

QUINBEAN

Volume 5, Number 3
December 2012



Waiting at Queanbeyan Railway Station

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

QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

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

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

Contact us:

email qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au

THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

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

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



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We again celebrate a year full of achievements for the hard working QDHMS team. The whole committee and other regular working members deserve to be thanked individually but you all know how much you have put into the Museum and the Society.

The extension to the storage building was completed and has proved a valuable addition. In April for Heritage Week we had a great Open Day for the launch of the new extension and the new garden. As part of Heritage Week we also hosted a Volunteers Information Day. An enjoyable event for History Week was held in September with a Devonshire tea and a look at some of our collection treasures.



Left:
Ellie McFadden, Margaret
Keyes & Elise Bernard at the
launch of the Margaret
Hadfield's Mural, Heritage
Festival, April 2012

This year we have continued to build on our work from previous years and the Museum continually receives high praise from visitors and from professional bodies. We have been approached by Sydney University to borrow our Ned Kelly Armour for an Exhibition next year. Breaking news is we have received a prestigious Imagine Award from Museums and Galleries NSW to recognise the works

everyone from the Society and the City Council has done for collection management.

The museum has been open nearly every Saturday and Sunday of the year and we have gained a few more weekend volunteers. Thank you very much to all the weekend openers. The exhibitions have been regularly refreshed with new displays such as *Threads*, *Hotels*, and *Remembrance Day*.

The work of cataloguing and rehousing the collection has continued with an enthusiastic group of people which is also increasing in numbers. We have kept the Museum looking good with a clean-up of the buildings, the grounds and the back and front verandahs. An historic mosaic featuring the old court house was created by Society members for installation in Crawford St.



Our partnership with the Council is strong. Our relationship with CIT continues with students looking at collection items as part of their course work. We also have a relationship developing with University of Canberra for conservation of objects.

Quinbean continues to be produced at a high standard, making us an important part of local historic discourse and our Newsletter keeps members up to date.

This year members have participated in three excursions: a small group travelled to Goulburn where it visited the Steam Museum, Rocky Hill, St Saviours and Garoorigang and enjoyed a tour through the older streets of the city. Members also visited the archaeological site at Googong where the remnants of a cottage have been exposed and explored. Finally a car convoy followed the trails of the early settlers on the northern side of Canberra. With Marilyn Folger as guide members visited the Uniting Church in Lyneham, Crinnigan's cottage, the site of Hall's original Charnwood and Palmerville – all well kept secrets in the ACT.

We continued to host school, Community and bus groups.

We were successful in gaining a grant from the Federal Government for an Oral History project *Queanbeyan's Living History* to celebrate the community's 175 years.

Preparations are well under way for next year's Heritage Week and our contributions to Queanbeyan's 175th anniversary, with two Exhibitions planned in *The Q: The Way We Wore* in April, *Halloran's Way* in September and input into an historic film screening in February. Two postcards with images from our collection will be sent to residents by QCC. Selected photographs from our collection were featured at the opening of Queanbeyan's Walk of Fame. I expect our contributions to the anniversary to continue throughout 2013.

John McGlynn

President

FROM THE EDITOR

Many of you have heard me say over and over 'the history of a locality is the history of its people'. This issue of *Quinbean* completes Volume 5 – the journal that started as a bit of an idea of a way to encourage people to record the history of their people. The idea became a reality.

There are those who have shared the stories of their families and forebears and there are those who enjoy research and who have meticulously followed leads and uncovered stories about the district – all adding to a more complete picture of how this place developed.

Next year is a celebratory one for the entire district – Queanbeyan celebrates 175 years since Queanbeyan was gazette as a township, Goulburn celebrates 150 years since it became the nation's first inland city and Canberra its 100th birthday.

The development of Canberra has always had a dependency in some way or another on Queanbeyan and next year we are very interested in exploring people's ideas on this. Please share with your fellow readers!

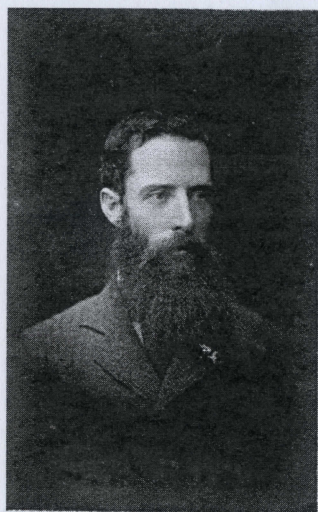
My grateful thanks to all who have supported this journal with articles – you make the task of editing so easy. My particular thanks goes to our regular writers: John Cope, Rosemary Curry, Marilyn Folger and Brendan O'Keefe but also to all of you who have put pen to paper with a story and even a lead for a story – it is all so interesting and helps make our ideas of the history of the district so much more real.

Gillian Kelly
Editor

WILLIAM FARRER'S BUNYIP

Theories about the bunyip dating from the 1820s abounded – from a seal, an alligator, a dog, a calf, a pig, to a wombat. “It’s Australia’s mystery animal, and you usually see it on your way home from a shanty pub in the early hours of the morning.” So wrote a journalist in 1951.¹

But not always, our scientist William Farrer recorded his experience at Tharwa in 1897. Farrer wrote²: “The following incident may throw some light on the mysterious animal – the bunyip.



Henry de Salis
Photo J Hubert Newman

Last Sunday, January 31, the five year old youngest son of my brother-in-law, Mr Henry De Salis, drew the attention of his father to what looked like a log floating down the river in front of my place. On going to look at it my brother-in-law saw that it was not a log but an animal which at first sight he thought must be either a pig or a dog.

After sending one of his boys up to the house for a gun he concealed himself in the grass and watched the stranger, which presently landed on the other side of the river and began eating grass.

It did not continue to do this for long but returned to the river again and made its way to a waterhole in which it swam for some time.

¹ Alan Marshall, The Argus, Melb., 14 December 1951, p2

² Australasian, reprinted in Queanbeyan Observer 5 March 1897



De Salis brothers haycarting at Lambrigg on the Murrumbidgee

While it was swimming in the waterhole it dived three times, on the first occasion remaining under the water for quite a minute, and on making its return to the surface a noise as if it were blowing water out of its nostrils. It remained underneath for shorter intervals the other two times that it dived. My brother-in-law described it as diving with the quickness and ease of a platypus.

After remaining in the waterhole for about five minutes it came ashore on our side of the river, and again began eating grass at a sufficient distance from the bank for my brother-in-law to succeed in creeping between it and the river. The animal proved to be slow in its movements, and my brother-in-law had no difficulty in capturing it after he had partially stunned it with a stick.

He brought it up to the house in a sack and deposited it in a barrel. I was away when the above happened, but when I came home on the following evening I was shown the supposed bunyip, curled up in the bottom of the barrel.

As the animal appeared to be quiet and fed on grass we agreed the best thing to do was put it in the poultry paddock an enclosure containing about one and a quarter acres, and surrounded by wire netting about six feet high with the lower layer let into the ground. I hoped the animal would find comfortable quarters in this enclosure and would be content to live in it as there was a small tank and a dam in it, plenty of grass and some scrub for shade.

The next day (Tuesday) was hot and our captive spent the day surrounded by the fowls in the shade of the shed. It was then that I had the best opportunity of examining it.

I could see no respect in which it differed either in appearance or habits from the wombat as described in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, or from the picture of a wombat given in another book we have on natural history. In appearance it bears considerable resemblance to a native bear on a large scale. Its nose was blunt and surrounded by coarse greyish hair, tail short and square, fur coarse rather long, greyish brown, its size was that of a Berkshire pig of from two to three months old. My brother-in-law who carried it about a good deal, estimates its weight from 70 to 80 pounds. For obvious reasons I did not examine its dentition.

On being disturbed it would make an angry noise between a ... and a grunt but no greater movement than to get up. Our friend apparently did not approve of his new home for on Friday morning he had succeeded in discovering a place where he could force his way out between the two layers of the wire netting, two feet from the ground. In doing this he must have used considerable strength for he had broken the somewhat stout wire of the netting. The wombat is, I believe, generally considered to be a land animal, and not so well at home in water as our friend showed himself to be and it is probably for this reason that the animals that which have so often been seen in

the water, and have been thought to be bunyips, have not been supposed to be wombats. I might add that my man Mr Thomas Curley, who once killed a wombat he found in a digger's hole, recognised our captive as being also a wombat."

This conclusion was however disputed by Thomas Franklin of Brindabella. He wrote³ that Farrer's creature could not have been a wombat as "they will not take to water, even in an emergency." Franklin had to conclude that "my inference and observation will do little to settle the vexed question as to the existence of bunyips."

The Hon Fane De Salis took a keen interest in bunyip theories, especially as there had been sightings at his Cuppacumbalong property. He talked of seals⁴ but had to conclude it was difficult to accept that theory.

Despite further newspaper discussion in 1901 and occasionally up to 1949 and more recent books, the animal remains a mystery. It is interesting that Aboriginal Lore also has stories of a bunyip creature that inhabits swampy places.⁵

Marilyn Folger
10 October 2012

Note: I am indebted to Lyall Gillespie's newspaper transcriptions for most of these references.

³ Queanbeyan Observer 19 March 1897

⁴ Queanbeyan Observer 6 April 1897

⁵ Goulburn Herald 18 April 1857

WOMBATS DO SWIM

It seems almost impossible that a settler in this district would not know and recognise our beloved wombats – as everyone who wanders the Queanbeyan River banks will tell you, they are everywhere! For those who do not have the pleasure of frequent wombat encounters the Wombat Information Centre shares the following:



Wombats are completely terrestrial. They do not climb trees like their nearest relative, the koala, **but they are good swimmers.**

Wombats walk with a somewhat awkward, shuffling or waddling gait. Although they appear to be slow and docile, wombats are very alert and can move quickly with great agility when needed. Despite their thickset body and stubby legs, they can run up to 40 km/hr over short distances. They can cover 100 metres in less than 10 seconds which is as fast as the fastest Olympic sprinters.

For their size, wombats are remarkably strong and they're extremely efficient excavators. They can reportedly out dig a man with a shovel; they can dig in the hardest of soil, and about the only things that stop them are solid rock or loose sand.

They are quite intelligent animals. They are, however, very stubborn and determined, and since they're so strong and built like a tank or bulldozer they will often go through an obstacle rather than around it. They've been known to go through doors, walls, or anything else that stands in their way. Among marsupials, wombats are the most playful. They headbut and nip, and run away to solicit a chase. When running, a wombat sometimes drops to a shoulder roll or somersault. They often use biting to express their feelings, usually in a playful manner with no intent to injure.

Wombat Information Centre

Was it a false alarm? Certainly not! We said that Queanbeyan would be the most progressive town in New South Wales. And so it is. Can you find a better street anywhere than Mosaro Street, Queanbeyan? Sydneyites might say George or Pitt Streets. Well we won't argue; but Just here HARRIS & CO., the Queanbeyan Land Agents, want you to know that they can supply you with the needful Land and Property to put you on the road to success. Their advice is worth having. What about seeing them for Your Home Site-Freehold, not Leasehold. If Winter Comes, Spring will be sure to follow. What about the future. Our prospective public buildings are: New Catholic Hall and Shops, New Triumph Hall, New Masonic Hall, New Fire Brigade Station, New District Hospital, New Council Chambers, and hundreds of new residences; but, of course,

See J. G. HARRIS & CO.,

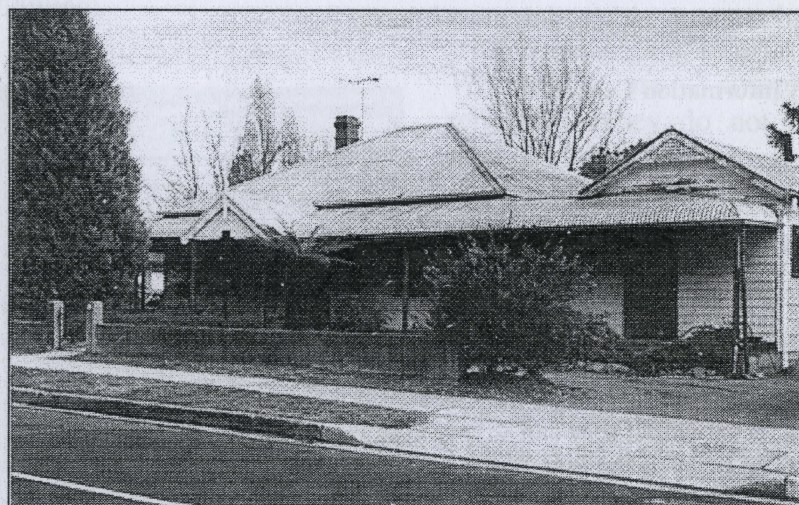
ABOUT YOUR HOME SITE.

OFFICES next Commercial Bank

Queanbeyan

Queanbeyan Age March 27, 1925

A RECORD OF OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS YVONNE



The subjects of this study are the land and buildings on the large block at the northern corner of Campbell and Surveyor Streets in Queanbeyan. The block formed part of three parcels of land which have been sub-divided internally twice within the original perimeters.

One parcel, known as Allotment 1 and part of Allotment 2, said to contain one rood and twenty perches, was sold as portion of 7 acres 2 roods by George Campbell⁶ to Joseph Curran⁷ in 1853. On 3

⁶ Born 1818 Sydney died 1881 London, squire of "Duntroon".

December 1860 it was conveyed from Charles Edwin Newcombe⁸, Registrar of the Queanbeyan Court, to Peter Naylor⁹. On 2 January 1884 it was conveyed from Peter Naylor to William Henry O'Malley Wood¹⁰. On 23 July 1887 it was sold by W.H. O'Malley Wood to Charles Henry Gould Emery¹¹ for Eighty-two Pounds ten shillings. In 1888 the parcel was conveyed from Emery to John James Wright¹².

On 16 June 1891 the land was assigned by J.J. Wright to trustees Alexander John Soutar and William George Whiting. It was listed in the Order of Court dated 16 October 1905 authorising sale of real estate of the late John James Wright deceased intestate. On 20 March 1906 it was conveyed, at the price of Twenty Pounds, from Douglas Wright¹³, Administrator of the Estate of J.J. Wright (of the first part), and W.G. Whiting and A.J. Soutar (said Trustees of the second part), to Mary Johnston¹⁴, wife of John Johnston¹⁵ of "Fairy Glen" at Williamsdale NSW.

The second parcel, known as Allotment 3 and part of Allotment 2, said to contain one rood and twenty perches, was included in the parcels sold by George Campbell to Joseph Curran in 1853, conveyed to Peter Naylor in 1860, and from Peter Naylor to W.H.

⁷ Born c 1817 in Ireland, arrived Australia Nov 11, 1841 per *Lascar*; died 1864

⁸ Born 1814, arrived Sydney per *John* Feb 7, 1837; died 1884, owned *Urila Station*

⁹ Surveyor, alderman on first Queanbeyan Borough council, 1885

¹⁰ Born 1853, died 1915; Crown Lands Agent & Commissioner for Affidavits

¹¹ Born 1821 Ballina, Ballina Ireland, died 1904 Queanbeyan; businessman & first mayor of Qbn

¹² Born 1858 Queanbeyan, son of J.J. Wright; died 1934.

¹³ Born 1869 Falmouth Cornwall (nee Eva), died 1948 Queanbeyan, midwife

¹⁴ 1850 *Mt Campbell* Queanbeyan, died 1943 Queanbeyan, grazier.

O'Malley Wood in 1884. On 7 June 1887 it was sold by Wood to Alfred Murray Dulhunty¹⁶ for Eighty-two Pounds ten shillings.

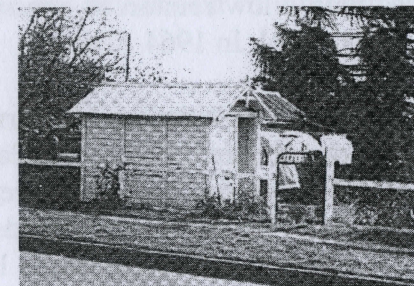
On 2 August 1890 A.M. Dulhunty mortgaged the land to Andrew Jackson Cunningham¹⁷ and James Cunningham¹⁸ regarding a promissory note in his favour for Five Hundred and Twenty Pounds. A.M. Dulhunty died on 20 January 1896, his executors being A.J. and James Cunningham, but the Supreme Court in Bankruptcy made out a sequestration order against the Estate and an Official Assignee of the Estate was duly constituted. Before the Dulhunty Estate was settled, A.J. Cunningham died on 13 May 1913, his executors being James Cunningham, Alexander William Cunningham¹⁴¹⁹ and Frank Nelson Yarwood²⁰.

At the same time, however, A.J. and James Cunningham had contracted to sell the land to Edith Elizabeth Emery²¹ of Gulargambone for Twenty Pounds. The conveyance was not executed before Mrs Emery contracted to sell the land to Mary Johnston (wife of John Johnston of Queanbeyan, Grazier) for Seventy-two Pounds three shillings and ten pence. On 10 March 1917 William Harrington Palmer²², Official Assignee of the bankrupt estate of A.M. Dulhunty, put up the land for public auction and Mary

Johnston being the highest bidder was declared the purchaser at a price of Fifty Pounds. A very complex Indenture of the land transfer recorded that Mary Johnston paid Fifty Pounds to W.H. Palmer, two several sums of Ten shillings to James Cunningham and to James Cunningham and F.N. Yarwood, together with Seventy-two Pounds three shillings and ten pence to Edith E. Emery.

The corner parcel, now numbered as 75 Campbell Street, contains the weatherboard residence built by Francis James O'Connor²³ in 1908, that had a verandah on three sides, roofed with bullnose iron. This was extended with a northern wing of four bedrooms, built in 1927 by Granville Jordan²⁴.

There was an outside bathroom that was originally the "Fairy Glen" schoolhouse at Williamsdale²⁵, several bush timber sheds, barns and chicken houses, a large fibro-cement laundry and a covered cow-bail.



¹⁶ Born 1851 Dubbo NSW, died 1896 Queanbeyan, stock and station agent.

¹⁷ Born 1847 Congwarra (now in ACT), died 1913 Lanyon ACT, grazier of Lanyon Station.

¹⁸ Born 1851 Lanyon, died 1921 Bondi Sydney, grazier of Tuggranong station.

¹⁹ Born 1843 Ballina Ireland died 1916 Mt Macedon Vic, second eldest brother of A.J. and James Cunningham.

²⁰ Died 1944 Woollahra; Cunningham family accountant; see page 168 The Lanyon Saga by Bruce Moore 1982.

²¹ 16 Nee Gibbons, widow of C.H.G. Emery [viz. footnote 6].

²² Born 1864 Sydney died 1929 North Sydney, Official Liquidator

²³ Born c.1870 died 1942, father of well-known builder and sporting personality Tom O'Connor.

²⁴ Born 1897 Queanbeyan, died 1983 Queanbeyan, third generation of the Queanbeyan builder family.

²⁵ Prefabricated by Saxton & Binns of Sydney; see page 5 of the monograph "Ancel Johnston - Townsman" published by Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society in 1981; also page 13 of the booklet "Brief Overview of Garryowen Queanbeyan" by PB Sheedy BEM, published by Queanbeyan City Council in 1998.

In 1930 a fibro-cement garage and store-room was built on the adjoining parcel (now No. 73) by Granville Jordan. The residence was named "Yvonne", which seems to be a phonetic pun based on the first syllable of Mary Johnston's maiden name (Eva) and the final syllable of Johnston. Nurse Mary Johnston conducted the "Yvonne Private Hospital" on the premises from 1910 to 1944, and her midwifery registers (now held in the National Library) show that she delivered 1700 babies.

The two parcels formed part of the estate of Mary Johnston who died on 1 January 1948, and were devised to her son Ancel Kildmore Johnston²⁶ on 25 August 1948. In the mid 1950s, the original front fence of sawn pickets and squared posts was demolished, and replaced with a low reinforced concrete fence built by Keith Pettit²⁷ and his son Athol. In 1964 A.K.

Johnston sub-divided the land to form two blocks each of one rood five and a quarter perches fronting Campbell Street, and one block of fifty-eight feet fronting Surveyor Street. He retained the corner block that contained the "Yvonne" residence (and which would have formed a greater part of the parcel bought by his mother from the Estate of J.J. Wright). The garage was moved by ninety degrees onto the No. 75 parcel by Keith Pettit.

The other Campbell Street block (which had the same frontage but less depth than the Dulhunty Estate parcel) and the Surveyor Street

²⁶ Born 1896 Queanbeyan died 1980 Queanbeyan, hospital administrator and Queanbeyan community leader.

²⁷ Handyman of Oaks Estate, did occasional maintenance at Queanbeyan District Hospital.

block were sold to Athol Richard Dawson²⁸ (trading as Deep Creek Pty. Ltd.), who later sold the 1A Surveyor Street block to Leopold Arthur George²⁹. Ancel Johnston died on 20 September 1980 and his estate was devised to his sons John Donald Johnston³⁰ and Peter Charles Johnston³¹ on 19 March 1981.

In July 1981 the 75 Campbell Street block was sold to Vernon Michael Browne and Janet Lynne Browne of Waniassa ACT. Considerable alterations to the residence were made internally and to the façade of the 1927 wing. In December 1999, the property was sold to Peter Neville Hewitt and Maxine Margot Hewitt, who carried out extensive renovation of the roof and verandah, polishing of internal floors, installation of a second bathroom, restoration of the original "Fairy Glen" schoolhouse, and restoration of a picket fence as the front boundary.

In 2004 the property was sold to Michael Travis Borgo and Susan Marjorie Borgo, who were then residing in Greenleigh sub-division in Queanbeyan, and are residing at "Yvonne" in 2012 with their daughter Ella.

Peter Johnston

²⁸ Born 1910, died 2006 at Queanbeyan

²⁹ Born 1938, son of Arthur & Christina George (formerly Gourgiou), still residing at the site in 2012 with his wife Mary (nee Ylias).

³⁰ Born at "Yvonne" 1939, died 2011 when residing at Ormiston Queensland.

³¹ Born at Canberra 1943, residing in 2012 at Queanbeyan NSW.

QUEANBEYAN'S HERITAGE

DANIEL JORDAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER



Daniel Jordan circa 1840

Daniel Jordan, skilled architect and builder, arrived in Australia, on the 'Neptune', 11th February, 1844.

Offered a position in Sydney, he chose Queanbeyan which was experiencing a mild building boom at the time, and became Queanbeyan's leading builder of the day. He left an indelible mark on the growing town.

Born in Cork in 1804, the son of Thomas Jordan and Eliza (nee Bourke), Daniel married Ellen Mehegan in 1824. He worked for architect William Hill for 20 years, until deciding to emigrate and his employer provided him with an excellent testimonial, reading in part:

'faithful, honest, sober, trustworthy and possessive of intelligence and skill as a scientific tradesman'.

Daniel brought with him a book by James Barr entitled *Anglican Church Architecture* inscribed inside 'to D. Jordan from one who knows his worth—Henry, October 23, 1843.' This book may be seen among books of antiquity held at the Christ Church Rectory.

Daniel used his expertise on many buildings in Queanbeyan, but today few can be accurately identified. One still barely standing, is the Gundaroo church in Upper Gundaroo, St Luke's. The Queanbeyan Parochial Association, a dedicated group inspired largely by Charles Campbell of Duntroon, was responsible for this building. Erected by Daniel Jordan, it was commenced in 1847, and took two years to complete due to difficulties with fund raising. In recent times used as an art studio, the building was badly burned in 2011, leaving visible only its beautiful stonework.



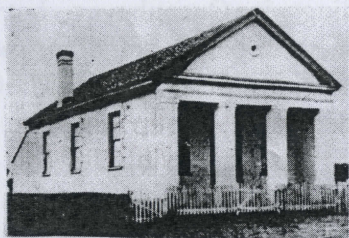
St Luke's Church, Upper Gundaroo 1916



St Luke's Church, Upper Gundaroo 2011

Judge Callaghan, newly established in Queanbeyan, in 1861, found an incompletely furnished Court House, and ordered the construction of competent court furnishings. Daniel Jordan duly installed the jury accommodation and prisoner box in time for the opening of the Court House the same year.

Jordan also built Rusten House, the first Queanbeyan Hospital, measuring 74 feet by 32 feet, for 16 patients, in 1859-1862. This sturdy building was designed by W H Downey, and Jordan and Gibson completed it at a cost of 1,051 pounds. The building still stands behind what later became the Blood Bank, fronting Collett Street.



Oddfellows Hall built 1862 & the location of the first Municipal Council Chambers

In the 1860s, Daniel drew up plans for the MUOOF (Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows) Hall. This land was offered by Joseph Jones of Goulburn for the establishment of such a hall. Jordan was a trustee of the Lodge, and built the hall in three months, possibly with the help of other Oddfellows. This building, No 20 Monaro Street, later became Tom Donoghoe's electrical shop, and is now hidden within later alterations, unrecognisable.

Number 58 in Atkinson Street, once owned by William Bingly who had a factory there, is thought to have been constructed by Daniel Jordan, and is now a finely restored building.



It is believed that Daniel was the carpenter in the building of Christchurch in Rutledge Street, with its beautiful curved beams that support the roof structure. It is likely that the present building was designed by the flamboyant Rev. Alberto Soares, (priest & architect)

and Daniel Jordan together. Finally, the church bell, weighing more than 2cwt, was installed in the tower by Daniel in 1860.

Three generations of the Jordan family included skilled labourers and architects who made a significant contribution to the building industry in Queanbeyan and District over 140 years. Daniel Jordan's brother (born 1808), also a carpenter, travelled to Queanbeyan about 1857, settling and working in the area.

Daniel's only son, Thomas, (born 1836), continued in his father's profession and helped build St Benedict's Convent, along with Thomas McCauley (bricklayer), Thomas Priest (masonry contractor), and William Simms (material supplier).

Thomas Jordan's son, John T Jordan (born 1860), also worked as a carpenter in Morissett Street, and built the original School of Arts Billiard and Reading Rooms in 1909, with Harry Lazarus. Working with his father, John also assisted in the erection of Queanbeyan Public School. John's son, Granville Jordan, (born 1897) worked as a builder in Hayes Street.

Daniel Jordan, Queanbeyan's celebrated builder, undertaker and architect, met an untimely death on the 26th August, 1863. He died at his residence in Crawford Street, from blood poisoning, contracted earlier when a rusty nail pierced his foot while working.

The Queanbeyan Age & General Advertiser announced on August 27, the death of this old and respected resident of the town who had lived in the town about twenty years. Notice of the last will and testament of Daniel Jordan was published in the Government Gazette November 4, granting probate to Rev. Alberto Soares and Andrew Morton.

The Jordan family burial place is in the Anglican section of the Riverside Cemetery. There is no monument, and the site has been damaged by flood, (as have many others), but here lies a significant Queanbeyan family, not to be forgotten. A long time member of our Historical Society is a descendant of Thomas Jordan.

Rosemary Curry

References:

Queanbeyan Pioneers First Study, Cross & Sheedy

Gundaroo, Errol Lea Scarlett

Moneroo to Manaro, Sheedy and Percy

Bygone Queanbeyan, Rex Cross

A Long Line and a Bright One, foundation of St Benedict's School

First Light on the Limestone Plains, Errol Lea Scarlett & Tim Robinson

Queanbeyan City Library

QDHMS TEAM COMPLETES ITS FIRST MOSAIC

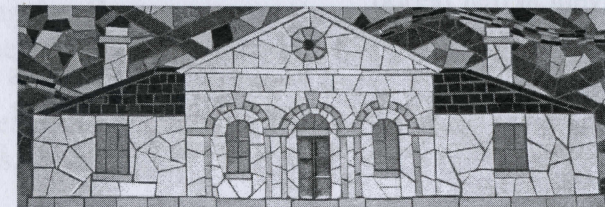
When the street works for the Crawford Street complex were completed it became time to add character. The block already boasts bollards that carry the names of some fifty interesting people from Queanbeyan's past, street pavers that introduce fifteen people who have contributed to the development of the city, birds common to the locality cut from iron that perch on top of the signage and a work in progress is the development of community mosaics that are to back each of the seats along both sides of the block.

A group of volunteers from QDHMS took part in this project that is being managed by mosaicist Kim Grant. The subject chosen was an image of the old court house taken from the border of Briand's 1861 map of Queanbeyan. The image is imposed over a skewed street map of the same work and includes the river wandering across the town.

In the long run a dozen members participated in the experience – nearly all tackling a new art for the first time.



Part of Team Mosaic, l to r: Louis Folger, Karen Moore, Marilyn Folger, Fred Monk, Ellie McFadden, Gillian Kelly



Left: Kim Grant Leads the team

Above: Detail of Courthouse

Below: Mosaic in situ, Crawford Street cnr of Royal Hotel



ST BENEDICT'S CONVENT: SOME EARLY MEMORIES

My parents lived in the little cottage in the grounds of St Benedict's Convent, Queanbeyan, the house where my three sisters were born. This was prior to the turn of this century.

The cottage where we lived overlooked the Queanbeyan River. And every day, we could hear the peacocks from the trees behind Wright's Mill. I have a very hazy recollection of my early home life. But, strange to say, I have a very clear picture of life in St. Benedict's Convent, at that period.

First of all it was a sort of a little farm. There was a plowed paddock and a flower garden set parallel to Isabella Street. The remainder of the grounds were taken up with fowls, ducks, cow and calf, etc.

As a boy, I had a free run of the convent and today I realise I was completely spoilt by the sisters. The Rev. Mother De Chantal was very strict and everyone jumped when she was about. I recall there were plenty of snakes about the convent grounds and the Rev. Mother had sticks located at strategic points about the grounds to deal with them.

All the sisters worked hard, doing whatever work was needed to run the place. I always helped them collect eggs and would lock up the calf every afternoon.

Sometimes a sister would quietly walk about in the garden by herself. She would be "in retreat" and I would not dream of speaking to her at that time. I remember there were two sisters called Paul. One was Paul of the Apostles and the other Paul of the Cross. I called

them Paul of the Possums and Paul of the Ducks. At any one time, at the convent there were about six sisters and the Rev. Mother in residence. Also, there were a couple of dozen boarders always at the convent. They would go about in their dark uniforms, always accompanied by sisters.

I would sometimes see the young, boarders and Sisters moving in line down Isabella Street. They would cross the Queanbeyan River on stepping stones, below the Mill on their way to Mass. There was no weir or suspension bridge in those days.

The kitchen at St. Benedict's Convent was run in those days by Maggie Gregory, who later became Mrs Morrison of Royalla. Thinking back, Maggie Gregory must have been a very good manager, because she had about 30 people to look after at any one time. On Fridays, I was always on hand, when Maggie Gregory opened big tins of beautiful red salmon. I have not tasted salmon as good since those days.

I remember one day when Walter Wicks brought a load of firewood to the convent. He placed the horse's nosebag on the ground prior to tipping the load. Maggie asked Walter in for a cup of tea and afterwards he came out, picked up the nosebag and jumped towards heaven when he found a snake curled up under the bag.

After my family left the cottage on the convent grounds the sisters sent me a very elaborate Christmas card which remained on the mantelpiece for years.

Pat Jordan, Historian

From the *Queanbeyan Age* October 20, 1978

Story donated by Dorothy Jeffrey 2012

FROM THE PRESS

The Canberra Times October 23, 1954

QUEANBEYAN FEARS LOSS FROM GOOGONG PROPOSAL

The annual loss of trade passing through Queanbeyan if the Commonwealth Government proceeded with the erection of a water supply storage dam on the Queanbeyan River at Googong would be at least £240,000, said Mr. T. E. Woodger at a sitting of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Works yesterday.

The committee which is investigating a proposed water supply for Canberra heard evidence at Queanbeyan C.W.A. rooms. Two schemes proposed are for dams on the Upper Cotter and at Googong on the Queanbeyan river.

Mr. J. O. Cramer is chairman of the committee. Mr. Woodger, who is 83, said he had a lifelong interest in the development of Canberra and Queanbeyan. He was a foundation member of the original committee which suggested Canberra as a site for a future capitals

Mr. Woodger said he did not think the people of Queanbeyan had given consideration to the merits of either scheme. Opposition came mainly from the land holders in the proposed 39 square miles to be resumed near Googong.

He said that resumption would affect about 80 land holders and estimated there were about 85,000 sheep in the area which produced 2,400 bales of wool a year. At an average of £100 a bale, the total lost in wool alone would be £240,000. In addition there would be losses in beef, dairy cattle; and pigs.

Mr. Woodger estimated the resumption and re-establishment for the Googong Scheme would cost in the vicinity of £2,000,000. If the land were resumed it would cost the government and the taxpayers another £20,000 a year to keep rabbits down in the area.

Mr. Woodger said that when Canberra was first planned it was agreed water from the Cotter could supply a population of 100,000. "It may be dearer to start now but it would be much cheaper to utilise the Cotter in the long run," he said.

The chairman, Mr. Cramer, said that the Committee was concerned immediately with the resumption of only 9,700 acres if the Googong Scheme were to be proceeded with. The total area of 395 square miles as a catchment area, however, would also be taken into consideration.

Mr. Woodger said he did not think the residents of the Googong area should be disturbed in their primary production when an area for obtaining much purer water was available at the Cotter and had been specifically set aside for that purpose. Replying to a question, Mr. Woodger said the resumption of only 9,700 acres was "only the thin edge of the wedge."

John Carogh Gorman, manager of Googong station, said the resumption would vitally affect himself and his family. He said in a specific area of 9,700 acres, there were 11 holdings, most of which were free hold land improved. His family owned 4,284 acres and the river ran through the centre of the property. The property supported 15,300 sheep and 130 head of cattle. The resumption would mean that he would lose the use of 2,684 acres.

Gerald David O'Hanlon, Yarrowlumla Shire Clerk, said if the 395 square miles were resumed, the council would suffer a loss in rates of

£3,748. If only 9,700 acres were resumed the loss in general rates would be between £600 and £700.

The committee inspected the proposed site at Googong yesterday afternoon and will make an inspection of the Cotter area this morning. Ralph Archibald Spendelove, Mayor of Queanbeyan, said as far as he could ascertain there was no real feeling among the townspeople about the actual site for the supply of water. "We want water, and good water, but we are not fussy where it comes from" he said.

Mr. Spendelove said the population of Queanbeyan had increased 42 per cent, in the last three years and there was room for more expansion, so it was expected that Queanbeyan would grow with Canberra. Replying to Senator Henty, he said one of the reasons why Queanbeyan population had increased was the fact that in the past few years people had been able to get land for building more readily than they could do so in Canberra, and also that the land was freehold and not leasehold.

Senator Henty: I believe that many Canberra people are attracted to Queanbeyan "because it has better shopping facilities than Canberra. Mr. Spendelove: I believe that is a fact. Replying to Senator O'Byrne, Mr. Spendelove said there was a move to get new industries for Queanbeyan. Existing industries however were expanding at a fast rate.

Robert Edmund Guy, Queanbeyan municipal engineer, said the development of Queanbeyan depended on a future water supply system. From a financial point of view the construction of a dam at Googong would mean a saving of £45,000 to the council. The pipe line from Googong to Queanbeyan would be five miles shorter than the pipe line from the A.C.T. boundary to Queanbeyan.

Mr. Guy said that over a period of 12 months the average daily consumption per head water in Queanbeyan was 40 gallons. This included water for public and private gardens. It could be a minimum amount because during summer months restrictions were imposed.

Replying to Senator O'Byrne, Mr. Guy said the present nine inch pipe line which brought water from the Red Hill reservoir at Canberra to Queanbeyan, was unsatisfactory, because its pressure was not powerful enough. He said that if this nine inch pipe line was out of action in the summer months Queanbeyan would be in a bad position.

Answering Senator Henty, who said the Googong Scheme would be about £1,000,000 cheaper than the Cotter Scheme, Mr. Guy said he believed the average Queanbeyan resident would be happier with the lower cost.

Senator Henty: The average daily consumption in Canberra is 155 gallons compared with 45 gallons for Queanbeyan. (Does that mean because they have to pay for it they are more conservative about its use? Mr. Guy: Yes.

Royce Lancelot Howlett, Queanbeyan municipal health inspector, said his council purchased the water from Canberra authorities at 1/- a thousand gallons. It charged its consumers 1/9 a 1,000 gallons.

COUNTRY TRADE DIRECTORY 1947

QUEANBEYAN Part 1

197 miles south; rail direct

Banks: The Commercial

Banking Company of Sydney, Ltd., N.S.W., Commercial of Australia, and Commonwealth.

Adams, W. Butcher
 Advanx-Queanbeyan Ty-re-pair Co.
 Apps, P. Bookmaker
 Apps, W. Carrier
 Agricultural Bureau Co-op. Society, Ltd.
 Atlantic Union Oil Co., Ltd.
 Austin, A. C. Painter
 B. & B. Rubber Works and Canberra Tyre House
 Bakers' Distributors, Ltd.
 Barber, H. Painter, etc.
 Barnett & Grady Fish Cafe
 Beazley & Bruce Plaster Manufrs.
 Beazley & Taylor Building Contractors
 Bell, E. N. Canberra Fish Supplies
 Bell, R. Ice Manufacturer
 Blewitt, J. Carrier
 Blewitt, S. Carrier, etc.
 Blyton, E. T. Carrier
 Boardman, E. R. Solicitor
 Bogg, H. Insurance Agent
 Boston, F. Carrier
 Bradney, G. H. . Builder
 Brian & Robinson Motor Engineers
 Bridges, A. (Mrs.) Dressmaker
 Bruce, J. L. Builder
 Buckley, W. D. Haulage Contractor
 Burn, John W. Tailor
 Burns, E. J., & Son Sanitary Contractors
 Butler, J. Carrier

Butt, C. (Miss) "Cecile" Hairdressing Salon
 Butt, D. (Miss) Dressmaker
 Byrne, A. Hairdresser and Tobacconist
 Byrne, A. Mercer and Clothier
 Byrne, C. Billiard Room
 C. W.A. Tea Rooms
 Caltex, Ltd.
 CAMPBELL, DON. R. Produce and General Merchant. Tel.: 73 (Office) and 192 (Residence)
 Candish, O. J., S. A. & H. C. Reliance Press
 Canter, E. C. (Estate of) Milk Vendor and Ice Manufr.
 Capital Cafe, The
 Carroll, G. Car Proprietor
 Carroll, R. ' Carrier
 Carter, S. G. (Estate of) Milk Vendor and Ice Manufacturer
 Cassidy & Nicholas Restaurant
 Cassidy & Strathies Cafe
 Cassidy Bros. Paragon Cafe
 Chatfield, Mrs. (Est. of) Fancy Goods
 Chiragakis, C. Fruit Mart
 Clayton, E. G. Chemist
 Commonwealth Cordial Co., Ltd.
 Cordial Manufacturers
 Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd.
 Collett, Jack J. Baker, etc.
 Condoleon, Peter Restaurant
 Cooney, A. Mixed Business
 Cooney, W. Grocer
 Cooney, W. & R. Mixed Business
 Cooper, L. Dentist
 Cooper, Theo Mixed Business
 Cooper, V. and T. Tobacconists, etc.
 Corsini, T. Wood Merchant

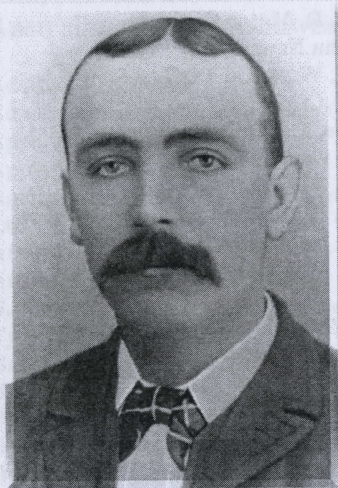
CRANSWICK, W. Wool and Skin Buyer
 Davis, B. Confectioner
 Davis, J. Sign writer
 Day, Leon Motor Engineer
 Deane, H. Solicitor
 Debenham F. Baby Shop
 Dogan, M J. Roof Tiler
 Donoghoe & Hopkins Sawmillers
 Donoghoe, T. Radio Dealer
 Downey, Sister Nurse
 Drennan, N. Upholsterer
 Dunne, R. J. Hairdresser, Newsagent, etc.
 Dyball, Mrs. Dressmaker
 Edmonds, J. Taxi Proprietor
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE, CORPORATION, LIMITED, THE (J. W. Venables, Agent)
 Evans, A. Delicatessen, etc.
 Ewin, E. Smallgoods
 Esmonds Motors Pty., Ltd.
 Fallick, A. M., & Sons "Queanbeyan Age, etc.
 Ford, W. Greengrocer and Grocer
 Fossey's, Ltd. Drapers
 Foster & Christie Painters
 Fowlie, A. W. Taxi Proprietor
 Fowlie, John Blacksmith
 Foy, W. Painter
 Frawley Bros. Boot and Shoe Store
 Freebody, W. B. Pty., Ltd. Triumph and Star Theatres, Motor Garage, etc.
 G. & G. Tea Rooms (Mrs. Greentree)
 Gadd, J. Mercer
 Genge, C. A. Tank Sinker
 George, N. M. (Mrs.) Milk Bar and Confectionery
 Georgiou, Mary The Original Milk Bar
 Gibbs, W. J., & Co. Auctioneers and Com. Agents
 Gifford, D. (Miss) Music Teacher

Gilkes & Tipping • "T. & G. Radio & Electrical Co."
 Gill, L. F. Grocer
 Gillespie, R. Old Wares
 Glanville, J. (Mrs.) Music Teacher
 Goodlands Grocers
 Gorman, Beth Frocks, etc.
 Grady, E. (Miss) Lending Library
 Graham, R. C. Wood Merchant
 Grant, R. R. Motor Engineer
 Gray, John Newsagent
 Green, T. W., & Co. Pty Ltd Skin Buyers
 Greentree, F. (Mrs.) Restaurant
 Gregory, Geo. Saddler
 Griffiths, D. Dental Surgeon
 Griffiths, H. Carrier
 Griffiths, Nancy (Dr.) Medical Practnr.
 Griffiths, W. J. (Dr.) Medical Practnr.
 Haig, J. Photographer
 Hammond, P. (Estate) Jeweller
 Hannaford, H. Taxi Propr.
 Hart, Dr. Medical Practitioner
 Hart, W. A. Electrician
 Hawke, Gordon Boot Repairer
 Heffernan, V. Car Propr.
 Henderson, W. Baker
 Hillier, G. J. Cordial Manufacturer
 Hollins, C. C. Carrier
 Hughes, E. Boot Repairer
 Hume Pipe Co. (Aus.), Ltd.
 Hunt Bros. Boot Repairers
 Hunt, T. D. Car Laundry and Battery Service
 Jackson & Jackson Sawmillers
 Jarvis & McNamara Dairymen
 Johnson, E. (Miss) ' Hairdresser
 Jolly, P. G., G. L. and F. W. Gateway Garage
 Jones, F. Radio Mechanic
 Jordan & Miller Plumbers
 Jordan & Son Builders
 Kaye, A. L. Taxi Proprietor
 L P Kendall, Accountant

EDWIN HENRY LAND

(1858 - 1897)

Mayor of Queanbeyan 1890 -1891 and 1892-1897



Edwin Henry Land was the first of Queanbeyan's mayors to be born in the district, and on being elected Mayor when he was only 32, the youngest.

He had been born in 1858 at Booroomba and in 1864 his father, also Edwin, became the licensee of *Byrne' Hotel*. In 1870 he purchased the new Victoria Hotel, rebuilt it and renamed it *Land's Victoria Hotel*.

Edwin Henry showed an early interest in public office and community service. By 1878 he was a member and steward of the Race committee and club secretary four years later. He became a member of the Oddfellows and was a trustee of the town common as early as 1880. In 1882, became a vice-President of the local Hospital Committee. At the time of the tense 1882 he and his father joined on a committee to elect George Fane de Salis, 'the selector's friend', to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.

In March 1882, at Queanbeyan, Edwin Henry had married Clara Jane Pooley and although they lost their first baby they were to have seven more children.

Edwin Land Senior died in 1884 and Edwin Henry took over the management of the *Victoria*. He was already a community leader and his role as mine host gave him ready access to the people of the town. When Queanbeyan became a municipality, he was elected an alderman of the town's first Council in 1885 and re-elected in 1887.

As Cross and Sheedy note, "Hotels and inns have always been the venue for meetings and gatherings, and Land's Victoria Hotel was no exception...it has probably seen the birth of more sporting organisations than any other establishment in Queanbeyan."

Edwin Henry involved himself in many of these. He helped revive cricket in the town during the eighties, becoming vice-president of the Queanbeyan Cricket Club in 1891. He was President or vice-President of the Queanbeyan District Football Club and the Auld Lang Syne Clubs. He was a member (and later an office-bearer) of the local Rifle Club and on the committee of the Coursing Club. In 1886, he was gazetted as one of the trustees of local land earmarked for a racecourse.

In 1890, he became the Mayor and rather than his civic duties slowing him down, he became even more involved in town activities. He was president of the Fire Brigade, played polo, acted as linesman at the football. He and Clara were extremely generous in their support of town events to the extent that "the Lands symbolised an era of popular local government, for Wright, Bull and Tomsitt, who preceded 'Ted' Land as mayors, were all autocrats, and...Lazarus who interrupted his term for a single year (1892) was an old man lacking the 'dash' of the youthful landlord of the *Victoria*." By 1893 the Queanbeyan Age was describing him as 'the worthy and popular mayor of this municipality'.

The previous mayor, George Tomsitt, envisaged employing electricity to provide the town's much needed street lighting. On a planned trip to England he investigated the manner in which this could be achieved only to find on his return that Land had joined Nathan Lazarus in derailing the 'starry-eyed campaign for expensive electrical illumination' that would most certainly have cost the town dearly. Instead, Edwin Henry had installed the town's first kerosene lamps. They were located at street corners in Queanbeyan and the ends of the bridge, all having imprinted on their standards *E H Land, Mayor, 1890*. In less than five months he had the cast iron lamp posts designed, made and installed at a cost of £7 each.

Edwin Land was a prominent advocate of the rising labour movement that was emerging in response to the major industrial disputes of the early 1890s. The *Victoria* was the meeting place for the shearers' union and the General Laborers Union summoned its first meeting of the short-lived Queanbeyan Labour League there in 1894. Edwin Henry became its Treasurer, a branch of the Australasian Political Labour Federation and chaired a political meeting for the Labour candidate a few months later.

Though there had been critical unemployment in the town as early as 1888, the economic depression of 1893, followed by disastrous seasons, hit the surrounding district hard. From a distance, things may have appeared brighter in Queanbeyan but population declined across the decade and economic expansion stalled. For all that, Land's Council was able to maintain its 'policy of providing labour in return for materials', fulfil a program of underground drainage, kerbing and guttering in the main street that encouraged greater civic pride in local storekeepers, and carry out major works in Campbell, Antill, Rutledge and Booth streets. In 1896, when hunger and destitution were rife, the council and the government jointly funded

limited street repairs and drain construction that provided much-needed relief work.

By 1895, his tenure as Mayor was barely contested: his confidence that 'he had a large majority of ratepayers at his back' enabled him to challenge any critics of his administration. But Edwin Henry, a driven man at the peak of his powers, died suddenly in December 1897 shortly after the birth of a last child: he was just thirty-nine.

After his death, Queanbeyan citizens requisitioned a meeting 'for the purpose of devising the best means of recognising the sterling worth and public usefulness of our late Mayor and fellow-townsmen, Mr E. H. Land'. Perhaps the most heartfelt tribute came from a rural correspondent to *The Queanbeyan Age*:

Your correspondent was real grieved to hear of the unexpected demise of Queanbeyan's deservedly popular Mayor, the late Mr. E. H. Land. What a gap in the community to be sure, and one not easily to be filled. A courteous and genial friend to all, generous to a fault, and above everything so thoughtful and unassuming, studying the wants of everyone, especially the poor and needy. Queanbeyan and district will long mourn and miss Ted Land. One of Nature's real gentlemen has been removed.

Editor's Note: This brief insight into Edwin Henry Land's role as Queanbeyan's mayor is a blatant paraphrase of the detailed and fully footnoted work contained in:

QUEANBEYAN STALWARTS - THREE MEN OF THE LAND FAMILY

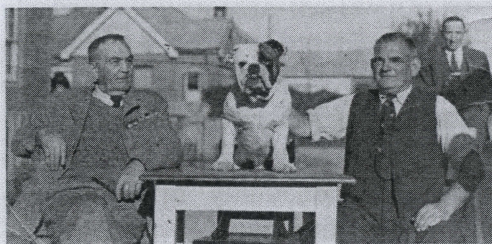
with appendices on the Webber, Pooley and Mortlock families

John Stanley Anderson Canberra, 2012

with the kind and greatly appreciated permission of the author.

MYSTERY MEN REVEALED

- canine remains unidentified



Left to right:

Thomas Brayshaw

Handsome Brute

Darkie Wm Rogers

Joe Pola

(Enlargement opposite)

How can such a handsome brute remain unknown? Ian Warden's Gang Gang column in the *Canberra Times* drew unprecedented interest, and we can reveal the identity of three members of the team. Our thanks to Mr Warden, and his many readers, and in particular Peter Johnston, John Byrne and Ted Richman.

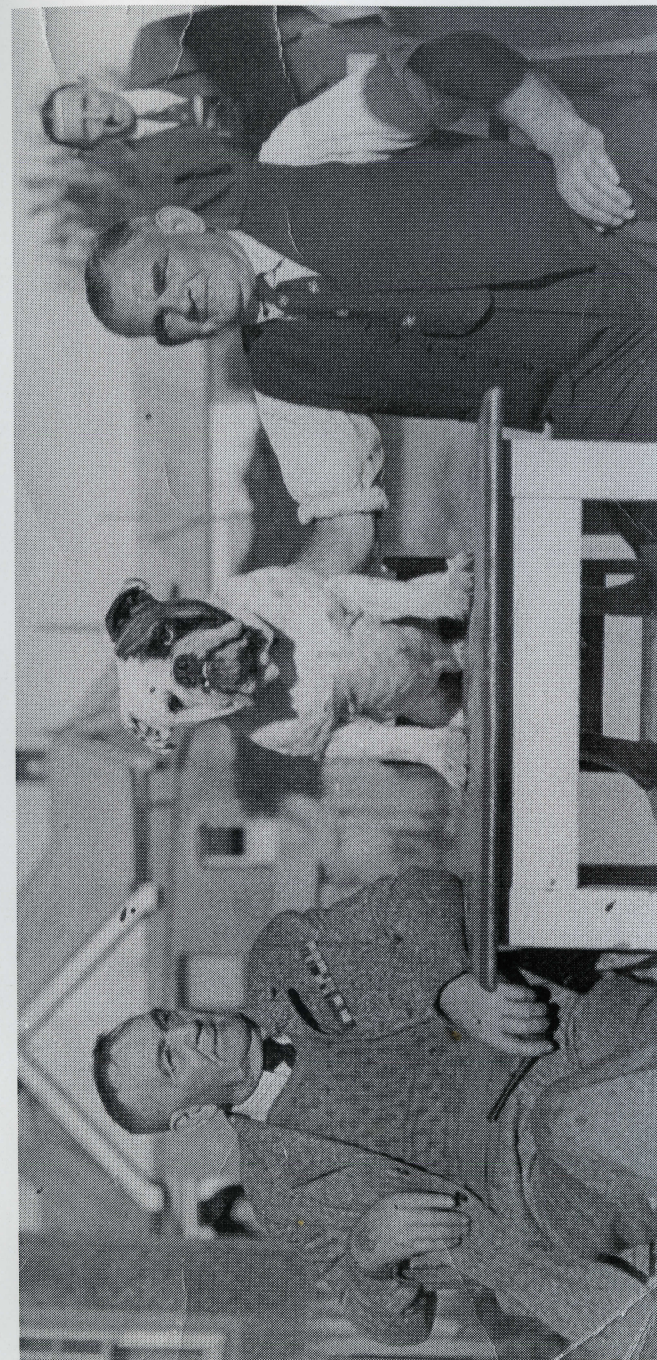
THOMAS BRAYSHAW of River St, Oaks Estate and said to be a veteran of six campaigns – hence his bank of ribbons – British & Australian Armies. Died Oaks Estate 1958, buried Riverside Cemetery.

DARKIE WM ROGERS lived on the cnr of Cameron Rd & Glebe Av, was green keeper at the Bowling Club. Member of 7th Light Horse, Died 25 April 1952 on his way to an Anzac Day March.

JOE POLA of Ross Rd where his family ran a plastering works, only recently demolished. Thought to have remained a bachelor. May have been Martin Joseph.

Can we complete the story? Each man is in a suit. Tom Brayshaw has a large band of campaign medals and a tattoo on his right hand that is similar to the matching ties worn by Rogers and Pola. Pola is holding a club style beer glass, probably a middy.

Detectives please! Do you recognize any of the buildings in the background? Is this an Anzac Day or Remembrance Day occasion? Do you recognize the star like pattern on the ties? Did you know any of the men, and especially, do you recognize the dog?



Joe Pola in tie & suit holding club-style glass

Darkie Rogers in matching tie – wearing suit with jacket off

The Handsome Brute on a table – belonging to Darkie?

The houses – where are they?

Tom Braithwaite wearing band of campaign ribbons – dressed in suit and jumper – April weather?. Tatoo on right hand similar to motif on ties?