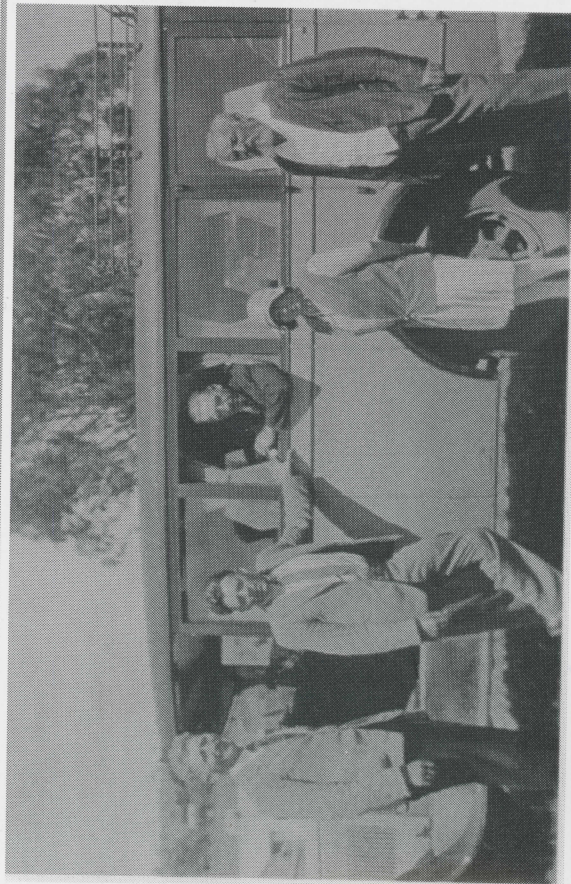


John & Kerrie McGLYNN

# QUINBEAN

Volume 3, Number 4  
December 2010



**Mart Kallas, far right with fellow Estonians**  
*Photograph Ron Baum Collection*

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



# Quinbean



## *The Journal of the Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the last edition of *Quinbean* for 2010.

Over the last two years, we have energetically taken up a number of opportunities, offered through the Federal Government economic stimulus packages, to strategically develop the Museum. This has meant that it has been a very hard working year for the Society along with our partners QCC.

The results are there to see in our new insulated collection store, gas heating, new toilets and refurbished floors. As well as these big achievements in Collection Management and Museum building renovations we have not lost our focus on Queanbeyan's history and heritage, with five new interpretive boards about the history of the Museum building also being launched. Quinbean was produced regularly and a new exhibition of *Queanbeyan People and Places* which showcases our photographic collection was launched for History Week, thanks to our multi talented Curator and Editor Gillian Kelly.

I must thank all our talented and hardworking Management Committee and members for their support, in what has been a challenging year for the Society, which has stretched our resources and skills in many directions.

I recently attended Working Spaces 4, a weekend conference for Museum Volunteers at Galong Monastery with Lee Davy and Doug Quane. (See Lee Davy's report in this Quinbean. We will publish Doug Quane's report in the next edition.) I attended three workshops. *Trekking the Registration Process* was a very useful and pragmatic session with Poppy Wenham ex NMA. Participants were

interested in our de-accessioning policy. *Significance Your First Investment* was conducted by Roslyn Russell who was the co-author of *Significance 2.0 – a guide for assessing the significance of collections* (2009) which we used for our CIT Significance training last year.

Check out the website for Significance International, a new company launched by Veronica Bullock and Roslyn at <http://www.significanceinternational.com>

It features photographs of Queanbeyan Museum. This session included an insight into what other Museum volunteers think Queanbeyan's interesting stories are, which was eye opening. Po SungSenior Designer, Publishing from the National Museum of Australia conducted *Graphic Design that Makes a Good Impression* to which I took a number of our publications and flyers, which are good, however, feedback is that we definitely need a new information flyer, perhaps in combination with the Printing Museum.

I really enjoyed the interaction with the other small museum volunteers. This was just what I needed to reinforce that we are definitely heading in the right direction with Queanbeyan Museum. Rome wasn't built in a day - however this year we have built the Coliseum!

Please join us at the Museum for End of Year Drinks and Celebrations at 5.30pm on Saturday December 11.

**Kerrie Ruth  
President**



## FROM THE EDITOR

### STOP PRESS!

#### NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

In NSW there is a long and illustrious history of volunteering in heritage conservation work and without volunteers, many of the hundreds of community heritage projects run each year would not be possible. The awards recognise the outstanding performance of individuals and community groups, who have significantly improved the profile of heritage management in their local communities, successfully motivated and managed heritage projects and promoted the value of heritage.

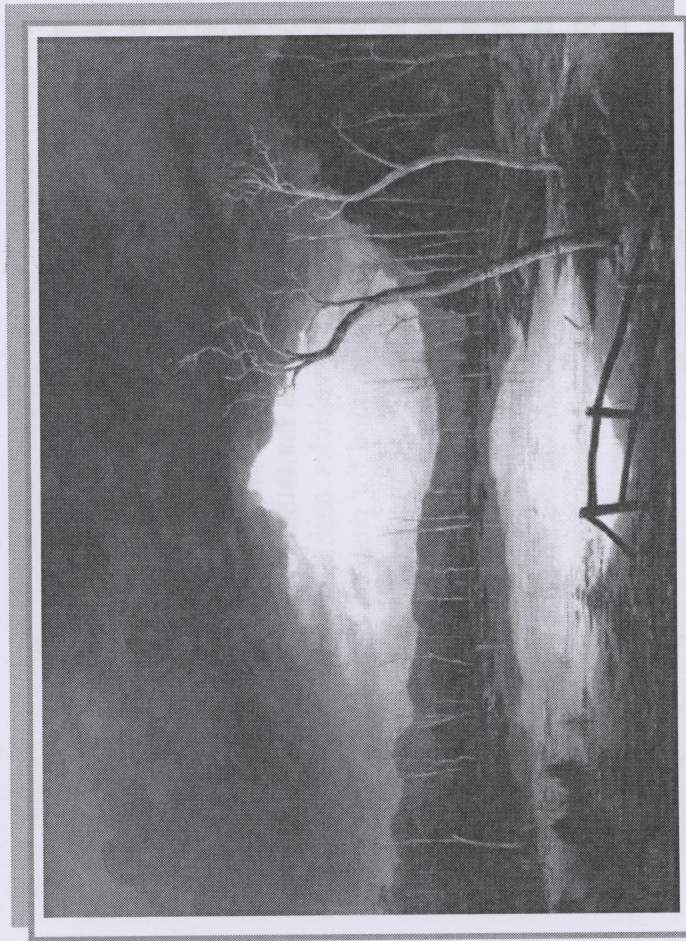
The Heritage Volunteer Awards were first introduced in 2002 to recognise local community-based volunteers and heritage organisations in conserving NSW heritage.

We are delighted to announce that the volunteers of the Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society are to receive a 2010 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award. The group was nominated for this award in recognition of our contribution towards heritage advocacy in our local area. The Hon. Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Planning, and the Heritage Council of NSW will formally acknowledge this contribution at an awards presentation ceremony to be held in Parramatta next month.

**Gillian Kelly**  
Editor

## MYSTERIOUS LAKE GEORGE

John Cope



From *Lake George, end of lake near Bungendore, c 1880*. Artist Louis Frank. ANL

Dry since 2002, Lake George is becoming a point of interest to many once more as it begins to fill again following the good rains of 2010. In October-December 1887, the *Queanbeyan Age* ran a series of articles on the lake's history of filling and emptying. This article is based on that series of articles.



The first European person to see the 25 kilometre long and 10 kilometre wide lake was Joseph Wild on 19 August 1820 when he was sent into the area by Governor Macquarie to seek out good land for further settlement. Later that year when Governor Macquarie visited the area, he named it Lake George after the King of his time, thus replacing the name Weereewa as the indigenous people of the area knew it.

In 1823, the lake was close to its maximum depth of 24 feet 6 inches (c.7.3 metres). In 1828, Surveyor Dixon measured it to be 9 feet 6 inches, a loss of 15 feet in 5 years as a result of severe drought through the 1826-1828 period. In 1834 Mr. John King of Metung in Victoria, visited the lake with his father and saw that the south-west side was dry enough for vehicles and that both the northern and southern ends were dry and good for pasture. By 1838, it was empty from end to end, which was confirmed by Wm Davis who said that the lake then was dry enough in 1839 to drive a team across the middle of it. S.M.Mowle wrote on 7 May 1885 that he had been familiar with the lake from 1838 to 1852 and had first ridden along the dry bed in July 1838 with Sir Terence Murray, the local prominent landowner and parliamentarian. "It was pretty full in 1828 when Sir Terence Murray first went there," he said.

Mr. Alexander Dyce of Gundaroo was quoted in the *Queanbeyan Age* on 2 November 1887 as saying that from 1838 to 1842 the lake was used by him and two other farmers for grazing cattle. The springs of 1842 and 1843 were wet, with the result that a small proportion of the lake on its eastern side was covered with water. From 1843 to 1850, the water level dropped and Mr. Kenny, a nearby farmer, said that in 1851 he walked across the bed of the lake from Geary's Gap to Kenny's point near the centre of the lake. Mr Dyce said that 1855 was a dry year with the result that the lake dried up

considerably. The following year the lake was half covered. In 1857, the water stretched from Kenny's Point to Currandooley Point, stretching about halfway across towards Geary's Gap when driven by the east wind.

Other locals were reported in the *Queanbeyan Age*. Mr. H. Hall said that in 1845 he drove more than once from Geary's Gap to Kenny's Point without going through any water. Mr. Kenny said that the lake dried up completely in 1846-1847 and remained so until 1850. In 1861, J.B. Thompson did a survey of the lake and found that the water was 4 feet 6 inches deep in its deepest part. In 1865 after heavy rain, the lake filled to 17 feet and over the next three years there was a perceptible falling off of the water level, with the result that by 1869 it was down to 6 feet deep.

Mr. Chisholm, on the "Winderradean Station" at the northern end of the lake, said that in January 1870 he rode on dry land across the lake from Jones' Point, but in June 1871 he sounded the water in the same place and found it to be 14 feet in the deepest part. 1874 was a flood year which brought the depth of the lake to 24 feet 6 inches. In fact, in 1876 he pointed to the fact that there were dead large gum trees in the lake which had been quite green a few years before. From this, he made the claim that "the lake is higher now than it has been for the last 100 years, because these large trees must have taken that time to grow."

In June 1878, Mr. Mountain, a railway surveyor, found the lake to be 5 feet 6 inches below the 1874 level. He made further measurements in February 1885 when it was 11 feet 11 inches below the flood level, in December 1886 a further fall of 19 inches and then in January 1887 he found that the water level had dropped to a depth of only 9 feet.



H.C. Russell, the Government Astronomer of that time, carried out observations on evaporation rates in 1885. He found that the evaporation rate at Lake George was 40 inches compared with 36 inches at Sydney and 72 inches at Bourke. The evaporation rate at Lake George in that year was greater than the rainfall for every month except for June and July. He noted that from 1871 to 1885 the lake level had dropped by 12 feet (10 inches per year) and the rainfall average had been 30.8 inches, so during those years the lake lost 40.8 inches per year. He also came to the conclusion that the lake must have been longer than it was in the 1880's on the basis of the amount of gravel thrown up and the extent of flat land at both ends.

Since this series of articles in the *Queanbeyan Age* some 120 years ago, Lake George has gone through various stages of emptying and filling. It seems clear now that this phenomenon is linked to both periods of drought and heavy rains and evaporation rates.

It seems amazing today as we look at the lake that on 8 July 1956 five RMC cadets were drowned in the lake in a yachting accident. Prior to the recent appearance of water in the lake following the good rains of 2010, the lake has been completely dry since 2002, the first time it has been that dry since the drought years of the early 1940's. Many readers will remember how the Federal Highway seemed threatened by the waters of the lake in the late 1980's to mid 1990's.

In an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 30 November 2002 by James Woodford, we read that Justin Nancarrow, a Government ecologist in the Department of Land and Water Conservation believes that the lake is connected to aquifers which pass under the escarpment on the western side of the lake and that prior to the rising up of that escarpment some 27,000 years ago, Lake George actually flowed into the Yass River.

A search in Wikipedia shows that a 1982-83 drilling program carried out by the Bureau of Mineral resources found that the thickness of the sediment below the lake exceeds 250 metres.

Lake George will no doubt continue to reveal its mysteries and hold our interest in the years to come.

## Vale David Milton Meyers

2 December 1946 – 23 September 2010

It is with great sadness that we record the untimely death of David Meyers.

Dave was a man of many parts: a singer and song writer, an accomplished bush poet, musician and entertainer, a founding member of the Shiny Bums Singers, convenor of the Queanbeyan Bush Poets, a Councillor with the CDHS, convenor of the Canberra Regional Studies Group, sportsman, and friend and supporter of QDHMS. In the last ten years the Society had enjoyed his presence at many events – singing, presenting his own poems and those of others, and telling stories!

He will be sadly missed by the wider community, but especially by those who know and love the history of this place.



## MART KALLAS – an Estonian in Queanbeyan 1926 – 1953

Marilyn Folger

Ron Baum by chance came into the Museum on Australia Day 2008. Once he arrived home in Queensland he discovered my article in *Quinbean*<sup>1</sup> about the Kallas family and realised he was part of that story. Born in 1930 at Kinkora Private Hospital, Ron soon sent us valuable photos<sup>2</sup> and information about Estonian families who had been part of the Queanbeyan builders of Canberra story<sup>3</sup>. Ron's family, like many of these men, moved on to find work elsewhere once the Depression hit and by 1932 the Baums were in Brisbane.



Ron with his mother and Estonian friends

<sup>1</sup> Oct 2007 p 18-22 Mart & Ludmilla Kallas of Charles St

<sup>2</sup> Tent Camps Canberra, Parliament House, Road Works, Cotter Dam and family/group outings

<sup>3</sup> Ann Gugler in 'A Story of Capital' 2009 p 186 and 191 tells of life at the Camps for these men, particularly at the Monolyte Camp.

Mart Kallas had arrived in Queanbeyan in 1926 and soon set about building his own house (he had been an architect in Estonia) and helping his fellow countrymen who came to work here. He purchased Lot 15 of the original Karabah Estate, in Charles Street, now no 18 Charles Street.



The house was rather controversial for its time. Two stories high with insulated walls (possibly a first for Queanbeyan)<sup>4</sup> it took an inspection<sup>5</sup> the full Council before approval was granted in August 1927. The following year Mart welcomed Mihkeal Kallas from Marseilles. Many Estonians were associated with 15 Charles Street, as evidenced by the Estonian Archives<sup>6</sup> in Sydney including Adolf

<sup>4</sup> Personal communication Peter Johnston whose father Ancel was Coicillor at the time.

<sup>5</sup> QMC Minutes 26 May 1927; moved Ald McInnes, seconded Ald Sproule

<sup>6</sup> Estonians in the 1920s registered with the Finnish Embassy to receive their mail from home ( and sometimes notice of military service). These index cards are now held by the Archive.



Post, Eduard Pillav, Johannes Remmert and Johannes Roots and his wife Olga. Johannes Baum and his wife Annette were living at 15 Charles Street when Ron was born.

Ross Road was another home for many of the Estonian workers, including Karl Pohla, Eduard Pallo, Edgar Vilberg, Johannes and Katy Sang. The Queanbeyan Council initially objected to the temporary dwellings at Lots 88 and 89 of the Langdene Estate in Ross Road owned by E. Pollo and A. Kants.<sup>7</sup> These men all seem to have disappeared from the local record, although an Estonian community is centred on St Paul's Church in Reid.



Estonian migrants at 15 Charles Street with Ludmilla Kallas

In 1927 Mart Kallas sought permission to sponsor Miss Alma Kleinod from Estonia, a housekeeper and friend. Sergeant Greig witnessed the application<sup>8</sup> but it is not known if she ever arrived.

<sup>7</sup> QMC Minutes 27 Sept and 25 Oct 1928

<sup>8</sup> NAA St 1233/1 N6236 1928

About 1930 Mart married Ludmilla Lubus, a graduate of Moscow University whose first husband had died in the Great War. Ludmilla died in 1941 aged 46.

The Second World War was an uncertain time for Mr and Mrs Kallas. Required to register as aliens, his photo is very different to that in my grandmother's photo album, the one that first sent me researching this man.

In 1940 the local policeman Sergeant Gray reported to Sydney Police Headquarters that "Both these people appear very quiet living aliens – and for the moment there is no reason for concern or signs of disloyalty to the British Empire. Of course they will be watched closely and kept under observation, i.e. in a discreet way, by the Police here – and should any disloyalty be shown by them in any way a suitable report of such facts will be immediately submitted."

<sup>9</sup>Gerald O'Hanlon on the other hand reported on Mrs Kallas: "The above named keeps a hat shop in Queanbeyan<sup>10</sup> – makes periodical trips to Sydney – hat shop is not considered genuine. It is suspected that her leanings are not pro-Ally ... I may be able to give you more definite information later. She is a neighbour of mine. You can definitely view her with suspicion at present."<sup>11</sup> It must have been some relief when Russia finally entered the War on the Allies side in 1941.

After WWII Mr Kallas continued to help newly arrived migrants. The Kuusik family<sup>12</sup> had arrived in 1949 as displaced persons. After first living and working at Fairbairn Hostel they heard of Mr Kallas

<sup>9</sup> NAA C123 1940

<sup>10</sup> Said to be 240 Crawford St

<sup>11</sup> NAA C123 1940

<sup>12</sup> Personal communication with Marika Simpson



who helped them convert one of his sheds to live in until a house came up in O'Connor. Marika has happy memories of playing in the apple orchard with Manfred and Alfred Behr who also lived there. Mr Kallas was a friend of a fellow gardener and countryman, Mr Edward Katsch who worked at the Canberra Grammar School, as Peter Johnston pointed out to me<sup>13</sup>. Jill Pulford writes: "I do not remember exactly when Mr Katsch and Mr Callis (sic) arrived at Canberra Grammar School. They both left Russia at the time of the Revolution, and it was said that both had followed diplomatic careers. ... Mr Callis lived in Queanbeyan and came regularly. A gentle, cultivated old man with a long white beard, he was patient with children. He told us stories of Russia and Europe as he worked amongst what he called his 'jon-squills'".

Mart Kallas died on 17 June 1953, almost 80 years old. His Charles Street property consisted of a house, two flats and a garage on over one acre of land<sup>14</sup>. The administrators of his estate of some 3,764 Pounds were Gerald David O'Hanlon and Heather Dallas O'Hanlon with Jeanne Marie O'Hanlon entitled to the property<sup>15</sup>. The cash at his home was 640 Pounds and the listed contents included "16 volumes of literature" in the bedroom of the first floor also a cane lounge, settee and chairs. On the ground floor was a guitar (was it the one in the 1920s photo?) and one hassock and many household effects. Estate duties ensured everything in the house was listed in detail.

It is sad that Mart (and Ludmilla) Kallas, a respected man who helped many in his lifetime, rest in an unmarked grave in the Presbyterian Section of the Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan.

<sup>13</sup> 'Deo, ecclesiae, patriae: fifty years of Canberra Grammar School', 1979

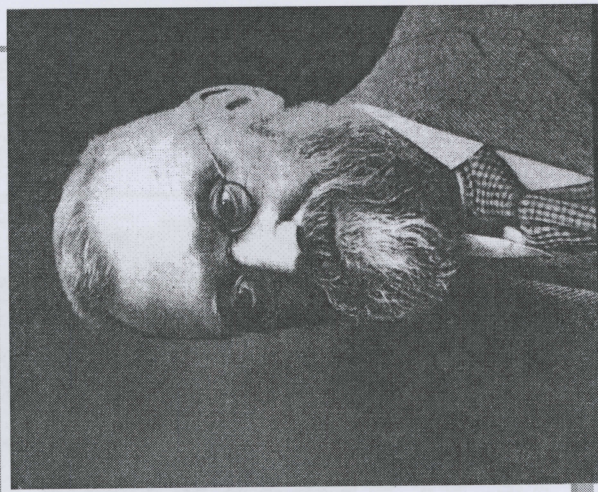
<sup>14</sup> Queanbeyan Rate Book 1957

<sup>15</sup> Kallas probate papers 12 August 1953

## FARRER PLACE, QUEANEYAN

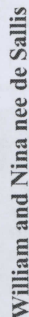
### Rosemary Curry

William James Farrer, in whose honour Farrer Place in Queanbeyan is named, was born April 3, 1845 in Westmorland, England. Studying medicine at Cambridge, and topping mathematical studies, he developed TB which curtailed his medical studies, and at 25 years of age, he decided to come to Australia.



To gain Colonial experience, Farrer began his time in the Colony as Tutor to George Campbell's children at Duntroon, and later spent time with the Ryrie family at Michelago. Desiring a regular income, Farrer qualified as a surveyor, becoming 'Surveyor of Wastelands of the Commonwealth', covering Cooma to Dubbo. While surveying, in 1873, he observed to the government of the time, that "wheat growing industry problems in Australia are based on unsuitability under Australian conditions of types sown. It reflects little credit on the Colony that no analysis of even a salt bush plant from the interior has been made ...". His comments were ignored.

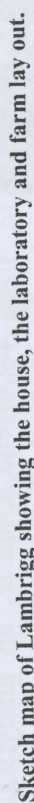




In 1878 William suffered a serious horse fall, recuperating with the Betts family at Parramatta, and leaving him with a permanently malformed shoulder. William later stayed with Leopold de Salis at Cuppacumbalong, while he continued surveying, and in 1882 married Leopold's daughter, Nina. On the sale of Cuppacumbalong, Nina, William and Leopold moved to Lambrigg, Queanbeyan.

At about this time, Farrer started his own experiments, working at improving wheats by cross breeding, while at the same time corresponding with those in Europe and America also experimenting. In 1886, William resigned as Surveyor with the Lands Department, and concentrated solely on scientific wheat breeding at Lambrigg, noting that Australia's wheat industry was "in a condition little short of parlous".

Building a 3-roomed pise laboratory for seed testing and storage, he set up his experimental paddock of poor quality and shallow soil, ideal for the kinds of wheat he wished to create. By 1889, he had already developed and bred an improved strain he called Blount's Lambrigg, which he then used freely in



crossing.

His evenings were spent threshing and winnowing with hand bellows, and selecting plants to be packed and recorded. Nina and her nieces spent many an evening making lots of little unbleached calico bags, for Farrer to send specimens to scientists all over the world, but particularly to Colorado. USA

(c) Sketch map of Lambriegg showing the house, the laboratory and general lay out

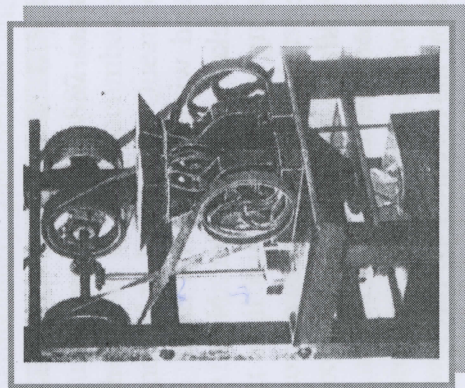
A reserved man, always fully focused on his research, he rarely deviated from his quiet chosen study. However, on one



occasion, when an acquaintance tried to provoke him into striking him, Farrer jumped out of the train at Queanbeyan Station, saying, "come along, I'll show you!" His antagonist did not follow.

At this point, the Hon. Sydney Smith, Minister for Mines and Agriculture, invited the wheat experimentalist to join his government department. Farrer agreed, on condition that he continue with his own chosen methods, at Lambrigg, as well as on the government farms he would now supervise.

He became "The Wheat Experimentalist for Australia", supervising nine or ten experimental farms in the Colony, testing out his new creations. Now part of a department, however, William was to know the human factor at its worst. He was subject to the hostility and ridicule of the jealous, and derided at every turn. However, he weathered the poor attitudes, writing in his journal only that "I feel impatient most of all at these incessant fights."



Assistance was given to his work, by friend Guthrie, an analytical chemist in the Department, who built him a mill, enabling faster results for small amounts of newly created grain. Government pathologist, Cobb, also assisted him, similarly providing quicker results for his test samples.

Farrer's Mill made by Guthrie

Interestingly, his work in Australia, cross breeding wheat, was being done at the same time as the Austrian Mendel was making similar discoveries in Europe, using sweat peas. Both were working on the principal of inheritance, unbeknown to one another.

What were the results of Farrer's work? He pioneered scientific wheat breeding in Australia, and as far as certain objectives were concerned, in the world. He brought about a change in direction, for breeders and plant geneticist.

Rust was only one of many problems, and his crossbreeds preserved earliness, drought resistance and grain quality. He allowed for wheat growing at last to be extended into the dry western districts. Farrer had said, "my great ambition is to give the poor man a loaf of bread containing twice the nutriment of the present loaf." Thanks to him, Australia's history was changed, and a national industry expanded and regenerated, all from a little mud-walled laboratory and three acres of sandy soil at Lambrigg, Queanbeyan.

Perhaps a lesser known achievement of Farrer's was his collaboration with John Gale to produce the pamphlet "Waniassa as a site" for the proposed Federal Territory. A modest man, he requested his name not be published, but spoke at a meeting in 1899, at the Queanbeyan Court-House, where the Royal Commissioner Oliver was investigating proposed sites.

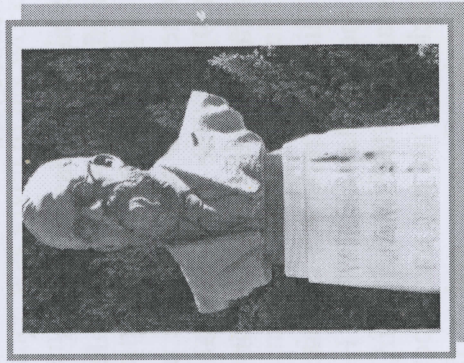
William Farrer's self-imposed task of wheat breeding continued to the last day of his life. He died sitting in bed writing up his research notes, at 3.30 pm, April 16, 1906. Attended by Dr Blackall, with his own doctor, Richardson, being away, John Gale the Coroner and a friend, dispensed with an inquest,



knowing of his history of angina. Farrer was buried where he had chosen, "in the back paddock". Solid rock required explosives, and thus the burial was not completed until dusk, with the mourners shivering in a strong wind and light rain.

Queanbeyan set up a committee of which Ancel Johnston was a member, to memorialise William James Farrer. Through Queanbeyan Council, approval from the Department of Lands allowed for Tharwa Road, between Lowe and Campbell Street, to be renamed Farrer Place.

Sculptor Raynor Hoff created Farrer's bronze bust from a photograph supplied by John Morrison of Tralee in 1935. It stands to this day, honouring the man who laid the very basis and well-being of the Australian Wheat Industry, and who established Queanbeyan's reputation as an agricultural district. John Gale stated, "his death is an inestimable loss to the entire world," and Guthrie added, "every man woman and child in the Commonwealth owes a debt to William Farrer."



#### References:

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- Talk to Queanbeyan Historical Society
- Gale, John; *Canberra History and Legends*, 1927
- Guthrie, F.B.; *William J. Farrer & the Result of his Work*, 1922
- Johnston, Ancel: *Ancel Johnston*, 1981
- Lea-Scarlett, Errol; *Queanbeyan District and People*, 1968
- Russell, Archer; *William James Farrer*, 1949
- Sutherland, June; *Grist to the Mill*, 2001

## TUGGERANONG AND THE RAILWAY – THEN AND NOW

The Tuggeranong Railway Siding was part of the Queanbeyan to Michelago leg, a section of the Goulburn to Cooma line, and was completed in December 1887.

This disused railway siding has interesting links to the past. Timber and iron components for Tharwa Bridge were brought from Sydney to the siding, but late autumn rains delayed road haulage to the site as the tracks were too boggy across the Isabella Plains.

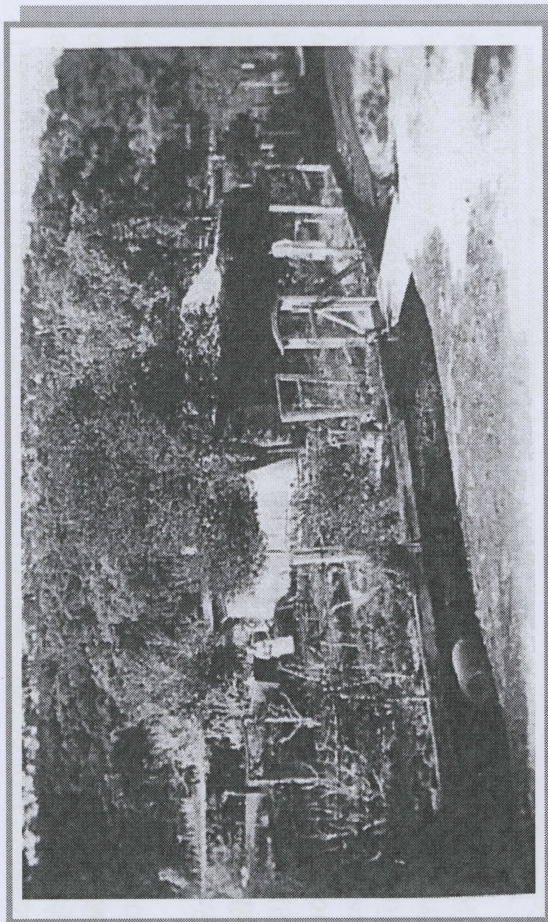
Australia's first official war correspondent, Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean, used to disembark here after travelling from Sydney, then walk to the Tuggeranong Homestead. It was during this time (from 1919 onwards) that he and his team were writing "The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918" at Tuggeranong Homestead.

Above all it was a busy siding, providing a rail link to the southern farm lands of Tuggeranong and Isabella Plains, and from about 1910 to 1928 it was the home of John Edward and Sarah Monk nee Cook.

Mary Monk, their daughter was to later tell Errol Lea-Scarlett, *We lived very close to the siding. My mother was caretaker and father worked on the railways. My mother was platform attendant actually.. There was quite a big waiting shed and ticket office. We used to clean apples in the ticket office. There were no tickets there to sell. Evidently it was expected at that time that it would be quite a big place. It was a very big waiting room and off that was the ticket office. Not many people took the train there or got off. Cunningham's used to come there and there was always a bed on our verandah, made up, and you would always find someone there. Our place was at the end of the platform so they walk down and wait til daylight*



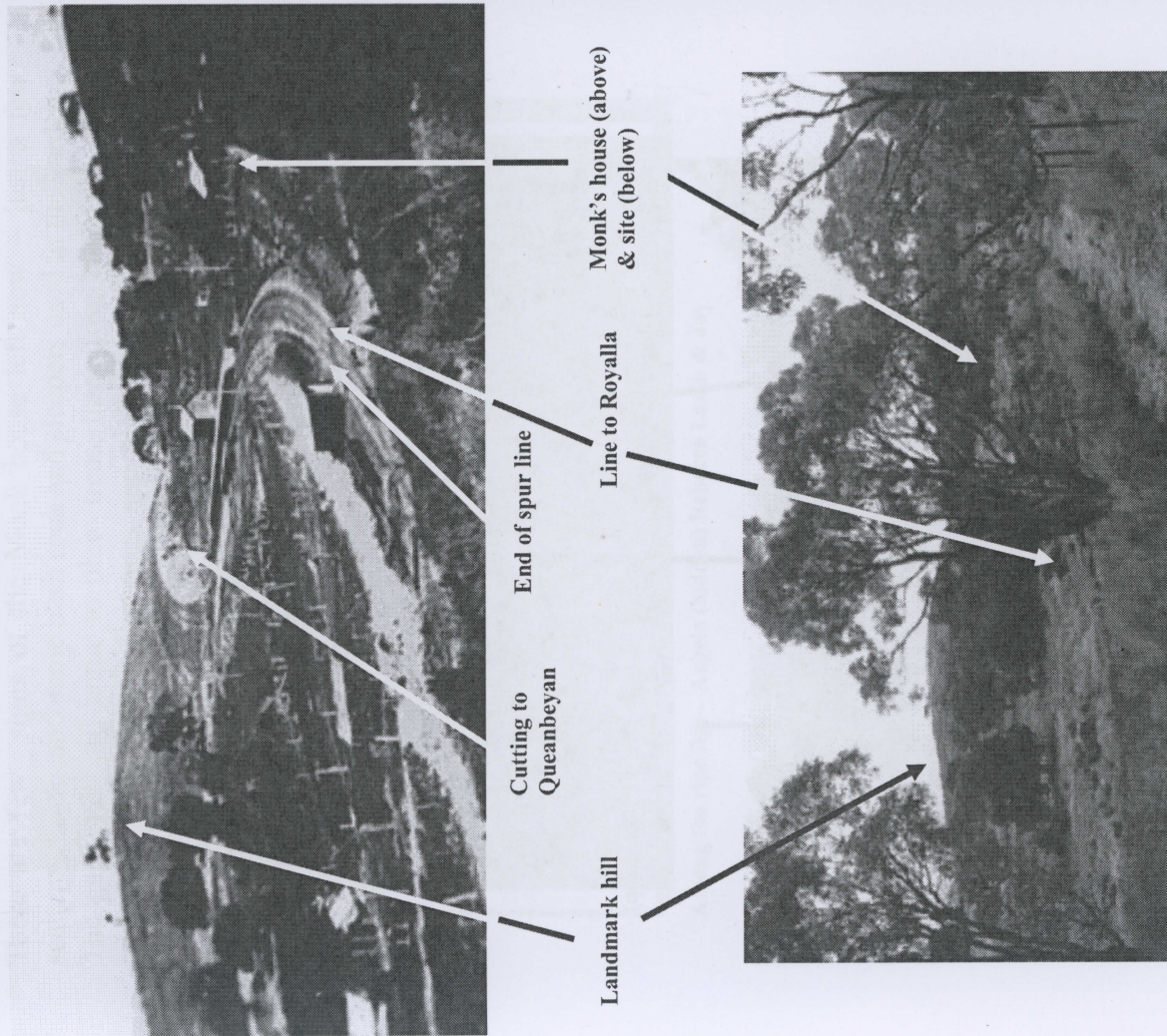
until someone came. Cunninghams used to have to walk to Lanyon if no one came to collect them. There were gates there. It wasn't one of mother's duties to look after the gates but there was always a certain amount of booking to do because a lot of wool used to be loaded there and the trucks had to be ordered."



Home of John and Sarah Monk, Tuggeranong Siding 1910-1920s. Note the bridge across the table drain. Photograph from Monk family album in possession of family members.

In February 2008 a group of grand nieces and a grand nephew visited the site with local historian Rebecca Lamb. With the help of photographs taken by John Monk's family during their time there, photos taken on the day by Fred Monk and Karen William's survey *Melrose Valley Preliminary Cultural Survey Report* Fred has built a picture story to establish what was there once and what is there now.

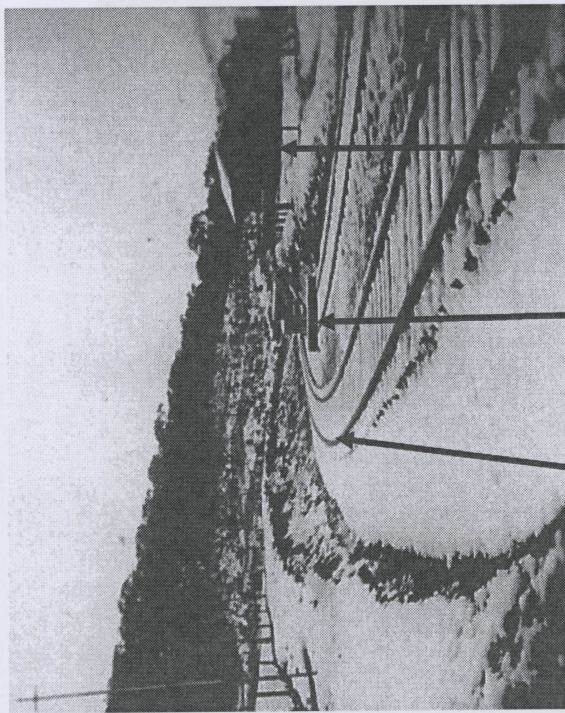
# TUGGERANONG SIDING LOOKING TO QUEANBEYAN 1910-1920s



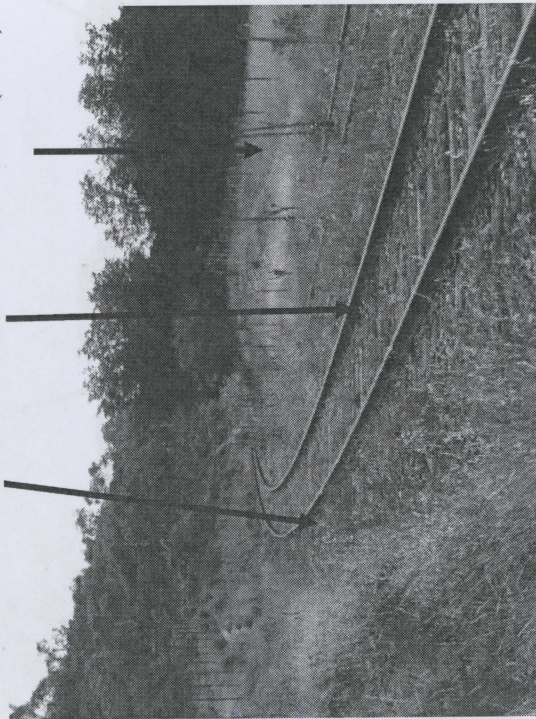
TUGGERANONG SIDING LOOKING TO QUEANBEYAN 2008



# TUGGERANONG SIDING FACING ROYALLA 1910-1920s



Line to Royalla End of spur  
John Owen's home (top)  
& remains (below)



TUGGERANONG SIDING FACING ROYALLA 2008

There are few signs of the Monk house left now – just a few scattered bricks and some bush rock and sleepers used in the garden. The garden is still home to plum trees, three rose bushes, a fig, a pear, an almond, several quinces and a Chinese honeysuckle – all doing well.



Among the ripe figs – Angela (hidden) Rebecca Lamb & Joy

## Fred Monk & Gillian Kelly

### References:

Photographic records 1910-1920s – from the Monk Family album, owned by the family, photographers – Monk family members; 2008 – Fred Monk; Williams, Karen *Melrose Valley Preliminary Cultural Survey Report*, Oaks Estate Lea-Scarlett, Errol Oral History recorded with Mary Monk.



## WORKING SPACES 4 AT GALONG

Lee Davy



Roslyn Russell, Lee Davy & Kerrie Ruth enjoying morning tea at the Galong conference

I was able to attend the conference 15-17 October 2010 held at Galong at St Clement's Conference Centre.

What an ideal location for a Museum conference! A stately old homestead steeped in history itself, and including a grand Chapel, with a wonderful museum of its own, dating from the 1820's, and particularly important for its continuing Catholic presence, as bequeathed to the Redemptorists from the Ryan family. Edward Ryan, from Tipperary, Ireland, was a pardoned convict, who established himself as the 'King of Galong Castle'.

I found the conference particularly well organised by the Lachlan Chapter of Museums Australia, and extremely beneficial in its

practical and empowering teaching sessions, and sharing knowledge with other regional museums. I was struck by the blessings Queanbeyan enjoys from council support, which many other museums lack and suffer in funding and programmes.

I attended an informative session on Paper Conservation by the conservator from the National Library, Alexa McNaught-Reynolds, with many practical ideas and hands on experience of repairing tears, stains and other damage on example documents. I was struck by the fact of just how time consuming this is, and in our less than perfect world, we must try to do the best we can, and use the best materials we can.

The session on Oral Histories and Community Participation, by Mary Hutchison, public historian and research Fellow at ANU was absolutely mind boggling in the overwhelming how-tos and examples of process and final products of successful oral histories. Having specific plans, the right equipment and procedure and adequate backing is all necessary.

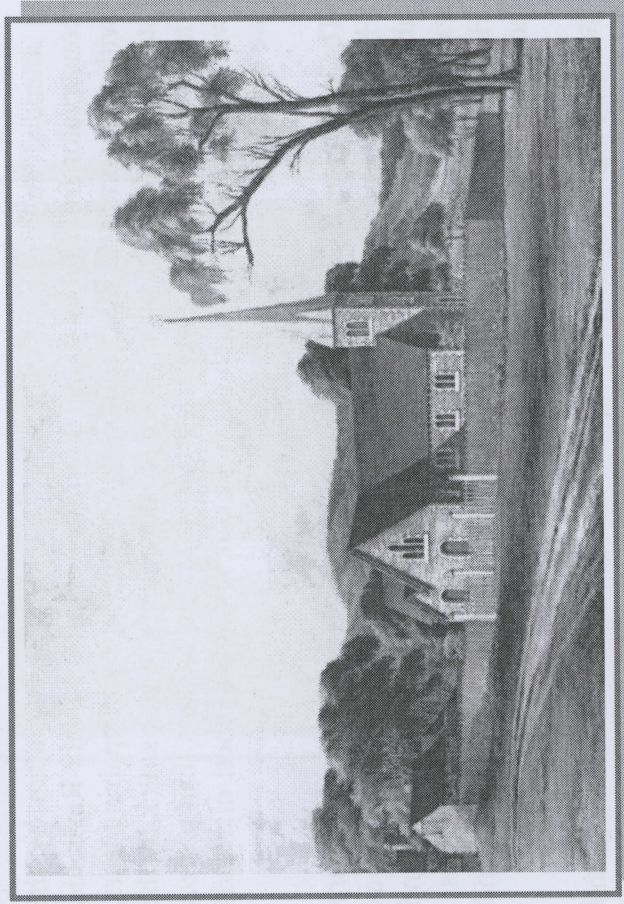
While being enthused and empowered for such an undertaking, the realization that Council and Library backing would be the better option in Queanbeyan, it would be good to make a start. Discussion and book notes make a great starting point, and it would be good to get something organised for Queanbeyan! Suggestions for topics and speakers most welcome!

The session on *Let the sparkle back into your Costumes!* certainly sparkled with Frances Fitzpatrick and Margot Stuart-Smith from the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. We gained so many practical ideas for display and storage.



## CHRIST CHURCH, THE BUILDING – CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Wendy Smith



The Parish of Queanbeyan came into being on 30 May 1838, 50 years after the First Fleet arrived. The period from 1838 to 1877 represents the terms of the first two priests in Queanbeyan, the Revd Edward Smith and the Revd Alberto Dias Soares. This was a period of formation and growth and the time when the first Christ Church was built and subsequently demolished to be replaced by the beautiful building that in October 2010 celebrated 150 years of being.

The two lengthy ministries of Edward Smith and Alberto Soares ensured much stability in the parish and allowed the church to take root and grow. Problems they encountered were often problems we would recognise today, whilst others were peculiar to their own time. Problems which kept occurring were the lack of money, lack of clergy and the difficulty of servicing the large area that this parish covered in 1838.



The Revd Edward Smith, BA

As the church and Queanbeyan grew many people were to join the church who would be of particular importance to the parish – people like William Gregg O'Neill, J.J. Wright, Captain Faunce, Daniel Jordan, John Ford and Dr William Foxton Hayley.

Prior to 1838 there were no resident priests of any denomination in Queanbeyan. For the Church of England members this meant that services were provided by itinerate clergy, but this was a very difficult and onerous task. The Campbell family which had settled at Duntroon had been petitioning the church and government for a priest to be located in this southern region of NSW. Not only did



they petition for clergy in this area but they also donated a generous amount of their land as glebe land to the church and contributed financially towards the stipend of the Rev Edward Smith when he arrived. On 30 May 1838 Christ Church was gazetted as a parish in the New South Wales Government Gazette. The parish was to have its headquarters at Queanbeyan but the area was to extend southwards from Gundaroo and cover the whole of the Monaro area, as far distant as Twofold Bay and into Gippsland. The exact boundaries are unknown.

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The Revd Edward Smith arrived in Queanbeyan on 4 July 1838. He found there was no church or parsonage in Queanbeyan or any other centres in this large parish. Centres were days apart-especially in the southernmost regions, as the only means of transport was by horse; Queanbeyan was a small town. The population was 72 in 1840, of which 16 were w6men and 6 were children under the age of 14 years.<sup>16</sup>

Smith lived in the bachelors' quarters at Jerrabomberra with Dr William Foxton Hayley and Mr Henry Bingham, a government official<sup>17</sup>, until his marriage to Elizabeth Martha Wilkinson in 1843.<sup>18</sup> The newly wed couple then moved to the parsonage, which was built in 1844.

<sup>16</sup> Bruce Moore, *Burra*, p 13

<sup>17</sup> Bruce Moore, *Burra*, p 61

<sup>18</sup> Bruce Moore, *Burra*, *ibid*

The need was urgent for the erection of a church which would be an identifiable site of Anglican worship in the town. Services were held at the bachelors' quarters until the new church was built. This means baptisms' and weddings took place there. In all. 70 weddings were held there between 1838 and 1843.<sup>19</sup> The parsonage and Christ Church School were also built at the same time as the new church.

The new church was built fairly quickly despite the lack of 'trained tradesmen in Queanbeyan and district at this time. Tenders were called in November 1842 and the church was completed in 1844. It was described as being a small, rubble construction. The first service was held on Christmas Day 1844.

In 1843 the Revd Edward Smith was relieved of half his parish when the Revd Edward Gifford Pryce was appointed as Rector to Cooma.<sup>20</sup>

On 8 March 1845 the Rt Revd the Lord Bishop of Australia, Bishop Broughton, arrived in Queanbeyan to consecrate the new church. A small delegation of prominent people comprising J. Wright, George Campbell, G.T. Palmerston, Dr William F Hayley, K Mackenzie, William Davis, J & T and T. Rutledge, T.H. Macquoid and N.S. Powell rode a few miles out of town to greet the Bishop. This was an auspicious occasion, since it was the first. and was to be the only, time Bishop Broughton visited the town.

Bishop Broughton remained in Queanbeyan until 12 March, when he travelled to Canberry. a distance of seven miles, to consecrate the Church of St John the Baptist. No greater contrast could have existed as that between these two churches. Christ Church was a very roughly built edifice, St John's was a stone building fitted with a

<sup>19</sup> Rex L Cross, *Bygone Queanbeyan*, p 68

<sup>20</sup> Bruce Moore, *Burra*, p 61



tower and buttresses, which gave the impression of its being an old English village church. It had been erected through the efforts of Robert Campbell with financial help from the government. Bishop Broughton was met at the church door by Mr Campbell and some members of his family, neighbouring gentry, farmers and peasantry.

It was in 1857 that the Revd Smith was to feel the call to another parish. His stamina and health could no longer take the rigours of serving in a parish which was still fairly large and required a lot of travelling.

During Edward Smith's tenure at Christ Church he had seen the parish divided into three parishes - Cooma, Canberra and Queanbeyan. As well, four new dioceses had been formed in mainland Australia - the dioceses of Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne and Adelaide. New Zealand had become its own diocese, as had Tasmania, all emanating from the Diocese of Australia.<sup>21</sup> He had seen Queanbeyan grow from a population of 72 to over 500 and had provided two churches, one at Queanbeyan and one at Bungendore, a parsonage, a school house and a school master's residence, a well fenced cemetery and a benevolent asylum.<sup>22</sup> These were the physical reminders of Smith's term in Queanbeyan. He had established an active congregation in Queanbeyan and prepared the way for further development and growth in the parish. Alberto Dias Soares arrived in Queanbeyan on Maundy Thursday in April 1857 to replace the Revd Edward Smith. Divine worship was taken by Soares on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. As well, he attended the meeting to elect churchwardens on Easter Tuesday - William Gregg O'Neill and John James Wright were elected.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Marcus L Loane, *Hewn from the Rock*, p 64

<sup>22</sup> *Goulburn Herald* April 18, 1857

<sup>23</sup> *Goulburn Herald*, April 18, 1857

Soares was a man of great vigour and vitality. He born in England to the Polish Count Manuel Soares and an English mother. He was raised in the Church of England. He had a career as an engineer and architect [29J but had felt the call to be a priest. He was a deacon when he came to Queanbeyan, but was ordained to the priesthood in June 1857, not long after his arrival. C30J Alberto Soares brought with him gifts of leadership and inspiration, and the very practical gifts of architecture and organisation which were desperately needed in the parish at this time.

The church which the Revd Edward Smith had built had fallen into a great state of dilapidation and disrepair and the small size of the church had not allowed for any growth in the size of the congregation. A meeting was held on 29 October 1857 to consider the erection of a new building. To encourage people to attend, a large marquee was erected, invitations sent and tea provided by the ladies of the district. One hundred and twenty people attended this meeting. The lengthy description of the occasion indicated that all who partook of this meal enjoyed a marvellous repast

The Rev Soares, Dr Hayley, Mr O'Neill and Mr Bennett all spoke of the general need to build a new church. Soares hoped it would be an ornament to the town and a credit to its inhabitants. One of the major considerations was the cost of the building, and for this reason they decided to erect only the transept, chancel and vestry at the east end of the church. The estimated cost of this building was 1500 pounds. A subscription list would be set up for three years and people making payments into this fund were asked to consider their subscriptions due at the commencement of the year rather than the expiration of the year.

Several major reasons were given for the building of a new church. Firstly, there was a need to increase the number of sittings. Secondly,



Dr Hayley stated that the present church's foundations had been condemned and it would be mere folly to enlarge the existing church. Thirdly, comparisons were constantly being made between the neat little chapel of the Roman Catholic church, St Gregory's, and Christ Church. Mr O'Neil thought that this alone should be enough to incite people to build a new church.

While Mr O'Neil was speaking, the tent caught alight. In a few minutes the fire was extinguished without much damage being done. This fire, however, has lingered in the minds of many. The myth of the fire has persisted through the years, growing in size as all myths do. Rather than the fire occurring in the tent, the story was that the church caught alight and was burnt to the ground, necessitating the erection of the second Christ Church building. This confusion has persisted to the present day.<sup>24</sup>

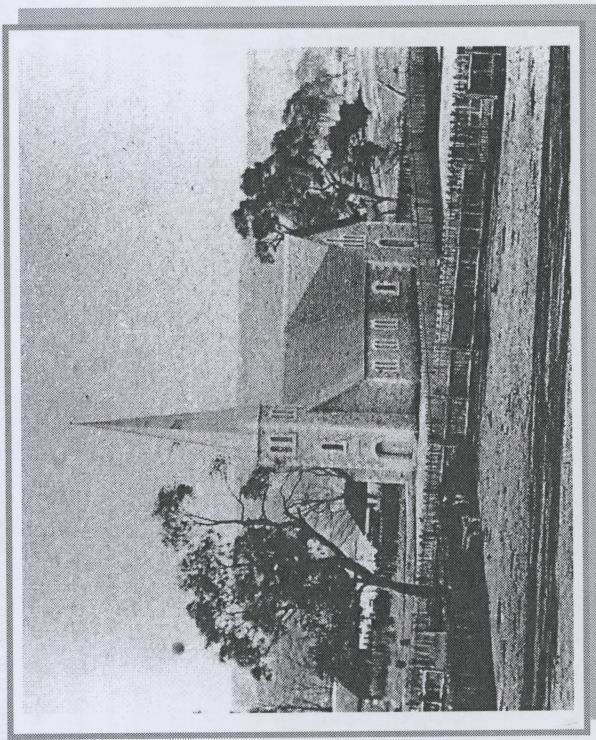
There has long been controversy over the designer of Christ Church. The design has been attributed to A.D. Soares. However, there is doubt that he alone designed this church. Daniel Jordan, who was the builder and a parishioner is now being acknowledged for his contribution to the plans. Daniel Jordan arrived in Australia in 1843 from Cork, Ireland, and shortly afterwards made his way to Queanbeyan. Before arriving in Australia, he had been employed by William Hill, an architect, for 20 years. On leaving Ireland, he had been presented with Anglican Anglican Church Architecture by James Barr.<sup>25</sup> It was from this book that Daniel Jordan drew up three designs for the future Christ Church and showed them to Soares. All three designs were discussed and, when asked which design he liked the most, Jordan pointed out the cross-shaped design. It was agreed that Soares would consider these designs and make a final selection.

<sup>24</sup> Goulburn Herald, November 4, 1857

<sup>25</sup> Rex Cross & Bert Sheedy, Queanbeyan Pioneers,

No further discussion occurred. Soares signed his name to the cross-shaped design, subsequently being given full credit for it.<sup>26</sup> However, today, many claim that Soares and Jordan both contributed to the final design and plan of Christ Church.

Bishop Barker had raised objections to the building of the church and the demolition of the old church, as he felt once a church was consecrated it was consecrated for eternity. These objections must have been overcome during his visit of 1858, as no reference was made to this again.



Christ Church, showing the stables and single storey rectory in background at left. Beaufoy Merlin 1870, Blundell collection

Since 1838 many people had settled in Queanbeyan bringing their

<sup>26</sup> Interview with Joy Pitcher, great grand daughter of Daniel Jordan



different skills and gifts with them. The building of a church required many different types of tradesmen. Some of these people were to be found within the' congregation, Daniel Jordan, the builder, and his son Thomas, a carpenter who carved the beautiful pews and doors from cedar.<sup>27</sup> Others had to be sought from outside the town. No stone mason lived in Queanbeyan at this time and it was not until 1859 that Mr Alan Gibson arrived to start this work.<sup>28</sup>

After much planning, calling for tenders for the various materials required in the building, and raising part of the necessary funds for the building, the foundation stone, or corner stone, of the new church was laid on 25 August 1859. Dr W.F. Hayley had the honour of laying the stone, but there is no record of the exact location.

At 12 o'clock on this day a crowd of about 200 people, including children from the school, gathered in the vicinity of the church. In this gathering were Dr W.F. Hayley, Mr C.E. Newcombe and Mr A. Cunningham. A short service was held, in which hymns were sung and readings taken from part of Psalm 127, Psalm 87 and part of the 29th chapter of the first book of Chronicles. A bottle was deposited in the foundations by Mr Newcombe. This bottle contained the latest numbers of the Church of England Chronicle, the Goulburn Herald, the Goulburn Chronicle and the Sydney Morning Herald, as well as a parchment with the following inscription:

The foundation stone of this church was laid by William Foxton

Hayley Esq, on 25th August 1859

Governor of the Colony - Sir William Thomas Denison, Knight etc.

Bishop of the Diocese - Right Rev. Frederic Barker, DD etc.

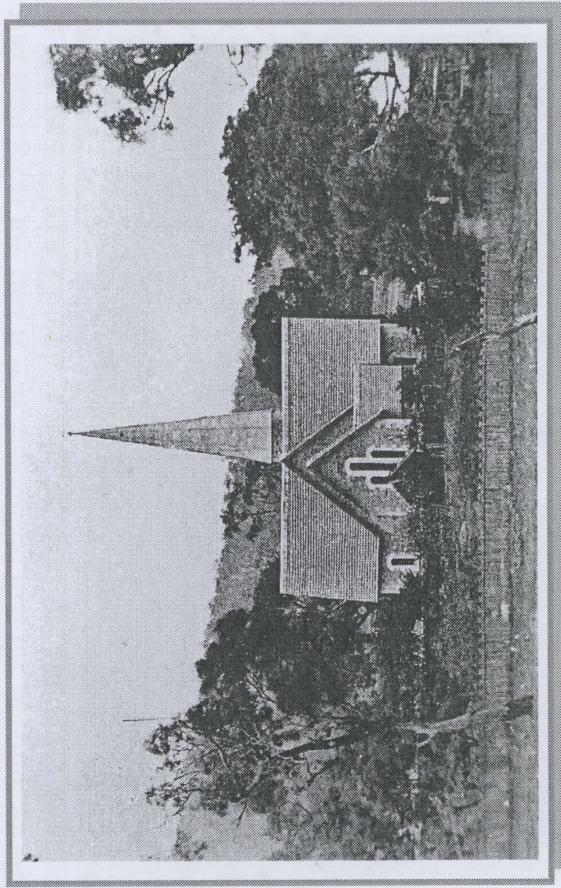
Incumbent of Church Christ, Queanbeyan - Rev. A.D. Soares

<sup>27</sup> Rex Cross & errol Lea Scarlett Queanbeyan Cemetery register, p 181

<sup>28</sup> Goulburn Herald July 9, 1857

Trustees of church  
N.S. Powell Esq JP  
W.F. Hayley Esq JP  
Churchwardens  
W.F. Hayley Esq  
Mr W O'Neill  
Mr R Mehegan

Dr Hayley then laid the foundation stone and spread the mortar. This was an occasion of great importance and after the service had finished the assembly repaired to a booth erected the church



Christ Church from the river side. Beaufoy Merlin 1870, Blundell Collection



grounds. This was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens and there lunch was provided by the ladies of the parish. After the luncheon, the Revd A.D. Soares again urged those present to contribute to the cost of the church. Forty pounds was added to the building fund. The Building Committee, which met that same afternoon, unanimously resolved to erect the whole building, rather than just the transept, chancel and vestry<sup>29</sup>

The old church had still been standing at the commencement of work on the new church. However, in early September 1859, the time had arrived to pull the old church down.<sup>30</sup> This meant that for over a year, until the opening of the new church. services were held in the court house in Trinculo Place, Queanbeyan. It was with great joy that it was announced that the opening service in the new Christ Church would be held on Sunday 7 October 1860, at 11 o'clock.

The Rev A.D. Soares officiated at the opening services. Originally, Soares had not intended to give the address but when none of the clergy from Yass and Canberry - who had promised to attend and preach - arrived, Soares stepped in. He preached from the text Zechariah, IV,6: "Not by might, nor by power, but by the spirit of the Lord of Hosts." He went on to say:

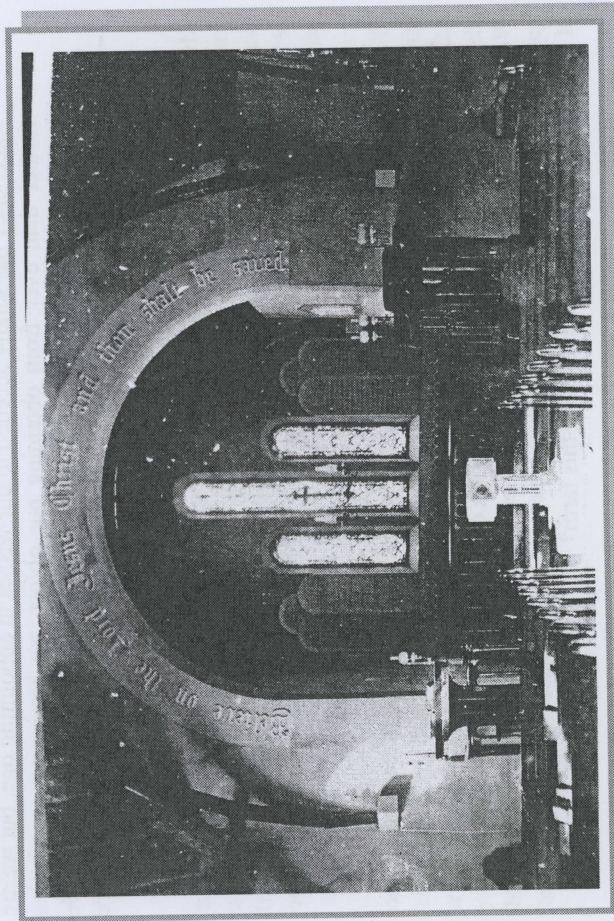
Praise and glory should be given to him to whom they are justly due. We who undertook to build this temple were comparatively few in number and with few resources of our own. We undertook a great work in conscious weakness. We had many and great difficulties to overcome. Yes, mountains of difficulties, and innumerable obstructions had we encountered: but we have seen them removed

<sup>29</sup> Goulburn Herald August 31, 1857

<sup>30</sup> Goulburn Herald September 14, 1859

one after another - we have beheld them gradually dwindle into insignificance and disappear before us; the great mountain has become a plain.

The church, although opened on this day, was not yet completed as the stained glass windows had not yet been installed nor had the spire been built. It was described as being neat and beautiful without unnecessary embellishment. One thing that attracted one observer was the text, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved", that was traced in relief around the chancel arch. He felt that no other text in the inspired volume was so well adapted for the purpose, or so calculated to inspire the worshipper with confidence towards God.<sup>31</sup>



<sup>31</sup> Queanbeyan Age October 9, 1860



## QUEANBEYAN'S INTINERANT MAGISTRATE

GENTLEMEN,

- A few months ago, we were congratulating ourselves on the appointment of a Police Magistrate for the Districts of Limestone Plains, **Queanbeyan**, and Molonglo Plains, and already in our imaginations did we picture to ourselves the beneficial results of such an appointment, -farms orderly, and well regulated men, civil and subordinate ; sly grog shops abolished, cattle stealers suppressed, and the numerous haunts and receptacles of bushrangers and run- always effectually broken up and destroyed. But, alas ! our visions are fled, and the sad reality stares us in the face. Our Police Magistrate has been appointed now nearly four months, but instead of the above mentioned evils being removed or even mitigated, they are daily increasing to a most alarming extent, and we are worse off than ever, because we cannot now complain of having no Magistrate. His Excellency has kindly acceded to our wishes in appointing one, but we are further than ever from obtaining our object; we have never yet had a Court held-we have never yet had our Districts visited-nor have we derived any advantage from the arrival of our paid J. P. He is a mere cypher among us.

Mr. Cobban is a very young man- quite inexperienced in a Colony like this, and he may be led away by designing persons; but Mr. Cobban should remember that he was not appointed Police Magistrate for the purpose of amusing himself, or even of remaining inactive. Surely, in so large and populous a District, he might find some public employment.

Why, we would ask Mr Cobban, has he (much to the dissatisfaction of all the landholders in the neighbourhood, removed to a farm, instead of fixing his residence at the Village Reserve at the **Queanbeyan**, where, we understood (from respectable authority) that it was the intention of the Government he should reside? We know that this arrangement gave great satisfaction to all the respectable landed proprietors of the neighbourhood, and why, we again ask, should the establishment of the Police Magistrate be removed to this farm?

**AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.** *The Sydney Herald (NSW... Thursday 26 May 1836*