

Queanbeyan

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September 2014



Q&DHM Archive
10 Farrer Place
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

The Journal of
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

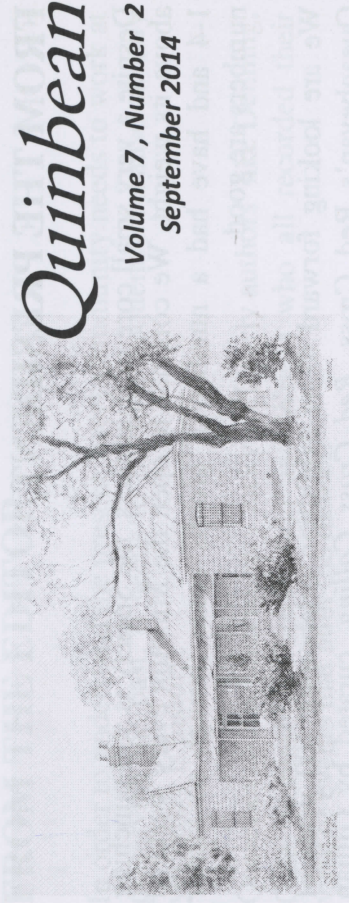
Contact us:

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.



Quinbean

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Despite a very small core of volunteers, the Society is still punching above its weight. We continue to open the Museum every weekend 1-4 and have had a number of groups come through so visitor numbers are good.

We are looking forward to an exhibition celebrating 100 years of Queanbeyan's Red Cross, *Red Cross Calling*, curated by Gillian Kelly. This will be opened on Saturday 6 September and be gradually added to, to reflect the Red Cross involvement in the First World War for the ANZAC Centenary in April 2015.

We are also celebrating our 45th birthday as a Society on 2nd August. Inaugural and present members will cut a specially constructed birthday cake, enjoy some with tea or coffee and share stories. Our first on line exhibition on the Museum website will be launched on the 2nd August as well. This innovative exhibition of 45 *Pieces of Queanbeyan* consists of items chosen by Society members. It was curated by Kerrie Ruth with technical help from Todd Taylor, and Ximena Briceno took most of the object photographs.

Karen Moore is working on Queanbeyan's on-line time line and continues to catalogue the Society book collection. Oral history is going well with a WW2 airman and a bishop among others.

Treasurer Fred Monk has prepared the accounts for our annual audit and the QCC Museum Assistant Ximena Briceno is working on cataloguing and photographing items on display.

John McGlynn

FROM THE EDITOR

In order to understand the present, every community needs to work at preserving the past. It needs to be done frequently because already yesterday is history.

Queanbeyan has been so very lucky with early authors like Denning, Gale, Robinson, Watson, Wig and Wright who all recorded their view of events that built the district.

In the early 1960's a far-seeing Queanbeyan Rotary instigated the idea that it was time for a comprehensive history of the town. A committee was formed and Errol Lea-Scarlett undertook the immense task of researching and writing an unbelievably comprehensive history¹ of the town, district and people with exceptional end notes that allow today's scholar to return to Scarlett's sources.

*Queanbeyan District and People... it will take its place with some of the best books being produced by more academic historians. In the last several years a number of New South Wales and Victorian Shires and Municipalities have been producing centenary histories, It would be difficult to find among them one which could approach this in historical competence and interest.*²

There followed in 1986 Susan Mary Withycombe's *Town in Transition, Queanbeyan* – a book that continued the story from 1945 to 1985 – exposing a much-changed town's status to city with all that went with it.

¹ This was a labour of love – Lea-Scarlett only accepted his out-of-pocket expenses.

² Canberra Times, V Hewitt 1999???

And so the historic, social and economic faces of Queanbeyan were covered, but what about ordinary people – the families who made the town and the district? The history of locality is the history of its people. In the last thirty years of the twentieth century a new breed of historians made their mark with the stories of the families: Cross, Gillespie and Sheedy and others.

In 2013, to mark the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the town, two ladies stepped up to the plate. After many years work Nichole Overall and Trudy Taylor produced their magnificent *Queanbeyan City of Champions* – a book that truly champions Queanbeyan through Nichole's magnificent social history and enhanced by Trudy's beautiful photographs.³

The commonality of all of these authors is their connection to the early settlers, and their convictions that this city has a story – a story that is different to any other in the world – where a nation's capital has been built on the very front door of a thriving small country town – threatening so many times to engulf it.

This is precisely the reason the Queanbeyan Museum exists – to put into context the objects that tell the stories of the people who built this district, and to reflect all that has been preserved in test. Now QDHMS has taken another leap forward with the work of Kerrie Ruth and Karen Moore in producing an on-line exhibition – to intrigue you and to entice you into remembering just how things were!

Gillian Kelly

³ Another labour of love - Overall & Taylor produced this superb book without personal financial gain

45 PIECES OF QUEANBEYAN

Queanbeyan Museum has a rich collection to illustrate the development of the town starting with the Museum building itself. We have objects from pre-history through to social and family history such as christening and wedding gowns, to the domestic such as ice cream makers and clothes wringers and the local history storehouse that is the Society Newsletters. We had little trouble finding 45 objects to make our list!

This will be our first on line exhibition in celebration of our 45 years as a Society. Putting exhibitions on line enables access to those who may not be able to get into the Museum such as the elderly, ex Queanbeyanites and members who are not resident and it also opens up the collection to those around the world with access to the web.

The idea was to feature 45 Pieces of Queanbeyan, in order to showcase the Museum building: the Old Police Sergeant's Residence, our grounds, the historic mural by Margaret Hadfield, the Society: QDHMS newsletters and items from the collection: John Gale's fishing rod, William Farrer's piano, the Both iron lung, JJ Wrights Store Journal, the Monk fiddle and many others.

To view *45 Pieces of Queanbeyan*, log on to the Queanbeyan Website <http://queanbeyanmuseum.org.au/> and check out the Online Exhibitions menu tab. We will be gradually putting more items up till the end of our 45th year. Look out for more on line exhibitions showcasing you wonderful local museum in the future.

Kerrie Ruth
Curator

100 Years On

RED CROSS - QUEANBEYAN

The Red Cross began as one man's dream after he witnessed the horrendous damage done to humans by humans at the Battle of Solferino (June 24 1859). This was the decisive battle between the French (Allies to Sardinia) and the Austrians. Gunfire began before 3am and by nightfall the battlefield was strewn with more than 6 000 dead and 40 000 wounded.

The medical services of the French and Sardinian armies were overwhelmed: the French Army had fewer doctors than veterinarians, there was no transport, and medical supplies had been left behind. The wounded who could make for the nearest village, Castiglione, in search of food and water. Nine thousand poured into this tiny village. Henry Dunant, with the aid of local women spent three days and nights caring for the wounded and dying in a church.

When Dunant returned to his homeland, Switzerland, he called for a neutral organisation to be formed to help the wounded and dying. Four years later Dunant and four others set up an International committee for the Relief to the Wounded, with its emblem a red



Henry Dunant 1828-1910

cross on a white background, determining that their services in caring for the wounded would be neutral.

In 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War 1 the Australian Red Cross was formed as a branch of the British Red Cross. Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, wife of the Governor General, asked the wives of each State Governor to form a local committee in each capital. They in turn became the State Leaders, and contacted the wives of the mayors across Australia.

On August 14, 1914 Mrs R Moore, wife of Queanbeyan's Mayor, convened a public meeting with the purpose of discussing a Red Cross Society to assist the Australian troops at war, and in particular by preparing the necessities for use by the soldiers proceeding to the battlefields. The meeting was well attended and the work began almost immediately.

The enthusiasm was without parallel. Within a month the treasurer presented a report of cash donations, which amounted to £48 10s 2d. The greater part of this was immediately used for materials to complete 24 soldiers' bags with articles being made by the ladies of the committee and supporters. Each bag contained : 1 letter pad, envelopes and pencil, 2 suits pyjamas, 2 flannel shirts, 2 pairs socks, 2 coloured handkerchiefs, 6 yards unbleached calico, 6 yards flannelette, 2 3in. bandages, 2 2in. bandages, 1 reel black thread, 1 reel of white thread, and 1 cake of soap. All the bags were despatched to Sydney to be forwarded, to the front for use by any Australian or British wounded troops.

As well as further bags, the ladies committed to 'do something towards helping the Belgian Fund'. Fund raising strategies included a euchre party and social. Gifts of warm clothing, old or new, but

clean and mended, were to be gathered and forwarded to the Belgians in need.

Very quickly the Branch established tea rooms and a depot for the collection of goods in the rear of the old Church of England Parish Hall which had been taken over by the Army for use as a Drill Hall.

Young men who had enlisted were farewelled with gifts by the Red Cross, and welcomed home again. Old linen was collected for bandages, fabric was donated and bought to be made into pyjamas. There was an unquenchable thirst for thick warm socks and balaclavas.

Everyone who could ply a set of knitting needles, from school children up, knitted furiously and competitions for the best knits were held.

Wool was the basis of so much the soldiers needed. Red Cross Headquarters developed a spinning industry. The call went out for spinning wheels and experienced spinners taught the skills. They travelled far and wide, including to Queanbeyan to establish a spinners' group. Calls

were made for donations of fleeces and apart from knitting wool, returned wounded soldiers were engaged in weaving to relieve the tedium of convalescence and recovery.

Food parcels were regularly sent, in 1915 eight hundred pounds of jam was forwarded to Headquarters and Christmas parcels were

forwarded to add a little cheer. The soldiers responded. Week after week Red Cross recorded thank you letters from our boys, and their names were printed in the Age.

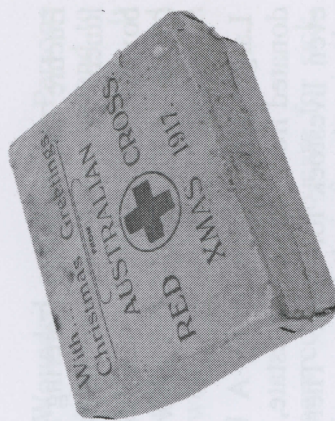
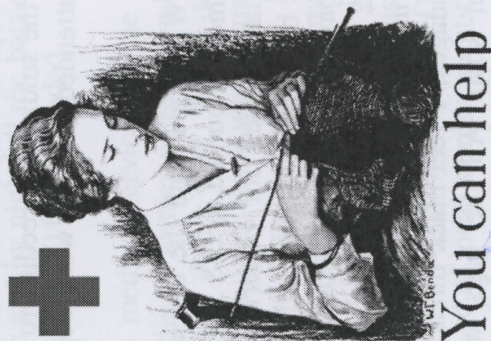
Perhaps the most ingenious plan of all was a project of the NSW Headquarters – a Rabbit Day!

April 1, 1917 every community was to rabbit hunt. Professional hunters and locals committed their day's catch to Red Cross. The haul of bunnies was frozen and transported to the front to provide the soldiers with fresh meat. Unfortunately, Queanbeyan did not have a freezing facility that could cope, so the monetary value was sent instead.

The outbreak of World War 2 saw the next generation of young men going off to war. They were again farewelled, with an ingenious way of supplying some comfort:

At a social and dance, organised by the Women's Voluntary Service, the Red Cross and the 2C Radio Club, the members of the Queanbeyan Militia were farewelled prior to their entering camp for a month's continuous training. Admission to the function necessitated the donation of a packet of cigarettes and a cake of soap, with the result that about 150 of each commodity were divided among the men.

For the duration of World War 1 money was raised in so many ingenious ways. The entire community and district supported Red Cross. Almost every event run in town donated its profits to the local branch. The Tea Rooms were highly successful, as were



Euchre Tournaments. Catering for dances and concerts, and running lunch booths for events at the showground enhanced the money box. A Grand Concert was held in the Triumph Theatre, and a Children's Carnival in the Showground.

Large raffles were held. A block of land in Uriarra Road was donated from a deceased estate, a piano, a buggy, loads of wood and even livestock for meat. There was a raffle of War Bonds worth £2100 at 2/- a ticket.

In 1940 a swimming carnival was held in the Queanbeyan River at the end of Rutledge Street, with the Red Cross providing a food booth. By June the Stock and Station Agencies in town had asked all growers in the District to make donations for a special sale, with all proceeds going to the Red Cross. There was a large attendance and keen bidding took place for 700 sheep, 30 head of cattle, 50 fowls, 8 tons of chaff, 50 bags of oats, honey and sundries. The gratifying outcome was around £700!

Money making ways changed – in 1979 an exhibition of the works of Jim Crofts, a Sydney artist, was held at the RSL Hall with a gala cocktail event to open it. A year later another cocktail party launched 'Collectors' Corner' – an antique exhibition with a Sydney collector appraising items brought in.

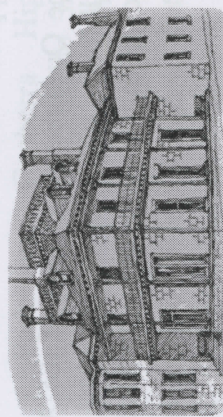
Living in 1914 was a lot more physical than today – there was wood to be cut, vegetables to be grown, water to be provided in drier times and many families struggled to maintain a life without their men. The local branch assisted by identifying the needs and then supplying them to the people in need.

In 1915 the Red Cross formed its Wounded and Missing Persons Enquiry Bureau. It worked to identify, investigate and respond to enquiries made regarding the fate of Australian personnel. It investigated the majority of personnel posted as wounded and missing on official Army lists, as well as written enquiries from concerned relatives and friends

The local Red Cross women volunteers continued to care for sick, injured and recovering returned servicemen and their families in the years following the war. Their place in the community was essential. They worked in hospitals and community health to support national health emergencies, such as the Spanish flu epidemic and the spread of tuberculosis, and the Blood Transfusion Service.

Spanish Flu reached Queanbeyan early in 1919. Volunteer nurses, including the Red Cross Voluntary Aids, were called for and Red Cross members were asked to make masks from materials funded by the Municipal and Yarralumla Councils.

Through the 1920s and 30s there was a local emphasis on providing fruit and vegetables to the families of soldiers and make it a brighter Christmas. The support for the broader scheme continued with funds being forwarded for Graythwaite (hospital in North Sydney tending especially to amputees), the Prisoners of War, Randwick Military Hospital and blinded soldiers.



Graythwaite Repatriation Hospital,
Edward Street North Sydney

The outbreak of WWII reinvigorated the branch and in 1939 one hundred and twenty five articles were sent to Red Cross Stores as well as two parcels of dressings and one of clothing for Polish refugees. Over the next year all the Red Cross Appeals were supported and 1765 articles were sent to Red Cross Store. The focus of the Australian Branch, and hence the Queanbeyan Branch, was on the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, their wives and families but by 1942 the focus moved to Prisoners of War, particularly with the supply of non-deteriorating food stuffs like cocoa, fruit cake and the like.

The return of the injured and ill again sparked a renewed need for support. For regional areas this mostly involved the never ending task of money raising in order to be able to support the many needs of the soldiers who inevitably disembarked in the city regions. Later, the immediate needs waned, and so did the membership of many branches, including Queanbeyan whose membership rose and fell between 80+ and 6! There were national calls for the continuing interest and support for the Red Cross so it could maintain the support it had committed to in 1863 – helping any person in need.

The Queanbeyan Branch of the Australian Red Cross has met that call for an unbroken one hundred years, and continues to help in a increasingly confusing world where there is always someone in need.

Gillian Kelly

References:

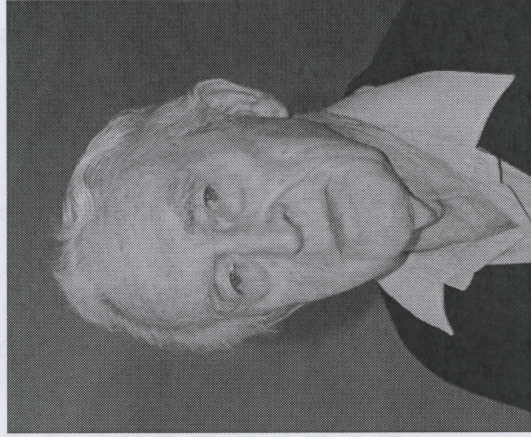
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From the Oral History Program

L.W. (BILL) GRAY

Police Sergeant Bill Gray's son Bill, now 91, has spoken of growing up in Queanbeyan in the late 1930s and early 1940s.



A private, modest man, this is the first time he has told of his wartime experiences as a Lancaster bomber pilot.

Bill went to Isabella Street School then on to Telopea Park and Canberra High when it opened to do his Leaving Certificate. This meant a daily bike ride to Civic with his friends Freddy Greentree, Percy Lenham, Jock Watman and Cliff Cartwright and studying in the cold back room at the Police Sergeant's residence (the original kitchen).

Bill Gray, 2014 Photo Marilyn Folger

After WWII broke out and he turned 18 he enlisted in the RAAF but spent a short time in the Army until he trained to be a pilot and eventually a RAF Lancaster bomber pilot. As a 21 year old he had incredible experiences, surviving 29 Operations, just one short of earning a DFC. (Unfortunately recalled missions did not count but

Flight Lieutenant L. W. Gray was awarded a Belgian Croix de Guerre, with Palme). Only about 60 % of these young men survived the War, Bill lost many friends.⁴ We are very privileged to have Bill tell of that time, his life as a country boy and later life with his wife Molly.

We intend to have Bill's brother Laurie and sister Doff Holgate show us around their old home and tell us more. Sergeant Gray, a respected well liked man retired in 1945 and passed away some years later in Sydney.

And it all started with Bill coming to the Museum gate one Sunday afternoon: "I used to live here..."

Marilyn Folger



Flight Lieutenant L W (Bill) Gray, with his crew and Lancaster Bomber

⁴ "55 000 members of Bomber Command lost their lives over six years of conflict": Air Marshall Geoff Brown at Bomber Command Dedication, London June 28, 2012

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY QUEANBEYAN

Queanbeyan's first hospital was the result of community effort to provide a Benevolent Asylum for vagabonds and vagrants who had no home or family support in times of illness and injury.

Captain Faunce owned a building in Irish Town on the town edge of his property Dodsworth that was deemed suitable. In 1847 it was rented as the Asylum with Mary Rusten as its matron. It remained so until 1862 when the Queanbeyan Hospital was erected at the top of the hill in what was formerly called Balcombe Street, now Collett.

Irish Town has disappeared. Dodsworth Street is today a quiet, modern street sitting between the front and back nine of the golf course and nothing remains of Irish Town. Rex Cross, in Queanbeyan Pioneers First Study⁵, sites the Asylum as being on the town border of his property Dodsworth – now the eastern side of Dodsworth Street.



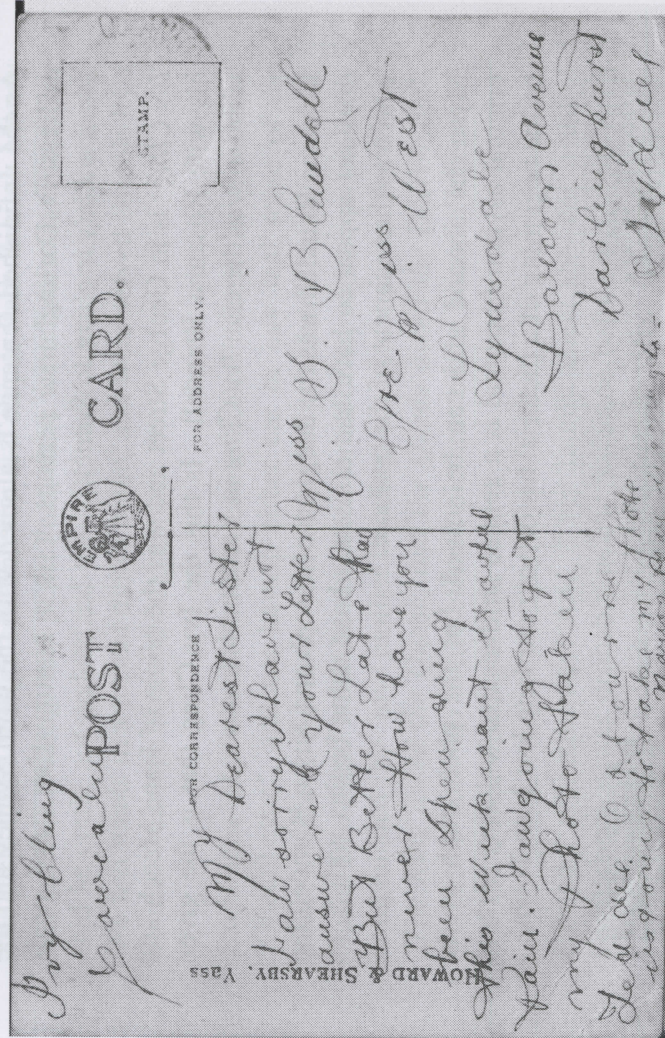
Dodsworth Street from Google Maps. 1. Asylum Building 2. Slab building, probably owned by John Ford

⁵ Cross, Rex Queanbeyan First Study, Queanbeyan Books & Prints, 1983 p212



By the time photography arrived in Queanbeyan there were already more attractive sites to record on film. Beaufoy Merlin, in 1870, ignored Irish Town, as did following photographers so it is amazing that sometime from 1909 to 1920 Howard & Shearsby, photographers from Yass, had enough sense of history to photograph the old and derelict original Asylum/Hospital. It was demolished in the 1920s. Howard & Shearsby reproduced the photograph as a post card.

We are indebted to collector of local photographs, Elspeth Bodley, for her generous donation of a scan of the post card. A copy was bought by Rosaline of Ivy Cling, Yarralumla. The stamp has been removed so the date of posting is unknown but it is post marked Queanbeyan.



Miss S Blundell,
c/re Miss West,
Lynsdale, Barcom Avenue, Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Ivy Cling/ Yarralum[la?]

My Dearest Sister

I am sorry I have not Answered your Letter But Better Late than never. How have you been spending This Week, isn't it awful Pain. I am going to get my Photo taken. Teddie Osbourne is going to take my photo. Marion Rody is going to

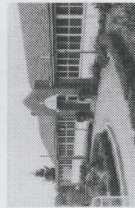
Sincerely Rosaline

As the unfinished sentence is aligned with the word Sydney and the address is Darlinghurst, perhaps it is a continuation and reads *Marion Rody is going to Sydney.*

Ivy Cling is in George Street and was the home of Isaac Meech and his wife Rosanna Blundell. Is this the Ivy Cling that is the given address, was there an *Ivy Cling* in Yarralumla?

Rosanna Blundell was the daughter of Joseph and Susan Blundell but does not appear to have had a sister whose name begins with S, so who was the recipient of the post card?

Mysteries abound and can be solved, but the photograph of the original asylum / hospital is a gem to be treasured and may perhaps be the beginning of a pictorial history of our long lost Irish Town.



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DREAMING BY THE ROSY-FINGER'D DAUGHTER OF THE MORNING....(or what children learn...)

On Saturday, 4th October, 1952 "Mom", Dad, twin girls, two boys and a babe-in-arms i.e. the Buscombe family, arrived at Canberra Railway Station and were driven to the (then) Hotel Acton (later the Institute of Aboriginal Studies), home for the next 6 weeks.

After Los Angeles, not only the country-side was new - no lake of course, and the heart of the National Capital stretched outside to east and west as river flats - outside the frontdoor.

The girls found foreign spelling too at Telopea Park School. Money was pounds, shillings and pence; and there were times that my father said he could not understand the ABC radio broadcasts of the news. We had meals in a formal dining room, and were served at table by a woman wearing a little cap and apron.

Exchanges of "where do you come from?" must have elicited "Queanbeyan", and not having either car or any real sense of the place, Andrew, the three year old, always referred to her as "the Queen Bee Anne". So she remained for all of us, and it was probably compounded by my mother reading to us from A. A. Milne: "*The King asked the Queen, and the Queen asked the Dairy-maid*", where the book no doubt offered pictures of the King in his crown and the Queen wearing a little cap.

I wonder who she was! And if her family knew she was royalty! I would say it was probably nearly a decade before any of us even visited Queanbeyan so it remained a person rather than a place (my

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father liked these little jokes); and also, no doubt, further associated with royalty after the Royal Tour in 1954 when we children were taken to the roadside to wave when HRH Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip drove by.

It was not the first time we "saw" royalty, as before we left the USA Queen Juliana of the Netherlands had visited Los Angeles. I am not sure who we actually saw when her car drove by, because we girls used to say "She was sitting on the floor reading comics and eating popcorn", perhaps an expression of what we would have been doing if we were queens.

When a next generation child, of similar age to Andrew, was to be treated to a visit from Queen Elizabeth II he expressed the wish for "a big, big, big, big picture of the 'Pween' - and I want her in a rocket"! Sad to say, he didn't get one.

As for myself, having fallen in love with the landscape, especially the mountains to the west, and having been landed, so to speak, in the house of royalty, namely the Institute of Aboriginal Studies, as it became, I secretly conferred Aboriginality upon myself. (We had had one genuine Aboriginal boy staying with us in our home, billeting a sportsman, but although I was reasonably competent at making conversation, having done a lot of babysitting, I was stumped most of the time as we were not a sporty family).

This dreamy notion, however, when naively expressed in a job application, had no real consequence (I did not get the job!). However I still believe in my heart I have been aboriginalized, but without various negative effects of many less fortunate than myself. I am probably at odds with some people who claim aboriginality. I do not do it in the census or in any official documentation. Would it be a good thing or a bad thing?

We are fortunate in having literature available which shows people's path to illumination of self! But what do kids understand about it anyway? I remember not quite a decade before the Bicentennial being involved with the education of children, and the difficulty we had in relating the place "Botany Bay" to Sydney. For country kids, some of whom had never been to Sydney, this is a real leap.

In primary school I was lucky enough to learn something about our explorers, but being somewhat puzzled why we learned so much about the middle ages, the Greeks and the Romans, etc. We actually learnt next to nothing about the USA in school.

Finally, I remember as a teenager hearing a lot about institutional (and church) homes, and asking repeatedly, "Why are there all these orphans?" I never got any answers. I knew we as a nation had sent troops to the second World War, but wasn't very aware of how many of these fighting men had died. I did not think about trauma. We knew nothing about kids being removed from their parents, being transported from Liverpool, etc.

I regard it as our duty to give some sort of truthful explanation of what went on in the past, even of the recent past, and not settle for the inadequate information sharing on any policy matters being executed by our government. This goes far beyond "civics" and is equally important. Questioning is the most important thing we can teach the young, and the skills to find answers.

Dawn Richardson

TUGGERANONG SCHOOL

1908

Can you help identify the children and help tell their stories?



Back Row l to r : Wilf Monk, Gallagher, Ken Gibbs, Darcy McGee, -----
 --, Evelyn Grady
 3rd Row, l to r: Mr Frank McGee, -----, Violet Monk, Gibbs, Kath
 McGee, Grady, Gallagher, Mrs Frank McGee
 2nd Row l to R: Peter Gallagher, Michael McGee, -----, Phil McGee,
 Irish Monk,-----
 Front Row, l to r, -----, McGee, -----, Mary McGee, Moran, Grady,
 Photo - Errol Lea Scarlett Collection

In 1908 a photographer came to Tuggeranong School. Near the water tank, on the north side of the brick schoolhouse and teacher's cottage, all twenty five students posed dutifully, the six at the back standing on one of the school's bench stools. Not one 'cracked a smile', nor did schoolmaster Frank McGee and his wife Mary Ann, who stood on either side of the group. But mystery surrounds this photo as seven children in the group are unidentified, most are identified only by their surnames, and at least two are wrongly named.

In the photo, apart from the six McGee children, (two year old Patrick is not in the photo), families represented are the three Monk children, Wilf, Violet and Iris (Irish), three Grady girls, possibly Evelyn and Mary, two Gibbs children, Ken and possibly Ellen Margaret, a couple of Moran girls and the Gallaghers, Peter, Michael with possibly Sars and Lawrence. Margaret maybe in the photo as well.

This photo is one of the few items remaining relating to the school building which is still standing after 134 years. Now surrounded by the Canberra suburb of Chisholm, the school and attached cottage has been a museum since 2011. Filled with close to 1000 items from my own collection of antiques and collectables I have tried to replicate the period when the photo was taken, so visitors can connect with these people and their life and times.

I am keen to identify all the children as I will draw each child, then write as much as I can about their lives, then laminate each story. Visitors will get a sense of these children, their community and the times they lived in. I have already completed such a project for the Hall School, from a 1918 photo, and the Ginninderra School, currently a restaurant and art gallery, from a 1905 photo.

For the Hall and Ginninderra projects I was greatly assisted by information in the late Lyall Gillespie's books, but so far, no one has

written much on the Tuggeranong families. However I know that many of the above mentioned are related to Queanbeyan families. The books by the late Rex Cross and the late Bert Sheedy have been very useful, but there are still many blanks. I am hoping descendants or friends of these families may be able to assist me in my quest. Strangely I have been greatly helped by a strange source – a copy of the Tuggeranong School Punishment Book. I was able to ascertain who was present in the school for that year. Sadly, the good kids are not mentioned!

Often, when the museum is open to the public, every second Sunday of each month, I hear laughter and gasps of disbelief coming from the classroom, as visitors discover the protocols of keeping order in the classroom, by reading the Punishment Book, (students ranged in age from 5 to 14). Many older visitors remember being kept in line by the use of the cane.

The Museum is 'hands on' and I have had the Punishment Book typed so young visitors can read what 'naughty' kids got up to in the past. They particularly like the little seven year old who kissed girls on the way home from school!

If some readers feel they would be able to help identify some of the Tuggeranong School children from 1908 please contact me on 61616383. Check my website www.historywithadifference.com.au and remember I am keen to open the Museum for visitors at any time. You never know, you may find a relative or friend in the Punishment Book!

Elizabeth Burness

THE FARMERS AND SETTLERS ASSOCIATION AND QUEANBEYAN'S JOHN GALE



John Gale, First President of the Free Selectors' Association Land Conference.
Photo 1927 from Canberra History & Legends, by John Gale

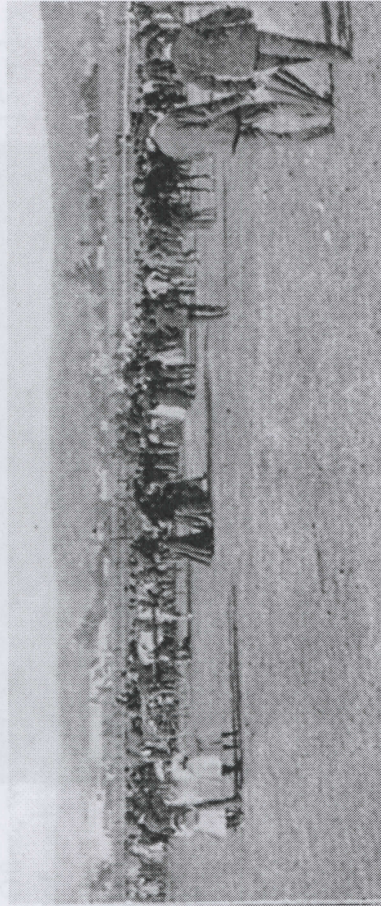
Queanbeyan citizens have influenced farmers and settlers throughout the life of the Colony of New South Wales. One significant person was William Farrer, and another was John Gale.

Farrer knew that on his work rested the stabilisation of an industry, the regeneration of a national economy. (1886-1906)

John Gale used his newspaper, The Golden Age, to express his concern over the need for land reform. By 1866 Gale had become a committee member of the Queanbeyan board of the 'Free Selectors Protective Association,' at a time when small land owners were

being invaded by squatters. Fencing and unofficial roads were cutting off paddocks and homesteads.

In 1872, John Gale also worked locally promoting Queanbeyan's Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Association (and its revived association in 1883.) Gale obtained a grant of 10 acres for the Queanbeyan showground, enabling Queanbeyan's first show to be held in 1890.



Queanbeyan Showground c 1900

By 1882, the Queanbeyan District Lands and Roads Association had been formed with John Gale, Leopold Fane de Salis and Thomas Rutledge, promoting free selection, and helping small settlers.

Finally, when delegates from the Free Selectors Association met at the Town Hall in Sydney in 1882, Queanbeyan's John Gale was elected their first president. The following year Gale suggested the advisability of farmers forming a central association to "continue watchfulness of the interests of Colonists in the matter of Land

Laws." Under Gale's presidency, from 1882- 1883, these land conferences progressed, with the aim of giving settlers a 'fair go.' Following Gale, the Rev Hall represented Queanbeyan.

By 1883, the group, begun under Gale's leadership, had a new name: 'The Farmers and Settlers Association of NSW.' Its first ten years of activity were mainly concerned with the land laws and preservation of land condition. In keeping with his concerns for land rights, Gale also became Vice-President of the NSW Law Reform Alliance in 1885.



Farmers Conference June 1892, Wagga Wagga NSW
Rev WH Hall represented Queanbeyan. Photo Curry Collection

By 1987, the organisation had become the 'NSW Farmers Association,' uniting with a myriad of other farmers organisations to form "a united front in a fairly hostile world." (Bailey 1957) to secure land reforms.

This association, begun by John Gale, a newspaperman, ultimately produced its own newspaper. 'The Land,' first appearing in 1911 as the voice of the Farmers and Settlers Association, continues to this day. The Association became the largest and oldest organisation of primary producers in the Commonwealth of Australia, and continues to represent the farmer's interest.

John Gale, a Queanbeyan resident, was an important instigator of the original association.

Rosemary Curry

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\$3677 -

NO CODDSWALLOP!

All over Australia bottle collectors rummaging through tip sites turn up glass bottles with strangely twisted necks and a marble inside, and even more often with broken twisted necks and no marble. What are they?

They are the answer to the question 'How can the fizz be kept in soda water?'

This vexed London-born Hiram Codd, and he solved it in 1872 when he patented the Codd bottle.

His clever design used the pressure of the carbon dioxide to push a marble against a washer in the neck of the bottle, and presto! The aerated drink remained fizzy.⁶



Dock Museum Teaching Collection

⁶ Antiques and Collectables, Issue 51, Winter 2014



Hiram Codd
1838 – 1887

Photo: J M Moyer

Codd took out a patent. Those manufacturers who wanted to use his invention had to pay a licence. Two years later he amended the licence to allow the manufacturers free use of the bottle as long they bought the marbles and sealing rings directly from him. Codd had two factories that produced only the marbles. In fact, the Codd marble became so highly prized, especially to young boys, that the bottles themselves were smashed just to get access to the marble. Hence the multitude of broken necked bottles that remain.

The bottles were expensive to produce, and Codd himself developed the idea of bottle exchanges. The selling agent charged a small fee, which was returned to the purchaser in exchange for the empty bottle. The bottles were then returned to the soft drink company, again for a fee. This practice led to the bottles being clearly marked with the soft drink company's name and location, and this practice has led to a world of collectable Codd bottles

Charlie Sacagio is a well known Queanbeyan name. He was of Italian/Swiss heritage, arrived in Australia in 1880, and Queanbeyan not long after. For many years his family moved between Queanbeyan, Cooma, Captains Flat and Braidwood. In those years Charlie dabbled in bootmaking (his trade), a bakery, charcoal burning, building and brickmaking. While in Braidwood Charlie, with his cousin Joseph Martena, embarked upon the venture of producing cordial drinks.



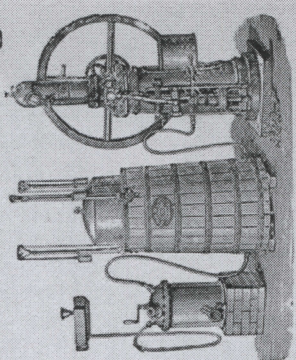
Charles Sacagio 1856-1940
Photograph: Sacagio Family

In 1909 Charlie and his family returned to Queanbeyan to a cottage in Surveyor Street and although already a bootmaker and baker he commenced a cordial factory there.

He advertised profusely in the *Queanbeyan Age*, declaring that his machinery was the most modern available. It is most likely that this was bought from the world renowned experts Barnett & Foster of London, who were the financial backers and partners of Hiram Codd and who also produced the twisted neck bottles. Although there were other manufacturers in England, Australian cordial Companies seem to have universally used Barnett & Foster.⁷ The machinery came as a package deal and would have included the famous Codd bottles and was undoubtedly sold through an Australian agency.

⁷ ibid

Soda Water and Ice Machinery
 Of the Highest Quality for Best Products Only.
BARNETT & FOSTER.
 9 GOLD MEDALS. 44 HIGHEST AWARDS.
A COMPLETE SODA WATER MACHINE.
 Including Bottling Apparatus, is supplied for £40 per set for producing 100 dozen Lemonade, Ginger Ale, &c., per day.
 New Illustrated Catalogue forwarded Free.
 No technical knowledge is required, as all information is given to purchasers of Machines.
25d, EAGLE WHARF ROAD, LONDON, W.
 Indian Agents—SAML. FITZE & CO., Bombay, Calcutta and Kurrachi.



Cordial making doesn't seem to have been one of Charlie's great successes. He advertised frantically in 1909 from his Surveyor Street business, and then again in 1914 from Trinculo Place where he had bought the Union Hotel and operated the cordial business from a building behind it. Perhaps the war caused a downturn in trade, but whatever the reason the Charles Sacagio Cordial Company disappeared, and with it, most of his Codd bottles and many a small boys supply of glass marbles.

However, one Charles Sacagio Cordial Bottle has found a place in fame. On eBay Australia, April 28th, 2012 there appeared an item:

This auction is for an antique Australian 13oz codd bottle with marble. A rare embossed example from C. Sacagio Aerated Waters Queanbeyan, with hand shake trade mark.

The seller noted: *I can see two flea chips on the inner rim of lip, a few around the base, also the letter M? scratched into the base, a few tiny chips on the lettering, and one nasty scale chip on the front shoulder. Overall in very good condition and a worthy addition to any discerning collection.*

The bidding began on April 21, at 99cents and ended one week later at \$3677.00!

And that, Dear Reader, is definitely not Codswallop!

Gillian Kelly

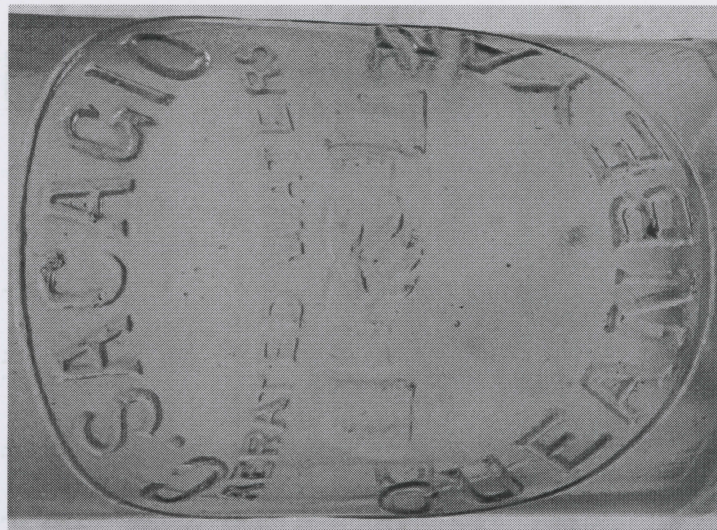
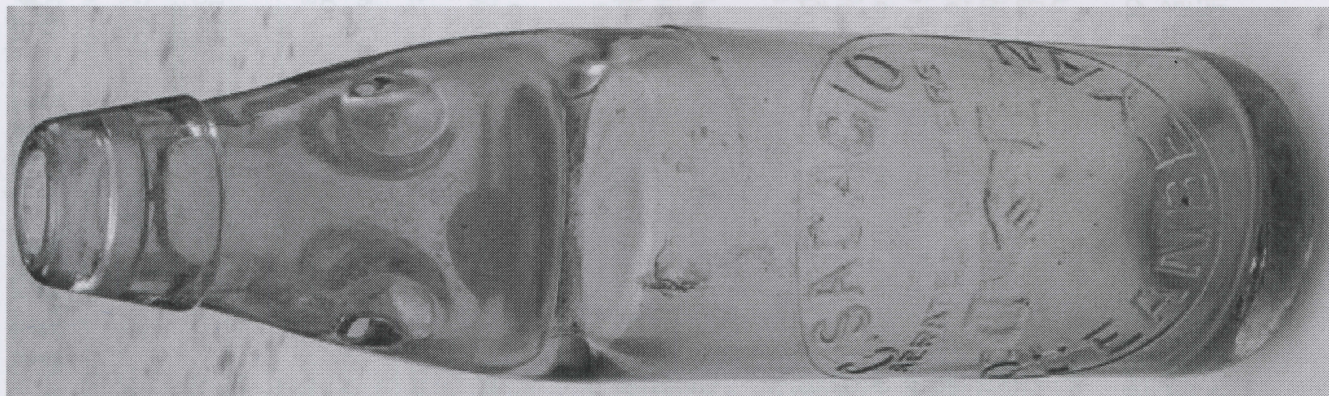
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eBay



QUEANBEYAN IN 1831

In 1870 the Commissioners for the Intercolonial Exhibition, to be held in Melbourne, wrote to every newspaper in the country requesting that a copy of their paper for the 7th August be sent to them.

Further, it was requested that each editor inserted an article, either statistical or descriptive, about their town with these articles eventually being bound into books.

The article written about Queanbeyan was so well received that it was reprinted several times, and was a descriptive piece about the town and district since 1831 on:

FIFTY years ago, or less, this portion of the County of Murray included in the Police District of Queanbeyan - in the aboriginal dialect pronounced Queën-beën - was known to few or none of, the white population of the infant penal colony of New South Wales.

Tribes of Australian blacks roamed and hunted in the forests, and fished in the rivers, for that food which a luxuriant district and temperate climate bountifully supplied. Of the comparatively few freemen in the colony, enterprising hands, urging their way into the far interior in quest of new country fit for occupation, discovered the rich river flats and well-grassed plains which here abound; and whilst some pushed their fortunes farther south to the more extensive but more elevated plains of Monaro, pioneer squatters began to settle in the neighbourhood of Queanbeyan.

Of the hand who first intruded here for the purpose of occupying the virgin lands, stand foremost the names of Balcombe, Bowen, Brooks, Campbell, Guise, Hosking, Mowatt, Murray, Packer, Palmer, and others;

but one or two of whom, or their children, remain in the district as owners and occupiers of these first Crown grants. The County of Murray was named after one of these pioneer settlers - the late Sir Terence Aubrey Murray, president of the Legislative Council.

For some time after its first occupation the district was purely rural; pastoral and agricultural pursuits alone were followed; and not an embryo town or village was in existence. Amongst the first occupied spots were the following (we place them alphabetically, and not in chronological order, as we did also the names of the first settlers): Bungendore Plains, by Mr Brooks; Duntroon, by Mr Campbell, father of the present proprietor; Gininderra, by Mr Palmer, (father of Messrs G. T. and P. C. Palmer); Gundaroo, by Messrs Guise and Packer; Molonglo Plains, by Messrs Balcombe, Bowen, and Hosking; and Woden and Yarralumla, by Mr Murray.

The remainder of the district was for a time undisturbed and unclaimed by the white intruder. Except a few owners and overseers, the station occupants were bondsmen in penal servitude, and in some instances still subjected to the worst phases of the tyranny of the times.

This state of things continued up to 1835, when a free population began to be introduced into the district as immigrant servants, and thus came to possess themselves of such choice lands as still remained unclaimed.

An eye-witness still amongst us, says that in 1831 the present site of the thriving town of Queanbeyan was almost uninhabited bush. There were two dwellings - one (a black smith's shop) somewhere below the present Elmsall Inn, on a spot now occupied by the river bed, and another - at what is now known as Irishtown.

In place of the present fine river with its colossal bridge, a trickling creek meandered through the flat, the main stream diverging through what is now Mr S. Walker's garden, and flowing between where Mr George Hunt's

Inn and St. Gregory's Church now stand, its bed being at the pre- sent time covered by 20 feet of drift, on which stand several dwelling-houses, &c , whilst a smaller branch, over whose grassy slopes the water only flowed when there was a freshet, ran where now is scooped out the great channel of our fine Queanbeyan River. So small was the main channel, that a lady, still living in the district, at that time frequently skipped over its waters from bank to bank without wetting the soles of her feet.

The nucleus of the township soon after this sprang up. The only thoroughfare through the site of the present town was a bush track leading to Monaro which went out on to the present Cooma road through what is now the garden attached to the Age office.

At first a Jew built a store which continued to do bus- ness near Mr Isaac Burton's present residence. Shortly after that, the fine old house known as The Oaks, and at present occupied by Mr J. B. Thompson, surveyor, was built and opened or a public house and store by Messrs W. Hunt of the Elmsall Inn, and Joseph Kaye of Canberra. That homestead, at pre sent so secluded, was at that time on the main thoroughfare, and was approached by means of a ford below the house which; a recent flood has destroyed.

Other buildings for business purposes and private residences sprang up on the township. Mr Gray, (afterwards long known to travellers in the, good old coaching days as the keeper of an hotel on the Sydney road below Bargo Brush at Myrtle Creek) being one of the earliest storekeepers, whose business was conducted where Mr Land has his public house. In 1849, Mr. J. J. Wright, at present the principal merchant in the district and member of Parliament for Queanbeyan, commenced business in a very small way, and about the same time Mr W. Hunt (who, with the late Mr John Hunt, snr., and Mr George Hunt, had inns in Queanbeyan) and Mr M Byrne, began to erect those fine premises known as the Commercial Bank and the Royal Hotel. (to be concluded)

Queanbeyan Age August 18, 1875

