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	Linda Cooper
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**Meetings**

General meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of February, April, June, August (AGM) and October at the Goulburn Workers Club, McKell Place at 10.30am. All are welcome. December Christmas functional location to be decided.

**Access to Archives**

Public access to our archives is available at the temporary research centre situated at 324 Sloane Street between 10am and 4pm every Friday and Saturday, for other times please email for an appointment.

**Research**

Research enquiries welcome.

Email: historygoulburn2580@gmail.com

**Membership Fees:**

Junior (under 18 years)	free
Single	\$20.00
Family (2 adults)	\$25.00
Corporate	\$150.00

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As the year progresses, our researchers are fielding an ever-increasing number of requests for information about local ancestors and accompanying local history. It is wonderful to have such interest but hard work for our detective-like researchers. Their work is very much appreciated and is invaluable in highlighting the immense resources and collective knowledge of History Goulburn. Thank-you.

On the first weekend in March, History Goulburn had a stall at the Goulburn Show. It was a great success with much interest in what we do and what we can offer. As before, we had surplus bound copies of Goulburn Posts available for browsing and sale – resulting in a few sales and a lot of browsing.

At our last members' meeting on 24 April, one of our key researchers, Linda Cooper, gave a presentation on Australian nurses at World War I. I, unfortunately, could not be there for the presentation, but was assured it was excellent, and I thank Linda for it.

For our next members' meeting on Thursday 26 June, we are having a visit from the Bundanoon Historical Society – which will provide a good opportunity to meet and share knowledge.

Yet again, I make a plea for volunteers – for researching and helping out at our Research Centre on Fridays and Saturdays, for assisting with cataloguing our collection on Thursdays, and, in the hopefully near future, for meeting, greeting and/or guiding at St Clair when we return. Please email [historygoulburn2580@gmail.com](mailto:historygoulburn2580@gmail.com) or call or text me on 0458 028 003 if you are interested or know someone who may be.

I hope the upcoming winter treats us all well

*Jennifer Lamb.*

### **One Home for 50 Years**

**Late Mrs. Taylor's Record,      Goulburn Evening Penny Post 2 December 1927.**

The late Mrs. Taylor, of Taralga, who died recently, was a native of Sutton Forest, but she came to Taralga at an early age and resided in the same house for more than 50 years, her total residence here being over 70 years. Her late husband who died 13 years ago, was the first white child born in Taralga. She was the mother of 12 children, nine of whom survive her. The sons are: Messrs. Frank (Canowindra), Fred (Parkesbourne), and Robert (Thirroul). The daughters are Mesdames Muir (Sydney), Copp (Taralga), Seiler (Marulan), Poll (Crookwell), Rumble (Goulburn), and Stewart

(British Columbia). She had 62 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

For the past six years the old lady was bed-ridden, though she in possession of all her faculties to the last. During the long period she was laid up she was devotedly nursed by her daughter, Mrs. Copp, assisted for the past few months by Mrs. Wallace Alders, of Bannaby.

### **Tonic Water, At Murray's Flats**

#### **Goulburn Party Inspects**

**Goulburn Evening Penny Post 11 March 1924.**

On Sunday afternoon a party, headed by Capt. N. P. Moriarty and reinforced by Mr. C. F. Adams. Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and a special representative of the "Post", motored to Murray's Flats to inspect the source of supply of tonic water which exists there. After leaving the main road the track is a particularly rough one and difficult one to follow, and a driver less skilful than Capt. Moriarty might easily have landed his passengers in serious trouble.

About three miles after crossing the railway line the party reached an abandoned shaft which was put down by a Melbourne syndicate about 16 years ago in the hope of striking a rich field of molybdenite. The project was abandoned as no worthwhile metal was found. It remained for a sick man-a local resident at that- to discover the valuable properties of the water which flowed into the shaft and helped to drown the enthusiasm of the syndicate some years previously. Water for drinking purposes was scarce in the locality, and necessity drove the man referred to, to draw upon the shaft for his personal needs. After drinking it for several months he was considerably improved in health, and although over 70 years of age it is stated that he is still hale and hearty a fact which he attributes to the tonic properties of the water.

Several other residents of Goulburn are at present drinking it regularly and are said to be enthusiastic regarding its "bucking-up" value. An analysis made by NSW Mines department in January last shows that the water contains a strong solution of iron which, in itself is a guarantee of its medicinal value. Mr. Henry Ludwell, who has lived in the neighbourhood for the past 10 years, is enthusiastic regarding the value of the water in cases of anaemia, and believes that it possesses qualities vastly superior to any medically prescribed preparation. It is probable that an effort will be made to commercialise the find, and judging by the reports of those who know, the venture should prove a profitable one.

### **Roberts Park Bathers**

#### **Scanty Costumes Banned**

**Goulburn Evening Penny Post 25 November 1927.**

Scantily dressed bathers at Roberts Park, North Goulburn, will in the future run the risk of a prosecution. Following representations by the mayor Ald. Goodhew, the police have decided to take the matter up, and will make periodical visits to the swimming resort with a view to seeing that the laws of common decency are observed. An announcement to this effect was made by the mayor at last night's

council meeting. Referring to a recent report in the “Post”, relative to the conduct of certain swimmers. Ald. Turnbull suggested that the council insist on regulation costumes – possible neck to knee.

The mayor mentioned that a meeting was to be held in Goulburn in the near future for the purpose of forming a branch of the Royal Life Saving Society. It was probable that a number of young men would then be selected to patrol the area, and see that proper order was maintained. The council was hopeful of having the dressing sheds, promised some time ago, erected early next month.

### **Swimming Club Formed in Goulburn**

**Carnival at Roberts Park      Goulburn Evening Penny Post 22 December 1927.**

An organisation to be termed the Roberts Park Amateur Swimming & Life Saving Club was formed at a public meeting in the Town Hall last night. The new club will hold its inaugural carnival at the Park on Saturday, February 11. With the assistance of the Goulburn City Council, whose aid is to be invoked, the club will improve the swimming pool for the conduct of aquatic sport. Members are to be chosen to patrol the area and will be responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

The Mayor (Ald. Goodhew) presided over a most enthusiastic meeting. Amongst those present was Ald. F. W. Yates. The proposal to form a swimming and lifesaving club was adopted on the motion of Mr. McKay. Speaking in support of the suggestion to include a lifesaving body in the club, Mr. W. Brennock said the idea was a most commendable one in view of the large number of people that would frequent the pool once the club commenced its activities. The lifesaving members might perform a good service to the community by giving instruction in swimming.



Wollondilly looking east from Millers boat shed at Roberts Park. 1900 to 1902. We are intrigued by the building on the horizon, can anybody identify it?

Photo held at History Goulburn archives.

Photo Watt Telfer Studios

It was agreed to hold the first carnival on Saturday afternoon February 11. Mr. Brennock, who moved the notion, expressed the opinion that suitable arrangements could be made to engage teams of Sydney swimmers and life savers for the carnival. A resolution was carried that the City Council be approached with regard to the installation of a live saving reel on the bank of the river. Mr. Brennock appealed to all members to support the club to the best of their ability. He pointed out that if members co-operated and showed their willingness to improve Roberts Park they would no doubt merit the support and assistance of the City Council.



The original Goulburn Baths front corner and under the ‘warehouse’ roof.

Photo Darcy Kennedy 2025

## **Public Baths in Goulburn**

By Stephen Tazewell  
1991.

The Argyle Bulletin March

Goulburn has enjoyed public baths for just on one hundred years. Our first municipal baths were opened in 1892 and were amongst the best in country NSW. Not only were they totally enclosed from all weathers but the waters from the roof catchment were directed at will into the baths. There was a smoking room in the corner tower. The baths were gas lit.

These splendid baths had been in the melting pot from about 1881 whilst a site and design were forth coming. The site was on crown land at the corner of Sloane and Goldsmiths Streets. The design was by Goulburn’s own architect, E. Manfred. The

contractors were Messrs Wilkie Brothers who had previously built the Goulburn Town Hall. The contract price was £1497. 12s. but with extras the total cost was £2000.

The baths were opened on 18 November, 1892 by the mayor Alderman E. Howard who unveiled the marble plaque commemorating this important event. A Mr. McIntyre gave an exhibition of swimming and a Professor Cavill and his family gave an exhibition of diving. This would probably have been the noted world champion Dick Cavill.

Messrs Shurmer and Day were the successful hirers at £75 for the first year but after the first year they did not continue. There were many various hirers in the next 14 years the council operated the baths when they found the average rental was only £53.4s., and the loss was £165 per annum. Things being as they were the baths closed in 1906 and in 1907 they were sold to William Conolly of the Argyle Flour Mills who changed the premises over to a modern milling concept. After some 60 years the Conolly effects were sold to the Bunge Company who closed down the works. Today it is the Furniture Warehouse.



Goulburn Swimming Club 1897 - 98

In 1907-08 the council proceeded to erect new baths on the western side of the Victoria Park, so arranged that when they were drained the water would irrigate the park the site being selected on 10 November, 1907. Building proceeded by day labour the baths were finished and appear to have gone into use during November, 1908 without any degree of ceremony. Earlier the council had fixed the admission charges.

These are of some interest in view of today's affairs: adults 3d, youths 15-18 2d; children under 15 1d. Monthly tickets, 4 shillings; youths and children 2s.6d, letting of towels and costumes 1 penny. There were special days for ladies and girls. Men and boys also had special days. Mr John J. Jenkins was appointed full time caretaker. In subsequent years a caretaker's residence was built attached to the wall enclosure of the baths.

A Mr. Chapman will be well remembered by our older swimmers. He was caretaker and taught many of the young lads to swim. Many of today's older swimmers have given exhibitions here. Boy Charlton often swam here. On one very auspicious occasion the great Hawaiian champion, Sam Kahanamacku gave a night exhibition here after a civic reception by the mayor and the president of the swimming club. Mr. Tom O'Halloran after giving some words of welcome stepped backwards rather quickly in his best suit in the water and had to be rescued by some swimmers! What an event?

During the 1930's the 25 yard pool was extended to 33 and a third yards (3 laps to the 100) as was more commonplace at this time. Over the years mixed bathing became more general and accepted largely due to new amended regulations. A later improvement was the new removed caretakers' residence further away from the baths. If my memory serves me right I would think that perhaps Albert Ferguson was the first to occupy the new house.

With Goulburn's increasing population eventually began to find the existing baths inadequate and for many years there was considerable movement towards securing larger and better appointed baths. It was decided to build a War Memorial special baths with all the latest appointments. The War Memorial Baths committee was formed and commenced to raise funds for this new project. The council also got behind it and obtained assistance from the Government.

The architects were Messrs Figgis and Jefferson. The building contractors were A. G. Salmon & Co. James Brothers did the electrics and there were some different contractor for carpentry and plumbing etc. the cost was \$280,000.00. The Government contribution was \$10,000 and the memorial committee over \$5,000.00. The balance was to be met at \$8,000.00 over a period of 30 years. The supervising engineer was Council's Mr. Don Stewart, Mr. Roy Smith of the Goulburn Health Department; building inspector Mr. Ray Brown and Mr. Cameron of the Public Works.

The public were first admitted to the new baths on Boxing Day, 26 December 1965, the official opening taking place a day later. The memorial Baths were opened on Saturday, 19 February, 1966 by the Hon Davis Hughes minister for public works who had been extended a public reception by the Mayor Alderman E. McDermott. Mr. Hughes declared the new baths well and truly opened there were addresses by the Mayor Alderman McDermott; Mr. R. Meeber, MP; Mr. D. Baxter, president Mulwaree Shire; Mr. S. Bryant, president of the Baths Memorial Committee and others

The popularity of the new baths was amply proven by the record attendance from its first use before the opening day of 93820 against 75000 for the last year. The Memorial Baths have been steadily improved since its opening. It now boasts three swimming pools the largest being 50 metres by 17.5 with seven swimming lanes. There is a 30 metre pool and children's pool. All solar heated. It is all adequately lighted for night events.

Provision is made for water polo, water volley ball, canoe polo. There are men's and women's dressing rooms and special cubicles for the ladies. There are ample lawn spaces for play and the like, large sun umbrellas. There are heated showers and electric barbecues, and a well-stocked canteen. There is an active amateur swimming club which has a long sustained record. The resident superintendent has his residence nearby and overall the complex is a most commendable asset to our city.



The current Goulburn Aquatic Centre, contains three heated pools, a gymnasium and a cafe. The outdoor olympic size pool is to left of the photo.

Photo Darcy Kennedy 2025



The new Olympic size pool circa 1965

Photo supplied Julie Laybutt

## **Jacob Knopp, the first swimming coach**

By Roger Bayley © 2025

Jacob Knopp made a giant contribution to Goulburn from the day he arrived to take charge of Roman Catholic Denominational School in 1878. Six years later he took over North Goulburn Public School and served as headmaster for a remarkable 36 years.

During that time he carved a reputation as a stern disciplinarian who lived by the motto “spare the rod and spoil the child”. But although strict in the classroom, Jacob was popular in the playground, where he coached the boys at Football and Cricket.

He earned respect and admiration from generations of pupils, some of whom credited him with “putting their lives back on track.” In later life they thanked “old Jacob” for “knocking the waywardness out of them.”<sup>1</sup>

As a cricketer he was a bowler of rare talent, and some claim that he was the first exponent of that tricky delivery (later known as a "googly") that brought many batsmen undone. He employed it in 1887 when an English XI played Goulburn in an exhibition match at Garoorigang, and were comprehensively trounced. Jacob took 5 wickets for 12 runs in the first innings, and 4 for 55 in the second.

Possibly the greatest of his achievements was the number of lives that he saved. This is how it came about ....

Goulburn experienced huge population growth in the 1880's, at a time when most households lacked any facilities for bathing other than a basin and a flannel. As a result, it was tempting to bathe in the river. Few people owned "bathing costumes" and the police discouraged public nudity, but young boys often took a dip when no-one was looking. The problem was, most of them couldn't swim.

Some got out of their depth and sank like a stone. Others were swept away by the current, or cramped up in icy eddies, got bogged in gluey mud, or tangled in weeds or willows. Divers face the hazards of submerged rocks or rapier-like tree branches lurking in murky water.

To make matters worse, they chose secluded spots to strip off for a dip, with no adults in sight, and no-one to come to their aid in an emergency.

Barely a week went by every summer without a report of a drowning, a near-miss, or a rescue. Newspapers narrated harrowing accounts of boys found wrapped in each other's arms, or corpses trapped in mud or weeds with nostrils only inches below the surface. One young man tried to save another tangled in the weeds at Thorn's waterhole, but told the coroner that he had to kick the clutching victim away when he nearly dragged them both down to a watery grave. He said "goodbye" and swam away, turning just in time to see a swirl of water as the fleeting marker of a lost life.

One morning in 1889, 7-year-old Willie Holloway went skylarking in the Mulwaree before breakfast, but never returned. He died in four feet of water. He was three feet tall.

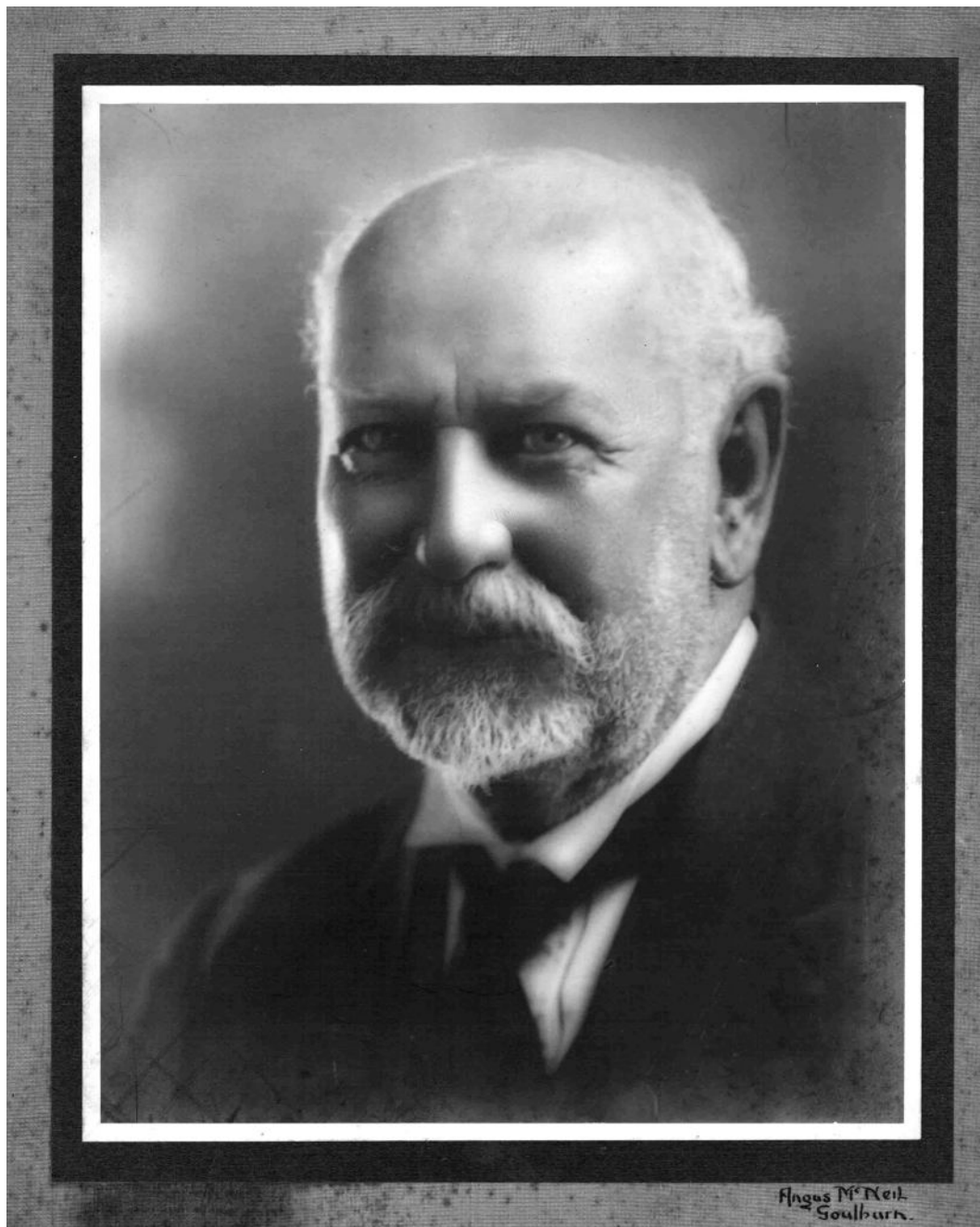
Ernie Goobe gurgled his last gasp near the gasworks on a sunny Sunday afternoon. He was three weeks short of his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday when he tried to catch a cicada on top of a fencepost and fell into the river. His friends tried to reach out to him with a willow branch, but couldn't reach him. He went under three times but failed to come up for a fourth, leaving a floating hat to remember him by. He was a waif, and the identity of his parents was unknown.

In December 1890 two school cadets, close mates, snuck off from shooting drill at the Rifle Range to paddle in a dam. The teacher found their clothes there some time later. 11-year-old Herbie Dalton and 12-year-old Herbie Rendall were found in seven feet of water where the bottom of the dam dipped steeply away. Rendall was wearing his shirt and Dalton only his pants, so it was thought that Rendall entered the water first, got into difficulties, and his friend came to his assistance. They were inseparable both in life and in death.

Three months later 17-year-old Tommy Hildebrand and 15-year-old Billy Trubshaw perished in a deep waterhole near Baxter's Boot Factory before the eyes of helpless onlookers, all non-swimmers. By the time police arrived with grappling hooks 100 people had gathered. The bodies were placed in an open cart with legs dangling, and the crowd followed the dancing legs to the morgue.

Three weeks later Goulburn reeled to the news of the tragic deaths of Johnny Warton (7) and his brother Joey (10) at the same spot. The alarm was raised by their 5-year-old brother, who ran home to his mother at Horne's cottages in Clinton Street crying "Mammy, Joe and Johnny fell into the river and drowned". When hooked out of the water little Johnny's arms were wrapped around his brother's neck. The bodies were entangled with black thread, probably from the boot factory.

By the end of 1892 the Municipal Baths had opened in Sloane Street, but boys continued to use the river. Perhaps they couldn't afford the entrance fee, lived too far away, or just didn't own a pair of togs.



Jacob Knopp

Photo Angus McNeil Goulburn

Then, one terrible November day in 1894, another two orphans drowned in the Mulwaree between Fitzroy Bridge and the railway viaduct, behind the Star Hotel. They were Bobby Woods (12) and Billy Gallon (10), who had gone for a dip after school. Another pupil, Simon Hunt, saw them in difficulties and ran for the aid of a swagman named Daly who was camped under the arches of the railway viaduct. Daly dived in while Hunt went to the nearby school to enlist the aid of Jacob Knopp. The two men extricated the bodies and worked hard to restore life, but the bodies were cold and blue.

The horror of losing two of his pupils motivated Jacob Knopp to become the first schoolteacher in the colony to introduce swimming lessons. After school he would muster his students and march them to the Wollondilly in the police paddock near the gaol at North Goulburn.

Not only did he save several boys from drowning in the years that followed, but he taught many more the skills that they needed to survive in the water.

Jacob Knopp's obituary, Goulburn Evening Post, Tuesday, 19 June 1945.

### **Fifty Years Ago 15 February 1873**

Violent Lunatic: A woman who has been staying at Collector for a few days came into Goulburn this week and on Tuesday became very violent and was handed to the police. Constable Emerton, in taking her to the lock-up was so severely injured by being kicked that he is laid up. When in the lock-up she tried to use a butcher's knife on the police, but was fortunately restrained. She has been sent to the Sydney receiving-house.

Accident: on Friday morning, as Mr. Emanuel's carter was bringing two large cases from the station on a spring cart, while coming up Montague-street one of the cases slipped to the tail of the cart. John Dunn, a man in the employ of Mr. Cann, butcher, went behind the cart and tried to keep the case, which must have weighed four cwt., from falling off. As the cart turned into Auburn-street the case fell off on to Dunn's leg and the unfortunate man was badly hurt in the left knee. There does appear to have been great carelessness in bringing such goods in a cart without tying them on; in this instance there was rope in the vehicle and yet it was not used.

### **Lonely Graves – Huon de Kerrilleau**

by Roger Bayley © 2025

The story of Gabriel Marie Louis Huon de Kerilleau reads like a fairy tale. Louis was a nobleman who fled the French Revolution to escape the guillotine. Arriving in England, he changed his name to Gabriel Lewis and enlisted in the New South Wales Corps to set sail to the other side of the world. He arrived in Sydney in October 1794, and he started life under a new name.

Family legend was that he left a beautiful wife, Louisa, behind. She was said to have been a lady-in-waiting to Marie Antoinette. The story goes that they were separated during the riots, and she turned up in England a few months later. Penniless, she took the only course open to her to follow him ... as a convict. She stole some trinkets and pawned them. Her trial is recorded in the "Newgate Calendar" as case no 534 in September 1794, under the name "Louisa le Sage". She was transported, arriving in Australia in April 1796, and must have found Louis fairly quickly, because their first child was born in June 1797.

Louis prospered. Through the patronage of a powerful friend, the Duke of Buckingham, he hobnobbed with the upper levels of society, dined at the Governor's table, tutored the Macarthur children, and obtained land grants at Fairfield and Minto. In 1807 he secured a discharge from the army and resumed his true identity. The only problem was the 'convict stain' on his wife's character. Perhaps that is why they decided to 'go bush'.

In 1814, young explorer Hamilton Hume and his party broke through the Bargo Brush and reached a spot that the aborigines called Bungonia. Here Hume noted a huge outcrop of pure silica which resembled a dog. It became known as 'the dog-faced rock' and became a landmark to those that followed along a track that became known as the Argyle Road.

Louis and his son-in-law William Mitchell were among the first to take up land in the district, probably in 1821 or 1822. Louis was granted a 'ticket to occupy' 3,000 acres of land, and he and Louisa built a slab house called Karne.<sup>2</sup> William built a home near the 'Dog Faced Rock' at Brisbane Meadow. They were within walking distance of the stupendous chasms of Bungonia Gorge.

It was here that destiny played out, as predicted by a fortune teller fifty years earlier, when Louis had been accosted by a gypsy in a Paris street. She foretold that he would "leave France and travel to a distant land where his body would never be found."

One Sunday in 1829, he set off for a walk, bible in hand, reading the scriptures. He was sixty years old, well-known in the district for his kind and gentle manner, and lately prone to forgetfulness. It seems that he got lost, for twice he was redirected by convict road gangs. Then he vanished forever and was never seen again. A search party found his broken glasses, and the words "gone north" scratched on a tree. It is thought that darkness overtook him, and that he stumbled over a precipice, and plummeted to his death.

"Karne", "Carne" or "Caarne" was demolished in about 1987, riddled with white ants. It was built on a downhill slope with dirt floors, so that "you wouldn't want to have a few drinks, or you might fall over and roll out the door". The windows from the old building ended up at "Teneriffe", Goulburn.

The Mitchell family homestead became known as Brisbane Meadow, probably in honour of Governor Brisbane who signed the land grant. The homestead was destroyed by fire in January 1963. All that remains are the imposing entrance gates.



The grave of Louisa de Kerrilleau [1842] and her son-in-law William Mitchell [1837] stands in a paddock between their adjoining homes at Brisbane Meadow and Carne, on the road to Bungonia Lookdown. Louisa's husband disappeared in 1829, believed to have plummeted to his death at Bungonia Gorge.

Photo by Roger Bayley

### **Tony Lamarra's recollection of the purchase of St Clair**

Tony Lamarra is probably the only person still standing who was a member of the executive committee to purchase St Clair for the Goulburn Historical Society in time to commemorate the Australia's Bicentenary and the 150th anniversary of Governor Macquarie's visit to the site of Goulburn, which would fall in 1970.

#### **Here are Tony's recollections.**

Stephen Tazewell, the president of the Society, formed a committee to raise funds for the project. Tony recalls that other members of the committee included F.G. Fitzpatrick, Ralph Mansfield, Angie Zantis, Ray Williams, Mr. Murray, Bill Carrott, Bob Lockley, Tony Lamarra and John Woolley.

Many businesses, clubs and individuals contributed to the fund, but it still fell short of the estimated \$10,000 that was needed to buy and renovate the property.

Mrs. Woolley was a long-time Secretary to Ron Brewer (the local State M.P.), so she asked him for advice.

Ron Brewer sought government funding, only to find that a grant could not be given to a volunteer organisation, so Mayor Ernie McDermott was asked if Council could



Tony and Adriana Lamarra

Photo Darcy Kennedy 2022

help. Alderman Mullins was an enthusiastic member of the Society and a supporter of the scheme, as was Deputy-Mayor Brian Keating, so Council climbed aboard. A grant of \$10,000 was approved by the NSW Premiers Department for the purchase of St Clair for use as a folk museum, and title was vested in Goulburn City Council.

Tony Lamarra became involved with Council as an Alderman from March 1974 and served as Mayor of Goulburn Council from 1985 to 1991, and during that time he was very supportive in promoting the tourist attractions and history of the Goulburn district.

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