

QUEANBEAN

Volume 8 No 1
April 2015



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

*The Journal of
Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society*

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.

Our Cover

His Majesty's Australian Transport A 71, Nestor, with troops bound for France, being farewelled from Melbourne on February 23rd, 1918. On board was Pte Herbert William Robertson of Queanbeyan, about to embark on his second tour of duty, having been wounded at Gallipoli in 1915. See *A Letter Home*, p 14

Photograph: AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

QUINBEAN

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Already 2015 has been a busy year for the Society, with a full Calendar of Events for 2015 planned. The Management Committee has had two planning meetings, one with the Queanbeyan City Council staff and interested members. There has been a very successful members' get-together with historical discussion on railways led by Marilyn and Nancy and more planned, with the next one on historic buildings of Queanbeyan on 31 May.

We have been getting ready for the Heritage Festival in April, including our open day at the Museum on the 18th, when the QCC will present the Heritage Awards and Jason and Chloe Roweth will give a concert *The Riderless Horse - An Australian Impression of WW1 in Song*. (Thanks to an ANZAC Centenary Local Grant).

On 2 May Nicole Overall has given us the opportunity to go on one of her *Mysterious Queanbeyan* walks with a members' discount and the next day, May 3, Col McAlister is doing another Kowen Forest historical tour.

In the midst of all this planning and preparation the describing and cataloguing of the Land Collection has been going on. This is a donation from one of the notable Queanbeyan families with lots of interesting objects. Two objects have been lent to QCC for display in the Council Chambers. Museum Assistant Ximena Briceno has also been successful in gaining an Internship at the Powerhouse Museum in June.

We have had a Weekend Openers afternoon, recruiting four more volunteers to staff the Museum on weekends. All were very enthusiastic. Of course we could always do with more so don't hesitate to contact me about this or any other museum matter on mcglynn_john@hotmail.com or 6297 2730h.

Hope to see you at one of our events.

John McGlynn
President

FROM THE EDITOR

Good oral histories are works of art! The interviewer takes care to decide what is needed from the interview and designs questions that will head the speaker in that direction. The conversations are taped and then transcribed without any alteration or deletions at all. What eventuates is often a reflection of the personality of the one being interviewed, and this is much the case in the oral histories Queanbeyan Museum owns.

In the 1970s Bert Sheedy in particular interviewed dozens of folk from the district. They were initially transcribed to text in the days of typewriters and headphones, but for some, converting the spoken word to text didn't occur until the early 2000s. Through all of them shines the passionate memories of this district.

To convey these memories to a reader then becomes an editorial problem. Does one simply convert them to a list of facts, or does one attempt to keep the atmosphere of the interview intact?

For the purpose of *Quinbean*, a journal that tries to record the history of the place as it was, it seems important to allow the characters to shine through.

For this reason this editor chooses to treat some of Bert's transcripts exactly as they were spoken – and so they appear a little like scripts for a play. Please enjoy part of the meeting between Mrs Elizabeth Jordan, her daughter, Mrs Dorrie Arneson, and son-in-law, Mr Dick Arneson recorded forty years ago at 1 Symonds-street Queanbeyan 3 September 1975. (p28)

Gillian Kelly
Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I refer to your article in the September 2014 edition of *Quinbean* about the Benevolent Society and the postcard showing Queanbeyan's first hospital in Irish Town. You suggested that 'Rosaline' was Rosanna Meech (nee Blundell) but it was probably her niece, Sarah Rosaline Blundell.

Rosaline Blundell was one of eight surviving children of Isaac Blundell and his wife Emily. Isaac Blundell married Emily Shumack (a sister of Samuel Shumack) in 1882 and they lived on his selection (Portion 104, Parish of Yarrolumla) of around 140 acres on the banks of the Molonglo River opposite Misery Point. The site is now part of the new suburb of Coombs. Rosaline, their third daughter, was born on 22 August 1896. Their eldest daughter Susan (probably the recipient of the postcard) was born on 21 April 1891 and married Joseph Cleary in Paddington on 3 February 1913. As the postcard is addressed to 'Miss S. Blundell', this would date it to early 1913 at the latest.

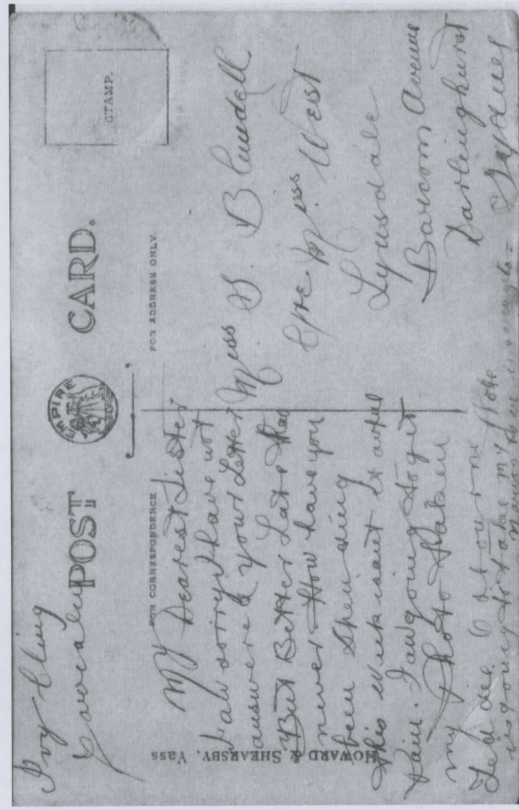
Isaac Blundell died on 9 May 1910 and the property was resumed by the Commonwealth. By July 1913 Emily Blundell, who was entitled to only a third of her husband's estate, had bought a house in Queanbeyan. She died on 25 March 1927. Both Isaac and Emily Blundell are buried in St. John's churchyard in Reid.

The postcard was produced by Charles Norman Howard and Alfred James Shearsby, commercial photographers in Yass. The Yass and District Historical Society hold a number of their photographic negatives, possibly including 'The Old Hospital Queanbeyan'. Shearsby was probably the photographer and in the period 1911 to 1920 the partners produced a series of postcards of the Canberra/

Queanbeyan area (believed to be total 132 in all) usually numbered and marked with "H&S" in the bottom corner. This fits the timeline for Rosaline Blundell to have purchased the postcard.

Possibly Rosaline was living with her aunt at 'Ivy Cling' when she wrote the postcard, either visiting or staying there perhaps over Christmas. She married Queanbeyan tailor and bandmaster Jack Burn, after he returned from the war, in January 1920 at St Gregory's in Queanbeyan. Rosaline died from meningitis in Sydney on 3 February 1929 and was buried in the Catholic portion of Queanbeyan Cemetery. Susan died on 12 September 1978.

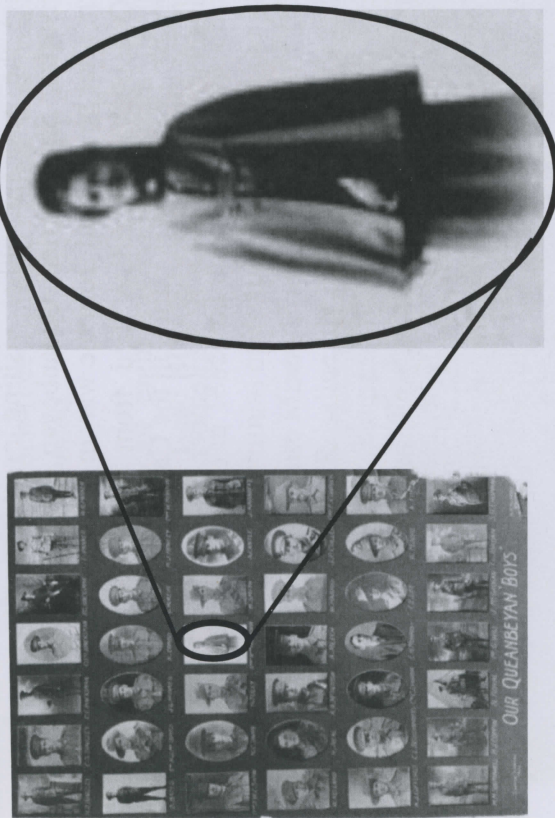
Michael Hall



Thank you Michael. This analysis and family knowledge is absolutely correct, and readers can trust that the author of the postcard was indeed Rosaline Blundell. Editor

STAFF NURSE FRANCES ALICE ROBINSON

MATRON QUEANBEYAN HOSPITAL 1913-1915



In the centre of the World War 1 postcard poster 'Our Queanbeyan Boys' there is shadowy photograph of a lone woman: Staff Nurse Robinson.¹

From her records we know she was small of stature with brown eyes, dark hair and an olive complexion.² As a nursing sister she was said to have a..... quiet, unassuming and gentle demeanour, and the faithful mannerthat endeared you to all, and specially so to the patients under your care from the first, all of whom, without exception, have been profuse in their praises of 'your ability and skill as a nurse, and

¹ Our Queanbeyan Boys, Postcard Howard & Shearsby, Yass, c 1916

² National Archives of Australia: B2455, Robinson F A

*for your untiring efforts both night and day in soothing their sufferings and attention to them in their time of need. Outside these, your naturally kind and sympathetic deportment, together with your modesty and gentleness in your every day life, have gained for you a popularity which will long be remembered here.*³

Staff Nurse Robinson was Frances Alice Robinson, born at Pompaniel near Bendigo and always known as Alice. She followed two older sisters into a nursing career and trained as a nurse at Bendigo, nursed at Warrnambool, was matron of Jerilderie Hospital by 1909 and on February 13th, 1913 she arrived in Queanbeyan to take up her appointment as matron of the hospital, with the reputation of being a good shot.

The latter is undoubtedly a reflection of her farm upbringing.

The outbreak of the war inspired Alice to follow the example of her older sister Kate who was a Boer War veteran and served throughout the theatres of war in WW1. On the 13th of October 1915 Alice sat her entrance examinations at Sydney for a position as a staff nurse with the Australian Imperial Forces and was appointed into the AIF on November 3rd, 1915. On the 10th of November 1915, Alice left Sydney on board the



Staff Nurse Robinson, c 1916

³ Queanbeyan Age, 28 August 1914, p 2

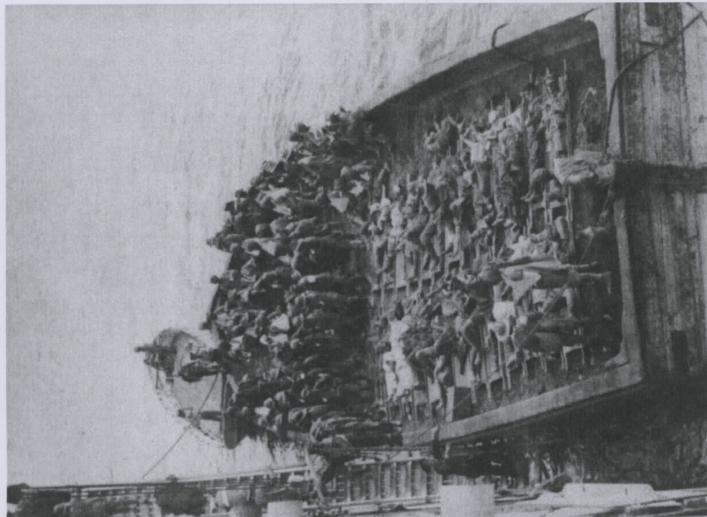
Orsova arriving at Ghezireh, Egypt on the 8th of December to commence duties with the No. 2 Australia General Hospital. There were hundreds of patients in forty five wards. As well as wounded Australian soldiers, some of whom were almost cut to pieces, there were crowds of medical cases, mainly British troops with dysentery, jaundice and typhoid.⁴ Ghezirah was a palace on an island in the Nile converted to a hospital – originally the No 2 AGH had been established at Mena House but within a few months casualties from Gallipoli made necessary the preparation of a second hospital at Ghezireh Palace; the two hospitals had a total of 1500 beds.



Ghezirah Hospital with additional tent space, c 1916
Photographer David Izzard

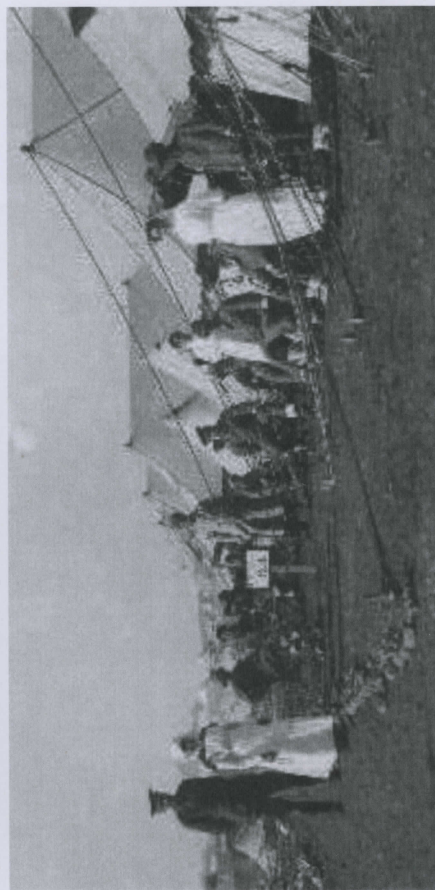
While there is no record of her departure from Cairo, on January 22nd 1916 Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Officer Robertson⁵ recorded that Alice had reported back from Lemnos⁶, a Greek island in the Mediterranean only 50 miles from Gallipoli and used as the first base for the medical care for Gallipoli soldiers. Robertson failed

⁴ Letter from Staff Nurse Lyla Stewart to her mother Jan 7, 1916. East Melbourne Historical Society
⁵ Probably Major James Robertson Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Officer
⁶ NAA: B2455



to say exactly when Alice left or returned, but either she did a tour of duty on the island with reinforcement nurses from Ghezireh, or she worked on a hospital ship nursing the wounded as they were evacuated to Egypt for care.

Evacuating the wounded from Gallipoli from a barge alongside the ship Gascon.
Photograph Australian War Memorial AO2740



Tent hospital on Lemnos 1916 Photographer A W Savage, Lemnos

By February 1916 Alice was posted to Choubrah, still in Cairo, but to the Military Hospital for infectious diseases. This had been an Austro-Hungarian private hospital with some 400 beds and treated

diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid, dysentery, mumps and measles with considerable success. Five months later she was moved again, still in Cairo, this time to the No 3 AGH at Abbassia. This was a staging hospital for the sick and wounded who had been shipped in from Lemnos.

As soon as it was decided to return patients to Australia in addition to those sent to England, Cyprus, or convalescent hospitals in Egypt, a system was developed in order to provide the necessary staff and equipment on ships. Great efforts were made to secure purpose-built Hospital ships, but in the early days the service was created by using the empty Transport ships and collecting staff from Egypt. The ship first unloaded its cargo of reinforcement troops and munitions at Dardanelle, then returned to Alexandria packed with the wounded, then it might be cleaned and refitted, provided with drugs, surgical appliances and Red Cross stores and staffed from the Australian medical staff in Egypt.

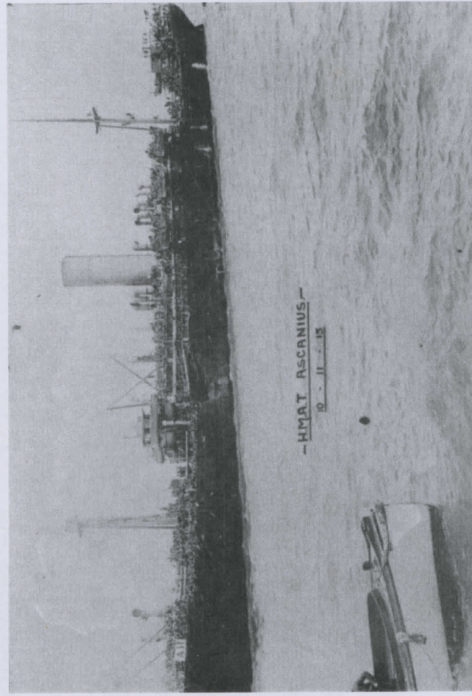
In this climate, on September 1st 1916 Alice found herself on orders to take up nursing duties on the *Ascanius* bound for Australia via the Suez Canal. An official letter from Army headquarters notified her father in Victoria that she was on a ship that had departed but for security reasons they were unable to impart any further information.⁷ James Barrett commented 'There is no more dangerous branch of medical service than the transport of sick and wounded over the ocean, since there are so many possibilities of disaster.'⁸

The *Ascanius* arrived in Sydney on October 1st, 1916 and after two weeks leave Frances worked at the Garrison Hospital until she again

⁷ National Archives of Australia: B2455, Robinson F A

⁸ Barrett JW & Dean PE *The Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt. An Illustrated and Detailed Account of the Earl Organisation and Work of the Australian Medical Units in Egypt in 1914-1915* p67

returned to Europe on the *HMT Benalla*, on duty, destination London. Hospital ship nursing dominated her career for the remainder of the war. Arriving in London on January 10th 1917 she had two weeks leave before returning to the No 3 AGH at Brighton. In March she was posted back to the No 2 AGH at Southall where she had the first recorded indications of the illness that would later see her deemed as being unfit for service.



Ascanius
AWM PBO127

From April 2nd to July 18th 1917 she was posted to the No 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford then joined the *Eripides* for the eight week voyage. The *Eripides* was a huge floating hospital with over 1100 soldiers returning home.

One patient, Gunner Tarlinton, was on this voyage and recorded that medical cases seemed to receive preferment over wounded cases in being sent back to Australia, and the fact caused much comment amongst the men. Through the ravages of the winter pneumonia,

pleurisy, rheumatism, meningitis and gastritis abounded. He noted Australians were always jolly and bright under all circumstances, and this characteristic made them very popular in England.⁹

Alice's last voyage to Europe was commenced on November 9th 1917. She accompanied the *Demosthenes* to Glasgow, Scotland arriving on December 31st. This voyage was via the Panama Canal and after passing through the Atlantic fogs, which were particularly dense, on approaching the Irish coast and entering the sub-marine danger zone, all had to wear life-belts.¹⁰

Alice returned to the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Southall but by early January she was really ill with acute Cholecystitis, or gall bladder complications. She remained on sick leave until she was repatriated, this time as a patient, on the *Euripodes*, at the end of January. She reached Australian soil on March 21, 1918 and was discharged as medically unfit on September 21st 1918, six weeks before the end of the war.

In recognition of her services, Staff Nurse Frances Alice Robinson, one time Matron of Queanbeyan Hospital, was awarded the 1914/1915 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



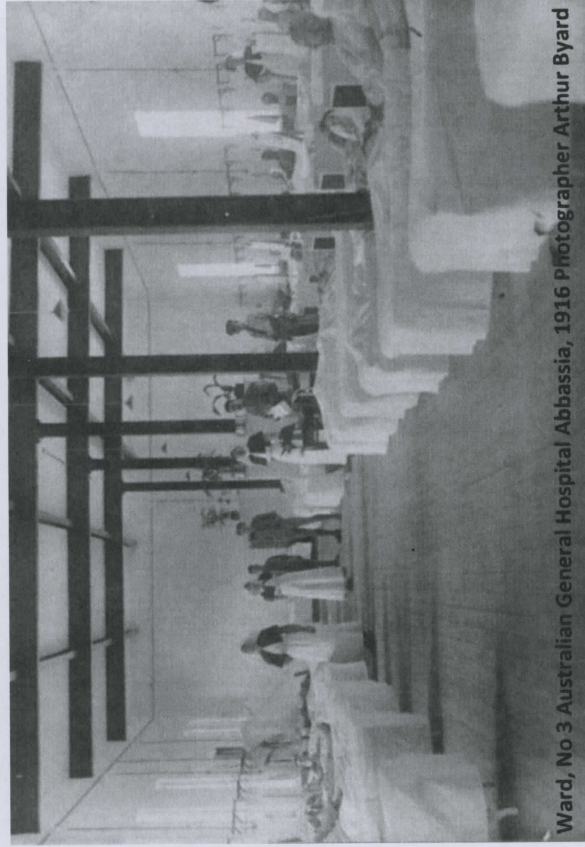
⁹ Southern Starr, Bega October 31, 1917

¹⁰ Gunner Allan Cooper, Flemington Presbyterian Church from Empire Call

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- The Queanbeyan Age 1913-1917
- Southern Star, Bega 1917
- Album The 3rd General Hospital at Lemnos photos taken by AW Savage 1915-1917**
- Australian War Memorial Photographic Collection
- National Archives of Australia, **papers pertaining**

Gillian Kelly



Ward, No 3 Australian General Hospital Abbassia, 1916 Photographer Arthur Byard

A LETTER HOME

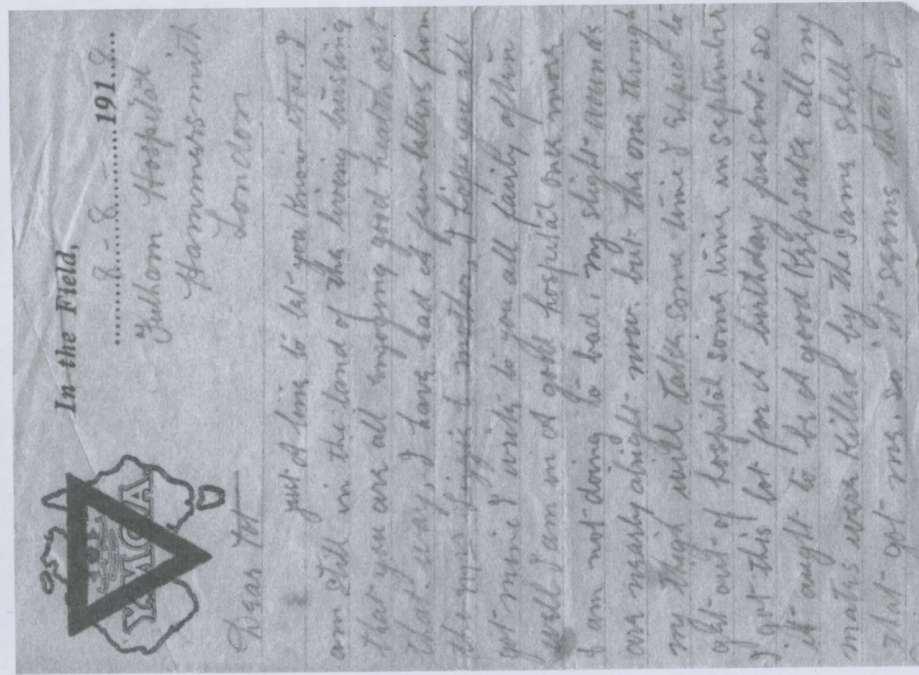
Private Herbert William Robertson was born in Queanbeyan in 1882, the son of John & Rebecca Robertson. In March 1915 he enlisted, joining the 17th Battalion, AIF. He reached Gallipoli just in time for the August offensive, and after receiving severe gunshot wounds to his left arm, was evacuated to Lemnos, then to the King George Hospital in England and eventually repatriated home in the December of 1915. In August 1916 he was discharged as medically



unfit.

Five months later Herbert re-enlisted, married Elizabeth Stobbs, and was recommended for home services, but he returned to the battle zones. Dwindling enlistments and a desperate need for reinforcements probably allowed this to happen and this time to France, fighting around Amiens and Mount St Quentin. Again he was wounded, with a severe injury to his buttocks and thigh, and gas damage. He was invalided back to England to the Fulham Hospital in Hammersmith, London and while there wrote to his sister Tot

Tent lines, 3rd Australian General Hospital, Lemnos 1915. Australian War Memorial



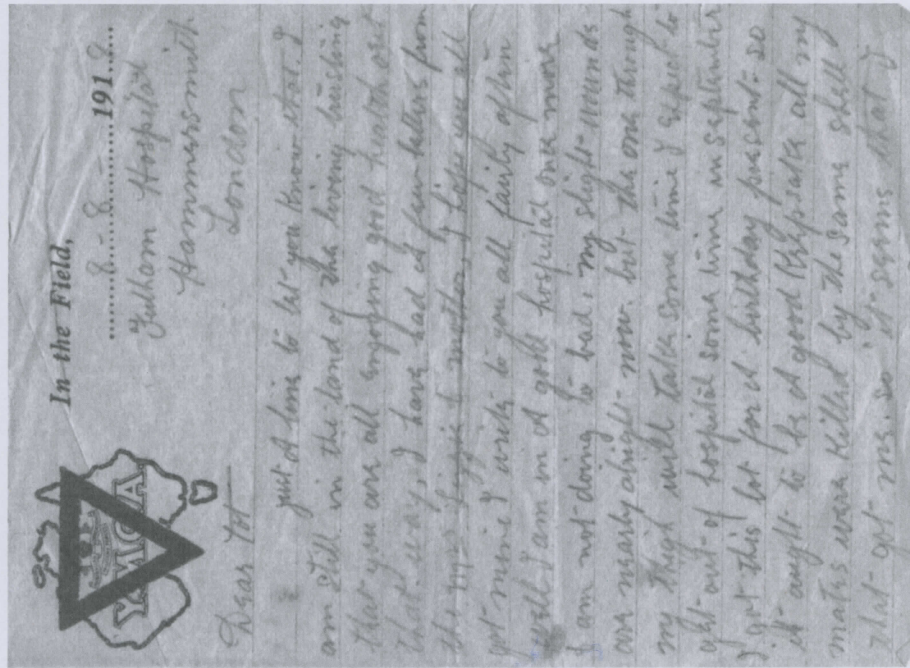
8-8-1918

Dear Tot,

Just a note to let you know that I am still in the land of the living. Trusting that you are all enjoying good health out that way I have a few letters from the Missus, Lizzie and Mother. I hope you all get mine, I wrote to you all fairly often. Well I'm in a good hospital once more, I'm not doing too bad. My slight wounds are nearly all right now, but the one through my thigh will take some time. I expect to get

out of hospital sometime in September. I got this lot for a Birthday present, so it ought to be some keepsake. All my mates were killed by the same shell that got me. So it seems I was the lucky one. Well if I have any luck I may get back to Australia again, it won't be for the want of trying, any how I'm glad I came again, I would not miss France for a thousand pounds. Well there is not much to tell, but I will drop a few lines from time to time, so trusting this finds you all in the best of health I will now conclude with best wishes from your fond brother

7117 Pte H W Robertson 21st, 19 Btm-5th Brigade, A I Force abroad.



RECORDS:

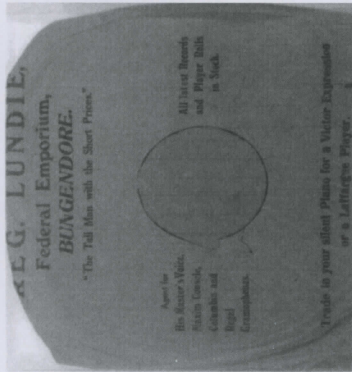
OUR 78 S

A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

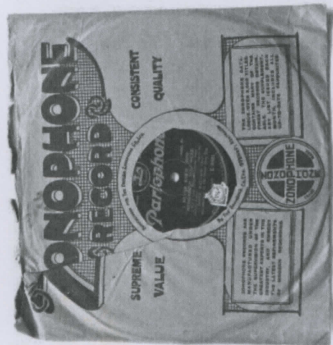


I have been working on packaging and photographing a collection comprising 35 78-rpm shellac discs, which will be featured on the 45 *Pieces of Queanbeyan* online exhibition along with a portable gramophone. The collection was donated by Muriel Hasler and played by a local family who were descendants of Blewitts of Lobb Hole. There is one cover proudly promoting: REG. LUNDIE, Federal Emporium, *BUNGENDORE*. "The Tall man with the Short Prices." Photographing this record collection made me reflect on the progress of sound technology. As today we tend to store music in the cloud purchased virtually from iTunes, a single track or a whole set, and listen to it in a small portable device, a computer, tablet or phone.

This particular 78-rpm collection provides us a glimpse of music played and danced to in Queanbeyan during the 1920s. Tracks such as *A Thousand Miles from Here*, 1924 played by Carl Fenton's Orchestra or *Hi, Ho the Merrio*, 1926 by Irving Aaronson, describes the musical zeitgeist of the 1920s, the first one with dark lyrics yet in a bright tune, and the second one describing a man being happy and in love.



Whether this music was limited to private households I tend to think the fox trot was the hip-hop of its generation, loud, edgy and fashionable forward, after all it became popular and fashionable across the world after the first Great War. Most of the 78s in this collection were produced by Regal, Brunswick, Parlophone, Zonophone and Columbia records.



The 78s are 10 inches or 25 cms in diameter and double sided containing only two tracks. Each track lasts approximately 3 minutes 45 seconds. Advertising slogans as 'Surface smooth as glass' or 'His Masters Voice' or 'Two Good Selections on Every Brunswick Record' were catchy phrases companies used to advertise these.



As a note of interest, all these 78s have a miniature royalty stamp glued on to the record's label. This stamp reflects the royalties paid to the artists by the record companies.

Ximena Briceno
Museum Cataloguer & Assistant

THE ELMSALL INN

THE SITE FOR THE TOWNSHIP of Queanbeyan was chosen because it was at a cross roads of traffic from the north to the Limestone Plains and the Monaro and had a good river ford. When Surveyor Larmer drew up his plans in 1838, he had only two establishments on squatted land to deal with – that of Skeate, a blacksmith on the eastern bank, and the property which included a store, of Buckley and Hirst on the southern side.

There were key players in these early days – Henry Buckley, William Hirst, Joseph Kaye, George and Emma Rowley and William Hunt. They were all from Yorkshire. Hirst and Kaye were on the same ship¹¹ and William Klensendorlffe from the Limestone plains was a fellow passenger.¹² William Hunt was Emma Rowley's brother.

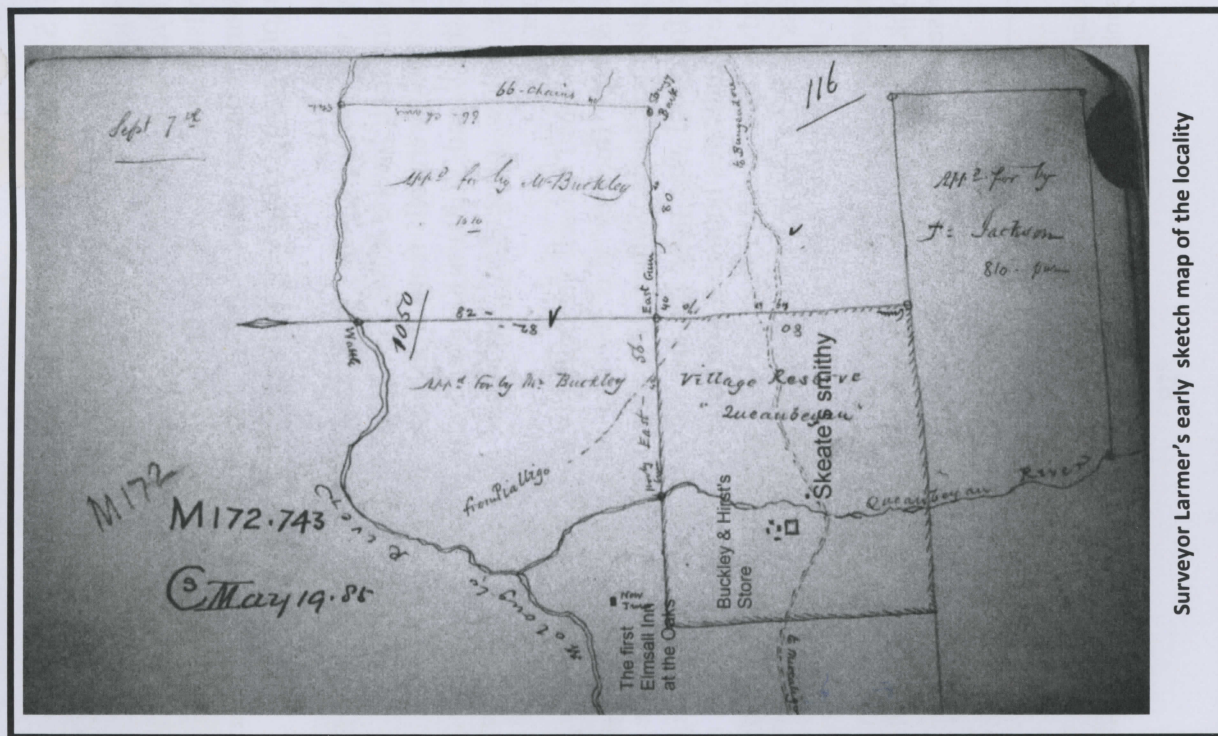
Hirst established himself very quickly as a draper, trading as William Hirst & Co; Buckley was the son of a wool manufacturer. An advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald warning people that the price for wool was poor because of a drop in demand, signed by Buckley, indicates he was a wool broker. Rowley was also a draper and advertised in 1835 that he was moving his business to a new address at York House, 58 George Street Sydney.

Klensendorlffe was interestingly, an inn keeper at Tahmoor, before he took up land on the Limestone Plains in 1829. His role in the story seems to have been one of influence – perhaps encouraging

¹¹ The Sarah

¹² Queanbeyan Pioneers, p 68

young Joseph Kaye to dabble in hostelry. All of these men and their families played important roles in the very beginnings of the Village Reserve called Queanbeyan.



Surveyor Larmer's early sketch map of the locality

While Hirst established his Sydney business, Buckley explored the potential of the newly opening lands in the Limestone Plains and beyond. He formed a partnership with Hirst, and together they employed Joseph Kaye to manage parts of their enterprises. This bought Kaye to the Queanbeyan district in 1836.¹³ Buckley and Hirst then opened the store above the river on the southern bank where it sat when Larmer drew up his plans.

When Magistrate Faunce and Chief Constable Patrick Kinsela arrived to dispense law in 1838, Buckley & Hirst's became a frequent target for the illicit sales of alcohol, the store was on land they didn't own and the blocks were about to go on sale, opening up the certainty of competition. They sold their store to John Gray in 1838, despite not owning the land. Buckley moved around the Queanbeyan, Limestone Plains and Maneroo districts and Hirst remained in Sydney, but bought and sold land in the township of Queanbeyan.

Joseph Kaye was still in the district and saw opportunity. With William Hunt he formed a partnership to take up a publican's licence to open an inn and store. There was only one substantial building in the immediate area and that was a house built by Chalmers Campbell just outside the designated Village Reserve.¹⁴ It was near where the tracks from Gundaroo and the Limestone plains converged, leading down to the tracks from Bungendore and to the Monaro, with a good flow of traffic.

They named the enterprise the *Elmsall Inn* and store after the Rowley family's birthplace in Yorkshire. This perhaps would

¹³ Oral history Christine Anderson, descendant

¹⁴ Now known as The Oaks

indicate that there was financial backing from William Hunt's side of the partnership.



The Oakes, built c 1836 became the first Elmsall Inn
Photograph Paul Batista 2015

Meantime George and Emma Rowley were from Fishlake Doncaster. George probably arrived about 1829 but Emma and their daughter arrived per the *John Craig* at the end of 1832. They opened a drapery store in George Street in Sydney, and it wasn't long before Emma's brothers William, John and later George Hunt all followed.

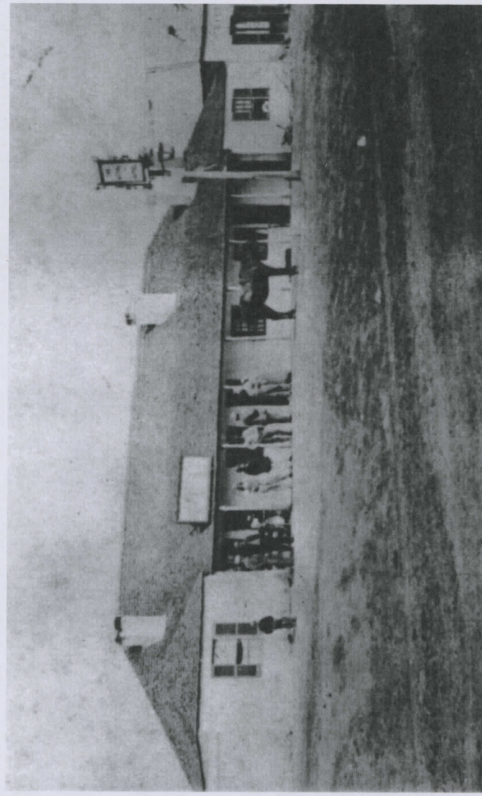
So now there were George Rowley and William Hirst both drapers in Sydney, William Hirst in partnership with Henry Buckley the wool merchant, and Joseph Kaye working for them, the Hunt brothers working with the Rowleys and all interested in the land near the Limestone Plains.

In July 1839 the first advertisements for the village of Queanbeyan appeared in the Government Gazette. Most of the land facing Maneroo¹⁵ Street on the eastern side from the Crawford Street corner

¹⁵ Now Monaro Street

to the river was purchased in the names of Emma Rowley and William Hirst.¹⁶

By the end of 1840 a substantial building had been constructed on Lot 15, Section 7 - Emma's land. It was single storeyed, and set a little back from Maneroo Street which was a meer track, and opposite Wright's Post Office Store. By the beginning of 1841 Hunt and Kaye had moved their *Elmsall Inn* and store from *The Oaks* to this establishment, and brought the name *Elmsall* with them.¹⁷



Originally the *Elmsall Inn*, built in 1840. Later to become the *Doncaster*.
Photographer Beaufov Merlin 1870

While John Hunt ran the store¹⁸, the Inn was in the hands of Hunt and Kaye and they were operating from that site by December 1840.

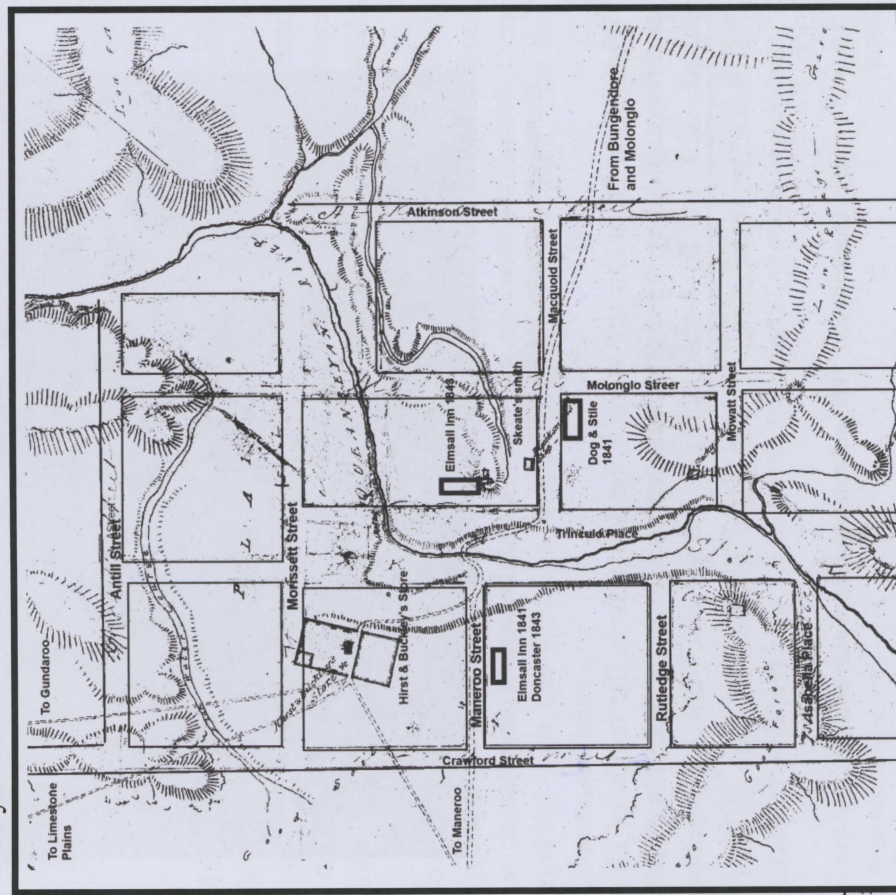
¹⁶ Section 7, Lots 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19; NSW Government Gazette July 1839

¹⁷ Queanbeyan Observer 23 April 1895, Guard Book 7, Errol Lea Scarlett Collection QCC

¹⁸ Briand's map of Queanbeyan, 1860 indicates the store was at the rear of the hotel.

The Court records for that period clearly show that Hunt and Kaye were the publicans. Patrick Kinsella, Chief Constable, in trying to clean up the drunken element in the town was making his presence felt.

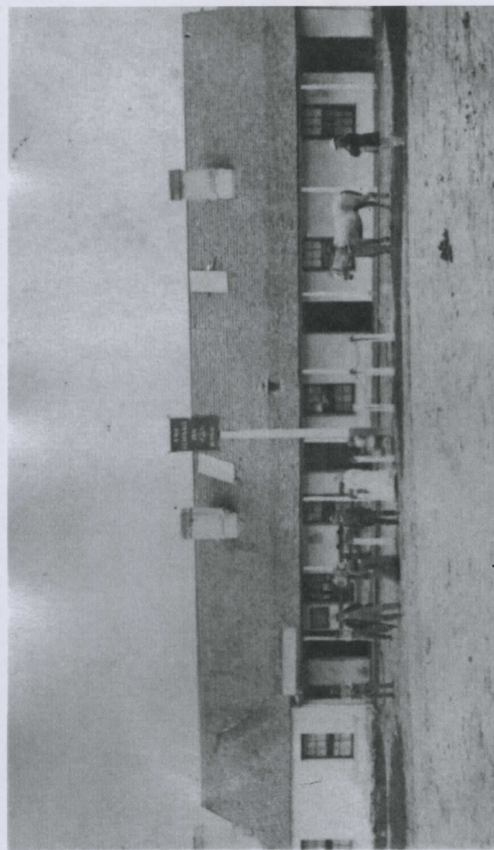
In late 1840 Kinsella reported to the court that a felon, Sisson had tried to prevent an arrest at the Inn in the town, and with the assistance of Kaye the Innkeeper, he was overcome.¹⁹ In the February of 1842 a deponent swore in Court that a lifer, William Billingsley, was found under the verandah of the Inn in town because Mr Kaye had turned him out.



Surveyor Larmer's first sketch map of village layout 1838, with overlay to show features more clearly, and to indicate the village c 1841

This *Elmsall* was relatively small and in late 1841 when the land on the Eastern side of the river was advertised, Hunt and Kaye, and Emma Rowley again purchased several blocks. Hunt and Kaye's main objectives were the two lots directly opposite the end of Monaro Street and once successful they immediately began to build their ultimate *Elmsall Inn*. By March 1842 it was well underway with builders able to use it as their home as well as a worksite. It was reported to the Court that John Devlin and plasterer Patrick Hendrick, had stolen clothing from carpenter John Dacey and John Connelly – all were lodging at the new building of Hunt and Kayes which was always open and anyone could come and go as they pleased.²⁰

It was over a year before the new *Elmsall* was ready. On April 18, 1843 John Hunt took out a Publican's licence for the Monaro Street Inn, renaming it the Doncaster. Hunt and Kaye's licence remained with them at the *Elmsall*, now across the river. They advertised widely in newspapers:



The Elmsall Inn, Trinculo Place, 1870 Photographer Merlin Beaufoy

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

MESSRS HUNT AND KAYE, Publicans of the Elmsall Inn, Queenbeyan(sic), take this opportunity of returning thanks to their numerous friends and the public in general, for the kind and extensive support they have received for the last five years and also to inform them, that they have removed their business from Maneroo-street, into their new and spacious premises on the Molonglo side of the Queenbeean(sic) river where they hope by the same attention to the comforts of the public at large, a continuance of the favours so liberally bestowed upon them.

In addition to the stock generally kept by Messrs Hunt and Kaye they have lately made large purchases of Spirits Wines, and Malt Liquors, of the most approved qualities, and the premises they now occupy being more extensive than those they have left, they are enabled to give such accommodation to families and parties travelling, that cannot be surpassed by any innkeeper from Sydney to Maneroo.

Their Stabling is conducted by most expert grooms, and constant supply of provender kept by them of various descriptions will be found to give entire satisfaction. H and K have an advantage over other innkeepers by growing their own corn hay, and oats, all of which are supplied to horses confided to their care with an unsparing hand

*In consequence of several herds of cattle and sheep travelling at the same time, inconvenience has been felt by their mixing together, to obviate this, Messrs Hunt and Kaye have built stockyards, capable of holding at the same times several flocks and herds.*²¹

Hunt & Kaye

The Doncaster had several changes of name, owners and licensees before it was finally closed in 30th of June 1894. In 1845 The licence

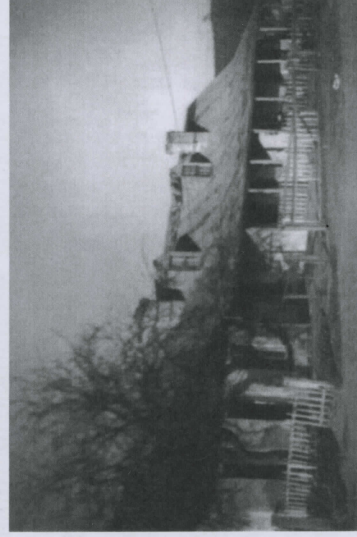
²¹ Sydney Morning Herald, September 3, 1843

and ownership of the *Elmsall* was transferred to William Hunt alone. He had married Jane Kinsela, Patrick's widow, in May 1842. Joseph Kaye, who had married Hunt's sister Eliza, became a farmer, leasing land from Klensendorffe, and the house in the Oakes reverted to its original identity of a private home.

Gillian Kelly

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The Elmsall, 100years later, 1970 prior to demolition to make way for the straightening of the main road over the bridge. Photograph, E Lea-Scarlett

The Elmsall Inn, Trinculo Place, 1870 Photographer Merlin Beaufoy

AROUND TOWN

Part of an interview with Mrs Elizabeth Jordan, her daughter, Mrs Dorrie Arneson, and son-in-law, Mr Dick Arneson.

Mrs Arneson: Richardson, from the hotel, pulled down a place where an Elliott used to live in Morrisset-street and built a boarding house for his staff.

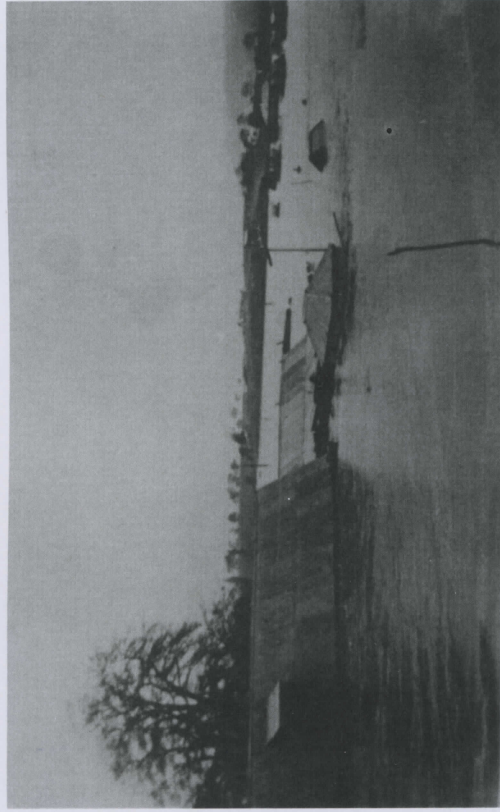
Mr Arneson: Next to the Salvation Army land is these flats.

Mrs Arneson: There was a little house there and Mr Elliott used to live there, on the opposite side to where we lived, but we lived at one stage over there where, I think, McInneses live now – ‘Sovereign’ McInnes. (She was a Mrs McInnes).

Mr Arneson: That’s the place where Wilsons had the boarding house. Before that front part was built there was an older type place behind it. Where the flats are, ‘Richie’ built garages right down the fence for his clients and they wouldn’t go; then he built the boarding house for his staff and they wouldn’t go. So then he rented that building to a lady and she ran a boarding house and the garages more or less stood vacant because the people who stopped at the *Royal* used to go up and see Albert Moore and he would let them park in his own big garage on the other side of the street. ‘Richie’ didn’t have much luck as far as his ideas were concerned. Mrs Jordan’s house had three feet four inches of water in it from the flood of 1925.

Mrs Jordan: The 1892 flood came up to the door and we had to put sandbags.

Mr Arneson: In the flood of 1910 the water came through the back of Hayes & Russell’s yard and across and into the back of Jordan’s and they had to bag up the door.



The Elmsall in under flood 1925

Mrs Jordan: It came up to the door, but in 1925 it came right in.

Mr Arneson: It was three feet four inches above the floor and it wet matches in my vest pocket out on the footpath. I carried Mrs Jordan and Dorrie and put them up on Perc Collett’s balcony.

Mrs Arneson: The 1922 flood didn’t come in. It was only outside.

Mr Arneson: In 1925 I went back and got myself a dry pair of pants out of my room and took them up. I never thought about getting myself a shirt or flannel and when I got up there all the dry I had was a pair of pants. Phyllis lived at home then (she wasn’t married) and she scouted round and came to light with a woollen shirt. She gave me this and I put it on and pulled it up. That was my rig-out!

Mrs Jordan: Mrs Lee was always flooded.

Mr Arneson: The case of Margaret Lee vs the Council was known everywhere. Theo Cooper was very friendly with them. He boarded there. He was a fellow who got mixed up in lots of things. He was interested in the Fire Brigade and the Swimming Baths; if he could

only have lived to see these swimming baths he would have died a much happier man. I don't say that he did the actual legal representation of Mrs Lee in the court but he had quite a bit to do with it and so did Dorrie's father.

Mrs Jordan: I remember Theo Cooper suing a young lady for breach of promise. The young lady was Miss Loder; she was a milliner in Hill's shop. I knew her. She also boarded at Lee's and she was engaged, I think, to someone else in Sydney, some wealthy man. I knew Miss Grant who married Siddy Ryan. She worked at Hayes & Russell's and she also boarded at Lee's.

Mr Arneson: There was a story about Maggie McPherson who was staying at Lee's and when they came in in 1925 to get her out she wouldn't have anything to do with them. Dominic Sweeney (who was a policeman) and Joe O'Rourke – two or three of them – went around waking people up but they never came and woke us up. The brick house had ventilators round and when they put new lime down they just put some paper and put the second and third layer on top again. The first thing I knew about the flood was a big "A-woop, a'woop". It was a most unusual sound and I couldn't make anything out of it. I swung out my feet and when I trod on the lino it went down that much. It had risen up under the various layers of lino. It frightened six months growth out of me! Dad looked out the window and sang out "Oh, the flood!" I raced out and looked down Morrisset-street. There was a car stranded on the higher part there with the headlights on and it looked like it was out to sea.

Mrs Arneson: I can remember the solicitor, Emery, living in the place right next door to Lee's as you go up towards the station.

Mrs Jordan: There was someone before that. I think I can remember Jimmy Moran living there.

Mrs Arneson: Miss Deb Lee used to come over and have tea with us and then we'd walk home with her. She'd often forget the key and

I'd have to go round the side and get through a window. Miss Nell died one day after having dinner; they were a nice pair.

Mrs Jordan: O'Hanlons lived in *Killard* before Dr Blackall; I can't remember who lived in it before O'Hanlons. I don't remember the Cunninghams from Lanyon living there. Mr Tomsitt lived there; he is supposed to have built it. First he lived in *Glenrock*. I thought Mr Tomsitt died when they were living up there.

Mr Arneson: We did a job up at *Killard*. It had no damp course and the damp came up the wall. When Dr Moya came home she wanted to entertain visitors. We put a damp course in. Work was scarce as red-headed blackfellows and everybody in the world was after this. I got onto Jack Jordan (Pat's father). I pointed out to him that the work as specified couldn't be left at that; that there'd have to be a lot of extras: we'd have to chip the plaster off the papered wall three feet up and re-render it and set it. You couldn't leave it like that. It had to be repapered. Then there was a lathed and plastered ceiling and it was leaving the laths in places, and the boxed gutter was leaking along in the centre. I pointed all this out to Jack. The wisteria had torn the gutter off the plates and the water was running down the back – all things that added to dampness in the place. He believed what I said and he put in quite a cheap price.



Killard, Campbell Street . Photograph QDHMS collection

We got into this and we took the bricks out, one course three feet long, put the lead in, wedged it up with compo and fibro pieces, then left three feet, took another three feet out and went right round the house like this. We chipped the whole of the outside rendering off and re-rendered it, myself and Hughie Coverdale, (who was a skilled plasterer's labourer in those days, but he later became a tradesman). We rendered it outside and set it. Dorrie's father was a painter and paperhanger and we used to trim his paper for him then. (His eyes weren't as good as they used to be). I helped with the painting and paperhanging. We had to put a new washtub in and all this sort of thing. It looked a new house but the doctor said "When we started I had no idea the cost was going to be what it turned out. Of course, I never realised that when you did something you couldn't leave it." It was an unusual set-up to go round and put a damp course in a house a hundred years after it was built. It was brick, rendered on the outside.

We also tore up the bathroom floor. There was something I had to do from the outside and I dug a hole through rather than break up the mosaic type of floor. When I dug underneath there was a spring under there so I pointed this out to the architect and we took out about a square yard of the business and replaced some of it. I believe this was one of the troubles about the dampness; every time they let the bath go it must have left three or four gallons of water under the house instead of going down the drain. It cost poor old Pat quite a few shillings. He was a very kindly old fellow; I became quite friendly with him in later years, before he gave the practice up. I suppose if he could have collected all the money that was owing to him around this part of the world he would have been pretty well off. He was limited as far as his medical business was concerned because he was one of the old-time physicians and had his own dispensary: "I'll me ye a bottle of med-I-cine. It won't do you any harm."

Recorded by Bert Sheedy at 1 Symonds-street Queanbeyan 3 September 1975

TEN ONE MINUTE POINTERS ON

A POTTED HISTORY OF QUEANBEYAN

Exploration of the area

First explored by whiteman in the 1820s – five plains following down the Shoalhaven & Murrumbidgee : Molonglo, Michelago, Isabella (Tuggeranong) Limestone (Canberra) & Ginninderra – potentially fabulous grazing lands for the landholders around the Sydney basin who were running out of grazing land in poor seasons. Aboriginal people specific to this area: Ngunnawal & Ngambri First settler was Baird at a spot called Quinbean – hence the town's name.

Establishment of the town

Many large properties established very quickly across the five plains. Queanbeyan was the natural crossing place of the Qbn River and became the epicentre of many of the tracks used by travellers and settlers. This spot on the river was designated a Village Reserve, then in 1838 was declared a village to be called Queanbeyan. Later in the year Govt surveyor Larmer was sent to lay out the town – his original square mile encompassed the river and is intact today.

Development of the Town

Development was slow with nothing more than a store and a blacksmith, followed by the establishment of a Post Office (mail came via Bong Bong, Marulan, Bungonia, Bungendore) and then a Magistrate was appointed to establish law and order.

First 50 years

Initially the town's development was no different to that of any other rural development across the state. It grew slowly, establishing its four churches (all still consecrated and in use) its schools – Qbn Public 175 years in 2015. It suffered the economic depressions of the nation and the rural disasters of flood and drought. It was a pretty village in a river valley.

Queanbeyan's place in the choosing of a site for the Federal Capital

With the declaration of the Australian states becoming a Federation came the need for a Federal Capital City – locations between Melbourne and Sydney lobbied hard. John Gale, with the assistance of a committee that included William Farrer lobbied hard and long to have the Limestone Plains recognised as the ideal spot – it filled all criteria and was a beautiful site to boot. In the end, a leaflet that Gale and Farrer wrote provided the clinching deal, and the Federal city was sited on the area known as Gambri, from its Aboriginal name.

Building the National Capitol – the rich years

You can't just build a city in a paddock without supporting infrastructure, so for the long years of building Canberra, Queanbeyan became the base camp. It was the rail head for supplies, it was the home of the builders, it was the comfort zone for those who lived on the plains in tent accommodation. It provided telecommunications for the planners and builders and all supplies necessary to complete the huge undertaking. The town grew both physically and financially – photographs of the main street illustrate the wealth through the shoulder to shoulder automobiles on both sides and down the centre of the main street.

A town in damage control –

In 1926 John Butter the Commissioner for the Federal Capital announced, with no regard for the district:

- a) employment preference would be given to those who lived in Canberra
- b) housing would be provided for all married workers
- c) there would be a 50% cut in employment after Parliament House was opened in 1927 and a later announcement was made **that Public Servants residing in Queanbeyan would be barred from the allowances available unless they lived in Canberra!**

Depression

A state wide economic depression really compounded the local economic disaster that hit the town. Relief programs were offered across the country & Queanbeyan benefitted with some substantial public works. 1932 – extraterritorials were allowed work on Canberra Golf House, the aerodrome and the Gudgenby bridge! The spirit of the town did not go under - it was dubbed a place of beer, jazz and talkies – the entertainment centre for Canberra and cartoons showed an empty Canberra on Sat nights while thousands flocked across the border to a real town.

A Fresh Start

Post War saw the gradual revival and growth of Queanbeyan. For a while it was regarded as a dormitory city to Canberra, but its fighting spirit rose and by 1972 it was able to prove that not only did it have the population, but also met the criteria of being independent – not reliant on Canberra to survive - and Qbn became a city.

Thriving

Economic and physical growth has continued with the town centres of Jerrabomberra, Tralee and Googong ensuring the old town's status as the centre of this area of NSW

CAN YOU HELP IDENTIFY THESE?

Amongst the ephemera belonging to the Society is a torn yellow and red photograph envelope containing half a dozen negatives in poor condition. There are no markings to even indicate they are local, but look like the location might be Stornaway Road.



They are family shots of young people, including a young man in a secondary school suit and a sports' uniform. If these folk are familiar to you, please help us label them!

