

Quinbean

Volume 11 No 3
December 2018



Q&DHM Archive
10 Farrer Place
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

The Journal of
Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society Inc.

QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY INC.

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 Palerang Regional Council through the context of the Museum of Queanbeyan.

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THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

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

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

Cover Photograph: Murryong Subsidised School [1923? - 1925?] Photograph provided by Gillian Kelly

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QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

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FROM THE COMMITTEE – 2018 IN REVIEW

The committee and volunteers have been busy in 2018 with a variety of projects: computers, collection, visits, displays and Museum development. Museum store re-organisation continued and database migration occurred, with an ongoing goal of adopting Museum best practice. Garden maintenance and general cleaning of the Museum continued.

A QPRC grant of \$50,000 was received to redevelop our outdoor rural equipment display area. The project team have made progress and plans have been drawn for new structure ready to be submitted to Council.

Heritage Week 2018 displayed a new exhibition of recently acquired items along with items from the collection these included Paragon café items, Johnston family christening gowns, the Ford family bible and the Golden Age newspaper from 1860.

Cataloguing has continued with data correction and repair of the data lost with a computer meltdown. The Museum computers are now part of a new network connected to printers and a number connected to the LaCIE external hard drive with storage capacity of 2 TB.

A number of successful group and school visits to the museum occurred. We kept the museum open every weekend in 2018. Visits to Goulburn Museums and a reciprocal visit to Hall Museum were enjoyable.

Stalls at fairs, the Show and Crawford Centre were conducted along with Members Get Togethers. Newsletters were produced and Facebook updated.

As part of Queanbeyan's 180 years celebration 30 museum objects were displayed around town with 20 more objects at the museum. Interest from the community was high and the exhibition was a success.

Council has continued its support this year. Our museum assistant, Ximena Briceno resigned, and both her replacement Sonja Grant and Georgina Perri our Council Manager have moved on. Thanks so much for their work with the Museum in the long and short term.

A big thank you to all our volunteers this year. We can't thank you enough!

FROM THE EDITORS

We have a good variety of contributions in this edition, including a fascinating and scholarly account of a Queanbeyan man, Philip Sydney Pooley, in the Boer War, researched and written by Kristine Howard.

Peter Procter has contributed a poem on Tuggeranong from September 1926 by a local school teacher of the time Frank McGee.

Our former editor, Gillian Kelly, has drawn on her vast local knowledge and interest to contribute two snippets about our district.

Lee Davy contributed part 2 of her report *Whole Histories - Keeping the Stories Alive*, about the positive steps that can be taken by Historical Societies to improve their value to members and community.

Local historian, Nichole Overall, notes her prize-winning research on Ernest Albert Corey, a Cooma born man who ended up in Queanbeyan.

Regular contributor, Rosemary Curry, has written a, perhaps controversial, article on the way the building of Canberra revitalised Queanbeyan.

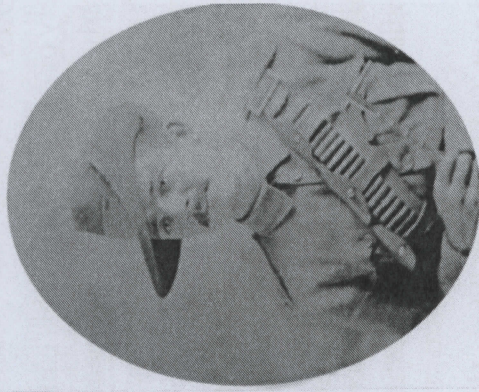
John McGlynn has continued his condensation of Lee Davy's oral history interview with Irena and Janina Dobrowski.

President Maria Lukacs has written a tribute to her sister, Kris Flynn.

Thanks again to our regular contributors. Contributions most welcome to our Journal, articles, short or long, poetry, snippets, quirky news clips - it is all of interest! Contact John at mcglynn_john@hotmail.com

John McGlynn & Kerrie Ruth

PHILIP SYDNEY(SID) POOLEY IN THE BOER WAR



Philip Sydney Pooley 1902

There were two Boer wars, one ran from 16 December 1880 - 23 March 1881 and the second from 9 October 1899 - 31 May 1902 both between the British and the settlers of Dutch origin (called Boere, Afrikaners or Voortrekkers) who lived in South Africa. These wars put an end to the two independent republics that they had founded.

The causes of the Boer War go back to 1795, when Britain took over the Cape Colony from the Dutch and British troops started to arrive. At first the Dutch settlers, known as Boers, ignored their new governors and moved away from the administrative centres, they were fiercely independent and refused to accept any outside rule or influence. However, the British authorities began to follow the Boers and hostilities began to develop with the introduction of new laws, such as the order in 1823 for English to be adopted as the official language and the emancipation of British slaves in 1833. This second law struck the Boers deeply as it threatened their economic stability as their farms depended on free labour. Unhappy with British rule a large number of

Boers began to move away from Cape Colony, in 1852 the British conceded to allow Boers self-government and thus the republic of Transvaal was born, with the Orange Free State following two years later.

After the First Anglo-Boer War the British government did not give up its ambition for unifying South Africa under Imperial British rule. The two Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic or Transvaal still maintained their desire for independence. The Boer republics were a stumbling block for the British Empire. The Boers continued to bicker amongst themselves and with the discovery of diamonds in 1867, Britain annexed Transvaal.

The Uitlander or outlander question began to arise in the 1880s. The Boers' fears of being swamped by the, mainly British, Uitlanders during local elections led to the increased tensions. Coupled with this Cecil Rhodes, the British Prime Minister of the Cape Colony began to stir up dissent among the British Uitlanders, in order to try to incorporate the Boer territories with the British to form one large, strong, British South African state. In 1898 came the final spark, a Boer policeman shot Tom Eggars, an unarmed British miner, however, the Boer policeman was found not guilty. This decision enraged the British Uitlanders who sent a petition to Queen Victoria demanding equal political rights in a state where they formed the majority. This led to talks in May 1899 to try and solve the Uitlander problem, however, the talks hit problems. Worrying that they didn't have enough military representation in the area Britain began to amass troops in South Africa, this led to an ultimatum from the Boers asking for the end of troop movements. The ultimatum was ignored and thus war was declared by the Boer Republics on 11th October 1899.

The Boers were comprised of the combined forces of the South African Republic and the Republic of the Orange Free State. When Australia

became involved in the Boer War it was generally considered that the superiority, equipment and numbers of the British and colonial troops would soon win and peace would be restored within a matter of months. It was later found that troops were fighting Boer farmers with no military background or training. However, they proved themselves to be tough and fearless adversaries, the British forces having great difficulty in suppressing them.

The first Australian troops and their horses sailed in late 1899 and were involved in major action by January 1900. After Australian Federation in 1901, the new Commonwealth Government sent a further eight battalions. In addition to the Australian troops who travelled to serve in the Boer war, thousands more Australians, who were already there working in the gold and diamond mines, also signed up to fight in what was often a bloody guerrilla war. All were volunteers as there was no draft or conscription.

The Boer War saw advances in weaponry and medicines but also the use of guerrilla tactics that destroyed the lives and homes of civilians. Of the 16,000 troops sent by Australia to the war, at least 600 died, about half from disease and half in action. It remains Australia's third-worst conflict in terms of casualties. Four thousand troops leaving after Federation saw no fighting but patrolled the camps established by Lord Kitchener to hold Boer women and children.

The first four contingents were all one-year drafts, they began returning to Australia at the end of 1900. In March and April of 1901, a fifth and sixth contingent of Australian soldiers totalling nearly 5,000 men, sailed for South Africa. These men also signed up for one year and were due to return to Australia in early 1902.

More than 60 Australian nurses went to the Boer war. Some were provided by governments or by privately raised funds, while others

went at their own expense. The nurses served to aid the sick and wounded under very harsh conditions.

A further three contingents were raised by the new Commonwealth in 1901, but they did not embark until 1902. 4,000 volunteers had been selected to form the Australian Commonwealth Horse, comprising eight battalions. Most arrived too late for any action, some were still at sea when the war ended.

From late 1900, Boer commando units waged a guerrilla war against the British. Known as the Boer 'bitter-enders', these guerrillas blew up trains, train lines and bridges. They ambushed British troops and garrisons.

The British Army responded by using a combination of overwhelming force and ruthless tactics. They established blockhouses across the countryside to surround and expose the Boers. They burned farms and confiscated food that they suspected could be used to sustain the commandos. Boer women and children were taken to concentration camps.

Eventually, faced with starvation, the last of the Boer commandos surrendered in May 1902. The war ended with the Treaty of Vereeniging signed on 31 May 1902, after a duration of 2 years and 8 months. 22,000 British troops had died and over 25,000 Boer civilians. The treaty ended the existence of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State as Boer republics and placed them within the British Empire. But the Boers were given £3m in compensation and were promised self-government in time (the Union of South Africa was established in 1910).

In September 1899 both Val Pike and Philip Sydney (Sid) Pooley were successful in securing positions in the tramway service. On 20 December 1899, Sergeant Major Richards, formerly drill instructor of

the Mounted Rifles visited Queanbeyan. He secured 27 names of eligible volunteers to assist the British with the Boer War in South Africa. Thirteen were ex-members of the old Mounted Rifles including Robert and Sid Pooley and James Cane. There were already 70 men in South Africa belonging to the Mounted Rifles.

A farewell for the volunteers was hastily arranged as they were due to leave by train on the evening of Saturday 23 December. A social evening with singing and some short speeches was arranged, Mr Hayes offering 100 cigars for use of the volunteers. The evening to conclude with a procession, headed by the town band, accompanying the volunteers to the railway station. Later it was decided to merge this function with a dinner arranged by Robert and Sid Pooley at Pooley's Hotel.

It was reported by the Queanbeyan Age on Saturday, 30 December:

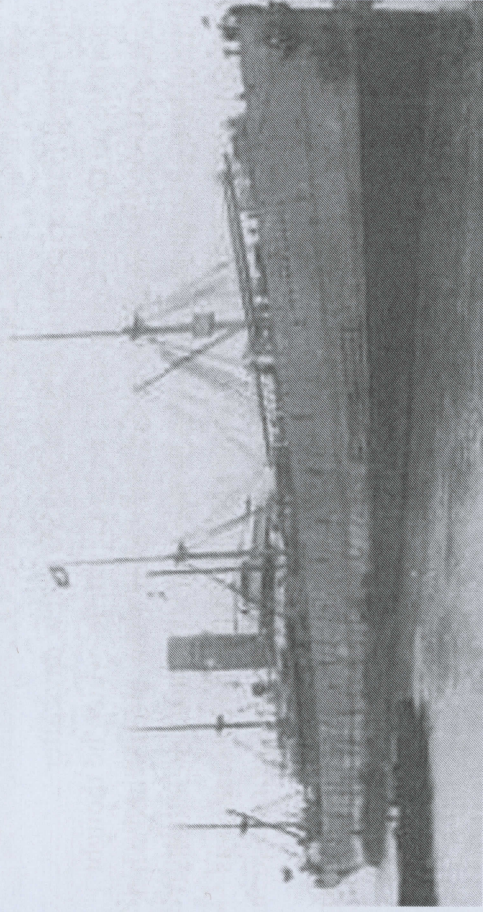
'The departure of the 20 lads from Queanbeyan anxious to help the British against the Boers, produced a scene of excitement in town that will be a memory for years. The whole town was worked into a fever of excitement. The volunteers were entertained at Pooley's Hotel by two comrades, Messrs R and S Pooley, and the dinner was made a public one by the Mayor taking the chair and by the attendance of most of the prominent townsmen. Toasts were proposed by the Mayor, Ald Firth, Dr Richardson, and Mr Madden, and drunk with great enthusiasm. Then the band headed a procession to the Railway Station. The platform was one pushing, scrambling, shouting, excited mass. Never before was the platform so crowded. Everybody seemed to be starting off a chorus of patriotic songs, varied by cheering for the troops. It was a tremendous send-off in every sense of the word.'

Not all of the men departing Queanbeyan that evening were accepted as volunteers. Robert and Sid Pooley were not amongst those leaving for

South Africa in 1901. It has been said that their mother Maryanne Pooley did not want to sign the papers giving permission for them to go.

Philip Sydney Pooley (Sid) signed up as a volunteer on 6 February 1902, at 22 years of age. Trooper Pooley (Service No 1511) was assigned to the 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, he was 22 years of age. Sid was an expert horseman. Sid and the 3rd Battalion including C De Smit, and A McDonald also from Queanbeyan, sailed from Sydney on the 'Manhattan' on 1st April 1902. The ship carried 594 men and the trip took approximately 32 days, arriving in Durban on 30 April 1902, only a few weeks before the end of the War.

The last ship to return to Sydney after the War, the 'SS Drayton Grange', left Durban on 11th July 1902, arriving in Sydney on 10 August of that year. Sid returned to Australia on this ship together with Trooper C De Smet.



'SS Drayton Grange'

Trooper John Hanna gave an account of the dreadful conditions experienced by the soldiers on the 'SS Drayton Grange'. The vessel

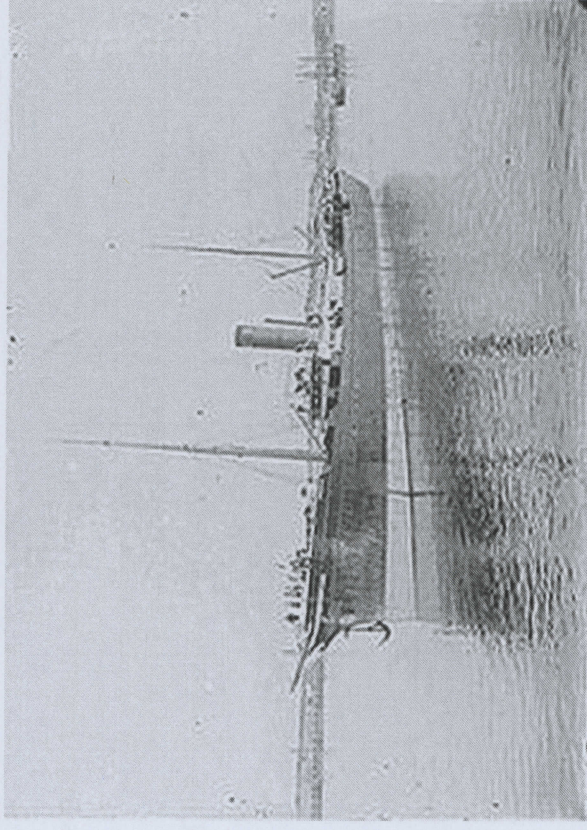
had been chartered by the Australian Commonwealth Government to carry 1,500 troops. Admiralty Transport authorities in Cape Town received permission for 41 officers and 2,000 NCOs and men to embark on 11th July for the return trip to Australia.

Overcrowding was considerable, the men who had been patrolling the camps brought with them measles, chest infections, dysentery and enteric fever. There was no isolation hospital or disinfecting apparatus. As more men fell ill, hospital beds encroached on healthy quarters, resulting in more unhealthy overcrowding. The weather was continually wet and cold, the men exercised on the freezing iron deck in heavy seas. Scuppers and shower-baths were used as urinals and constantly overflowed when the ship rolled. Showers were in the open, so most preferred not to wash. Some 17 sailors and soldiers died on the ship at sea between Durban South Africa and Albany in Western Australia. Most troops surviving were taken to the quarantine station at Albany before being allowed to continue on to other eastern ports of Australia.

John Alfred Hanna returned to Sydney NSW a few days after quarantine on the 'SS Coolgardie', he had a sniffle, which he thought was just a cold. His condition deteriorated after a few months and what he thought was a cold turned out to be the deadly disease tuberculosis. He died in 1903 of tuberculosis at the age of 22 years. His death was considered to be a result of conditions on board the shipping transport 'Drayton Grange', known as the 'The Drayton Grange Fiasco'. His family, after a long campaign received £25 as compensation.

On 14 August 1902, it was reported that Trooper S Pooley was at the Sydney Quarantine Station suffering with peritonitis. He was later moved to the convalescent home at Little Bay. He returned to Queanbeyan on 12 September, 1902.

There was outrage in Australia and a Royal Commission was set up to determine the cause of the tragedy. The ship's captain and the army officers making decisions on the voyage were held to blame.



'SS Coolgardie'

Sid spent less than 3 months in South Africa. He was discharged on 26 September 1902. His service abroad was 158 days, and his total service 233 days. Sadly, his mother Maryanne Pooley had passed away, after an operation, in Sydney in the July that year.

3RD AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE¹

- Original strength: 615
- Subunits: five mounted rifle squadrons (three NSW, one Qld, one Tas.)

¹ <http://www.bwm.org.au/site/Contingents.php>

- Commanding officer: Lieutenant-Colonel E. T. Wallack (Tas.) then Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wallace (Vic.)
- Left for South Africa: 1-8 April 1902 on Manhattan and Englishman
- Service: none seen
- Fatal: none killed or died of wounds, nine died of other causes
- Decorations: none
- Returned to Australia: 9-13 August on Drayton Grange
- Useful sources: unit diaries (Australian War Memorial, AWM3 02/1537 and 02/1555)

Kristine Howard (Sid's Grand Daughter)

References

Articles re Sid Pooley's return to Australia:

14 August 1902 Queanbeyan Age

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/98723352?searchTerm=Pooley%20peritonitis&searchLimits=exactPhrase|||anyWords|||notWords|||requestHandler|||dateFrom=1902-08-13|||dateTo=1902-08-16|||advstate=New+South+Wales|||sortBy>

16 August 1902 The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/165381306?searchTerm=Pooley%20peritonitis&searchLimits=exactPhrase|||anyWords|||notWords|||requestHandler|||dateFrom=1902-08-13|||dateTo=1902-08-16|||advstate=New+South+Wales|||sortBy>

Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa.

ATTESTATION of 1511 Name Sidney Pooley

Joined at 1511 On FEB 6 1902

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. What is your name?	1. <u>Sidney Pooley</u>
2. What is your place of birth?	2. <u>Wilton</u>
3. Are you a British subject?	3. <u>YES</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>24 years</u> months.
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Boorly Maker</u>
6. Are you married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Who is your next-of-kin, and what is the address of same, and degree of relationship?	7. <u>Mother, M.A. Pooley, 2, Coleridge St, Nelson</u>
8. Particulars of any previous service in present South African war, and state in what Contingent enrolled, and if discharged.	8. <u>None</u>
9. Are you willing to serve for a period of 12 months, or for the duration of war, in the Contingent for service in South Africa with His Majesty's forces?	9. <u>12 Coleridge St Nelson</u>
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, if deemed advisable?	10. <u>Yes</u>
11. Present permanent address?	11. <u>12 Coleridge St Nelson</u>
12. Religion?	12. <u>Anglican</u>

I, Sidney Pooley, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made for service under the Imperial Government, and that I have no claim on the Commonwealth Government, and that I do not expect to receive for myself or any of my relations, any compensation, whatsoever, from the Commonwealth Government in case of my discharge or death.

Signature: Sidney Pooley Signature: H. J. Gammie
Signature of Applicant Signature of Officer.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I have examined the above-named applicant and can certify that he is medically fit for service in South Africa.

Physician: Dr. J. Gammie Surgeon: Dr. J. Gammie
Dentist: Dr. J. Gammie Apothecary: Dr. J. Gammie
Vaccinator: Dr. J. Gammie Dispensary: Dr. J. Gammie
Sanitary Officer: Dr. J. Gammie Medical Officer: Dr. J. Gammie

TO BE TAKEN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Sidney Pooley, do make oath that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty his heirs and successors in person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, real and imaginary, and obey all orders of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

Signature: Sidney Pooley Signature: H. J. Gammie
Signature of Applicant Signature of Officer.

Sworn before me 1511 Justice of the Peace

Nominal Roll—continued.

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
M.C.A.'s AND MEN—continued.		
1570. Lewis, W. C.	Trooper	
1576. Lucas, William	"	
1583. Leonard, Walter	"	
1596. Lee, Thomas C.	"	Died, 24.6.02
1625. Logan, David James	"	
1629. Looker, H. E.	"	
1737. Low, Archibald	"	
1739. Lynch, George	"	
1780. Low, Robert	"	
1802. Mack, William	"	
1813. Macdonald, James	"	
1826. Macdonald, John H.	"	
1838. Macdonald, John E.	"	
1841. Macdonald, Thomas G.	"	
1843. Macdonald, Frederick	"	
1847. Macdonald, Henry	"	
1849. Macdonald, M. C.	"	
1851. Macdonald, Thomas T.	"	
1853. Macdonald, James	"	
1855. Macdonald, Victor J.	"	
1857. Macdonald, Frank A.	"	
1859. Macdonald, Arthur H.	"	
1861. Macdonald, William E.	"	
1863. Macdonald, T. E.	"	
1865. Macdonald, Charles	"	
1867. Macdonald, Albert J.	"	
1869. Macdonald, Charles	"	
1871. Macdonald, O. T. R.	"	
1873. Macdonald, David	"	
1875. Macdonald, Charles E.	"	
1877. Macdonald, H.	"	
1879. Macdonald, Daniel	"	
1881. Macdonald, James	"	
1883. Macdonald, John G.	"	
1885. Macdonald, Thomas	"	
1887. Macdonald, Eugene	"	
1889. Macdonald, W. E.	"	
1891. Macdonald, George	"	
1893. Macdonald, Sydney	"	
1895. Macdonald, Henry	"	
1897. Macdonald, Thomas	"	
1899. Macdonald, John	"	
1901. Macdonald, Albert W.	"	
1903. Macdonald, Frederick	"	

Should this Certificate be lost or mislaid, no Duplicate of it can be obtained.

CERTIFICATE of Discharge of <u>2nd Lt</u> (Rank) <u>Trooper</u>	
(Name) <u>James George</u>	(Regiment) <u>2nd Battalion A.C.H.</u>
Born in the Parish of <u>St. Mary's</u> near the Town of <u>St. Mary's</u>	
in the County of <u>New South Wales</u>	
Attestd at <u>Sydney</u> on the <u>6th</u> day of <u>Feb</u> 1912	at the age of <u>23</u> years.
He is discharged in consequence of <u>his services being no longer required with this S. Co</u>	
<u>Confined at St. Mary's 26th Sept 1902</u>	
<u>Chaplain's Report</u>	
Service towards completion of engagement <u>231</u> days	Medals and Decorations <u>For No. 1 of 1902</u>
Service abroad <u>158</u> days	<u>For No. 1 of 1902</u>
DESCRIPTION ON DISCHARGE.	
Age <u>23</u> yrs <u>4</u> mo <u>4</u> day	Height <u>5</u> ft <u>9</u> in
Eyes <u>Gray</u>	Hair <u>Brown</u>
Intended place of residence <u>Sydney N.S.W.</u>	
Discharge confirmed at <u>Sydney N.S.W.</u>	
Signature <u>J. Phaseling</u>	
Date <u>27th Sept 1902</u>	

MURRYONG SUBSIDISED SCHOOL [1923? – 1925?]

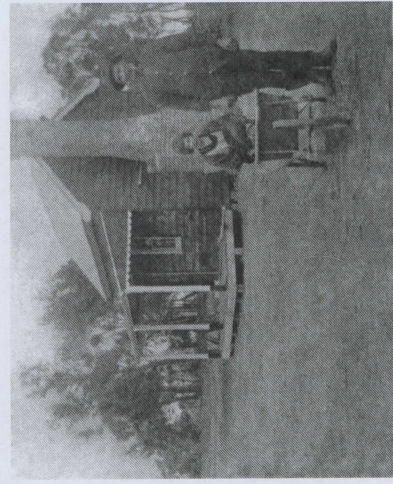
“There was also a little schoolhouse at Murryong. The building still stands and was designed by J W Sproule also the architect for Queanbeyan buildings including the School of Arts and Municipal Council Chambers. It was built c.1923, with a government grant, for my mother (born 1918) and one or two children from Burbong.

Murryong is in the ACT on the old Kings Highway. The property ran from Burbong to Yalgum and northwards approx.2500 acres. My grandfather Frank Hyles bought it around 1912 and my parents sold it in 1989.

I just looked at my mother's memoirs. She said the Murryong school was a subsidised school, 3 or 4 children walked a couple of miles each way to attend. Mum had her first lesson when she was 7 (1925/6). She had to write an S cup-hook and was trembling with fright! The school probably only went for a year or two, as Mum was sent to Meriden, Strathfield when she was 9”.

Notes from David Watson, ‘Millpost’, July 2014.

Gillian Kelly



Murryong Subsidised School [1923? – 1925?]

WHOLE HISTORIES - KEEPING THE STORIES ALIVE PART TWO

Papers presented at the conference held at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong NSW Friday 7 to 9 April 2017.

Continuing the saga, I will highlight some helpful advice from the speakers, of great relevance to our work here in Queanbeyan. Judith Dunn, AOM, spoke on Historical Societies: Their value to members and the community. She is very qualified to offer advice, being Past President of the Parramatta Historical Society and founder of the Historic Graves Committee, and councillor of the RAHS and FAHS for over 30 years.

Judith outlines the obvious benefits of belonging, meeting like-minded people, broadening horizons, new skills, friendship, dispelling loneliness, but beyond that unexpected doors can open. For example, one society runs a 20-hectare historic farm, learning to maintain a flock of sheep! However, we should be aware of our value to the local council and community, by raising heritage issues and answering local history questions, continuity of local stories and gathering oral histories.

We should be careful not to undervalue ourselves or our services, for example charging fees should be the norm, not the exception. Our members provide an extraordinarily valuable service to the community, imparting local knowledge through visits, including schools. Some societies offer tours to new residents, including refugees. Other relevant groups can be targeted.

Besides creating connections to combat isolation, the health of members improves through being physically and mentally active. Members only events increases satisfaction in knowing belonging is beneficial, making

them feel special while learning about their local community services and providing savings in costs. Gaining grant money and having projects helps to focus creativity and satisfaction through achievements.

The opportunity to write and publish is a benefit, as well as learning people skills, and mastering new technology. This involves skill sharing, team work and training. Sending members for external training increases their satisfaction as well as their knowledge. Challenging them means thinking of new solutions, new ideas, different ways of doing things, not being stuck in a rut. Brainstorming such as occurs at such a conference is an invaluable tool for progress.

Community spirit is fostered, as well as local job training and local tourism. The council benefits through cleaning, gardening and researching. In one instance, the council benefitted by the ability of the historical society to transcribe council owned papers. This was a time-consuming job for the member, becoming paid work. Another society cares for the cemetery and transcribes gravestones. Most all societies can advise council on heritage issues and problems as they occur. One idea to gain new members and volunteers, is New members, prospective members and councillors can be invited to an afternoon tea, and write on boards the list of benefits your society provides.

The inspiring setting of the St Clements Monastery encouraged collaboration and motivation in a beautiful historical setting, which houses a wonderful museum of the founder Ned Ryan, ex Irish convict who established his farm there in the 1840's, and even built a castle there – a particularly noteworthy tourist attraction.

Lee Davy
Longstanding QDHMS Committee member

SEPTEMBER IN TUGGRANONG

Oh, sweet September, Tuggranong
Rejoices when you come along;
Her hills ablaze with wattle bloom,
Smile down on us, dispel the gloom,
and bid us sing this glad refrain,
'Our darling month is here again'.

Parisian costumes pale I wear,
Beside her robes of gold and green;
With wattle blossom in her hair
She is a nymph beyond compare;
With sunny smile and breath so sweet,
She's here again bush-folk to greet.

She banished frosts and fogs 'way south
With just a breath from her sweet mouth;
She beckoned with appealing hands,
To migrants in far distant lands
To come back and sing their song,
In God's own spot, old Tuggranong.

And so she skips and sings and plays
In Tuggranong for thirty days;
And when she leaves us, leaves us here,
To watch and wait another year,
Till wattle bloom shall bring along,
September dear to Tuggranong.

'Tugg'

'Tugg' was Frank McGee, who taught at Tuggeranong Public School between 1898 and 1927. This poem was published in *The Queanbeyan Age* on 2 September 1926, and republished by request on 29 October 1926.



Old Bridge Tuggeranong

Contributed by Peter Proctor

FINDING ERNIE COREY



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SHO/71.0166/HQ

Ernie Corey in a nursing home in Queanbeyan

As "the war to end all wars" drew to a close on November 11, one hundred years ago, an Australian corporal, a volunteer stretcher bearer from Cooma, had just become the only soldier in the British Commonwealth to receive four Military Medals - the award introduced in 1916 for personnel below commissioned rank "for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire".

Despite the fact this record remains unsurpassed, Ernest Albert Corey is far from the household name of the man who performed a similar role, John Simpson, with the aid of his donkeys.

Over the last year, Queanbeyan author and social historian, Nichole Overall, has been piecing together Corporal Corey's story and at the beginning of November was awarded the prestigious Biennial Walter Stone Life Writing Award for 2018 by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) for an initial presentation of the project.

The Award stipulates a work of "original, creative, literary excellence" with an Australian historical significance and at the presentation ceremony in Sydney, judge Dr Rae Luckie, an expert in biographical writing, stated the standard of the entries received from around the country "was exceptional".

Of the winning entry, Dr Luckie stated: "*Saving Sergeant Harlock* is an inspirational and creative hybrid biography that effectively uses the elements of prose poetry. The author provides an eloquent and highly emotional insight into the Western Front and the sacrifice of so many young lives."

Nichole says she's delighted that the alternative style of the work resonates.

"As it isn't a traditional or standard military history, or even biography exactly, this win is so affirming."

"Along with the centenary of the end of the Great War, it's also the 90th anniversary of the FAW, an organisation with a membership that's included Henry Lawson, Miles Franklin, and former Chair of Australian

Literature at Sydney University, Professor Elizabeth Webby, so it's all very humbling," she said.

The author's original intention on entering the competition was essentially to gain feedback on its more unusual form.

"I would have been delighted had it simply been acknowledged. To actually win makes me even more passionate about continuing to create something that is a little outside-the-square, but potentially more powerful and impactful as a result."

"It's been a fairly arduous process of investigation as the information on Ernie is sparse – he died in 1972, in Queanbeyan - finding relatives and trying to craft a story that's not a typical war text and which connects with a wider readership than might normally pick up a book about such things."

Nichole says there's still more to be done, but plans on having the work completed by April 2019, one hundred years after Ernie was finally sent home, having been almost fatally wounded in the closing days of the war at one of its most significant final battles, breaking through the Germans' famed Hindenburg Line.

"Every story of all who served deserves to be remembered. Ernie's though, is different, not only for his singular feat of a Military Medal and three Bars, but because as he once pointed out, each was earned for saving lives, not taking them."

Sometimes he could hear them; calls of "mother"

reminding him many were no more than boys,

younger even than his own brothers.

Others he simply stumbled across.

Held their hands.

Bowed his head.

Later they would tell him it was 17 hours.

Without rest. Under fire. Into and out of that dead space

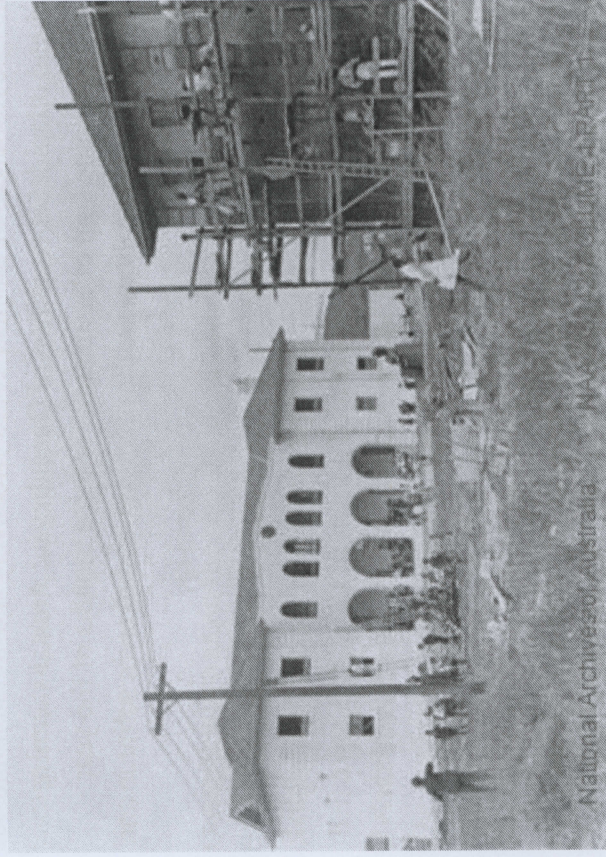
between warring trenches.

Saving.

Nichole Overall

WHAT SAVED QUEANBEYAN

When John Gale proposed the Queanbeyan area for the new Capital, which became Canberra, many parliamentarians were not happy with it, or anywhere else in the bush. They did not want to be 'tree changers', and liked their coffee shops, bars, and city comforts in Melbourne, the seat of government since Federation in 1901.



NAA A5342, VOLUME 1 PART 1

[Photograph No. 115 - Building construction]. Jan - Feb 1928. Canberra. Progress

Photographs. Pages 1 to 27, photographs 1 to 129

Presumably this is why they wrote such disparaging accounts of Queanbeyan after their first visit to the proposed Capital area. The Age reported such statements as: "a more appropriate and more attractive site from every point of view might surely be selected."

"There must be something better than this bleak hungry tableland we've looked at."

"Miserable specimens of agriculture abound, trees are few and stunted."

"A goat couldn't find enough to live on in (this area), Mr Hughes of NSW said."

"The meagre resources of the district are effectively illustrated in the dejected and dilapidated condition of Queanbeyan. Annual shearing gives the place some sign of animation for three months of the year. During the remainder of the year, the township is sunken in solitude and stagnation."

So, how was Queanbeyan at this time? Beginning from its earliest days when Timothy Beard (innkeeper and squatter) settled on the Molonglo River bank, Queanbeyan was proclaimed a town in 1838. The town had a resident Police Magistrate (Captain Alured Tasker Faunce), and the first Mayor John James Wright had his own residence (now the Queanbeyan Art Centre).

In 1885, Queanbeyan was declared a Municipality with an increasingly successful primary producing district. By 1889, farmers in the district, appreciated help and were successful with William James Farrer's Scientific work on wheat strains. At the height of this rural prosperity, Queanbeyan boasted 16 public houses and 6 flour mills. According to Edmond Smith Hall of Lake Bathurst, one third of all the sheep in the Colony were in the Queanbeyan district. Thus, when an economic slump occurred in the 1840s, involving a drop in wool prices on the London market, all farmers in the district were affected.

Then in the 1893 depression, Queanbeyan was struck again. "No employment, primary producers with scanty crops and stunted flocks"

(Errol Lea Scarlett page 165). Additionally, a drought extended until 1902, and the population of the Queanbeyan district dropped by about one third.

So, what disturbed the despair of the 'comatose slumber of the town'? One single event transformed the whole district. It was the impact of the chosen Federal Capital Territory. Immediately there were openings for unskilled labour. Local industries received a boost and workers' accommodation was needed. Within three years there was hardly a vacant house in town.

It was never again to be a town of solitude and stagnation!

Queanbeyan was on the rise again, and has never looked back.

Rosemary Curry

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IT'S A GOOD PLACE, QUEANBEYAN

In the last edition of *Quinbean* I contributed an article on two Polish ladies who settled in Queanbeyan and finally had their own house in Agnes Avenue. Now I want to continue with the story of how they found living in Queanbeyan, with church, school and marriage. Once again, I will use their words from the interview with Lee Davy but rearranged to make a narrative.

The earlier extract ended as the family moved to a new home in Atkinson Street. Their new house was within easy walking distance from St Gregory's and the Catholic Church was important to the family.

I mean when there was a Novena, we had to go to Mass every morning. So, us kids would have to walk to school, we'd have to go to church in the morning at 6, and then go home, have breakfast and walk to school and walk back. Even at school they had PE, you know, and there'd be marching and doing exercises. What's happened to all that in schools today? We used to love it. The music would be going, we'd be marching and exercising, calisthenics. and yes, in those days everybody walked everywhere, that's why we're fit and not fat.

We used to love it. That's the only part of school I used to like, but the rest of it, I didn't like it. School was not happy in Queanbeyan because the teachers, - they couldn't help themselves, that's the way life was, you know, it was hard.

Yes. Life was tough. I mean the priests and nuns, they were all very hard in those days, because a lot of them came from orphanages here to Queanbeyan too, from Ireland, so they didn't know how to be loving and - you know, I forgive them now, but it was tough for kids. And you came home and your parents couldn't help you because they didn't

know English. So, my homework was hardly ever done because I wasn't so good at school, I struggled with it. And then if I asked mum, well she didn't know, poor thing. And both parents busy working too. They'd work full days. Yes, we were like latch kids. I'd wait at the bus, I remember the bus stop after school, because mum would come home about 4. That's part of the history of us kids growing up in Queanbeyan too, and we used to wait at the bus for Mum and we were on our own a lot because there was no one to mind us. And you have to be tough.

Apart from the Church we did have a community group at the Polish Club, that straightaway all the Polish people got together, built a little club house and every weekend people would go dancing - dancing or suppers or if some visitor came it was - yeah, it was our sort of club house that you could go to and get together. And they would reminisce about Poland, wouldn't they, and mum would always be, "But it's not like in Poland" all the time as I was growing up. And then finally we went - I went with her, back to Poland and she showed me all the beautiful places. But you know, after that we got so used to be Australian in Queanbeyan we got home sick for here. It wasn't the same, was it?

We like living here. Yes, we love it, we're happy here. It's a good place, Queanbeyan. And Australia, in fact, is a good country. Best country. People are always complaining but where else do you get what you get here? Nowhere.

The family all worked mainly in Canberra. It might have been easier working in Queanbeyan too, because you wouldn't have to travel so far. But Queanbeyan didn't have much work. This was the thing, that Canberra really grew up from Queanbeyan because all these people were migrating here and there was no work in Queanbeyan, so everyone - unless you were in the council or somewhere, and they were all going over the border to Canberra. So really Canberra grew on all of us

people who came to Queanbeyan really. Because they were all working there in the shops and the offices and it was really the Europeans who started to open up little shops. The Greeks would come to Queanbeyan and open up little cafes. There was nothing here in Queanbeyan, nothing. And it was really the Greeks who opened up little cafes selling food and then some other little person opened up another little shop with clothes. And then later on we got the bigger store, like Youngs, which would be a bit like Target now, that was the biggest shop that opened and everybody loved that big shop. That's when big shops came. But all these little cafes, they were all migrants that came to Queanbeyan and opened up things. So, in a way Australia grew on the migrants.

And I remember when we first came, they would say, "Look at the stuff you're eating" the salami and all that. And we would say, "Your lamb chops are horrible." We didn't like lamb chops because in Europe you didn't eat lamb, not really. It was kept more for wool and milk and they made shoes.

Mum used to get delivered fresh bread to your door and there was a lovely bakery just down the road here, not - what's that one there that goes across - where that little shop is in Maquoid Street, there was a big bakery then. We went past you could smell the lovely bread. And milk was delivered to your door too. It was beautiful in bottles. Cream sitting on top. We didn't have fridges then, we actually had a funny fridge with ice in it, and then the person, I still remember in Agnes Avenue, this man would come about once a week and he'd bring the big blocks of ice and he'd chip off little bits for the kids and we would wait there to get this little chip of ice to suck on. It was so exciting for us. Yes, so all these things. There used to be a man in a truck, remember, with fruit, who came around.

After the move to Atkinson Street there was a fruit truck too. And he used to deliver to down Atkinson Street to everyone. Yes, it was a little community in those days, until all the people started coming in and all the traffic started coming in. And now, Atkinson Street - this morning I had the window open and I can't even open the window, which is sad, it's like Sydney. All you hear is zoom zoom, all day, down Atkinson Street. But once our kids used to play soccer out there. The Campeses. You know the famous fellow David Campese. Lived across the road from us and the kids used to play football on the road, because there were hardly any cars.

Because Queanbeyan really didn't have a place to meet, so everybody used to meet at the Anglican big hall and they would have dances there and different Catholic schools, everybody used to go and meet there, dances going on there. That's another thing that people have lost. We all used to go dancing. Every weekend there would be a dance somewhere in Queanbeyan. We used to have national dancing. I was in a dancing group and we used to represent Queanbeyan in dance and we'd go to Canberra sometimes and dance. I was very proud of that.

In fact, Irena met her husband at a dance, as she remembers: Actually, I met Atilla in Queanbeyan, because we went to a New Year's Eve dance. And he came from Canberra, with his friends, and I was on my own, at a European dance in the Showground in Queanbeyan it was actually Hungarian. So, I went with a friend and she said, "You can't sit at home on New Year's Eve" so she dragged me there and I went there and I met Atilla. And he just talked to me like that, you know. So here we are, 45 years later, living in Queanbeyan. [But] your heritage always stays there in a way. Even my children now they say they're part Hungarian, even though they're born in Australia. Some of them are more - they act more Hungarian than their parents, they're so proud of their heritage, which is nice in a way.

Mum and dad gave us a house - because dad built a new house next to the old one, and the old one was crumbling, so mum and dad said, "Would you like the block of land?" Because they didn't really want to just give it to anybody, sell it, so we came and we built - knocked the old house down, because it was really crumbling apart. I've got a picture of it, it's a lovely old house, but all crumbling and we built a new house and we've been here now 30 years in Atkinson Street, whereas mum's been here about 50 years, in Atkinson Street.

We'll finish with an anecdote from Janina's early days in Queanbeyan when she worked at the Prime Minister's Lodge. It shows a more personal time in Federal politics. When she was at home after an accident a big black car pulled up in front of her house. It was Dame Pattie Menzies, the Prime Minister's wife bringing her sick cleaner some food.

Irena Spaits & Janina Dobrowski with Lee Davy & John McGlynn



I found a photograph of Dame Pattie from a similar period in another informal situation.

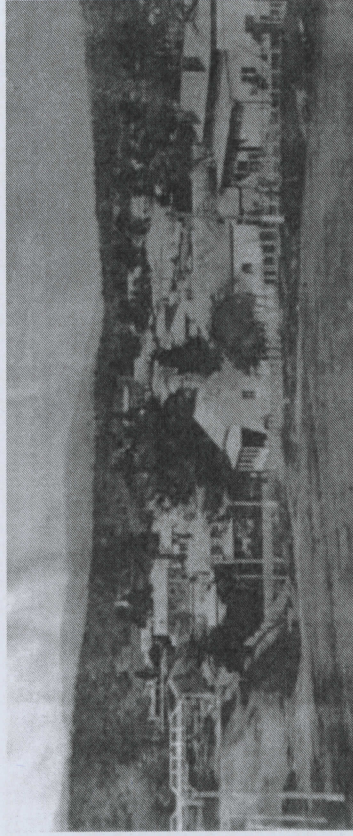
John McGlynn

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Dame Pattie Menzies and children yabbing at Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, 5.4.1968

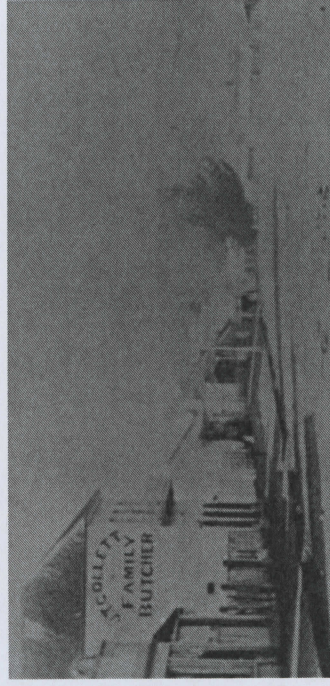
THE RENAMING OF A STREET: BALCOMBE TO COLLETT



Balcombe Street, now Collett Street from the hospital hill

Date unknown

On the western side of the Queanbeyan River there runs a street named in deserved recognition of the contributions to the town of J T Collett and his descendants.



JT Collett's Butchery with the Hotel Victoria to its right and the bridge in centre, c 1890 Photographer W B Jackson

It wasn't always so. This stretch of roadway, in 1838, was designated by James Larmer, Surveyor of the town, as Balcombe Street in honour of William Balcombe - Australia's first Colonial Treasurer. Balcombe

held this position from 1824 until his death in 1829. He had previously been an official of the East India Company and the Colonial Administrator at St Helena, and it was here that he befriended Napoleon Bonaparte during his exile.



The Briars and Pavillion, St Helene's

When Napoleon arrived on St Helena there was no appropriate accommodation available, and while a suitable building was constructed, Napoleon lodged in a building known as the Pavillion on Balcombe's property, *The Briars*. The Balcombes became Napoleon's providers and social world.

This friendship with Napoleon was considered politically much too close and he was dismissed from his position in 1818 and returned to London with his wife and children until 1823 when Governor Brisbane offered him a grant of 2,000 acres at *Menanglo* or *Marlet Plains* about eighteen miles southwest of Lake George.

The property was to benefit Balcombe's sons, William and Alexander. In 1825 William Balcombe Jr, who was 15 years old at the time, was given a free grant of 800 acres at *Inverary* near Bungonia. It was on this property that he resided and managed the *Molonglo* grants. These grants soon grew and included a 4,000 acre grant obtained by his father. By 1827, a stock yard and dairy had been erected, plus servants' huts and various other buildings, with twelve acres under cultivation.

William Balcombe Snr called his property *The Briars* after *The Briars* on St Helene's and built a slab home just below where the present stone cottages stand today. *The Briars* was sold to Thomas Shanahan in the 1840's when Balcombe's sons moved to Victoria, to build another homestead near Mornington, again to be called *The Briars*.

Shanahan had been the licensee of the *Union Inn* which was opened in 1838 at Keefe's Plains, Michelago. When he took up residence at *The Briars*, he rebuilt the slab house further up the hill because of the flooding of the Molonglo River. The remains of that second dwelling still remain. Two later stone buildings stand to the north-east of this site, one built by Thomas Shanahan Jnr and the other by his son Sydney James in later years. The Shanahan private cemetery dating back to 1853 and containing eight persons is within several metres of the second slab house.

And so the Balcombes left the district without having made a permanent mark upon it, nor a contribution to its development or its society. The change of the street name from Balcombe to Collett was a most fitting recognition of a family that did all three.

Gillian Kelly

VALE KRISTINA FLYNN

It is with great sadness that I write this message, my first for 2019. My sister Kristina Flynn passed away on the 29th of December 2018. She was only 64. She died at Lake Ginninderra while on an outing with her family. Kristina (Kris) left behind four adult children and nine grandchildren.

Kris will be sorely missed at the Museum as well as personally, so this is my tribute to Kristina. Kris was my younger sister and she enjoyed filling in at the Museum whenever she was needed. She was an active Society member, and on the QDHMS Management Committee.

Kris was the Museum School and Groups Liaison Officer and Organiser. She and her friend Treena Nebe enjoyed guiding the groups who visited the Museum.

Kris assisted with sorting through and documenting hundreds of Museum photographs.

Kris loved participating in our Museum events. She and her friend Treena came from Kaleen ACT to take part in as many events as they could. Kris, Treena and I held the Museum stall at the 2018 Multicultural Festival. Kris was about to book and organise a Society stall for 2019.

Kris very much enjoyed doing her rostered days at the Museum and came with me on my 1st Saturdays of each month in 2018. She was to be with me on 2nd February 2019 which also happens to be my birthday. My Saturday Museum rosters will now be sad ones.

Maria Lukacs
President QDHMS

Membership of QDHMS Inc.

Would you like to contribute to the work of the Society and Museum in Queanbeyan and district?

Membership Fees:

Annual membership single: \$22.00

Annual membership joint/family: \$32.00

Membership includes issues of *Quinbean* and Newsletters and invitations to Society events. Additional copies of *Quinbean* may be purchased for \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

Payment:

Cash during Museum opening times: 1-4 Sat & Sun. except for Summer holidays (late Dec-Jan) and Easter.

Money Order or Cheque made out to Q&DHM Soc. Inc.

Post to Treasurer QDHMS PO Box 480 Queanbeyan 2620

Include your contact details and whether you would like a receipt.