

HISTORICAL ITEMS ARE ACQUIRED

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its first general meeting for the year on Monday at 8 p.m.

The meeting is to be held at the Museum in order to give members an opportunity to take a look at the latest items acquired by the Society.

Members who have information about these items and knowledge of the people associated with them, will briefly on them.

Members present may have relevant information to offer.

A dinner has been planned for March 10 to be held at the Riverine Club.

taken in May on a date to be fixed.

It has been the custom to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Museum on Saturday, April 19.



Guest speaker will be Mr. Alex Nicol, who is well-known for his ABC program "All Ways On Sundays."

Mr. Nicol is an interesting and most entertaining after-dinner speaker.

Inquiries by anyone wishing to attend, may be made by contacting either Mr. K. Swan, Mr. R. Palmer or Mrs. J. Walsh prior to March 3.

The society's first excursion for the year will be under-

Published: *Daily Advertiser* February 1975

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Alex Nicol, K Swan, R Palmer, Mrs J Walsh

Having recorded, on the occasion of its "coming of age" in 1971, the progress of the Society since its formation, it seems appropriate to take its history a step further, as, this year, it celebrates the 25th anniversary of its foundation.

The decision to form an Art Society was taken by a small band of dedicated people when they met at the Tarcutta Street home of Mrs. Joyce Jenkins on December 15, 1949.

Official formation of the Society followed at a meeting held on April 4, 1950, in the School of Arts, which, at that time, was situated on the corner of Johnston and Fitzmaurice Streets.

The patron was the Mayor, Alderman H. E. Gissing. The first president was Miss Margaret Read; honorary secretary, Mr. John Flak (now Dr. Flak); honorary treasurer, Mrs. John McCarthy; vice-president, Miss Ellen Waugh. There were 18 other foundation members.

The first exhibition was held in the council chambers on June 1, 1950. It was opened by the Mayor Alderman H. E. Gissing. Members exhibited their own work together with prints and orig-

inals loaned by local residents.

Members who exhibited their work included: Margaret Read, Joyce Jenkins, John Flak, Mabs Sheppard, Joyce Elliot, Pat McCarthy, Jim Pierce, J. Armstrong, Ellen Waugh, I. Dimant and Milroy.

It is interesting to note that the Mayor said in his opening speech that the Council had approached the Government Architect some years earlier that he (the architect) had provided plans for an Art Gallery for Wagga.

Encouraged by the success of its first exhibition, the Society arranged in the following year, the Commonwealth Jubilee Art Prize, then on the Society didn't look back.

LOFT STUDIO

A permanent home was the next objective. This did not eventuate until 1952 when Mr. H. Robinson, manager of the Union Bank (now the ANZ Bank) offered the use of a hay loft in an early building behind the bank.

Occupation of it, however,

Art Society looks back 25 years

The Wagga Art Society this year celebrates its silver jubilee.

"Bidgee Whaler" takes a look at its progress and development.

was short-lived. In 1954 the land was sold and once again the Society was homeless.

Through the efforts of member Mr. Jim Pierce, an Air Force hut from Urquinty was purchased, transported and re-erected in the New Moon Gardens on the banks of the Wollundry Lagoon. The site was Council land and is adjacent to where the Baby Health Centre now stands.

With the aid of two interest-free loans from the Community Advancement Fund and much hard work by members, the Society once again had a roof over its head. The ladies regularly conducted clothing sales as well as street stalls. For four

successive years an Artists' Ball was held in the supper room of the Kyeamba Smith hall to help reduce the debt.

The Mayor Alderman I. Jack officially opened the studio and the Members' Exhibition on February 27, 1956.

During this second stage of the development of the Society, much support was given by the Daily Advertiser, the editor, Mr. Ward; journalist, Mr. Eric Irvin and Mr. John Penfold (University Tutorials).

During the developing years, Society news was written for the Daily Advertiser by Frances Eastoe, under the nomme de plume — "Phi" — the Greek letter for F. These articles were continued

in later years by other members.

The Society instigated the idea of holding an annual Riverina Regional Art Exhibition. Painting groups were already forming in Young and Leeton.

The exhibition was held in a different centre each year. These exhibitions have now been discontinued. This, perhaps, is a sign of an increase in the size of art groups in other towns.

Not only were adult members catered for, child art was encouraged as well. Junior classes were conducted regularly each week. Great credit must go to Mrs. Mabs Sheppard for conducting these classes. She was assist-

... continued next page ...

ed by Miss Margaret Read. Not only were junior classes held, but exhibitions of their work arranged.

HEADLINES

In September 1957, the Society came into the news during an exhibition for which Mr. Lloyd Rees was judge. Mr. Rees, a noted Australian artist, has for many years, been a lecturer in the History of Art at the Sydney University.

He has written extensively on art and artists. Recently an honorary doctorate was conferred upon him, in recognition of his contribution to art.

In the 1957 exhibition a prize of £100 (\$200) was offered by the Council for the best portrait or landscape in oils.

The prize was awarded to Ronald Kirk of Melbourne for his contemporary painting "The Blue Tie." The council however, did not agree with the judge's decision, declaring that in its opinion, the painting was not a portrait.

Much discussion ensued, until finally the Art Society paid the prize money. "The Blue Tie" is now in the Society's permanent collection.

Benefactors of the Society have been many, not the least of these being The City Council, Sir Charles Jones, Messrs J. A. Brunskill, L. Johnston and J. J. Speirs.

GALLERY

In 1969 with the opening of the Wollundry Gallery, the society entered into the third stage of its development.

Membership had reached 90, although not all were painting members. The studio was in use three days a week for private classes and on Saturday afternoons for society-sponsored classes.

It was evident then, that there was need for a building in which to hold exhibitions without disrupting classes and without having the inconvenience of storing bulky equipment during exhibition time.

The City Council granted temporary occupancy of the cottage at 190 Tarcutta Street, adjacent to the Civic Theatre. Alterations and painting were carried out by the Society and the Gallery was opened and given its name by the Mayor, Alderman R. J. Harris on June 9, 1969.

Painting in the picturesque surroundings of the Wollundry Lagoon came to an end when, late in 1969 the studio was removed to Small Street. This was necessary to allow beautification of the site to be carried out prior to the Centenary Celebrations.

During the celebrations associated with the Centenary of Local Government in March, 1970, the Society, at the request of the City Council, organised an Invitation, Purchasing Exhibition. Artists from five States participated. The City Council purchased paintings to the value of \$970.

The Mayor of Leavenworth, U.S.A., R. H. Millar officially opened the exhibition in the presence of over 400 people.

Murals for the Centenary Ball were the work of Society members.

Promotion of art still continues. The Society has, in recent years, co-operated with the N.S.W. Art Gallery, the W.F.A., the Arts Council and Riverina Schools in staging exhibitions as well as arranging members' exhibitions. It conducts life-drawing classes and painting classes. In 1974, it opened the Gallery for "Sunday Exhibitions" which proved very popular.

MEMBERS HONOURED

The Society owes a deep debt of gratitude to those who were members in the formative years.

Three members had life-membership conferred upon them, in appreciation of their untiring work: Mrs. Joyce Kerfoot in 1958; Mrs. Joyce Jenkins and Miss Margaret Read in 1967. Later Mrs. Ivy West was similarly honoured. Mrs. West continued painting almost until the age of 90.

Miss Margaret Read has continued to faithfully serve the Society since that time 25 years ago, when she became its first president. She regularly conducts classes

and nothing is too much for her to do in the cause of art. Many an "up and coming" artist has had cause to be grateful for her help and encouragement.

Recently to mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, four other members who shared the work in the early years, also received similar recognition.

They are: Mrs. Mabs Sheppard, Miss Trixie Read, Mrs. Doreen Griffin and Mr. Jim Pierce.

The third stage of the development of the Society will come to an end when the Wollundry Gallery is handed back to the council. The society is grateful to the City Council for allowing it the use of the gallery for the past six years. It was a happy time.

NEW PLAN

The City Council plans to use the halls, reception rooms and foyer of the council chambers for a temporary art gallery. The people will be able to view, in air-conditioned comfort, not only the city's and the Art Society's collection of paintings, but a great variety of work, including high class visiting exhibitions.

Towards the end of 1974, the council appointed an Art Gallery Committee. Mr. Alf Morris, Honorary Gallery Director; three Aldermen, viz, the Mayor, Alderman R. Gorman, Alderman P. Clark, Alderman P. O'Halloran; the president of the Art Society (ex-officio), Mr. R. Pratt; three members of the public, Miss Margaret Read, Mrs. Sylvia Walsh and Mr. Hank Perey; and the city librarian, Mr. Duncan Marshall.

The City Gallery and the Art Society Silver Jubilee Exhibition will be officially opened on Tuesday, March 18 by the Mayor Alderman R. Gorman.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 4 March 1975

Keywords: Art Society – history, silver jubilee, Joyce Jenkins, Margaret Read, Mabs Sheppard, Wollundry Gallery, HE Gissing, John Flak, Ellen Waugh, Joyce Elliot, Pat McCarthy, Jim Pierce, J Armstrong, I Dimant, Milroy, H Robinson, I Jack, Mr Ward, Eric Irvin, John Penfold, Lloyd Rees, JA Brunskill, L Johnston, JJ Speirs, RJ Harris, RH Millar, Joyce Kerfoot, Ivy West, Trixie Read, Doreen Griffin, Alf Morris, R Gorman, P Clark, P O'Halloran, R Pratt, Sylvia Walsh, Hank Perey, Duncan Marshall

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BIG DAY

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its "birthday" fete at the museum on Willans Hill on Saturday at 1.30 p.m.

Entertainment will include craft displays, printing and blacksmithing.

There will be a trading table, home-made cakes and afternoon tea.

The society hopes that the fete will be well supported as it needs financial assistance if it is to continue to preserve the district's history.

Mr. Ernie Johnston, who has been a hard-working member of the committee over many years, is ill in hospital and

has been for several weeks.

The society extends best wishes for his early return to good health.

At the last general meeting, Mrs. J. Walsh was elected as the society's third trustee.

The venue of the next meeting has been changed.

It will be held at Brucedale School on Monday, April 21, at 8 p.m.

Residents and former residents of Brucedale are invited to attend and

speak about the church and school and of their association with the area.

The school was built in 1874.

When it closed in 1967, the Wagga and District Historical Society requested the Government to preserve it.

The Mitchell Shire undertook the trusteeship of it and through the efforts of the Shire Council, a grant was obtained from the Local Government Grants Commission.

Restoration of the school and residence was

taken care of by a committee of five, which was formed to manage the Brucedale Museum Project.

Members of the committee, consisting of representatives from the Mitchell Shire Council, Brucedale and the Historical Society are: Messrs. R. Harris, E. Dunning, K. Swan, A. Nixon and Mrs. John Walsh.

The church was purchased by the Mitchell Shire Council at a later date.

The committee has plans for its restoration.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 April 1975 p5.

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Ernie Johnston, Mrs John Walsh, Brucedale School, R Harris, E Dunning, K Swan, A Nixon

Society members plan excursion

Members of the Wagga and District Historical Society will make an excursion on Sunday, June 8, to the Coursing Park in the Downside area.

Committee member, Mr. G. Bamberry, who lives in the area, has invited residents of long-standing to meet with members and talk of people and events of the early years of the district.

A private cemetery will also be visited.

The Society sadly records the death of Mr. Ernie Johnson, a member of the committee and one of its most dedicated and hard workers.

He will long be remembered for the time and effort he expended in helping to

make the museum what it is today.



Sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

The April meeting held at Brucedale, was well attended by residents and former residents.

Plans for the future development of the Brucedale Museum Project were discussed.

The committee is seeking books, records, relics or any items connected with the school.

This will be an "Old-timer's night. These sessions have always been popular.

An interesting night is assured

Published: *Daily Advertiser* May 1975

Keywords: G Bamberry, Historical Society, Ernie Johnson, Brucedale Museum

The Tyson saga: Beef into gold

BY "BIDGEE WHALER"

Mrs. David Denholm will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society.

Her topic will be "THE TYSON BROTHERS". The Three Tyson brothers had wide pastoral interest in south-eastern Australia, during the nineteenth century, ranging from Queensland to Victoria. James Tyson, whose name will be remembered by many Riverina residents, took up

Toorong, Tupra and Juanbung Stations about 1846.

His selling of beef on the Bendigo goldfields increased his wealth and enabled him to buy Deniliquin Station. He died in 1898.

Mrs. Denholm has researched her subject extensively. An interesting night is in store for those attending. Visitors are welcome. The meeting will be held in the C.W.A. rooms, Johnston Street at 8 p.m. on Monday, 21 July.



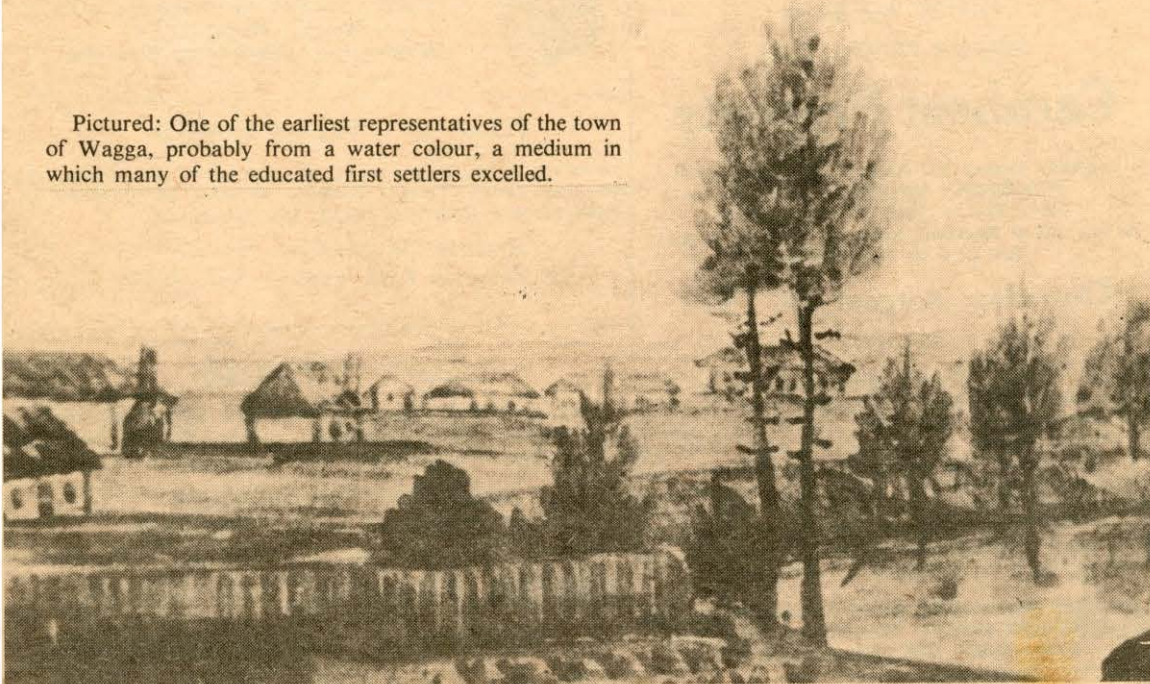
JAMES TYSON

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 19 July 1975

Keywords: Historical Society, Mrs David Denholm, Tyson brothers, James Tyson, Toorong, Tupra, Juanbung, Deniliquin Station

From these early beginnings . . .

Pictured: One of the earliest representatives of the town of Wagga, probably from a water colour, a medium in which many of the educated first settlers excelled.



The Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will hold an exhibition in the City Council Gallery from October 27, – November 6. Items from the Museum collection with the early history of the district will be on display.

The Museum on Willan's Hill continues to attract visitors from far and wide. It is well worth a visit by local residents as well as travellers. During the coming school vacation the Museum will be open each afternoon from 2 – 5.00 p.m. with the exception of Fridays.

Several members have expressed the wish that general meetings be held in a central place in the city. The management has given considerable thought to the suggestion and has endeavoured to make arrangements suitable to these needs. Consequently, the next meeting will be held at the Wagga Wagga Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, which is located almost opposite Legacy House.

The guest speakers for the evening will be Mr. Selwyn Rawlings, Wagga's Town-Planner. The subject of Mr. Rawlings talk will be Town-Planning in Wagga Wagga. An interesting night is assured. Any persons wishing to hear the address are invited to attend. The meeting will be held Monday 18, August.

By "BIDGEE
WHALER"



Published: *Daily Advertiser* August 1975

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Selwyn Rawlings

Historical Society's Aust. Day display

By "Bidgee Whaler"

The Wagga and District Historical Society will contribute to the celebration of Australia Day 1976 by arranging a special display on one day of the holiday weekend.

The management committee would like to hear from members who would be willing to be rostered for museum duty on weekends and public holidays.

This would make the burden lighter for those members already assisting in this way.

The honorary secretary Mr. R. Palmer and Miss

De Jersey will represent the society as delegates at the conference of societies affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, in Sydney from 17-19 October.

A grant of \$100 has come from the Royal Australian Historical Society towards the cost of the society's next publication.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting when office bearers for the coming year will be elected and reports presented.

It will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, 15th September at the Wagga Education Centre, 102 Peter Street. Visitors are welcome.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 12 September 1975 p15.

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Australia Day, R Palmer, Miss De Jersey

BY "BIDGEE WHALER"

The guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr Grahame Daniels who is in charge of the merchandising department of EldersSmith Goldsborough Mort Ltd., Wagga Wagga branch. Mr Daniels is interested in the restoration of old shearing hand-pieces and has a sizable collection. His subject will be "SHEARING TECHNOLOGY FROM THE TIME OF JOHN McARTHUR UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY". The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8.p.m. on Monday 17 September. Visitors are welcome.

An invitation has come from Albury and District Historical Society to attend the unveiling of a plaque in Hovell Park on Friday 14 November at 1.50 p.m.. The plaque will honour Hume and Hovell and the men who were with them on their expedition. One of these men, Henry Angel is reputed to be the first white man to swim the Murray River which was originally named the Hume River. The Angel family will be well represented at the ceremony by descendants from Western Victoria, Melbourne and Wagga Wagga as well as from further afield. All descendants are invited to attend this historic occasion.

The property "Sunnyside" on which this writer now lives was selected by Henry Angel when he came from "Uardry" in the Carrathool and Hay districts in the mid 1860's. His son lived there before retiring to Wagga. His home which was of slab construction succumbed to the ravages of time about 15 years ago.

Society members will make an excursion to the Lockhart Museum and to Galore Hill which is resplendent with wild flowers at present. Anyone interested in joining the excursion may make bookings at the Tourist ~~may contact the following~~

possibly September or October 1975 (published version yet to be located)
Keywords: Grahame Daniels, EldersSmith Goldsborough Mort, Angel family, "Sunnyside", "Uardy", Historical Society

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT WAGGA

For some time the management committee of the Wagga and District Historical Society has been considering the idea of bringing together, once a year, representatives of historical societies in the Riverina.

It has arranged therefore, a one-day conference for Historical Societies of the Riverina Region, to be held at the North Camps Riverina

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

College of Advanced Education on Saturday November 15 from 9 a.m. — 5.30 p.m.

Already societies within the region have been invited to send delegates.

A member of the Glen Innes Society A. W. Cameron will outline the functions of regional associations.

As a fitting finale to the day, entertainment with a difference will be given by Sydney personality Mr. Edgar Penzig.

Mr. Penzig is a prominent folk-lorist and will speak about Australia's Wild Colonial Days. His wife Megan will sing appropriate folk songs.

The venue for this entertainment will be announced at a later date. All are invited.

OFFICIALS

At the annual meeting held recently office-bearers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; Vice-

presidents: Messrs K. Swan, A. Nixon and K. Geaghan; Secretary, Mr. R. L. Palmer; Treasurer, Mr. M. Starr; Committee, Mesdames M. Geaghan, D. Sumsky, Miss P. DeJersey, Mr. G. Bamberry and Dr. A. Jordan.

The retiring president, Mr. K. Swan did not seek re-election to the position. Members are grateful to Mr. Swan for the loyal and dedicated service he has given to the society over the past 13 years.

From 27 October — 6 November the society will hold an exhibition in the City Council Art Gallery.

Interesting photos of early pioneers and events and other articles relevant to the early history of the district will be on display.

Mrs. Margaret Carnegie of Holbrook, well-known author and art collector was to have been the guest speaker at the next general meeting. Unfortunately she is unable to be in Wagga on that night but hopes to come at a later date.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. Monday 20 October. This will be "Members' Night" when members are invited to bring along an article of local historical interest and speak briefly about it.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* October 1795

Keywords: Historical Society, AW Cameron, Edgar Penzig, Megan Penzig, Sylvia Walsh, K Swan, A Nixon, K Geaghan, RL Palmer, M Starr, M Geaghan, D Sumsky, P DeJersey, G Bamberry, A Jordan, Margaret Carnegie

History conference to open at Nth. Campus



By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The conference of Riverina Regional Historical Societies arranged by the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be opened by the Principal of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, Dr. C. Blake, at the North Campus of the college at 9.30 a.m. Saturday, November 15.

The conference is being convened by Mr. K. Swan. It is expected that 60 delegates from 15 societies will attend. Speakers will include Mr. Harry Harper, secretary of the Royal Australian Historical Society; Mr. H. Gibbney of the Australian National University, Canberra; Mr. A. Cameron, Glenn Innes; Messrs. A. Cutting, E. Reid-Smith, D. Hartridge, K. Swan, and Mrs. Swan, Riverina College of Advanced Education.

The evening will be a finale to the regional conference. It is hoped that some, if not all delegates can be present. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

A working bee will be held at the museum on Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m., to put the finishing touches to the Yallowin Hut which, it is hoped, will be opened on Australia Day weekend.

The society was saddened to hear of the death recently of one of its life members, Mr. Geoff McGrath, of The Rock.

Mr. McGrath was an ardent worker for the society. He recorded and arranged with great care at the museum, the collection of early bottles. Another member, Mr. A. Loch, suffered the sudden loss of his wife last week. To the family of Mr. McGrath and to Mr. Loch and his daughter, society members offer their sympathy.

The usual monthly meeting of the society will be replaced by an evening entertainment to be held at the C.W.A. Rooms, Saturday, November 15, at 8 p.m. Mr. Edgar Penzig, folk-artist from Sydney will speak on "Australia's Wild Colonial Boys." His wife, Megan, will sing Australian folk-songs. The

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NATIONAL DAY PLANS

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold a special meeting at the Education Centre, Peter Street, at 7 p.m. on Monday to discuss arrangements for the society's celebration of Australia Day.

Members are requested to attend this important meeting.

Most local organisations are co-operating with the Australia Day Committee in an effort to make the celebration of the national day worthwhile.

The Historical Society, being committed to the preservation of the district's history, is vitally involved.

The Museum will be open on Monday, January 26, from 1-5 p.m. with special displays arranged

By 'BIDGEE WHALER'

for the occasion...

Billy tea and damper will be served.

The Museum is attracting visitors from other States during the school vacation.

The ultimate goal is to have the Museum open seven days of every week, but until the society is able to attract more people for roster duty this is not possible.

At present the Museum is open weekends, public

holidays as well as during the school holiday period from 2-5 p.m. with the exception of Friday.

At the first regional conference of Riverina Historical Societies, held recently, delegates

decided that a conference would be held annually.

The 1976 conference will be held in Wagga in November.

The committee formed to arrange the conference is: Mr. K. Swan, Wagga

(chairman); Mr. Warbrick, June; Mr. Wright, Grong Grong (representing Narrandera Society); Mr. R. Maslin, Temora; Mr. D. Henley, Gundagai; Mr. K. Geaghan, Wagga and Mrs. S. Walsh, Wagga.

The North Campus of the Riverina College of Advanced Education, was a fitting venue for the conference and the society is grateful to the principal, Dr. Blake, for making the lecture rooms available and other facilities.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* January 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, K Swan, Mr Warbrick, Mr Wright, R Maslin, D Henley, K Geaghan, S Walsh, Dr Blake

Wagga Historical

By
"BIDGEE WHALER"

Society dinner

Mrs. Margaret Carnegie, well known historian and art collector of Holbrook, will be guest speaker at a dinner arranged by the Wagga and District Historical Society.

Her subject will be The Death of Dan Morgan.

Dan Morgan was the most feared and violent bushranger in the area south of Wagga from 1863 to 1865.

It was he who shot and wounded Police Magistrate Henry Baylis, while the latter was riding towards Urana in 1863 to attend to official business.

Baylis who gave his name to Wagga's main street, survived the encounter.

Mrs. Carnegie will speak also about the recently made film "Mad Dan Morgan," which was based on her latest book, "Morgan the Bold Bushranger."

The dinner will be held at the Riverine Club on Monday.

The Australia Day celebration at the Museum was very successful.

The serving of tea and damper proved to be popular, particularly with the younger folk, many of whom sampled this "delicacy" for the first time.

Especially appreciated was the damper made by 68 year old Mrs. Nixon.

Mr. John Ryan, a benefactor of the Society and a member of a pioneer family, passed away this week.

Members offer their sympathy to Mrs. Ryan, who is a member of the society and to her family.

Among the interesting farm implements given by Mr. Ryan to the Museum when it opened, was a back-delivery mower, the first mower in use after the scythe.

Also donated were solid, wooden log-trolley wheels made by his father Patrick Ryan, who settled at Glandore, Alfredtown, on his arrival from Ireland with his mother in 1865.

Patrick Ryan's father died aboard ship on the voyage out to Australia.

The first general meeting for the year will be held on Monday, February 16 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 p.m.

Visitors are welcome. Vice-president, Mr. K. Swan, will speak on "The Beginnings of Banks in Wagga Wagga."

It is a fitting subject as, this week the A.N.Z. Banking Company celebrates the centenary of the establishment of the Union Bank in Wagga.

The first manager, an interesting personality, Mr. G. S. Baker, was prominent in civic affairs.

He served as an alderman from 1880 to 1883.

The two banks amalgamated in 1951.

The Society congratulates the Bank on reaching this historic milestone.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* February 1976

Keywords: Margaret Carnegie, Historical Society, Dan Morgan, Henry Baylis, Mrs Nixon, John Ryan, Ryan family, "Glandore", K Swan, GS Baker

MORGAN WILL BE IN FOCUS

The dinner arranged by the Wagga and District Historical Society will be held at the Riverine Club on Monday, March 15.

Mrs. Margaret Carnegie, author of the book, "Morgan the Bold Bushranger," will be the guest speaker.

Members are asked to finalise bookings with the

secretary or treasurer by next Monday.

An excursion into "Morgan Country" will be made by Society members and their friends on Sunday, April 4.

This outing should have great interest following so soon after the talk by Mrs. Carnegie.

The Society plans to make another excursion on May 30, this time to Mr. and Mrs. R. Browne's property, Myall.

This is a repeat visit due to the popularity of previous excursions to Myall.

The next management committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 29.

It has been brought forward to enable the general meeting to be held before the birthday fete and before Easter.

The birthday fete takes place on Saturday, April 24.

There will be various demonstrations, pony rides, trading table and afternoon tea.

Congratulations are offered to St. John's Anglican Parish which is celebrating its centenary year.



Elders
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PENINSULA

Published: *Daily Advertiser* March 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Dan Morgan, Margaret Carnegie, R Browne, Myall

SOCIETY WILL MEET TONIGHT

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

It has been decided to make the next monthly meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society a business meeting to enable all members to discuss several important matters referred from the management committee.

The Royal Australian Historical Society is compiling a register of buildings of historic interest and has asked for assistance from the local society.

There could be in existence buildings worthy of preservation of which the society is not aware. Any such information could be conveyed to Mr. Keith Swan, Mr. R. L. Palmer, Mrs. Sylvia Walsh or to any member of the management committee

The National Trust has also written regarding this matter.

The next meeting of the society will be held tonight at 8 p.m. at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street. Visitors are welcome

Final arrangements will be made for the ninth birthday fete to be held at the museum on Willans Hill on Saturday, April 24 from 1 to 5 p.m.

There will be several attractions, including



demonstrations, a trading-table and afternoon tea.

A good attendance is hoped for as this is the main fund-raising effort by the society for the year

The preservation of Wagga's history and the management and maintenance of the museum is a mammoth task.

The society hopes that the citizens of Wagga will help it in its efforts.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 12 April 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Keith Swan, RL Palmer, Sylvia Walsh

Wagga Historical Society notes

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and District Historical Society recently held a most successful fete to celebrate the ninth birthday of its museum at Willans Hill.

More than 500 people attended. During the afternoon, the Member for Wagga, Mr. J. Schipp, presented a cheque for \$2000 to the Society.

This amount was granted by the New South Wales Government for cataloguing, restoration and preservation of items in the Museum.

With school holidays having commenced, it is anticipated that many visitors will wish to see through the Museum.

During the vacation the doors will be open from 2-5 p.m. excepting Fridays.

The Society will hold a display in the Wagga City Art Gallery from June 21-30.

The year 1976 is proving to be a year of centenaries in Wagga.

Three already celebrated are St. John's Parish, the A.N.Z. Bank (formerly the Union Bank) and the Wagga Cup.

Next week the Wagga Picnic Race Club will also reach another milestone in its history.

Seventy years ago in 1906 the first Picnic Race Cup was run.

It was won by Intuition, which was owned by Telacon Lloyd and trained and ridden by Frank McAlister.

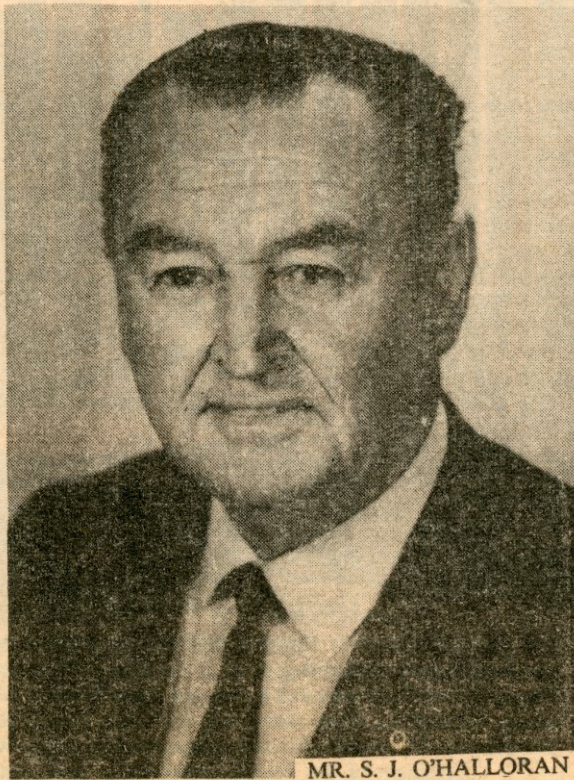
A request has come from the Royal Historical Society for a list of Wagga buildings considered to be worthy of preservation — not only those which had their beginnings in the last century — but also those of a later period.

With this in mind, the Society has invited well-known, Wagga - born

architect, Mr. S. J. O'Halloran to address the next meeting about some of these buildings.

As this topic could be of interest to many people, the Society invites all who wish to do so, to come along.

The meeting will be held on Monday, May 17 at 8 p.m. at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street.



MR. S. J. O'HALLORAN

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 May 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, J Schipp, Wagga Picnic Race Club, Intuition, Telacon Lloyd, Frank McAlister, SJ O'Halloran

HISTORICAL BODY TO STAGE

JUNE 1976

By
"Bidgee Whaler"

10-DAY DISPLAY

From June 21 to 30, the Wagga and District Historical Society will hold a display in the Wagga City Art Gallery. It will consist mainly of photographs of early Wagga and of early residents.

It was pleasing to read in the Daily Advertiser that a road at Brucedale has been named the Mary Gilmore Road.

Mary Gilmore often wrote with a nostalgic note about days when she lived near Brucedale and attended school there.

The society congratulates Mrs. Margaret Carnegie, well known historian and writer of "Kildrummie", Holbrook, whose film about Dan Morgan premiered in Sydney on Saturday.

An American distributor has purchased U.S. rights to the film.

Mrs. Carnegie, earlier this year, spoke at the society's annual dinner about the notorious Riverina bushranger.

The Society is pleased to welcome on

the management committee, two members, Mr. Morris Gissing, who is a patron of the society and Mrs. N. Carlin.

At the recent management committee meeting a sub-committee was formed to compile a list of local buildings of historical interest and to collect data on them.

The members are: Messrs. M. Gissing, A. Nixon, K. Swan, D. Denholm, R. Palmer, Mesdames K. Higgins and S. Walsh.

Three of the members mentioned

were born in Wagga.

It is hoped to begin soon the mammoth task of cataloguing the contents of the museum. A grant from the State Government in April, has made this possible.

The society will meet next Monday, June 21, at 8 p.m. at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street.

The speaker will be Mr. G. Davis.

His subject will be the 'family tree' of the Wilkinson family.

Mr. Davis is a descendant of this family who first settled



in the Tumut district in 1840.

At the July meeting, which will be an "old timers" night, one of the speakers will be Mr. Spies, who is over 90 years old. Visitors are welcome at the meetings.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* June 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Brucedale, Mary Gilmore, Margaret Carnegie, "Kildrummie", Dan Morgan, Morris Gissing, N Carlin, A Nixon, K Swan, D Denholm, R Palmer, K Higgins, S Walsh, G Davis, Wilkinson family, Mr Spies

HISTORICAL GROUP TO LET OFF STEAM

sep 76

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

An interesting excursion will be made by the Wagga and District Historical Society to Wodonga on October 31.

An invitation has come from the Border Steam and Oil Engine Club for members of the Wagga society to join them in a club outing on that day.

The group is most progressive and enthusiastic, so this should be a novel outing and provide something of interest for all who attend.

The Royal Historical Society will hold its annual conference for affiliated societies in Sydney from October 22 to 24. Miss P. De Jersey will represent the Wagga society.

There have been changes in lay-out at the Museum which continues to attract visitors from various parts. It is unfortunate that it is unable to be opened on a more regular basis. This is not possible at present as the society relies heavily on the generosity of members who staff it voluntarily.

The next meeting of the society will be the annual general meeting.

It is hoped that members will make a special effort to attend. The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 p.m. on Monday, September 20. Visitors are welcome. Supper will be served.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* September 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Border Steam and Oil Engine Club, P De Jersey, Museum

FIELD OFFICER IMPRESSED WITH MUSEUM

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

Recently Mr. Don Doherty, field officer for the arts in N.S.W. visited the Wagga and Historical Society's Museum.

He was very impressed with the building, the exhibits and the lay-out and commented that the society is resourceful and has demonstrated what a "Do-it-Yourself" organisation, having drive and determination, can achieve in a relatively short space of time.

At the annual meeting held recently, the president reported a successful year with an increase in membership and with new fields being entered. Plans were outlined for future undertakings at the museum.

Office-bearers for the coming year are: President, Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; vice-presidents, Messrs. K. Swan, K. Geaghan and A. Nixon; honorary secretary, Mr. R. Palmer; treasurer, Mr. M. Starr; committee, Mesdames K. Geaghan and D. Sumsky, Miss P. De Jersey, Messrs. G. Bambery, M. Gissing and Pearce.

and has come from Schipp, Member for



Wagga, that the Minister for Consumer Affairs has made available to the museum, on permanent loan; a set of imperial weights and measures.

There will be a working bee at the museum commencing at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 13. The small band of "working members" will be delighted to welcome any

one willing to give a hand.

The next general meeting to be held at the Education Centre, 103 Peter Street at 8 p.m. Monday, October 25, should be an interesting one indeed.

A topic not previously touched on, will be informally discussed by three Wagga engineers, Messrs. H. Renison, W. Rorrison Senior, and A. Nixon.

The subject is "The Usage, In the Early Days, of Steam, Gas and Oil For Power."

The society has in its museum, an early gas engine, which in the latter part of the 19th Century, provided power for various activities in Wagga, including the pumping of the organ in St. John's Church of England.

Visitors are welcome to come to the meeting. The talk will be an appropriate introduction to the excursion which members and their friends will make on the following Sunday, October 31.

They will join the Border Steam and Oil Engine Club at one of the regular outings near Wodonga where various types of engines will be in operation.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 22 October 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Don Doherty, Sylvia Walsh, K Swan, K Geaghan, R Palmer, M Starr, D Sumsky, P De Jersey, G Bambery, M Gissing, R Pearce, J Schipp, H Renison, W Rorrison snr, A Nixon

'Members Night!'

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The next general meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be held on Monday, November 22.

This meeting will take the form of a "Members Night" when members and their friends bring along an item of historical interest and say a few words about it.

It will be the last general meeting for the year and it is hoped that members will make it a fitting finale for 1976.

During the business section of the meeting preliminary arrangements will be made for the Society's celebration of Australia Day to take place at the museum.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 p.m. It has been a pleasure to meet in these comfortable rooms for the past 18 months and the society expresses appreciation to the management of the centre for the use of the facilities.

The management committee would still like to hear from more members who would be willing to undertake museum duty during weekends and school holidays. If the doors of the museum are closed when they would normally be expected to be open, visitors are disappointed and damage to public relations is the result. Added to that there is loss of revenue to the society.



During the summer months the museum will be open from 3 to 5.30 p.m. during weekends and school holidays with the exception of Fridays.

Members are pleased to congratulate Mr. Keith Swan on being honoured by the Riverina College of Advance Education with the title of Dean Emeritus, in recognition of his contribution to education over many years.

It is an opportune time also to say thank you to the Wagga citizens and visitors who have supported the museum and the society during the past year.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 20 November 1976

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, K Swan

SOCIETY TO PLAN FOR BIG DAY

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold a special general meeting on Monday to make arrangements for its celebration of Australia Day.

Venue of the meeting will be the Education Centre, Peter Street, The meeting will start at 7.30.

On Monday, January 31 the Museum on Willians Hill will be open from 10.30 a.m. till 5.30. In keeping with the spirit of the day, billy tea and damper will be served by women in appropriate costume. Donations of damper would be appreciated.

A start has been made on cataloguing of items in the museum. It is a big task that has been made possible by a Government grant.

Mrs. A. Seccombe who will be leaving shortly to make her home in Sydney. Mrs. Seccombe, a foundation member, has worked untiringly for the Historical Society in many ways as did her late husband, Mr. Austen Seccombe who carried out a great deal of restoration of museum exhibits.

The society extends sincere sympathy to the

family of Mrs. McPherson who passed away last week. Mrs. McPherson had been a very active member of the society since its formation.

Recently a number of interesting items belonging to the Edney family were given to the society. They included bibles, magazines, newspapers and numerous photographs.

Among the Edney collection, is the photograph (below left) taken on the steps of the Council Chambers in 1928. Included in the picture are the then Mayor, Alderman W. F. Day, Alderman E. E. Collins; members of the council staff: J. Haynes, D. Bertram, N. Grinton, N. Edney, H. Chaston, Engineer, R. Emblen, Town Clerk, D. Lewis, Health Inspector, R. Nutt; R. H. Robinson, manager of Water Works and E. Williams.

No doubt some residents will be able to name the remaining three. If so a phone call to 226178 would be appreciated in order to put the records straight.

TRADE TALKS

★ Page 1

Fukuda's intervention. However, the size of additional imports is expected to depend on the progress of next week's discussions.

Four of Australia's senior Cabinet Ministers

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n told of my
discussions
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of hardship

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o survive another
feeding program
a late 'break' in the
n occur."

Mr. Schipp said: "I have
ained to the Premier
ow the locusts have
avaged the green summer
grasses which normally
would be expected to carry
stock well into the autumn.

"There will be a lot of
prayers for early rain. In
the meantime, I hope the
warning I have given the
N.S.W. Government will
be heeded.

"We don't want a repeat
of the procrastination
which occurred when help
was sought during last
year's drought.

"In these situations, ear-
ly action saves a lot of
heartache and suffering,"
Mr. Schipp said.

gai police believe
accident, which
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d have been caused
en Flannery lost control
the vehicle after over-
ing a semitrailer and
ning into gravel on the
of the road.



Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 January 1977.

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Australia Day, A Secombe, Mrs McPherson, WF Day, EE Collins, J Haynes, D Bertram, N Grinton, N Edney, H Chaston, R Emblen, D Lewis, R Nutt, RH Robinson, E Williams.

The annula dinner for members of the Wagga and District and Historical Society and their friends, will be held at the Riverine Club on Moday, March 21.

These functions have been popular in the past and as numbers will be limited, members are asked to make their reservations as soon as possible with the treasurer.

A monster fete is planned to celebrate the 10th birthday of the Museum on Saturday, April 23.

One of the most recent acquisitions at the museum is an ingenious item — an almond crusher and sheller, made at the Experimental Farm, Wagga's first such farm which later became the Agricultural College and now incorporates the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

Some interesting experiments were made in cropping at the Experimental Farm, established in 1892.

Records in the Mitchell Library tell of an unusual venture into farming at Lake Albert before that time. In 1871 Mr. George Elliot cultivated and sowed down four acres of lavender.

From the flowers he distilled a large quantity of lavender water.

The next general meeting of the society will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, March 21 at 8 p.m.

Visitors are welcome.

Guest speaker will be Mr. Noel Raines, who will outline the aims and activities of the Wagga Folk Music Club and discuss the Folk Festival which is to be held later this year.

Several members of the Wagga and District Historical Society will attend a seminar in Canberra on March 5 and 6.

LINK WITH WAGGA

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

At the Wagga and District Historical Society's annual dinner, the guest speaker will be Mr. E. John Minchin, grandson of Edward Stapleton Minchin, who was a stock and station agent in Wagga for about 25 years, from the mid 1860's to 1890.

The latter came to Wagga with the intention of becoming a legal clerk to his brother-in-law, Mr. W. Willans, after whom Willans Hill is named, he did not however, follow that calling.

Mr. John Minchin will be remembered by some Wagga residents. He practised as a solicitor here during 1930's before moving to Sydney where he was Deputy Crown Solicitor in N.S.W. until his retirement.

At present he is assisting Mr. John Bennett to write the History of solicitors in N.S.W.

He is looking forward to meeting old friends. His subject will be "Members of the Minchin family and their connection with early Wagga".

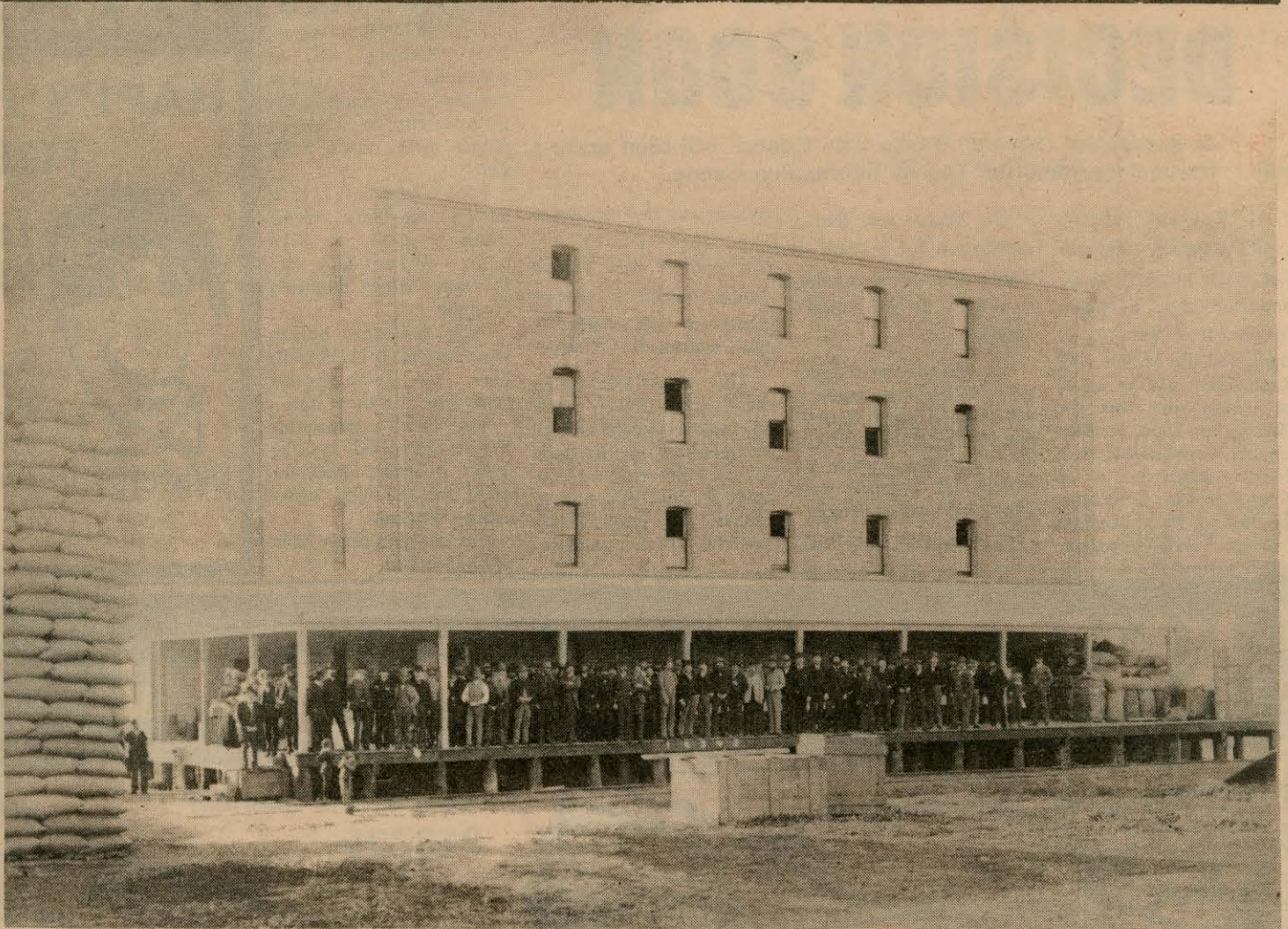
The dinner will be held at the Riverine Club on March 21 and will replace the usual monthly general meeting. Members are asked to finalise bookings for themselves and their friends as soon as possible, as numbers will be limited.

At the 10th birthday fete to be held at the Museum on April 23, there will be many attractions, including craft demonstrations. The Wagga Folk Music Group will entertain with appropriate music.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 3 March 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, John Minchin, Edward Stapleton Minchin, W Willans, John Bennett, Wagga Folk Music Group

THE MILLING COMPANY IN THE 1890'S



Museum's 10th anniversary

The Wagga and District Historical Society will celebrate the 10th birthday of its museum with a fete on Saturday, April 23.

The fete will start at 1.30 p.m. in the museum grounds.

Attractions include demonstrations of techniques of modern candle-making, leather work, china-painting and painting of Easter eggs which is a tradition of the culture of Slovenian people; also there will be sheep-shearing; the blacksmith shop and printing press will be in operation, and Australian ballads will be rendered by members of the Folk Music Club.

During the afternoon, the Member for Wagga, Mr. Joe Schipp, will present to the society, on

behalf of the Department of Consumer Affairs, a set of imperial weights and measures.

Afternoon tea will be served.

The task of keeping the doors of the museum open is becoming increasingly difficult for the small number of members available and willing to give their time.

As this is the main fund-raising effort for the year, it is hoped that the fete will be well-supported.

It is vital if the history of Wagga and district is to be kept alive.

Work on the enclosing of No. 2 Exhibition Hall has been completed.

This work was essential to protect the exhibits housed there.

At the next meeting of the society, to be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, April 18, at 8 p.m., there will be a short business meeting followed by a members' evening, when members and friends are invited to bring along an article of historical interest.

Visitors are welcome.

THIS photograph of the Murrumbidgee Co-operative Milling Company taken in the 1890's, was given to the Wagga Historical Society by Mr. W. Peadon, estate agent of Narrabri. His father, J. J. Peadon, was one of the six directors in the photo. The others were Messrs. R. Cox, G. P. Wilson, A. Smith, J. D. Norman and R. Dunn.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 April 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Joe Schipp, Murrumbidgee Co-operative Milling Company, W Peadon, JJ Peadon, R Cox, GP Wilson, A Smith, JD Norman, R Dunn

SATURDAY MAGAZINE



This photograph was taken during the 1891 flood, looking south towards the Railway Station in Fitzmaurice Street. The tower of the Grain and Produce store can be seen on the right, on the corner of Kincaid and Fitzmaurice Streets.

By "Bidgee Whaler"

Well-known Wagga resident, Mr. Norman Grinton, will be guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

When Mr. Grinton came to Wagga in 1919, he joined the staff of the Daily Advertiser; later he became a member of the City Council staff and for many years held the position of chief clerk.

He was foundation secretary of the first local historical society formed in 1946 when Mr. Walter Hardy was president.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 16. Visitors are welcome.

The Society continues to receive interesting items for the museum. An early one-stand shearing machine was recently installed and in operation at the annual fete.

For demonstration purposes the museum's two brown sheep were

From the past

divested of their winter coats and no doubt were not amused.

The latest acquisition, donated by the Department of Public Works, is the police call-box which formerly was situated in Baylis Street.

The numbers of

volunteers available for staffing the museum are small. Opening hours until more helpers are found will be: 2 till 5 p.m., weekends, public holidays and school vacations.

Museum exhibits, including early photographs, will be on display at the City Council Art Gallery from June 1 to 14.

The first excursion for the year will take place on Sunday, June 5, when members and their friends will visit the areas of Mundarlo, Tarcutta and Wantabadgery.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 May 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, 1891 flood, Norman Grinton, Walter Hardy, Museum

Old timers night



Photo of members of the Amalgamated Farmers' Union of New South Wales on the occasion of a "Conference to Amalgamate" held at the Town Hall, Wagga on October 8 and 9 1890. President, J. J. Peadon (centre second row); treasurer, J. D. Norman (standing far right); secretary, J. T. Williamson (standing far left), all of Wagga.

1890 farmers' meeting

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

Members of the Wagga and District Historical Society and their friends made an interesting excursion to Mundarlo and Wantabadgery recently.

At Wantabadgery Station they were shown over the homestead by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch. A visit was made also to the property of Mr. Scobie.

Work of restoration of items at the museum progresses slowly due to lack of helpers. The society would be glad to hear from anyone prepared to assist members in this work.

There is a sense of achievement in having helped to restore things from the past so that the history of the area can be preserved for the coming generations. Contact can be made through the honorary secretary, Mr. R. L. Palmer or Mr. Arthur Nixon.

The blacksmith shop which is in operation on special occasions, is complete except for one important item — an anvil. The society appeals to anyone owning an anvil for which they have no further use, to consider giving it to the museum. The donor's name will be recorded thereon.

The death of Mr. Russell Inglis was a loss to the society. Mr. Inglis had a great knowledge of early Wagga history and was always willing to pass it on to anyone seeking it. Sincere sympathy is offered to Mrs. Inglis and her family.

Since the formation of the society in 1962 it has been the custom to invite "old-timers" or residents whose families were associated with early Wagga, to speak at general meetings and many of these talks were put on tape.

These are now valuable records and one such tape will be heard at the next meeting. The speakers were Harry Carpenter, member of a well-known family; Paddy Roohan who worked on Borambola Station and Keith Cox of Livingstone Gully, all of whom are now deceased.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. on Monday June 20. Visitors are invited to attend.



First Australian car may have been built in Wagga

● Taken at Hedley's Brewery, this photo appeared in the Sydney Mail in 1910. Mr. Hedley is pictured in the light coloured suit.

BY "BIDGEE WHALER"

A letter has come to the Wagga and District Historical Society from Mr. W. A. Gray in which he states that he is of the opinion that the first Australian car could have been made in Wagga.

Built by Peter Allisoff and named "The Southern Cross", it was exhibited at the Wagga Show — the year unknown.

Mr. Gray is seeking help from anyone who might have information regarding it.

He has a photograph of it taken at the Wagga Show along with the then mayor, the town clerk, the president and secretary of the show society and others.

It was given to him forty years ago by a man who was aged between 60 and 70 years at the time.

A phone call to 226178 would be appreciated should anyone have any relevant information which could be passed on to Mr. Gray.

Speaking of cars, the one in the accompanying

photo seems somewhat out of place among the horse-drawn vehicles.

The owner no doubt, was one time local brewer, H. S. Headley who after 20 years in Albury, came to Wagga in 1902.

He joined the brewery firm of W. S. Eaton, married his daughter and later bought out the long-established business which in later years became that of Headley and Mahon.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 18.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Noel Kleine.

Mr. Kleine during his time as manager of the Wagga cemetery, became interested in the history of the early settlers who are buried there.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 15 July 1977

Keywords: Hedley's Brewery, HS Hedley, WS Eaton, WA Gray, first Australian car, Peter Allisoff, The Southern Cross, Noel Kleine, Historical Society

Early Baylis Street

By
"BIDGEE WHALER"

At the general meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society on Monday, August 15, at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, the guest speaker will be Mrs. Deacon, who as Alice Cormack resided during her girlhood years in Baylis Street, Newtown, as the area was then called.

Her father, Mr. Cormack, conducted a coach-building business.

Mrs. Deacon is well

known to Wagga residents.

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting is very welcome to do so.

Society members congratulate two life members, Mr. Wal Fife, M.H.R., Minister for Consumer Affairs, who is a patron of the Society, and the Mayor, Ald. Brian Allen, who have received the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

The accompanying photo is a very early one taken in Baylis Street.

The area enclosed by a paling fence on the right is

now "Castles Corner."

The Railway Hotel, pictured, was owned and conducted by Mrs. Morgan.

South of the hotel there was an area of vacant land called Morgan's Flat, which was used from time to time by a travelling circus.

The two-storeyed hotel was later purchased by the late Hubert d'Hudson and became a private hotel.

It is now incorporated in d'Hudson House.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 August 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, Mrs Deacon, Alice Cormack, Newtown, Wal Fife, Brian Allen, Queen's Jubilee Medal, Castles Corner, Railway Hotel, Mrs Morgan, Morgan's Flat, Hubert d'Hudson, d'Hudson House

See next page for photo that accompanied this article

MORGAN'S RAILWAY HOTEL.

W. D. DONNELLY

E. JOHNSON
BOOT MAKER
NEATLY EXEC.

DONNELLY TOBACCONIST. Fancy Goods

DONNELLY
GENERAL STORE



ACQUISITIONS FROM OLD WAGGA



By "Bidgee Whaler"

The Wagga and Historical Society has recently acquired a horse bridle which belonged to the Mate family.

It was given to a member of the Parramore family of Tarcutta by the brother-in-law of William Mate.

Thomas Mate brought it to Tarcutta when he first settled there. It is unusual in that it has hand-sewn, rolled reins.

Thomas Mate reached the site of Tarcutta in 1835. He liked the look of the good open country with a creek running through it so he decided to stay.

He then established Umutbee and Toonga stations, an area covering

120,000 acres, reaching from Old Borambola to Tarcutta. At his headquarters near the Tarcutta Creek, he set up a store and Inn and later a post-office.

All manner of goods were stocked to meet the needs of the settlers going south. The goods were brought from Sydney by bullock-waggon over unmade roads, boggy in winter and dusty in summer. It was a good business venture as the Port Phillip or Southern Road passed by his door.

The slab homestead, "Hambleton", beautifully restored, is now considered to be the finest slab building still in use as a residence, in the southern area. Thomas Mate extended his business activities further south when in 1850 he established his store in Albury, which was then called Sleepy Hollow.

The society will hold its annual general meeting at 8 p.m. on Monday, September 19 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street.

Reports will be given on the year's activities and office-bearers will be elected for the coming year. Visitors are welcome.

Some of the people in the accompanying photo, taken at the Wagga Bowling Club have been identified, but not all. A spokesman for the society said that it was though the photo had been taken prior to World War I. If anyone can help with identification a phone call to 226178 would be appreciated.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 September 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, Mate family, Thomas Mate, Umutbee, Toonga, Parramore family, Tarcutta, Hambleton, Old Borambola

Historical society needs more public involvement

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and Historical Society had the pleasure of a visit this week, from that fine singing star and guitarist, Mike McClellan who was in town for an evening performance.

The pioneer hut at the museum on Willans Hill provided an appropriate setting for his singing and playing of bush ballads.

At the annual meeting held recently, retiring president Mrs. Sylvia Walsh presented her report on the year's activities. She stressed the need for greater involvement by the community in the affairs of the society and of its museum.

The history of a town and its people should be the concern of each and every member of the community for it is they, in their own way who are creating that history.

Mrs. Walsh who has completed 2 years of a permitted 3 year term, did not seek re-election. Office-bearers for the coming year are: President, Mr. H. A. Nixon; hon. secretary, Mr. R. L. Palmer; hon. treasurer, Mr. M. A. Starr,

vice-presidents, Mrs. S. Walsh, Messrs. K. Geaghan and K. Swan; Committee members, Mr. and Mrs. C. Carlin, Mrs. M. Geaghan, Miss P. de Jersey, Mr. M. H. Gissing and Mr. R. Pearse.

Congratulations are offered to Mr. K. Geaghan, a vice-president, who was recently elected to the City Council and to Mr. Morris Gissing, patron and committee member, who was re-elected to council.

Members are invited by the Gundagai Historical Society to attend on Saturday afternoon the unveiling of a cairn commemorating the disastrous flood which descended on the town in 1852, claiming the lives of 89 of the town's residents, which numbered approximately 400. It is interesting to note that James Gormly who later became Mayor of Wagga and who served in Parliament for 37

years, was one of two members of a family of seven who survived the flood. He and an older brother clung to a tree until rescued.

An application has been made to the State Government for a grant to purchase urgently needed equipment for the museum.

At the general meeting to be held on Monday, October 24, the speaker will be the president, Mr. Arthur Nixon, who with Mrs. Youngson will speak about the Nixon family who came from Northern Ireland in the 1830s. In the early 1840s they were settled at Gregadoo, where they grew wheat, had vineyards and made the wine on the property. One son Robert operated a mill which he transferred to Wagga in 1857.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre at 8 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 21 October 1977

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Mike McClellan, Sylvia Walsh, K Geaghan, Morris Gissing, James Gormly, 1852 flood, Arthur Nixon, Mrs Youngson, Nixon family, Gregadoo, HA Nixon, RL Palmer, MA Starr, K Swan, C Carlin, M Geaghan, P de Jersey, R Pearse, K Geaghan

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the annual meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society held recently, Mr Arthur Nixon was elected President. Retiring President, Mrs Sylvia Walsh, who had served two years of a permitted three year term, did not seek re-election. Honorary Secretary is Mr R Palmer, Honorary Treasurer, Mr M Starr. The address is P.O.Box 90 Wagga, Wagga.

Recently some members made an interesting visit to Gundagai where a plaque was unveiled which commemorated the death by drowning of the school master and school mistress, Mr And Mrs McKenna and their five children plus eighty two other residents. Almost the entire population was wiped out by the disastrous flood of 1852.

The Wagga Wagga Society being aware of the need to preserve and restore old buildings which are an important part of our cherished heritage, was delighted when on November 7 the local branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney opened its restored premises which by "renovation" some years ago had lost part of its early character. Erected in 1882 it is a beautiful two-storeyed columned building adorned with cast iron. It stands on an imposing site between the Court house and the Post Office, both of which still retain their early grace and dignity.

The Society's Museum on Baden Powell Drive will be the venue for an open day to celebrate Australia Day.

Usual hours of opening of the Museum are :-Week-ends, Public Holidays and School Vacations: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.. School visits by arrangement.

History Society speaker

Professor John Griffith recently retired from the position of Head of the School of Health Administration, University of New South Wales will be the guest speaker at the Wagga and District Historical Society's An-

nual dinner of the Riverine Club on March 20.

He is a member of the Kangaroo Valley Historical Society and it was largely due to his efforts that a suspension bridge which spanned a 240 ft. wide creek was moved to the Kangaroo Valley Historic Village where it was re-erected over an 80 ft. Gorge.

It now serves to perpetuate the memory of the farmers who were obliged to build their own bridges within the "Valley."

Professor Griffith will speak about Henry Osborne who in early days was associated with the pastoral industry in the areas of Yerong Creek, Milbrulong, Osborne, Lockhart and Henty.

The general meeting to be held on Monday next at 8 p.m. at 102 Peter Street will be the first for 1978. It will take the form of a member's night when members are asked to bring along an item of historical interest and speak briefly about it.

A grant of \$2500 has been received from the New South Wales Government, Division of Cultural Affairs. It will be used for documentation, costume models, display cases and restoration of exhibits at the Museum.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 18 February 1978

Keywords: Prof John Griffith, Historical Society, Kangaroo Valley, Henry Osborne, Yerong Creek, Milbrulong, Lockhart, Henty

IT'S ALL A MATTER OF HISTORY

Early records of farm organisation given to Wagga society



● James Gormly of Wagga.



● Gunning Francis Plunkett of Yerong Creek.



● H. J. Crowe of Coolac, an early treasurer of the F. & S. A.

Last month primary producers throughout the State, took an important step towards greater unity with the amalgamation of the United Farmers and Woolgrowers Association and the Graziers Association into the Livestock and Grain Producers Association.

Prior to the inaugural meeting of the Wagga sub-branch of the new organisation, the UFWA held a short meeting to wind up its affairs.

President, Mr. L. Long, handed over the books of the association to Mrs. Sylvia Walsh, a trustee and vice-

president of the Wagga and District Historical Society. The society wishes to record its appreciation of this gesture and asks other organisations who have early records, photographs etc. for which they have no further use, to pass them on to the society's archives where they will be preserved and become a valuable contribution to the history of the district.

Some interesting information is found in the UFWA records:

In 1875 one of the earliest farmer organisations in the Riverina and in New South Wales was formed, mainly through the efforts of James Gormly who was unanimously chosen to be its first president. James Gormly, a prominent public figure in Wagga,

was on of the champions of the selectors. He was an outstanding advocate for land law reform, then, and for the ensuing 40 years. He entered State Parliament in 1885, as the member for Murrumbidgee. He represented Wagga from 1894 until 1904 and then entered the Legislative Council where he remained until his death in 1922.

The Organisation of Selectors had many teething problems and was destined to last only three years, but was succeeded by others of its kind. The first president of the Farmers and Settlers' Association was Gunning Francis Plunkett of Yerong Creek. (1893-1902). Joint Secretaries were M. M. Ryan,

Mundawaddera and J. T. Williamson, Wagga.

The earliest minute book of the local branch, dates from January 19, 1934, the cash book, however, commences on March 26, 1904. It reveals the following:

The annual subscription was 5 shillings, but, for ladies, it was one shilling and sixpence. Whether or not the ladies objected to the "high" fee, is not known but it was reduced in 1909 to sixpence. Perhaps the farmers were seeking to encourage the presence of the ladies at the meetings! Tickets for a social evening cost one shilling and sixpence.

The stamp and stationery account amounted to 9 shillings

and two pence. Meetings were held in The School of Arts, a popular meeting place in those days.

E. Crouch was secretary in 1904 and at least until 1910. It is difficult to determine from the cash book who was president, but it is likely that G. Linden held that position. His name appears as having been granted expenses along with E. Crouch, for attendance at various conferences. The first auditor, although the signature is not clear, appears to have been George Mitchell. He was still auditing the books in 1926.

After almost 70 years of existence in Wagga, the Farmers

and Settlers Association ceased to exist as such.

In 1962, the then secretary-treasurer, Mr. W. W. Vornarx, recorded in the minute book that the most significant event in the history of the branch was the transfer of the Farmers and Settlers' affairs and its financial assets to the newly formed United Farmers and Woolgrowers Association. The latest fusing of two important grower organisations should ensure a greater voice in the shaping of the destiny of primary producers in the future.

The Wagga and District Historical Society's annual fete, which this year, marks

the eleventh anniversary of the opening of its Museum on Willans Hill will be held at the Museum on Saturday, April 22.

Interesting speakers have been invited to the society's general meetings which are held on the third Monday of the month.

At the April meeting, Mr. Frank Blackwell of Junee will tell of his experiences while he was a guard on the railway for many years.

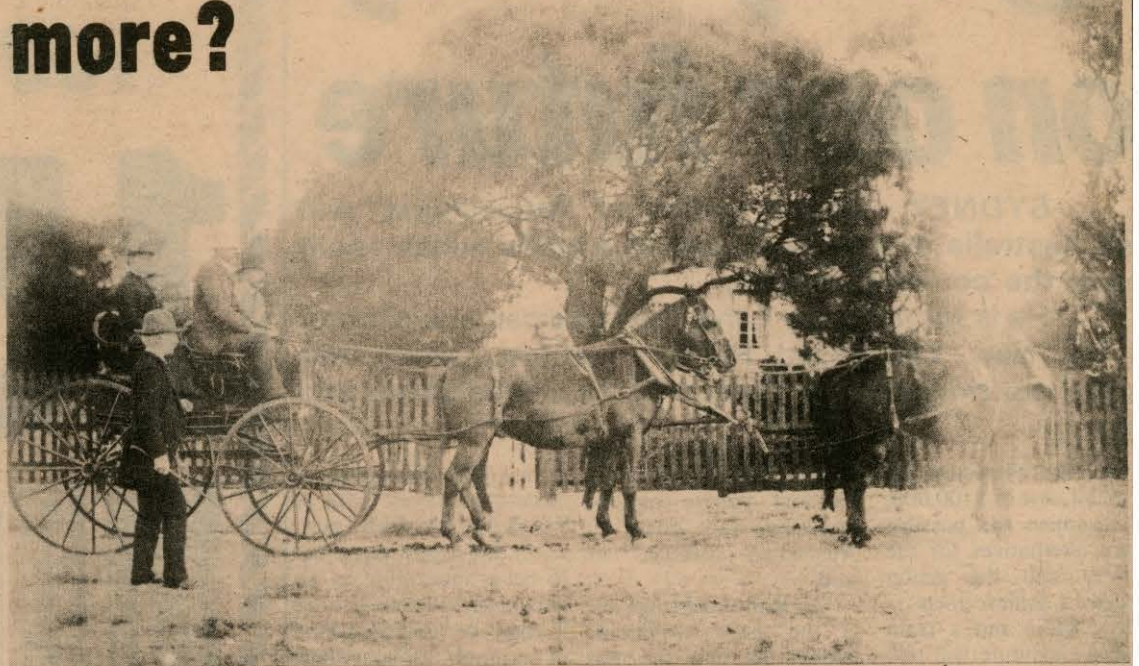
The Society congratulates Junee on reaching it's one hundred milestone.

The March meeting will be replaced by the annual dinner which will be held at the Riverina Club tonight.

HISTORICAL NOTES COMPILED BY 'BIDGEE WHALER

This photo was given to the Wagga and District Historical Society by Mr. Lyons of Kincaid Street. The only details available are that George Danby Esq. is standing beside the champion four-in-hand of the Adelaide show. The driver is George Monk Esq. Can anyone offer any further information? If so please phone 226178.

**Know
any
more?**



D-A No on 17 April 1978

Museum observes a birthday

The Wagga and District Historical Society will celebrate the museum's eleventh birthday on Saturday, April 22, at 1.30 p.m.

Attractions will include demonstrations of leather work, candle-making, enamelling and spinning. The Columbian printing press on which the "Advertiser" was first printed in 1868, will be in operation.

Between 2 and 2.30 p.m. Mr. Dick Smith will demonstrate sheep-shearing.

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

A merry-go-round will be there for the children. There will be many other attractions, including a trading table and a trash and treasure stall.

New acquisitions donated by the Riverina College of Advanced Education, will be on display. They include a 1904 Cliff and Bunting (two bag) chaff-cutter, clover rollers and a tractor.

Volunteers needed

The Society seeks help in staffing the museum. If more assistance was available the museum could be open each day, thus resulting in increased revenue.

At present many visitors to the city are disappointed when they find the museum closed on weekdays. During the school vacation it will be open each afternoon except Friday, from 2-5 p.m., as well as at weekends.

Special arrangements may be made for visits of school and college groups during the year.

It is important that the history of the district be kept alive. This is the aim of the society and indeed, the reason for its existence. Support is urgently needed.

Meeting tonight

At the next general meeting the guest speaker will be Mr. Frank Blackwell, of Junee, who, before his retirement, was a guard with the Railway Department. Mr. Blackwell is a most entertaining speaker.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m., tonight at 102 Peter Street.

Descendant of purser of Sirius to address Historical Society

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

At the next general meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society the speaker will be Mrs. Colin Palmer of "Gininderra," Kyeamba. Mrs. Palmer, who is also a descendant of the Palmer family, continues to research the family history and would welcome any relevant information.

Lieutenant John Palmer came to Australia with the first fleet in 1788.

He was purser on the "Sirius", which was later wrecked on a reef near Norfolk Island.

It was carrying almost-famine-stricken colonists from Sydney in search of fertile land on the island.

In the early 1790's John Palmer was appointed Commisary-General and granted 100 acres of land at Woolloomooloo where he built a palatial home.

He made several trips to England and brought his wife to Australia in 1797.

Some descendants settled at Gininderra near Canberra and later on members of the family came to the Kyeamba area in the early 1900's.

The Society regrets the passing of two life members, Mr. C. Mallyon of Wagga (a foundation member),

and Mrs. Bardwell of Sydney.

Some interesting maps have been given to the Society recently by Mr. Clem Wright. They include one

showing all pastoral runs in New South Wales, circa 1928, and a street map of Wagga dated 1937.

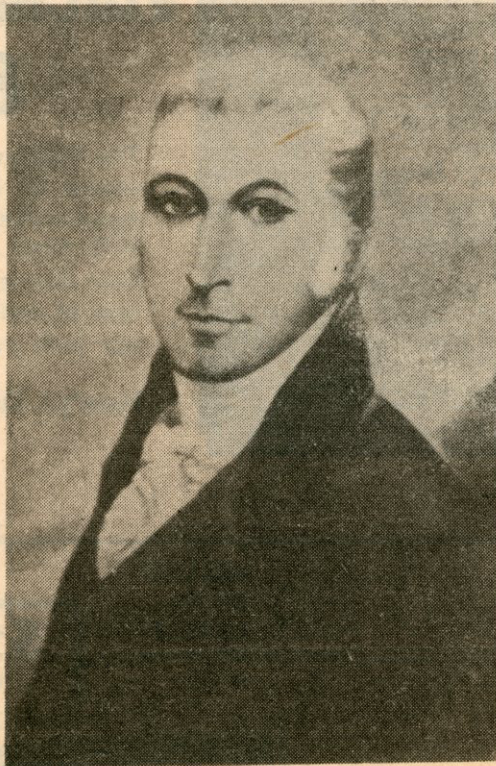
A display of early photos will be held in

the City Council Art Gallery from 31 July until 7 August.

The general meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday

June 19, at 8 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Pictured: Lieutenant John Palmer who came to Australia with the first fleet in 1788. He was purser on the "Sirius."



Narrandera is in the money

State Government grants to tourist and community projects at Narrandera in recent weeks have totalled \$342,000.

This figure does not include the dollar for dollar grant towards the construction of the new tourist information centre in Narrandera Park.

MIA Tourist Association secretary, Mr. Dan Clarke, told delegates at Darlington Point on Tuesday night that \$200,000 had been granted for a tourist complex at the Inland Fisheries Research Station and \$111,000 towards the cost of renovating the de-licensed Star Hotel as a youth hostel.

The Inland Fisheries project will feature, in large glass aquaria, species of warm water fish from most parts of Australia.

The former hotel will be converted into a modern 44 bed hostel and the balance of the overall converting costs will be provided by the Youth Hostels Association of NSW.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 15 June 1978

Keywords: Historical Society, Mrs Colin Palmer, Gininderra, Palmer family, John Palmer, Sirius, Kyeamba, C Mallyon, Mrs Bardwell, Clem Wright

All aboard for a history trip!

By "Bidgee Whaler"

Members of the Wagga and District Historical Society have planned a weekend, conducted excursion to Beechworth, next month.

The air-conditioned coach will leave at 8 am on Saturday, August 19, and will return late afternoon on Sunday, August 20.

The tour is not restricted to members only.

Anyone interested in joining the excursion can obtain details from the secretary, Mr. R. Palmer, 59 Kincaid Street, phone 212770.

Names are required by July 17 so accommodation arrangements can be finalised.

Photographs dealing with early Wagga history will be on display in the Wagga City Art Gallery from July 31 until August 7.

The society will be represented by Mr. K. Swan at the conference of societies affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The theme of the conference to be held in Goulburn on September 8-10, will be "Printing and Publishing of Country Writings".

A biography of Dr. J. W. Dwyer, the first Bishop of Wagga, which was published recently, is being well received. It has attracted favorable comment from several historians in the State. It was written by a trustee and vice-president of the society, Mrs. Sylvia Walsh, who is also the society's publicity officer.

The next general meeting of the society will be at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 17.

It will be a combined business and members' night.

Members are asked to bring along an article of historical interest and briefly explain its origin.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 July 1978

Keywords: Historical Society, R Palmer, K Swan, DR JW Dwyer, Sylvia Walsh

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S VISIT TO BEECHWORTH

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and District Historical Society will make an excursion this weekend to Beechworth for a conducted tour of the town's historic sites.

Those making the trip are asked to assemble at the main gates of the RCAE South Campus, near the band rotunda, at 8.15 a.m. on Saturday.

The Beechworth excursion will replace the August general meeting.

The next meeting of the society will be the annual meeting at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, September 18.

An early photo of Mr. King's butcher shop, Baylis Street, which appeared in the Riverina Rural Weekly supplement recently, was of particular interest to the

writer, whose grandfather, Daniel Maher of "Mount Pleasant," owned the shop at an earlier period.

It later passed into the hands of his son-in-law, Telacon Lloyd, the writer's father.

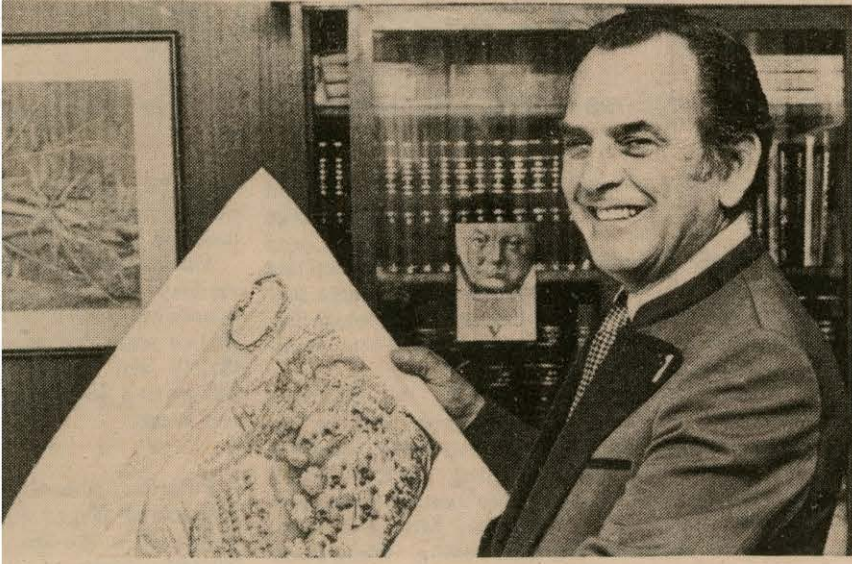
He and the first born members of his family of eight, lived behind the shop in a weatherboard cottage. His assistant who drove the "cutting cart" around the town, was Mick O'Halloran. He was the brother of Mrs. McDonough, whose husband, Mr. Harry McDonough, was mayor of Wagga in 1935-36.

Mr. Lloyd later disposed of his butchering business to Mr. King. The shop later was used as a fruit shop before being incorporated in Nesbitt's Furniture Emporium.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* August 1978

Keywords: Historical Society, Beechworth, King's butcher shop, Daniel Maher, Mount Pleasant, Telacon Lloyd, Mick O'Halloran, Harry and Mrs McDonough, Nesbitts

SOCIETY WILL 'VISIT' OUR SISTER CITIES



By BIDGEE WHALER

At the next general meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society the speaker will be Mr. W. Ellis, the Town Clerk. Mr. Ellis, who is a life-member of the Society, will speak about Wagga's sister cities, Leavenworth, Kansas, USA and Nordlingen, West Germany, both of which he has visited, the most recent visit being in 1977.

At the annual meeting held recently, the following office bearers were elected for the coming year: president, Mr. Arthur Nixon; vice presidents, Mr. K. Swan and Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; secretary, Mr. R. Palmer; treasurer, Mr. M. Starr; committee members, Miss P. de Jersey, Mesdames C. Carlin, M. Geaghan, V. Swan, Messrs M. Gissing, R. Pearse and C. Carlin.

Mr. Kevin Geaghan who served on the committee for many years, during which time, he held the position of president and vice president, did not seek re-election.

The society records its appreciation of the valuable service given by him in the past.

Members will be making an excursion to Tubbo Station on Saturday, October 14.

Another excursion is planned for November, this time to Tallangatta.

The society extends sympathy to the family of member, Mr. A. G. Morris, who passed away last week, also to the family of the late R. Harris. The latter supported the society in its efforts to preserve the history of the city and district.

The conference of Riverina Historical Societies which was to

have been held on October 28 at the Riverina College of Advanced Education, has been postponed and will now be held in March 1979. The October date coincided with important events in the area and with gatherings of a historical nature elsewhere.



Information is sought regarding "MENNEKE BULLOCK BELLS," made as early as the 1870's by Mr. Menneke of North Wagga. Would any person having anything to offer on the subject, please phone the writer on 226178, preferably early morning or early evening or write to Box 80 South Wagga.

The venue of the next general meeting is the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, October 16 at 8 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF WAGGA IS RECAPPED

The next general meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society promises to be a most interesting one.

The speaker will be Doctor R. A. Lewis, a life-member of the Society. His subject will be "Half a Century of Medical Practice in Wagga".

Dr. Lewis came to "Mittagong" Station in the Wagga in 1932 to become a resident medical officer at the Wagga Hospital.

His stay in Wagga, which initially was to be of six weeks duration, lengthened into years, a short period of which was spent at The Rock.

Dr. Lewis continues to practise at the surgery on the corner of Gurwood and Trail Streets, where he joined Drs. Martin and Weedon many years ago.

The memory of these two, well-known and respected doctors, is perpetuated in bronze in the Wagga City Council Chambers.

Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting which will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8pm on Monday, November 20.

The recent death of Mr Michael (Ike) Flinn of French Park, at the age of 98 years, severs a link with the history of the district.

Mr Flinn, possessed an active and clear mind and had many interesting stories to tell.

He recalled that his father, Michael Flinn was a shearer on the board at

"Mittagong" Station in the Yerong Creek area, in the mid 1860s when the notorious bushranger of the day, Dan Morgan, paid a visit.

At that time Mr Vincent occupied "Mittagong".

Morgan tied him to a post near the shed and threatened to kill him.

The pleas of Mrs Vincent saved her husband's life.

Morgan burnt down the shed and its contents.

Mr Vincent suffered burns from his ordeal.

The passing, a few weeks ago, of Mr Bernard Dowd, FRAHS, of Waverley, Sydney, at the grand age of 94 years, removed from the ranks of the State's historians, one of its most able researchers and writers.

Mr Dowd, in association with Mrs Sheila Tearle, wrote the history of the Mount Erin Presentation Sisters, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Order in 1974.

Mr Dowd had been a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society since 1933.

By "BIDGEE WHALER"



The RAHS, in its newsletter, writes that; "He had contributed greatly to its work, as a councillor, member of committees, research worker and writer. Barney Dowd was an acknowledged authority on land grants and occupation, his wide and deep knowledge stemming from a career of some forty years in the NSW Department of Lands. He became a Fellow in 1943 and, in honor of his service to the

Society, was elected an Honorary member in 1972. His death has removed a colorful personality."

The photo of the "House of the Month", "Springfield", which appeared in this paper some days ago, brought to mind something written, about 50 years ago, by the grand old lady of Australian literature, Dame Mary Gilmore.

Born Mary Cameron, in 1865, she spent some of her early years in Wagga.

She recalled having stayed with her grandparents (Beattys), first at "Springfield" and then at Brooklyn, when her years were very few."

It would appear that the Beatty family were the occupants of "Springfield" before it was acquired by Mr W. Commins in 1870.

A cultural tour of South and Central America, with particular emphasis on Art Museums and Archaeological Sites, is being arranged for April 1979, by the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Information about the tour which will be of interest to history lovers and artists alike, may be obtained from the Gallery.

An item recently donated to the Society's Museum by Mr Gibson an American Hammond typewriter, featuring an unusual barrel system, said to be about 100 years old. It belonged to Mr Annie Jack.

The Museum on Baden Powell Drive is open weekends, public holidays and school vacations, from 2-5pm.

Monday's meeting will be the last general meeting for the year.

The Society members express their appreciation of the assistance given by the City Council, Service Clubs, other organisations and citizens in general.

They extend to all the compliments of the coming Christmas season.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 November 1978

Keywords: Historical Society, Dr RA Lewis, Dr Martin, Dr Weedon, Michael (Ike) Flinn, French Park, Flinn family, Mittagong Station, Dan Morgan, Bernard Dowd, Sheila Tearle, Dame Mary Gilmore, Springfield, W Commins, Mr Gibson

"LUNCH IN THE PRISON EXERCISE YARD"

BY "BIDGEE WHELEN"

Have you ever lunched in the exercise yard of a gaol? Well, that is what members of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society and their friends did last week-end when on an excursion to Hay. Members were accompanied on the trip by a visitor from Korea and one from New Zealand.

The old Hay gaol was given to the Hay Historical Society for use as a Museum. It opened in 1976. The Society kindly allowed the "tourists" the use, for a barbecue lunch, of what was formerly the prisoners' exercise yard.

A grand job has been done in transforming the gaol. Each cell is fitted out with a different type of historical item.

A tour of the town's historical buildings was followed by a visit to Mungadal Station, one of the oldest Merino Studs in Australia. It was established in 1865. In recent years it was owned by Anthony Hordern.

Portion of the shearing shed on the 42,000 hectare (106,000 acre), property still has the original 16 inch slab walls.

In an area where the average annual rainfall is only 13 inches, one does not expect to see green pasture, crops and lucerne, yet that is what met the eye of the visitors. All of this is made possible by flood and spray irrigation.

As an experiment in diversification 45 hectares (200 acres), are sown to tomatoes.

It is a "Mungadal" ram's head that appears on our Australian 10 cent piece.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the week-end was the drive across

"One Tree Plain". After leaving the green irrigated pastures the scene changed abruptly. The road, although flat as a table top, gives the illusion of a gentle climb all the way. On the treeless plain all one could see, and from an isolated home, was salt bush and telephone lines. Here and there a pair of kangaroos stood erect and quizzically eyed the "intruders" as the coach sped by.

To drive across the "One Tree" is to experience a feeling of being engulfed by the sky, with the horizon seemingly just a stone's throw away.

Thirty seven kilometres along the road to Booligal stands the deserted and forlorn "One Tree" Hotel. Its very presence there in stark desolation, in the midst of nowhere, tells, more eloquently than words, the story of the trials of the early traveller, to whom it was an oasis in the searing heat of the plain. The hotel was the changing place for the horses of Cobb and Co coaches travelling to and from Booligal. It was destroyed by fire in 1905, was built as a replica of the original. It has long since been abandoned. A small group of trees stands sentinel not many hundred yards away. One was planted some years ago to replace the one which gave its name to the area.

Sunday saw the coach on its way to "Mark Tree Point", a spot near a bend in the Murrumbidgee. Here a tree, its advanced age indisputable, bears an engraving of a broad arrow, the letter "S" and a number resembling 6. It is attributed to Charles Sturt who passed there in 1829. The tree will be featured during the Sturt Sesqui-Centenary celebrations later this year.

The party moved on to "Ali Alwah" Station (original size 67,000 hectares or 300,000 acres), the home of Mr and Mrs Milliken who conduct "Cedar Grove" Merino Stud. The visitors saw and handled merino rams which carry a fleece of 38 lbs. They also watched the well-disciplined

helpie

named Bob, working sheep at his master's command. Lunch was taken on the lawns and the beautiful homestead of 66 squares was inspected. An unusual feature was the insulation by charcoal placed above the ceilings. This says a lot for the ingenuity and resourcefulness of an earlier generation.

Despite the size of the home and the lack of help, Mrs Milliken finds time for her hobbies of gardening, spinning, wood-work and tapestry.

Finally the party reached "Burrabogie" which was originally the out-station of "Uardry" and now the home of Mr and Mrs Andrew Mills. "Uardry" has a connection with Waggga Waggga. The owner in the 1840's, Henry Angel eventually came to this area and settled at Lake Albert.

"Burrabogie" homestead of 101 squares, was built for Charles Wentworth as was Vaucluse House, Sydney. There are similar features in both.

It was a delight to see these three historic properties and to meet the charming people, some of whom have connections with the area dating back 140 years. Thanks are due to them for their warm hospitality and for making the week-end a memorable one.

1979 (published version yet to be located)

Keywords: old Hay Gaol, Mungadal Station, One Tree Plain, One Tree Hotel, Mark Tree Point, Charles Sturt, Sesqui-centenary, Eli Elwah Station, Mr & Mrs Miliken, Burrabogie, Uardry, Andrew Mills, Henry Angel, WC Wentworth, Historical Society

Australia historian is to speak in Wagga

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

For the annual dinner, to be held at the Riverine Club on Saturday, March 31, the Wagga and District Historical Society has invited an interesting speaker, Mr. W. Henderson.

A fifth generation Australian, Mr. Henderson is, at the age of 47, Director of Hendersons' Federal Spring Works in Melbourne, which employs 2000 people.

When, as a child, he heard from his grandfather, tales of the gold-rush days, his interest was aroused and now he has to his credit seven books dealing with various aspects of Australian life.

They include "Australian Homes", "Transport", "Police in Australia", "Pioneer Home-life", "Sport and Entertainment", and "Pioneer Workers".

All of these books are read extensively in schools in Australia and England, together with seven atlases which he has produced.

The subject he has chosen for his talk is "The



Problems of writing Australian History."

This month, Directors of Draper Film Productions will be making a film in Wagga and have included the Society's Museum in the program.

Because of the interest shown in previous visits to "Myall", the property of Mr. and Mrs. R. Browne, the Society has arranged a one-day excursion for Saturday, March 17.

Departure point for the coach will be the main gate, South Campus of the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

A barbecue lunch will be provided.

The death recently of Mr. Reg Purtell, in his 90th year, removed a colorful character from our midst.

A familiar figure at the Saleyards, he knew many people, particularly in the pastoral and associated industries, and made many friends during his fifty two years as an auctioneer.

Many of the "boys" at the yards (as he called them) who became

successful in later years, gave credit to the training and advice received from him.

The Purtell family were among the early settlers on the "Ten Mile Creek", at Germanton (now Holbrook).

Born at Germanton, Reg came with his parents and family to Wagga where his father, William Purtell began business as an agent in 1904, near the former Australian Hotel.

Reg worked for a while with his father and obtained his auctioneer's licence at the age of 17 years.

He joined the firm of Meurant and Blake, which later became Meurant, Blake, Watts, Clark and is now the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company.

He retired from active work in 1959 but still retained his interest as an outside man, acting in an

advisory capacity for buyers and sellers.

The Society extends sympathy to Mrs. Purtell, a Society member, and to her family.

The Society wishes to record its regret at the loss, since the last meeting, of Mrs. Kath Higgins, and offers sympathy to her family.

Mrs. Higgins was a staunch member of the Society and was always ready to help whether it be by way of the pen or in other ways at fund-raising functions.

The warmth of her friendliness was appreciated as were her many kindnesses.

This writer has happy memories of times served together in the WANS (Women's Australian National Service), in Wagga during the Second World War.

Society activities in April will include the annual birthday fete at the Museum on April 21 and an excursion on April 28 and 29 to Tallangatta.

At the first general meeting for the year, a Members' Night is planned.

Members are asked to take an item of historical interest and to give a brief explanation of its significance.

Venue of the meeting is the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. on Monday, February 19.

This is a good opportunity for new members who have not previously attended a meeting, to go along and meet other members.

Visitors are welcome, why not take a friend.

GRANT FOR SCHOOL AT ARDLETHAN

The Federal Minister for Education, Mr. Carrick, has announced a Commonwealth grant to upgrade facilities at St. Joseph's School, Ardlethan.

The grant is for \$15,000 or 79% (whichever is the lesser) of the cost of building two new toilet blocks and refurbishing existing facilities at the school.

Member for Hume, Mr. Lusher, announced the grant yesterday.

Cost has doubled

CANBERRA — The cost of industrial disputes to Australia in November was almost double that for the same month a year ago, according to figures released yesterday.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reports that in November there were 170,700 working days lost through industrial disputes, and \$6,184,000 in wages was lost.

In November 1977 the figures were 88,900 days and \$3,253,000 in wages lost.

However, it was one of the least industrially troubled months since early in the year.

According to the ABS, the main contributors to the November 1978 figures were metal trades disputes in New South Wales and meat industry and brewery disputes in Western Australia.

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S.W. 2011 JACKA 1259A

Wanted: Someone to restore horse drawn vehicle

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The Wagga and District Historical Society would like to hear from any person with time to spare, who would be willing to assist in the restoration of horse-drawn vehicles at the Museum.

There are several such items of historic value deteriorating for the want of attention.

The Secretary may be contacted by phoning 212770.

Saturday, March 17 is the day set down for an excursion by bus to "Myall," Urangeline."

Members are asked to finalise with the treasurer by March 19 reservations for the annual dinner to be held at the Riverine Club on Saturday, March 31.

The dinner will replace the March monthly meeting.

Guest speaker will be Mr. W. Henderson, a Melbourne historian who has several books of Australian history to his credit.

+ + +
A working bee will be held at the Museum on April 7 to prepare for the 12th Birthday fete.

Members hope that the fete, to be held on Saturday, April 21 will be well supported as it is the main fund raising effort for the year.



Many demonstrations are planned, including crafts, sheep-shearing and wolfram crushing.

Home-made cakes and garden plants will be available.

+ + +
Mention in an earlier article of the Purtell family of "Ten Mile Creek" Station near Holbrook or

Germanton, as it was then known, has brought forth a query as to how the property got its name.

It was so named because when Mr. Purtell took it up he fixed his headquarters and later built his home ten miles from the stock yard on "Yarra Yarra," formerly known as "The Billabong," the property which Reverend Father Therry occupied in 1836.

"Ten Mile Creek" originally embraced an area in excess of 18,000 hectares and included the land from which the Bowler property "Annandale" was formed, also "Mountain Creek."

The latter was used by Mr. Purtell as an outstation.

John Purtell once said that when he first took up "Ten Mile Creek" in 1837 he and the Aborigines

were the only people to be seen in the area.

His wife recalled in later years that, on one occasion when alone at the homestead, she was terrorised by bushrangers.

On seeing them approaching in the distance she secured the family money in the folds of her voluminous skirt.

GEB strike

SYDNEY. — A meeting of 76 NSW Grain Elevator Board employees yesterday rejected a recommendation of Mr. Justice Watson, of the State Industrial Commission to end a five-day strike which has halted NSW grain exports.

The strike, which began on Monday, has held up the cargo ship Shun Oh, which had half-loaded an 18,500 tonne consignment of oats to Japan.

SPEAKER DESCENDANT OF PIONEER FAMILY

HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK with 'Bidgee Whaler'

Guest speaker at the April meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. W. J. Cuthill, of Camberwell, Victoria, who is a descendant of the Brien family and thus has a connection with the early history of Wagga.

Clara Brien married Robert Holt Best who, in 1832, first occupied the Wagga Wagga Run.

Mr. Cuthill is engaged in research of the Brien family tree and his talk titled "The Amateur Historian," will centre around this subject.

George Best was born in 1763 and transported to New South Wales in 1791. Because of his good behaviour and in recognition of his work as a seedman on the Government Farm at Toongabbee, he

gained emancipation in 1797.

He took up farming and gradually moved inland through Goulburn and Yass and along the Murrumbidgee River, with his increasing number of livestock.

There does not appear to be any evidence that he himself came to this area, but, in 1832 his sons, Robert and William occupied the Wagga Wagga Run of 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares), which has a 10 kilometres (six mile) frontage to the Murrumbidgee River. There home was a bark dwelling about 2.5 kilometres downstream from the present Hampden Bridge, on the south bank.

Robert brought his wife Clara and some of their ten children there in 1842. Other children were born in that first home of bark, which suffered in the floods of 1852-53. Another home was built at "Flowerdale" on higher ground. Late in 1853, Robert Holt Best was

killed while riding a horse. A few years later his widow, Clara, married E. C. Pearson.

Although the name of Best disappeared from the area, the Best family burial ground remains on "Flowerdale" as a reminder of the first Wagga settlers south of the river.

During the celebrations of the Centenary of Local Government in 1970, a pilgrimage was made to the Best family cemetery to honor the pioneers.

The society welcomes the recent announcement of a grant from the New South Wales Government of \$1000 for the restoration of exhibits.

Members are busy preparing for the annual birthday fete to be held at The Museum, Baden Powell Drive on Saturday, April 21 at 1.30 p.m.

Many attractions are planned for this, the main fund-raising effort of the year. Afternoon tea will be served, home-made cakes will be available as well as

other goods, including garden plants. There will be an art show, trash and treasure stall and numerous demonstrations.

Venue of the monthly meeting will be the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m., Monday, April 23.

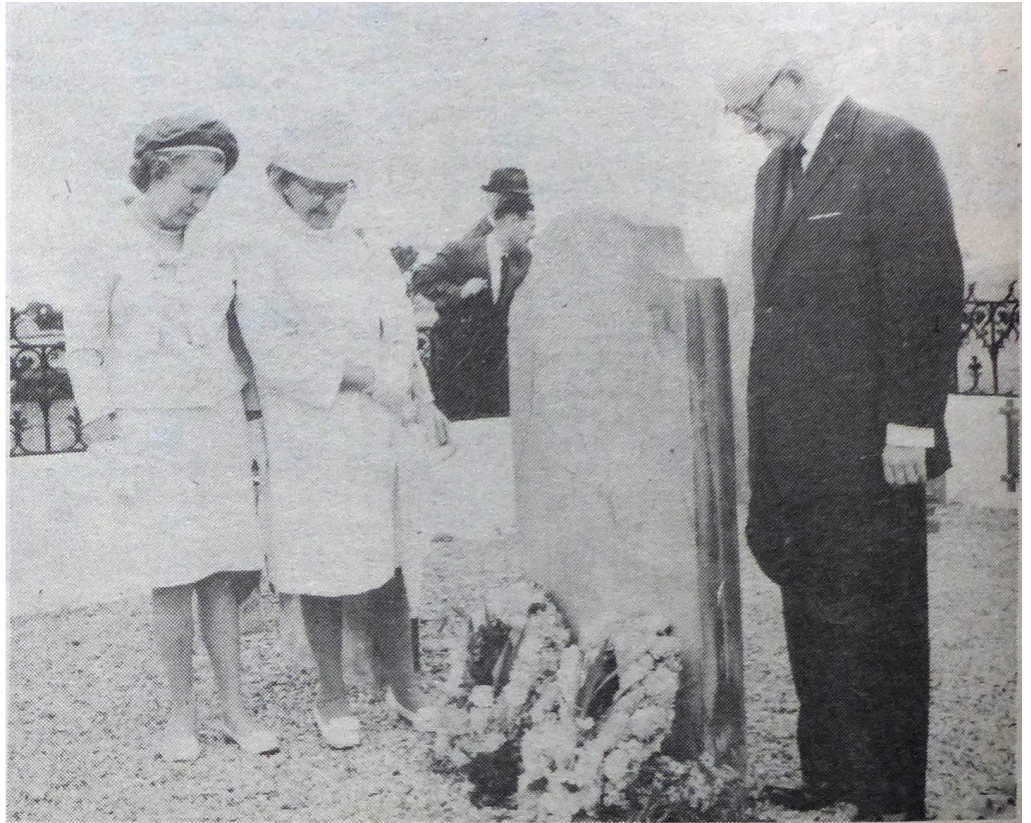
Visitors are welcome.



Note: the photos accompanying this article are on the next page

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 11 April 1979 p18.

Keywords: Historical Society, WJ Cuthill, Brien family, Robert Holt Best, George Best, Best family, Wagga Wagga run, Flowerdale, EC Pearson, Museum



ABOVE: A Daily Advertiser photograph taken during the Local Government Centenary Celebrations in 1970 shows Miss J. Gruber (with umbrella), of Young, a great-great niece of Robert Holt Best. Miss Gruber laid a wreath on the latter's grave watched by Mrs. Sylvia Walsh, vice-president of the Wagga and District Historical Society and the Mayor, the late Alderman R. J. Harris.

LEFT: Robert Holt Best and his wife Clara (nee Brien). Robert Holt Best was Wagga's first settler.

These photos accompany the article on the previous page.

During the celebrations of the Centenary of Local Government in 1970, a pilgrimage was made to the Best family cemetery to honour the pioneers.

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Members are busy preparing for the Annual Birthday Fete to be held at The Museum, Baden Powell Drive on Saturday 21 April at 1.30 p.m..

Many attractions are planned for this, the main fund-raising effort of the year. Afternoon tea will be served, home-made cakes will be available as well as other goods, including garden plants. There will be an art show, trash and treasure stall, demonstrations of pottery making, leather work, spinning and weaving, candle-making, lapidary, printing, sheep-shearing and wolfram crushing.

Members of the Society offer sympathy to Mrs Pam Taylor in the loss, last week of her husband. Since joining the Society in the last few years, Mrs Taylor has been a very dedicated and obliging worker.

Venue of the monthly meeting will be the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8.p.m., Monday 23 April. Why not come along and hear something of our early settlers. Visitors are ~~very~~ welcome.

April 1979 (published version yet to be located)

Keywords: Best family, Pam Taylor

On Tuesday 29 May, an excellent opportunity will be provided for people to hear something of Australia's early history and of our first settlers, the Aborigines.

The Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society and the Institute of Riverina Studies are supporting the Convocation of the Australian National University in the presentation of one of the Convocation lectures for 1979. The talk forms part of a series of lectures instigated by the Australian National University with the assistance and support of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

The speaker will be Dr Rhys Jones, Senior Fellow in Pre-history in the above University. Dr Jones, one of the most prominent young experts on Australian Archaeology, is giving the 1979 series of lectures in centres throughout Australia.

Title of the talk is "An Empty Landscape and the First People". It deals with Australia as it was 25,000 to 50,000 years ago when the original inhabitants began to arrive, explore and settle the Continent.

Venue of the meeting is the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8-15 p.m.. All who are interested are invited to attend.

Following the success of previous excursions the Historical Society has planned three more for the year, when places of historical interest in the Riverina will be visited.

Society vice-president, Mrs Sylvia Walsh addressed the May meeting of the Australian Catholic Historical Society in Sydney recently. Besides Society members and historians there were present also members of the Dwyer families and former residents of Wagga. Subject of the talk was the

WAGGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

A project undertaken by the South Wagga Wagga Lions Club as a community service, has resulted in the society now having, at its museum, a much-needed amenities block.

The material was supplied by the above club and the work done by its members on a voluntary basis.

President, Mr. Col Tokley, conceived the idea, the board agreed and the members got to work, led by Mr. Bede Fallon, a builder, and Mr. Dino Serrafin, both capable tradesmen, who spent many hours at the museum after their own day's work was finished.

Over a period of months they were assisted, from time to time, by 20 to 25 other club members.

This great team effort has provided a facility for the many people who visit the museum each year. The society appreciates this magnificent gesture and wishes to publicly record its gratitude.

By **BIDGEE WHALER**

To commence its participation in celebration of the Charles Sturt Sesqui-Centenary, the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society has invited Mr. J. F. Lacey to address its next meeting.

Mr. Lacey is well known in the district, being executive officer of the regional committee for promotion of decentralisation and development in the Riverina.

He is also chairman of the three-State committee whose task it is to organise the Sturt Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations this year.

His talk on this subject

will, no doubt, be of great benefit to members of the society who are already making arrangements to "Follow in the footsteps of Sturt" in November, in the area surrounding Wagga.

The only difference will be the mode of transport — the motor coach being substituted for the horse.

In 1975 the first Conference of Historical Societies in the Riverina was organised by the Wagga Wagga Society and held at the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

Delegates requested that the subject of a future con-



restoration of all types of museum items, including vehicles.

Besides tutorials there will be a series of workshops, the final one of which will be held at the museum.

All sessions will be conducted by staff and advanced students from the post-graduate Masters course in the conservation of works of art and artifacts at the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

A request has come from a Bathurst resident seeking information about his grandfather, surname Thomsett or Tomsett, who worked on the construction of the railway bridge across the Murrumbidgee River in the 1870s and was married in Wagga Wagga in 1879.

He moved to Temora in 1880. A phone call to 226178 by any reader who has relevant information, would be appreciated.

On Sunday, July 1 following a barbecue lunch at the museum, society members will make a coach tour of historical sites in the city.

Venue of the next meeting will be the Education Centre, 102 Pete Street on Monday, June 25, at 8 p.m.

Visitors are welcome.

ference be related to restoration and conservation.

Although it was intended to hold a conference annually, many difficulties arose and consequently no further conference was held.

The second conference however, will be held on July 13-15, the theme of which will be "Conservation and Restoration in the Small Museum."

It will be held at the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

The keynote address will be delivered by the recently appointed Director of the New South Wales Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Dr. Lindsay Sharpe.

Expert advice will be available to delegates, on

CHICKENS

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 21 June 1979 p28.

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Col Tokley, Bede Fallon, Dino Serrafin, JF Lacey, Thomsett, Tomsett

CHURCH HISTORY

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be Rev. Archdeacon K. A. Osborne who has been Rector of Saint John's Church of England since 1962.

His talk on Saint John's Church in Wagga is titled "The Way An Eagle Flew."

This is the first in a series of talks on local church history, to be presented by the society this year.

The foundation stone of Saint John's Church was laid in June, 1859, by Police Magistrate, Henry Baylis who gave his name to the town's main street.

It was completed for services in October, 1860, and consecrated by the Anglican Bishop of Sydney in September the following year.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, July 16 at 8 p.m.

Visitors are welcome. The society cordially invites members of the Anglican community to be present.

Plans have been finalised for the Regional Conference of Historical Societies to be held this weekend. Delegates will attend from Societies throughout the Riverina and beyond.

The society congratulates its president, Mr. Arthur Nixon, on being named Citizen of the Month, by Central Wagga Apex Club.

What promises to be an interesting excursion has been arranged for August 18 and 19 when members and their friends will visit

Concern at dog baiting

Wagga Police have warned people to take extra care following a spate of dog poisonings over the weekend.

Three dogs were reported poisoned in the Chaston Street area. All were household pets.

Police, investigating the method and type of poison used, advised parents to keep a close watch on their children.

places of historical interest in the Hay district.

A working bee will be held at the Museum on Saturday, August 11. Many willing helpers are needed.

Mention in the Daily Advertiser" recently of the origin of some suburban names, brought back many memories.

When James Bolger retired to Sydney from his property, "Toronto" at Tootool, he purchased the property, Mount Austin, for his youngest son, Chris, who was unmarried and lived alone on the property.

It was a sad Christmas for the Boiger family when their son was found murdered, his body having been placed in an underground tank.

He was buried from Saint Michael's Cathedral on December 31, 1935.

The writer recalls seeing, on that fateful weekend, the smart sports car which Chris owned, being driven through Mount Austin gate by some young people and remembers remarking that it was unusual to see someone other than Chris driving his car.

He was not in the habit of lending it to anyone.

At that time the tragedy had not been discovered.

Mount Austin was situated on the eastern side of Albury Road (since named Bourke Street), and bounded on the north by Fernleigh Road.

Following the tragedy the house was unoccupied for some time and later on the name was changed to "Mirabooka."

The homestead portion was sold to the Housing Commission for development. "Mirabooka" is now hemmed in by modern homes.

Ironically, the Mount Austin Primary School was built, not on Mount Austin, but on the opposite property, "Mount Pleasant."

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

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3,000 UNITS



article on previous page published: *Daily Advertiser* 12 July 1979

Keywords: Rev K Osborne, church history talk #1, St John's, Henry Baylis, Historical Society, Arthur Nixon, James Bolger, Mount Austin, Mirabooka, Mount Pleasant

Edgar Beale to address meeting

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

To continue the theme on Charles Sturt in the sesqui centenary year of his expedition in this area, the Wagga and District Historical Society has invited Mr. Edgar Beale to address its next meeting.

Mr. Beale, of Wollongong, is a lawyer and his recreation, history, has proved of great value in the field of Australian history.

He has written a series of critical essays on Sturt to be published in November.

Earlier this year, he addressed the Royal Australian Historical Society on "The Legend and Reality of Sturt", a very revealing subject.

He hopes to write a biography of Sturt.

He has to his credit other such books, including one on the explorer, Edmund Kennedy of Cape York.

In recognition of his valuable writings on Australian history, the University of Wollongong has awarded him an honorary degree of D.Litt.

The meeting will be held on Monday at 8 p.m. at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street.

Society members will take an excursion to the Hay district this weekend.

There are a few coach seats available for non-members. Phone 212770 or 214502.

The workshop conducted recently at the Museum, by staff and advanced students from the Post-Graduate Masters Course in Conservation of Works of Art and Artifacts at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, was voted an unqualified success by the 30 participants who attended from Yass, Harden, Temora, Lockhart, Junee, Jindera, Canberra and Wagga.

It was resolved to hold a workshop on similar lines in August, 1980, to deal with the conservation of paper and photographs.

Recent acquisitions include two telephone call boxes, one of which (the half-door type), was the last of its kind in use in Wagga.

They were donated by Telecom.

Mr. Col Tokley has given a wool-branding stencil found on his residential block which was formerly Vincent property.

It reads: "E.J.V. Vinedale".

This brings to mind early settlers of the Lake Albert area, the Vincent family formerly of "Mittagong" Station in the Yerong Creek district.

Mrs. Vincent gave the land for the Methodist Church which was built on the north-eastern corner of Johnston and Fitzmaurice Streets in 1877. The gift of land to the church included the portions where the Commercial Bank of Sydney and the Post Office now stands.

The Commonwealth Bank is now situated on the former church site.

A grant of \$350 from the Royal Australian Historical Society to assist with the printing of Journals No. 4 and 5, is most welcome.

It was the intention of the society to publish a journal annually.

Material is in hand but publication ceased with No. 3 Journal in 1970, due to lack of finance.

The WEA Organisation which, in past years, has provided a variety of evening classes for adults, has now ceased its activities.

In the disbursement of its funds, an amount of \$300 has been given to the society in recognition of its past and continuing contribution to education.

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY

KEITH SWAN WILL SPEAK OF 'THE BURNING BUSH'

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The second in a series of talks on Wagga churches will be given at a meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society next week.

The meeting, which is also the annual meeting, will be held on Monday at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 p.m.

The speaker will be local historian, Mr. Keith Swan, a vice-president of the society.

The title of the talk is "The Burning Bush — Presbyterianism in the Eastern Riverina."

Earlier this year the

Presbyterian Church elected Mr. Swan Moderator of the Presbytery of Wagga.

The first Presbyterian Minister was Rev. Patrick Fitzgerald. In fact he was the first minister of any of the religious denomination to take up residence in the town. Arriving from Scotland in 1849, he came to Wagga in 1851.

Chief Justice, Sir Alfred

Stephen laid the foundation stone of Saint Andrew's Church in October 1869 and the church opened for services in November the following year.

Excursion

Society members and their friends will make an excursion in November to district areas through which Charles Sturt travelled in 1829.

Mr. Swan's recent book, written in collaboration with Mrs. Margaret Carnegie, has as its title, "In Step With Sturt."

It is due to be released shortly.

Society President, Mr. A. Nixon, and Mrs. Nixon will represent the society at the annual conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society to be held in Sydney on October 13-14.

Interesting items relating to the early history of the district continue to find their way to the Society's Museum.

A recent acquisition is a mortising machine

donated by Mr. Stan Baumer. It was used by his grandfather in the making of window frames for Mount Erin Convent, which opened in December 1876.

Membership of the society is steadily increasing as more and more people realise the importance of preserving the past, but many more are needed if the work of recording and preserving our history is to continue.

In an endeavor to fittingly commemorate the centenary of the opening of the Railway to Wagga, the society, in 1978, approached the NSW Railways Department to have a steam train make a journey from Sydney. The cost however, was too great for the society to undertake.

Three members of the committee attended a meeting with the Mayor some weeks ago when celebrations were discussed. The society will co-operate with plans for any such celebrations.



● St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wagga

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 September 1979

Keywords: church history talk #2, Keith Swan, St Andrew's, Presbyterianism, Rev Patrick Fitzgerald, Sir Alfred Stephen, Historical Society, book, Stan Baumer, Mount Erin Convent

(Keith Swan and Margaret Carnegie. *In Step with Sturt*)

St. Michael's was opened in 1859

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The third in a series of talks on churches will be given at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society, to be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, October 22 at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Sylvia Walsh, a vice-president of the Society, will speak on the establishment of the Catholic Church in Wagga Wagga (1858), under the title "In a Bend of the Murrumbidgee."

The foundation of the first Saint Michael's Church was laid in 1858 and the Church opened on December 4, 1859.

It was situated on the eastern side of Church Street on land originally set aside for Church of England purposes.

The first Catholic School, which operated under the Denominational School Board, was established in the Church in 1860.

The Church was demolished in 1965.

All interested in the subject are welcome to attend the meeting.

At the annual meeting held recently, the following office-bearers were elected for the coming year: President, Mr. A. Nixon; Vice-Presidents, Messrs K. Swan, M. Gissing and Mrs. S. Walsh; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Palmer; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Starr; Committee



members, Miss P. De Jersey, Mesdames N. Carlin, V. Swan, P. Taylor and Mr. C. Carlin.

The President reported on a successful year in all areas of activity.

The highlight of the year being the number of interesting excursions which members made to place of

historical interest in the Riverina and beyond.

On November 10 the final excursion for the year will take place.

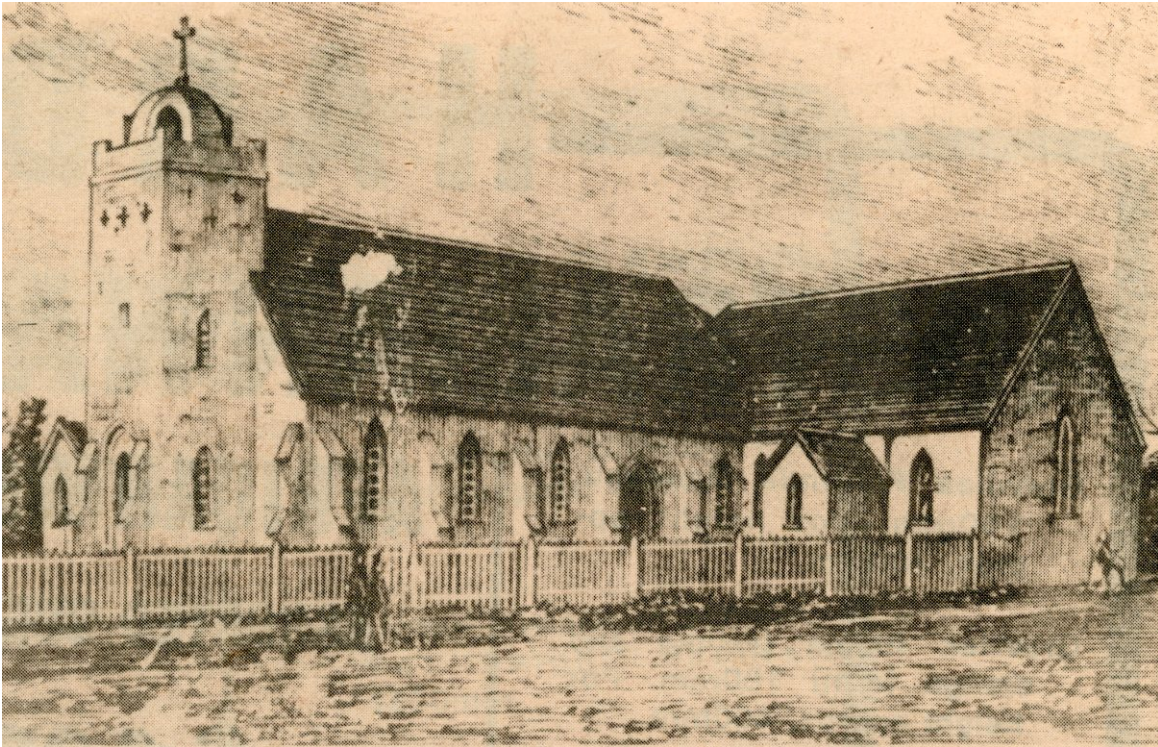
To celebrate the Sturt - Sesqui - Centenary, members and their friends will "follow in the footsteps of Sturt," from Gundagai to Wombat, Malebo and Deepwater.

Plans are in hand for publication of the Society's No. 4 Journal which will be available next year.

A hand-woven tapestry donated to the museum by Miss Sheila Jackson, came from an Anglican Convent in Sussex, England, where Miss Jackson's sister is Mother Superior.

Picture shows the first Saint Michael's Catholic Church, opened in 1859 by Rev Father Michael McAlroy. It was demolished in 1965.

... continued on next page, including photo of the first St Michael's Church ...



Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 October 1979

Keywords: church history talk #3, Catholic Church, Sylvia Walsh, St Michael's, Sheila Jackson, Historical Society, Rev Michael McAlroy, A Nixon, V & K Swan, M Gissing, R Palmer, M Starr, P De Jersey, N & C Carlin, P Taylor

HISTORICAL TOPIC



The second Wagga Methodist Church, on the corner of Johnston and Fitzmaurice Streets, opened in 1877. The original Church is just visible behind the trees on the right. It opened in 1865.



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Fourth in series About churches

By **BIDGEE
WHALER**

The fourth in a series of talks on Churches will be given at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. on Monday.

The speaker, society member, Mr R. Wade, was, until his retirement Deputy Prince of the former Teachers' College in Wagga.

His subject is titled "A Brief History of the Wagga Methodist Circuit."

The land for the for the

Methodist Church was donated in the 1860's by Mrs. Vincent, formerly of "Mittagong" Station, Yerong Creek.

Descendants in the area at the present time are grandsons, Messrs T. V. and R. L. Brunskill and great grandsons, Mr Ivor Maher of Fernleigh Road and Mr Keith Condon.

First church

The first church, a small

First church

The first church, a small one, was built in Johnston Street in 1865 by Charles Hardy.

The foundation stone of its successor, built on the corner of Johnston and Fitzmaurice Streets (the present site of the Commonwealth Bank), was laid by Mr Edward Holloway of Tooyal in 1876. It opened in 1877. Part of the original gift of land was later sold for the erection of the Commercial Bank of Sydney and the Post Office.

Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting on Monday night.

The text of all four talks dealing with the Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist Churches respectively will be published in the Society's No. 4 Journal.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 November 1979 p14.

Keywords: Methodist Church, church history talk #4, R Wade, Mrs Vincent, Mittagong Station, TV & RL Brunskill, Ivor Maher, Keith Condon, Charles Hardy, Edward Holloway, Tooyal.