

The Mallee Stump



Image: Wyalong Post Office, 1895
Source: Courtesy Les Miller

Wyalong District Family History Group Inc.

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Commonwealth War Graves



The mission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is to ensure those who died in service, or as a result of conflict, are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever.

Founded by Royal Charter in 1917, they work on behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom to commemorate the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

The cemeteries, memorials, graves, landscapes, and records in our care will be found at 23,000 locations and in more than 150 countries and territories. They are both the practical means of commemoration of the fallen and vehicles for discovery, inspiration, and engagement.

Their founders were determined that all the men and women of the British Empire who fell on the former battlefields of the First World War, on land and at sea, should be commemorated equally. ¹

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Contents >>>

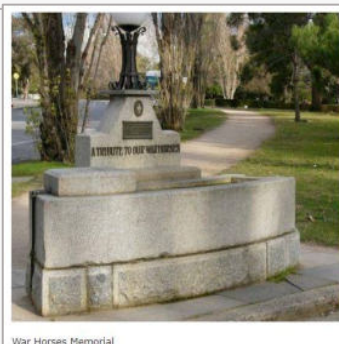
- Cover.....Commonwealth War Graves
Pg 1.....Did You Know? | Publications 4 Sale
Pg 2.....President's Report | Free Site Searches | Research Requests
Pg 3-4.....Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Thomas Mullins
Pg 5-6.....The Ridley Family of Bena—A History, PART 1.
Pg 7.....Moving a Zoo in 1916
Pg 8-10.....Spotlight: Ungarie-Wheat, War & Pestilence
Pg 11.....WHJ Slee: Inspector of Mines NSW
Pg 12-13.....Proposed Railway 1894: Temora to Wyalong
Pg 14-15.....What's in a Name?
Pg 16-18.....Dorothy Moya Hartigan
Pg 19.....Notice Board | No Joke!
Pg 20.....Further Reading | Old Death Notice

Did You Know?

958,000 horses and mules were killed in World War One. 169,000 left Australia and never returned, either killed in action or died in quarantine.

One of the most famous horses, 'David' served in the 107 Battery Regiment, 1899-1902, during the Boer War, and then as a gun wheel in France. He was awarded many Army medals and honours including the Queen's Medal, the King's Medal and Star with bar. ²

Image: The War Horses Memorial, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Vic.
Source: Monument Australia.org.au

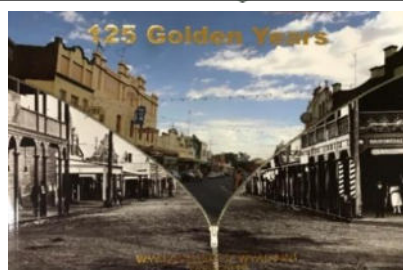


Wiradjuri country

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this newsletter contains images and names of people who have died."



Publications 4 Sale:



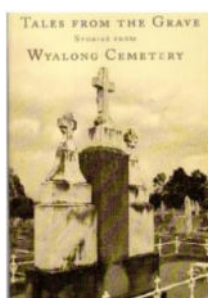
125 Golden Years

Wyalong & West Wyalong 1894 - 2019

A beautiful photographic book researching the changes and uses of the buildings in the main streets of Wyalong and West Wyalong.

Cost: \$40 + postage

Tales From The Grave Stories From Wyalong Cemetery.



How Wyalong and West Wyalong came to be the towns they are today through the lives of 100 people.

**Cost: \$20
+ \$10 postage**

Tales From The Grave 2 Stories From Wyalong Cemetery.

**Cost: \$25
+ \$10 postage**

Or

**Buy both books
for \$55.00
(includes postage)**



"Hand's On!"

Why Writing Beats Typing:

In kids, studies show that writing the ABCs, as opposed to typing them, leads to better, longer-lasting recognition and understanding of letters. Writing by hand improves memory and recall of words, laying down the foundations of literacy and learning. In adults, taking notes by hand can lead to better conceptual understanding of material.

—Health News from NPR ³

Contact >>> genealogy@wyalongfamilyhistory.com / butcher.pam@yahoo.com

President's Report

Welcome to our July edition of *The Mallee Stump*. And welcome to our new members!

Another year has come and gone, and Winter is here. It's the perfect time to stay by the fire and read the journal, or research your family history. This edition features some stories about pioneering families and inventors with a direct connection to Ungarie and Bena, NSW.

Rhonda Williams has graciously stepped in to fill the vacant Treasurer's position until a new Treasurer is elected. If you are interested in standing for the position, please advise Pam Butcher.

In the last two years or so, a number of our older members have passed on and we've had difficulty getting a quorum at our meetings. Thank you for your continued membership, and I would dearly like to see more attending our meetings regularly, so that decisions can be made in a reasonable time. I would especially urge members to attend the Annual General Meeting. Please advise Pam if you are attending the meetings or send an apology.

Don't forget that any contributions you'd like to make to *The Mallee Stump* journal will be very much appreciated. A tale about growing up in the district, or about your own unique family, or an event you'd like to share, we'd love to read about it. Please get in touch with Vicky at email: victoriamiddleton33@gmail.com

Sandra Gilding
President

Free Site Searches & Resources



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is constantly amending records, searching for missing names, building new memorials and where historical inequalities in commemoration are found, ensuring all those who fell are equally remembered. They have a duty to ensure their sites remain well visited so remembrance of the war dead continues, creating information centres, volunteering opportunities and education programs designed to engage and educate generations to come. ⁴

The website also offers:

- War Graves Search Tool
- Finding Cemeteries and Memorials
- Stories of the Fallen
- How to Find War Records WW2
- Research Reports
- Rolls of Honour

Waymarking.com provides the tools to share and discover unique and interesting locations on the planet. In the 'Categories' section, there is a wealth of info on monuments and history. Go to: <https://waymarking.com/categories.aspx>

Research Requests

Looking for **William Lynam**.

Arrived in Australia from England in 1882.

Lived with wife and one child, Edmund Lynam (born 1896, West Wyalong).

Resided in West Wyalong from about 1885 for at least a decade.

The family believes that William worked in local mines and was perhaps a civil engineer.

—Pam Butcher

Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Thomas Mullins

—Story: Accomplished Horseman, Local Padre, and World War I Hero

Thomas Mullins was born in Ardoch, Limerick, Ireland on 12 Feb 1877. He came to Australia as a young priest in 1900 and was Parish Priest of Barmedman and Ardlethan and all in between. Father Tom, as he soon became known, became distinguished by his prowess as a horseman, and was often seen riding around his large parish in his buggy or on his horse.

He celebrated fortnightly Mass in Ardlethan, which would become his home from 1910, in the new public hall (Masonic Temple). Father Mullins was rector when Bishop of Goulburn, John Gallagher, laid the foundation stone of Ardlethan's Church of Our Lady Help of Christians on 21 May 1911.

Such was his dedication, that he volunteered for war service, enlisting on 23 Oct 1914. Father Mullins was appointed Chaplain to the 5th Light Horse Regiment, and embarked at Sydney, NSW on *HMAT Star of Victoria* on 25 Feb 1915. After a few weeks training in Egypt, he left for Gallipoli, arriving October 31st. On the morning before leaving Egypt, Father Mullins had 400 soldiers for Holy Communion.

On 6th March 1916, he was Mentioned in Despatches by General Sir Charles Munro of the Mediterranean Expeditionary force, for distinguished and gallant services in Gallipoli.

In the Sinai Desert (April 1916) they encountered heavy fighting at Bir el abd, where it was very hot and water was a problem.



Image: Chaplain Mullins, 4th Light Horse Brigade HQ, WWI

Source:

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/56438>

They returned to Dueden on 1 October and remained there until 16 November 1916.

Father Mullins finishes his Diary entries there. It is available to read in the Australian War Memorial Collection. ⁵

He served with his regiment through the arduous campaigns in Syria and Palestine and was in and out of hospital with severe dermatitis. He, then, contracted Malaria in Jordan. Father was appointed Senior RC Chaplain in Egypt on 18th April 1917.

A gallant soldier and lieutenant colonel, Fr Mullins, was awarded a Military Cross in Jan 1918.

Returning home, he took up residence in Ardlethan, planting his precious olive cuttings which he'd brought back from the place where Jesus suffered his Agony in the Garden in Gethsemane and lovingly tended them for the rest of his life. ⁶



Image: Captain Mullins 4 Military medals & 1 non-military. ⁷

Source: From the Fr. Thomas Mullins Collection, Ardlethan Parish.

Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Thomas Mullins continued...

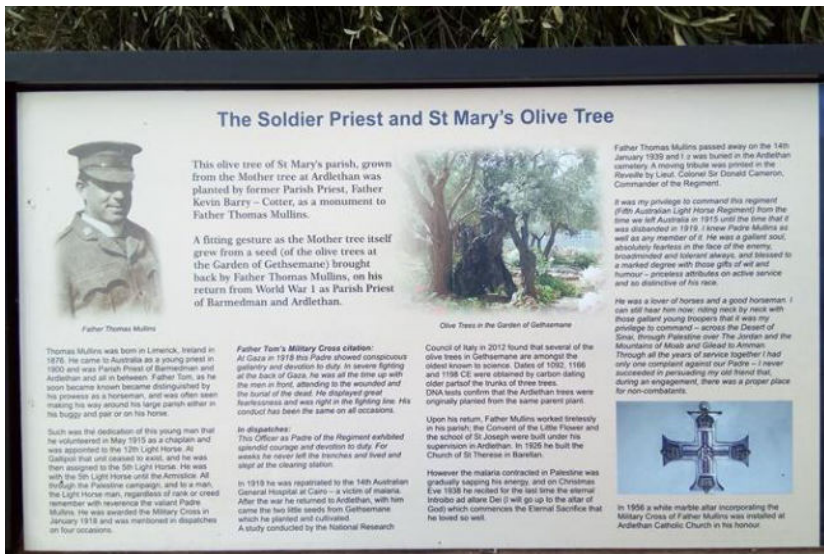


Image: (Above) The left side of the Interpretive Sign at St Mary's Catholic Church, West Wyalong, commemorates the life of Father Mullins and the dedicated olive tree.

(Below) The right side of the sign lists local catholic parishioners who served Australia in WWI.

Source: Graham Cookie, Waymarking.com⁸



The olive tree of St Mary's parish, grown from the Mother tree at Ardlethan, was planted by former Parish Priest, Father Kevin Barry-Cotter, as a monument to Father Thomas Mullins.

A fitting gesture as the Mother tree grew from a seed (of the olive trees at the Garden of Gethsemane) brought back by Father Thomas Mullins, on his return from World War 1 as Parish Priest of Barmedman and Ardlethan.

A study by the National Research Council of Italy in 2012 found that several of the olive trees in Gethsemane are amongst the oldest known to science. Dates of 1092, 1166 and 1198 CE were obtained by carbon dating older parts of the trunks of three trees. DNA tests confirm that the Ardlethan trees were originally planted from the same parent plant.



The *Catholic Leader* (27 April 2003) wrote that Fr Mullins died in a heat wave on Jan 14 1939, aged 62 years, after a period of illness attributed to his malaria from the war years. He was buried in the Ardlethan cemetery.

Part of a moving tribute printed in the *Reveille* by Lieut. Colonel Sir Donald Cameron, Commander of the Regiment, is as follows:

"He was a lover of horses and a good horseman. I can still hear him now; riding neck by neck with those gallant young troopers that it was my privilege to command - across the Desert of Sinai, through Palestine over The Jordan and the Mountains of Moab and Gilead to Amman. Through all the years of service together I had only complaint against our Padre - I never succeeded in persuading my old friend that, during an engagement, there was a proper place for non-combatants."

The Ridleys of Bena — A History

—PART 1. William Ridley: Pioneer Inventor and First Settler in Bena, NSW

William I Ridley was born on 16 Apr 1831, in Chailey, Sussex, England, to parents, Richard Ridley (3 May 1799-2 Jan 1838) and Mary Ann Ridley nee Crues (7 Dec 1788-4 Apr 1871).⁹

In 1836, William, the youngest child, sailed with his parents and siblings, Edward Richard (1828-1862), Jesse Alexander William (1829-1909) and Harriet Elizabeth (1836-1876), to Van Diemen's Land. His father died 2 years later; the family staying in Launceston until 29 Jan 1846, when they sailed the *Julia* for South Australia.

After a short time in farming near Unley, SA at the age of 19, William leased land from George Morphet for seven years. William married Ann Ridley nee Hounsom (May 12 1825-6 Aug 1899) on July 13 1852 in Adelaide S.A.

In 1853, William and Ann settled on 50 acres plus 10, with stables and dwellings, in Grand Junction where their ten children were born: William James Ridley (1853), Harriet Dunn (1854), Annie Dunn (1856), Samuel Ridley (1857), Marian Bassett (1859), George Hounsom Ridley (1861), Joseph Ridley (1863), Louisa Esther Shephard (1865), John Edward Ridley (1866) and Alfred Ernest Reeves Ridley (1868).



Image: A young William Ridley

Source: Courtesy
findagrave.com/memorial/1
30780176/william_ridley

William and Ann sold their property in 1867, before taking their family on the hazardous journey to Bungowannah, NSW near Albury, in 1868, where Ann's sister, Deborah Lavis and husband had moved. Calling their property 'Willow Grove', William planted an orchard and garden, his diary list including: "...4 de Holland cherry, 7 Trout Pear, and 19 Prince William apples..." William was known as the 'village smithy', and he provided an organ for the church and a library.

By 1882, William's holdings were 800 acres, but with six adult sons, he need to move to wide acres. William expanded the land holdings around him for wheat, potatoes and other crops.

On 18 May, 1885, the family set off in "...3 waggons and one Dray, and buggy," for their final home which was halfway between Wyalong and Condobolin, "...the first to select land at Bena." William spelled it differently in his diary (5 Sept 1885), "...Came to Beana to live..." It was the day they settled in the place he called 'Waterview' and he set to work to sink the dam at Bena. The earth he moved may have been used to make the wattle and daub building of the home he would die in, which he built in a bend of the Humbug Creek, he called 'The Peninsular'.¹⁰



Image: William & Ann Ridley and family:

Back L to R: Joe, Jack, Alfred, George, Sam, William jnr

Front L to R: Marion, Annie, William snr, Ann, Louisa Shepherd, Harriet

Source: Courtesy —'From Whence We Came, The Ridley Saga,' Viscount Ridley, 1978

The Ridleys of Bena—A History. William Ridley continued...



Image: 'Grenoble' near Bena

Source: Courtesy —'From Whence We Came, The Ridley Saga,' Viscount Ridley, 1978

William started his garden immediately, planting fruit and walnut trees and vines, vegetables, melons and tomatoes. After clearing, fencing and grubbing, in 1886, they bought 2000 sheep.

The rabbit plague wrought havoc on the property, and after some experiments with a machine to replace the old method of laying poison baits by hand, he invented the first automatic poison cart ever used.

Of the poison cart, the *Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill NSW, 24 Feb 1923, P6, wrote:

"...This, he patented, and as the implement became popular he received an income of about £10 a week, from royalty on its manufacture. He also, invented a poison mixer for rabbit destruction, for the best design of which a prize of £10 was offered by the Forbes (N.S.W.) Agricultural Show Committee, which he won. The spring hook was also a product of his brain..."

Ridley assisted with the construction of a library, and was appointed a trustee of the Wesleyan portion of Bena cemetery. Two reverends arrived to dispense 'The Word' to quell "the wickedness existing in Bena."

William and his sons hunted the "drives of kangaroos," for unpleasant sport, capturing them in dugout pits, killing all but two or three, before climbing in to box with them. They hunted emus for their feathers which were in demand for ladies' hats.

Son, Alfred died in 1892, and wife, Ann passed on 6 Aug 1899. Son, Jack, died in 1900, a year before William snr married Ellen Jane Cross in 1901, on his 70th birthday.



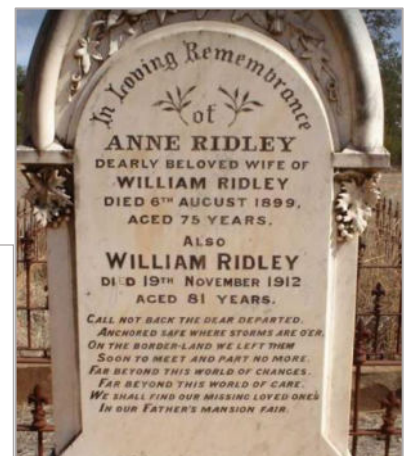
Image: William Ridley seated on his original poison cart with one of his sons on a modern one.

Source: Courtesy —'From Whence We Came, The Ridley Saga,' Viscount Ridley, 1978

William passed away 19 Nov 1912, in Bena, after illness. The *Wyalong Star* noted in his obituary: "...the cause of death was dropsy...His whole life was characterised by honesty, thrift, industry and straight-forwardness..."

Image: The graves of William and Ann Ridley in Bena Cemetery

Source: Courtesy
<https://billiongraves.com/cemetery/Bena-Cemetery/149986>



Moving a Zoo in 1916

—Story: Moving 'Jessie' the Elephant and the Animals from Moore Park to Taronga Park Zoo

Before daybreak, on 24 September 1916, an elephant named '**Jessie**' walked out of the Zoological Gardens at Moore Park, Sydney, and began an extraordinary journey through the city.

Dr Robert Todd, a Taronga Zoological Park Trustee, drove behind three zookeepers who shepherded Jessie along the streets to Woolloomooloo, crossed the Domain and continued to a vehicle ferry at Bennelong Point. Jessie's feet became sore on the rough road surface and a horse attached to a milk cart took fright and bolted.

Coaxed onto the ferry, Jessie didn't move during the 35-minute voyage to her new home at Taronga Zoological Park in Mosman.

"She took objection to the steep ramp at the Taronga Park Wharf however, and resolutely turned her back upon it; so, finding the argument useless, the attendants simply pushed her up backwards," the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 25 November 1916 read. Jessie's arrival at the top was met by salvos of wild applause.¹¹

The zoo move was dubbed a 'miniature Noah's Ark', as animals and birds walked or were carted through the city to the zoo.



Image: Elephant ride on Jessie, Zoological Gardens, Moore Park. Date unknown.

Source: <https://mhnsw.au/stories/general/jessie-elephant/>



Image: Jessie on the ferry, Kedumba. 24 Sept 1916

Source: Taronga Zoo Archives, PH/376



Image: Official Opening of Taronga Zoological Park, 7 Oct 1916

Source: NSW State Archives.

<https://mhnsw.au/stories/general/story-how-move-zoo/>

The *Melbourne Leader* (7 Oct 1916, p7) described the event:

*"Mournful yells from hyenas, angry roars from lions and tigers, good-humored snorts from gigantic elephants hauling a veritable menagerie of wild beasts confined in cages, have of late disturbed the early morning serenity of Sydney streets."*¹²

Spotlight: Ungarie—Wheat, War & Pestilence

—Story: The Struggles of Charles Frank Field in the Bena/Ungarie District



Image: William & Martha Field c1835

Source: Courtesy My Heritage

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-4-686343491-1-500063/myheritage-photos-docs>

William Field (11 Mar 1813-19 Oct 1896) and wife, Martha nee Nobes (23 Sept 1809-16 Jun 1872) immigrated from London, England on the *Hooghly* ship, arriving in Port Adelaide, South Australia on 17 June 1839.

They had nine children between 1833 and 1850, including **Charles Frank Field** (12 Sept 1850-1 Feb 1950) who was born in North Adelaide and lived almost 100 years. ¹³

Charles married Catherine Jane Ockenden (2 Jun 1854-1886) on 26 Aug 1874 in Kadina, South Australia.

In March 1883, Charles and Kate left Mt Gambier SA, where children, Catherine Elsie (1877), Frank Palmer (1879) and Clara Winifred (1882) were born. Daughter, Grace Hamilton, born 15 Dec 1883, died 10 March 1884 of whooping cough.

Charles opened a general store of groceries in Jamestown, but had to close three years later when his credit was called in. In 1886, their twin boys, Sidney Marshall and Archie Livingston, born 16 March 1885, both died of whooping cough.

They again packed up and went to Willaston, Adelaide, where Charles' son, Stuart McKinley was born and wife, Kate died at 32 years. A widower with 5 children, Charles and Kate's family took in the children.

Perhaps it was the gold rush that sent Charles to Mount Browne in the area of Tibooburra, NSW in 1866. A challenging area, if it was too dry, bullock teams with supplies ran out of water and, if too wet, they got bogged. Camel trains were sent in the dry season.

Charles was a bookkeeper and shop assistant for two years. When his employer died, he was offered his business in Yalpunga, which he bought and ran for seven years.

He placed a lonely hearts column in an Adelaide newspaper and married Sarah Harriet Boulton Ewers (b 1859) in 1890. The five children soon joined them in Yalpunga. Sarah gave birth to Sydney Livingston on 5 Dec 1891.

In Feb 1897, the family took up 2500 acres of land at Ungarie, NSW, to produce wheat and wool. Many of Sarah's relatives had moved to farms in the Ungarie/West Wyalong region. Their property was called 'Chassarfield', and Charles describes the area:

"Condobolin-34 miles-was our nearest town for supplies, and Forbes-80 miles-our nearest railway, but in 1889 or thereabouts the railway reached Condobolin. Ten or 12 years later another line was extended to Wyalong and a little later, Ungarie, which was only 10 miles away..."

"...we got plenty of work and pleasure from our horses and buggies, and did not need machinery as, for ten years or so, sheep-raising was our only means of living, and as the country was scrub we had plenty of ring-barking, clearing, fencing etc, to do."

'Chassarfield' was in Bena, north-east of Ungarie. During the 1901-03 drought, they were trying to keep the sheep from starving and carted water, cut scrub and moved the sheep to better rented country to keep them alive. Charles grew tagasaste or lopped native Kurrajong tree for foliage to feed sheep in poor times. Consequently, he sold fat lambs for a good price in Sydney.

Spotlight: Ungarie—Wheat, War & Pestilence continued...

In March 1897, a violent dust storm covered everything with red sand in yet another drought without winter feed and hundreds of sheep perished. In August that year, severe frosts and a heavy hailstorm added to sheep owners' woes, with no lambs, the cost of scrub clearing and a break in the wool.

The area became a political hot potato between 1894 and the 1920's over the practice of 'dummying'. The *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* (9 Feb 1894, P16) explains it thus:

"...whereby a large landowner such a squatter, employed an agent to select land near their own property so allowing the squatter to expand their land in the future by merely transferring it back..."

A correspondent from Ungarie wrote:

"... Ungarie is situated on the banks of the Humbug, about 30 miles north of Wagga, and has not long been surveyed... The Mongolian, as in all other towns, is very strong in evidence here, his horticulture covering many acres, but as black as we paint John he sometimes comes in handy. Ungarie is sometimes visited by intervals of aridity, and as vegetable growing is thus past European power, John's vegetables are then hailed with delight. Ungarie is almost wholly a pastoral district, there being very little cereals of any kind grown. It is thickly interacted by selectors, many of whom came from the Albury district, but there are two kinds of selectors in our district



Image: Charles Percy (standing), Catherine Elsie, Clara Winifred and Frank Palmer c.1884

Source: Fig 21, *The Life and Times of Charles Frank Field 1850-1950*, by Patricia Lee, Ch 7

and one of these a Coonamble correspondent calls 'friendly selectors'.

This class are generally to be found on the best of the land round the squatter's house for fear the 'bona fide' might get too near him. It is a wonder our legislation does not try to do something... Our district has been visited lately by a great downpour...and 5 inches of rain fell... The Humbug overflowed its banks and irrigated large tracks of country, the result being plenty of grass..."

In 1913, Charles and Sarah visited England, Scotland and France, returning in 1914 before the outbreak of WWI. To connect his property with other stations with Ungarie, Charles and some local settlers built a telegraph line, but son Sydney fell from a ladder and crippled his elbow. The injury thankfully spared Sydney, at 23, from the war draft.

1915 saw yet another taxing drought at Bena. The *Lachlander and Condobolin and Western districts Recorder* (3 Feb 1915, P5) described the station:

"... Poor stock, bare pastures, dust, hot winds and long faces are the usual concomitants of the daily round..."

The *Forbes Advocate* (7 Jan 1921, P6) featured an article:

*"SICKNESS AT BENA. Out Bena way there are quite a number of different cases of sickness; whooping cough, pleurisy, and diphtheria all being on the list. It is to be hoped that none of these unpleasant and serious ailments will have fatal results."*¹⁴

The Canberra Times (10 Jun 1927 P7)

WHEAT NOTES | HISTORY OF BENA

A HEAVY YIELDING VARIETY

"The results from Bena, one of the new varieties of wheat, indicate that it is likely to prove a valuable addition to the standard varieties. Its history dates back to 1917, when, at the Cowra Experiment Farm (N.S.W.), in a plot of Hard Federation, the produce of a single plant attracted the attention of Mr J T Pridman, plant breeder. It was found free from rust and possessing strong straw. The grain from this plant was sown in 1918, and its progeny was found to be unfixed, but it looked productive, and had foliage of a healthy and rust-resistant character, and six plants were saved. In 1919, the best of these plants yielded remarkably well, and every plant the plot was cut separately for pedigree culture in 1920. In that year the different strains showed variation, some having white chaff and others, brown of various shades and varying degrees of tip-awn. Two or three strains appeared to be fixed, and one of these sown in 1921, appeared to be constant. In that year also yielded well, and in the two following seasons its producing power was maintained and had every appearance of being fixed. From the character of the white-eared strains in 1920 it was concluded that the white-eared variety was a natural cross between Hard Federation and Marshall's No.3.

Bena has medium-spreading and abundant young growth with dark, glaucous, green leaves. The straw is of good quality, not purple, and of medium height. The ear is rather erect, with a tip-awn brown in colour, large bold and does not shatter. The grain is large, plump, white, medium translucent, producing flour of the medium strong class, Bena threshes readily, is not so, rust-labile 'as Hand Federation, matures a few days later, and may be called a general-purpose wheat, though the moderate length of straw and high percentage of grain to straw' rather constitute it as a grain wheat. In 1924 the yields of 54 bushels and 65 bushels an acre in two field variety tests at Cowra were published and there was keen enquiry for seed which has continued ever since. Over a period of four years, 1922 to 1925, the yield at Cowra has been 46 bushels 36lb., and since it has been distributed Bena has yielded consistently well both in early and late seasons, on private farms in all seasons throughout New South Wales.

In the variety trials at Carwarp (V) this year it was second of the 24 varieties tested with a yield of 30.5 bushels an acre...Another in Western Australia, Bena has also produced remarkable results, Mr. C. Cotton Grasby having certified to a return at the ratio of 73 bushels an acre from a measured area of a crop from Brooktown. Taking into consideration its heavy yielding properties, rust-resistance, stout straw, and ability to hold the grain, Bena should assume a leading position among the wheats in general cultivation in Australia. Farmers who intend to try it next season should be careful to obtain pure seed from a reliable source, otherwise they will probably be disappointed, and Bena will not receive a fair-trial."



Image: Hay carting on the Cowra Experiment Farm, 1919
Source: Wikimedia Commons

W H J Slee: Inspector of Mines NSW

—Story: The German Immigrant who advanced the NSW Mining Industry

William Henry John Slee (3 May 1836-10 Apr 1907) was born Wilhelm Heinrich Johann Slee to Jacob and Regina Slee, at Rostock, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany. A teenage sailor, at 19, he sailed into Melbourne on 20 Dec 1855 aboard the *Pedro V* from Chile. He anglicized his name and began a miner's life at the Ballarat goldfields with Norwegian shipmate, Peter Lawson, without result.

In 1866, Slee and Lawson moved to the New South Wales goldfields, including Lambing Flat and Grenfell, where Lawson's first son, poet, Henry Lawson was born in 1867. Slee married Emma Nelson in Grenfell, in 1869, and the following year, his agitations to obtain government rewards for discoverers of new goldfields put him in the spotlight.

As manager of the Emu Creek goldmine, his partnership with Lawson ended. William and Emma bore four children, over the next six years, losing a child in 1873. ¹⁵



Slee in 1889

Source: Courtesy
Wikipedia ¹⁵

The unregulated goldmining activity by large numbers of inexperienced people and their unsafe practices, led to the *Mining Act, 1874*, and Slee was appointed the first Inspector of Mines for NSW, responsible for industrial safety and enforcing mining safety codes. In 1876, Slee reported:

"The [mining] regulations ensure safety to the health and life of the working miner; they strengthen the hands of the mining manager against the false economy of the directors; they protect the shareholder, in having his mine kept in a secure state for future development; and they compel contributors to keep the mine under their charge in a secure and workable state."

Slee was the only inspector in the department for 14 years, adroitly balancing the perspectives of miners, mine managers and investors, and visiting mining operations on the field and underground. Each year he travelled an average of 5000 miles from Hill's End in horse and buggy. He produced valuable geological mining reports which were reproduced in newspapers, named new mining fields, adjudicated disputes and investigated mining accidents and disasters.

In 1885, he was also appointed NSW Superintendent of Diamond Drills, a program that made valuable developments, particularly as to engineering and public health. On 5 December 1888, he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society, London. In 1890, Slee was appointed Chief Inspector of Mines NSW, based in Sydney.

Towards the end of 1895, alluvial gold was discovered by Mr Slattery and his miners at Gidginbung (Reefton), resulting in a short-lived rush. W.H.J. Slee visited the site and found 50 miners testing the alluvium on the eastern fall from the reefs over a distance of 800 m. A well-defined east-west channel was discovered, but the gold grade was irregular and uneconomic to work. Most alluvial miners had gone by 1896. ¹⁶

The 1898 Annual Report of NSW Dept of Mines, is an interesting read. The report of Artesian waters (P21) reveals that water from the White Tank at Wyalong was "...dangerous water to use for human consumption, either filtered or unfiltered..." due to the free and albuminoid ammonia from vegetable and animal matter, and the mineral matter of fine clay. The Gold Report concluded: *"The Wyalong Field holds the position as premier gold-producer of the Colony, its total yield for the year being 34,582 oz."* Table C of Slee's Report on mining Accidents, notes that of the 4208 men working at metalliferous mines in the Lachlan District in 1898, 5 were killed and 16 injured, such were the safety protocols. ¹⁷

In 1899, William Slee was suffering from chronic bronchitis, and retired in 1904. W.H.J. Slee died at his home at Turramurra, on Sydney's North Shore, on 10 April 1907 and is buried in Waverley Cemetery not far from his old friend, Henry Lawson.

Proposed Railway 1894: Temora to Wyalong

—Story: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works' Report

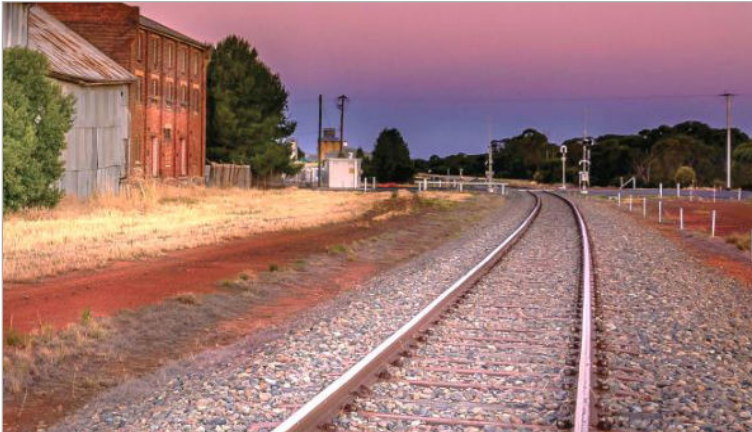


Image: West Wyalong Railway.

Source: Bland Shire Council, West Wyalong Visitors' Guide

In 1894, the New South Wales Parliamentary Standing Committee for Public Works compiled a report for a proposed railway from Temora to Wyalong. Evidence and witnesses were called to the meetings of the Sectional Committee's inquiry.

The official description of the proposed line shows that the railway would begin at the termination of the Cootamundra to Temora line, and it would go thence to Barmedman and continue to Wyalong, a length of 38 miles 46 chains.

"To within about 4 miles of Barmedman the route of the line is chiefly along the side of the main road. It passes on the west side of the township, and then proceeds almost direct, mainly along the public road to Wyalong. For nearly the whole distance the country is flat, and no expensive engineering works are necessary."

The cost was estimated at £104,430, exclusive of lands and compensation costs. Due to the large population assembled on the Wyalong goldfield, no survey beyond Barmedman had been done.

Among the thirty-one witnesses examined before the Sectional Committee were:

- Henry Beecroft Copeland, Crown Lands Agent and Clerk of Petty Sessions, Barmedman.
- Mr Joseph Charles Wentworth, storekeeper, Barmedman.
- Mr Patrick McRoberts, pastoral lessee, Barmedman.
- Mr Herbert Bertram Christie, manager of Wyalong No. 2 Station.
- Mr John Neeld, miner, Wyalong.
- Mr Thomas Andrew Crowe, editor of the *Wyalong Star*, Wyalong.
- John Richardson, relieving station-master, Temora.

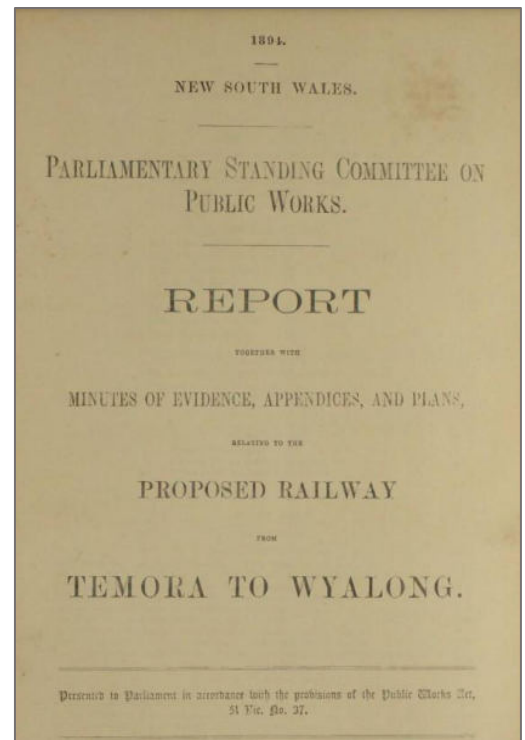


Image: 1894 Proposed Railway Report for Temora to Wyalong.
Source: Parliament.NSW.gov.au

Goods Superintendent of the Railway Dept, Mr Harper provided information regarding the traffic prospects on the proposed railway, and Mr Shellshear, the Divisional Engineer of the Railway Dept, Goulburn, reported on his visit to America to inquire about constructing light and cheap railways. Mr Pittman, Government Geologist, reported on the probable permanency of the Wyalong goldfield.

In arriving at a conclusion, the Committee noted that:

"...the evidence furnished...while favourable to the prospects of Wyalong, is not conclusive as to the permanency of the [gold]field...until further development takes place it could only support a population of about 1,500 persons."

Proposed Railway 1894: Temora to Wyalong continued...

Wyalong miner, John Neeld assisted the Committee with evidence which included:

"I have been about the district a good deal, and have noticed the country right through from here to what they call Rankin's Springs, a distance of 60 miles. I have also travelled from Broken Hill through Wilcannia, Cobar, Lake Cargellico, and Eubalong to Wyalong. Then I have been from Barmedman to Woolengough. Close to Wyalong and out towards Rankin's Springs there is ironbark which I think would be suitable for sleepers...

I can give information with reference to the cost of settlement here. If the land were thrown open, people would come over from Victoria and settle here. Between Lake Cargellico and Wyalong the land is very suitable for agriculture and pastoral pursuits, and when I came here first I was so much taken with the country that I wrote to my father and brothers and advised them to come here and select... After they selected here other people followed to see the country, and they considered that the land was as good as the Goulburn Valley land...that is the finest land in Victoria."

The Temora to Wyalong railway line was constructed in 1903, and fierce competition between West Wyalong and Wyalong forced a compromise for the station to be located in the mallee scrub they called 'Wyalong Central'.

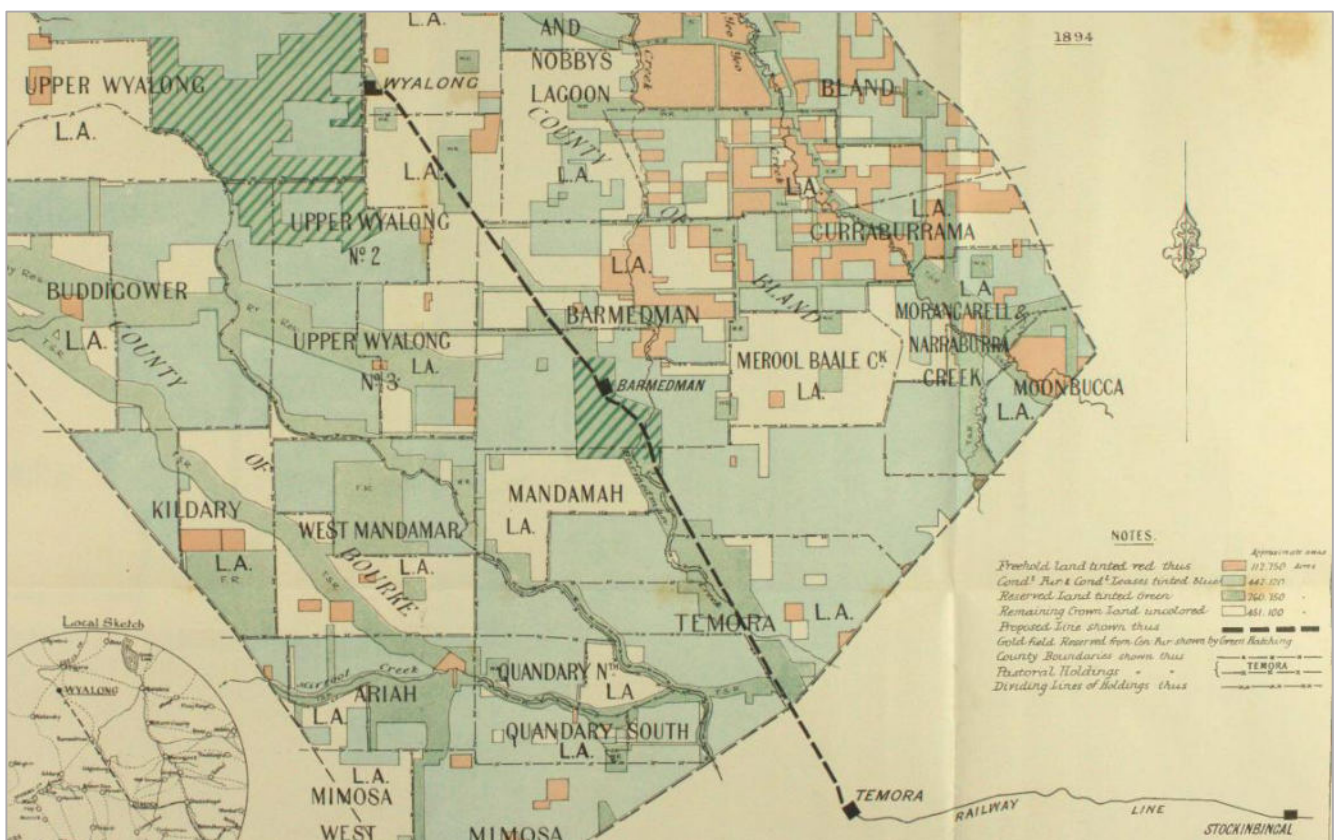


Image: 1894 Counties of Bourke, Bland & Gipps Map showing land within 20 miles on each side of the proposed Railway from Temora to Wyalong.

Source: Parliament.NSW.gov.au

What's in a Name?

—Story: The Disputed Origins of Canberra's First Name.



Image: Parliament House landscaping with horse teams.

Source: Courtesy <https://www.nca.gov.au/education/canberras-history/early-history-act#>

The first European settlement of 'Manarro' as it was called by local Aboriginals, and later known as the Limestone Plains, occurred when Joshua John Moore established a station at what is now Acton (site of the National Museum of Australia) in 1823. When he purchased the land in December 1826, he referred to the location as 'Canbery', a name later used with various spellings for all the surrounding areas.

The local Aboriginals were referred to by early white writers as the 'Kamberra', 'Kghambury', 'Nganbra' and 'Gnabra', all of which share some resemblance to 'Canberra' - the name of the capital announced at the Foundation Stone Ceremony by Lady Denman on 12 March 1913. There is little doubt that 'Canberra' is an anglicised version of the Aboriginal words, which is said to mean 'meeting place'.¹⁸

King O'Malley (2 Jul 1858?–20 Dec 1953) was an American-born Australian politician who served in the House of Representatives (1901–1917), and as Minister for Home Affairs (1910–1913; 1915–16). He is remembered for his role in the development of Canberra and his advocacy for the creation of a national bank.



Image: King O'Malley (1858–1953), the Minister for Home Affairs, knocking in the first surveyor's peg on the site of Canberra, the future capital of Australia, on 20 Feb 1913.

Source: Courtesy NAA, [A1200, L16932](#)

★ ★ ★ Name was Canbra

THE controversy about the name of the Federal Capital Territory is misleading, as the original name was Canbra. The late King O'Malley, whom I knew for over 20 years, told me how the name was spelt, and deplored the fact that it was extended to the present Canberra. King told me it was an aboriginal name.—Rob McAustral (Vic.).

Image: Article, The World News, Sept 10 1955, P22.

Source: Trove,

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133916131/14722512>

O'Malley was responsible for the identification of Canberra as the site of Australia's capital city and the selection of architect, Walter Burley Griffin's design for it.

O'Malley was a colourful character who grew up in Kansas Pawnee country and called himself a republican, a prohibitionist and 'the Wild Irishman', and changed the origins of his parentage often.

King O'Malley was quoted in the *World News* (10 Sept 1955) long after his death as having declared that the capital's name was spelt 'Canbra', and he *"deplored the fact that it was extended to the present Canberra."*¹⁹

King O'Malley originally supported the site of Bombala, but when he was Minister for Home Affairs, he became a convert, likening the Canberra site to the Promised Land. This was in contrast to his previous view that it was *"a district which at times is so dry that a crow desiring to put in a weekend vacation there would have to carry its water bag"*.¹⁵

In 1913, the Government invited the people of Australia to find a suitable name for their future capital and they responded with imagination and good humour. 'Cookaburra', 'Wheatwoolgold' and 'Kangaremu' headed the list, which also included 'Sydmelperadbrisho' and 'Meladneyperbane'. Politics prompted other names such as 'Swindleville', 'Gonebroke' and 'Caucus City'.

It was something of a relief when at noon on 12 March Lady Denman, the wife of the Governor-General, mounted a crimson-draped platform and declared in a clear English voice:

"I name the capital of Australia, Canberra – the accent is on the Can".



Image: King O'Malley, 1908

Source: Courtesy National Library of Australia, T Humphrey & Co



Dorothy Moya Hartigan

—Story: NSW's First Single Female Publican



Image: Dorothy Moya Hartigan
Source: Noel Butlin Archives,
Australian National University

Born in West Wyalong in 1905, **Dorothy Moya Hartigan's** parents, Denis and Mary Hartigan, established the single-storey timber Imperial Hotel there in 1894.

Known widely as 'Dinny', Denis Hartigan was a native of Limerick, Ireland. He arrived in Australia at a young age, and followed various occupations, including gold mining in both NSW and Western Australia.

Dinny built the Imperial Hotel with his brother-in-law, Michael Goggin, gaining the pub's first license in December 1894. Goggin had previously hosted the pub at nearby Captain's Flat. Dinny had been a publican in Parkes before taking the reins of the West Wyalong pub in February 1895.

Dorothy—called 'Moya'—was the youngest of four siblings and never knew her father who died of a stomach haemorrhage a few months before her birth. Her pregnant mother, Mary managed the pub until son, Tom could run the business.

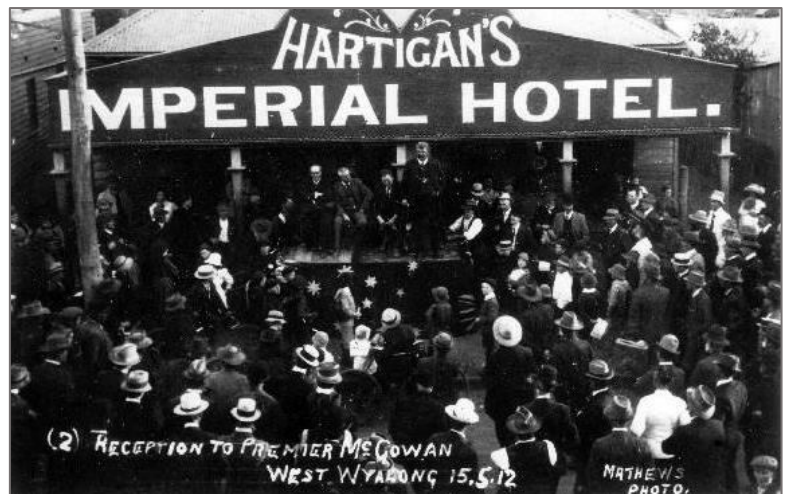


Image (Above Left): Imperial Hotel Advertising | Source: *The Wyalong Star*, 12 Feb 1904

Image (Above Right): Hartigan's Imperial Hotel, West Wyalong (15 May 1902).

Source: Courtesy Time Agents.com, Mick Roberts.

The family were strict Roman Catholics and Moya's two sisters became nuns—although one left the convent to marry.

Image (Right): Lord & Wells Optometrists on the site of the old Imperial Hotel, West Wyalong.

Source: Google Maps, Main St, West Wyalong



In 1920, a huge fire reduced the Imperial Hotel to ashes. The on-the-ground reporter for the *West Wyalong Advocate* (21 May 1920, P6) was so detailed in his description of the event, it bears historical significance regarding the businesses and buildings at that time:

A BIG BLAZE HARTIGAN'S HOTEL GONE. ADJOINING- BUILDINGS DAMAGED.

Hartigan's Imperial Hotel, situated in the heart of West Wyalong, and one of the landmarks of the early days of the [gold]field is no more. About five o'clock on Thursday morning, the nightwatchman, My. E. Howard, noticed flames and smoke issuing from the cellar. He aroused Mr. T. Hartigan, then rang the fire bell. Very soon the word had been passed around that the conflagration was at Hartigan's Hotel, and by reason of its situation in the main business portion of the town, and that it was difficult to say what might happen to other buildings around, large numbers turned out to witness events, although it was bitterly cold.

The Fire Brigade, under Captain Fred Grellman, was quickly on the scene. They secured a supply of water from the underground tank at the Post Office, and set to work on the rear of Hartigan's. Fortunately, there was little or no wind blowing, although the flames inclined towards the Metropolitan Hotel on the eastern side—at one period they passed over the parapet wall of the Metropolitan. which is about 40 feet high.

The building, which was of weatherboard, contained about 21 rooms. A portion of it was erected shortly after the outbreak of the [gold]field, and it has been added to at various periods.

The flames soon had a firm hold in the front and centre, and the object of the Fire Brigade's efforts was to steady the fire before it burned back to the rear, and pass around the brick wall to the gas-house and other wooden outbuildings, of the Metropolitan. In this they were successful. At first there were not sufficient men to properly work the pumps, but after two appeals by the Captain, sufficient volunteers were forthcoming to maintain a good stream of water.

Emmett's brick shop on the western side, and. Cullen's Metropolitan Hotel on the eastern, side, naturally received a terrific roasting. The wall of Emmet's building was cracked in several places, and bulged outwards to the extent of fully an inch. A sky light in the roof collapsed and the woodwork at the end of the verandah was severely charred. Fortunately, the large plate glass windows were undamaged. As indicating the movement of the wall, Mr. Emmett found that it had receded to such an extent that the front doors did not meet sufficiently to enable them to be locked.

The western wall of the Metropolitan Hotel was cracked in six or seven places. At the angles of the walls at back and front, cracks 11 inches wide are showing. The woodwork of the verandahs in front were severely charred, and it was also found necessary to smash in the ceiling of the upper verandah at the end to stop the flames.

Meanwhile the buildings on the opposite side of the street were receiving a severe scorching. The verandah posts of the Globe Hotel were blistered, on verandah post of Messrs C. E. Wallder & Co's office -was twisted, but the plate glass windows were saved by placing sheets of iron in front. One of the plate glass windows in Mr. Wallder's new office was cracked, whilst a plate glass window at Mr. W. J. Field's shop was slightly cracked.

Three detached rooms at the rear of Hartigan's were saved. The licensee and owner, Mrs. M. A. Hartigan was absent from town at the time, having been called to Goulburn owing to the serious illness of her daughter, Sister Conzaga.

The building and contents were insured in the Liverpool London and Globe Insurance Co (Mr. A. Emmett local agent) for £635 and also in the Mercantile Mutual Company (Messrs John Meager & Co. local agents) for £635, making a total of £1270.



Image: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Erskineville in 1949
Source: Noel Butlin Archives, Australian National University

The Hartigans owned several properties in West Wyalong and the pub was generously insured at £1200, enabling the family to relocate to Sydney and take the license of an inner-west Sydney pub in the suburb of Erskineville.

In 1923, Tom Hartigan gained the head lease for the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Erskineville, Sydney and managed it until 1937. He died in 1956. Moya and Tom's mother Mary died at the Cosmopolitan in

in 1946, a change in NSW legislation allowed single women who had never married to apply for a publican's licence.

The *Sydney Sun* (2 Oct 1946) reported:

She's Tacked Miss On To Mine Host

First single woman to be granted a hotel license in NSW — Miss Dorothy Moya Hartigan, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Erskineville — has never tasted liquor.

Miss Hartigan made history today when her application under the new Liquor Act to have the license of her cousin, John Thomas Goggin transferred to her was granted by Mr. Wells in the Licensing Court...

Miss Hartigan, who is known to all her customers and throughout the district as Moya, is aged 38. She is an attractive brunette.

"The family has been in the hotel business for years," she said. "My mother had a hotel at West Wyalong for 30 years, and this one for 22 years. "Everybody round here has known me since I was a little girl. "Since my mother died eight years ago the licence has been in the name of my cousin, but I thought I would make application under the new amendment because it would be more advantageous for business reasons."

Moya continued as host at the Cosmopolitan Hotel until her retirement in 1954. She shouted her patrons to a last round on the "time gents, please" moment, and 200 of her customers put in for a silver tea service as a farewell present.

Moya believed that single women could run hotels better than most men.

Moya died in Sydney, 11 November 1968 at the age of 63. She is buried in Waverly Cemetery. ²⁰



Image: Mr. Cecil Coughtrey presented a silver tea set to Moya on her retirement.
Source: Timeagents.com

Notice Board

July

The Theatre, Australian National Maritime Museum
2 Murray Street, Sydney 2000

**Characters of the Neighbourhood
- The Men & Women of Pyrmont**

On site: 27 July 2024, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

FREE!

**MU
SEA
UM**

Join residents of the local Pyrmont community as they tell stories of how the suburb grew from Gadigal fisherman to a multicultural hub.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/characters-of-the-neighbourhood-the-men-women-of-pyrmont-tickets-880491683327?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Ongoing

National Library of Australia

**Family History for Beginners Learning Webinar
Online Pre-recorded Webinar**

Available anytime!

FREE!



Watch the learning webinar introducing eResources, published family histories, newspaper collections and material such as electoral rolls, shipping records and birth, death and marriage indexes.

<https://www.nla.gov.au/stories/video/family-history-beginners-learning-webinar>

August

State Library NSW

Starting Your Family History Research

Online Zoom: 6 Aug 2024, 2:30p.m.

FREE!



This session will introduce you to the State Library's diverse family history collections, which you can access both online and onsite.

To register: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/starting-your-family-history-research>

September

The Museum of History NSW
Raising The Farmer, 1890-1914

FREE!



Online Zoom: 25 Oct 2024, 10:30a.m.

Images of the Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales which was printed by the NSW Department of Mines and Agriculture

Register at: <https://mhnsnsw.au/whats-on/events/raising-the-farmer-glass-negatives-taken-for-the-agricultural-gazette-of-nsw-1890-1914/>

No Joke...

The 10th oldest joke ever was found in the world's oldest 'joke book'. It's a fourth century text called 'Philogelos' (Laughter-lover), by the Greek philosophers, Hierocles and Philagrius:

" Asked by the court barber how he wanted his hair cut, the king replied: 'In Silence'."

—*Businessinsider.com*

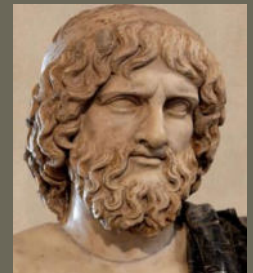


Image: Sculpture of Hierocles
Courtesy: *iperspective*.

"What do you call a group of people waiting for a haircut?"

"A Barber-queue!"

—*Jokes4us.com*



Further Reading/Footnotes:

- ¹ <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/>
- ² <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/animals/display/32540-war-horses-memorial>
- ³ <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2024/05/11/1250529661/handwriting-cursive-typing-schools-learning-brain>
- ⁴ <https://www.cwgc.org/>
- ⁵ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C93512>
- ⁶ <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/people/religion/display/109000-father-thomas-mullins>
- ⁷ <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/a-brief-history-of-fr-thomas-mullins-war-time-service/>
- ⁸ https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wmZ0AZ_Father_Thomas_Mullins_Memorial_West_Wyalong_NSW_Australia
- ⁹ <https://www.myheritage.com/site-family-tree-195302801/von-schill>
- ¹⁰ *From Whence We Came, The Ridley Saga,* by Viscount Ridley, 1978
- ¹¹ <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/stories/general/jessie-elephant/>
- ¹² <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/stories/general/story-how-move-zoo/>
- ¹³ <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+19985/23H>
- ¹⁴ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1214091>
- ¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_John_Slee
- ¹⁶ <https://www.mininghistory.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/5.-McQueen-Ashley-v21.pdf>
- ¹⁷ [https://digs.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/api/download/2112cf50eb792f1e12e58fc3a3acac4a/AR1898_NSW_DoMA_1899_\(OCR_version\)_whole_volume.pdf](https://digs.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/api/download/2112cf50eb792f1e12e58fc3a3acac4a/AR1898_NSW_DoMA_1899_(OCR_version)_whole_volume.pdf)
- ¹⁸ <https://www.nca.gov.au/education/canberras-history/early-history-act#>
- ¹⁹ <https://museum.rba.gov.au/exhibitions/collection-spotlight/king-o-malley.html>
- ²⁰ <https://timeagents.com/2018/01/08/cosmopolitan-hotel-erskineville/>
- ²¹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0967772013493239?journalCode>

The Wyalong Star and Temora and Barmadman Advertiser

14 December 1900, Page 2,

DEATHS

Mr. J. W. Broughton has received a note from Mr. T. Thompson, formerly in the local branch of the Bank of New South Wales, reporting the death in South Africa of his brother Norman, from enteric fever. A letter received from him some time ago said that he was suffering from rheumatism and had been offered a return, but he replied that he was no 'cocktail' and meant to see more of the war. He died at Kroonstad.

—**Note:** *Typhoid fever is a life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium Salmonella Typhi. It is usually spread through contaminated food or water. 1000 men died of typhoid fever during the Boer War.* ²¹