

A milestone for Bidgee Whaler

By BIDGEE WHALER

The column which came into being at the time of the centenary of Local Government, is 10 years old this month

But more of that later. The Wagga and District Historical Society opened its 1980 series of meetings with a Members' Night. Many items of historical interest were brought along by members who spoke of their origin and significance.

Tomorrow the society's annual dinner will be held at the Riverine Club when the guest speaker will be Professor Geoffrey Blainey.

Professor Blainey, a leading Australian historian, is the Ernest Scott Professor of Australian History at the University of Melbourne and chairman of both the Australian Council and the Australian-China Council.

One of the best known books is *Tyranny of Distance*.

He was interviewed some weeks ago by the late Robert Moore on the ABC television program *Faces of the Eighties*.

Grant

A grant of \$2700 has been made to the society by the New South Wales Government, through the Premier's Department - Division of Cultural Activities, to meet the cost of microfilming of newspapers, restoration work at the Museum and tutor fees for regional conferences.

The committee was represented recently at the launching by Dr. David Denholm at Angus and Robertson's of Peter Freeman's book, *The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology*. Congratulations to Peter on this fine contribution to Riverina history.

Sad to say, because of the enormous cost of restoration and preservation many of these early shearing sheds, a legacy of the romantic past when Australia rode on the sheep's back, are fast disappearing.

Members will make their first excursion for the year on Sunday, March 30, when a coach tour of the city's historical sites will be made, following a barbecue luncheon at the Museum.

The society's birthday fete will be held at the Museum on Saturday April 19 at 1.30 pm. It is the main fund raising effort for the year so the society is hoping for the continued support of the community.

Craft demonstrations at the fete will include spinning and weaving, wood carving, leather work and ornamental wood craft. Other attractions will be shearing, pony rides, stalls with cakes, sweets and plants. Afternoon tea will be served.

At the time, ten years ago when the writer was requested to produce an article dealing with the society's activities, it was almost inevitable that the choice of nom de plume would be "Bidgee Whaler."

The name has had a fascination for the writer since childhood when she listened to her elders tell of the strange wanderer who roamed the North Wagga flats and beyond, sleeping at night in the hollow of a river gum.

Identity

Some may ask - Who was the 'Bidgee Whaler'?

The Murrumbidgee Whaler (to give him his full title) has been a conversational piece for many years. A few of the older folk will have it that he was just a myth but there is no doubt that he was indeed a very real person.

There have been many and varied stories told of who and what the 'Whaler' was, but all seemed to agree on one point - that he was of genteel English birth and that he had been well educated. Through drink or gambling or both he disgraced his

family and was banished to Australia, a remittance man, who quickly squandered his remittance money when it arrived every three months from the old country.

In the earlier years he was, it seems, interesting to talk to but as time went by and he indulged in a "drop of the doings" more frequently he became sullen, morose and uncommunicative.

Mr. L. J. Beatty, a first cousin of Dame Mary Gilmore, recalled some years ago, tales of the 'Bidgee Whaler'.

Mr. Beatty lived at Cartwrights Hill where his father owned the Brooklyn vineyard and winery which was near the junction of the Junee and Coolamon Roads.

Mary Gilmore's father, Donald Cameron, built the Caledonian Inn on the opposite of the Junee Road. Before the extension of the railway to Wagga the inn was an important stopping place for coaches.

The story is that the 'Whaler's name was Joe Banks - he was sometimes called "Mad Joe." One day he called at the Beatty home and had to be rescued from Nelson the family dog, a huge St. Bernard. Old Joe did not call again.

On one occasion the 'Whaler was sitting on the verandah of the Caledonian (or so the story goes) when the local brewer W. Eaton called on his rounds as was the custom in those days, canvassing for trade. It was usual on such visits for the brewer to shout for whoever happened to be in the bar at the time.

Walking to the bar door Bill Eaton asked Joe if he would like a drink. Joe grunted his assent and the publican poured him a pint. After the third invitation and the pouring of the third pint Joe took the mug and without a word walked on to the verandah, poured the contents into his billy, then picked up his bluey and disappeared down the road.

It is said that in his later years one of his eccentricities was the wearing of three hats at the one time.

On occasions the local police took Joe into custody. They cleaned him up and trimmed his hair and beard before sending him on the road again.

In the Riverine Club hangs a painting which bears the title "The Murrumbidgee Whaler." He is depicted complete with billy, tucker bag and bluey.

The *Back to Wagga Souvenir Book* printed in 1927 carries a picture of the 'Whaler and in its commemorative issue of Tuesday October 18 to mark the celebrations, *The Daily Advertiser* printed the following poem:

'BIDGEE WHALER
What are his thoughts as he
squats o'er his fire
On the banks of the placid
stream?
A grey headed figure, the colour
of tan
Does gay romance tinge his
dream?

In the heart of the gum coals,
gleaming red,
Does he vision castles in Spain?
Does he think of the days when
his blood ran hot
Ere he rose to the Gypsy strain?
On the starlit lagoon, the wild
duck call,
In the swamps the frogs chant a
paen,
The dwellers in cities may prefer
Bach -
But these are the whalers refrain -

The Swirl of a cod, a water rail's
splash,
A platypus stealing along -
These are the things the old
whaler loves,
As he lists to the old 'Bidgee's
song.

SQUATTER DAYS TO BE REMEMBERED

At the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society, the guest speaker will be Mr. Peter Freeman, author of the recently published book "The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology".

Material for the book has taken him to every corner of the Riverina.

Mr. Freeman will talk about the buildings of the squatters' days, in particular the grand old woolsheds, some of which have been restored, but the majority of which are now ghosts of their former selves.

An excellent collection of slides will serve to illustrate the talk.

Any one interested is very welcome to attend the meeting which will be held at the Education Centre on Monday at 8pm.

Members and friends who attended the annual dinner recently heard a scholarly and refreshing talk given by Professor Geoffrey Blainey of Melbourne University.

The professor spoke of the changes which have taken place in the life-style of Australians during the past 100 years, comparing with that of the present day, the mode of both work and leisure of the last century when physical strength as well as skill was a most necessary requirement for the earning of one's living.

The use of natural features was important in early days when for instance, a man travelling in the bush used the stars as a directional guide.

Today, however, they are often regarded only as a means of lighting up the sky, that is of course when they are able to be seen, for as the professor said, in large densely-populated cities where sky-scrapers abound, the spectacle of the stars is denied to many.

Society members have been invited by the Riverina Committee of the National Trust to join

them in a "stroll" down Kincaid Street next Sunday afternoon past buildings which have come under the notice of the Trust.

Two homes will be open for inspection by those making the tour.

Recently the Society's executive and trustees were entertained at luncheon at the Riverina College of Advanced Education by the principal, Dr. C. Blake.

An informal discussion took place on subjects such as the society's records and history-related matters in general.

Society member, Dr. David Denholm, is to be congratulated on having been awarded a literary prize by the Australian Native Association for his recent book "The Colonial Australians".

It was judged to be the best piece of sustained writing on an Australian theme.

Despite the fact that there were several counter attractions on the same day the annual fete held last Saturday at the museum netted more than \$500.

The Society is grateful for the support given by the community.

Golden jubilee celebrations are coming up for the Country Club.

The members are to be congratulated on their efforts which have made their club one of the finest in the Riverina.

It is a long way to look back to that opening occasion but the writer was there?

While dancing was in progress on opening night heavy rain began to fall.

The opening speech made by the first President, local solicitor Mr. J. C. (Clem) Sheekey, could scarcely be heard through the downpour.

By
Bidgee
Whaler

Most of those present many of whom were, in some way or another, associated with the land, were delighted to hear the rain as it heralded the ending of a very dry spell.

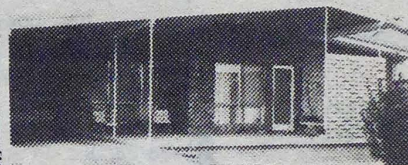
Some, however, were not so happy.

The rain had turned the road into mud and when the cars began the return journey many became bogged.



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TOLLAND — \$48,000.00

150468. Beautifully presented 3 b/rm B.V. with large family room, ducted R.C. air cond., large workshop, double carport and shed.

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NORTH ASHMONT — \$52,000.00

150507. Very attractive 4 b/rm white rock face B.V., double garage, downstairs large lounge, dining, covered patio at rear.

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TURVEY PARK — \$38,500

Excellent solid brick residence, 3 b/rms, lounge, dining room, tiled bathroom, kitchen, garage. Good handy location.

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HEALTH AND PROGRESS

Doctor Gerald Flynn will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society.

His subject will be "The Development of Medical and Hospital Services in Wagga from 1853-1910".

The history is traced through from the arrival in 1853 of the first doctor, Allen Bradley Morgan, the opening of the first hospital in Kincaid Street and the second one in Johnston Street, until the closure of the latter and the opening of the new one in 1910.

Much research has gone into this work which will be a valuable historical record.

The meeting will be held in the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, today Monday, May 26 at 8pm.

Members were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Alderman Keven Geaghan, who served on the Management Committee for several years in various capacities, including the position of vice-president and president.

Both he and his wife

Mavis, who was also a committee member until recently, worked tirelessly for the society. Sincere sympathy is offered to Mrs. Geaghan and her family.

It was pleasing to read recently in The Daily Advertiser pupils of the new Tatton Public



School are to compile a history of the school and its area.

Congratulations to the school principal for introducing this novel way of looking after the

future by recording history as it happens.

Those who attended the April meeting heard an interesting talk on early Riverina buildings, the construction of which revealed the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the pioneers. Travelling along rough, deserted, dirt-tracks seeking material for his recent book, Peter Freeman discovered early homesteads and farm buildings seldom seen by the every day traveller.

At Tupra Station in the Hay district he photographed the shearing shed, the original section of which was built by the Tysons. In order to get the wool to the boats which plied the rivers a strip of land 20 miles long by two miles wide was purchased. A road was made which included several bridges and, at the river's edge, a landing stage.

An unusual building also photographed was the Bishop's Residence at Hay. Built by the bishop when it was first proposed to establish an Anglican diocese in the area, its walls consisted of "baby" corrugated iron.

As a means of insulation sawdust was placed between the outer and inner walls thus making it bearable even in the extreme heat of western summers. On the gable above the front verandah can still be seen the carving of the Bishop's insignia. The building is now surrounded by a market garden.

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Keywords: Gerald Flynn, Historical Society, medical services, hospital, Allen Bradley Morgan, Kevin Geaghan, Mavis Geaghan, Tatton Public School, Peter Freeman, Tupra Station, Tyson family

The Mayoral robes donated by city council

The latest addition to the Wagga and District Historical Society's Museum is a set of Mayoral and Town Clerk robes of office given by the City Council.

The robes, which have now been replaced by a new set were first worn by the then Mayor, Alderman J. Doyle and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. H. Burns when Wagga was proclaimed a city in 1946.

The robes will be displayed in a special cabinet at the museum.

At the May meeting the talk on "medical and hospital services in Wagga from 1853-1910" was especially interesting. It was presented by local doctor, Gerald Flynn.

The second hospital was built on the north-eastern corner of Tarcutta and Johnston Streets in the early 1860s to replace the first which operated in rented premises in Kincaid Street.

It had three wards, female, male and ophthalmian, as well as an isolation ward at the rear of the main building.

At a time when infection was rife and flies a constant danger to health particularly in summer, it was not surprising one ward was used solely for patients suffering from diseases of the eye.

Sandy blight and Egyptian eye were prevalent, in fact, in Victorian schools at that time 15 percent of children were affected by the diseases.

Pharmacies played an important part in health care with 60 percent of people relying on pharmacists for the supply of patent medicines and the like.

No formal training of nurses was undertaken at the hospital until 1880.

In the grounds of the hospital stood a fountain donated in 1885 by Mr. Chisholm of Bulls Run Station. It is now in the rose gardens beside the Civic Theatre.

A working bee will be held at the Museum on Saturday, June 21 from 9 am when an effort will be made to complete the interior of the Yallowin Hut.

The next general meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm on Monday, June 23. Visitors are welcome. The meeting will take the form of "An Old-Timers' Night". Some long-time residents have been invited to recall old

times and experiences.

When writing recently about Dame Mary Gilmore I mentioned the close link she had with Wagga dating back to her school days.

The bond was further strengthened 30 years ago when, due to the efforts of Mr. G. Blakemore, the first Principal of the Teachers' College (now the Riverina College of Advanced Education), a Mary Gilmore Collection was established.

A portrait of Mary Gilmore presented to the Minister for Education in 1938 was transferred from the Department of Education to the Wagga Teachers' College shortly after its opening in 1947. It hangs in the library.

Much correspondence passed between Dame Mary and Mr. Blakemore until his death in 1958.

With these letters Mr. Blakemore launched the Gilmore collection which from time to time was contributed to by Dame Mary herself: Rare coins, Aboriginal stones and souvenirs of her adventurous sojourn in Patagonia where she had



● By the 'Bidgee Whaler

gone in 1893 with a party of Australians under William Lane with the intention of establishing an Utopian State to be called New Australia.

A book in which to record special events at the college was purchased with money donated by her for that purpose. The record was kept faithfully.

The idea of a permanent memorial more accessible to the public was instigated by Mr. Blakemore when the Dame Mary Gilmore iron gates were erected at the College Avenue entrance.

They were officially opened on October 30, 1956 but are now used rarely.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Mayoral robes, J Doyle, FH Burns, Gerald Flynn, hospital, Mr Chisolm, Bulls Run Station, Yallowin Hut, Dame Mary Gilmore, G Blakemore

Wagga Historical Society

Guest speaker at the meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. P. Constantine, the city's tourist promotion officer.

His subject will be "Tourism — its Significance to the Museum." The meeting will be held on Monday, August 18, at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

An excursion is planned for the Labour Day weekend in October. The tour will take in the Pulletop homestead, part of

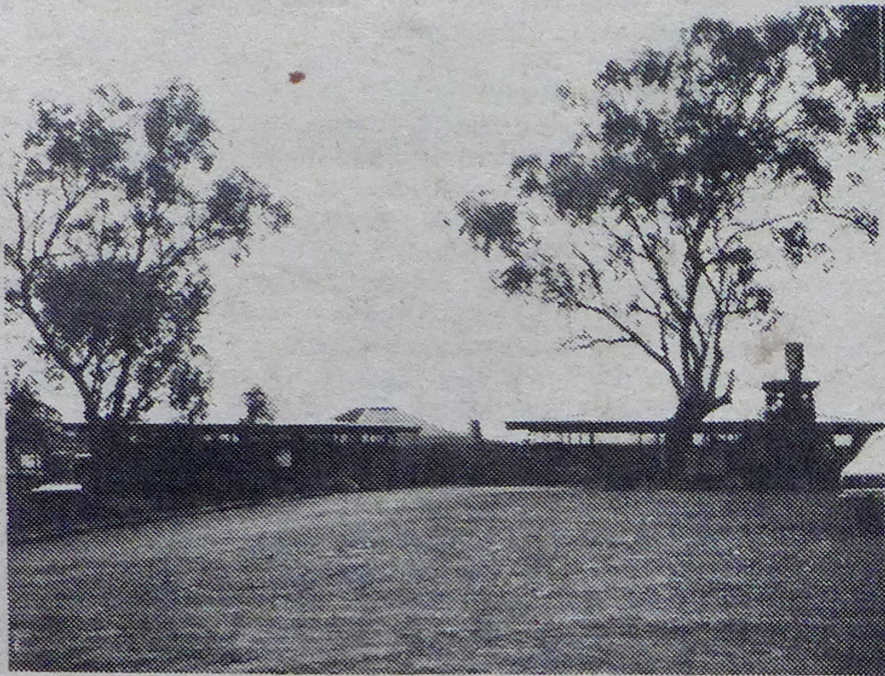
Thomas Livingstone Mitchell's exploration route in 1836 and the Clifton and Kinross woolsheds. The latter was included in Peter Freeman's book, "The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology."

By
**BIDGEE
WHALER**

Alexander Ross took up the Kinross run in 1867, and in the early 1870s built the woolshed which he extended in the early 1880s by the addition of a 43 stand area having a shedding capacity of 2500 sheep. Kinross is still in the Ross family.

On this excursion on Sunday, October 5, members and friends will be accompanied by 48 members of the Saint George Historical Society in Sydney, who will travel by coach to spend the weekend in Wagga.

Any person wishing to make the tour may make inquiries from Mr. Michael Starr on phone 253145 or at the tourist centre, Tarcutta Street. Early booking is



Wagga and District Historical Society's Museum, Willan's Hill.

Note: all of column 4 and column 5 are shown on the next page.


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Any person wishing to make the tour may make inquiries from Mr. Michael Starr on phone 253145 or at the tourist centre, Tarcutta Street. Early booking is advised. On Monday, October 6, the visitors will be taken on a tour of historical sites in the city, following which a barbecue lunch will be served at the museum prior to the departure for Sydney.

Because of the success of two previous conferences a further conference of Riverina Regional Historical Societies will be held in Wagga on October 24-25. The two subjects to be dealt with are: (1) Conservation of paper; (2) The writing of local and regional history.

As August 16, the anniversary of the



birth, in 1865, of Dame Mary Gilmore, approaches, thoughts turn to that outstanding figure in Australian literature who recognised the need for recording local history. She wrote that "one of the tragedies of the time is the passing of the old families identified with the growth and the beginnings of settlement. It behoves not only Wagga, she said, but every town in Australia to see that its early data is collected before those who can give it, i.e., the families who made it, are quite gone and blotted out for ever."

Good advice indeed, but unfortunately very few have done so. The omission has not perhaps been because of apathy but rather because few realised that their families were part of the history-making process.

A register of Australian pioneers is being compiled in Sydney. The names are being sought of all who were buried during the first 100 years of settlement, 1788-1888. Further information is available from the society's hon. secretary, Mr. R. L. Palmer, phone 212770.

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Keywords: Historical Society, P Constantine, Pulletop Homestead, Thomas Mitchell, Clifton and Kinross woolsheds, Peter Freeman, Alexander Ross, Kinross, Michael Starr, Dame Mary Gilmore, RL Palmer.

HISTORY SOCIETIES MEET

The Wagga and District Historical Society has arranged a Regional Conference of Riverina Historical Societies to be held in Wagga on October 24-26.

The lecturer on "Conservation of Paper" will be Mr. Robert Morrison from Canberra College of Advanced Education. The subject of "The Writing of Local and Regional History" will be dealt with by Dr. Graeme Davison, senior lecturer in history at Melbourne University and author of "The Rise and Fall of Marvellous Melbourne"; Dr. David Denholm, senior lecturer in history at the Riverina College of Advanced Education, whose book "The Colonial Australians" was published late last year and Mr. H. J. Gibbney, keeper of the Biographical Register at the Australian National University, Canberra.

The Minister for Education and Member for Farrer, Mr. Fife has handed over to the society an Australian flag for use at the Museum. The society is hopeful a donor of a flag-pole might be forthcoming.

The Royal Australian Historical Society has forwarded a cheque for \$250 to assist with the publication of No. 5 Journal. This sum is portion of a grant made by the Division of Cultural Activities, NSW, for various projects of a historical nature.

An interesting visitor to the area recently was Italian professor Claudio Gorlier, professor in English literature at the University of Turin.

The purpose of his visit to Australia was to look at localities associated with prominent Australian writers.

The reason for his particular interest in Wagga was the fact Dame Mary Gilmore had lived in the town and district.

The professor said more and more Italian students are expressing the desire to learn about Australia and the university enrolments in Australian studies have increased remarkably.

The society is disappointed its recent application for a grant for capital expenditure was unsuccessful. It was hoped a large shed could be erected at the museum to protect valuable farm machinery and equipment which provides a link with early agriculture.

Bookings for the next excursion will close at the Tourist Information Centre on Monday, September 29. Places to be visited are Pulletop Homestead, Clifton and Kinross wool-sheds.

The next meeting of the society will be the annual meeting at which office-bearers will be elected. It will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm on Monday, September 15.

—The Bidgee Whaler.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Mr Fife, Robert Morrison, Graeme Davison, David Denholm, HJ Gibbney, Claudio Gorlier, Dame Mary Gilmore

SOLICITOR TO SPEAK ON NATIONAL TRUST

Local solicitor, Mr. Ian Donald, who is president of the Riverina Regional Committee of the National Trust, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

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

The topic will be "Aspects in general of the National Trust and, in particular, with relation to Wagga."

Visitors are welcome. A special invitation is extended to National Trust members in the region.

At the annual

By

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general meeting of the Historical Society held recently, the retiring president, Mr. Arthur Nixon, reported on a year of growth and consolidation, special thanks being given to the Community Advancement Fund.

This body reduces the society's debt on a dollar for dollar basis for all money raised by the efforts of society members.

Office-bearers elected for the coming year are: President, Mr. K. J. Swan; vice-presidents, Mr. Arthur Nixon, Mr. Morris Gissing and Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; hon. secretary, Mr. R. L. Palmer; hon. treasurer, Mr. M. Starr; committee, Miss P. de Jersey, Mesdames V. Swan, N. Carlin, P. Taylor, Messrs. C. Carlin, R. Pierce, G. Lewis and C. Brockhusen.

It is pleasing to report that the gantry and its mechanism, an integral part of the former Bond Store which was demolished recently, has now been handed over to the

society by Mr. Malcolm Hamilton of North Wagga, who was engaged in the demolition proceedings.

The society is grateful to Mr. Hamilton for retrieving this valuable piece of history.

It will be an important exhibit at the society's museum.

Mr. Arthur Nixon has donated a flag-pole for the Australian flag recently given by the Commonwealth Government through the efforts of the Minister for Education, Mr. Wal Fife.

Recent acquisitions include several pages of the Illustrated London News (1874) containing transcripts of evidence from the second Tichborne Trial.

At the end of that trial Arthur Orton, alias Tom Castro, a former Wagga butcher, was convicted of perjury and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

The society offers sympathy to the family of recently deceased Mr. Norman Grinton.

Mr. Grinton had a

deep interest in the city's history.

In recent years he compiled a map showing the sites of all the Wagga hotels from the town's beginning.

A most interesting and successful excursion took place on Sunday, October 5, when 90 people made a tour of pastoral country south of Wagga.

Forty-eight of these were visitors from the St. George Historical Society, Sydney, who were loud in their praise of the tour.

An inspection was made of Kinross woolshed at Holbrook conducted by Mr. David Ross who related a brief history of his Scots forbears who emigrated to South Australia in 1854 and selected Kinross in 1867.

The first portion of the woolshed was built in the 1870's.

Clifton woolshed, built in about 1920 was then visited.

Following a barbecue at the property of Mr. and Mrs. K. Swan the party travelled through Pulletop, Livingstone Gully (Cox country) and Gregadoo.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Ian Donald, Arthur Nixon, Malcolm Hamilton, Wal Fife, Arthur Orton, Tom Castro, Norman Grinton, David Ross, Kinross, Clifton woolshed, KJ Swan, Morris Gissing, Sylvia Walsh, RL Palmer, M Starr, P de Jersey, V Swan, N Carlin, P Taylor, C Carlin, R Pierce, G Lewis, C Brockhusen

Kurrajong stalwarts to be guest speakers

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

Guest speakers at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. and Mrs. W. Hurd who have had a long association with the Kurrajong Special School.

They have contributed greatly to its development.

The school provides education and loving care for young people in the community who have a special need.

Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm on Monday, February 16.

Members and friends of the school auxiliary are especially invited to attend.

Although this is the first general meeting for the year, members have been active in manning the museum and have made a great effort to have it open each afternoon during the recent school vacation.

In order to encourage the young in the community to realise the significance of Australia Day, the museum remained open all day on January 26 when children were admitted free.

During the Wagga Festival '81, the society combined with the Riverina Regional Branch of the National Trust, in mounting, in the Myer store, an exhibition

of photographs spanning 100 years in Wagga.

Recently the museum was visited by Mr. Richard Wesley, executive officer of the Museums Association, who was appointed by the New South Wales branch to give advice to regional museums.

He was most impressed by the progress made by a largely self-help organisation.

Accompanied by three members of the management committee he called on the mayor and town clerk to discuss the society and its contribution to the cultural life of the city.

The society's latest Journal — No. 4 — has aroused favourable comment.

It contains histories of four Wagga churches — Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist.

It is worthy of a place in any school library. It was printed by The Daily Advertiser. Assistance with its publication was given by the Royal Australian Historical Society, from funds allocated

by the Cultural Grants Division of the Premier's Department.

The Royal Society has always been aware of the needs of country societies and helps where possible.

This year the "Royal" celebrates the 80th anniversary of its foundation.

It seeks new members to help it continue to preserve Australia's history. For membership details phone 212770.

Saturday, April 11, has been set down for the annual fete at the museum.

A high standard of attractions will be offered.

As this is the main fund-raising activity for the year, the society needs all the support possible.

Planning is under way for the society's participation in Heritage week — March 23-29. To open its celebrations the society will hold its annual dinner in the Functions Room of the Commercial Club on Monday, March 23. The museum will be open



throughout the week, featuring a special selection of early photographs.

At the Tourist Information Centre there will also be an exhibition of photographs.

Coaches will depart from the Tourist Centre for tours of historic places in the city area. A guide from the society will accompany the tour.

Funeral

Mrs. E. Brunskill

The funeral of Mrs. Enid Brunskill, widow of George Brunskill formerly of Borambola and late of "The Haven," Wagga, was held at Wagga on Tuesday morning.

The Rev. Campbell Egan of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wagga, officiated, assisted by Rev. Les Fowler. The casket was carried by Messrs Stewart Brunskill, Ian Cameron, Selby Watson and Bruce Cameron and the floral tributes by Messrs Stan Brunskill and Keith Beard.

Among those present were representatives of the manager, directors, and members of Wagga City Bowling Club, matron and staff of Wendy Hucker Nursing Home, and members of the Murrumbidgee Division of the NSW Girl Guides Association also relatives and friends from Sydney, Collingullie, The Rock, Borambola, Wagga and surrounding districts.

Arrangements by Alan Harris, McDonald and Co., of Wagga.

HERITAGE WEEK LAUNCH ON MARCH 23

Guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. Richard Wesley, executive officer of the Museum's Association of Australia.

The dinner will be held on Monday, March 23 at the Commercial Club and open the society's celebration of Heritage week.

Mr. Wesley will be in Griffith on March 21 to address the South-West Chapter of the Museum's Association and at that meeting the society will be represented by Miss P. de Jersey.

During Heritage Week the society's museum on Willans Hill will be open free of charge on Monday to Friday from 2-5pm. Bus tours to historic sites in the city have been arranged.

Tours will leave the Tourist Information Centre in Tarcutta Street at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday, March 24 and 26. Bookings may be made at the centre.

The tours for which a guide

from the society will be provided are for adults only and the cost is \$2 each.

Should any schools wish to arrange tours for pupils a guide will also be provided by the society. Phone the secretary on 212770.

The annual fete will be held at the museum on Saturday afternoon, April 11 and the society is hoping for a large attendance as this is its main fund raising effort for the year.

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Keywords: Richard Wesley, Historical Society, museum

Members' night at history society

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

The next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will take the form of a members' night. On this occasion, members are asked to bring along an item of historical interest.

Evenings such as this have been very popular in the past.

New members are particularly requested to join in the evening. Visitors are welcome. Venue of the meeting will be the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, April 27 at 8 pm.

Already this year the society has been engaged in a variety of activities. In January, it participated in Festival '81, in March they joined in the "Living History" session at St. John's Parish Centre during Senior Citizens' Week by displaying early Wagga photographs and talking to district pioneers.

Despite the small number of members available for roster duty the museum opened its doors each day during "Heritage Week" mounted special photographic displays and conducted coach tours to historic areas in the city.

At the Heritage Dinner, Mr. Richard Wesley, the executive officer of the Museums' Association of Australia (NSW) addressed members and their friends.



At the end of March, the society was host to a party of 44 members of the Royal Victorian Historical Society, who thoroughly enjoyed a tour of historic sites in the city including the Best family cemetery.

Before departing, they inspected the museum and were entertained at morning tea.

A successful annual fete was held at the museum this month, much interest was shown in the display of old machinery, sheep-shearing, craftsmen and women at work and the Wagga Accordion Band.

Several aldermen of the City Council attended. Alderman H. Fife was on hand to speak about the

cook's gallery which was an important part of the equipment of Fife's chaff-cutting team in earlier days.

It was donated by the Fife family and it still complete with cooking and eating utensils.

To all who gave of their time and skills, the society is most grateful.

As a community service students from the painters and decorators course at the Wagga Technical College are carrying out the painting of the museum.

The work which enables them to gain practical experience and at the same time, help the society, is being done under the supervision of their instructor. This fine gesture is very much appreciated.

The society needs more members and volunteers to help with the roster at the museum. The secretary (phone 212770) would be pleased to hear from any one interested in helping out.

Historical Society promotion at Myer

The Wagga and District Historical Society will join with other cultural groups in the promotion of "Australia Fair" at Myer — a variety of interesting pieces from the society's museum will be displayed from May 20 to 30 in the store.

This week, to aid them in their studies, a group of 12 history-geography students from the Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney, will make a special visit to the museum to learn something about early Wagga — the way it developed and the reasons for such development in specific areas.

Committee members will be on hand to assist with information.

A recent acquisition soon to be installed at the museum is the weighing machine which has stood for many years outside the Post Office in Fitzmaurice Street.

It has been purchased by the society.

Alderman Mary Kidson has offered to add to the museum collection with the gift of an 80-year-old bicy-

By "Bidgee Whaler"



cle, complete with leather mud-guards.

Painting of exhibition halls Nos. 1 and 2 is now almost completed.

Students from the painters and decorators course at the technical college, who are carrying out the work, will now concentrate on painting some of the large exhibits including the police call-box which formerly stood in

Baylis Street opposite the South Wagga Post Office.

With the introduction of two-way radio in patrol cars the box became redundant and was given to the museum a few years ago.

Next week Mr. Brian Bertram, a consultant on museum affairs, will visit the museum to advise the management committee on future administration and programing for the museum.

The Picnic Race Carnival being held this week brings to mind the fact that 75 years ago (1906) the first Wagga Picnic Race meeting was held.

The next meeting of the society will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, May 18, at 8 pm.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 May 1981

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Myer, Mary Kidson, Brian Bertram

Memories down the South Road

The Wagga and District Historical Society's 10 day display of museum items held at Myer Wagga to "Advance Australia" drew favourable comment. The society congratulated Myer on the excellent manner in which the exhibits were displayed.

The society has planned a seminar on Conservation of Metals to be held at the Riverina College of Advanced Education on July 19-20.

Societies in the region will be invited to send representatives. The instructors are experts from the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

The seminar will fulfil a long-felt need and prove a valuable exercise for those engaged in the task of restoring and preserving museum items of metal construction.

It is proposed to arrange a weekend excursion to Hay on August 15-16. An earlier trip to the area which embraced visits to three station properties, "One

By "Bidgee Whaler"



Tree" and the local Historical Museum, was very popular.

This time the itinerary will be varied. Details have not yet been worked out but it is known that different properties will be inspected.

Returning from Sydney last week the writer made a detour at Tumblong to travel the road past Mundarlo, which was part of the historic old south road or Port Phillip Road as it was also called.

A short stop for coffee

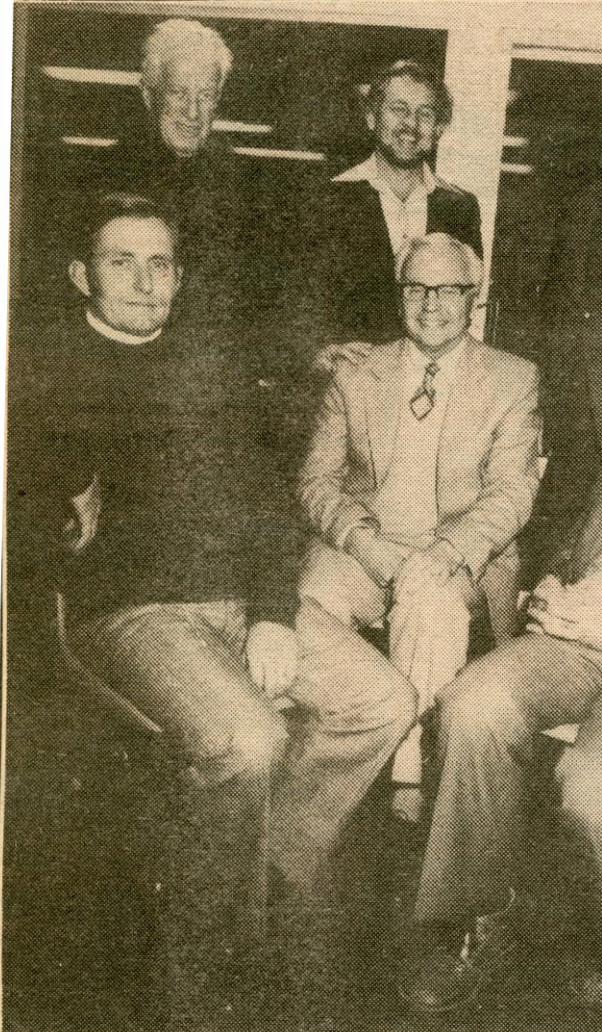
near the old Junction Inn built for weary travellers in the early 1880s but now rapidly falling into ruin; then on to the torturous Devil's Elbow on which traces are still visible of the tracks upon which, heavily-laden bullock wagons ground their irksome way, attaching, on the descent, large logs at the rear to prevent the wagons hurtling down the incline.

Mary Gilmore aptly described them when she wrote, "like worms on the earth the teams crept out, the caterpillars of trade".

Memories came flooding back of a family car trip made in trepidation on that road 50 years ago and of stories told by elders, about horrible accidents and deaths which occurred in horse-drawn vehicles.

It was not until the early 1930s that the highway by-passed the old section of this road which, in the early days of settlement, was the only link between Sydney and Port Phillip. The town of Melbourne was founded in 1835.

APEX IN HISTORY



● Past and current members of Wagga Apex at meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society club, which has recently completed 50 years of service. Spoke on the foundation and development of Apex included (seated, from left) Jim Thompson, Ald. Morrison and Doug Thomas (standing, from left) Tim Daley, Doug Thomas and Jim Nixon.

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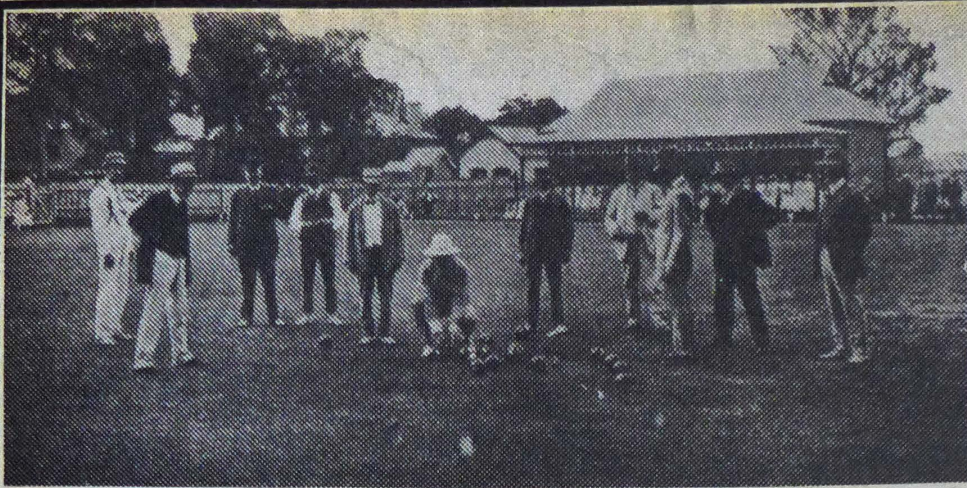
APEX IN HISTORY



● Past and current members of Wagga Apex addressed Monday's meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society. Members of the club, which has recently completed 50 years of service to the community, spoke on the foundation and development of Apex in Wagga. Speakers included (seated, from left) Jim Thompson, Ald. Morris Gissing, Malcolm Nixon (standing, from left) Tim Daley, Doug Thomas and Ken Kenneally.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 June 1981

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Myer, One Tree, Junction Inn, Devil's Elbow, Mary Gilmore, Jim Thompson, Morris Gissing, Malcolm Nixon, Tim Daley, Doug Thomas, Ken Kenneally



● An early photograph of the Wagga Bowling Club.

From among the writer's memorabilia has emerged the accompanying post card of the Wagga Bowling Club.

The occasion must have been a gala one.

Note the number of lady spectators.

Greenkeeping has certainly come a long way since that time.

The date of the photo is not known but no doubt it was prior to the building of the present hospital in 1910, as the former hospital built in the early 1860's can be seen in the background.

It was in Tarcutta Street on the present site of the residence of the Inspector of Police.

Perhaps a reader may be able to identify some of the bowlers. A phone call to 226178 would be appreciated.

The next general meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be held at 8 pm at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, July 20.

On this occasion there will not be a guest speaker, instead the evening will be devoted to discussion on important matters relating to the museum.

Recently the Management Committee commissioned a survey on future planning and development

of the museum.

As a result, Mr. Brian Bertram, an expert consultant on museum administration and development, spent two days in Wagga. He met with some members of the Management Committee and then made a thorough investigation of all areas of the museum.

His written report with recommendations has just come to hand, the contents of which will be outlined to members at the meeting.

The proposed July seminar on conservation of metals has been postponed until October.

As mentioned last month there will be an excursion to the Hay area on the weekend August 15-16.

Members are asked to make early bookings so that any remaining seats in the air-conditioned coach may be made available to interested members of the public.

Society treasurer, Mr. Michael Starr and Mrs. Starr, who have been holidaying in England, will return home later this month.

Would you believe

By "Bidgee Whaler"



that in Wagga 100 years ago a pound of steak could be purchased for threepence? An account dated 1881 was rendered by Charles Brideson the proprietor of the North Wagga Butchery, to Mr. G. W. Commins who, besides being a licensed surveyor, followed farming pursuits at "Springfield", North Wagga for many years.

The account, an interesting document, contains items purchased such as: two pounds of steak — sixpence (five cents); six pound leg of mutton and two pounds of steak — two shillings (20 cents).

OUR MUSEUM IMPRESSES CONSULTANT

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday at 8 pm.

Reports of the year's activities will be presented and office-bearers elected for the coming year.

This will be an important meeting as possible changes or amendments to the constitution will be discussed.

It is hoped that, in the light of the Bertram report, more members of the community and those who are already members, will be willing to be involved in the conduct of the society's museum from now on.

The report mentioned is the result of a decision by the society to commission a professional survey of the museum in order to plan its future development.

Mr. Brian Bertram, Sydney Museum consultant, spent two days at the museum.

He was impressed with what had already been accomplished by a largely, self-help organisation, and in due course provided a detailed report with suggestions for future undertakings.

He made several sketches of areas where improvement could be

By "Bidgee Whaler"



made if funds are available.

The museum opened in 1967 and the centenary wing was added and opened by Mr. Justice Else-Mitchell, a judge of the Supreme Court and President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, on February 13, 1971.

Since that time it has provided an educational resource for schools and colleges in the region, as well as being a tourist attraction.

Mr. Bertram's view is that high on the priority list should be the appointment of a trained curator.

Up to now management of the museum

has been carried out on a voluntary basis by society members.

The Wagga City Council has decided to place on its estimates for the coming year, an amount of \$9000 to meet half the cost of a curator's salary provided that a grant of a similar amount is forthcoming from the Division of Cultural Affairs of the State Government.

It is considered by Mr. Bertram that the museum's collections are extensive enough for it to become an important repository and exhibition of rural artefacts, particularly farm vehicles and equipment.

For this reason one of the important aims would be the provision of a machinery shed along the western end of the grounds and a

vehicle shed along the northern end; following that, alterations should be made to Building No. 2 (the area where there is a steep land slope) to provide a mezzanine floor containing a meeting room, curator's office and a basement area for storage and restoration work-shop.

An approach is being made to local service clubs who have been most supportive in the past, suggesting that perhaps the implementation of the museum development as outlined, might be undertaken as a project for the 1988 Bi-Centenary.

Such a gesture would give the society the impetus it needs.

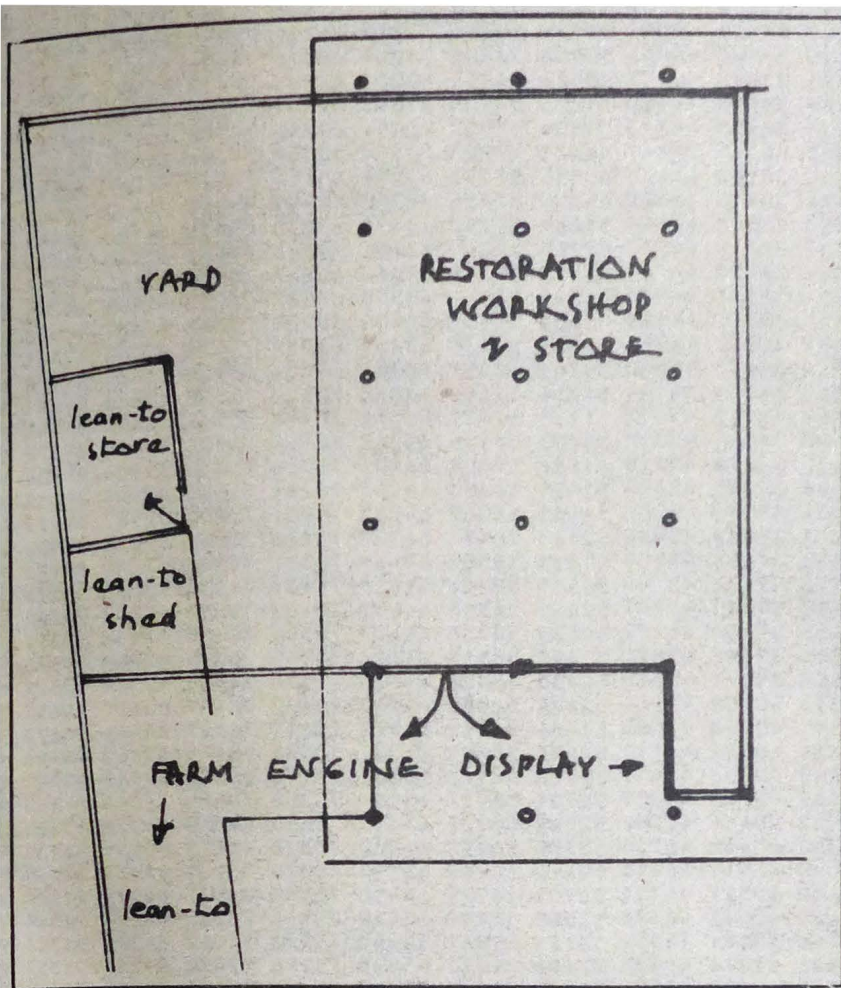
It is proposed to make a weekend excursion to Hay on October 10, 11 to see historic "Uardry", renowned for its Merino stud.

The many historic buildings which grace the town will be viewed as well as the local historical society's museum which is housed in the former jail.

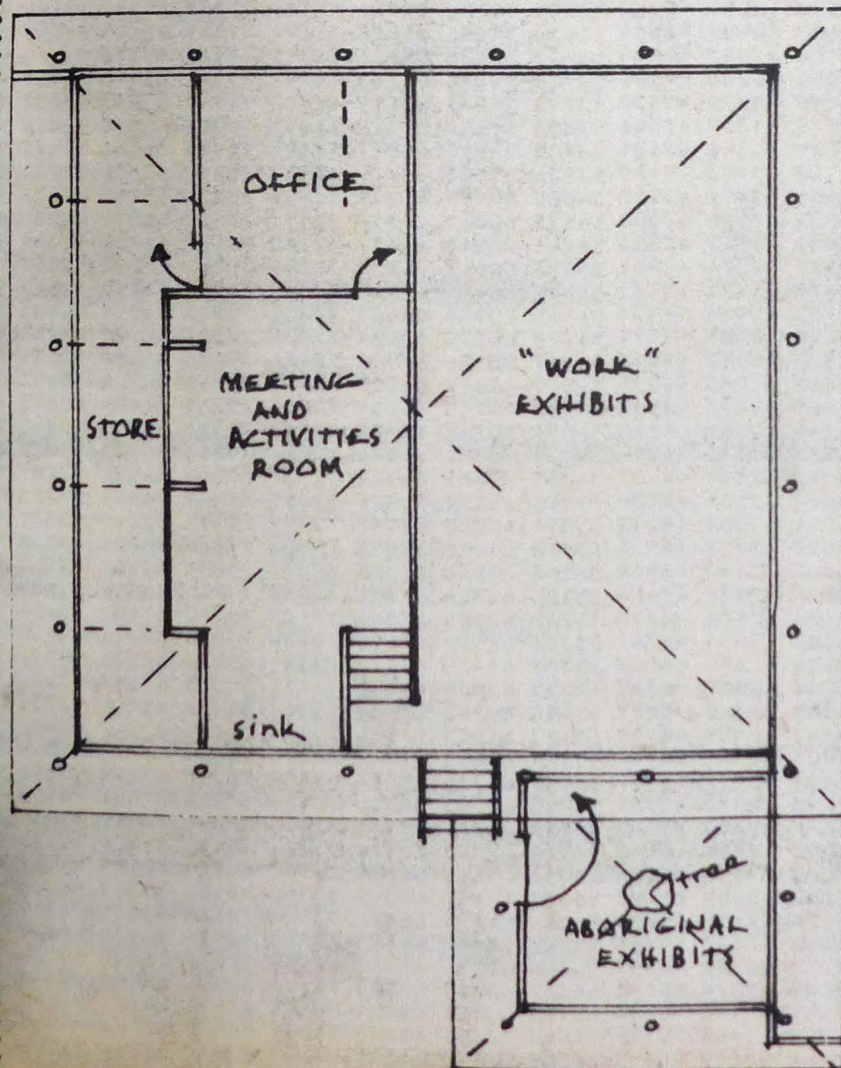
Any members of the community are welcome to come along.

Information may be obtained by phoning either 285207, 212770 or 253145. The final day for acceptance of names and fees is Monday.

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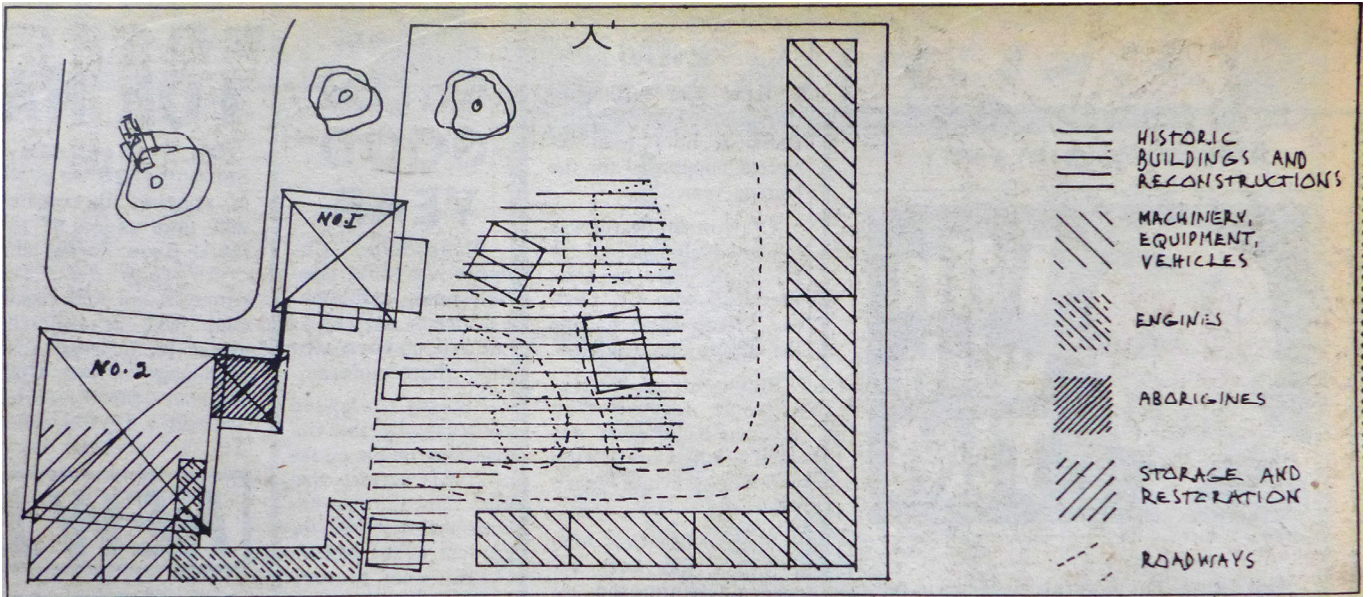


Basement plan



Mezzanine plan

continues next page



ABOVE: Sketch plans showing proposal for development of out-door area, (below), the No. 2 building at the museum.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 17 September 1981 page 13

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Brian Bertram, Justice Else-Mitchell, curator

By "Bidgee
Whaler"



Museum advice from Temora

The Wagga and District Historical Society has invited Mr. R. Maslin to address its next meeting on Monday, October 19 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm.

Mr. Maslin is President of the Temora Historical Society which conducts a successful Rural Museum. He will speak on the administration of the affairs of the Temora society and its museum.

Preceding the talk, further discussion will take place among local society members relating to proposed changes to the constitution to enable enlargement of the board of management.

This has been suggested so a greater number of members can be involved in the future management of the society, particularly if a grant is forthcoming from the Department of Cultural Activities of the NSW Government, to assist with the appointment of a curator or director for the museum.

Seminar

Much interest is being shown in the seminar on "Conservation of Metals" to be held at Riverina College this weekend, October 17-18.

It should prove a valuable exercise for those involved in restoration of machinery.

Representatives will attend from Harden, Young, Temora, Albury, Jindera, Lockhart and Griffith. Tutors are experts from the Canberra CAE.

Helpers

A working bee will be held at the museum commencing at 9 am on October 17. Willing helpers are needed.

Recent acquisitions include some interesting early items from the estate of the late Mr. Clem Wright. Items passed on to the society by his sister, Sister M. Philippa of Mount Erin Convent, include a rare 1832 map of Sydney, a book containing architectural drawings of Sydney buildings in 1848 and a picture of a Grand National Cricket Match between Victorian and NSW teams played on the Outer Domain, Sydney in January, 1857.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 October 1981

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, R Maslin, Clem Wright, Sister M Philippa

RIVERINE CLUB: A CURIOUS START

President of the Riverine Club, Mr. Harold Henderson, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

He will talk on the history of the club which on November 24, will celebrate its centenary. The club is classified by the National Trust.

The club building, although altered and enlarged in later years, started its life as a National School. A surveyor's 1849 sketch map from the NSW Archives show the area as being marked out as a possible site for the school, but strangely enough the first school was not built there.

It was built in 1851 past the lower end of Fitzmaurice Street near the former site of the saleyards, but it was never occupied.

By "Bidgee Whaler"



It was partly inundated during the great flood of 1852. There were other problems: A teacher was not available. The only school was that of Edwin Tompson, at the eastern end of Johnston Street.

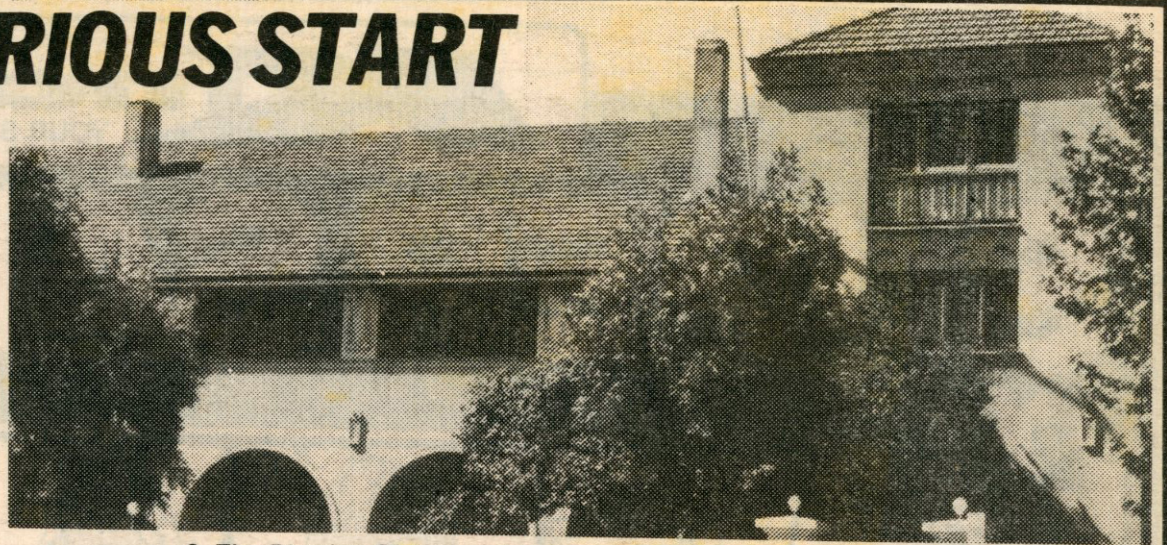
Eventually in 1861 the school and teacher's residence was built on the land originally designated for it. A section of it still remains.

When Dr. Morgan O'Connor came from Yass to Wagga in the early 1870s to start practice, he occupied the building as a residence and consulting rooms, a most convenient position for him as the hospital was then situated on the north-eastern corner of Tarcutta and Johnston streets, a stone's throw away.

The meeting will be held on Monday, November 16 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

At the recent annual meeting of the society, honorary life-membership was conferred on Mr. R. L. Palmer, foundation secretary in 1962.

Except for a period of a few years he has held that position with untiring energy and dedication. He will continue to serve as a management



● The Riverine Club — celebrating its centenary.

committee member.

Office-bearers elected for the coming year are: President Mr. K. Swan; vice-presidents Mr. A. Nixon, Mr. M. Gissing and Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; hon. secretary Mr. G. Lewis; hon. treasurer Mr. M. Starr; committee members Miss P. de Jersey, Mrs. N. Carlin, Mrs. V. Swan, Messrs. R. L. Palmer, C. Carlin, C. von Brockhusen, J.

Winterbottom, D. Brech and K. Le Lievre.

The society has entered its museum in the "Museum of the Year" competition conducted by the NSW Chapter of the Museums' Association. The society needs help in preparing the museum for judging. A working bee has been arranged for Saturday, November 21 at 9 am. Anyone who can spare

and hour or two will be welcome.

Mr. K. Swan and Mr. and Mrs. Carlin will represent the society at the annual meeting of the South-West Chapter of the Museums' Association at the Harden-Murrumburrah Museum on Saturday, November 28.

The Business and Professional Women's assistance in promoting

assistance in promoting the museum by placing it on its register for voluntary assistance.

Many more people are needed for roster duty at the museum which is recognised as an important tourist attraction as well as an educational facility for students.

Its value in this regard would be increased if the doors could be kept open on a more regular basis.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 11 November 1981

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Riverine Club, Harold Henderson, Edwin Tompson, Dr Morgan O'Connor, RL Palmer, K Swan, A Nixon, M Gissing, Sylvia Walsh, G Lewis, M Starr, P de Jersey, N Carlin, V Swan, C Carlin, C von Brockhusen, J Winterbottom, D Brech, K Le Lievre

Historical Society lays bi-centennial plans

By SYLVIA WALSH
On Thursday, December 17, the Wagga and District Historical Society held a brief meeting at the museum to make three important public announcements.

Those present were the local State MP, Mr. Joe Schipp; the Mayor, Alderman Bruce Hedditch; the Managing Editor of The Daily Advertiser, Mr. John Jackson; two representatives of the Bank of NSW, Mr. Tom Emerson (manager - South Wagga) and Mr. John Williams (Accountant - Wagga) and several members of the Historical Society.

After welcoming the visitors and thanking them for the support they had given the society in the past, the President of the Society, Mr. Keith Swan, outlined the society's program from the present until 1988, the bi-centennial year.

Mr. Swan said that in the short term the society was entering the Museum of the Year Award, in the section for small museums which have created a new display.

For several weeks society members have been working steadily to arrange the new display, which the visitors were able to inspect.

This contest, is sponsored by the Bank of NSW to the extent of \$12,000.

Then Mr. Swan displayed a consultant's report commissioned by the society in June this year. He said that the society had adopted this report as a blueprint for change and development of the museum complex, and announced this development as a bi-centennial project to be completed by 1988.

Finally, Mr. Swan said that the society was confident that this development would be accelerated by the appointment of a professional curator/director.

This appointment would be funded, the society hoped, by matching grants from the City Council and the State Government.

The City Council had already promised funds, and the society hoped an announcement of Government support would shortly be made.

All of the visitors spoke enthusiastically, praising the society for its past efforts and for the exciting initiatives it was now announcing.

Mr. Schipp promised his full support, outlining the steps he had taken to seek Government support and promising to continue supporting the society in this way.

Ald. Hedditch said that the council's promised funding of the position of the curator/director was further proof of council

support for the important work of the Historical Society.

He promised that this support would continue, and asserted that the society's bi-centennial project at the museum must be an integral part of the Council's plans for the development of Willans Hill.

For his part, Mr. Emerson congratulated the society on its work and on its entry for the Museum of the Year Award. He said the Bank of NSW was delighted to support the cause of museums generally by sponsoring the award.

So far as the Wagga

society was concerned, he assured members that the bank, and he personally, would do all possible to support the development of the museum.

Mr. Jackson said that as part of Wagga's history for more than a century, The Daily Advertiser must support the Historical Society. It had done in the past, and would continue to do so.

He thanked the society for its part in preserving the paper's valuable files, and for its housing of the Eagle Press at the museum, and promised to support the new initiatives by publicity and in other ways.

RTC takes Macbeth as schools special

The Riverina Trucking Company will continue its highly successful school involvement early next year with a special performance of the Shakespearean classic, Macbeth.

After just two months with the RTC, artistic director, Colin Schumacher, has proved an instant success and his latest effort, "Tuff" touching on the disabled theme has attracted 1200 schoolchildren and some exciting reactions.

As a follow up to this, the company is now planning Macbeth in an abbreviated version and with a similar discussion format after the show.

The show is planned for March next year, and will include adult performances.

The RTC is already delighted with the positive response from schools to the Macbeth project.

Decisions are expected soon on professional actors from Sydney and Melbourne who will join the RTC team next year.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 24 December 1981

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Sylvia Walsh, Joe Schipp, Bruce Hedditch, John Jackson, Tom Emerson, John Williams, Keith Swan

SPECIAL EVENT FOR HERITAGE WEEK

The Wagga and District Historical Society's annual dinner will be replaced this year by an informal get-together and evening meal for members at the museum on Sunday, March 28. The occasion will complete the society's celebration of "Heritage Week".

A sub-committee of the board of directors has been appointed to formulate plans for the "Heritage Week" celebrations.

Society members were elated to learn that, as reported earlier in The Daily Advertiser, the museum is now a finalist in the "Museum of the Year" competition. They eagerly await the results which will be announced during "Heritage Week".

Further good news is that a grant of \$9000 has come from the Division of Cultural Affairs, Premier's Department, for half the salary of a curator or director for the museum.

The appointment will be the first step in implemen-

ting the society's plans for its involvement in the Australian Bi-Centenary in 1988. Applications for the position will be invited soon.

The society records with sadness the loss of Mr. T. Britcher. Although in his 90s he was, until a few years ago, an active and tireless worker at the museum,

In recognition of his work, honorary life-membership was conferred on him in recent years.

In order to encourage in school students an awareness of the importance of local history, a competition was held for a logo design.

The prize of \$20 was awarded to 13-year-old Simone Eady. The "Bidgee Whaler" will however, remain the official insignia of the society.

The museum birthday fete will be held on Saturday, April 24. The first general meeting for the year will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, February 15 at 8 p.m.

By "Bidgee Whaler"



Published: *Daily Advertiser* 13 February 1982

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Heritage Week, curator, T Britcher, Bidgee Whaler (logo, competition)

Wagga museum into the finals

By SYLVIA WALSH

The Wagga and District Historical Society's museum has been named one of the finalists in the 'Museum of the Year' competition, conducted by the Museums Association of Australia and sponsored by the Bank of NSW (now Westpac).

Four awards will be made in the State, the museums being divided into two classes so museums with few or no professional staff and limited resources do not compete directly with the larger museums.

In each class awards will be made to the best overall museum and for the best new exhibition or display.

Winners will receive a cash prize and a wall plaque.

The aims of the awards are to recognise those museums which attain high standards and to encourage them to develop innovative programs and strive for improvement; to draw the attention of the Australian community to the important contribution made by museums and their staff in preserving, researching and displaying our national heritage.

Of the 66 museums entered, 20 finalists were country museums.

The local museum was visited last week by the judges, who included Dr. P. Stanbury, chairman of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, director of Macleay Museum, and Mrs. Christine Hartgill.

They were accompanied by Mr. Richard Wesley, executive officer of the Museums Association of Australia (NSW).

The awards will be presented to the winners during Heritage Week, March 22-28.

With the aid of a grant from the Premier's Depart-

ment under the Cultural Grants Scheme the Museums Association will be seeking a conservator to help the 330 museums in NSW.

Until now there has been no conservation service for the hundreds of small museums throughout the country.

The conservator would be based in Sydney where conservation facilities in the laboratory of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences would be made available for work on selected subjects.

He would spend a good deal of time in the country, advising museums how to preserve their collections and how to obtain the best conditions to slow down deterioration.

A series of seminars would also be planned.

Society gears up for Heritage Week

Heritage Week which will be celebrated throughout Australia from March 22-28, is the main item claiming the attention of the Wagga and District Historical Society this month.

Since its formation 20 years ago the society has contributed to the preservation of our heritage by collecting, for its museum and archives, farm and household implements, letters and photographs etc which tell a story of our past.

During Heritage Week the society will mount displays in Myer, Huthwaites, Bank of NSW and the City Library.

The Museum will be open at weekends from 2-5 pm.

The National Trust has arranged displays and a city walk.

Perhaps other organisations and business houses may wish to share, in some way, in this the second year of Heritage Week.

The museum is a finalist in the "museum of the

year" competition conducted by the Museums Association of Australia and sponsored by the Bank of NSW.

The Society eagerly awaits the announcement of the winner which will be announced during Heritage Week.

As a culmination of the week's celebrations the society has arranged a family barbecue tea and get-together at the museum for members and their families.

In this way the younger members of the community will come to realise the importance of preserving their heritage.

It is fitting that guests for the evening be Mr. and Mrs. F. Pritchard and Mr. and Mrs. E. Heckendorf of Lockhart.

Mr. Pritchard was shire engineer of Lockhart for 30 years and is now retired.

Mr. Heckendorf, a long-time resident of the dis-

trict, has made a tremendous contribution to the progress and welfare of Lockhart.

Together they were among the prime-movers in the preservation of Galore Hill which has been beautified and developed and is now a worthwhile tourist attraction.

The society will soon embark on an important stage of its development when the appointment of a curator for its museum is made.

Preparations are in hand for the annual museum fete which will be held on Saturday, April 24.

Many attractions are planned, craft demonstrations, sheep-shearing, old farm machinery in operation, plant and cake stalls.

It is hoped that community support will be forthcoming.

"BIDGEE' WHALER".

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 16 March 1982

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, F Pritchard, E Heckendorf

The proprietor of the Jindera Museum, Mrs. Marj Wehner, has been invited to be present at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

The Jindera Museum won an award in the recent "Museum of the Year" competition conducted by the Australian Museums Association (NSW Branch), which was finalised during Heritage Week.

The award was in the section for overall display in a museum having limited staff.

The Wagga society, which was a finalist in the competition, offers congratulations to Jindera on its success.

The society has asked Mrs. Wehner to speak about the historical background of the museum.

Mrs. Wehner is a descendant of the Wagner family, who, in 1874, established the Jindera store which now forms part of the museum.

The original general store with its quaint counters, fittings, storage bins, bottles, etc., has been preserved just as it was in those early times.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm on Monday. Visitors are welcome.

The Central Wagga Lions Club has donated \$300 to the museum fund to assist in the building of a much-needed shelter for early machinery which at present is out in the open, at the mercy of the elements.

To prepare for the annual fete, members of the society will hold a working bee at the museum on Saturday commencing at 10 am. Willing hands are needed.

Anyone who can spare an hour or two during the day will be very welcome.

The fete which marks the 15th anniversary of the opening of the museum will be held on Saturday, April 24, commencing at 1.30 pm.

Many attractions are

By "Bidgee Whaler"



planned including pony rides for the children, demonstrations of leather work, china painting, enamelling, spinning, pyrography (wood-burning), wolfram crushing and sheep shearing.

Other early machinery will be in operation.

Home-made cakes, afternoon tea, soft drinks and garden plants will be available.

A special attraction will be entertainment by the Wagga Accordion Band.

The annual meeting of the south-west chapter of the Museums Association will be held at Parkes at the weekend.

Among recent donations to the museum is a collection of farm equipment including ploughs, cultivators and a tumbling tommy, all of which came from Gobbagumbalin, one of the early properties in the area.

Until recently it was owned and operated by Mr. R. L. Brunskill.

No reprisals in Australia

SYDNEY — The Federal Government has reassured Australia's 7000-strong Argentinian community that there will be no reprisals against them over the Falkland Islands controversy.

A statement released to the Spanish-language media by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs reassured Argentinians that all permanent residents of Australia had identical rights and that "the situations of Argentinians in this country was in no way threatened by the current difference between Britain and Argentina".

A Department spokesman said yesterday the statement had been made because of fears expressed by South American and Spanish speaking organisations.

"People imagined that because of the Falkland Islands situation and Australia's reported support for us we would be taking some sort of reprisals against Argentinians, including those who are citizens".

The Department's move, which the spokesman said was "a fairly unusual step" was aimed at reassuring Argentinians that they would be treated the same as from anybody else".

"We have heard rumours of Australian citizens going to the Argentine to withdraw their money from Australian banks. Whether that is true we do not know," he said.

The statement also said that the Department's attention to Australia's Argentinian community was a matter of Australian Embassy interest.

This was a move to reassure people that they were

Photographic history for Society meeting

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. Michael Pym, manager of the photographic department of Gissings Pharmacy.

In appreciation of his contribution in copying photographs for the Society for a long period, life membership was conferred on him some years ago.

Mr. Pym has had many years of experience in his field. After leaving school he joined the staff of two local newspapers, the "Evening News" and the "Riverina Stock and Station Recorder", as a photographer and engraver.

He later joined the Ernest Tooley Studio and for the past 14 years has been in his present position at Gissings.

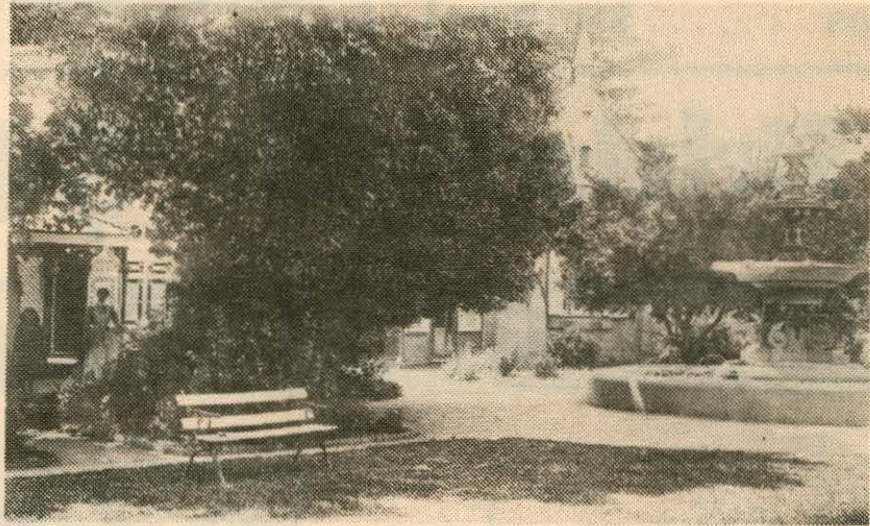
His subject will be "Cameras and Photography to 1940". Slides will illustrate the talk.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm on Monday, May 17. Visitors are welcome.

A welcome guest at the April general meeting was Dr. Hazel King, vice-president of the Royal Australian Historical Society and co-editor of its journal.

Dr. King, now retired was formerly senior lecturer in history at Sydney University.

The Wagga Chamber of



● Wagga hospital which served the community for 50 years.

Commerce and Industry has approved a grant of \$1425 to meet the cost of installing awnings and blinds to reduce the amount of direct light entering the Museum.

The date of the Museum Birthday Fete for 1983 has been fixed for Saturday, April 16.

The Society will mount a display at the Antique Fair to be conducted by South Wagga Rotary Club in Kyeamba Smith Hall from June 4-6.

At the April meeting Mrs. Marge Wehner, a member of the Museum Trust which operates the Jindera Pioneer Museum, traced the history of the Wagner and Rosler families — united by marriage — who operated the Jindera store which is now the museum.

Like many of their countrymen they migrated from Germany during a time of religious persecution and economic revolution. A great number of these migrants settled in the Barossa Valley, South Australia where they established the great Australian wine industry.

Rosler and Wagner went to Jindera, formerly known as Dights Forest, where they conducted the store in partnership from 1874-1884.

Peter Wagner was deeply involved in the early development of the area and was responsible for the tree-planting scheme for the main street.

The store passed from the family hands in 1951 but in 1967 with local support it was purchased and is now controlled by the

Trust as the Pioneer Museum.

Recently the Society was given a photograph of the Wagga Hospital which stood on the north-eastern corner of Johnston and Tarcutta Streets, the present site of the residence of the Inspector of Police.

The fountain in the foreground is that which now graces the rose garden near the Civic Theatre.

The first hospital was conducted in rented premises in Kincaid Street from the mid 1850's.

The one pictured built in early 1860s had three wards, male, female and infectious. It served the community until the present hospital was built in 1910.

— Bidgee Whaler

Fewer trees today

At the general meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society the guest speaker will be Mr. Robert Allen, Assistant District Forester in the Wagga office of the Forestry Commission.

By "Bidgee-Whaler"



As 1982 is the Year of the Tree the subject chosen is appropriate.

Mr. Allen will speak on the decline of trees in the landscape in some areas of western NSW. As well as outlining some of the evidence of tree decline Mr. Allen will discuss some of its causes.

A historical perspective to the topic will be provided by Society President, Mr. Keith Swan who will comment on descriptions of trees in parts of the Riverina as recorded by the early explorers such as Captain Charles Sturt and Major Mitchell.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, June 21, at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

As already reported in the Daily Advertiser, the Society has appointed its first Museum Director, Miss Barbara Pederson, who will be taking up her position on July 1.

The Society looks forward to receiving the professional advice and guidance which the new Director can offer.

So members may make her acquaintance, a "Welcome" gathering will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Bamberry, Coursing Park on Sunday, July 18.

The Board of Directors has appointed a Museum Staff Committee: Messrs. K. Swan, G. Lewis, M. Starr, G. Bamberry, D. Brech, M. Gissing, Miss P. de Jersey and Mrs. S. Walsh.

Five other committees have already been appointed: Finance, membership and social, museum, library and research, publications and publicity.

During July a membership drive will be conducted.

More members are needed; there is much to be done at the Museum and in other areas of activity such as research, to satisfy the increasing number of requests for information received by mail, mostly relating to family histories.

A new members afternoon will be held at the



Museum on Sunday, August 8.

It will be a family day for all members new and old.

Special attractions are planned for children.

Entry will be free. Numerous working exhibits will be in operation and there will be displays as well.

The Society will participate in an exhibition at the Wagga High School from July 15-18, to celebrate 70 years of the School's establishment.

An interesting article appeared in the Southern Rural on Friday June 4, under the heading "The fame of John Hartigan".

It refers to the recently published biography "John O'Brien and The Boree Log".

The subject of the biography was however, Patrick not John Hartigan.

He was Father Patrick Joseph Hartigan later to become Monsignor. The author of the biography is his nephew, Father Frank Mecham of Lindfield.

In "A History of the Farmers and Settlers Association" (1957) by Wm Bayley reference is made to the Lake Albert Bushfire Brigade:

"In 1904-5 the fires which ravaged almost every part of the State were the worst experienced and the settlers were determined to organise to control future outbreaks.

The "Farmer and Settler" of August 13, 1909 reported that the Pioneer Fire Brigade was formed at Lake Albert in the Murrumbidgee district on January 2, 1906 and was believed to have been the first organised Bushfire Brigade in the country.

It comprised all residents of the district who co-operated in an endeavour to avoid a disaster similar to that when fires swept from Urana to Gundagai at the end of 1904.

FROM RIVERS TO WATER HOLES . . .

The spectre of drought has always been with us and no doubt from time to time, always will be.

The dreaded word seems to be on most lips at present, at least in the country areas. Discussions arise as to which seems to have been the worst drought, the 1902, 1914, 1944 or earlier ones such as the seven year drought in the 1830s to 1840s.

John O'Brien wrote that "the devastating drought began in 1836 and did not break until 1843. The Murrumbidgee and the Murray Rivers were only a chain of water holes".

The inimitable James Gormly, a most unforgettable character, who was Mayor of Wagga in 1884-85 and a member of the Legislative Council from 1904 to 1922, recorded that his wife's father, Joseph Cox who had just arrived in the country, was making his way with his young family, from Gobarralong to The Tumut.

They camped for a night in the dry bed of the Tumut River.

This writer's father-in-law was farming in the Victorian Mallee country during the drought of 1902.

He, his brother and two sisters had each drawn a 640 acre block of land near the town of Berriwillock.

Thick mallee scrub, virgin land, covered the area for miles. Methods of clearing the land in-

cluded using a team pulling a huge "mallee roller" as it was called, which in reality was a large tree sawn to workable size.

With each ploughing, the roots came to the surface. They were and still are a valuable source of firewood. Even today they are transported by road to Melbourne to be sold for that purpose.

The drought of that year was devastating.

Not only were pastures non-existent but dams had dried up and water supplies were depleted. One can imagine what this meant to the farmer who depended for this livelihood on his team working horses.

The horses, in turn, depended on a good water supply as the average working horse drank eight gallons or thereabouts per day.

Aware of the plight of the mallee farmers, the Government of the day alleviated the situation somewhat by sending water tanks by rail from Bendigo to Berriwillock, a distance of 100 miles.

Farmers brought their own square iron tanks (called malt tanks) by horse team and cart to Berriwillock Railway Station to be filled. They paid four shillings (40 cents) for a 400 gallon tank full, which would last a team of

horses not much longer than a week.

It was an expensive operation both in time and money, but at least it enabled the farmers to keep their teams alive.

One of the nearby farmers was at his wits end. His sheep were bogging in the mud of the dam and dying where they lay. He heard of the water scheme and decided to make some water troughs. With time running out he joined the procession of teams and tanks, a familiar sight going to and fro with monotonous regularity.

Returning to the farm he filled the troughs and then drove his 350 sheep, or what was left of them to the water, but try as he may, the sheep, accustomed only to drinking dam water would not drink the "imported" water. Disappointed and frustrated the farmer returned to the house, reached for a gun in the cupboard and then walked to the shed and took his own life.

Such was the heartache and tragedy of drought.

On the road to Ballarat there were several Government tanks (dams) on travelling stock routes. Road-making was in progress and so the two male members of the family mentioned above, tem-

By "Bidgee Whaler"



porarily left them farms and, with their teams, joined the many road-makers.

In this way they not only supplemented their dwindled incomes but ensured also that their horses had some feed and water for survival.

On a brighter note, the Wagga and District Historical Society will be host to Mr. Richard Wesley, executive officer of the Museums association of New South Wales, on next Monday evening, October 25.

Anyone interested in a talk and slides of Museums in England, is welcome to attend.

The speaker will also discuss his role in museum development in this State. The venue is the library of Mount Austin School at 8 pm.

SAVING

Northern Riverina County Council hopes to save about \$60,000 a year by changing over to diesel-powered motor vehicles and by a longer changeover period for its light vehicle fleet.

The changeover will be implemented in stages as vehicles come up for replacement.

The policy change follows an investigation by the Chief Engineer, Mr Gordon McGeorge.

Wagga and District Historical Society

The monthly meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society will be held at the Education Centre on Monday, October 18 at 8 pm.

Guest speaker, Miss Anne Clyde is a lecturer in the History of Libraries in the School of Library and Information Science at the Riverina College of Advanced Education. The subject of her talk will be "The History of the Anglican Diocese of the Riverina". Visitors are welcome.

Mr. Richard Wesley, Executive Officer of the Museums Association of New South Wales will be in Wagga on Monday, October 25.

To give all members an opportunity to meet him, an informal meeting will be held on that evening at 8 pm in the library of Mount Austin High School.

Mr. Wesley has recently carried out work in England in museums which are comparable with the society's museum. He is known to many members, having been guest speaker at the society's annual dinner in 1981.

He will speak also about his role in museum development in this State. An invitation is extended to anyone who might be interested in the subject, to go along.

The museum which was a finalist in the 'Museum of the Year' competition early this year, is once again entered, this time in the 'special display' section.

During the celebrations associated with the

By "Bidgee Whaler"



centenary of local Government in 1970 a small temporary bark building was erected by the city council on the concourse of the council chambers. It was used as a post office from which were issued first-day covers with special centenary post mark.

Appropriately it bore the name of Cobb and Co. for it was in that vicinity that Cobb and Co. had its horseyards in the early days.

At the conclusion of the celebrations the post office was given to the museum and is at present being prepared as a communications centre to be entered in the competition.

To prepare the building for inspection and also to re-arrange other exhibits, working bees will be held on Saturday, October 16 and 30 from 9 am — 4 pm. Help at anytime during those hours would be appreciated.

"Myall" will be the

venue for an excursion on Saturday, November 6.

"Myall" the property of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Browne, is situated 80 kilometres from Wagga. It is part of the original Brookong Station. Many of its early farm items are still in use on the property including two traction engines.

At the recent annual meeting of the society, office-bearers of the board of directors were elected as follows: President: Mr. Keith Swan; Vice-president: Messrs. Arthur Nixon, Morris Gissing and Mrs. Sylvia Walsh; Honorary Secretary: Mr. Geoff Lewis; Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Michael Starr; Board members: Mesdames N. Carlin, V. Swan, Miss P. de Jersey, Messrs. G. Bamerry, D. Brech, C. Carlin, K. Le Lievre, R. Palmer, J. Winterbottom and K. Sterling.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 16 October 1982

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Anne Clyde, Anglican Diocese, Richard Wesley, "Myall", RH Browne, Brookong Station, Cobb and Co., Keith Swan, Arthur Nixon, Morris Gissing, Sylvia Walsh, Geoff Lewis, Michael Starr, N Carlin, V Swan, P de Jersey, G Bamerry, D Brech, C Carlin, K Le Lievre, R Palmer, J Winterbottom, K Sterling

Patrick Moran recalled

by "Bidgee Whaler"

The next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be held on Monday, November 15, at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm.

Vice-President, Mrs Sylvia Walsh will address the meeting on the subject of "Patrick Moran and Family". Patrick Moran, who came to Wagga about the year 1873, conducted a general store in Gurwood Street, in premises which, in recent years, housed the Wentworth and Windmill Cafes.

He later transferred the store-keeping business to Fitzmaurice Street. As well as having commercial interests he was the owner of pastoral properties which included Tooles Creek Station.

Renowned for his charitable deeds, he helped many in need.

Mr. Moran's widow and three daughters lived their final years in Melbourne.

The large estate, now almost finalised was bequeathed to charitable and church institutions.

A considerable portion has come to Wagga. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting.

The Society is sponsoring an exhibition of prints at the "Old Brewery Gallery" on Friday November 26, at 8 pm. The prints which will be for sale, consist of etchings of early Sydney buildings designed by Francis Greenway. An open invitation is extended to interested people to attend. Admission includes light refreshment.

The final function for the year will be a Christmas "get together" at the Museum on Saturday December 11 at 4 pm.

The Society's No. 5 Journal is at present being compiled and will be available during the coming holiday period. Articles contained in the Journal are:

(1) "A Quarter-Century of Local History" by Keith Swan;

(2) "Yabtree", 1829-1982" by Wallace Horsley;

(3) "A Half-Century of Medical Practice" by Dr. R. A. Lewis;

(4) "Patrick Moran and Family" by Sylvia Walsh.

Mr. Richard Wesley, Executive Officer of the Museum Association of Australia (New South Wales Branch) recently addressed an informal meeting of Society members.

He outlined the reason for his appointment, his areas of responsibility and the way in which he is endeavouring to give guidance in the development of Regional Museums, and in securing Government assistance by way of grants. He also offered suggestions regarding the development of Stage 2 of the Museum Project.

Dr. Allan Roberts, newly appointed Research and Liaison Officer of the Royal Australian Historical Society, this week met with some

members of the Board of Directors of the Society.

Formerly a Lecturer in History at Macquarie University, he has been appointed to help Historical Societies in New South Wales with research problems.

He is at present compiling a map defining areas encompassed by each Museum in the State, to avoid overlapping, and is also preparing a bibliography of historical publications in the Regions.



Published: *Daily Advertiser* 6 November 1982

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Sylvia Walsh, Patrick Moran, Tooles Creek Station, Francis Greenway, "Yabtree", Richard Wesley, Allan Roberts

MEETINGS RESUME

General meetings of the Wagga and District Historical Society will resume this month.

The first for 1983 will be held on Monday, February 21 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm.

The guest speaker will be Mr Mervyn Morris, who is a tutor in Administration at the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

Prior to taking up this position, Mr Morris held a number of administrative positions in the college, in local government and in the NSW Public Service.

He had been carrying out research in industrial relations at Tubbo Station, for his Litt.B. thesis at the University of New England.

The subject of Mr Morris' talk will be "Tubbo and the shearers' strikes of the 1890s".

The society's No 5 Journal is now available. It bears the title "People, Properties and Professions". It contains the following articles, which were subjects of talks given at society meetings.

"A Quarter-century of Local History", by Keith Swan; "Yabtree, 1829-1972 (143)" by Wallace Horsley; "A Half-century of Medical Practice in Wagga" by Dr R. A. Lewis; and "Patrick Moran and Family", by Sylvia Walsh.

The journal is available at the museum, from the treasurer, Mr M. Starr and at most local booksellers.

The society offers congratulations to life-member, Dr R. A. Lewis, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours, for his contribution to medicine over such a long period.

Congratulations also to member Mrs M. Hamill, who was declared "Citizen of the Year" on Australia Day.

A program with a difference was conducted at the museum for four days during January.

It was a highly successful venture.

Museum director, Barbara Pedersen, assisted by Mr Littlejohn of Harden-Murrumburrah Museum, and society members C. Sterling, R. Lewis, N. and C. Carlin conducted activities for children between the ages of seven and 14 years.

The children learnt about conservation and, more importantly, they gained know-



ledge of the exhibits and their significance to local history.

The children enjoyed the novel experience which included treasure hunts and other fun games.

The society is grateful to the Daily Advertiser for its coverage.

The board of directors is already making arrangements for the annual fete, which will be held at the museum on Saturday, April 16.

It will be a fitting finale to "Heritage Week".

Society members will be hosts to members of the Sydney-based "Whip and Whistle Club" on Easter Saturday, April 2.

The tour members will visit the museum, where they will lunch with society members.

Mr Frank Forde, who died last week in Queensland aged 92 years, will be remembered by many Wagga residents.

He married Vera, the only daughter of J. K. O'Reilly, a prominent citizen who, for many years, conducted a drapery store on the "hill" nest door to the former Australian Hotel.

The store was on the site where, in later years, Coles variety store was built.

The premises are now vacant.

Since Mr Forde's death, prominence has been given to the fact that he was Prime Minister for just six days (the shortest term on record).

Little mention has been made, however, of the service he gave in the important portfolio of Minister for the Army during the Second World War.

He later became High Commissioner to Canada.

He was respected by all parliamentarians, irrespective of their political persuasion.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 10 February 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Mervyn Morris, Tubbo Station, Keith Swan, "Yabtree", Wallace Horsley, Dr RA Lewis, Patrick Moran, Sylvia Walsh, M Starr, M Hamill, Barbara Pedersen, Mr Littlejohn, C Sterling, R Lewis, N & C Carlin, Frank Forde, Vera O'Reilly, JK O'Reilly

ACTIVE TIME FOR MUSEUM

At the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society the guest speaker will be Society member, Mrs Patricia Coogan.

Mrs Coogan who was born in Wagga Wagga, is the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Wm. M. J. Walsh. Mr Walsh attended school at Saint Stanislaus College, Bathurst, travelling there by coach from Hartley where his family lived.

He later attended Saint Patrick's College, Goulburn.

He married Miss

Bridget Comans, whose father owned Combaning Station situated between Cootamundra and Temora.

In 1900 Mr Walsh commenced practice as a solicitor in Wagga in an office in the former bank building on the corner of Fitzmaurice and Gurwood Streets. In 1916 Mr Blair who had been practising law in Tumbarumba, joined Mr Walsh in premises in Johnston Street now occupied by the firm of Bryan Hamilton and Company. In later years Mrs Coogan's husband, William joined the firm where he practised until his death in 1969.

The title of Mrs Coogan's talk will be "Reminiscences of a Native of Wagga Wagga". The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday March 21 at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend.

The society is embarking on a program of re-arrangement of exhibits at the museum, included in which is the re-siting of existing, small blacksmith shop and the provision of

a display unit for shearing exhibits.

For that reason it is proposed to conduct working bees on each Saturday following general meetings. The next working bee will be held on Saturday March 26, from 9 am till 5 pm.

The society would be grateful to any citizen who has time to spare and who will be willing to take off his or her coat for an hour or two to lend a hand.

The annual fete which this year marks the 16th birthday of the museum will be held at the Museum on Saturday April 16 commencing at 1.30 pm.

Many attractions are planned. Craft demonstrations will include leather work, spinning and weaving, pottery, pyrography, enamelling and assembling of wool pictures. Home made cakes, garden plants, afternoon tea and soft drinks will be available. Musical entertainment will be supplied by the Wagga Wagga Accordion Band.

All members are re-

By "Bidgee Whaler"



quested to be in attendance at the fete on April 16. This function will replace the April monthly meeting.

Nominations for the position of Honorary Secretary have been invited from members to replace Mr Geoff Lewis who recently resigned from the position. It is expected that the position will be filled at the March meeting.

Among the many requests received for information relating to former residents of Wagga Wagga, is one regarding Emily Jane Maloney thought to have been born in Wagga in 1850 and married at Hartley to John McGowan in 1872.

Any information regarding Maloneys from 1850's onwards would be appreciated. Please phone 226178 if able to help.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 19 March 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Patricia Coogan, WMJ Walsh, Bridget Comans, Combaning Station, Mr Blair, Bryan Hamilton, Geoff Lewis, Emily Jane Maloney, John McGowan

MUSEUM FETE HAS MANY ATTRACTIONS

By "Bidgee Whaler"

The Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will celebrate the 16th birthday of the opening of its museum with a fete to be held at the Museum on Saturday, April 16 commencing at 1.30 pm.

Many attractions are planned including demonstrations of leatherwork, spinning and weaving, pyrography and enamelling. Early machinery will be in operation.

The Wagga Wagga Accordion Band will provide musical entertainment. Home-made cakes will be available as well as soft drinks and afternoon tea. The Society is hoping for community support on this day as the fete is the main fund raising event for the year.

Re-arrangement and improvement in lay-out of exhibits is under way and will be so during the coming months. Assistance is needed.

No particular expertise is necessary, just a willing pair of hands.

Working bees for the next two months will be held on Saturday, April 23 and May 21. The Museum phone number is 252934.

Since schools settled into the year's program over 2000 pupils from va-

rious local and district schools have visited the museum under the supervision of their teachers. It is the society's aim to encourage student visits so that the citizens of the future may learn something of the past. Visits may be arranged by phoning the museum director.

At the March general meeting Mr Colin Carlin was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary. Mr Carlin, who recently retired from his position with the Department of Agriculture, has been a member of the Board of Directors for several years during which time he has given valuable service.

Guest speaker at the May meeting will be Dr David Denholm, Senior Lecturer in History at the Riverina College of Advanced Education. Dr Denholm has recently carried out an aerial survey of natural springs in the Wagga Wagga district. The title of the talk will be

"Drought, Springs and Aerial Photography". The meeting will be held on Monday, May 23 at the Education Centre. There will not be a meeting in April.

Although the drought in the Riverina appears to be broken, memories still linger on. There will be many stories of hardship and heartache to be told to children and grand children in the coming years. Few people would remember the 1902 drought the fewer still, if any, the year 1899 when, as the newspapers of the day tell us, the Riverina and indeed the State writhed in the grip of one of the worst droughts of its kind. Great stretches of the continent were mere dust bowls.

Lack of water was a major problem. Lake Albert dried up and cattle grazed over its entire area of 250-300 acres. Just after the turn of the century the State Government carried out reclamation



work which cost £1000 (\$2000). A weir was constructed to hold back high level water; a creek on the south side was diverted into the Lake; and Crooked Creek was partially diverted.

The recent drought has dramatically reduced breeding stock. Inevitably the price of meat will rise as meat buyers compete for the reduced number of livestock at selling centres.

Gone are the days when, as in the 1870's, price wars were waged between Wagga Wagga butchers. Rump steak could be purchased for 4 pence per pound; side of whole sheep also corn-beef for 3 pence per pound; legs of lamb 3½ pence per pound, while the humble beef sausage brought the princely sum of 5 pence per pound.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* April 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Colin Carlin, David Denholm, drought, Lake Albert, Crooked Creek

Museum birthday a pleasing time

Members of the Wagga and District Historical Society were pleased with the results of the museum birthday fete held recently.

Despite the fact that there were several functions of a similar nature held on the same day, community support was forthcoming. It was encouraging and certainly much appreciated. The society expresses its gratitude to all who gave assistance.

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the society will be Dr. David Denholm who is Senior Lecturer in History at the Riverina College of Advanced Education. Winner of the Dame Mary Gilmore Award in 1958, Dr. Denholm is also the author of "The Colonial Australians" published in 1979.

During the recent summer months Dr. Denholm undertook an aerial survey of the Wagga district, seeking the location of natural springs of which there are many around the countryside.

The very early settlers built their dwellings close to natural water supplies. Sometimes near these are found signs of early aboriginal camps. As other sources of water became available settlers were able to move further afield.

The title of the talk will be "Droughts, Springs and Aerial Photography". The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 16. Visitors are welcome.

During Anzac weekend a seminar on education was held at the museum. It was an inservice course conducted by the Education Department and de-

signed to assist teachers and encourage purposeful use of the museum by school classes.

Lecturers were Mr. John Hodge, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Museum Studies at the Sydney University and Miss Pat McDonald, Senior Education Officer at the Australian Museum.

The dedicated members who work tirelessly at the museum are now seeing the fruits of their labours, with the establishment of a communications centre and other improvements.

A further working-bee will be held on Saturday, May 28 between the hours of 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Helpers are welcome.

The society is now able to supply copies of early photographs of Wagga and district. Orders may be placed, having due regard to copyright. Selection may be made at the museum during weekdays. Phone the museum on 252934 for attendance times. Application forms will be available.



A descendant of the Devlin family was in Wagga last week seeking information about her father, Arthur Bush (born 1889) who later changed his name to John Milton Devlin. Please phone 226178 if able to help.

A seminar on "Keeping Archives" will be held at the Australian National University, Canberra on Saturday, June 18. Further details are available from Peter Moore, phone (062) 494066.

Search for missing

CANBERRA — Two officers from the department of aviation will fly to Papua New Guinea to assist local authorities search for a light aircraft missing with six Australians on board.

The plane has been missing since leaving Port Moresby on a flight to Madang about midday on Tuesday.

A statement from the Aviation Department yesterday said PNG had asked for assistance under a mutual international search and rescue agreement with Australia.

An officer from the department's search and rescue organisation in Brisbane and another in Canberra would be in Port Moresby on Tuesday to coordinate the search.

At the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society the guest speaker will be well-known pharmacist, Mr. Les Kennedy. After graduating Mr. Kennedy practised in his home town, Junee. He came to Wagga Wagga in 1932 where later he conducted his own pharmacy in Baylis Street.

Mr. Kennedy has been and still is deeply involved in community affairs. For 32 years he was a member of the Wagga Wagga Hospital Board and served several years as chairman. His dedication to Rotary earned him a Paul Harris Fellowship, an award made for service to Rotary International and to the community.

Although he retired from the pharmacy in 1974 he retains an active interest in community organisations. He is secretary of "Meal on Wheels".

The title of Mr. Kennedy's talk will be "Fifty Years in Pharmacy in Wagga Wagga". The

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

The society was delighted that one of its former members, the late Mrs Kath Higgins, was honoured recently for her contribution to the arts in Wagga Wagga.

The Mayor, Alderman Pat Brassil, unveiled a commemorative plaque in the upstairs foyer of the Civic Theatre.

The area was named the "Dianthus Lounge". Mrs. Higgins, a regular columnist with The Daily Advertiser under the nom de plume of Dianthus, was always ready to promote the interests of the society.

A working bee will be held at the Museum on Saturday, June 25 between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. Any help during that period would be appreciated.

Recognising the value of the museum as an aid to history teaching, district and local school teachers continue to bring



By "BIDGEE
WHALER"

their classes to the museum for a conducted tour.

During April 150 students travelled from The Rock School and the Gundagai Catholic School. In early May, prior to the commencement of the vacation, there were 40 students from a local school.

Bookings for school visits may be made by phoning the museum director on 252934.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 18 June 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Les Kennedy, Pat Brassil, Mrs Kath Higgins

TRACING HISTORY OF THE TUMBARUMBA LINE

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. Michael Lynch who is a history teacher at Mount Erin High School.

Born and educated in Wagga, Mr. Lynch gained his Bachelor of Arts degree (Liberal Studies) at the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

As part of his research project for the degree he studied all aspects of the Tumbarumba Railway including the political pressures placed on governments to have the line established. The title of his talk will be "The Tumbarumba Railway".

During the period of 1880's until the turn of the century the Wagga Wagga Progress committee was active in urging its construction.

The Wagga-Tumbarumba Railway

League took up the cause early in the twentieth century and was very forceful in its arguments.

Tumbarumba had much to recommend it.

It had an average rainfall in excess of 40 inches. Opening up the hill country meant that stock could be transported to an area of plentiful water and food supply, local products such as timber and fruit could be readily moved; products of the Upper Murray region which were being channelled through Victoria could then make their way into New South Wales.

Construction of the line did not, however, commence until 1911. The First

World War interrupted the work. The line did not open until 1917.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday, July 18 at 8 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Ninety three students from the Holbrook School and a visiting Sydney School toured the Museum last month. The Museum director, Barbara Pedersen has planned holiday activities for the August school vacation.

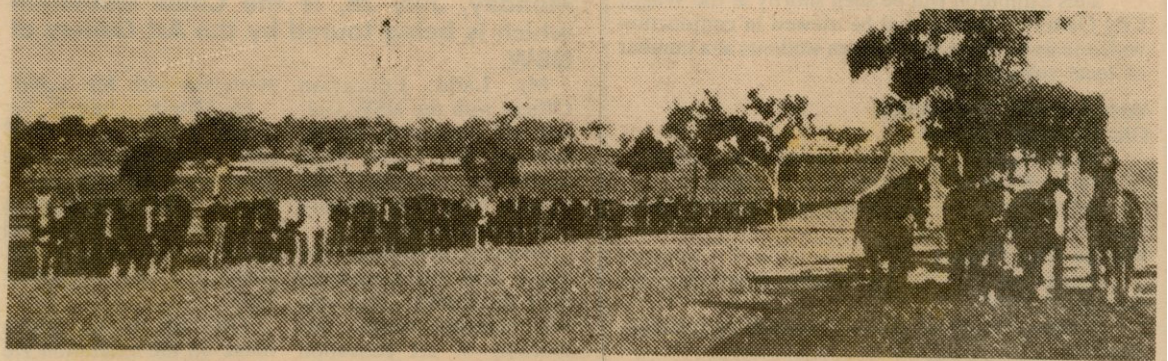
Children will be introduced to games played in earlier days, such as jack-bones, marbles, snakes and ladders etc. Has anyone a

set of jack bones (the real thing not the plastic type)?

If so the Director would be pleased to receive a phone call on 252934. Any other games or ideas would be appreciated.

A working bee will be held at the Museum on Saturday, July 23 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Help for an hour or so during that period would be appreciated. Perhaps some of the young adults in the community may join in the work and at the same time learn something of the history of the district.

The Society plans to participate in the Wagga Wagga Spring Festival by holding an open day at the Museum.

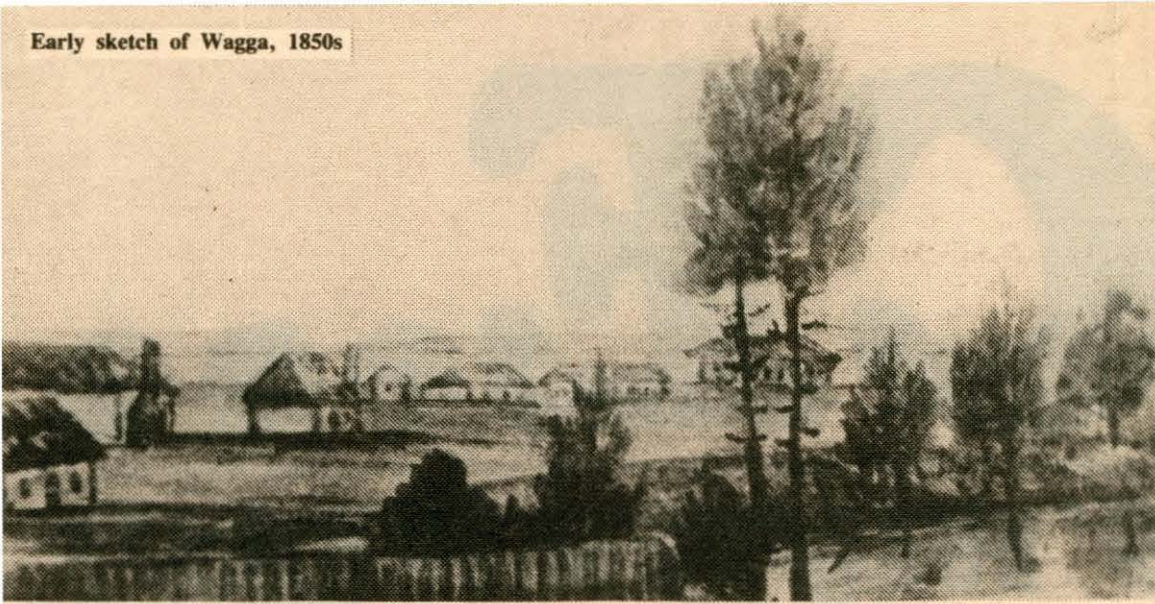


● Photo from a supplement to the Sydney Mail of August 10, 1910, showing ploughing along the proposed route between Wagga and Tumbarumba.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 July 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Tumbarumba railway line, Michael Lynch, Barbara Pedersen

Early sketch of Wagga, 1850s



At the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society, Mr Keith Swan will show slides depicting aspects of early life in Wagga and district from 1850-1900.

Visitors are welcome to go along to the meeting at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street on Monday August 15 at 8 pm.

The Society will participate in the Wagga Spring Festival by mounting a special display at the Museum. An open day will also be

held, the proposed date being October 16.

In preparation for these events, a working bee will be held on Saturday August 20, between 9 am and 5 pm. The Board of Directors appeals to the public to assist if possible.

In particular younger people are invited to go along for a short period to help in some way.

Members whose spare time is limited, cannot hope to cope with the mounting jobs of preservation. Valuable items are deteriorating through exposure to the elements.

The museum director has arranged activities for children at the museum during part of the coming school vacation. Phone the museum, 252934 for details.

During October, including the Spring Festival period, a touring exhibition from Elizabeth Bay House will be on view.

It is being jointly promoted by the Society and the Archives of the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

The 'Good Housekeeping Exhibition 1830-1930' as it is titled, won an award for the best exhibit in the

Being highly contagious it soon spread to the towns and the Wagga Hospital was hard pressed to cope with the number of patients being brought in every day.

Large tents were hastily erected in the hospital grounds as the numbers increased, and doctors and nurses were run off their feet.

There were no antibiotics or other sophisticated treatment — all they could do was to try to prevent the spread of the virus by limiting contact with stricken patients.

BIDGEE WHALER



open category of last year's 'Museum of the Year' competition and also gained a certificate in the National Museums Awards.

The exhibition was specifically formulated as a travelling exhibition for country museums and will be on view at the Archives at the south campus of the College.

In 1919 a pneumonic flu epidemic was rampant in the State. The border between Queensland and NSW was closed at Coolangatta in an effort to prevent the disease from spreading north.

Two weeks ago a Brisbane newspaper ran a photo showing a butcher on horse-back delivering meat at the border gate while a border-patrolling officer looked on.

During the same year Wagga was stricken by the disease, which, it is believed, was introduced by soldiers returning from the war.

Severe restrictions were imposed at public places and places of employment. All who ventured out wore nose and mouth masks. Those who were not obliged to leave their homes, stayed indoors.

The 'flu claimed two or three lives and struck down many hundreds of residents in a few weeks. With the dawn of the new year the epidemic had ended.

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MUSEUM DISPLAY CHANGES

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, September 19 at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm. Annual reports will be presented and office bearers for the coming year elected.

On Sunday, September 25 members will make an excursion to "Yathella" the property of Mr. Eric Booth whose forebears were early district settlers. Mr. Booth's grandfather, Abraham Booth came to Australia in 1840. After carrying on a butchering business in Melbourne he turned his attention to pastoral pursuits, firstly in Victoria and then in New South Wales.

In 1862 he purchased the then very large property, "Gobbagombalin" just north of Wagga. He owned the property until 1907 when it was purchased by the New South Wales Government for Closer Settlement. The homestead was on the site of the former home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brunskill who retired to Wagga only in recent years.

The large wool-press of "Gobba" was donated to the society and, in 1966 some of the members undertook the dismantling of it for removal to the museum. Mr. Eric Booth's father, named Abraham after his father, was an alderman of the Wagga Municipal Council for 10 years, 1911-1920.

With the untimely death recently of Mrs. Sonia Hribar the Society lost one of its most valued and respected members. Mrs. Hribar will long be remembered for her interest and support. Many have admired her work and demonstrations of pyrography at annual fetes at the museum.

The museum is at present being prepared for the coming spring festival. A new display is planned. A working bee will be held on Saturday, September 24 between 9 am and 5 pm. Willing helpers would be



**BIDGEE
WHALER**

most welcome.

One of the museum items, a beautifully restored sulky, is at present on display in the exhibition being conducted by the Association of Riverina Cultural Clubs in the City Gallery.

This is just one example of items which will be on display at the museum during the "Open Day" on October 16 during the festival.

Also during that period and opening on October 8 a touring exhibition from Elizabeth Bay House, Sydney will be on view in the Archives section of the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

The "Good Housekeeping Exhibition 1830-1930", as it is titled, won an award for the best exhibit in the open category of last year's "Museum of the Year" competition and gained a certificate in the National Museums Awards.

This exhibition was specifically formulated as a travelling exhibition for country museums, the first of its type to be arranged for that purpose. It will be on view for three weeks in October at the South Campus of the College. It is being jointly promoted by the Historical Society and the Riverina College Archives.

—Sylvia Walsh

60 years in motoring . . .



Mr Keith Condon who, last week, was elected alderman of the City Council, will address the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society.

Mr Condon, a life-member of the Society, is a Director and Manager of the Condon family business, Great Southern Motors, where he has worked since 1944. The

business was established in 1924 by his father, the late Hugh L. Condon, and Harry Taylor, the pair of them transferring their business from Temora to Wagga Wagga.

Many residents will remember when, before the advent of talkie films, the Great Southern Motors Building was the Southern Cross Picture Theatre where the only sound to be heard during the filming was that made by a pianist providing background music, his hands skillfully moving from one tune to another to suit the changing scene.

The interior walls were adorned with life-size posters of film stars such as the then popular Theda Bara and her contemporaries.

Mr Condon's topic will be "A Half Century of the Motor Trade". As the Great Southern Motors business has been in the Condon family continually since 1924, Mr Condon has some interesting details on firms, personalities, fashions, and changes in various aspects of the motor trade. The meeting will be held on Monday 17 October at the Education Centre at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

At the recent annual meeting of the Society, office-bearers were elected as follows:

President: Mrs Vera Swan; Vice-Presidents: Mr Keith Swan, Mr Morris Gissing and Mrs Sylvia Walsh; Hon. Secretary: Mr Colin Carlin; Hon.

Treasurer; Mr Michael Starr; Members: Mrs N. Carlin, Messrs G. Bamberry, A. Ives, K. Le Lievre, M. McGrath, R. Palmer and J. Winterbottom. Mr Keith Swan completed his three year term of office of President.

There are two events being arranged by the Society for the Spring Festival: An Open Day will be held at the Museum on Sunday 16 October, from 2-4.30 pm. In No. 1 Hall, a new display spans the period from the time of aboriginal settlement until 1900. On view for the first time will be an enlarged late 19th century photograph of 120 pioneers and early residents (all identified) with James Gormly as the central figure.

Early machinery will be in operation, including a bull-dog tractor, 1920 Leyland truck and a restored, early, stationary petrol engine.

The "Good Housekeeping Exhibition" (1830-1930) will be presented in the Blakemore Building, Riverina College of Advanced Education, South Campus from 8th to 30th October.



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Daily Advertiser 6 October 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Keith Condon, Hugh Condon, Harry Taylor, Great Southern Motors, Vera Swan, Keith Swan, Morris Gissing, Sylvia Walsh, Colin Carlin, Michael Starr, N Carlin, G Bamberry, A Ives, K Le Lievre, M McGrath, R Palmer, J Winterbottom

2WG AND 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be Mr. Mal Brentnall, who is Services Director of Radio Station 2WG.

Born and educated in Wagga Wagga, Mr. Brentnall commenced work as a clerk at 2WG in 1936 just four years after the station went on air.

Except for a period in 1941-46 when he gave service in the Second World War, he has remained with the station. The subject of his talk is "2WG — Fifty Years of Broadcasting."

The meeting will be held in the Education Centre at 8 pm on Monday, November 21. Visitors are welcome.

The passing of Mrs. Muriel Thompson three weeks ago removed a member of one of the well-known and respected families connected with the early history of Wagga Wagga.

Mrs. Thompson was the daughter of the late Adolph Edward Pulver who was born on his father's property, "Rose Grove," which was then an 800 acre farm north of the town, the home being on the present site of the abattoirs. Following in the footsteps of his Swiss-born father, Adolph Pulver continued to farm "Rose Grove."

In 1892 he and his brother Frederick Rudolph won a national award for their vineyard which covered an area of 30 acres, taking in

the land where the Red Steer Motel is now situated. The document reads:

Certificate, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales; National Prize Competition for the Whole of the Colony, 1892; Class: Best Vineyard; Awarded to A. E. and F. R. Pulver. It is signed by the then Minister for Agriculture.

By

"BIDGEE WHALER"

Adolph Pulver died in 1963 in his 93rd year.

Mary Gilmore mentioned the Pulver family in her writings. She was a close neighbour when she lived with her parents (Camerons) on their property at Cartwrights Hill. She wrote also about another branch of the family — the Mennekes. Adolph Pulver married a member of the Menneke family which was famous for the Menneke bells, renowned for their unique, clear sound.

Mary Gilmore wrote that a bullock driver liked to always have a menneke bell for his straggler.

A sad sequel to the death of Mrs. Thompson, who was a widow and childless, was the fact that a day or

two after her death some person or persons broke into her home in North Wagga (the former Pulver family home) and stole her television set, jewellery and a framed, coloured painting of the "Bidgee Whaler" painted and signed by Charles Astley the artist who painted the "Whaler" which hangs in the Riverine Club.

The painting had been given to Mr. Pulver by the artist.

It was treasured by the family. It graced a wall of the home probably during all of this century. Mr.

Claude Pulver, now in his mid 70s, remembers it being there all his life time.

The composition of the painting differs from the other one by Astley. It depicts the Bidgee Whaler sitting in front of a hollowed-out tree which had a rough lean-to attached. The Whaler was known to camp in the hollow of a tree on the North Wagga flats.

The theft of the painting shocked and saddened the remaining two members of the Pulver family. They would dearly like to have it returned.

SYLVIA WALSH.

Painting Theft



FILM FILE

With moviegoers having had the opportunity over the past three weeks to see the Australian movie "Phar Lap" at the Plaza Theatre, the nostalgia trip continues over the next week with a return season of another great Australian movie "Man From Snowy River".

If you haven't already seen this movie, make sure you don't miss out. It has some of the most magnificent photography and scenery ever filmed, especially in the scenes of the wild horse stampede.

The movie will be supported by selected shorts.

Coming up next week is the wonderful American musical based on Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance.

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Daily Advertiser 17 November 1983

Keywords: Historical Society, 2WG, Mal Brentnall, Muriel Thompson, Adolph Pulver, "Rose Grove", AE & FR Pulver, Mary Gilmore, Menneke family, Bidgee Whaler painting

Museum has its own curator

By

BIDGEE WHALER



The Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its first general meeting for 1984 on Monday, February 20, at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be well-known historian, Dr. David Denholm, who is senior lecturer in History at the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

Dr. Denholm has the distinction of having won the first Dame Mary Gilmore Award.

This was in 1959 for his book "The Last Blue Sky" which was written under the nom de plume of David Forrest.

Of a more recent book "The Colonial Australians" historian Professor Manning Clark said a "most remarkable book, entertaining and illuminating. David Denholm's vision of Australia helps to explain why we are as we are."

The subject of the talk will be "How History is Made: Reality and Imagination." Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting.

As announced in the Daily Advertiser recently, the Society has appointed Mr. Colin Carlin to the position of museum curator.

He has been resident in Wagga for 20 years having come from Victoria in 1964 to take up the position of agricultural mechanisation officer for the New South Wales Government Department of Agriculture.

He is experienced in the operation and conservation of machinery and has contributed articles on the subject to The Daily Advertiser and the Gundagai Independent on a regular basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlin have been active members of the Society for several years and have attended conservation seminars and working bees at the museum.

Prior to his appointment as museum curator

Mr. Carlin was the Society's honorary secretary.

He will commence duties on Wednesday, February 15.

At the recent meeting of the board of directors Mr. Keith Swan was elected to the position of honorary secretary until the annual general meeting in September.

The annual fete which marks the 17th birthday of the museum will be held on Saturday, April 14.

In order to prepare the museum for the occasion, a working bee will be held on Saturday, March 3, the main activity being completion of the re-siting of the blacksmith shop.

The Society appeals to people who would care to help with this task, to go along for an hour or two between 9 am and 5 pm.

Keith Le Lievre would like to hear from volunteers.

He may be contacted on 223970 or at the museum on Saturday, February 25.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 February 1984

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, curator, David Denholm, Dame Mary Gilmore (award), Colin Carlin, Keith Swan, Keith Le Lievre

An example of what is in store at the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society's Museum during Heritage Week, will be seen in a display at the City Art Gallery, 40 Gurwood Street from Thursday, March 22 to Sunday, March 25.

Arrangements are being finalised for the society's participation in Heritage Week (April 8-15).

To open the program a coach tour of historical sites in the city has been arranged for Sunday, April

8, departing from the Tourist Information Centre at 2 pm.

The tour will include afternoon tea and inspection of the museum on Wil-lans Hill at approximately 4 pm.

The coach will return to the starting point at 5 pm.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10-11, the museum will be open from 2-5 pm as well as at the weekend during the same hours.

Early photos of Wagga and district will go on display in the foyer of the City Council Chambers for the entire week.

Fete

The week's activities will culminate in a monster birthday fete on Saturday, April 14, marking the 17th anniversary of the opening of the museum.

Attractions include rope-making, sheep-shearing, wolfram crushing, leather work, enamelling, spinning, pony rides, second-hand books, garden plants and home made cakes.

All this to the strains of the popular Wagga Wagga Accordion Band.

To prepare the museum for this event, working bees will be held on March 17 and 24.

Assistance during the hours of 9 am and 5 pm would be appreciated.

Feature

One of the most interesting items to come the way of the society is the branding iron of Robert Holt Best, mentioned in the Daily Advertiser last week.

It has great significance for the history of Wagga.

Although members of the Best family established the Wagga Wagga run, the first on the southern side of the Murrumbidgee River, they also had Sandy Creek.

After Robert Holt Best lost his life in 1853, having been thrown from a horse, his widow, Clara, married Edward Charles Pearson, and the family moved to Sandy Creek where the branding iron was found two years ago.

Address

To relate something of the history of the family, Mrs. Jean Youngson has been invited to address the next meeting of the society.

Mrs. Youngson was born in Wagga and is a great-granddaughter of both Robert Holt Best and John Brunker Nixon.

The latter settled at Gredadoo in 1844.

He became successful in many facets of farming, including wine-growing.

He also established a mill.

His daughters too, were industrious.

They made butter and cheese which they sent by bullock wagon for sale in Sydney, the journey often taking three to five months.

Appropriately, the subject of Mrs. Youngson's talk



By Bidgee Whaler

will be "The Best and Nixon Families."

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, March 19, at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

HERITAGE WEEK

This week the Wagga and District Historical Society's Museum received a visit from Miss M. Deahm who is Cultural Grants Officer of the Division of Cultural Activities, Premier's Department.

It is a busy period for the society. Already 200 students from four schools including Henty, have visited the museum to further their knowledge and understanding of the early days.

Further school visits are arranged for Heritage Week which commences for the society on Sunday, April 8, with a coach tour of historical sites in the city. These tours with commentary by a person having historical knowledge, have been very popular in the past. The tour which includes afternoon tea and inspection of the museum, will depart from the Tourist Information Centre at 2 pm returning there at 5 pm. Extra viewing hours at the museum for Heritage Week are on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10 and 11, from 2-5 pm.

To round off the week's program the society's fete will be held on Saturday, April 14, at 1.30 pm. Early farm machinery will be in operation, including a 1920 Leyland truck, also a 19th century hand printing press will be at work.

One of the unusual demonstrations will be that of rope-making.

There will be many others such as leather work, enamelling, spinning, sheep shearing and wolfram crushing. Pony rides will be available, also second hand books, homemade cakes and garden plants. Music will be by the Wagga Accordion Band.

As this is the main fundraising event for the year the society is hoping for community support to help preserve our history.

Guest speaker at the society's next meeting will be



Mr. Ray McCaffery who, for more than 20 years, was in charge of the manual telephone exchange at Mangoplah. It was a position that required dedication and patience, and he handled it extremely well.

Many people will long remember when, in answer to a ring on the phone, a pleasant, cheery voice at the other end of the line answered "Mango." The change over to the automatic system heralded the end of an era of friendly communication.

Mr. McCaffery was not only the exchange operator but was, what one might call, an unofficial liaison officer between subscribers and their callers, often telling them when a resident would be home to take a call.

Mr. McCaffery has much of interest to relate regarding his experiences of the 20-odd year period. Visitors are welcome at the meeting which will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, at 8 pm on Monday, April 16.

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 6 April 1984

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, M Deahm, Ray McCaffery

Pastoral recollections are in store for Historical Society

An interesting night is assured for all who attend the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

Guest speaker will be well-known local identity, Mr. Harry Francis Senior, founder of the firm of stock and station agents — H. Francis and Company.

For several years he was with the firm of R. J. Brunskill and Co., before setting up his own firm with his sons.

The experiences of Mr. Francis with rural and allied industries goes much further back in time, in fact, they span 65 years.

He will informally discuss his "65 years of association with the pastoral and agricultural industries at Brookong Station, Lockhart and Wagga".

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm on Monday, May 21. Visitors are welcome.

Three Society members have recently been elected to the Board of Directors: Mrs. N. Carlin, Messrs. N. Hopwood and R. McDonald.

The Society is grateful for the support given by the community to the annual museum fete. It was successful both in terms of attendance and financial returns, in each case, larger than in previous years.

The museum curator, Mr. Colin Carlin, has returned from Sydney where he attended a three-day school on museum curatorship, held at the Maritime Museum.

Work on the blacksmith shop is nearing completion. Further help would be appreciated. Why not go along for an hour or two to



By BIDGEE WHALER

the working bee between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm on Saturday, May 19.

The Society regrets the passing of two life-members in recent weeks; Mr. Ray Wade and Mrs. Clarice Huthwaite. Both made valuable contribution to the work of the Society. Deep

sympathy is offered to their loved ones.

The Society's No. 6 Journal will be available shortly, the title of which is "Foundations".

It contains four well-researched articles which are valuable records of facets of Wagga and District History: (1) Dr. Laurel Clyde writes of the "Anglican Diocese of Riverina" which is at present celebrating its centenary; (2) Michael Lynch relates the problems associated with "The Coming of the Tumbarumba Railway"; (3) Dr. Albert Pugsley traces the history of "The Wagga Wagga Agricultural Research Institute" of which he was first Director; (4) Ross Petty and Dr. David

Denholm provide a preliminary historical reconstruction of "The Great Southern Road — from Tumblong to Lower Tarcutta".

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 14 May 1984

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Harry Francis snr, RJ Brunskill, Colin Carlin, Ray Wade, Clarice Huthwaite, Laurel Clyde, Anglican Diocese, Michael Lynch, Tumbarumbah railway, Albert Pugsley, Wagga Agricultural Research Institute, David Denholm, Great Southern Road, N Carlin, N Hopwood, R McDonald

In recent years there has been an upsurge of interest in the tracing of family history. There is more to it than meets the eye. A knowledge of research sources plays an important part when seeking information about ancestors.

To hear more on the subject the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society has invited Mr Edward Reid-Smith to be guest speaker at its next meeting.

The speaker, a principal lecturer at the RCAE, has chosen as his subject "English Sources for Family History".

Mr Reid-Smith is English-born and for many years has carried out research into genealogy and heraldry.

England was the departure point for the majority of forebears of Australians in the early years of the colony.

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

Despite the cold weather there is much activity at the museum.

The curator, Mr Colin Carlin and his wife Nadine have beautified the surroundings by planting shrubs and ground-cover specimens.

Last month eight students and a teacher from the pre-apprenticeship training scheme class of the TAFE College spent some of their time painting several exhibits in the outdoor section, including the police callbox and telephone booths.

Work on the blacksmith display centre is progressing well, due to the efforts of a band of dedicated members.

A further working bee will be held on Saturday,

August 25. More helpers are needed.

There is a display of museum items at present in the City Library. It concludes on August 23.

A member of one of the best-known pioneer families in the district, Miss Ivy Angel, passed away recently in her 89th year.

She was a daughter of Edward (Eddy) and Elizabeth Angel of "Springvale" and a grand-daughter of Henry Angel, who came to Australia in 1817 and who, in 1824, accompanied Hume and Hovell on their expedition south to Port Phillip.

Later on, he had a property in the Illawarra district.

In about the year 1844

Family history expert will address Historical Society

Henry Angel, in partnership with John Rae, took up the "Uardry" run on the north bank of the Murrumbidgee River near Hay.

When it was necessary for him to journey to Sydney for supplies he would rest a night near Yass, at "Cooma Cottage", the home of Hamilton Hume, with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship.

In the mid-1860s he came to Wagga Wagga and settled at Lake Albert, owning much property in the area and surrounding district.

The name of Angel is still well represented in the area.

The service on the day of Ivy Angel's burial was held



in the Anglican Church of St Peter at Lake Albert, where she and other members of the family had worshipped, and where she was organist for nigh on 40 years.

The officiating minister remarked that to come into the church on that day was to walk in the path of history.

The land on which the church was built was donated by Ivy's uncle, Sam Angel senior, one of the sons of Henry Angel (the latter had 16 children).

The foundation stone was laid by Sam Angel's wife on December 14, 1910.

A bridge which spans "Stringy Bark Creek" at the southern end of Plumpton Road was named after Sam Angel who was, at one time, president of Kyeamba Shire.

The sign has succumbed to the ravages of time and termites.

clipping on previous page published: *Daily Advertiser* 11 August 1984

Keywords: Historical Society, Edward Reid-Smith, Colin and Nardine Carlin, Ivy Angel, Angel family, "Springvale", Hume and Hovell, John Rae, "Uardry", St Peter's Church at Lake Albert, Stringy Bark Creek



Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society

The Wagga and District Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Monday, September 17 at the Education Centre at 8 pm.

Reports will be presented and office-bearers for the ensuing 12 months elected.

Nominations for positions on the board of directors close prior to 8 pm.

The society is currently participating in an exhibition arranged by the Association of Riverina Cultural Clubs, in the Wagga City Regional Art Gallery.

Some early photos of Wagga and district are on display including that of a number of early pioneers.

The annual "Walk for Want" organised by the Community Aid Abroad organisation, is being held on Sunday, September 23.

The starting and finishing point will be the society's museum on Willans Hill.

The first of the walkers will start their trek at 8.30 am.

Society members will be on hand to serve tea and biscuits at a reasonable charge. Members are asked to help in this undertaking. The museum will be open throughout the day.

As part of their training, a class of 21 students accompanied by a teacher from the TAFE visited the museum during August. It is satisfying to the society to see colleges and schools using the museum as a learning resource.

The next working bee will be held on Saturday, September 22 between 9 am and 5 pm. Helpers are always welcome.

The blacksmith display centre is nearing completion due to the untiring efforts of a group of members who have regularly attended working bees during the year.

It now houses the Furphy water cart,

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

which has been restored by Mr Walter Sheaffe, who completely replaced the timber work. It will become an important part of a proposed water-pump display.

It was manufactured in 1942, although the design was a 19th century one. The inscription (raised in the cast iron) reads: Furphy's Farm Water Cart, born about 1880 — 'still going strong, 1942', J. Furphy and Sons, Shepparton, special manufacturers of spike rollers, swingle trees, plough wheels, land graders, steel delvers.

A message in shorthand tells the reader (provided he or she can read it) that "God gives the gift of water but whisky and ale belong to the devil!"

Then follows a verse which was the subject of many an entry in autograph books half a century ago — no doubt borrowed from the humble Furphy — "Good better best — never let it rest — till your good is better and your better best".

Recent acquisitions at the museum include harness and horse-riding equipment, a small hand-operated chaff cutter, also a watchmaker's lathe (circa 1900) donated by Mr B. Pocock of Pocock's Jewellers.

The society's latest journal, No 6, is available at the museum. Sydney lawyer Mr John Minchin, a life member of the society, who for some years lived in Wagga, wrote that: "All the articles are interesting and valuable. Dr Pugsley's article, modestly entitled 'History of the Wagga Agricultural Research Institute' contains source material of national and international importance."

Published: *Daily Advertiser* 11 September 1984

Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Furphy water cart, Walter Sheaffe, B Pocock, John Minchin, Dr Pugsley

Historical excursion out to Tubbo Station

By BIDGEE WHALER

The success of the August excursion to historic Beechworth has prompted the Wagga and District Historical Society to arrange another excursion, this time to Tubbo Station in the Darlington Point area.

The one-day excursion by air-conditioned coach, will not be confined to members only.

Any person wishing to join the touring party is welcome to do so. Preliminary inquiries

Historical Society notes

may be made by phoning the Honorary Secretary, Mr R. Palmer, 212770 or Mr K. Swan, Mangoplah 16.

Final arrangements and bookings must however, be made to P.O. Box 90, Wagga by Friday, September 22. Another excursion is planned for November.

The venue will be Tallangatta, Victoria.

A conference of Riverina Historical Societies will be held at the Riverina College of Advanced Education, North Campus, on Saturday, October 28.

The first of these conferences was held in 1975.

It was well received and well represented by Societies in the area.

It is hoped that Mr Justice Else-Mitchell, Chairman of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, Canberra, and formerly President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, will deliver the opening address.

Among subjects to be discussed will be "Preservation, Restoration and Management in Museums".

The Wagga Society will hold its annual general meeting on Monday, September 18, at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8pm.

Reports will be presented and office-

bearers elected for the coming year.

If time permits, Mr K. Swan will speak about Museums which he visited last year while overseas. Visitors are welcome.

Tourist centre is nominated

The MIA Tourist Association and its Tourist Officer, Mr. Dan Clarke of Narrandera, has been nominated for separate sections of the Rod Murdoch Memorial Award for 1977.

Mr. Clarke won this individual award at Broken Hill last year for his outstanding contribution to tourism in the MIA particularly and the Riverina generally during 1976.

The 1977 awards will be announced at the NSW Department of Tourism annual conference at Newcastle on Monday, November 13.

This conference will decide whether Wagga will be the venue for the 1979 annual meeting.

Mr. Clarke told the MIA Tourist Association meeting at Darlington Point on Tuesday night

that 1977 and 1978 had been the most successful in the Association's history and that the body must therefore stand a good chance of success.

The Association, through Mr. Clarke, will take part in the Riverina tourist promotion at the Royal Automobile Club in Sydney next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Tubbo Station, Justice Else-Mitchell, K Swan, R Palmer

Mr. Walter Sheaffe, a Society member, will address the next meeting of the Wagga and District Historical Society.

He has chosen as his subject "Early days in the western division of NSW."

Mr. Sheaffe spent some of his early childhood years in the Ivanhoe area where his father was manager of the 800,000 acre station property, "Kilpera."

In 1916 Mr. Sheaffe's father purchased "Eurugabah" from the Osborne Bros., the owners of "Kilpera."

The speaker will also relate some of the experiences of his grandfather who came to Australia in 1846 and who, in 1860, moved up into the Queensland Gulf Country in search of land.

The meeting will be held at the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street, on Monday, October 22, at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

At the annual meeting held recently the following office-bearers of the board of directors were elected: Mrs. Vera Swan, president; Messrs M. Gissing, K. Le Lievre and Mrs. S. Walsh, vice-presidents; Mr. K. Swan, honorary secretary; Mr. M. Starr, honorary treasurer; members: Mrs. N. Carlin, Mr. G. Bamberry, Mr. N. Hopwood, Mr.



By **BIDGEE WHALER**

M. McGrath, Mr. R. McDonald and Mr. R. Palmer.

The president, Mrs. Swan, in her comprehensive report, outlined the activities and aspirations of the society, particularly regarding the museum in which, she pointed out, the society's greatest responsibility lies.

A working bee will be held at the museum on Saturday, October 27, between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm.

Perhaps the spring weather might entice some members of the community to go along and lend a hand.

A trend in the Wagga and district schools towards greater interest in the museum and an appreciation of its worth as an educational resource, has resulted in increased numbers of class visits.

September figures were: 117 students made up of five classes from the Wagga High School; 26 students from Koorringal High and 33 students and two teachers from St. Joseph's Convent School, Culcairn.

All school visits are pre-arranged.

It is just a matter of phoning the museum curator on 252934 to arrange a suitable time.

The society will mount a display at the Riverina Leisure Show at Apex Park, Lake Albert, on October 21 and 22.

Members will have an opportunity of inspecting Tukidale sheep when they make an excursion on Sunday, October 28, to "Mandalay," the property of society secretary and president, Mr. and Mrs. K. Swan.

A barbecue picnic luncheon is planned.



● Kilpera Station as it was in 1912. The station was built around 1870.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Walter Sheaffe, Kilpera Station, Vera Swan, M Gissing, K Le Lievre, S Walsh, K Swan, M Starr, N Carlin, G Bamberry, N Hopwood, M McGrath, R McDonald, R Palmer

The growth of Calvary Hosp

By 'BIDGEE WHALER'

Guest speaker at the next meeting of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society will be Society Vice-President, Mrs Sylvia Walsh. The subject will be 'Calvary Hospital, Wagga Wagga — Its Beginning and Its Development'.

The Wagga Wagga Branch of Calvary Hospital opened as Lewisham Hospital in 1926. In later years the name was changed to Calvary, the title of the Mother House of the Little Company of Mary (the Blue Sisters) in Rome.

The temporary Hospital with accommodation for twelve patients was established in 'Foxborough Hall', the two-storey former home of the late James Gormly who for several years was Mayor of Wagga Wagga.



The present Hospital was opened in March, 1930.

Several additions have been made during the post-war period. The scope of nursing has widened with the inclusion of a Maternity Wing and a Centre for treat-

ment for alcohol dependent people.

Soon to be completed is the Ethel Forrest Day Care, Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre which incorporates the 60 bed Mary Potter Nursing Home. Although built on L.C.M. grounds, contributed for the purpose, it is separate from Calvary Hospital.

It is a unique joint venture of the Anglican and Catholic Churches and is conducted by a Board of Directors.

The meeting will be held on Monday in the Education Centre, 102 Peter Street at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

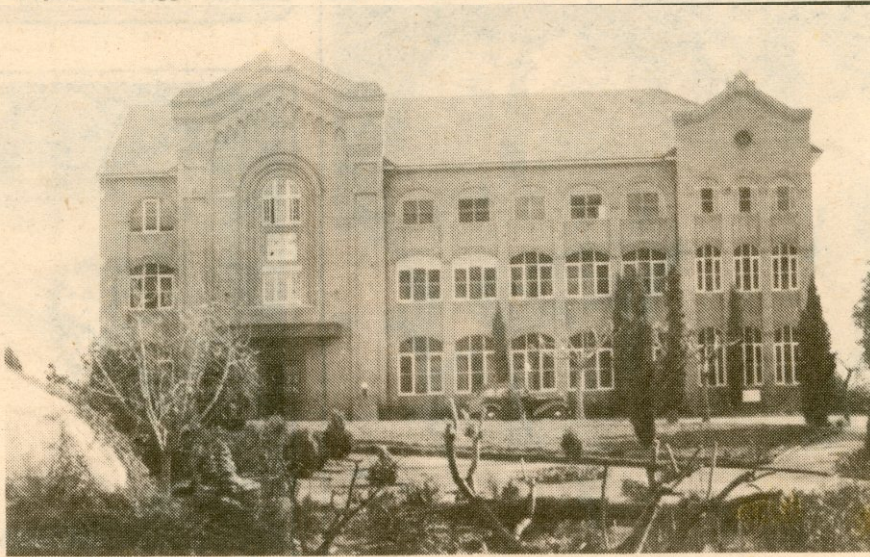
Schools in the area continue to show interest in what the Museum has to offer students as a part of their education in local history.

October figures were: 101 students including 53 from Ashmont Public School (2 classes); 25 from Wagga Public School (2 classes) and 22 and one teacher from Wagga Wagga High School.

Restoration work carried out on museum items by the curator, several members and friends of the Society has made the out-door display more diverse and more attractive to visitors.

Further working bees will be held on Saturday November 24, and December 15. Helpers are always welcome.

The Society wishes to thank all who have helped in its aim to preserve local and district history. In particular this writer thanks the Editor and Staff of the 'Daily Advertiser' for their courtesy and co-operation at all times. The compliments of the Christmas season to all.



The hospital before the name was changed to Calvary. The name 'Lewisham' is visible.

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Keywords: Historical Society, Museum, Calvary Hospital, Sylvia Walsh, Lewisham Hospital, Foxborough Hall, James Gormly, Ethel Forrest, Mary Potter Nursing Home