



VOICES

from
the

PAST

Newsletter of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc

ISSN 0815/1903 April 2025 Issue No. 141



**MEETINGS ARE HELD 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
1:00 PM AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE— INVERELL SHIRE PUBLIC
LIBRARY 55-59 CAMPBELL ST INVERELL**

The Inverell District Family History Group Inc may be contacted at:

Address: Inverell Shire Public Library
55-59 Campbell St,
Inverell NSW 2360

Postal: PO Box 367
Inverell NSW 2360

Email: inverellfamilyhistorygroup@gmail.com

Web: www.inverell.nsw.gov.au/inverell-family-history-group/

Membership:

Fees for the present financial year are:

Single membership	\$35
Family membership	\$45

Resources:

The resources of the History Group are available for use at:
Inverell Shire Public Library, 55-59 Campbell St, Inverell
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10am - 3pm
CLOSED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Research:

**Research fees are \$35.00 per surname
including p & h**

A charge of 30c per copy applies for photocopying.

Our volunteers will deal with enquiries in their order of receipt. Replies may take up to four weeks, so please wait patiently.

Enquiries should be made to:

The Secretary
IDFHG Inc
PO Box 367 INVERELL NSW 2360

Please enclose your email address with research enquiry.

2024/2025

President: Kathy McLeod
Secretary: Judy Pischke
Treasurer: Lorraine Watson
Newsletter Editor: Ken McLeod

IDFHG Inc is a member of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

history on the macintyre

IN THIS ISSUE

What's new in the Library.....	3
Some early Council decisions.....	4
Sir Cyril Deverell.....	5
Surviving WW2 veterans.....	7
Correspondence from the front line.....	8
Residents of the Elsmore Common.....	9
St Andrews Presbyterian Church.....	10
"Weranga".....	13
Mystery Photos.....	15

Voices from the Past is the official journal of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc and is published in February, June and October each year.

Opinions expressed and statements in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the group, which accepts no responsibility for them.

Other Societies or Groups may copy original material published in this newsletter, provided the source is acknowledged.

Otherwise, production of articles in *Voices from the Past* may be made only with the written permission from the Group.



Next Meeting
17th May 2025 at 1pm
Inverell Shire Public Library 55-59 Campbell St, Inverell
All Welcome



Working Bee



We are currently holding a working bee each month to index the Devine Community Collection of photographs and negatives which were donated to the group last year.

The next one will be held in the library meeting room on the 29th April at 9.30am.

If you would like to help please contact Kathy 0400455871 or Judy 0448047508



Need some help to use your Smartphone?

Library Staff member Maria has kindly made herself available to help IDFHG members.

Starting with the basics she will show you how to get the best from your smartphone and help you customise any of its features that suit.



Sessions will be held
 On the 2nd Wednesday of the month
 in the Library Meeting Room
 between 2pm-3pm

If you wish to attend please contact Kathy on 0400455871

MH NSW (State Archives) have an interesting webinar coming up on Soldier Settlement.

It can be accessed via the webpage below
<https://mhnsww.au/tags/webinar/>



Online talk

Soldier Settlement in NSW

This webinar will explore records in the NSW State Archives Collection that tell the stories of these soldier settlers

Thursday 24 April 10.30am-11.30am



What's New in the Library



Sacred Heart Parish— Inverell. LH 282.9 SACRE

3 Volumes compiled by IDFHG

Includes information on all three churches, the schools, the convent and the presbytery. Includes many photographs, a list of Priests, information on the Nuns, newspaper articles, notes, maps, church programs and other paraphernalia concerning the Catholic Church in Inverell.

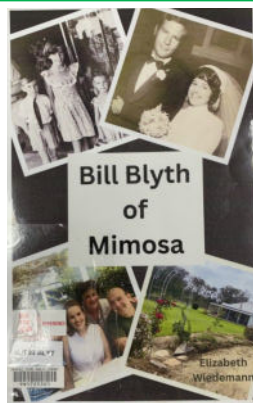


Hospitals Doctors Nurses Health Services

Newspaper articles, photos, lists, directories and information on Nurses, Doctors, Hospitals, Retirement Villages in and around Inverell going back to the nineteenth Century. All in a big A3 folder.

Bill Blyth of Mimosa by Elizabeth Wiedemann. LH 92 BLYTH.

A biography and family history of Bill Blyth of Mimosa, who with his wife Peta developed the "Opera in the Paddock" events.



Telephone Directories 1929, 1946 and 1948

LH 384.6025 NEW, LH 384.6025 NORT
and LH 384.6025 TELE

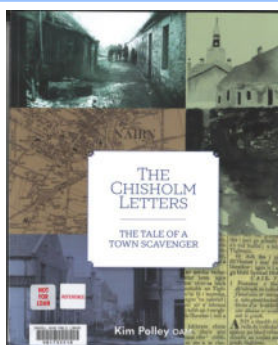
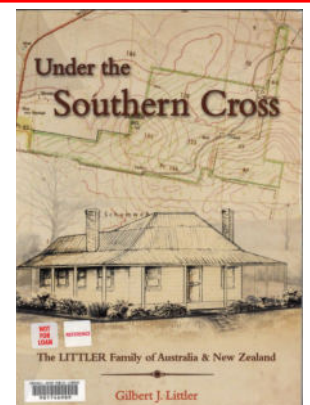
The 1946 directory also includes the New England North and North West N.S.W. trades directory, as well as the Yewen's directory of the landholders of New South Wales. Plenty of characters but no plot!

Under the Southern Cross. The Littler Family of Australia and New Zealand. By Gilbert J. Littler. LH 920 LITT.

The Littler family had its origins near Cheshire, England. The family emigrated to New Zealand and Australia.

In the 1860s, Samuel and Anne Littler took up land around the "Big Hill" east of Glen Innes on the Mann River.

Later they settled around Swan Peak between Glen Innes and Inverell.



The Chisholm Letters: The tale of a town scavenger. By Kim Polley OAM. LH 920 CHIS.

Letters and Notes from the Chisholm family from 1828 as they emigrated from Scotland (Ross-shire) to Australia. Many of the letters have Gaelic expressions. Detailed family trees which show, among other links, the connection with Inverell's Ross family.

Some Early Council Decisions

16.12.1878 Draft by-law prepared to prevent the erection of bark huts in the principal streets.

15.6.1896 Draft by-law prohibiting the riding of bicycles or tricycles at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour. A bell had to be attached to sound at all intersections or when approaching pedestrians, equestrians or vehicles.

28.3.1898 The council discussed a report on a water supply scheme submitted by the Public Works Department. After a lengthy discussion about the weather, the meeting adjourned sine die (indefinitely).

14.3.1904 Council resolved to call a public meeting to protest against the Inverell electorate being dissolved and “tacked onto the unimportant town of Glen Innes”.

25.11.1914 Alderman McIlveen moved and Alderman Swan seconded that persons bathing in the Municipal area without a swimming costume be prosecuted.

22.5.1917 Bexley council asked Inverell for cooperation in their endeavour to have “shouting” or treating drinks made an offence under the War Precautions Act. No action was taken.



Inverell Municipal Council 1914 (prior to August election)

Standing L-R: H Roberts (Health Inspector), Warbrook? (Staff), Aldermen D Swan, C Harris, CW Kautz, unknown, H Truman? (Staff), SG Davey (Town Clerk & Engineer)

Sitting L-R : Aldermen J Brissett, GB Ring, J F O'Connor, J Ditzell & RG Howard.



I was born in Glen Innes in 1894.

I spent early years at Beaulieu.

I married in 1913 to a carpenter who served in the A.I.F.

I opened a large nursery in Byron St next to where the Kamilaroi sporting fields are now located.

I had a regular newspaper column and radio session to promote her horticultural business.

I wrote under the pseudonym of “Boronia”.

I became a JP and ran for council in 1938.

Sadly, two of my sons died in WW2.

I moved to Sydney with one of my children and died in 1979.

Find out in the next Newsletter.

Sir Cyril Deverell (1874-1947)

One of our lifetime members and current Vice President, Betty Deverell, has been gathering information on her late husband's grandfather, Sir Cyril Deverell. Sir Cyril had a very distinguished military career rising to the rank of Field Marshall in the British Army. Nick Deverell remembered his grandfather from the 1940s as a man with a commanding presence. The military tradition seems to have been entrenched into the Deverell family as Cyril's father and grandfather also served as officers in the British Army.

Sir Cyril Deverell was born on the Island of Guernsey in 1874 to Major John Baines Seddon Deverell and his wife Harriet Strappini Deverell neé Roberts. He attended the prestigious Bedford School in Bedfordshire, England. Cyril was commissioned into the Prince of Wales West Yorkshire Regiment as second Lieutenant in 1895. These were well and truly colonial days at the height of the British Empire and young Cyril was soon off to Africa to serve in the Fourth Anglo Ashanti War. After that short conflict he continued to serve in India until the outbreak of the Boer War when he returned to Africa.

In 1902 he married Hilda Grant-Dalton the daughter of a Lieutenant-Colonel. This was seen

by some as a handicap but it certainly did not slow down Cyril's ambitions as he went on to hold several junior staff appointments quite successfully. Cyril and his wife went on to have two children, a son and daughter, their son John Dalton Deverell, becoming Nick's father.

By the time war broke out in 1914, Cyril was at the assembling of the 28th division at Winchester. As this division went off to war in France, Cyril was now a Brigade-Major. As the war progressed, Cyril went on to become a Major-General. He obviously had an impressive presence as he was tall and well built and seemed to gain the respect of those around him, although abrupt in his manner. Perhaps he did not "suffer fools gladly". Major-General Deverell was often "mentioned in dispatches" during the war. It was obvious Cyril was well and truly in the thick of it on the Western Front: four months in the trenches, two opening battles on the Somme where he led the 20th brigade of the 7th division. Success here led to his continued promotion. Later on, he was to command in the Somme, Ypres, Arras, Cambrai and Flanders and to the ultimate victory.



Sir Cyril Deverell. Image Courtesy of Prince of Wales' Own regiment of Yorkshire. Artist Unknown. The cross around his neck is probably the K.B.E. the big star below medals is the G.C.B. The 5 pointed star 2nd from the right is probably the Légion d'honneur and the Croix de Guerre is that on the far left.

Sir Cyril Deverell (1874-1947) continued

Little wonder he was highly decorated, his awards included the prestigious Croix de Guerre and Légion d'honneur which were awarded by the French. In 1918 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Bath.

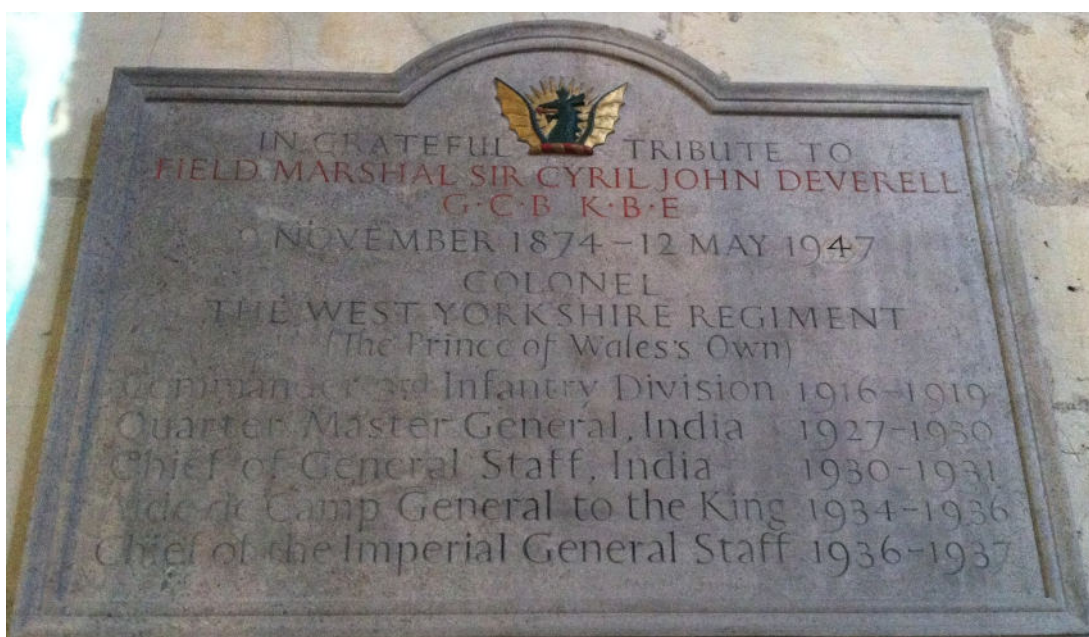
After the Great War Cyril returned to India where he commanded the United Provinces District and in 1926 he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He then served as Quartermaster General of India where his organisational skills came to the fore. By 1930 he was promoted to become Chief of General Staff in India. Back in Britain his promotions continued and in 1936 he rose to the rank of Field Marshall, thus becoming Chief of the Imperial General Staff. By now though Sir Cyril and the state of the British army was at a low point and this was reflected in morale. In 1937 as threats were looming again on the continent, it was decided a younger staff was needed and Sir Cyril was pushed aside.



Major-General Deverell in 1920

On leaving the army Sir Cyril retired to Lymington in Hampshire. He served on the borough council and became Deputy Lieutenant of Southampton. When World War II broke out he chaired the local defence committee.

Sir Cyril Deverell died aged 72 on 12th May 1947 at his home, Court Lodge, in Lymington. A memorial plaque paying tribute to his achievements was erected in the York Minster.



The memorial plaque for Field Marshall Cyril John Deverell G.C.B. K.B.E in the York Minster.

Any World War II Veterans Still Surviving?

According to the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs, there are about 2500 WWII veterans left in Australia. With Australia's population at roughly 25 million, there is on average about one veteran for every 10 000 Australians. So, there is a fair chance there is a veteran or two still surviving in and around Inverell. We contacted Inverell sub branch of the RSL and according to them (Tracey Collins) there are still a couple of veterans surviving: Blanch Mason and Jean Davison. While we know something of Blanche we have no information on Jean Davison. If anyone has some information regarding Jean or any other surviving veterans, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Blanche Ada Mason nee Jones

Blanche was born in Goombungee, near Toowoomba, 1923 to Alfred & Ferdericka Jones. When she enlisted in Brisbane in 1942 she was not quite 19 years old. Blanche served as a signalwoman until the war ended in 1945. During the war in 1944, Blanche married Inverell man John Mason who at the time was a gunner in the AIF coastal Guard Artillery. After the war they made their home in Inverell where John returned to his job at Cansdells store. In 2009 Blanche cared for John until his passing from cancer & Alzheimers. Blanche still lives in Inverell and will turn 102 later this year.



Blanche Mason

Source: Courtesy Digby Brown and Australian War Memorial



A young Blanche

Source: Courtesy Inverell RSL Sub



Can you help?

These images are from the Devine WWII collection. We would love to have some more information on these couples.

The bride & groom on the left is labelled "Wallis".

The wedding party on the right is labelled "Pollard".

Please contact us if you have more information.



WWII— Correspondence from the front line

This text was given to the editor by Chris “Blue” Hannan. The original letter was scanned and saved and from that it was transcribed by his late mother Ella Hannan neé Bottrell. Ella was a friend of Molly Parker to whom the letter was originally addressed. Ella’s brother Arthur Bottrell was also a good mate of George “Digger” Coles.

PRIVATE DIGGER COLES.....GEORGE....

Private Digger Coles who was one of the first to enlist in the AIF from Tingha and who was taken prisoner in Greece. Evidently has a good cobbler in Private E. L. Preitz also a prisoner in Germany. Miss Molly Parker received a letter from Pte Preitz in the course of which he says

“....I guess you will be surprised to receive a letter from a perfect stranger..... I am from West Australia but I happened across Digger Coles in a moment of needhe possessed a notebook containing names and addresses of several people including yours, hence this letter.....Coles was captured in the first rearguard action but escaped....myself and a pal were smashed up while driving an armoured truck... and Coles happened along at the right moment for us.....despite heavy machine gun fire he grabbed me from under the truck and carried me to a place of safety...how we got out alive I do not know....we finally finished up with thousands on a beach waiting for ships which never came....so we played hide and seek in the hills for a few days...during this time I was in a bad way but Coles nursed me like a babyfinally we got hold of a small sailing boat and landed on the Island of Lemnos. However it was like jumping from the pan into the fire for the island was full of German troops..... since we landed in Germany we have lost all trace of your friend...Tingha’s prisoner friend has sent news of Digger and they

Lemnos is in the Adriatic Sea, between Greece and the Gallipoli Peninsula. It has been strategically important in many conflicts, including WWI where it was used by the ANZACS as the hospital HQ. Lemnos was taken over by the German Army in April 1941 in WWII and it remained under their control until October 1944.

On Lemnos, Digger was captured by the Germans and sent to Stalag XVIII in southern Austria as a POW. He remained there until the camp was emancipated by the British in 1945. Soon after Digger returned home to Australia.



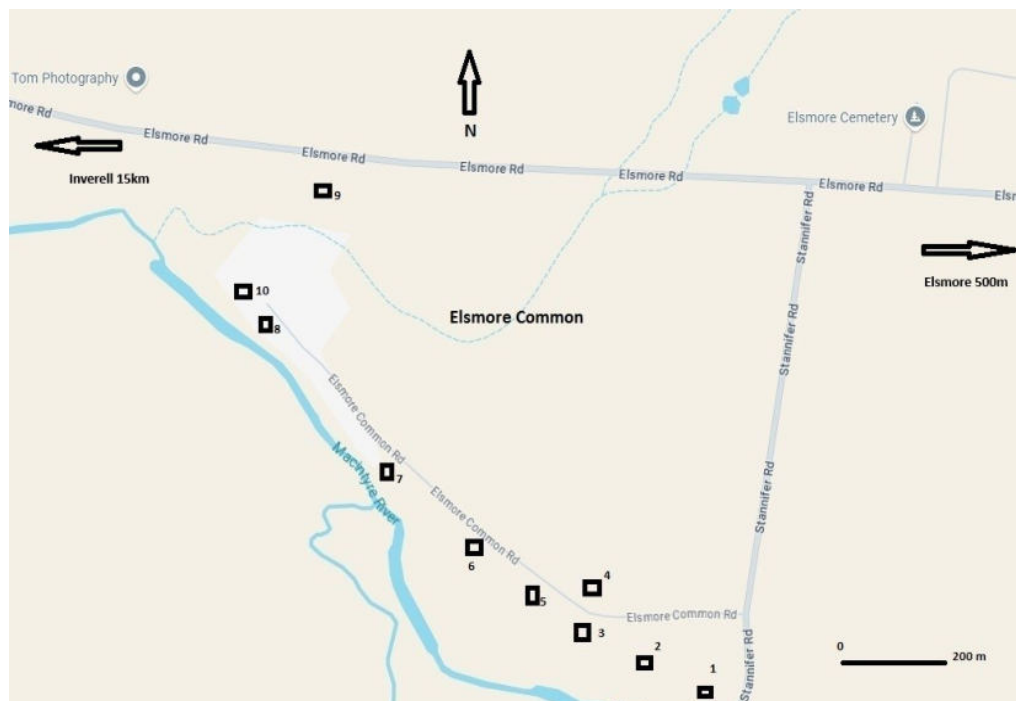
Arthur Bottrell and his mate George “Digger” Coles in Tingha about 1923. Both boys were born in 1913.



Among Chris Hannan’s memorabilia are photos of “Digger” (centre) celebrating his 80th birthday in 1993.

Residents of The Elsmore Common

The village of Elsmore is located about 17 km east of Inverell, and like many of the small towns and villages, it had its own common. The town of Inverell even had its own common. The Elsmore Common is still used in that capacity. The concept of the common goes back to English times, where villages usually had an area set aside for ordinary people to graze their livestock on shared land. IDFHG member, Kay Carney, spent many years on the Elsmore Common with her parents Dick and Marie O'Brien who first moved onto the "Common Road" in the 1940s.



Map of the Elsmore Common showing the location of the various houses, all still occupied, except for number 10.

Kay and myself (VOP editor Ken McLeod) who has been a resident since 1986, were able to compile a record of the various people who have lived on "the common" over the decades. In the early years the people living there often had local mining and farming jobs, and in later years residents would live on "the common" (or the village) and commute to work in Inverell. The common also had mining leases in the early days of tin mining (which started in 1871) and some shafts are still visible today.

The Elsmore Common Road at one stage looped right onto the main Inverell-Elsmore Road and power was not available until the early 1960s.

We could piece together some of the occupants from the 1950s on, and during this time the O'Brien family were major occupants of the various houses, particularly in the south eastern part. Further along the road the McLennan family occupied many of the blocks.

Some of the families who lived on Elsmore Common include:

1. White, McCann, Shelley, Evans;
2. O'Brien, King, Burke, Marks, Wilson, Ezzy;
3. O'Brien, Ting, Doran, Hottes, Campbell, Holland;
4. Jack Glynn, Edwards, Germany, Sweeney, Vickery, Purkiss, Rutherford, Moffat, Hunt, Lambert, Duff
5. Built by Phil Allen. Occupied by John O'Brien then his son Dick and Marie O'Brien and now their granddaughter Sonya Manuel.
6. McLennan originally, then Doran, also McDougall, Sen, Allington, Makim
7. McLennan, Chaundy, O'Sullivan, McLeod
8. O'Sullivan, Om, Campbell, Morrow.
9. Squires. Currently abandoned.

This list may not be complete, and any additional information would be appreciated.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

On Saturday 8th March, members of the Family History Group were treated to a guided tour around St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Manse & Hall in Vivian St. in Inverell by local historian and church committee member, Elizabeth Wiedemann. The idea of this impressive building was conceived after the flood of 1872 affected the original timber church which was located near the end of Vivian Street close to the River. The new St Andrews Church was completed at a cost of approximately £3,500 (although no one is quite sure, but this is worth \$625 000 in 2024 money). It was opened by the Rev. A Gardiner of Sydney, in 1878. Despite many structural issues and a number of remedial works over the years, due to inadequate foundations on the black soil, the church has been in constant use since.



1857- The first Presbyterian Church was erected. It was a modest timber building which was bordered by the McIntyre River, Vivian St and Brae St. This was the first church built of any denomination in Inverell and was also used to hold services for the Anglican and Methodist ministries.

1874- The original church was considered too small and the site unsuitable due to flooding. The trustees felt that the new church needed to be large and solid, *"more in keeping with the strength of Presbyterians"*. The committee passed a resolution to offer £50 for the winning design for the new church which could accommodate up to 350 people and was to cost no more than £2500 including internal fittings. The congregation set about raising funds by collecting subscriptions (over £1000 was collected at the first meeting!) and hosting events such as bazaars.

1875- Mr A. L. Elphinstone an architect from Sydney submitted the winning design. Tenders for the construction however came in at well over £4500 so the plans were modified to lower the cost.

1876- The foundation stone was laid by Revd. Dr James Cameron. While the site in Vivian St was away from the flood area some considered it to be *"too much on the outskirts of town"*. The Moore Bros. were appointed the builders with Mr Alex McIlveen, to oversee the construction, as the Clerk of Works.

1878- The new church was completed and opened in May by the Revd. A Gardiner of Sydney. The church was thronged with over 400 people seated inside and many more crowded at the doors.

1880- The old timber church was sold for £50 and the land was divided into a number of smaller lots. The building was still being used by a number of organisations such as the Inverell Druids, the Inverell Band and the Good Templars. Only two years after completion contractors were called to fill cracks in the walls caused by insufficient foundations on the black soil.

1908- The second manse (the first was located some distance away at the end of Delvyn Dr) was erected at a cost of £1310. It was located more conveniently adjacent to the church in Vivian St. Mr P.C. Campbell unveiled the foundation stone. The architect was J. F. O'Connor and the builder was C. Harris.

1910- The original wooden shingles were replaced by purple Bangor slates at a cost of £189. The contractor was Ben Wade.

1921- The St Andrew's War Memorial Hall was built. This was the first hall built on the site adjacent to the Manse in Vivian St. It was dedicated to the memory of those who fell in the Great War. J.F. O'Connor & D

Ogilvie were the architects and the contractor was Ben Wade. The cost was £2700.



The hall, manse and church . c1920s

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church continued

1927— The beautiful Whitehouse Bros organ was installed at a cost of £1100. The organ was a gift from Mrs Turner in memory of her father Mr P.C. Campbell.

1931— A fire in the vestry was fortunately subdued before it spread to the rest of the church. It was thought to have been started by an electrical fault. While all the contents were destroyed by either fire or water no serious damage was done to the building.

1952 - The second manse is demolished, due to structural issues, and a third one is built on the same site. This manse was designed by R.H. Lockwood and built by J Lauder & Sons for the sum of £6250. The building is still standing today.

1966— The church hall was rebuilt, in the modern style of the time, with large glass windows and a decorative rock façade. It was also dedicated as a war memorial, this time as WWII. Part of the old hall built in 1921 still exists at the back of the building.

The New Presbyterian Church, Inverell.

THE new building is erected on a commanding site at the top of Vivian-street, and presents a very neat and finished appearance, the various hues of the material used in the erection contrasting with each other. The foundations are of granite, and are much protected from subsoil drainage by French drains, which also carry away the water from the roofs. The walls are of brick, neatly pointed, with finished cement dressings, strengthened by buttresses on each side and at angles, gables carried up to apex of roof, finished off with coping and saddle stones, and barge boards. Side walls are pierced on each side, with single lancet windows filled in with stained glass lights of neat design. Gables are pierced on south side, with a handsome open tracery window of decorated period, and triple light dwarf openings on north side with triple light plain window deeply splayed; these are all filled in with stained glass, neatly designed.

Porch and vestry on eastern side are of same character as main building, porch being finished off with corbels and coping in cement and projecting buttresses, and ornamented with iron finials gilded. The tower, one of the principal features in the building, and in which the principal entrance is, is carried up for some considerable height, in brickwork, working from the square, with splayed angles into an octagonal base, upon which the turret is built, pierced on each side with louvre openings, and from this as a base rises the spire, with graceful lines and well proportioned diminutions. This is framed of timber-work, lined, and covered with muntz-metal, which will, under the influence of the sun's rays, appear as if of burnished gold; and it is further finished off with ornamental finial in gilt. The main entrance presents a neat appearance; but does not contrast well with the building generally, the ornamentation of side pillars being very meagre. The interior of the building displays first-class workmanship; it is seated to hold about 250 persons, double pews running down the centre, with passages (they cannot be correctly termed aisles) and single pews on each side. The pews are constructed of cedar throughout, with pannelled seat ends, in which fillets of light pine have been worked. The pulpit-platform

is of a neat design—pannelled, moulded, and capped—frame varnished and panelling polished; this is approached by a cedar staircase with moulded balustrade, and finished off with turned newels and ornamental caps and vases. The choir stalls are raised above the level of floor, and railed off from main body with a plain moulded rail with cap, &c. The roof is open timbered, with cross ties, sprandril pieces, &c., well strapped and bolted together, resting on walls and corbels which are carved on face. The whole of the timbers are visible and are stop-chamfered. Roof is diagonally lined with pine and covered with shingles. The walls are plastered and finished with narrow cornice moulding. Openings are dressed with hood mouldings, string moulding, and bosses. The church is lighted with three five light worked metal chandeliers, suspended from principals; also by bracket lamps at sides; pulpit platform is lighted with bronzed standards, with carved movable brackets with bell glasses. The passages are covered with fibre matting, and pulpit and stalls carpeted. The whole of the building has a finished look, and reflects great credit on the contractors for the workmanship displayed, which is not surpassed in the metropolis.



Left- Australian Town and Country Journal, Saturday 4 October 1879, page 32

Above- Sketch of the original timber church located near the river

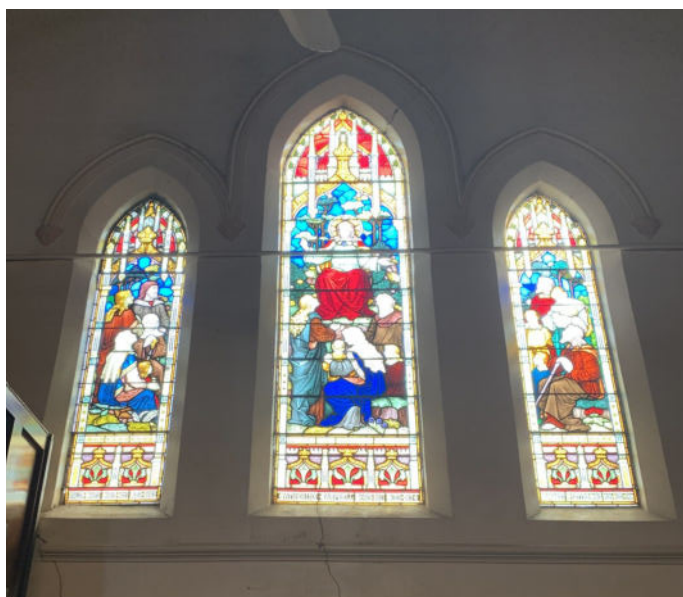
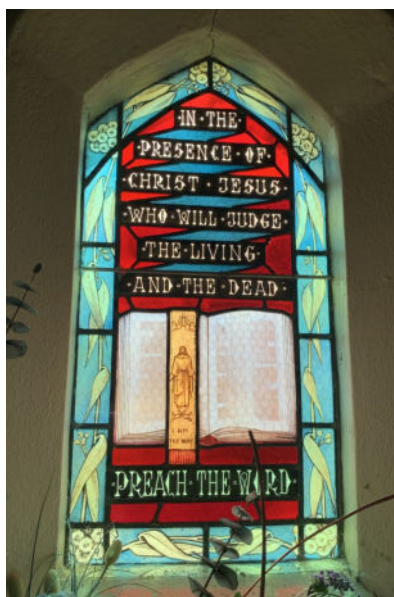
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Tour



Left—Elizabeth Wiedemann outside the church

Right—Inside looking towards the back of the church

The front of the church. Note the pipe organ far right.



Many of the stained glass windows are dedicated to members of the congregation.

Left - These three windows at the front of the church are dedicated (from left to right) Colin Ross 1821-1882, Catherine Campbell 1811-1874 & Margaret McIntyre 1820-1900

“Weranga”



Weranga c1890



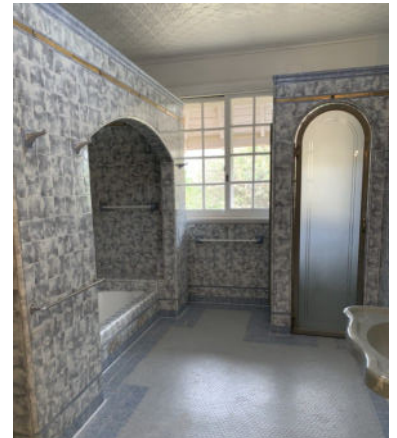
Weranga today

Recently a small group of our members were lucky enough to take a tour through the grand old house “Weranga” on the Ashford Rd. It was built in 1889 by Peter Colin Campbell the son of Alexander Campbell who established Inverell Station in the 1840s. The Campbell family continued ownership until the 1960s when it was purchased by Neville & Gwen Daley. The current owners Chris & Diedre Cleary bought the house from the Daley family in 2020 and have extensively renovated and restored the house to its former glory.

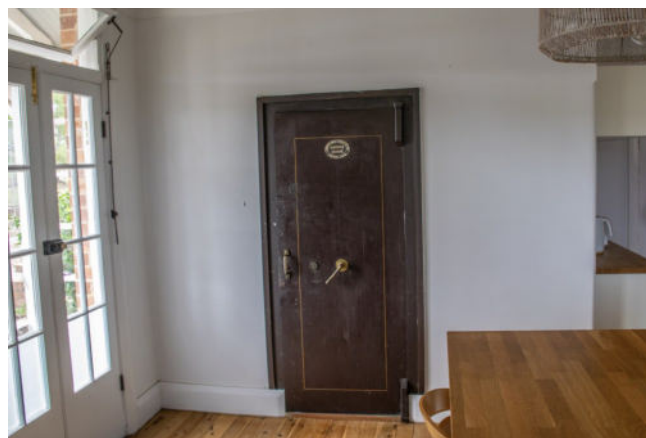


All the rooms in the house feature high ceilings. The main bedroom (left) also features a fireplace and bay window looking out over the garden.

The ensuite bathroom (right) is truly a spectacular room. The story goes that the Campbells’ renovated the house for a Governor General’s visit in the 1920s.



The courtyard (far left) still has the original hand pump which is connected to an underground tank. When first built this was the main source of house water.



The kitchen (left) is located in the old pay office for Inverell Station. The original safe has been incorporated and is used as a walk in pantry.

The large billiard room, (right) was built onto the back of the house in the 1890s. It has a full size billiard table, original gas lighting over the table and a raised platform, for viewing the game around two sides of the room.



The bath in the family bathroom (far right) was brought over from England. It is made of very heavy double walled cast iron which has been enamelled. The Cleary’s say it keeps the water warm for hours.

Devine Photo & Film Collection

Most of our members would know that several years ago we were gifted a large collection of negatives, mainly portraits, from the family of the late George P. Devine and his son George A. Devine. These portraits range from the 1930s to the 1980s and members of the group have been slowly digitising these images (over 13,000 have been processed!).



We are now excited to announce two further collections have been donated by the Devine family. The first is another large collection of still images and consist of film negatives, glass negatives and proofs. This collection appears to include images from early in the 20th century. From what we have seen so far about 1910 to the 1980s. These pictured include town buildings, streetscapes, festivals & events, portraits and many other themes. The group is holding monthly working bees (see page 2) to index this collection.



Above—An example of the assortment of glass & film negatives and proofs donated by the Devine family.

The second collection consists of dozens of film reels. In the 1950s & 60s George Arthur Devine established a film production company called “Northern Motion Picture Productions”. He made a number of short films e.g. “Mountain Classic” the 1965 Grafton to Inverell cycle race; “The Link” a fictional story with actors from the Presbyterian youth group and nature documentaries on bats & turtles. He also made TV commercials for local businesses and filmed items for Movietone News and the ABC. The big question now is how can we make sure they can be viewed and still ensure their preservation. At present we are seeking the advice of experts with a view to digitise these films and safely archive them for the future.

Watch this space for future developments!



Left—George Arthur Devine with his camera

Above—Some of the films that have been given to IDFHG

Mystery Photographs - Devine Portrait Collection

Beryl and Merv have now scanned 13923 negatives from the Devine Collection. Usually the only information we may have is a name scrawled on the negative. Any extra information would be appreciated.

DC12019 Highland Dancers



DC13724 King and Queen of hearts.



DC11764 A member of the clergy and his wife.



DC11813 Young man at the show or the stud sales maybe?



DC3810 RAAF officer Giblin, not Richard Attenborough