we saved \$300.00 by using a Broker. This has led to the need to review persons with Authority as Society could not access information re some of our accounts. When this is completed the register will need a two years review programme.

A working bee was held to reorganise some furniture and the lockers. Thank you to the members who assisted.

November 2023. A successful Christmas Party was held on the 25th at the Wallerawang Bowling Club. An application to Transgrid for a grant for items to assist Volunteers work within the Society.

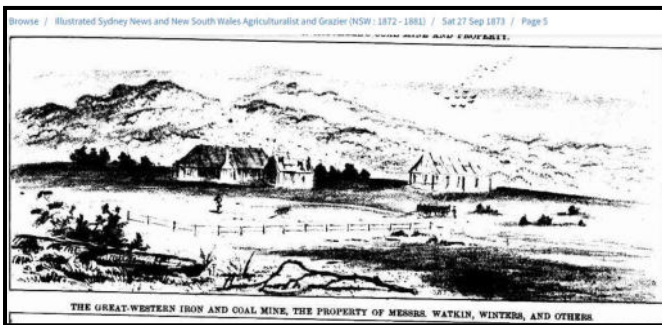
This application was successful and processed very quickly.

December 2023. Rae Casey resigned as Treasurer with Colin Powell taking over this position. A sincere thank you to Rae for her work in this station.

January 2024. Over the Christmas break the 2790 shelves were reorganised to reduce the need to lift records from the top shelf.

The money (\$4.000) was banked and then spent very quickly with the purchase of two desks, eight Ergonomic chairs and five larger computer screens.

The review of Roles and Responsibilities with input



In those early days, most of the coal was sold directly to the NSW Government to fuel the boilers of the steam trains.

The access to easily accessible coal was a major contributing factor in the erection of Wallerawang and Mt Piper Power Stations in the 20th Century.

Professor Liversidge in his report stated that "the seams of coal are practically inexhaustible".

Professor Liversidge's enthusiasm was well founded, and coal mining was a major factor in the development of Wallerawang as a major railway junction, providing coal for the trains heading north, south and west. The coal mines contributed to the establishment of the Power Station at Wang in the mid 1900's.

from members working in these positions has commenced to improve information and expectations before being elected at the Annual General Meeting. The purpose is to allow continuity in the future. February 2024. Membership renewals were processed, and administration work processed for the A.G.M.

General.

This year has resulted in quite a lot of work on grants

Lithgow City Council approved a grant of \$1.200 that will allow us to purchase a Scanner. (ScanSnap SV600)

We received a significant donation that allowed the Server to be updated and newer appliances purchased, with the hard work of Jan Saundercock selling our Second Hand books contributing the other monies needed to pay for this work.

These upgrades are contributing to the need to create systems for all work on the computers to file and sort information stored on the server. Jan Saundercock, Lynda Lovegrove and John Richardson have been working hard in setting up the new Systems to allow continuity.

I would like to thank all the Members working so hard to enable the Society to continue.

Terry Tonkin has arranged for some of his friends to repair lighting and to construct one of our new desks as well as all the work he has done in putting chairs together, making a footstool for Liz Kitto, and re-organising Rae Casey's computer whilst helping our Librarian.

Lynda Lovegrove for updating our digital records, chasing Insurance quotes, and using her skills to teach members about updated Legal requirements, as well as helping with the formulation of Grant applications...

Jan Saundercock for producing the journal as well as doing all our publicity and for chasing RABBITS down HOLES INTO WARRENS when researching for members and the public.

Policy for Acquisitions plus forms (Deed of Gift, Provenance and Objects on Loan).

Cost reductions have been organised with Lawn Mowing moving to new people and Bi-Annual Fire checks taken over by Lithgow City Council at no charge.

National Trust continue to use the rooms for meetings.

A desk and Computer screen plus a bookcase, Micro – Fiche Reader printer and Photograph viewer-enlarger.

Helen Taylor has stepped down as Cemetery Convenor after many years. Thank you sincerely, Helen for your extensive work over many years.

Much work has been done and lots of changes have been made in documentation and physical appearances in the building. This work will be ongoing.

Again a heartfelt thank you to all members for their support over the last year. *Eleanor R. Martin*

MY GRANDFATHER

2023 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award Entry

As submitted by Helen Butler

My Grandfather, Charles Joseph Doggett, was born at Rydal in 1871, the youngest child of railway pioneers William and Eliza Doggett. William arrived from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, in 1853, one of the original 500 navvies contracted to build the Sydney to Parramatta line. William and Eliza subsequently settled in Rydal, William as a fettle and Eliza as the gatekeeper. My Grandfather and his five brothers –William Jnr, Henry, John, James and George - joined the railway service.

In 1896, Grandfather married the “girl next door”, Ada Fletcher. Their sons - George, John (my father), Roy, Charles and Arthur - continued the railway tradition; as each son turned sixteen, he joined the railway service. Grandfather instilled a strong work ethic in his sons, encouraging them to pass every available railway examination. How proud Grandfather would be that the Doggett family remains the longest-serving railway family today.

Grandfather's railway career commenced in 1890 with the Mechanical Branch at Rydal, the local depot. Following the closure of the depot, Grandfather was appointed Junior Porter Sydney and



Eskbank on a wage of five shillings a week.

Between 1900 and 1906, Grandfather was Night Officer at Morisset, Sodwalls, Coolalie, and Sydney Relief. At Sodwalls, Grandfather was required to work a 12-hour day, six days a week – 6.00 pm to 6.00 am. As no house was provided for the Night Officer, Grandfather walked the six miles to Rydal at the end of his shift and walked back to Sodwalls in time for the 6.00 am shift. Eventually, a second house became available and my grandparents settled at Sodwalls.

Grandfather was a devoted family man. To visit both grandmothers at Rydal, Grandfather pulled his sons on a trike from Sodwalls.

In January 1907 Grandfather was appointed Officer-in-Charge, Burrumbuttock, 500 kilometres from Rydal. To journey to Rydal, Grandfather woke the children in time to catch the 2 am mail train.

At Burrumbuttock, a young Roy was playing in trucks at the railway station and trod on strychnine. Roy's skin absorbed the poison and abscesses formed over his tiny body. Grandfather pulled Roy on the trike to a German doctor at Walla Walla, a distance of 13 kilometres. There was no hospital at Walla Walla and Roy stayed in the kindly doctor's home for two weeks. Grandfather visited Roy daily, pulling the trike from Burrumbuttock.

When Grandmother was expecting her sixth child, late in her confinement, she and four of the children went to live close by family at Rydal. Grandfather, anxious to join his family, requested a position closer to Rydal. In 1909, a few months after the birth of Charles Jnr, Grandfather was promoted to Station Master, Wambool.

The children had a free-range childhood at Wambool with various escapades, including broken limbs, a bite from a lizard (received when thrusting an arm in a hollow tree trunk), and accidentally locked in a fettler's toolbox. There was sorrow, with the death of baby Daphne, aged two months. Daphne was taken "home" to Rydal by train and laid to rest in Rydal Cemetery.

On his annual holiday, Grandfather took the older boys to Sydney for a few days, staying at the Peoples' Palace on Pitt Street. The boys spent their holiday money at Anthony Hordern Department Store on George Street. When the trio returned home, it was "the girls" turn, staying with Grandmother's sister in Sydney. Grandfather cooked din-

ner while Grandmother was absent, mostly boiled eggs from all accounts.

Not long after settling at Wambool, Eileen, Roy and John were infected with diphtheria and admitted to Bathurst Hospital. Again, Grandfather's mode of transport to visit the children was the dependable trike.

Grandfather was content at Wambool, turning down positions at Craboon, Dunedoo and Mandurah. In 1917, with his parents deceased and strong links to Rydal broken, Grandfather accepted a promotion to Station Master, Crookwell. However, he advised the Commissioner that he would not take up the position unless 16-year-old John, then Junior Porter at Wambool, was transferred to Crookwell. With John's transfer assured, Grandfather proceeded to Crookwell. John batched in the Night Officer's cabin at Wambool for several months until a vacancy occurred at Crookwell. Grandfather, pleased to have his close-knit family around him, declined further positions at Molong, Mudgee, Culcairn, Murwillumbah and West Tamworth.

Grandfather was an immaculately dressed person, particularly so with his uniform. When a passenger train was due, Grandfather ensured his moustache was groomed and he was fully in uniform. The gold crown on his cap was beautifully shined. Grandfather wrote to Anthony Hordern's requesting velvet samples, which he placed under the gold crown to show it off to its full advantage. Grandfather insisted porters polish their coat buttons.

No matter what part of the state my family lived in Grandfather arrived for a holiday. My earliest memory of Grandfather is at Oaklands. My father was the Station Master. I was a toddler, just learning to speak. Grandfather, a refined gentleman, insisted on being called "grandfather"; none of that disrespectful "grandpop" nonsense! He rarely forgot my December birthday, his greetings ending "Until the roses bloom again."

But my thoughtful Grandfather could be bad-tempered! At Spring Hill, Grandfather believed that, at six years of age, I should be able to tell the time; he would teach me. At the end of "lessons" and after failing my test, a frustrated Grandfather threw my bucket and spade onto the roof.

In 1931, Grandfather retired at Crookwell on a pension of £367 p.a. He and Grandmother settled in Sydney to be close to their daughter, Eileen.

The new home was named "Rydalville", a nod to their beloved Rydal. My Grandfather died in 1954 and my Grandmother in 1957. As was their wish, both were laid to rest at Rydal Cemetery, Grandfather alongside baby Daphne.

Until the roses bloom again, Grandfather.

MY GRANDFATHER.

2023 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award Entry

As submitted by Marcia Farr

My mother's father. My cherished Poppy.

Poppy was big in life. A big man, a big voice, a big presence. I was only a small girl and my most vivid memory is of him leaning against the big heavy oak sideboard in the dining room in his favourite spot ready and preparing to tell a tale. Poppy was a big story teller.

Poppy would have everybody enthralled. I loved to watch him roll his own ciggy so expertly and with such anticipation of putting it on his lips and then talk and it would be moving, heaving up and down as he spoke stuck there never falling away. I thought it was magical. A bushy I like to think he was with his forlorn looking country slouch hat pushed back on his head to reveal his face, shirt sleeves rolled up to reveal sunburnt arms, arms used to hard work. The whole picture if you like.

My Poppy's Grandparents were English from Walsall Staffordshire England and in 1876 the family sailed per the ship "Rangitiki" to Lyttleton Harbour Christchurch Canterbury New Zealand. The family moved onto New Plymouth in the North Island where life was dangerous and treacherous during the "Maori Wars".

Pop's father comes to Australia from NZ to settle and live. He was born in England.

The Grand Parents stay in New Plymouth until they pass away in 1898 and 1906 and Poppy's father marries Ann Matilda at Bethel House in Sydney NSW 1893. John Desmond was born in 1895 in his parent's home in Clarke Street Crow's Nest.

Poppy's father, Richard In 1905 appears in the NSW Electoral Roll with his son John Desmond



aged 10 years and was living in Short Lane North Sydney. John Desmond had a sister as well, older but she died at 2 years 7 months and is buried in The Wesleyan Heritage Listed Cemetery corner Mowbray Rd and Pacific Highway Chatswood.

WWI has entered everyone's lives in 1914. Although Pop had served in the Service Corps for 7 years he resigned due to his young ones. In 1918 he enlisted for his "Nation" and took his "oath" 29th May 1918. 5 ft 9 inches weighed 148 lbs, fair of face with grey eyes with good eyesight 6/24 in both eyes and hair also fair. Pop's service was with the 18th G S Reinforcements for Australia. 2 years overseas in Egypt and the continent until 1922 when he returns home to his wife and 2 children.

In 1930 John Desmond is living with Edie his wife at 3 Penshurst St Willoughby and 3 more girls, where in 1941 my mother left from, as a beautiful bride and where so many years later in the 1990's I was flatting in Penkivil St around the corner literally and I had no idea of this really except for a black and white photo

to I came across of a very handsome couple on a motor bike a "Rudge Special". Dad had all the leather clobber on and the lady, my mother Elsie Matilda, looked out of this world with an enormous fur collar and a leather flying helmet on her head. So sophisticated they looked. They were not married in the photo. The photo was taken on 3 Penshurst Street. So it was an immediate recognition for me.

John Desmond was at Victoria Barracks in Paddington before 1941 and at this time he was collecting what he was able to obtain from the stores and Mess for his daughter, Elsie's wedding in the beginning of January 1941.

Later John Desmond also worked at the RAN Torpedo Factory at the Submarine Base on the foreshores of Neutral Bay. The former Gas Works had been demolished about 1942 in readiness for the looming WW2 and possible invasion into Sydney Harbour and coastlines.

Pop' father dies 1945 and leaves John Desmond an inheritance and with this John builds a home for his large family. The house was in Lane Cove was double brick with an enormous verandah across the back of the house filled with windows from waist height to ceiling. The back garden was a large area dotted with only 1 type of flowering plant 'blue agapanthus'. The back fence was like 'Narnia' to myself and three elder siblings. Opening the gate and stepping through there was before you the LifeSavers Factory the confectionary Factory known by everyone. One day Pop took us through the secretly disguised gate with a torch as he was the nightwatchman doing the afternoon round. Four grandchildren followed him although certainly disobeying the rules of the Factory. We were very well behaved and we were given rolls of Lifesaver's Musk and Five Flavours, Mint, Orange Lime and Strawberry and at his home big jars of sweets were always on the dining room table from the LifeSavers Factory.

I am still only a child then and so time and the years passed onto me being 18 years and attending his funeral in 1968. The first funeral I had been to. John Desmond lies in Heritage Listed Gore Hill Cemetery with his father Richard and mother Ann beside him.



MY GRANDFATHER

2023 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award Entry

As submitted by Liz Kitto

Grandpa was born in Ballarat in 1871 to Cornish parents who, as tin miners, had emigrated to Australia in search of the elusive gold. The youngest of six children, money was not plentiful so Grandpa left school at the age of 15 and secured a job as a telegram boy with the Posts and Telegraphs Office. He studied Accountancy at night and worked his way through the ranks to become, in 1923, Deputy Director of Posts & Telegraphs, a position he held until his retirement in 1935. This was before my birth so I only knew a retired Grandpa, although from 1935 to 1939 he was Commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The Post Office still remained to the fore of his mind, as he always sent a book of stamps to his grandchildren for birthdays. These we would trade with our par-



ents for "real" money.

Photo caption: Donald, Frank (seated) Herbert, Adi Lillian, Lillian Joyce, James Walters, John, Bruce.

In 1902 he married my grandmother and they proceeded to have 5 sons and a daughter. Sadly my grandmother died in 1927. Grandpa, not having a clue about raising a young family, married a lady he met at church, Annie McKenzie. She turned out to be the wicked stepmother and, as the children grew up, they migrated to live with my father's family. Dad was the eldest boy and well settled in a home with his own three daughters. I came along later. Grandpa's second and third sons had gone off to begin their own careers. Once I was born,

we were a family of Mum, Dad, me and my three sisters plus two uncles and an aunt! All of the boys prospered in their chosen careers, one to become a judge, two to become senior Bank Managers, one to become a successful grazier and one a solicitor to Kerry Packer. My aunt married a senior executive of Qantas.

Grandpa was not one to take a back seat. Prior to the turn of the 19th Century he had joined the Prahran Branch of the Australian Natives Association (ANA), an association that was a driving force behind the Commonwealth Constitution Bill of 1898 which paved the way for the passing of the Commonwealth Constitution Act 1900 (UK) and by early 1900 had become President of this branch. He was outspoken and often led debates outlining the viability of the two-house system in Australia. As he was quoted as saying "*population and taxation must determine representation*". This Bill was passed by referendum, by a majority of 152,653 to 9,805. Much of the credit for this win was due to my grandfather's vocal arguing.

I knew Grandpa as a big loveable man but my uncles told me he was indeed a strong disciplinarian. My mother told me later that, one day, she took my aunt, who was 19 at the time, to visit her father. He looked sternly at his daughter and said "Is that lipstick you're wearing?" My aunt nodded and her father continued "Why don't you leave your face as nature intended?" My mother, never without an appropriate reposted, asked "Have you shaved this morning?" Grandfather, of course, said "Yes" to which my mother innocently (?) replied (you guessed it) "Why don't you leave your face as nature intended?" Grandpa was a great one for "dad" jokes. On one occasion, when he was staying with us, he said to me "I had a fall last night". I was suitably shocked until he said "Yes, I fell asleep." As a child, I thought this was very funny.

Grandpa and Auntie Anne (as we had to call the wicked step-mother) moved to Austinmere where I occasionally was invited to stay. He was keen on surfing and lawn bowls but Auntie Anne insisted they build a home high on the hill so Grandpa could no longer partake of his activities. His wife insisted he was too old to walk up hills! High on the hill he could only watch the world pass by and there he sat, until in 1955, he died.

Everlasting Rain

I never thought that I could be

So tired of rain.

I sometimes wonder if the sun

Can shine again

Or is it dead, up there behind the clouds,

And are we left

To live in cold and gloom on earth

Of warmth bereft?

Since God has promised not again

With flood to wreck

This earth, we hope that sunshine will again

The world bedeck

With fruit and flower and fields

Of waving corn,

Oh, May I see this miracle begin

Tomorrow Morn.

KATHY MERRICK, 2B

Zig-Zag 1963.

Lithgow High School School Magazine