

QUINBEAN

Volume 3, Number 3
August 2010



Mr Ives motor vehicle accident, Narranbundah, c 1920

Photographer: Frank Boland

*The Journal of
The Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society Inc*

QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

QDHMS is a local history society aiming at preserving the history of the city and its wider district and sharing this, with the strong support of the Queanbeyan City Council, through the context of the Museum of Queanbeyan.

Find us on the net at www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au

Contact us:

by phone at 6299 7449 or

email qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au

THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

The Museum is open from 1pm to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays or by arrangement.

It is found at 10 Farrer Place Queanbeyan, next to the Police Complex and opposite the State Office Building.



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*The Journal of
Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the latest edition of Quinbean. The Society has more good news. We had a great opening event for The Cottage Store. The Hon Mike Kelly AM MP, Federal member for Eden Monaro did the honours as the building was made possible through a Federal Government economic stimulus grant to Queanbeyan City Council. The Society Management Committee, members and the Queanbeyan City Council worked extremely hard on the Cottage Store and the Museum renovations and are justifiably proud of the outcomes.

We have recently been very fortunate in obtaining through the QCC budget process some targeted funding for Collection Management and storage, an extra amount for historical interpretation for Museum displays and an amount for the purchase and installation of roof heat extractors for The Cottage Store. These will aid the thermal efficiency of the building. We are very grateful to the Queanbeyan City Councillors who supported our need for these items.

For a number of years we have been lobbying for an extension of the picket fence and the development of a garden matching the one in front of the Museum for The Cottage Store block, and professional signage as this block fronts Farrer Pl, is next to our Heritage Museum and between the two Museums. We are very pleased that we now can go ahead with this redevelopment with the allocation of some funds to the project from the latest Federal Government Local Community Infrastructure funds to Queanbeyan City Council.

Kerrie Ruth

President

EDITORIAL

How often have you tried to imagine or remember what Queanbeyan was really like and who lived here? Join us in History Week 2010 for a walk around the streets of the past and into the lives of those who lived here through an exhibition of photographs from Queanbeyan's earliest days.

The Museum has an excellent collection of photographs. Some are from famed professional photographers like Henry Beaufoy Merlin and Charles Bayley. Others, and often the more interesting ones, are family snaps taken on the Brownie box camera but telling so clearly the lives of the people who lived here.

Our 2010 photographic exhibition is not a collection of magnificent photographic artworks. It is an exhibition of photographs enlarged so we can see them easily but largely in their warts-and-all conditions.

Some have been selected from our catalogue—some are so old there is no one who will remember them. Others have been lent to us from their owners albums. They are all interesting and have tales to tell.

We look forward to seeing you at Queanbeyan's *Faces in the Street* - opening September 11.

Gillian Kelly
Editor

FIRE!

In the early 1840s, the "town" proper and its tiny settlement of some 70 all told, men, women and children had the bare facilities of a post office-cum-general store, a court house with lock-up and two inns. The location called Trinculo Place was on the northern side of the river; but it was the opposite side of the river where the development of the town was to ultimately flourish.

Trinculo Place was also to be site of the town's first fire station; a shed erected in 1891 for fire brigade purposes following the establishment of the original brigade in the previous year. A meeting was held in April 1890, under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Alderman Edward Land, for the purpose of forming a 'fire brigade and bucket and salvage brigade'. Nearly fifty men indicated their willingness to join; Queanbeyan's population had risen remarkably to over 1200 within five decades. Rules controlling the operations of the brigade were formalised and subscriptions obtained from townsfolk for the purchase of a Merryweather Manual Fire Engine from Shand, Mason & Company of London.



An 1889 Shand & Mason Merryweather Manual Fire Engine

In September 1890, eighteen residents agreed to form the first fire brigade, in a purely voluntary capacity, under the supervision of one James Nugent. Records do not show what experience Superintendent Nugent had to train and lead his men. The manual fire engine, urgently ordered by cable, arrived by steamship the following month and was christened Nil Desperandum.

The shed to house the brigade's equipment was erected on land near to the northern extremity of the river bridge. The bridge, built in 1858, was a rickety structure and in fact was condemned by Council and rebuilt in 1900. As well, the site for the 'fire station' was subject to flooding, so it seems its choice by the authorities was not a wise one.

However, the new brigade's enthusiasm was running high. At a meeting in August 1891 uniforms were issued. At this meeting members discussed buying a second fire engine, probably for positioning on the town-side of the river in the event of a serious snap flood.

At the Brigade's annual meeting in 1893 James Nugent resigned his post and the members elected the Reverend Robert Steele as Superintendent and he held that position until 1897 when Mr James Byrne took over the leadership.

The town depended on its water supply from small dams, tanks and wells sunk on private property. There was no ready source of water for fire fighting purposes and the manual pumper was used to obtain water from these static sources and from casks brought to the scene of a fire by carters. The Queanbeyan River of course was another source but its waters frequently ran shallow and in dry periods it was little more than a creek with steep embankments.

Mains reticulated water did not become available until 1925 when an integrated system was completed to serve the newly created Federal Capital of Canberra. During periods of drought water for fire fighting still remained a problem.

In 1910 Queanbeyan became a fire district under the State-wide integration of fire services with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. At this time the Brigade included Captain and Engine Keeper, Henry Land, Alfred Lazarus, Thomas Jordan, John Callaghan, Joseph Venables, William Dunshea, William Weir, Edward Land, John Byrne and George Dudley.

In 1915 the service was connected to the telephone exchange, its number being Queanbeyan 95. A big fire was fought at Hayes and Russell's bulk store in May 1915. In 1916 the Board approved the purchase of the site in Crawford St for a new station. In 1918 it was finally bought from Moore Brothers for 175 pounds.

In March 1917, after prolonged complaints about the inefficiencies of the 7-inch manual fire engine, the Board installed another appliance. A new appliance, a turbine fire engine known as Number 60 was found at Goulburn and was said to be the best solution for Queanbeyan. Immediately it was obvious that this wasn't the case. The turbine was unequal to the task of drafting water at pressure from the banks of the river through hoses some twenty feet lower. It did work when the pump was at water level.

The morale of the men was low. The old shed in Trinculo place was deteriorating and an inspection by senior officers of the NSW Brigade was followed by a damning report. The hoses and equipment were very much the worse from being exposed to the dust and rain in the station's roof and the neglect by members of the Queanbeyan Fire Brigade. Chief

Officer F Jackson commented that the premises 'were not a pleasant place at which men could spend their evenings'.

Complaints continued about the engine from both the firemen and Council. The Board said that until there was money to build a new station to house the new motor the Brigade would just have to wait. In early 1923 the matter was brought to a head.

On Sunday February 23rd the biggest fire in the town's history broke out. It started in Crawford Street and quickly destroyed five commercial businesses and premises. The Brigade was quick to respond and took the engine to the nearest water source, the river. The turbine would not start. Over an hour elapsed before the motor responded to the frantic efforts of the men, but by then the damage was done.

Council vigorously renewed its criticism of the appliance and Chief Officer Jackson set up an enquiry into the episode. A mechanic was sent from Sydney to attend to the appliance. He pulled it apart to remedy the problem and reported that in his opinion the breakdown had been caused by months of neglect in maintaining the appliance.

Chief Officer Jackson lay a fair share of the blame on the Brigade. Both the Council and the Brigade strongly objected to these conclusions and discontent was rife. In an attempt to placate feelings, the Board dispatched a second turbine engine to Queanbeyan. This one had been in service at Young and had been reconditioned. In November 1923 Captain Land reported that the second turbine was 'an absolute failure - 100% worse than the one we have'.

Inspector Coghlan arrived from Sydney to inspect the replacement. He found it on a vacant lot of land near the fire station in a very neglected state of repair, and on his recommendation it was returned to Sydney.

The Board then sent a third turbine – one that had given very satisfactory service in the Lidcombe Station. This appliance was housed in the shed on the riverbank. Consultation between the Board and the Council resulted in the Council increasing its contribution to the upkeep of the Brigade. A contract was let to Mr J Deans to build the new Fire Station in Crawford Street. It was opened in October 1925 and a new motor fire engine, a No 42 Garfield Hale was installed. The contention caused by the turbines was ended.



The No 42 GARFIELD HALE

Front Row, left to right

Tom Jordan, Darcy Vest, Norm Morton, Mr Jordan Snr, Fred Morton (driver) Miss Irene Marsh, Brigade Queen

Back Row, left to right

Eric Taylor, Bill Sacagio, Jim Prendergast, Dick Skinner, Harry Barber

The year 1933 marked the completion of the reticulated water system throughout the town and the last vestiges of the bad old days had gone.

Fortunately major fires are rare, thanks to the work of the Firies. A severe blaze in 1942 damaged the Royal Hotel and in 1943 a fire broke out at the ACT Abattoir. The Queanbeyan unit was the first there, and with the Canberra Brigade was able to contain the fire to those premises.

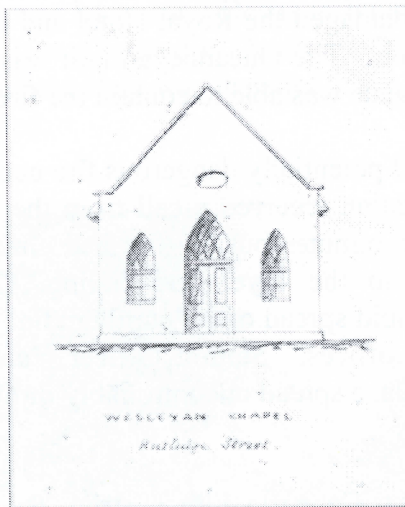
The most dramatic and potentially dangerous fire occurred on December 20, 1972 when the Station received a call from the Leagues Club. The engines arrived within minutes but the fire had already spread through the synthetic panels to the foyer and ceiling. Collapsing, burning materials caused the rapid spread of the conflagration through the Club's large auditorium and offices. Station Officer Vandine called for all available help as the blaze spread uncontrollably through the ground and mezzanine floors.

Three stations from the Canberra Fire District, the RAAF's Fairbairn unit and the Kowen Bush Fire Brigade responded and joined Queanbeyan in the operations. By 2.30 the situation was in hand. Extensive damage was done to the Club but the Firemen's efforts had saved an entire shopping block – a far cry from the 1923 fire when the old turbine wouldn't start.

From Fire News, found amongst material belonging to Richard Arneson, and provided by Mr Harry Currey of Wauchope.

QUEANBEYAN UNITING CHURCH: 150 YEARS

By Geoff McCubbin



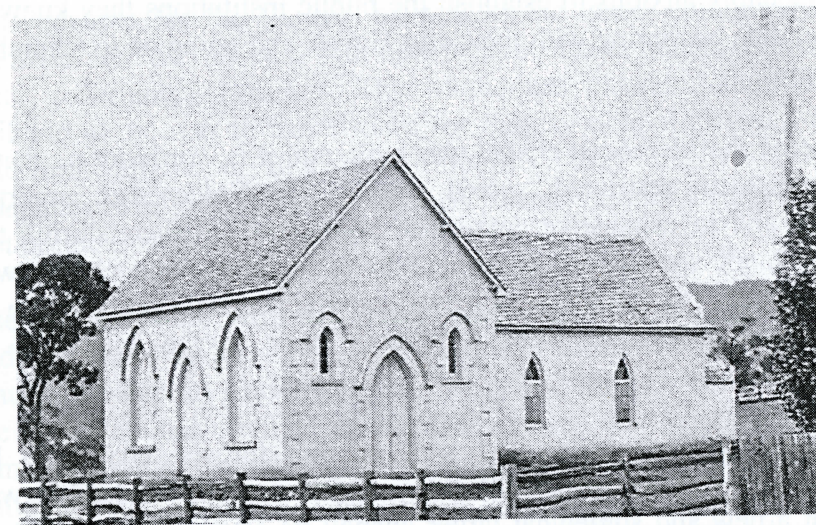
The Wesleyan Chapel
George Briand, 1860

Early Days

The Wesleyans (largest of the 19th century Methodist denominations) opened their Queanbeyan chapel on 13 May 1860. They did well: the public meeting to consider the project was held in the courthouse just six months before, on 14 November 1859.

Methodists had been meeting in the district earlier, both in lay-led “class meetings” for mutual support, and in services led by travelling Ministers, originally directed from Goulburn. The strongest centre of Methodist activity however was not in Queanbeyan but around Gininderra Creek,

where pioneer Thomas Southwell arrived in 1838 and bought “Parkwood” in 1854. And even though he lived perhaps 50 km away, Southwell was at the 1859 meeting; and at other key meetings in Queanbeyan that were reported afterwards.



The Chapel
photographer Baxter c 1870

The support of the wider district was crucial in the development of Methodism in Queanbeyan. This followed from their Circuit structure, whereby congregations from Parkwood to Braidwood all supported and received services from the Queanbeyan Minister. When the chapel opened in 1860, Queanbeyan was part of the Yass Circuit. It was not until 1866 that Queanbeyan had its own Methodist Minister.

Peter Procter comments that the 1859 meeting “had only a few persons who were later known as Methodists”¹. Later subscription lists for St Stephen’s Presbyterian Church show similar support from the

community at large. That appeared to be typical in those days – perhaps more in the quest for public order and morality . Scots Minister Rev William Hamilton summed up the district in his 1837 diary entry: “the demons of strife and avarice pervade the country and godliness and charity are obliged to shrink into a corner”ⁱⁱ. The local citizens were understandably anxious to establish the public institutions they knew in Britain, often beginning with the Court House, and going on to Churches and chapels.

In any case the Methodist chapel was built, and it is worth noting that it was more than a restricted “sacred space.” *The Golden Age* reported regularly and in exhaustive detail Tea Meetings held there during the week to mark special occasions and to raise funds. The chapel was usually decorated, a meal was served, and several speakers spoke at length on civil and religious subjects - prior to the collection of donations.

Methodism in Queanbeyan did well enough for the chapel to be substantially extended towards Rutledge Street in 1867. Indeed, it was in effect a new and somewhat larger chapel: its original floor was two steps lower than in the earlier building, to which it was joined by an arch; and the earlier area seems to have served for a while just as a vestry. It has been easy to trace the external development of the buildings, but the internal layout seems to have been altered more often, and is harder to follow.

There were no major changes until 1898. By then, the Methodists must have felt well past the pioneering era. In their 1898 renovations the bell was moved from the fork of a tree to a proper bellcote on the roof, the earlier west entry door was bricked up and a new entry porch built on the east, and Carpenter Gothic decoration added to the gables. That

established the Rutledge Street facade of the Church, and remained its public face for nearly sixty years.

Canberra

The selection of Canberra as the national capital had major consequences for the Church, as well as the larger community. The positives are still obvious, with new local business, hotels, housing and local government facilities. The Methodists extended their existing building at the rear to make space for Sunday School classes , usually held in the afternoon. In a spirit of optimism they bought land in West Queanbeyan in 1928, only to relinquish it later. Things changed, and not just because of the depression

The Queanbeyan Circuit was financially stable in the twenties because it had the support of growing congregations in Canberra. But in 1929, the Church’s National Conference took responsibility for congregations in the new National Capital, leaving Queanbeyan and Wattle Park as the remaining larger Churches in the Queanbeyan Circuit. The Wattle Park building dates from 1882, and is just past Hall. It brought together a number of smaller local groups which traced their origins to Thomas Southwell or his descendants. Circuit membership became essentially small business people in Queanbeyan and farmers south and west of Hall; and although the Minister lived in Queanbeyan he spent a good part of his time on the other side of the ACT.

With the departure of the workforce which built Canberra, then the depression, the Queanbeyan Circuit struggled. It only survived with the help of a modest grant from State Church funds, three-day annual flower shows, and the Wattle Park Harvest Festival. Indeed, during the 30s collections from Wattle Park were sometimes greater than those in Queanbeyan. Without Wattle Park, things would have been grim.

This contrasts with Queanbeyan Presbyterians. They lost their Canberra connection in 1925, and had only the support of a fading congregation in Gundaroo and a small one in Bungendore. Despite selling some of their land in Lowe Street they could not afford a Minister in 1931. Only with substantial state Church assistance were they able to call someone in 1934.

After World War II

Queanbeyan's Church and community life were relatively subdued until Canberra boomed again into the 1960s. Once again the population increased rapidly, but its effect in the Methodist Church was not in proportion to Queanbeyan's expansion. Apart from changing community attitudes toward organized religion, many new residents were in transition, waiting on Government housing in Canberra. A number of people transferred to Queanbeyan – as school teachers, for example - opted to live in Canberra; young people born in Queanbeyan but working in Canberra moved there, taking advantage of Government housing; and older people who were upwardly mobile moved over the border also.

Migration did not have a great impact on the Methodist Church either. Earlier migrants from Northern Europe and Britain did include new members, but later groups from Italy and Eastern Europe had other allegiances.

Nevertheless there was a new emphasis on younger people in the Church. Their new hall, inspired by Rev Merrick Webb and built largely by voluntary labour in 1954, was called the "Memorial Youth Centre". In 1957, the 1898 chapel porch was removed, the vestries and present entrance constructed on the east side, and a Kindergarten room formed with a new eastern extension. Apart from a new toilet block linking the

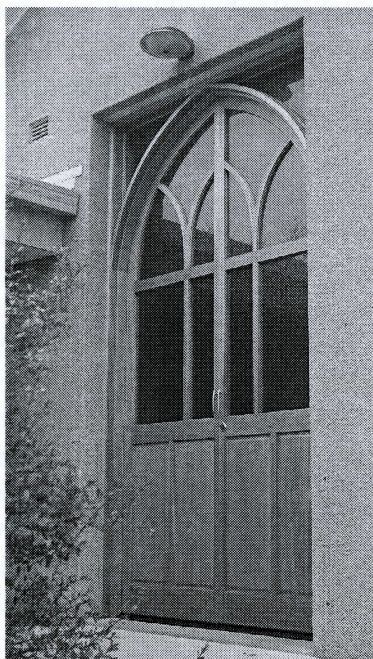
1924 and 1954 halls, no further changes have been made to these buildings.

There was however a significant organizational change. The Church's central authorities decided to make the Canberra region one circuit, including Queanbeyan, served by a team of Ministers appointed by the several Commonwealth States. The long partnership with Wattle Park began to fade, as did links with earlier generations of Methodist families. As described above, although the city was growing, the congregation continued to lose members to Canberra.

The interior of the Church building was renovated in the 1960s, guided by the Rev Jack Leonard: a "high church" Methodist. Anglican-style prayer desks were introduced and the choir wore robes for the next ten years. The congregation still put up with the uncomfortable wooden pews donated by Wesley Church Forrest when their new "National Church" opened in 1955.

In 1977, the Methodist and most Presbyterian Churches joined to form the Uniting Church in Australia. Remarkably – and certainly from the Methodist side – for the first time Queanbeyan was by itself. Like most places, it then faced painful property problems, since neither St Stephen's Presbyterian Church nor the Methodist building as then configured was big enough for the joint congregation. The eventual decision was to focus on the Methodist building, which was reconfigured with modern seating for an extra 50 people. Some of the old pews were used by the Bungendore Wood Works to build new lecterns and a communion table. After a Continuing Presbyterian Church formed in Queanbeyan, it was able to buy the St Stephen's property from the Uniting Church in 1981, selling their 1963 Church Hall to the Salvation Army in the process.

Queanbeyan and the Uniting Church congregation continued to grow, the drift to Canberra was reversed, and the old Methodist buildings became increasingly inadequate. After much careful planning, the congregation voted with only one dissenting voice to proceed with the new building which now stands at the corner of Rutledge and Crawford Streets. It opened in 1994, and is serving both the larger congregation and the community well. The same is true for all the older buildings, and the “Jumble Stall” shed at the back. A Samoan Methodist group meets every Sunday in the old Church.



There has been one recent change: in June 2010 local craftsman Alex McFarlane designed and made beautiful new traditional glass and timber doors for the 1957 entrance to the chapel. They are a highlight of the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

¹ Procter, Peter: *Queanbeyan Methodists 1847 1977 : 1995 and updated 2010*, p. 6.

¹ Udy, James S: *Living Stones*, Sacha Books 1994, p. 28.

A GLIMPSE OF QUEANBEYAN'S PAST

The Queanbeyan Hospital built between 1859 and 1861 was a single storey mid-Victorian building divided into two main wards; one for males and one for females. In April 1885 tenders were called for the erection of a Fever Ward at the northern end of the hospital. This wing faced directly onto Balcombe St and is the view of the old hospital most readily seen.

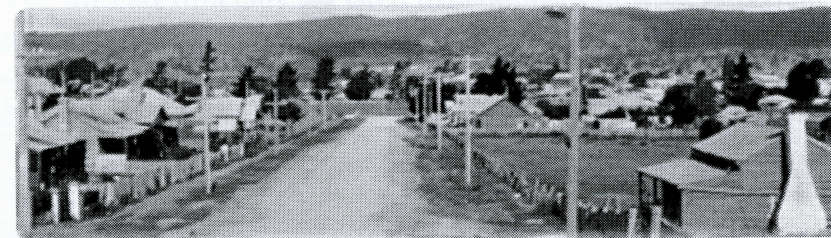
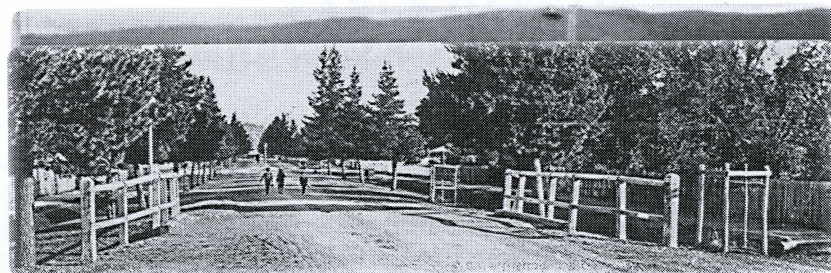
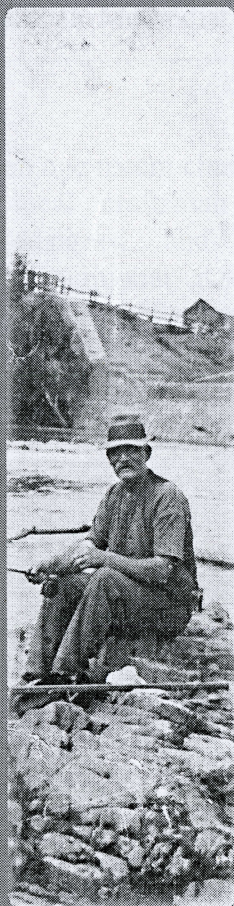


This view of the Fever Ward on the far right of the photograph gives an insight into the town in the late 19th century. The small cottage to its left is Rose Cottage – the home of Mrs Robert Woodger – where Aldis now is. The long low building opposite is the old Police Barracks in Antill St, the home of Mrs Mary Jane MacGuire until her death in 1941. Bert Sheedy Collection

People *in the* Streets

A landmark exhibition that explores Queanbeyan and her people through photographs from works of the professional photographer through to the amateur recording a way of life that has passed.

Museum of Queanbeyan
Opening September 11 at 11am.



LAUNCHING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK 2010

THE cultural and historic significance of Queanbeyan and its value to local tourism were acknowledged in Local Government Week in August as Federal heritage minister Peter Garrett, with local member Mike Kelly, visited the Museum. Both praised both the refurbishment of the Queanbeyan Museum The project costing almost \$60 000 was funded by the Federal Government's economic stimulus package and supported 20 jobs locally.



**Ms Nancy Monk,
QDHMS Vice President
introduces Peter Garrett
and Mike Kelly to the
philosophy of the
Museum.**

Photo: Elise Bernard

**Peter Garrett,
Mike Kelly, Marilyn
Folger and Nancy
Monk discuss the
finer points of
anaesthesia as it was
in the 1960s.**

Photo: Elise Bernard



EARLY DAYS OF QUEANBEYAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

By John Cope

In 2010 we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Queanbeyan Municipal Council. But how did it begin? What were the two years of the first elected Council like?

In July 1884, a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of Queanbeyan becoming a municipality. Goulburn, Yass and Cooma had already become municipalities and it was thought by some that it was appropriate for Queanbeyan to take the same step now. Approval was given for Queanbeyan to have municipal status on 3 February 1885 after 89 local residents had signed a petition to establish a Council. At this stage, the borough was 9 square miles, with 223 rateable tenements, three public halls, seven hotels, two banks, two mills, 55 shops/factories and 227 holdings on enclosed and unenclosed land.

It was announced that the closing date for nominations for membership of the proposed Council would be 21 April 1885 with Mr. Thomas Parr, a local solicitor, as the Returning Officer. On that day in the Oddfellows Hall, Mr. Parr officially declared the nominees in what turned out to be a rowdy meeting. Those nominated chose not to address the audience at that stage, but about an hour later, the town bellman was announcing that John James Wright would be making an election speech and with the help of some loud music, a sizeable crowd, including a number of unruly people, was attracted back to the Hall. Towards the end of Wright's speech, some inebriated members of the audience yelled interjections and then there were calls for John Gale to mount the stage and give a speech. Gale agreed, but he too was interrupted until Wright intervened to ask the crowd to give speakers a fair hearing. Nathan Moses Lazarus

was called on to speak, but no doubt realising the nature of the audience by that time, he declined. Two days later another, a much more polite, audience heard nominees in the Temperance Hall.

The actual poll was conducted on 24 April. On the following day in the Oddfellows Hall, Mr. Parr officially announced the results as follows: William Henry O'Malley Wood – 74 votes, Thomas Wilson – 71, John James Wright – 71, Edwin Henry Land – 60, John Bull – 59, John Gale – 54, Nathan Moses Lazarus – 51, Lawrence Maloney – 51, Michael McNamara – 49, Alfred Murray Dulhunty – 45, William John Nugent – 36, Josiah Henry Wesley Walker – 33, John Kealman – 29, Thomas Hincksman – 21.

The nine successful candidates were elected for the following terms: for three years – Wood, Wilson and Wright; for two years – Land, Bull and Gale; for one year – Lazarus, Maloney and McNamara. The successful auditors were C.H. Emery and R. Cantle.

At the Council's first meeting on 28 April 1885, Wood nominated Wright for the position of Mayor and was seconded by Land. Gale then declared that although he thought Wright was suitable for the position, he would not vote for him, because of the boasting that had already occurred that Wright would walk into the Mayor's chair against any opposition and because of the grand preparations that his supporters had made in readiness for such a result. There were no other nominations and Wright was elected by a show of hands, with Gale and Bull not supporting him. The Council hadn't begun in complete harmony.

At its first normal meeting in early May, Gale quickly moved a few basic organisational matters, but they were blocked when the temporary Council Clerk, Mr. Wilkinson, referred to Section 104 of the Municipalities Act which stated that motions without notice could not be

considered. Gale then gave notice of motions for the next meeting that steps be taken to advertise in newspapers for the position of Council Clerk, and secondly that meetings be held fortnightly at 7pm. Wood then gave notice of a motion re renting a suitable venue for meetings. The Mayor informed the Council that he had obtained a copy of the Goulburn by-laws from that Mayor to assist the Council in forming its own by-laws; Wood then gave notice that by-laws of all neighbouring councils should be obtained and stay on the table for at least two consecutive meetings. At the end of the meeting Gale dared to contravene Section 104 and requested that for the next meeting the Mayor should arrange for lamps on the table, heating of the room and stationery for Council use. Looking back on that meeting, it can be seen that nothing was really done except establish the importance of rules and proper procedures. This was to typify the work of the first Council.

The Mayor was absent for the second meeting: "indisposed". This was to become a frequent occurrence, so Aldermen tended to take it in turns to act as chairman. A letter from the NSW Department of Works was received stating that £37/10/- would be given to the Council to administer work on 1 ½ miles of the Goulburn-Cooma road. A committee consisting of the Mayor, Wilson and Maloney recommended that meetings be held in the Oddfellows Hall for a rent of £2 per month, including fire and lighting. Gale suggested that the committee should instead negotiate for a fixed fee per meeting. Also at this meeting, the By-laws, Finance and Works committees were set up.

The next meeting lapsed because of the unexpected disappearance of the temporary Clerk; he had left the district. His position was substantively filled at a special meeting two days later by Mr. Wingrave. The filling of this position was to be a further point of frustration as we read in the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* of 27 June that Mr. R.E. Jenkins was appointed, only to resign a month later to take up the position of Clerk at

the Yass Council. At that point the Council called for applications to fill the position and Mr. William H. Nicholls was appointed. He had recently worked in the government engineering department on the Murrumburrah-Blayney railway line.

A further frustration came when the Mayor pointed out that the NSW Governor's approval had to be given before they could gain a loan to cover existing expenses.

At the meeting of 17 June 1885, the aldermen (minus the Mayor – again) began the task of discussing 146 proposed by-laws. This proved to be yet another frustrating exercise. Having spent three meetings going through the proposals, they sent off their decisions to the Attorney-General's Department for approval. It proved to be a long wait, as it wasn't until 13 November 1885 that they were officially gazetted. During that period of waiting, the Council could not legally collect any rates, even though rates had been assessed and reviewed by the Council. The *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*'s Queanbeyan correspondent wrote on 27 October, that in the meantime "we have roads which are alternately swamps and dustbins ... and a bridge so rickety as to be absolutely unsafe." The first year of the Council's existence was not proving to be a happy one.

At last, in November 1885, there was some hope of action. Council decided to sink wells to improve the town water supply, even though money would have to be borrowed to do so, and the NSW Works Department had made a grant of £750 for the development of Crawford Street on the condition that the Council would be responsible for the draining, forming and maintenance of all the other streets in the town.

At a meeting of 26 November chaired by Gale (Wright was yet again absent), a letter was tabled from the Colonial Secretary indicating that

the Nuisances Protection Act hadn't been extended to Queanbeyan, which meant that the Queanbeyan by-law under the Act could not be authorised. At the same meeting, the Works Committee report recommended that wells be made at Trinculo Place in front of Byrne's Mill, in Trinculo Place between Walkers' store and the river, and on the bank of the river between the parsonage and the bridge. It was agreed to call for tenders for the first two wells.

In early 1886, it was announced that the Municipal election would be held on 8 February. Lazarus, Maloney and McNamara were eligible to stand again. On 9 February the results were officially announced: Lazarus 104 votes, Maloney 87, McNamara 69, Dr. Sidney Longden Richardson 69, Charles Henry Emery 67, George Tompsitt 63, Charles Joseph Jones 6. Lazarus, Maloney and McNamara were elected, the latter on the vote of the Returning Officer on the grounds that he had already served on the Council. The Council membership was thus unchanged.

The *Queanbeyan Age* of 16 February included an editorial critical of Wright's re-election as Mayor on the grounds that he had attended only 10 of the 26 meetings in the previous year and had been reluctant to enforce the by-laws of the town. However, four days later, there was an editorial complimenting the Mayor on the fact that he had accompanied Police Senior Sergeant Cornett to observe non-compliance of the municipal by-laws concerning cleanliness: at hotels evidence of festering manure heaps, reeking slops and waste poison, in some places cesspit closets not cleared out for 25 years, waste going into the river just above the point where licensed water carters obtained their supplies for domestic use. The editorial, on the basis of two deaths from typhoid in the preceding week, continued by claiming that with some wells in the town having cesspits adjacent to them, "for its size, Queanbeyan has been more fruitful of typhoid than any other town in the colony." A

month later, the Council appointed William Nicholls, the Council Clerk, as interim Inspector of Nuisances with the task of ensuring that residents observed the by-laws, especially those relating to cleanliness.

The *Queanbeyan Age* of 20 March 1886 ran an editorial stating that two distinct parties existed within the Council: Wright, Land, McNamara Maloney and Wilson against Bull, Gale Lazarus and Wood. It was claimed that meetings had been adjourned when Wright's group didn't have the numbers and that the Council's committees still hadn't been established and working. After 14 months of municipal government, there was little evidence of any material good being done for the town of Queanbeyan. This attack was followed up in a letter to the editor from "Old Inhabitant" complaining about the lack of action from the Council and about the fact that animals were continually moving along the streets of the town.

There was another editorial critical of the Council in the *Queanbeyan Age* of 22 May. This time it lamented the fact that only Wood, Lazarus and Gale had attended the regular meeting on 20 May, then continued with this condemnation: "The Council has now been in existence about a year and a half, but as yet no work, beyond an unfinished well, has been undertaken for the material improvement of the borough...It is high time something was done in the way of town improvements." This chiding brought results, because the special meeting called for the next meeting had a full attendance. However, there was dissension as to whether the applications for Inspector of Nuisances should be considered at this meeting or deferred; the Mayor had to use his casting vote and they were considered with Edward Holland appointed. Wood presented a letter announcing that the Government had agreed to the alignment of Queanbeyan's streets at the wishes of the Council. Debate followed: Gale wanted to use the funds available just for the major roads, Wright

for all the roads. The decision was to align all the roads with footpaths to be 12 feet wide.

At the end of June 1886, another meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. This was a special meeting to consider notices of appeal to the Court of Petty Sessions from ratepayers against the General Rate struck by the Council of 1/- in the £1. Only Gale, Lazarus, Land and McNamara attended which meant that dissatisfied ratepayers had no other course than to attend the Appeal Court the following week. 19 cases were heard in the court and all except two were assessed at a lower figure. One interesting case was that of George Ah Gwan who lived in a tenement in Morisset St. whose rates were reduced from £20 to £10/8/-. (NB there were Chinese gardens in Morisset St at this time.)

Once again the Mayor was absent from the meeting in late July, but his autocratic nature was in evidence. He had sent a note to the meeting which blocked a payment of £10 owing to James Hodgson for his work in assessing rates. Wright argued in his note that Hodgson hadn't provided a medical certificate when he had missed time through ill-health, even though he had provided a certificate from a reputable citizen as the Council had agreed. Gale regarded Wright's note as insolent and autocratic and he was supported by Lazarus; the payment was approved. Wright was again in the spotlight when the Inspector of Public Nuisances' report was considered. He had found that contents from the Mill House, owned by the Mayor, had been emptied into the river polluting the water where the licensed water carters obtained their water for the town. He had approached the Mayor about it, but the Mayor refused to do anything about it. Gale then moved, and it was agreed, that the Inspector institute proceedings against Wright, who was setting a bad example to citizens by ignoring the by-laws.

By now the Council's Works Committee had submitted plans for the forming, metalling and kerbing of Monaro St at a cost of £387/17/- with an additional sum of £219/10/- for drain pipes. The Council then decided to make application for a £1,000 grant or loan to divert water from the main thoroughfares of the town and to ask a sub-committee to look into possible sites for depots for night soil and rubbish. Action was starting, but all in the absence of the Mayor.

The meeting of 26 August began in the absence of the Mayor and a letter was tabled from the Commissioner for Roads rejecting the request for additional funding for the development of Monaro St. As the Surveyor General's Department had advised that Monaro St was longer than the Commissioner claimed, on the motion of Lazarus, the Council decided to re-apply. At this point in the meeting, the Mayor arrived, saying that he thought the meeting began at 8pm, not 7.30pm. Lazarus then moved that the bridge and certain street corners should be lit with public lamps as the bridge was a regular rendezvous, especially on Sundays, for foulmouthed men and boys, whose language was so disgusting that females declined to cross the bridge at night even to go to church.

The meeting of 7 October was the first held for six weeks and the mayor was again absent. Admittedly the 9 September had been cancelled because Wright's son, James John Morton Wright, had been buried that day. On the basis of the Inspector of Nuisances' report, it was decided to send letters to owners of certain houses to remove offensive closets within 7 days or pay for the Council to do so. Gale successfully moved that the Roads Department be asked to repair the bridge after a complaint from Lazarus that he had had to release a girl's foot which was jammed between the planks. The contract for the supply of stone cubes for marking the alignment of streets was awarded to Mr. Larkin of Bundanoon.

A special meeting of the Council was called for 28 October 1886 to consider a loan for public works. There was much discussion with Gale, Lazarus and Bull seeking £2000 and Land, Maloney and McNamara £1000. The Mayor used his casting vote for £1000.

At a meeting in mid-November, it was announced that Mr. W.H.O'M Wood would have to resign from the Council following the gazettal of a decision that civil servants (he was the government surveyor) could no longer be members of municipal councils. The Council decided that he be replaced by Dr. Richardson.

At its meeting of 20 November, the council received a letter from the Commissioner for Roads declining its request for a grant of £1,000 for Monaro Street roadworks. After discussion it was decided to re-apply, but again the Commissioner declined, but indicated that the bridge would be given due attention. It was then agreed to employ more Council workmen to carry out forming and metalling (ie. using gravel) of Macquoid Street from George Hunt's to the Union Club Hotel, for the draining of Monaro Street and the formation of causeways at the intersections of Monaro with Crawford and Lowe Streets.

Prior to the elections for the new Council on 5 February 1887, the final meetings of the first Council in early 1887 focussed on roadworks, with tenders called for Crawford Street and reviewing the work being done in Macquoid Street. The Council placed advertisements in newspapers for a loan of £1,000 to be raised at 7% by means of £10 debentures.

The Council's first two years were thus not marked by great achievement and all the citizens could hope for was that the new elections for 1887 would result in a Council of men who were capable of getting things done to improve the town.

THE MAKING OF A PAPER

The *Queanbeyan Age* 1860 – 2010

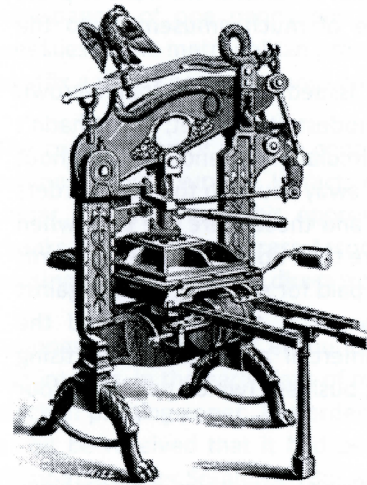
Mostly in the words of John Gale

To many folk the name John Gale has become synonymous with the establishment of the nation's capitol on the Limestone Plains but perhaps his greatest achievement was the establishment of his rural newspaper *The Golden Age*, later to become *The Queanbeyan Age*.

On September 15, 2010 it is 150 years since the first copy was lifted off the press and it is now NSW's seventh oldest newspaper with continuous publication.

Although Gale arrived in NSW in 1854 as a Wesleyan missionary, the 1851 English census shows he was a compositor with *printer* recorded in brackets. When he arrived in Sydney there were only five or six newspapers in the country districts of NSW but it wasn't until 1860 that he returned to his trade. After considering Newcastle, Gale settled on Queanbeyan as the home for his paper. He laid great store in the opinion of the Rev W B Clarke who believed gold was to be found in the district, and at that time there was a good deal of traffic through Queanbeyan to the Kiandra field. Queanbeyan was also relatively close to Gunning, the home of his wife Loanna's parents.

Gale wrote to his brother Francis Peter who was also a printer and a photographer and asked him to purchase a suitable small printing press. The idea appealed to Francis and he, his wife and six daughters arrived in Sydney on the *Chance* in mid 1860. The printing press, type set and Francis' camera equipment followed shortly after.



John and Loanna met Francis and Jane at Sydney and the two families travelled to Queanbeyan together with the machinery. The press chosen was a very ornate affair known as a Columbian. It was a metre wide, and two metres high and deep - and was carried by train from Sydney to Campbelltown and then by drays over the mountains to Queanbeyan. The journey started mid July and ended late in August. It was a bitterly cold and wet winter and must have been a very difficult trip for the brothers, their wives and nine young children

between them. Freight alone was expensive - £30 to £35 a ton to Campbelltown by train, and £100 from Campbelltown to Kiandra by dray.

Within two weeks of his arrival in Queanbeyan John Gale presented the first copy of the *Golden Age* to the District. In 1913 John Gale was interviewed as the oldest journalist in NSW by a reporter for *The Lone Hand Journal*. John Gale tells the story of establishing his *Golden Age*:

'The only place I could get for an office was a shanty, the ceilings of whose two front rooms were low enough to require a six-foot man standing with his hat on his head to either stoop or brush against them. There were two lean-to rooms behind, not more than six feet in width, with a sloping roof varying from six down to four feet. Into this confined floor- space, of about 32ft. x 16ft., two printing presses and all other material for the production of a country newspaper had to be crowded. Every printer is familiar with the Columbia press, with its ponderous eagle surmounting it and acting as a counter-lever in the lifting of the platen. Well, a square hole had to be cut through the ceiling to afford room for this huge bird to ascend on the pull of

the press, and return again when the bar was released. Whenever we went to press the coming and going of the eagle was a source of much amusement to the townspeople.

When the first number of *The Golden Age* was issued-it was a double-crown broadside of four pages -there was a rush for the modest little sheet; and it hadn't been in existence a month before it boasted of a circulation extending throughout the Queanbeyan and Monaro districts, Kiandra, and away south to the very borders of Gippsland. Its advertising business grew rapidly, and those were the days when the tariff of advertising in the country press was more than double the average tariff of to-day; and when 7s. 6d. per quarter was readily paid for subscription, as against 2s 6d per quarter nowadays. Crown land sales were at their height, and the Government advertised them liberally. With commercial and casual advertising supplementing my subscription list and job-printing business (which paid then four times as well as it does in these degenerate days).

I made a clear gain in the first year of my enterprise of something approaching £1000. It was a rosy time, but of brief duration. Within six months of my starting business in Queanbeyan, a newspaper, *The Alpine Pioneer*, was established at Kiandra by Thomas Garrett, after wards M.L.A. for Monaro and Minister for Lands in the Robertson Government. His venture was not altogether the success he anticipated on the goldfield, and after a few months he removed his plant to Cooma, publishing a district paper under the title of *The Moruya Mercury*. One of the direct effects of that enterprise was practically to limit my circulation to my own district, reducing it by about one-half. I did not, and could not, complain. But a far greater blow was presently to fall, not only on me, but on every newspaper, provincial and metropolitan, in the colony.

Someone in Parliament accused the Government of the day of bribing the press by extravagant advertising patronage, and called for a return showing the amount paid to every newspaper in the colony for advertising the Government business during the past year. The return was duly laid on the table of the House, and amply justified the course the hone member had taken. It showed that while the two great metropolitan dailies had netted many thousands of pounds from this source alone in the course of a single year, the smallest country newspaper had benefited to the extent of hundreds of pounds. The Government advertising business of my own paper exceeded for the period £300. Of course this exposure was followed by a drastic retrenchment.Crippled to some extent by the new policy, a further

ruinous occurrence immediately followed. It was the imposition of postages on newspapers of one penny per copy, irrespective of size or weight. The bulky weeklies of the metropolitan press and the small four-page country paper alike had to affix a penny postage-stamp on every copy.

The combination of adverse conditions for a time made it questionable whether my business would survive, In fact, many of the weaker country papers actually went under. In later years this oppressive tax was withdrawn, and is now substituted, thanks to the Country Press Association, by a charge per lb. on all newspaper matter passing through the post direct from the publishing office.

Amongst the difficulties encountered in the production of a newspaper far away in the interior, in the early days of my career, not the least was that of replenishing the stock of printing paper. The order to the merchants in Sydney would go forward, and a chit be received that it had been duly despatched by train to Campbelltown and thence by carrier So-and-so. But weeks and weeks would pass, and the supply in stock be exhausted, some- times long before the arrival of the carrier.

What was to be done? The publication could not be suspended awaiting his arrival. In the circumstances a levy would have to be made on the local storekeeper for his tea-paper, his sugar-paper, and even his stock of blue-laid foolscap. This frequently occurred, and necessitated extra labour in the making-up of the pages of the local paper according to the size of the sheets requisitioned. I know of a case more desperate than the worst of mine, where a newspaper man in an adjacent town had to purchase sugar- bags made of a soft but coarse light- brown paper, dampen them, and open them out into sheets wherewith to print his next issue.

I got into a fix once, being unable to get a supply of treacle, the ingredient needful to mix with the glue for the production of the inking rollers. But 'necessity is the mother of invention.' I resorted to honey in lieu of treacle, and to my surprise and joy found that I had produced an inking-roller not affected by atmospheric changes, as was the case where treacle formed the ingredient. Whether the patent roller-composition now on the market, one ingredient of which is certainly honey, is the result of my discovery, I cannot say.'

John Gale as told to The Lone Hand, January 1, 1913, p267
The National Australian Monthly Magazine, 214 George St Sydney

DUNTROON & THE BUILDERS OF A CITY

Richard Arneson

Richard M Arneson, known as Dick was born at Riley's Hill near Ballina in 1900 to an English mother and Swedish father. He came to this district in 1913 with is parents and younger brother and later married Dorothy Jordan, the great grand daughter of one of Queanbeyan's earliest builders.

Dick was a veteran of both World Wars serving as a Flight Sergeant in the RAAF in WWII. He was a plumbing and drainage contractor in the town for many years and in 1990 recorded some of his memories of life at the worker's camp at Duntroon. The camp was situated where ADFA now is and was home to many, many families as they built the Royal Military College and the city of Canberra itself.



Anton Arneson outside his Duntroon hut.

'My father went to Duntroon to work on the buildings at Duntroon Military College. When he was able to erect a shack, my mother, my young brother and I joined him. We arrived by train just before Easter in 1913.

We lived in tents with wooden floors and a small stove. I had a separate tent. A butcher and a baker called Monday to Friday and an order man from Queanbeyan came once a week. The goods were delivered the next day. If we wanted clothes we had to go into Queanbeyan, seven miles away.

There was a water tap not too far from the shack. Father made large tubs for Mum to do the washing. We had a separate loo. The pan was cleared by the camp steward. I carted firewood from the bush.

I went to school near St Johns – we walked through the bush to get there and a teacher came put from Queanbeyan by horse and buggy. Some days he did not arrive on account of his wife being ill – at least that is what he told us. A number of children attended the school and there were children from the old established families too.

There were no houses for the builders, therefore there were many tents, shacks and the many-holed loos. At fourteen years of age I commenced work with a steam heating and hot water firm for seven shillings and sixpence a week. If the foreman had a few shillings over when he had paid off the men I might get ten shillings. The men were experts and my training there helped me throughout the years.



Duntroon plumbers. Anton Arneson centre row, 4th from right

I believe there was a meeting in Queanbeyan to discuss a Fire Brigade around 1900. The part I remember was a long pole across the river with a bell and chain hanging down. There was an old galvanised shed that housed the fire engine. It was drawn by horses owned by George Morton. When the fire bell was tolled the horses took off around the paddock and were hard to catch.

The first piece of equipment was a small iron trough affair with a pump. It was operated and pulled around by men. A horse drawn engine was still in service when the new station was built in Crawford Street. I once hooked it on behind my car to get to a fire in Crawford Street opposite the Hotel Queanbeyan. The fire was out when we arrived on the scene. When the new Garfield arrived we were pretty well equipped to handle most fires.

Later Father and I both had horses and sulkies to go to Queanbeyan, and of course to see Dorrie. The best thing I ever did was marry Dorrie – she was a wonderful person. We had our first car in 1924. It was a Studebaker – a classy job and we had it for ten years. We moved around a great deal: lived in Goulburn, Scone, Muswellbrook, Taree and in the war years in Sydney and Victoria.'

Richard Arneson, as told in letters to Rosemary Curry, 1990
Photographs recently acquired from Mr Harry Currey of Wauchope who found them amongst Richard Arneson's estate and did not want them to be destroyed!



THE LOST HEADSTONE

By Enid S Wheeler

Reprinted from QDHMS Newsletter Volume 2, Number 4, March 1996

This is a story of a headstone and how its discovery and rediscovery have made me believe in miracles.

In the mid-1930s, when I was about ten years old, my father, Bill Guard, took me for a walk along the Queanbeyan River on the opposite side to the town. We found ourselves in the vicinity of old Dodsworth, which had been the family home of Captain Alured Faunce and his wife Elizabeth. He had been the first Police Magistrate in Queanbeyan. The house had been built in 1838 so was almost a hundred years old at that time. It was still occupied, but not by Faunce descendants.

We came upon scattered pieces of marble which had words engraved on them. Realising that they were from a broken headstone, we made a thorough search of the hillside and gully and found more fragments. With difficulty we fitted them together flat on the ground. There were many gaps. All numerals were lost but more than half of the inscription was decipherable.

We could make out that the headstone had marked the grave of Anna .. ia Faunce and that she had died when *only* ...months old. I can remember how excited I was at our discovery. But remember even more clearly how strongly moved I was by the death of the infant who had barely lived at all.

A friend offered to cement the pieces together and we always assumed that he had. We moved to Canberra afterwards and did not ever return to the site.

Years passed.

In 1972 my husband and I were in a group being entertained by the Queanbeyan Historical Society. Naturally, I enquired about the baby's headstone and was told that the Society had heard of its existence but had never been able to find it. I felt strongly motivated to help and, to my astonishment, found myself actually offering to locate the headstone for them. Could the imprint of a scene on the mind of a ten year old be clear enough and strong enough to lead the adult back again forty years later?

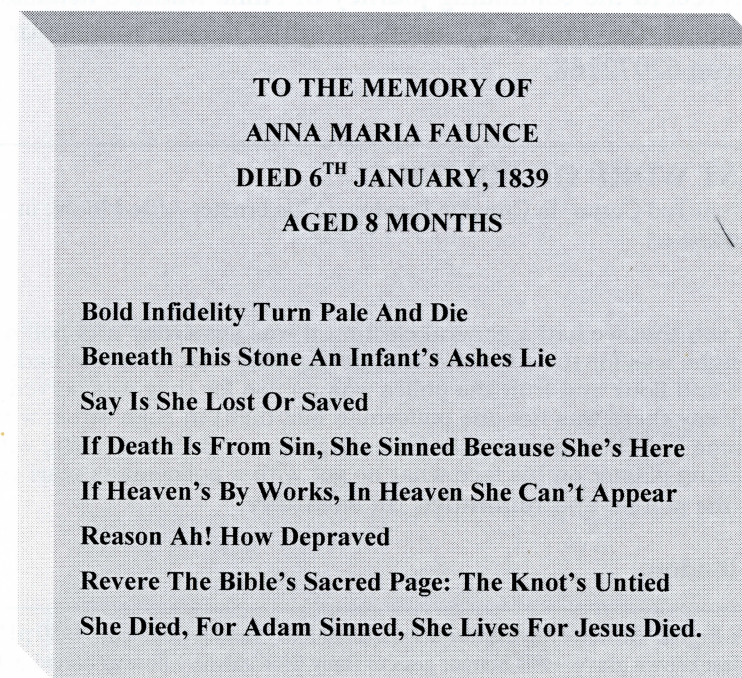
The following weekend a small family group, carrying an assortment of digging implements, set off - my husband, my mother, my daughter Louise and myself. We found the area fairly readily, as we had been told that the golf course was about to be extended and would take in the site of old Dodsworth. But it did not look at all as I remembered. There was no house standing, no sign of the stone. It was just a smoothly grassed hillside.

My family stood about patiently while I cast around trying to get my bearings. Then suddenly I said to my husband, "Dig there".

Now here is the miracle. He pushed down on his garden fork and we heard a scratch that could have been metal on marble. We scraped the earth away and found the pieces of the headstone lying just as my father and I had left them. They had not been cemented in place, they were about ten centimetres under the soil and we had found them at first probe. Perhaps it was a lucky strike or perhaps the impact of that first sighting was still with me.

We hurried to tell the Secretary of the Historical Society of our find. He accompanied us to the site where, triumphantly, we showed him the relics. The Society reassembled the pieces and cemented them to a suitable backing. The headstone was later displayed in its museum.

The inscription was incomplete because many pieces were not found. The late Rex Cross, in his book "Bygone Queanbeyan", gives the inscription in full, having obtained the missing parts from various sources. He discovered two discrepancies between the public records and the headstone inscription. The public record~ gave the date of birth as 30th November 1838 and the date of death as 29th January 1839 which means that she was two months old when she died. The newspapers of the day and the headstone gave the date of death as January 6th, 1839 at the age of eight months.



THE HEADSTONE FOUND BUT LOST AGAIN

Rex Cross clearly states in his 1980 edition of *Bygone Queanbeyan* that the broken pieces of the headstone were in the possession of QDHMS¹. Mrs Wheeler tells us that the pieces were collected and cemented to a suitable backing by members of QDHMS c 1972. The headstone is no longer at the museum and hasn't been for at least the last ten years, if not longer.

This rare and historic artifact is the oldest headstone² in the district and QDHMS is desperate to discover its fate. There is no recording of its having been transferred to another place – perhaps with a member of a connected family. If any reader can help find it again so we can record the continuing journey of Anna Maria's headstone, please contact the Editor by email at gillkell@tpg.com.au or by telephone on 62972168.

THE LAST WORD ON POLITICS

In a letter from Ted Costar in Croydon London, to his brother Alfred Monk in Australia c1864-65

alfred,

I must tell you that we had a general election it was yesterday was polling day the roughs was for the wigs and anyone say they was tore they had rotten eggs and flour and fruit the police was no use for they was served the same. They say there was not one policeman last night in High street with a torn hat some lost them all together I see maggots wood this morning with a large sticking plaster on his face what he got with a policemen's starf got lock up in the station and remanded till saturday.

ted

croydon, london.

¹ Cross, Rex *Bygone Queanbeyan* Canberra Publishing and Printing Company, 1980 p110

² Not the oldest known grave – this honour goes to Baby McKeahnie who was buried in the vicinity of the bottom of Kathleen Street.