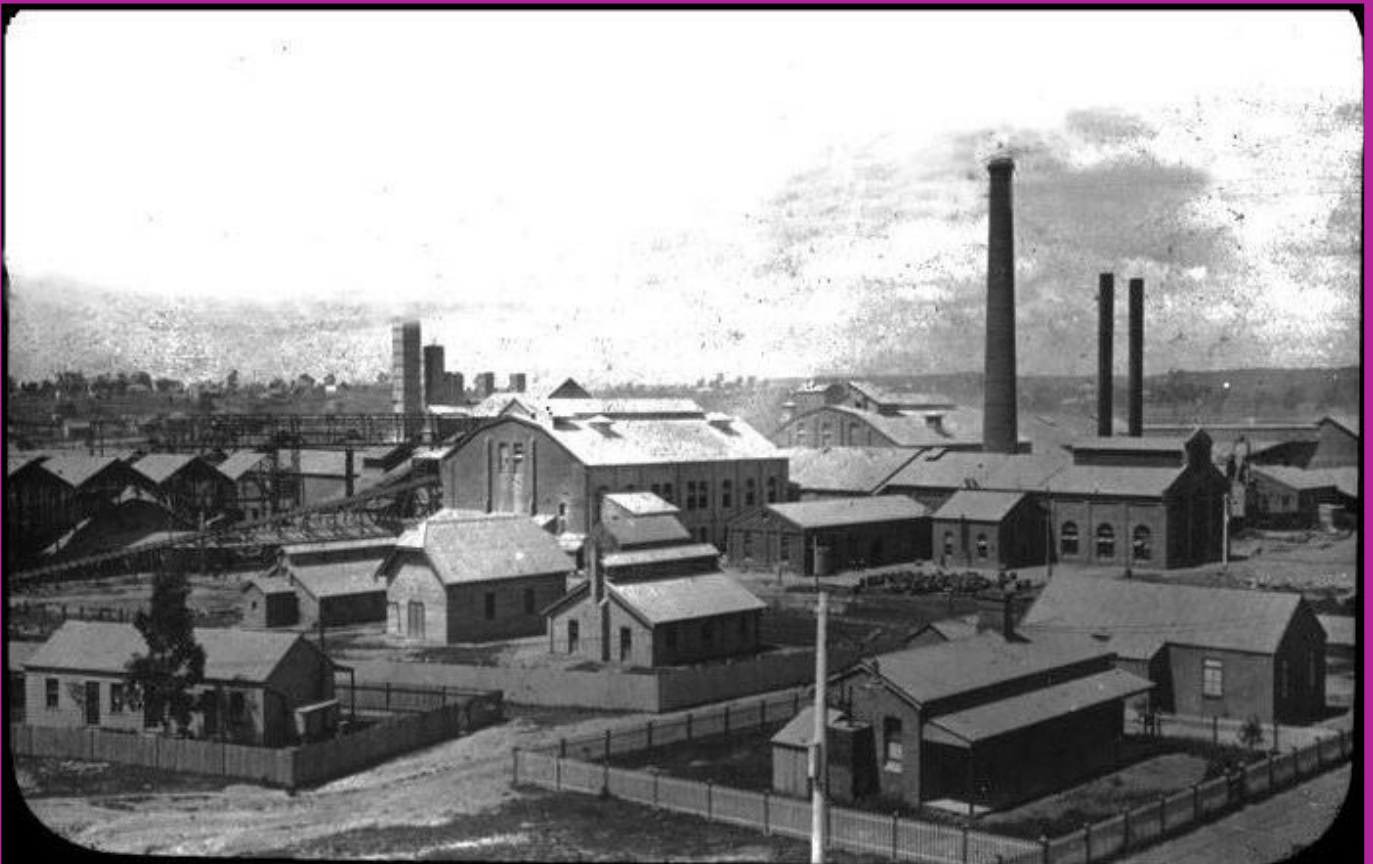




Lithgow Pioneer Press



PORTLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES

"The town that built Sydney"

"Portland cement" - a phrase synonymous with high quality cement anywhere in the world, was milled using limestone from onsite quarries and shipped throughout Australia. Gazetted as a village in 1894, with 200 people living within the area, the town of Portland appeared to have reached its peak population of 3,125 in 1948. The

2021 census listed 1,981 people living in Portland. The development of the old Cement Works Site as a Tourism precinct, coupled with land development, will open new opportunities - for those families who call Portland home, those who visit or those families who might be seeking a lifestyle change.

LITHGOW & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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RESOURCE CENTRE OPENING HOURS:

11 am to 4 pm on Fridays and 2 pm to 5 pm on Tuesdays

Access to Resource Centre: Members free, non-members \$20.

Ewen Smith Memorial Hall

Corner of Tank & Donald Streets, Lithgow

Please address all mail to: PO Box 516 Lithgow, NSW 2790

Tel. (02) 6353 1089 (during opening hours)

Email: secretary.ldfhs@gmail.com

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

2025 Meeting dates: 17 March, 14 April AGM (Note change to 2nd Monday, due to clash with Easter Monday), 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 Aug, 15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, No meeting in Dec.

Members are welcome to attend meeting or submit ideas for discussion.

FEES

MEMBERSHIP (1st March 2025 to 28th February 2026)

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

- 3 journals (emailed journals) \$40

Membership from October 1st 2025 - 2 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.

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YVONNE JENKINS MEMORIAL ESSAY AWARD

**Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor - gunsmith,
programmer, white collar thief?**

Occupations that were commonplace 200 years ago are now performed by machines, and occupations that exist now would not have been imagined by people 30 years ago, let alone 200 years ago.

The Lithgow & District Family History Society's topic for the 2025 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Essay Award **"A family member's unusual occupation"** is an opportunity to think about occupations.

The story can be written from different angles... what would be unusual to us, or what would be unusual to our ancestors? Think creative writing.

The essay competition, in memory of the Society's convenor and author, Yvonne Jenkins, is held annually and the closing date for the essay is 30 April 2025. The winner receives free membership of the society for twelve months and three hours free research if they live outside the Lithgow LGA.

The winning entry will be published in the October 2025 issue of the Pioneer Press. An entry form is enclosed

CALENDAR 2025 - 2026

28 FEB 2025— Membership renewals DUE .

14 APRIL 2025 - L&DFHS AGM

30 APRIL 2025 - Closing date for essays for the 2025 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award

7 MAY 2025 - Closing date for articles on Portland families for June Journal

AUGUST 2025 - Family History Month

23 AUGUST 2025 - Presentation of Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award.

SAVE THE DATE

14 MARCH 2026 - L&DFHS 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

CONTENTS

3. Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award information

4. Portland NSW - by Ros Powell, focussing on the social history of the town.

6. Mr A W Scheidel, Portland Commonwealth Cement Co

9. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

10. St Stephen's Anglican Church Portland

12. Portland Methodist Church

14. Harry Holland

15. Research Enquiries, From Our Archives, LDFHS Library Additions

Topics for June 2025 Journal include

St Vincents Catholic Church & St Joseph's School, Portland; Portland Central School., Portland Hospital.

Family stories (up to 1,000 words) and photos for the June 2025 journal should be submitted by 7 May 2025.



PORTLAND NSW

(FOCUSING ON THE SOCIAL HISTORY)

In 1828 Peter MacPherson was granted 640 acres and is believed to be the first white settler. He found limestone on his land and used it to build his homestead. The area became known as Limestone Flat. MacPherson increased his holding and sold a portion to Lieutenant William Lawson of Prospect in 1856. Another local settler of note was Sir John Jamieson of Regentville who, in 1840 was granted 2000 acres where the current township of Cullen Bullen now stands. Both Lawson and Jamieson are commemorated in Portland with streets named after them.

The commercial production of limestone was instigated in 1869 by Thomas Murray who, while ploughing his land, found limestone. He built a lime kiln and sold it both locally in Bathurst and Sydney transporting it by bullock teams. The plant was located in what is now known as Kremer Park.

In 1873 Murray sold the business to a group of builders and the company became the Cullen Bullen Cement Company. The railway arrived in 1883, and the railway station, built in 1889 was named Cullen Siding providing transport of the product to Sydney. The product name was Kangaroo producing 30 tons per week. Unfortunately, the product was deemed inferior by the government of the day and the business was sold to Raffan Brothers in 1895. Likewise, their product was of poor quality and the company failed.



Portland's First Hall - built about 1890 at the bottom of Lime Street opposite where the Anglican Church now stands

The township in the early 1890s was described as a bush hamlet with most of the houses consisting of wattle-and-daub and even hessian construction. Another old timer later described dwellings built of rough bush timber and spilt slabs covered with thatch. In 1892 the Government decided a village would be officially gazetted and the village of 45 acres, and suburban area of 180 acres, was gazetted in 1894. A tramway ran diagonally through the main town centre carrying the limestone by horse-drawn skips from the quarry to kilns near Portland railway station.

In 1898 the Raffan Brothers sold the business to an English company known as the New Zealand Mines Trust. The Commonwealth Portland Cement Ltd (CPCC) was established by a German scientist, Dr August Scheidel who registered the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Ltd in Sydney in December 1900 on behalf of the New Zealand Mines Trust. He designed the cement works and supervised construction. It is to his credit no workmen were killed during construction. The cement produced under Scheidel was a higher quality and would set under water.



CPCC was bought by Blue Circle Southern Cement in 1974. The cement plant was closed in 1991 but in 1975 Blue Circle Southern Cement was taken over by Boral which extracted limestone from the Portland quarries until 1998.

Portland is now known as "the town that built Sydney". Local resident Jack Kearns coined the term one evening in the Coronation Hotel where he entertained hotel patrons playing his accordion and harmonica.

From around the time of Federation, the union movement became strong in Portland and was influential in improving the workers' conditions. A

few of the leaders in the Portland unions became prominent citizens of the state including Mr C.A. (Gus) Kelly, Chief Secretary of New State Wales, and Member of Bathurst for 25 years, and Mr L.W. (Billy) Ryan who went on to become a Labor Upper House member.

From 1901 to 1911 the population grew from 545 to 2570. In 1911 Portland township was illuminated by power from the Portland Cement Works.

The town was a very busy place and businesses included butchers, bakers, billiard rooms, hairdressers, fruit shops, general stores, photographer, coachmaker, blacksmith's and brick kiln. Mr and Mrs George Toyer came from Ben Bullen. George, being a master brickmaker, became responsible for making the bricks for the new cement works. There was a publisher and printer who produced the "Portland Pioneer" newspaper, tobacconist, chemist, mercery and boot shop. A large building was known as "The Rink" where roller skating took place. There were many boarding houses for single men workers and a number of hotels, including the Coronation and Imperial. A tailor arrived, Mr R.Y. Frew, who put up his shingle and charged £2/7/6 for a hand tailored three-piece suit.



Mr Bill Lowe, a former Cobb & Co. coach driver, conducted a coach business and the fare within Portland village was a shilling and to Wallerawang two shillings. He had the mail contract for many years. There wasn't a bank in Portland at that time so Mr Lowe collected the deposits of Portland's businesses and took them to the Commercial Bank in Wallerawang accompanied by the local policeman, Constable W. Thomas.

Employment drew families from the surrounding towns of Wolgan, Newnes, and Glen Davis but mainly Sunny Corner. Silver, gold, zinc and antimony were mined at Sunny Corner between 1875-1922. As these deposits dwindled the population moved on. Many former residents of surrounding towns dismantled their homes and commercial premises and rebuilt them at Portland. An entertaining anecdote of moving to Portland tells of Walter Tweedie from Newnes, who wanted to bring his 60 pigs with him. How to move them! Two Newnes men offered to drive them in easy stages to Portland. They did not lose one.

The Presbyterians brought their church building from Sunny Corner and re-erected it in 1900. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1915. The foundation stone of the Church of England was laid in 1905 on land given by the CPCC followed by a donation of land for the Parish Hall in 1924. The buildings, being located so close to the quarries, were damaged by blasting. Moving to another site was contemplated but did not eventuate. The Methodist and Catholics followed in 1904 and 1905 respectively. A Methodist service had previously been held regularly at a cottage opposite the Portland railway station. The Catholic church, built on what became known as Convent Hill, suffered greatly from worksite dust, as did most of the town but the location on the Hill seemed to be severely impacted. The Salvation Army Hall was built in 1928 and in 1953 officers' living accommodation was built onto the back.

The first school opened in Portland in 1884, then Limestone Flat, enrolling 55 pupils. At nearby Pipers Flat there was another small school educating children of railway staff, farmers and carriers. Pipers Flat was at the time the rail head for thriving Sunny Corner.

In 1894 it was decided to move the school more into town. A larger building was built on 2 acres and still stands. At the time of opening in 1895 at a cost of £440, one hundred pupils had been enrolled.

St Joseph's Convent School opened in 1905. Sister M. James led the teaching Sisters. They also

taught local people “finishing courses” including commercial subjects, such as bookkeeping and typewriting, as well as learning musical instruments, singing, drawing, painting and elocution.

Portland School of Arts building dates from 1908 and was remodelled in the 1940s, funded by the Joint Coal Board and the Blaxland Shire Council. It had a library, two large rooms used for meetings, social occasions and a baby clinic.

From early times a doctor tended patients. By 1901 the Cement Company ensured he had a regular income. The practice grew to 3 doctors and 2 nurses. The “nursing home” as it was then known, was conducted in a building in Williwa Street which locals called The Casino. CPC together with trade unions and businesses laid the foundation stone on 11 May 1912 for Portland District Hospital and by 1913 it opened on 5 acres overlooking Kremer Park. The location was criticized for being too close to the quarries but continued to be extended eventually comprising a men’s ward, women’s ward, children’s ward, maternity unit, operating theatre with X-ray facilities with a dark room for the films. The latter was provided by local donations largely from CPC employees who paid 3d per week. CPC continued to contribute to running costs. Radio Stations 2LT and 2KA, the R.S.L., an annual picture night and annual ball added to hospital finances. Separate nurses’ accommodation was built in 1954.

Not covered in this brief history but contributing to the social fabric of Portland are the CWA, Portland Band and the Progress Association.

The book “Portland’s Past: Insight to those lost in the Cement Works 1901-1993” commissioned by the Portland Tidy Towns Project 2016, provides detailed information on the tragic end to the lives of 45 men killed in the cement works and quarries. It is sobering reading.

Submitted by Ros Powell

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For Portland Tidy Towns, May 2016

Portland NSW “The Town that built Sydney”

<https://www.auzzietowns.com.au/town/portland-nsw> Accessed 26/09/2022

THE STORY OF MR A W SCHEIDEL

Born in Germany, Dr August Scheidel came to Australia and New Zealand as the general manager of an English company, the New Zealand Gold Extracting Company Limited, in 1888, and lived in New Zealand until 1893. Dr Scheidel was naturalised in New Zealand by letters of naturalisation on 17th December 1890. Early in 1893 he proceeded to the United States and from there, after about two years in California, working with the State Mining Bureau, left for Europe, returning in 1895 to Australia as the general manager in Australia of an English company- the New Zealand Mines Trust Limited.

In 1901 he became the managing director and general manager of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Limited, a company which was formed on his advice at the beginning of that year under the auspices of the New Zealand Mines Trust, Limited, for the purpose of erecting a large cement works at Portland, New South Wales. This company was formed exclusively with English capital, English directors, and English shareholders. Its works, which Dr Scheidel built, were operated under his general management and employed between 600 and 700 men. As the company's managing director and general manager in Australia, he was also its public officer and became its representative on the various boards created by the industrial legislation of New South Wales. Some of these were:

Appointment to the Lime and Cement Workers (Portland) Board under the Industrial Disputes

Act, 1908. New South Wales.

Led a deputation to the Minister for the urgent establishment of a hospital in the town. (June 1911)

Appointment to the Cement Workers' (Portland) Board under the Industrial Disputes Amendment Act, 1908. New South Wales 20th September 1911.

Appointment to a Board known as the Cement Workers (Portland) Board (Dec 1911)

Appointment to the Manufacturing (No.1)

Group, No. 7 Board under the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, New South Wales 1912.

Member of a deputation to the Minister for Works regarding the Portland Water Supply (Nov 1913)

Dr Scheidel became naturalised in the Commonwealth of Australia by certificate of naturalisation dated 10th December 1913. As Managing Director of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Limited Dr Scheidel advocated and promoted many essential services social activities in the town. Some examples are:

Donating money in appreciation to school children for participating in the Governor-Generals visit in July 1907 (Excellent Singing) and also the same to the Town Band for 'excellent playing'.

In 1910 the Portland Cement Company erected a Rotunda for the Band.



Despite all his Great work, the war and his nationality eventually caused Dr Scheidel to resign from his position as Managing director of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Limited.

Examples of newspaper articles displaying this are noted

Mirror Saturday 26 January 1918, page 3

DR. SCHEIDEL COUNCIL'S CEMENT CONTRACT - A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE

The Sydney Municipal Council will have again before it next week, the question of the proposed contract with the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company, of which Dr. August Scheidel is the Managing Director. The Council's solicitor has reported that the Council cannot rescind the contract without laying itself open to an action for damages.

The question raised by Alderman Richards is, however, a question of principle. Is it right that a patriotic public body should have any business relations with a company willing to retain in complete control of its operations a gentleman of German birth and an ex-official of an enemy country? Other Australian companies without any enemy taint whatever are available, and preference should be given to them, especially as they are not only entirely 'British in character and control, but are owned in Australia, and do not send their profits to another country. Moreover, the Commonwealth Company can, if they so desire, secure the services of capable Australians with adequate experience and skill in this industry by the full force of public opinion. This contract raises the question of the association between Dr. Scheidel and the Commonwealth and State Governments. Mr. Hughes has laid himself open to the charge of grave inconsistency by adopting, on the one hand, an attitude of extreme hostility to the Germans in our midst, and at the same time permitting the Federal Government to enter into contracts with this gentleman of enemy worth. He is evidently not regarded as entirely harmless, for the authorities will not permit him to leave Portland, and require him to report to the police weekly. They have interned the German chemist, Herr Braunagel. Why do they not adopt a similar course with Herr Scheidel? We trust that Alderman Richards will persist in his patriotic attitude, and we await the result of the next meeting of the Sydney Council with much interest.

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Mirror 3 February 1918

DR. SCHEIDEL CITY COUNCIL DECISION NO MORE CON- TRACTS

The Sydney Municipal Council decided last Monday by 15 votes to 7 not to rescind the contract with the Commonwealth Portland Cement. The Council decided to inform the Commonwealth Company that it would not enter into any further

contract with the company so long as Dr, August Scheidel retains his position as managing director.

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Lithgow Mercury 8 February 1918

DR. SCHEIDEL'S RETIREMENT

(From our Portland Correspondent.)

The following notice was posted up at the cement works time office -In consequence of the events of the last few weeks, when the company experienced great trouble with regard to their tender for a public contract on account of my nationality, and as I apprehend that other public bodies may take, under the influence of the obtaining weight of national feeling, exception to dealing with the company whilst I continue in my position, I see no alternative but to bow to the exigencies of the situation and to sacrifice myself in the interests of the company. I have completely resigned from the position of managing director and general-manager, which resignation has been accepted by the London board of directors. The circumstances which have brought about this step are not of my creation, and it is with feelings of the intense regret that I sever my connection with the company after a service of upwards of 22 years. But I can see no help for it, as the prosperity of the company,



and thereby that of the community of Portland, depends largely on public contracts. In taking leave, I wish to put on record, my appreciation of the untiring efforts of the whole of my staff, officers, and men which has so consistently and ably worked under me. A. Scheidel.

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Lithgow Mercury 24 October 1919

DR. AUGUST SCHEIDEL. COULD NOT LIVE IN LITHGOW.

Some interesting evidence was given by Dr. August Scheidel, formerly managing director of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Co. He stated that he voluntarily relinquished the position, and no charge of disloyalty had ever been brought against him. He was a naturalised British subject. After the severance of his connection with the Portland enterprise he was allowed to select any place in N.S. Wales to reside, subject to certain limits from the coast and from Lithgow. He selected Bathurst and it was approved. His German decorations had absolutely no Political bearing

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1932. Dr. August Scheidel, formerly managing director of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company Ltd, died at Frankfort-on Main on May

2, aged 73 years. Dr. Scheidel, whose doctorate (in philosophy) was from the University of Frankfurt, was a man of varied interests. He designed the extensive cement works near Lithgow and was also responsible for the design of similar undertakings in Western Australia and New Zealand. While at Portland he took a keen interest in all local movements. As the result of his efforts the company set aside part of its extensive lands as a public park, and supplied electricity free, for the lighting of the streets. He was one of the pioneers of the establishment of works ambulance stations at a time when such utilities were regarded as luxuries. He left Sydney three years ago to reside in Rome, where he took up the study of painting. He was unmarried. (Scheidel Lane in Portland is named after him)

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Portland was originally called Piper's Flat and saw a considerable settlement of "Displaced Highland Scots".

The failure of the Silver vein at Sunny Corner c1898 saw many people move to Portland to work in the Cement works. These people not only brought their families, but dismantled their houses and transported them, re-erecting them around the cement works site.

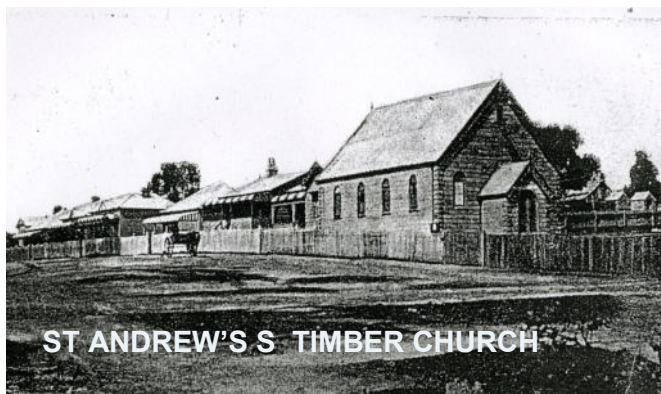
Portland Presbyterians were part of the Bathurst Presbytery and was established as a Home Mission Station with the Missionary often traveling 4,000 miles by Horse and Buggy between Rylstone, Portland and Mt. Lambie to conduct services. Mr. Alex Dunnet Robertson served in this position in the early 1900's.

In 1900 the "Scotch" church from Sunny Corner was transported to Portland in pieces. It was erected in Vale Street at the site of the present church. The rough furniture and the Original Foundation Stone were also transported to Portland. The stone was laid in Sunny Corner by Mr. John Dobbie from Mt Lambie on 28th July 1886. This property was the first permanent church in Portland.

Mudgee Guardian. Thursday 17th December 1908.

"The Presbyterian Church, Portland was opened and dedicated for public worship on Sunday last by the Rev. Dr. Clouston, ex Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales."

In 1911 Portland was established as a separate Mission Station under the New South Wales and Bathurst Presbytery."



Alongside the church a boarding-house was also built with supplies from Sunny Corner. This building was the origin of a fire in 1913 that spread to the Church roof and the cottage on the other side. Article in Lithgow Mercury Wednesday 1st July 1915. The occupier of the house was Mrs. W. Burgess and the other occupier was Mr. E. Ward. Both houses were the property of Mr. John Cook of Hornsby.

The organ, pews and furniture were saved, but the building was destroyed.

Volunteers rebuilt the church with bricks from Sunny Corner and installed the original Foundation stone in the west wall. The building was plain brick inside with no heating or lighting.

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Lithgow Mercury Wednesday 19th February 1913.

PORTLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Valedictory to the Minister

Paraphrase of Page 3 article.

A social evening was held at the church to farewell Mr. R. Morrison Stewart upon his transfer to Tweed Heads. Mr. Robert Frew presided over the event with apologies from Rev. T. Northcott (Methodist) and Rev. E. A. Homfray (C. of E.). Entertainment

was provided and listed.

A presentation was made to Mr. Morrison by Mr. Robert McDonald and "little Donald McLean" of a pocket wallet from the Sunday School and on behalf of the congregation of a Silver-mounted Umbrella suitably inscribed. Mr. Morrison preached at Rylstone alternate Sundays and Glen Alice and Newnes the other Sundays.

Mr. H. Toyer adjoined the sentiments, Mr Wettig (Methodist), Captain Corrick (Salvation Army) agreed.

Mr. Morrison rose to respond to applause and thanked all for their wishes and kind things expressed.

Multiple Portland people are mentioned as entertainers in the article.

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Article Lithgow Mercury Friday 21st March 1913
Page 5.

PORTLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. By our own correspondent.

(Paraphrase)

New minister Rev. J. Marshall and Mrs Marshall were welcomed. He has been appointed to the Portland-Rylstone charge and will reside in Portland. The charge covers areas from Bylong to Rydal ; over 90 miles altogether.

Entertainment was provided by named locals and were led by Mr. Toyer as chairman.

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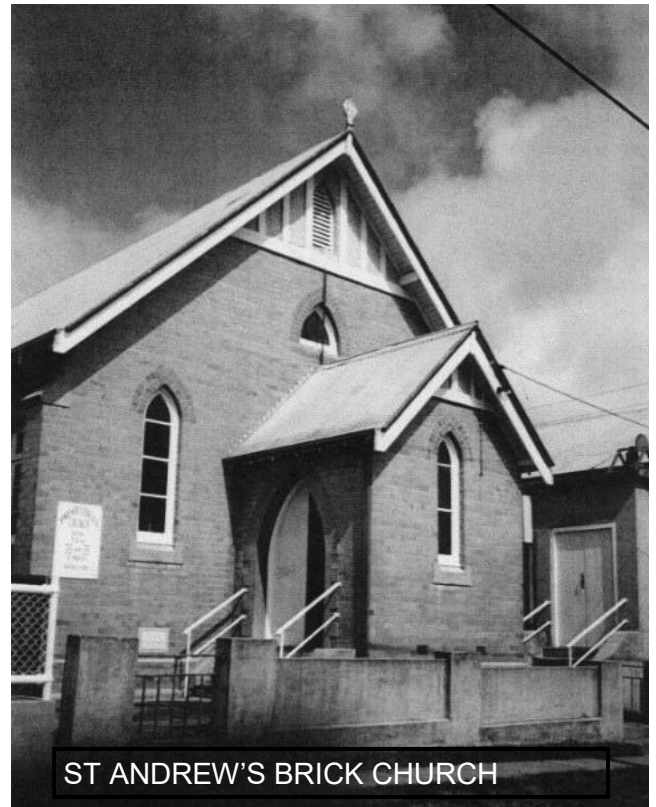
Article. Bathurst Times Saturday 16th October 1915.

NEW CHURCH IN PORTLAND.

"The Portland Presbyterians, who had their church burnt down some time ago have succeeded, in spite of the war, in erecting a new building which is to be opened today by the State Moderator the Rev R. Scott West. The Rev. G. H. Robertson, Moderator of the Presbytery of Bathurst will also assist and will preach at Portland and Lithgow on Sunday."

The single vestry was built in 1920 by the local Freemasons to hold their lodge ceremonies until 1925.

The electricity was added in the 1930's when the



walls were plaster rendered. Prior to this a rather unreliable acetylene gas lighting system was used.

Submitted by Eleanor Martin

Bibliography. Trove newspaper articles as listed. "The Challenge of the Years" Rev. C. A. White, B. A."A Brief History of St Andrew's Church, Portland. A. Cargill session Clerk.

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Bishop Broughton, the Church of England Bishop of Australia, visited Cullen Bullen in August 1843 in an endeavour to reach the outlying settlements. Local residents were invited to an evening service where he preached on Luke 10:42 'But one thing is needed'.

Following this visit he arranged for members of the clergy to visit Piper's Flat and Capertee. These men may have been itinerant preachers, or ministers from churches in the larger towns, holding services under a tree, on a verandah or inside a private home.

In 1851 Bishop Broughton returned to the gold diggings on the Turon River. The bishop held a meeting with the gold miners at 6 am on the morning of 5th November and urged them to help him build a

church. Setting an example the 64 year-old gentleman who was also lame, took up a pick and dug a hole in the ground for a corner post.

Before lunch all the post holes had been dug. Trees were soon being felled and dressed for timber posts. Walls were erected, joists put in place and the roof erected. Canvas, doors, a communion table and other items were delivered from Bathurst. (It seems that this delivery was pre-arranged by the Bishop).

Within four days a highly visible white canvas church was ready for use. On Sunday 9th, 200 people seated on temporary seating, and another 100 standing outside listened to Bishop Broughton preach.

In 1880 Georgina Walker Barton paid for the building of St John's Church at Wallerawang, as a memorial to her parents and her late husband, as an ecumenical place of worship in the district for both the Presbyterian and Church of England congregations.

For many years the pastor at St John's visited other areas including Piper's Flat, Portland, Cullen Bullen and Wolgan. Many hours were spent riding on horseback to speak in homes and halls.

By 1901 regular services were held in Portland in the cement works hall on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month at 3 pm, and Holy Communion at 9 am on a weekday by arrangement.

Rev A R MacLean encouraged the building of a church in his annual report to the parish later that year. He urged his flock to erect a church for the proper conduct of Divine Services in Portland, a place set apart for the worship of God. He urged them to 'strain every nerve and work hard to this end'.

Miss Hilda Ironmonger, whose mother lived with her parents at Piper's Flat, four kilometres east of Portland, spoke of her mother's memories of that time. Their home was a tin shed. Meals were cooked on an iron camp oven outside over an open fire. Her grandfather walked to work at the Sunny Corner gold mines for two shilling and sixpence a week.

Hilda's mother and Mrs J Evan often walked from Portland to Cullen Bullen to collect donations for the building of the church. Receipts were issued for six pence or maybe a shilling.

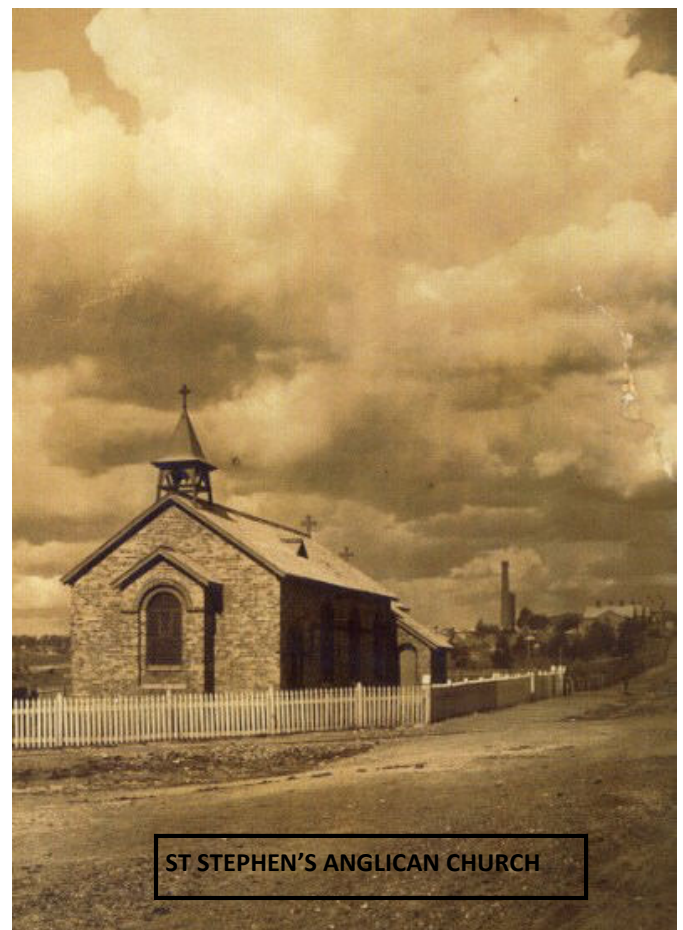
The foundation stone for St Stephen's Church of

England was laid on 7 March 1903 by Georgina Barton, wife of James Barton, Secretary of St John the Evangelist Church, Wallerawang. The stone was made by H Taylor & Son of Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Mr F Beardmore placed an advertisement in the Lithgow Mercury on 20 March 1903 inviting tenders for the Carpentering and Finishing Trades 'necessary for the partial erection' of the church.

Designed by Mr Arthur Kenway, who was employed in the Drawing Office of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company, the building seated 160.

James Crisp laid the foundations and was responsible for the brickwork. J H Pippard was responsible for all the woodwork in the building. The lectern, fabricated in kauri pine was described as 'a distinct ornament'. The pews were made by Goodlet & Smith Pty Ltd of Sydney.



The church was formally dedicated to St Stephen on 9 August 1903 by Rev Archdeacon Gunther. M.A. (of Parramatta), Vicar General assisted by Rev A R MacLean, Rector of the parish, and Rev J A Reynolds. Three services were held: 11 am Dedication Services and Holy Eucharist; 3 pm Evensong and 7 pm Second Evensong. Mr James

Walker Barton played the organ at each service.

The Lithgow Mercury reported that the 'village was alive with visitors from the centres within a radius of 20 miles.'

The Portland Brass Band kindly volunteered its services, and after playing from the public hall to the church on each occasion gave sacred selections outside prior to the services.

It appears that the church was in an 'unfinished state' yet gave promise of a beautiful building when completed.

The first baptism was that of Oliver Tristram Cordell, son of William H Cordell and his wife, Elizabeth M Moyle, on 9 August 1903, the day the church was opened.

The first wedding in the Church was blessed between Cecil Thomas Dawes and Helen (Ellen) May Beaulock on 7 October 1903.

On Sunday 14 February 1904 the Harvest Festival services were held and the church, which was decorated accordingly, was not large enough to accommodate the number of people who attended.

In 1905 Georgina Abbott (nee Walker, formerly Barton) on returning from Europe brought back with her "an altar cross and a pair of very fine vases" which she presented to the Church.

Bishop Charles Edward Camidge of Bathurst, whose diocese covered a huge area of 73,000 square miles, made his first visit to Portland on 17 May 1907 and was welcomed at a reception given to him by the ladies of Portland in the Commonwealth Hall.

Bishop Camidge spoke of the generosity of the late Mr Abbott and family at Wallerawang, and of the great work done by the Rev J A Reynold's under whose fostering care the church had greatly prospered.

By 1907 Rev E P Lowe was in charge of Portland and Capertee.

Hilda Ironmonger's brother Harry married Laura Annie Evans, daughter of Mr & Mrs James of Pipers Flat in 1909. Hilda was listed among the bridesmaids.

During the celebrations that concluded the first century of worship at St Stephen's Portland, a new marble plaque was erected as the wording

from the original was obliterated by the weather.

Designed to meet the needs of the community at the time, one hundred and twenty years later the congregation continues to look at ways to improve the building and facilities to meet new challenges and opportunities.

RECTORS OF ST STEPHEN'S PORTLAND:

1907-1919 Edward Alfred Homfray

1919-1922 Henry Hosken Marshead

1922-1923 James Benson. L.Th.

1923-1925 Fred Barry

1925-1932 Archdeacon Francis Ernest Haviland.

CURATE

1916-1918 Arthur Dean Bronhead

Sources: Extracts from St Stephen's Anglican Church Portland. Centenary Booklet 1903-2003. This book includes a list of ministers and visiting ministers 1902-2002, Visitors and Lay Readers 1913 – c 1954 and Church Council 1959-1996.

Various articles from the Lithgow Mercury 1900-1915.

PORTLAND METHODIST CHURCH

1902-1920

The stained-glass window in the foyer of the Portland Uniting Church was donated by Rev David and Mrs Helen Sackett on the centenary of the Church. David and Helen were in ministry in Portland in 1953.

The first Wesleyan activity in Portland was possibly the Sunday School conducted by James Steedman in Mrs Stevenson's cottage opposite the Portland Railway Station in 1884.

Mr Stanley H Gannon, a Methodist lay preacher from Lithgow, assisted by local preachers commenced services in the C.P.C Hall, which was used by the Town Band, and friendly Societies, and was for many years the public hall of Portland.

In 1901 steps were taken by Wesleyans in Sunny Corner to amalgamate with Portland in order to retain a married minister. The same year there was a recommendation from Bathurst Synod for

a new church to be built at Portland-Lithgow Circuit. Mr Haigh donated the land on which the church was to be built. The foundation stone was laid on 28 September 1901 by Rev H Wiles at a



Looking down Wolgan Street

Portland Methodist Church on RHS.

service officiated by Rev F Curwood, in the absence of Mr W F Hurley, member of the district.

The cost to build the church was £146, of which £130 paid by a loan. The original Trustees were George Toyer, W H Vidler, W Wade, Barnes, J E Metcalf, C M Wettig, S H Gannon, G Lane and Rev J T Branch, the first minister.

The first wedding in the Church was that of William S Denis, and Alice Agnes Hamilton Whalley on 27 August 1902.

In the days before the automobile the Portland church owned its own horse which allowed the minister to visit the other churches in his circuit as well as his parishioners. The circuit horse was sold in 1908. In 1912 a horse and sulky was purchased as it was 'the duty of the circuit to provide everything necessary for efficient working' of the minister.

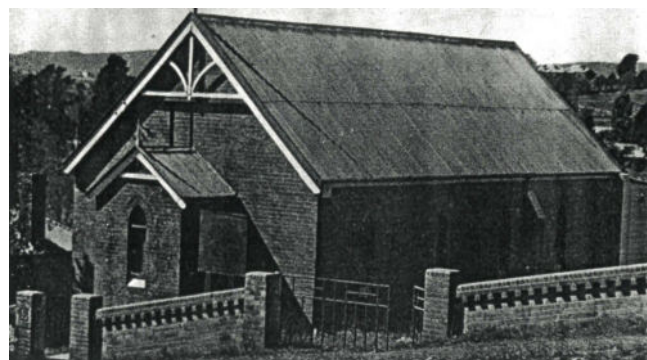
Mr Gross, Mr Wenham, George Toyer, Mr B Thomas, Mr N Barnes, Mr D Kates, Mr W Wade and Peter Dennis were members of the committee who organised a picnic and a concert on 29 March 1902 for the children in aid of the Wesleyan Sunday School. The ground selected for the picnic was the corner near Mr Cavanagh's Store. £4 worth of mixed pastries were ordered from

Abel & Co at 8 pence a dozen (i.e. 120 dozen!)

Following the concert a presentation was made by Mr C H Gross, works manager, to first, second and third in each Sunday School class. First class girls _ Rose Denis 1, Nellie Taverner 2, Florie Tavener 2. Second class girls: Annie Denis 1, Florie Walker 2, Emily Kates 3. Boys Glass: Oswald Walker 1, Searl Kates 2,

The 1903 Sunday School picnic was held in the Commonwealth Cement Company paddock, and open to all denominations. 90 dozen pastries, a ham, 2 tongues, 1 dozen loaves of bread, 4 lbs butter, 1 lb tea and a quarter pound of mustard were purchased and £1 was spend on toys for race prizes. A profit of £10.13.07 was raised of which £3.5.0, being 2 quarters instalments on the Church loan. was passed to Mr Metcalf, Minister at the Lithgow church.

The 1904 picnic, again open to all denominations, was held in Mr Haigh's paddock. The list included 18 loaves of bread, 25 lbs of corned roll and 2 tongues, £3.10.0 worth of confectionery. Cash instead of toys was given for the children's races.



Other activities held in the church included a Concert and Maye Fayre and the Harvest Festival, which is still held to this day.

George Toyer was appointed church caretaker in 1904, the same year as Portland was transferred to Wallerawang-Sunny Corner Circuit. A quote of £77 from Short and Leslie, builders from Lithgow, to extend the church building by fifteen feet was accepted.

Over the years the church building was used by the Presbyterians for a Mission (1904), the Royal Orange Lodge and Portland Red Cross.

The church parsonage was built in Church Street in 1907 and in 1909 the Circuit Parsonage Trust members were Henry Ensor, George Toyer, Wil-

liam Henry Vidler, Frank Cook, Charles Lewis Toyer, Charles Matthew Wettig and Mr Green. (This parsonage was sold in 1957 for £900 and another one purchased in Wallerawang for £2,200. Trevor Perceval volunteered to build the extension of a new study and garage at no cost. The church only paid £250 for the materials.

In 1911 Mrs McManus was engaged to clean the church for 3 months for which she was paid 15/- (fifteen shillings).

The hall attached to the church was erected in 1913, the same year as the tennis court was erected in the church grounds. The sale of the long vacant Sunny Corner Church in 1914 allowed the Portland church to clear all but £25 of the church loans which had financed the building activities. In 1919 Rev John Welsey Booth led a general discussion about the financial position of the Wesleyan Church as a whole, and the Portland church opened a subscription list with a view to clear the debt. £25.8.7 was raised.

In 1918 £5.5.0 was received from the Commonwealth Portland Cement Co, being their yearly donation to the church.

In 1919 it was noted in the minute book that Mr Herbert Garrard, who had just returned from the Front (WWI) was given a hearty welcome. (This was the only reference to either World Wars in the all of the Minute Books of the Parish.)

In January 1920 Mr Garrard reported that the Commonwealth Cement Company was to receive a petition to install electric lights in the Town Business houses. It was resolved that the Church sign the petition and apply for installation of lights when this work was to be carried out. This was a vast improvement. In the past the church was lit by a Ross & Aiken lamp, suspended on chains (1904). In June 1907 an acetylene gas plant had been purchased. In 1911 the 'usual casks of carbide were ordered'.

PORTLAND METHODIST CHURCH

Ministers: 1902-1920

1902 James Penman

1904 Francis J Branch

1905 W T Stuart-Wright

1908 Benjamin Hobson

1911 Daniel Gilsenan

1912 Thomas Northcott

1913 Charles E Williams

1915 Wallis W Danks

1916 Frederick Dickson

1919 J Wesley Booth.

Sources: based on extracts from the minute books to 1920 as published in *Centenary of Portland Uniting Church (formerly Methodist) 2nd & 3rd November 2002. This booklet includes a list of ministers, lay preachers and helpers, and some of the Trustees, 1902-2002.* ; and "Early Methodism in Portland" - *The Lithgow Mercury* 13 November 1947.

HARRY HOLLAND 30 Dec 1884 - 1 Feb 1981

Harry Holland with his wife, Carrie, and two daughters came from England and settled in Portland in 1924. Harry worked in the Commonwealth Portland Cement Co as a blacksmith, became an active member of the Portland Methodist Church and prominent in local affairs. He served as a Lay preacher in Portland and surrounding district.

After Carrie died, Harry married Francis (Fanny) Richards at Portland c 1934, and they served the Methodist Church on Norfolk Island from 1940 to 1943. After returning to Portland, he again took up employment at the Cement Works, retiring in 1950. After 11 years retirement, working more and more in the Church, he left Australia and returned to England.

Harry Holland's reputation as a versatile man was evident when on one Sunday in May 1947 he preached at the Portland Methodist Church in the morning and conducted the Salvation Army evening service at the Army Hall, the local S.A. officers being away at the Congress meeting.

Under the heading *Devotional Notes*, Harry wrote a weekly column for the Lithgow Mercury for many years. In 1940 he was presented with a certificate from the Wesleyan Conference recognising more than 40 years in Lay Preaching. In England he was presented with a long service certificate that honoured 75 years of Lay Preaching.

Harry Holland died at the age of 97. The Portland Congregation remembered him with love and affection, and felt fortunate to have him among them for many years.

Research Enquiries

83/24 - Researching Bowenfels families 1838-1844 Names KENNEDY, Donald A and family; ROBERTSON, David and family; MIDDLEMISS, David Alexander and family.

84/24 - Researching HUGHES and SMITH Families in Hartley Lithgow Area

85/24 - Researching ROBERTS, Alfred William married CAMPBELL, Jessie c 1906. Daphne & Edna CAMPBELL, YOUNG family. In Lithgow c 1912 , left 1936-1943

CORRIGENDA - OCTOBER JOURNAL: 75/24 : Olive Nellie HANLON, mother of Rae HOLLANDS, adopted by a Mrs & Mrs WITHERSPOON.

Portland Catholic Baptisms 1892 - 1898; 7 Dec 1947-12 Dec 1948.

Marriages 1892 - 1917. Burial Register 1933-1960

Portland St Stephen's Church of England - Burials 1908 - 1989

Birth Register of Nurse May Ann Mara 20 Jul 1920-21 Jun 1923.

Portland Cemetery Transcripts.

Sunny Corner Burials, Births and Marriages 1882 - 1905

(compiled by Vicki Powys)

Piper's Flat (Irondale) – Administration file

Sunny Corner - School Admissions 1906 - 1956; 1953 - 1979

Sunny Corner Births & Marriages 1882-1905.

Sunny Corner Burials.



PORTLAND BOOKS ON OUR SHELVES

A Heritage Assessment of The Portland Cement Works 1993

A History of Portland to 1953

Centenary Of Portland Uniting Church (Formerly Methodists) 1902-2002

Mt. Piper Power Station - Newspaper Clippings, publications

Official Dedication & Unveiling Service of The Portland War Memorial

Official Opening of The Portland & District Swimming Pool 1958

People of the Capertee Valley - Stories from the 1880's

Pioneers & Settlers Wall - Portland (Blaxland Shire)

Portland (Kaylin Caddis)

Portland - A Community View - Report July 1991

Portland - Various Notes

Portland Central School 125 Years Celebrations 1884-2009

Portland Central School Centenary 1884-1984

Portland Churches - newspaper cuttings

Portland Co-Operative Society (H S Guihot)

Portland Co-Operative Society Minute Book 11 Jan 1912 - 15 Mar 1926

Portland District Hospital Annual Reports . 1982 - 1991

Portland School (Collection of newspaper articles)

Portland's History Over A Period Of 125 Years - Articles Printed In Lithgow Mercury 1953. Harry Holland

Portland's Past - Insight To Those Lost in The Cement Works 1901-1993. (Portland Tidy Towns Project)

St. Vincents Catholic Church, Portland - Centenary History 1905-2005

Sydney & North Sydney Lime Company

The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland - Order of the Eastern Star Hartford North Portland #304

L&DFHS LIBRARY ADDITIONS

All books donated by Mark Tranter

A2 The Life & Times of Bushranger Frank Gardiner

A2 Bushrangers 1860-1901 From Carcoar, Gilgandra to the Hunter

C2000 Clerical Pioneers in New South Wales 1788-1821

C2000 Guide to the Conservation of Cemeteries

C2756 St. Matthew's Windsor - A Short Guide to the Church and its History

B/TRA The Tranter Clan From Rychard of Horsley c1460

B/TRA Nicholas Makin & William Boulton 1821-2001

B/TRA Hurrah to Horsley - A Journey of Hope - Samson, Shipman, Stephens & Wells Families

B/TRA A Family Footprint - The Story of Sid & Lucy Nash & Family

B/TRA The Pepper Tree - Andrew & Ann nee Hamilton

B/TRA Bishop & Pound Families

B/TRA From Rural English Protest to the Australian Bush - A Story of the Pound Family

B/TRA Descendants of Jonas Tranter

B/TRA Descendants of William Boulton

B/TRA The Book of the Tranters in Australia

B/TRA From Burrin Street to the Gallows - John & Sarah Makin

B/TRA Descendants of James Pound - Day & Pound Families

B/TRA Descendants of Ralph Ripley

O/BRI British Railways Atlas

O/ENG Kinder People

O/ENG Painswich, Sheepscombe, Slad & Edge

O/ENG All About Elcombe - The Intimate History of a Cotswold Hamlet

O/GLO Gloucestershire Domesday Book

O/GLO Robinswood Hill Country Park

O/LON London - A Guide to Ancestral Research

P2590 Cootamundra's Sons & Daughters - Family Stories

P2791 Carcoar Public School 1857-2007

P2791 Bushranging Around Carcoar

P2795 Cobb & Co. - J.E.L. Rutherford

P2804 Centenary of Public Education in Canowindra 1875-1975

P2804 The Shop Window of Canowindra 1900-2001

P2804 Canowindra & The Bushrangers - The Robinson Connection

P2804 The Canowindra Star Newspaper Obituaries 1902-1992 Weddings 1902-1985

W Australia at War - The Colonial Wars

W1 The Boys in Green - A Centenary History of the 1st Australian Light Horse

W1 Tracing Your First World War Ancestors

W2 Armed Forces Personnel - Index to Photos Taken At Pardy's Studio Cowra Featuring Cowra Military Training Camp 1940-45

W2 Allied Ships WW11

CEMETERIES - All donated by Mark Tranter

C2500 Pioneer Park - The old one 1848-1940 cemetery, Mt. Kembla & Bank Street Wollongong

C2526 Mt. Kembla 1902 Mine Disaster Commemoration Cemetery Walks

C2793 Woodstock Cemetery

C2864 Cudal Cemetery Guide

C2864 Cemeteries at Cargo, Cudal, Togong, Nyrang Creek, Grant's Private Cemetery (John Grant's Monument)

C2799 Neville & District Cemeteries

C2804 Manildra or Meranbuon, Cumnock, Yeoval, Garra, Baldry, Reedy Creek & Canowindra District

C2806 Eugowra General Cemetery

C2810 Grenfell Cemetery Vol 1 & 2