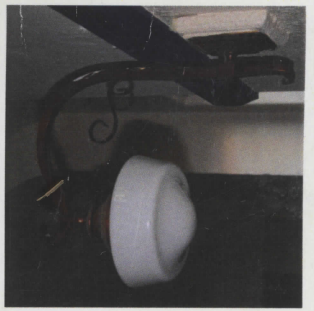


QUINBEAN

Vol 6, No 3
Dec 2013



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

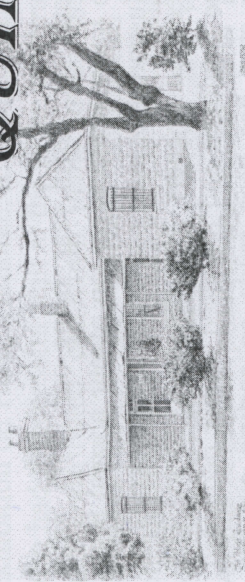
THE MUSEUM OF QUEANBEYAN

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.

QUINBEAN

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a particularly successful year, being our 175th, with lots of activity, with two major projects on top of our normal high standard of work. The Museum has been staffed on the weekend by our stalwart band of weekend openers. Big thanks to them. The collection continued to be cataloged and rehoused by our dedicated Thursday group. Also a start has been made on sorting out the carport display. Frances has installed a display of saws on the Archive front veranda.

We have the incredibly successful venture into The Q with Gillian's *The Way We Wore* wedding gowns exhibition. This featured a lot of hard work not only by our curator but also by all the team, including staffing the exhibition for two weeks. Press coverage was good and historical photos of the weddings are still impressing people at the Museum and people are still talking about it. Congratulations to Gillian and the team for our first blockbuster!

Then at the same time and still continuing was the *Oral History* project, *Queanbeyan's Living History*. This, too, engaged the community and produced some attractive storyboards and gives us a resource of interviews for future historians and displays. Thank you to the team of interviewers and interviewees.

In this year of Queanbeyan's 175th anniversary the society had a significant input into not only the events at the Museum but contributed to a Council Film night, where our cinema curtain was hung at The Q, an exhibition by CMAG and the Heritage Festival this year was one of our most successful with Gillian introducing the Pub Crawl with poetry shot and conducting the Heritage Bus tours.

We have also hosted a CIT exhibition which was launched during the Heritage Festival and organised for The Q to acquire a significant exhibition on Henry Halloran, *A Capital Idea* for History Week. We also had a successful stall at the 175th celebrations down by the river and contributed collection items to an historical display at the Hospital Fete. The Society contributed 40 or so historical photographs to the magnificent City of Champions book produced by Nichole Overall and Trudy Woods and we also contributed to various Council productions to do with the 175th including a commemorative edition of the City Life magazine, which featured Wright's Journal and the oral history project.

We have a new enhanced website in an advanced stage of development, and have continued to produce Quinbean and the Newsletter. The garden is looking good, there is a new cupboard display in the Kitchen room and the Washhouse is being enhanced. We also had a delicious Christmas in July dinner with glazed ham and other goodies at Benedict House.

We continue our partnership with QCC and we have regular meeting with Peter Conlon, Library Manager before the monthly meeting to discuss various Museum matters. We have farewelled Elise Bernard and welcomed a new QCC Museum Assistant, Ximena Briceno, who promises to contribute new and interesting ideas to the museum.

We have had a meeting with the regional museums advisor, Kay, who held a workshop on disaster planning. We have held a couple of working bees and a planning meeting. There was a working bee and party on 7 December later this year, with a celebration afterwards.

John McGlynn, President

AND THE EDITOR FROM THE EDITOR

2013! WHAT A YEAR!

QDHMS has very good reason to celebrate its contribution to the city's celebrations.

From the President, Secretary, Treasurer, committee and members there has been an unprecedented effort to take our city to the people and we succeeded!

We started the year with involvement with Council and National Film & Sound Archives in the highly successful *Moving Memories* at the Q Theatre. It was a light hearted affair that played to two full houses and illustrated the commitment of people to build this community from the start.

Apart from the glory of the beautiful gowns, *The Way We Wore* reflected Queanbeyan's vital position as the focal point of the families who lived on the Limestone Plains before the fair city of Canberra was a twinkle in anyone's eye.

With Brigid Whitbread and Peter Conlon of Queanbeyan City Council, we reflected our larrikin side by hosting the *Pub Crawl with a Shot of Poetry*. This popular event allowed us into the inner sanctums of Walsh's, the Royal and the Queanbeyan, or Top Pub. They all have stories to tell and have all seen important steps in the growth of the village to a city.

The work of surveyor, town planner, entrepreneur and financier, Henry Ferdinand Halloran was presented to us in a magnificent exhibition *A Capital Idea*, curated by Bridget Sant of the Lady Denman Maritime Museum in Huskisson, and lent to QDHMS with Council's support, to mark the actual anniversary of the proclamation of the site as a town. Halloran showed remarkable determination and faith in his ideas – attributes that are reflected by the people of Queanbeyan, and attributes that have helped it survive the hard times and thrive in the good.

Throughout the year an incredibly important plan has been taking place – the *Oral History Project: Queanbeyan's Living History*. I quote it often, so forgive me, but the history of a location is the history of its people.

Queanbeyan has always had a population with huge cultural diversity, the balances of which change with every generation. It is essential that we record the stories of those who live here in order to develop a sense of citizenship. Why are YOU here? Where did you come from? Why do you stay? The oral history stories are recording all this!

COMING IN 2014

At times 2013 year was chaos...but don't think a quiet time is ahead.

Believe it or not our first airmail was carried 100 years ago in July 1914 in a tiny plane made of wood, fabric, wire and glue. Postal services in this district began c1836. In April we will be looking at how this isolated little village kept in touch with the rest of the nation.

In 1848 Australia's first public school system was established. Growth was slow and by the mid 1850s there were only 62 schools under the Government's control, but in 1864 The Queanbeyan Public School was established in Alma Cottage, making it one of the oldest continuously operating State Schools in NSW. This year it is 150 and we will celebrate that amazing achievement.

1914 for most people means the outbreak of World War 1, and for Queanbeyan families this is particularly pertinent and parallel to the outbreak of the war is the establishment of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society. Queanbeyan immediately rallied and opened its own Branch in August of that year. We will reflect on not only the work undertaken at that time, but also on the Branch's significant and continuous support for 100 years. We will look forward to seeing you all throughout the year,

Gillian Kelly Editor

HOW AUSTRALIA REALLY CHOSE ITS NEW CAPITAL!

12 March 1927, Dundee Courier, Angus, Scotland

Choosing the site of the new capital of Australia was no easy matter, and entailed a search of several years. The component States of Australia stipulated that while the new city should be in New South Wales, it must be at least hundred miles distant from Sydney. Many existing towns outside that radius, notably Orange, were considered before Canberra was thought of, and the committee of selectors were feted and entertained by many communities in the hope that their town would be the place honoured.

Finally, it was decided to build an entirely new city, and the selectors roamed the land in search of a region not too far from the sea, easily accessible from Melbourne and Sydney, well watered and amidst beautiful surroundings. One afternoon, a dilapidated sundowner entered a wayside inn on the track between the towns of Yass and Queanbeyan, and called for some humble refreshment. Another man, a cyclist, was standing at the bar. "How far is it to Yass?" the sundowner asked the landlord wearily, a trace of a Scottish accent in his voice.

"Thirty-six miles, but there's another pub Ginninderra, nine miles on from here."

"It's the railway I want to hit, not a pub." said the sundowner. "I want to get to Sydney."

"Then why in thunder don't you head back the track to Queanbeyan? It only eight miles south an' you can get another railway there."

"Thanks, I didn't know. I've been out among the ranges towards Mount Kosciusko, and I'm bit bushed. What do you call this place?"

"I call it Murphy's pub, cos I own it, and Murphy's my name, but the Aborigines who hang around call the place by something like Canberra. They say the warriors used to meet here for some big corroboree before going to their women at Ginninderra."

"How far away are we from the sea?"

"Eighty miles east, down through the ranges, will take you to Bateman's Bay an' the town of Eden on Twofold Bay, the finest harbour in Australia, after Sydney, is only fifty miles from the end of the railway that runs through Queanbeyan."

"And how far is Sydney?"

"About a hundred and fifty miles, if you go through Queanbeyan and Goulburn, but if you cut across by Lake George you can make it ten miles less. But see here, you can hang on here with me, if you like, for a bit, I'm needin' a man about the place an' you'll do as well as anybody."

"Thanks, but I've got kind of a job waiting for me in Sydney; I will look you up when I come back this way."

"I reckon I'll not be here then. I'm fed up living among kangaroos an' parrots an' snakes. I'm selling out to the first mug who comes along wantin' to live in the heart of what this gent here says is the healthiest and most beautiful part of N.S.W. Any man can get this old pub cheap."

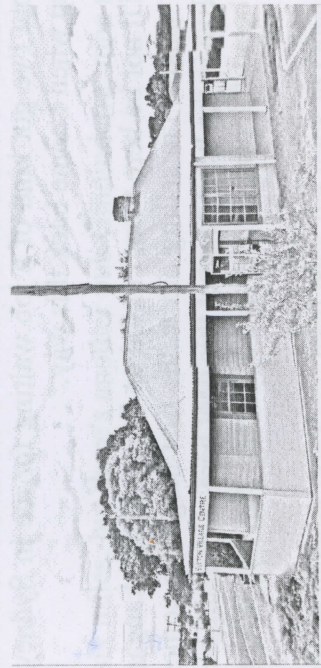
" I shouldn't sell out, just yet, if I were you. Good afternoon." The sundowner resumed his journey.

Some months later, the cyclist, who had overheard the foregoing conversation, read that site had at last been fixed upon for Australia's capital, and that New South Wales had given up a hundred square miles of country lying between Lake George and Mount Kosciuszko, to become forever the Federal Territory.

The Committee had visited the district, one by one, and had not been feted because there were no people there to recognise them! When the cyclist read that the nearest point was Queanbeyan on the Cooma Railway, he recalled to mind the sundowner, and had but little trouble picking out from the names of the Selecting Committee one who hailed from Scotland, who answered his description.

It therefore did not surprise him to learn later that Canberra was the chosen name for the country around Murphy's pub, and he hoped Murphy had delayed his selling out. That was over sixteen years ago, and the cyclist was the present writer.

Robert M. Macdonald, and written 86 years ago



The building that was the Sutton Hotel, or Murphy's Pub

MURPHY'S PUB

Murphy's Pub was the Sutton Hotel and Henry Maxwell Murphy was the licensee for just a few years – c1905 to 1908.¹ Murphy's in-depth knowledge of the district came from being the third generation of his family to live here.

The hotel was opened in 1889 by Tom Darmody and in 1903 sold it to George Reid of Spring Flat. Around 1905 Reid transferred the licence to Henry (known as Harry) Murphy who happened to be his son-in-law.

George Reid died in 1907² and in early 1908 Thomas Maxwell of Queanbeyan advertised the sale by public auction of the whole of the Sutton Hotel and Store Property.³ There was over seven acres of land with the hotel built of weather board and iron, and containing all the necessary rooms, stables, outhouses, etc., for the carrying on of a hotel business and the Sutton General Store and Residence, of weatherboard and iron. This advertisement also stated that the current lease would expire about February 7th so it would seem that Murphy did not stay to make any gains from the development of the city of Canberra.

But who was the secret agent who seems to have been quietly investigating the viability of placing the Federal Capital in this district, and who was Robert M McDonald whose work appeared in a Scottish Newspaper?

The Editor

¹ Lea-Scarlett, Errol, Gundaroo, Roebuck Society Publication, ACT 1972, pp27,28

² NSW BDMs & Ancestry Family

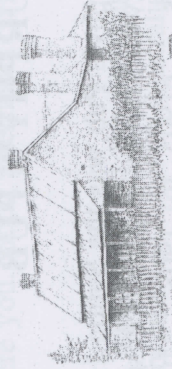
³ Queanbeyan Age January, 1908



Henry M Murphy

Barber's Cottage

An attempt to establish the *Geist* of an old Queanbeyan house



Part 2

The Millers⁴ made their residence in an old coaching inn in Macquoid Street, commanding a view of the lower part of Atkinson Street, including Barber's Cottage. Ambrose Miller died in July 1905 and Mrs Miller remained until the mid-1920s when she retired to Sydney where she died about 1930.

Mrs Tompsitt's impressions of her son's mother-in-law may have been jaded. Certainly no-one in Queanbeyan ever considered Mrs Miller other than as a very refined lady who brought with her the air of an English gentlewoman. True, she let one end of her rambling residence as a self-contained flat⁵ and had the rents of Barber's Cottage and other properties about the town, and she managed to live elegantly, employing as maid a local girl, 'Cis' Quigley, whom she always called by her correct name 'Teresa'. Along with the nuns of St

⁴ Mary Ann & Ambrose Miller, parents-in-law of Ernest Dornbusch, Emma Tompsitt's son from her first marriage.

⁵ Alfred Fallick and his wife were the occupants in 1905 when their daughter Catherine, was born in the flat. Later my grandparents, James and Margaret Tuttell, lived there for a short time with their infant daughters.

Benedict's Convent, she played a significant role in imparting to my grandmother, Margaret Breen, the little touches of refinement which were unfamiliar to older residents. The touches included knowledge of how to entertain at an 'At Home', painting and speaking table French (with an English accent!)

The happy period at Barber's Cottage began in 1897 when the Dornbusch family moved to Sydney and Mrs Miller rented it to John and Ellen Breen, parents of my grandmother. At various times there were other relatives living in the household, notably Ethel Webb an orphaned niece of Mrs Breen who was brought there from Narrandarah in 1898 and was reared as a member of the family. Mrs Breen's bachelor brother, Arthur Webb, also lived there until his death in 1911, while in 1902 a very significant young man was invited to board with the family.

He was James Ross Tuttell, a young draper who joined the staff at Hayes & Russell's store while still recovering from typhoid fever which he had contracted while working in a store at West Wyalong. John Breen, also employed at Hayes & Russell's, liked the young man and suggested to him that he board with his family and receive Mrs Breen's care while his recovery was made complete. A romance developed with Margaret Breen and they were married from Barber's Cottage in 1903. Their three children were all born there during the following six years. My mother, who was born in the cottage in 1905, left her recollections of life there, including a description of the grounds and rooms:

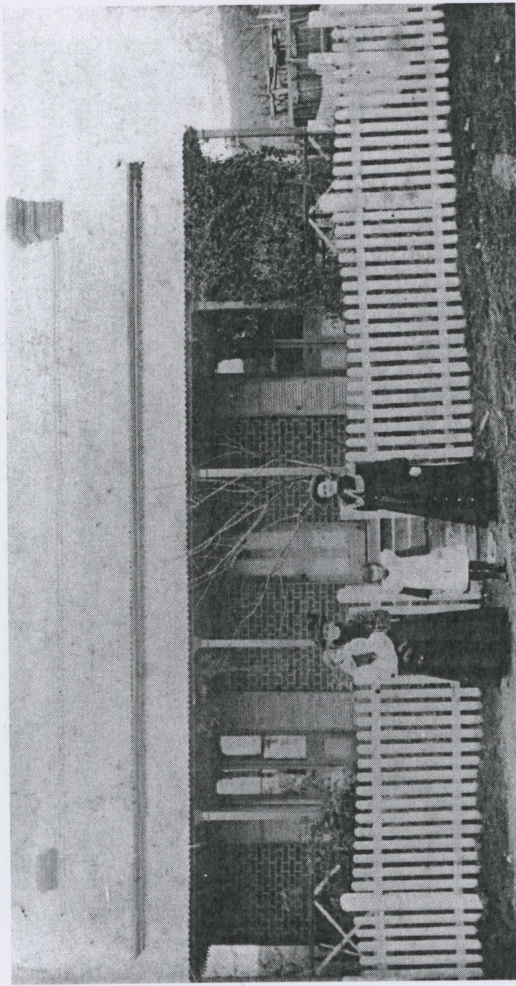
'My grandparents were very keen gardeners' she recalled. The garden always had flowers in it. There was a honeysuckle that grew around one end of the verandah (it was a wide, long verandah that went the length of the place) and at the other end was a passionfruit vine. There were moss roses under that and then there were everlasting sweet peas that came out in their season, violets.

'We had white violets (I have never seen them since) as well as coloured ones, daffodils and all that sort of thing. There was no grass there, of course, and in the middle bed that had all sorts of flowers in season. Along the picket fence beside the footpath there were always St Joseph lilies in the season. I can't remember all the others but I never saw Gran's garden that it wasn't full of flowers - pansies and all sorts of things that grew around there. There was a middle path leading from the gate to the front steps. (I think there were four steps leading up to the front verandah). That path was gravelled and it had little fancy tiles as a border; all the garden beds were edged with them. There was a big apricot tree. I believe it was self-sown but it looked very nice in the springtime. I can remember sitting under it, reading a book, and hearing all the bees humming. It was right in the front near the steps but it didn't make the place look ugly. It wasn't unusual to have a fruit tree in the front of the place in those times'

Then, on the end of the verandah but in the wide path that ran down to what we called the back gate (but it was really a continuation of the frontage of the house, with double gates) there was a big elderberry tree. The house was quite high there and I remember I used to climb on the little criss-cross rails and onto the top of this little railing and get into the elderberry tree from the verandah. The verandah wasn't very high in itself but it was very high from the ground leading to the back gate. I remember being hauled out of it a dozen times a day but I was still sitting perched in it every time my grandmother looked.

'Both of my grandparents looked after the garden but it was usually Gran (my grandmother). At times she might get some young fellow who didn't have much work to come in and dig it all over. One time Ross Callaghan, who lived not far away, took a fit in the garden. He was kicking his legs and going on and caused great commotion with this because Gran didn't know he was subject to fits until then. I think they sent for his mother. She ran up and knew what to do. Then they got him home and sent for the doctor. The mother knew he took fits but it seemed to be a big secret at the time.

'Sometimes old Dan Helmund would do a bit of digging. He would not help in the front garden but when they had potatoes in he might do a bit of digging and help Gran, but you had to watch Dan because he would get away with some of it.⁶ Gran always saw to it that he had a pumpkin and a bag of potatoes or something to take home. Otherwise he would help himself to them, have them hidden somewhere and pick them up on the way out. He used to dig, pick the pumpkins and things like that and help to bring them down to where Gran had them stored near the back of the wash-house.



Barber's Cottage c May 1905. L to r Mrs Ellen Breen holding Doreen Tuttell, Ethel Webb & Mrs Margaret Tuttell.

Photograph Queanbeyan City Library, Errol Lea-Scarlett collection

⁶ Dan Helmund, apparently mentally retarded, figured large in local lore. He was the son of Augustus Ferdinand Helmun, a worthy German resident of the town in the nineteenth century.

'Inside the house you went onto a very wide verandah that went the whole length of the house, and into a hall. Two rooms opened from the hall. One was the parlour (as it was called then) on the right hand side as one walked in and the other was a bedroom. They both had French windows and shutters which made them very nice in the summertime because even if you wanted to close the shutters they were like venetian blinds and all the nice air came in. You could open the French windows in the parlour right out on a hot night. (I think they opened inwards; the shutters opened out) There were fireplaces in both of those rooms. The fireplace in the parlour was in the middle of the wall and in the other room it was side-on, against the side wall.. In the parlour there were French windows facing onto the verandah.. The French windows, the fireplace and the mantelpiece took up quite a bit of space. The fireplace wasn't as big as the dining-room fireplace but it was quite commodious. It would take logs and things like that..

'Across the hallway the bedroom was used by Mum and Dad whenever they were there. When they weren't there it was a spare room but later on when I was older I used to sleep in it. 'You came down the hall and right into the dining-room. The hall ran right into it and the room fetched away on your right. There was a big window in that room that opened out towards the east at the back of the house. There was no window on the side - there was a big fireplace there, a huge fireplace with hooks hanging down. In the winter time Gran always had two big kettles hanging on those hooks and nearly always on the boil. People lived in the dining-room a lot in the winter time because it was so deadly cold. It was quite a separate room from the kitchen....'

The kitchen, in keeping with common practice as a measure against fire, was a detached building communicating with the dining room by a raised wooden platform, roofed over and with open sides. In addition to the actual kitchen, it contained a pantry, storeroom and servant's room (which served as the bedroom for Arthur Webb). The original intention was clearly to carry the verandah around the south side as zinc ties were left projecting from the top of the wall where the roof of the extension would have been constructed. The verandah

at times also served as a sleepout, a bed protected from the elements by a long canvas blind, a very common feature of Australian cottages, particularly in country towns, in that age when the likelihood of having one's throat cut during the night by a roving homicidal maniac was never considered. Life in the cottage was idyllic, especially for the children, and although financial resources were limited - as for 95% of the residents of Queanbeyan - there was always plenty of everything that was required. It was close to the church, so close that the hymn singing during outdoors processions was clearly audible; the town centre was close, immediately beyond the bridge in Trinculo Place at the foot of Macquoid Street; St Benedict's Convent and School were equally close, on the opposite side of the river which was crossed immediately below the convent by a suspension bridge.

In 1913 the Tuttells left Queanbeyan as James continued his career, enjoying changes of employment in country stores where he would resuscitate a failing drapery department before moving on to face a similar challenge elsewhere. John and Ellen Breen complained that without the children their lives were dull and lonely so it was arranged that either my mother or her sister Doreen, would always remain at Queanbeyan. One would expect that the changes of schooling necessitated by this arrangement would harm the girls' education, one being at St Benedict's while the other was at a State School elsewhere (principally Arianah Park, Millthorpe and Rylstone) but no damage appeared to be done.

In 1920 John Breen decided to move to Sydney. His decision to leave Queanbeyan, he claimed, was in the interests of his grand-daughters who were starting out in life. This ignored the fact that there was a home for the grand-daughters with their parents, but Rylstone where the Tuttells were living at the time was not a place in which young girls would find much future and it was certainly not a place where

my mother would have lived happily. Furthermore, both John and Ellen Breen were now well on in years and as there was no prospect of the Tuttell family returning to Queanbeyan, Sydney was a suitable base for the remainder of their lives. Packing completed, they left with Mother at Easter and that phase in the history of Barber's Cottage was concluded.

Tragedy returned with the next occupant, Reginald Hastings ('Haste') Smith, a popular resident, for it linked the cottage with another house, Riverside, not far away, where his mother had the sadness of his life to add to a series of tragedies dating back nearly forty years. With his wife, Margaret, and their five children Haste Smith became the tenant of Barber's Cottage after the departure of the Breens and his wife died at the cottage in March 1924. He was a heavy drinker and one night he was taken into custody without regard to the fact that the children were in the care of their sister, Lily, who was aged sixteen. In the cell at the lockup during the night he felt thirsty and, still inebriated, mistakenly drank water containing disinfectant from a lavatory pan.

My mother recalled:

'Haste Smith's wife was a McClafferty and their children were Roy, Jack, Lily, Mervyn and another little boy. ... They went to the convent school. Haste Smith moved up into *Barber's Cottage* when we left and little Mervyn died there of some obscure illness. Then the mother died. Haste Smith was a nice-looking but sad sort of man and he used to drink very heavily on Saturdays and such times. He was taken into custody and put into the lockup to sober up - (which was silly, they could have asked someone to take him home to his children because they had no mother. Lily was housekeeper but she wasn't very old, about fourteen) and apparently he got up in the night. He was thirsty and there was no

water and he drank from a lavatory pan they had in the cell. He drank disinfectant and died.'

This tragedy occurred in October 1924, seven months after the death of his wife (Margaret McClafferty). They left five children ranging in age from twenty-one to three. His mother had previously endured the early death of her husband and the deaths of two sons. Francis Louis, the eldest, died in June 1906 aged twenty-nine and his brother, Harry, an amiable young man in his mid-twenties whose proudest possession was an Edison phonograph, died in tragic circumstances at his mother's home, Riverside Cottage, Waniassa Street, on 15 June 1912. The father Louis Smith, the miller at J.J. Wright's Severn Mill, had died at Queanbeyan 17 March 1885, leaving a widow with a large young family. The widow Smith was Elizabeth Hannah Cartwright, daughter of John Cartwright of Woodbury. A valiant woman, to provide an income she took several boarders until her elder sons were able to find work and contribute to family finances. She lived until 1937.

A measure of her children's affection is provided by verses written by one of her sons, Ernest, in 1918 while recovering from gas poisoning during the Great War:

*I can see my dear old mother, seated in her easy chair ...
I've often asked forgiveness for the days that I've misspent...
I'd be a different son to her, I never would complain.
I'll never grown or grumble and I'll bet I'd never roar,
For I've learnt the worth of a mother's love since I've been at the war...*⁷

⁷ Queanbeyan Age, April 21, 1972

Haste Smith's children could not remain long at the cottage and after further changes of tenancy it passed into the ownership of Bill O'Rourke and his wife, Eileen Ryan, in the early 1930s. On the opposite side of Atkinson Street was *Romani*, the home of Bill's parents, which his mother occupied into her nineties, keeping it in immaculate condition, but *Barber's Cottage* was neglected and within ten years it was a near wreck! After Bill O'Rourke's death in 1961 new owners sought to improve and enlarge it, with disastrous results to the original appearance- In the 1970s the French windows were removed and replaced by aluminium sliding windows, the walls were cement rendered and the building doubled in extent, giving it the appearance of a police barracks of the mid-nineteenth century. The result was a graceless building which after forty years required attention to the rotting timbers. A report by a local builder, Peter Okrutay read: We were told to remove and replace rotting timbers and guttering some of which was original; replace the capitals with an approved design from the Queanbeyan Heritage group, replace the fascias and construct new finials for both gable ends of the roof. Under the decking we could see the hand made bricks. Photos of the original cottage show that the rendering was applied much later than the original dwelling as a number of the doors were replaced by windows'

In 1975 the Canberra artist Bill Bresser made a sketch of the cottage as it appeared in old photographs, comparing them with the present street view. His work was misleading in only one detail as he attempted to supply the original detached kitchen building which had been demolished during the period of neglect and his work suggests that it was closer to the main building than in reality and shared a skillion roof with it. Allowing for that understandable licence, his etching captured the Geist of Barber's Cottage well"

Errol Lea-Scarlett
6 July 2013

The Laurie Copping Heritage Centre

Like the Queanbeyan Museum, the Hall School Museum and the Laurie Copping Heritage Centre are operated and managed by a band of willing and dedicated volunteers. It is located in the Hall Primary School on the northern outskirts of Canberra.

The school was originally established in New South Wales in 1911 and was the responsibility of the New South Wales government until 1913 when the ACT was created. On december 12, 2006 Education Minister, Andrew Barr announced its closure

Integrated into the school is the Laurie Copping Museum that recreates a school room from 1911. It was opened by the Governor-General in 2005.

At present, the Museum proudly presents:

hall 1913 - a centenary exhibition

A reconstruction of Hall's main street incorporating a magnificent mural, images, artefacts and information relating to the businesses and families in Hall in 1913.

hall school museum

Hall School, which opened in 1911, is now a school Museum representing primary schooling in the inter-war years through its architecture, furniture, teaching materials, photographs and storyboards, and an extensive book collection.

memory lane

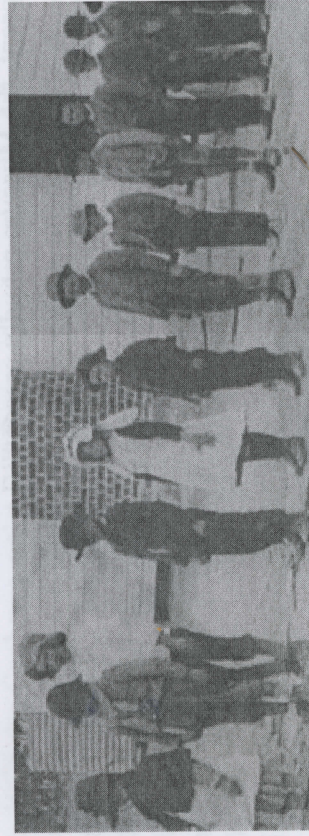
A 'yester-year' collection of community and household artefacts from last century, including a representation of the Hall picture theatre at Kinlyside Hall

old tools and trades

A display by the Hall and District Mens Shed

bush schools of the hall district

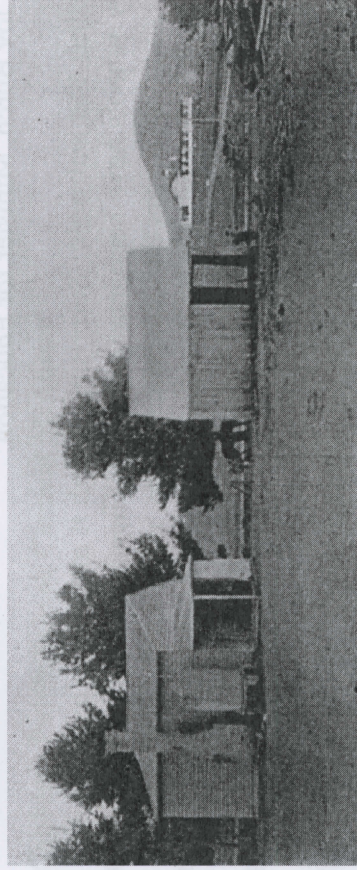
A story board display of the one-teacher bush schools that were operating within ten miles or so of Hall towards the end of the nineteenth century, including Nanama, Mugwill, Jeir, Bedelluck, Toulal, Brooklands and Glenwood.



present at birth

- schools and teachers of the capital territory, 1913

What more is there still to tell about Canberra in 1913? The Friends of Hall School Museum chose to tell the stories of the small and scattered bush schools captured by the Federal Capital Territory in 1911, and which were still operating in 1913 when the city was named. While the official record might give the impression that Canberra schooling began with the opening of Telopea Park school in 1923, this exhibition will tell you about the Yarrowlumla National School which opened in 1849 and another 30 or so public schools that preceded Telopea Park – including Hall (1911-2006), now the School Museum.



Narrabundah School, c 1924 with the new Telopea Park PS in the background. Narrabundah opened as a Provisional School in 1886. Photo The Federal Capital Pioneer Magazine, April 1927.

recognising the teachers: A previous exhibition, 'Bush Schools of the Hall District', gave only glimpses of those responsible for the conduct of the schools – the teachers. Schooling in NSW became compulsory in 1880.

Consequently the number of both schools and teachers increased dramatically over the next 30 years. The Exhibition tells more about the pioneer teachers charged with bringing a basic education to all, under very challenging conditions. Three of the longer-serving teachers have been singled out for 'close up' treatment – Ellen Clark, Francis McGee and Charles Thompson.

To further emphasise our admiration for the endeavours of these early teachers we chose to Launch the Exhibition on UN World Teachers Day, celebrated in Canberra on 25th October, and are proud to have the Australian Education Union as our partner for this occasion. We are also delighted to have the exhibition launched by Ms Joy Burch, Minister for Education.

finding the schools: Surprising though it may seem, many of the early schools have been hard to locate. They are to be found along the old tracks across the Limestone Plains, often away from modern roads, and little or nothing of them remains. They were often short-lived, and had vernacular as well as official names ('Long Gully', 'Crossroads'). It was also common for schools to move to a different site if the population shifted – and for school buildings to be relocated when they could be better used elsewhere.

In our search for the old bush schools we have been helped immeasurably by Allan Eeles, former Manager of the ACT Land Information Centre, and the office of ACT Surveyor-General, a project partner. The special mapping display that forms part of this Exhibition is a tribute to Allan's fine work. Using old NSW Parish

Maps, Portion Plans, and other mapping tools, Allan has carefully documented location and status of the former school sites. We gratefully recognise the invaluable support of Ron Jarman, Deputy Surveyor-General and the gift of copies of the relevant maps and plans.

the territory's schools in 1913 Criteria changed over time, but around 1913 the different types of schools were as follows:

public schools: Attendance of >20 (before 1880, >25)

provisional school: Attendance of 10 – 20. Untrained or low classification teachers. Until 1882 parents provided the building.

half time school: Teacher divided between two schools, where pupil numbers were insufficient for a Provisional School

subsidised school: When numbers were insufficient for even a half time school and parents were subsidised to provide schooling.

canberra's public schools and teachers in 1913

Canberra Public School, Clement McAlister

Gibraltar Provisional School, Mary Woodbridge

Gungahleen Provisional School, Malcolm Middleton

Hall Public School, Charles Thompson

Kowen Subsidised School, Amy Wheatley

Majura Public School, (No teacher listed)

Mulligan's Flat Provisional School, Henry O. Landon

Naas Half Time School, J.H.McDonald

Upper Naas Half Time School, J.H.McDonald

Narrabundah Public School, Samuel Crowther

Royalla Public School, Miss E Hutchinson (?)



Royalla Provisional School, c 1920. It opened 1879 as a Half time and was known as Rob Roy until 1892.

Back Row l to r

Kath Morrison, Mary Morrison, Alice Morrison, Josephine Bourke, Zeta Twyford, Bernice Twyford, Chris Morrison, Jack Bourke

Front Row l to r

Jim Bourke, ? Bourke, Arthur Morrison. Martin Morrison

Tharwa Public School Frederick Cleaver

Tuggeranong Public School, Francis McGee

Weetangera Provisional School, Mrs Ellen Clark (with Keewong) Edward Coleman

Yarralumla Subsidised School, Alice Cameron (?)

Hall Museum is open every Thursday morning 9.00 - 1.00pm, on Hall Market days (1st Sunday of the month) from 12.00 - 3.00 pm, and by appointment. Phone 04 2209 6923, or email). Group visits welcomed.

QUEANBEYAN'S MYTHS, MYSTERIES AND LEGENDS

Canberra's forebear by some 75 years, Queanbeyan is old by Australian standards and inevitably, it has more than its share of myths, mysteries and legends.

Some of the earliest come from before the time of the first intrepid European explorers, and the original inhabitants of the region were well versed in the errant ways of places within the wider area including the 'great inland sea', Weereewaa, or Lake George as declared by Governor Macquarie in 1820.

Bushrangers and floods potentially caused the most havoc in those pioneering days when Queanbeyan was fast becoming a significant centre but still plagued by its relative isolation and largely untamed surrounds.

William Westwood, or the 'gentleman bushranger', had an eye for quality and a taste for theatre – his penchant for stealing the finest horses in the district was widely known as was his curious habit of leaving his victims in a state of undress!

Also linked to the area, the much mythologised Frank Gardiner is a man whose exploits continue to be cloaked in intrigue. He was raised not far from Queanbeyan – some suggest born there too – and had family within the town with whom he allegedly sort refuge while eluding the police. When eventually brought undone following his role in one of the most audacious gold robbery schemes in colonial history, he served only 10 years in prison before disappearing to San

Francisco. He was virtually never heard of again, neither was most of the gold he had relieved from a government stagecoach on its way to Eugowra.

Leaving a more permanent mark on the district, Queanbeyan's picturesque positioning on the banks of a river in the centre of a vast flood plain has seen it suffer the consequences over a dozen times since records have been kept. While the most recent in 2010 reached 8.4 metres, cutting the town in two, in 1925 the waters breached an incredible 11 metres, submerging the CBD as far as the Queanbeyan Park.

The river has also been party to acts of great heroism and the site of many a tragedy – it was the drowning death of a young girl there that inspired the community to raise the funds to construct the Queanbeyan Swimming Pool in 1961. Interestingly, it has been the scene of many an unexplained sighting. Civic leader John Gale declared that he once observed 'a big, dog-like amphibian' appear on the surface only to dive and disappear again. He also wrote of locals who had the misfortune to stumble across a 'yahoo, the hairy man of the mountains'. This was not the only time the elusive creature was beheld in these parts and during the 1970s and as late as 2001, alleged reports of yowies roaming the region would result in a number of high profile, if inconclusive searches.

Of course, in a town as old as Queanbeyan, its more other-worldly residents are also considered relatively common: from an historic property overlooking the river in which a young boy is said to play hide-and-seek, to a more modern unit in which an uninvited guest allegedly makes itself comfortable on the end of a bed.

Other tales extend to mysterious disappearances – the young fellow in 1901 who vanished from Queanbeyan, presumed dead, only to return 12 years later. He claimed he had run off after submitting a letter to the local papers 'written with the spirit of devilment' about other townfolk and could not then face the public scrutiny that followed. Unusual deaths too – from the school teacher from Michelago who poisoned himself in 1929, to the two young lovers who ended their lives after creating a pact in 1904.

Inevitably, there are many more such stories to tell, and not only are they a tangible demonstration of the colour and life of a town, but also reveal a great deal about its journey.

Nichole Overall

IT WAS BEING SAID IN QUEANBEYAN January 1892

That the trustees of the reserve opposite the Courthouse locked a number of stray cattle in on Thursday. That a black horse was killed by lightning while thus locked in..

That all the girls are going to see "Our Boys" on Tuesday evening, and that our boys will go to see our girls.

That the old-fashioned burners in the street lamps should be exchanged for more modern ones.

That when the lamplighter turns out the lights he carries a lantern to light his way from one lamp to another. Could satire be more emphatic?



ARE YOU CONNECTED TO QUEANBEYAN PUBLIC SCHOOL?

You are invited to join in its

150th Anniversary Celebrations

On October 28, 1864 the small private school of Mrs Agnes Francis was approved as a non-vested National School, and here began the life of Queanbeyan Public School, now locally known as Isabella Street.

2014 marks the school's 150th anniversary, making it one of the oldest schools in NSW with a continuous service to the education of children.

Are you connected to Queanbeyan Public School?

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Did you or a member of your family attend?
Are you a former member of staff?

Would you like to

- Share your memories and experiences with the school and community
- Contribute to a display at the school of items you or your family have tucked away that might tell a story about your time at the school
- Be part recording the oral histories of former students and staff to help current students gain a sense of what schooling was like in generations past, and to help the school gather a true picture of the school and the role it played in the life of the community

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE
150TH CELEBRATIONS

AND BEING PLACE ON THE MAILING LIST FOR UPDATES.

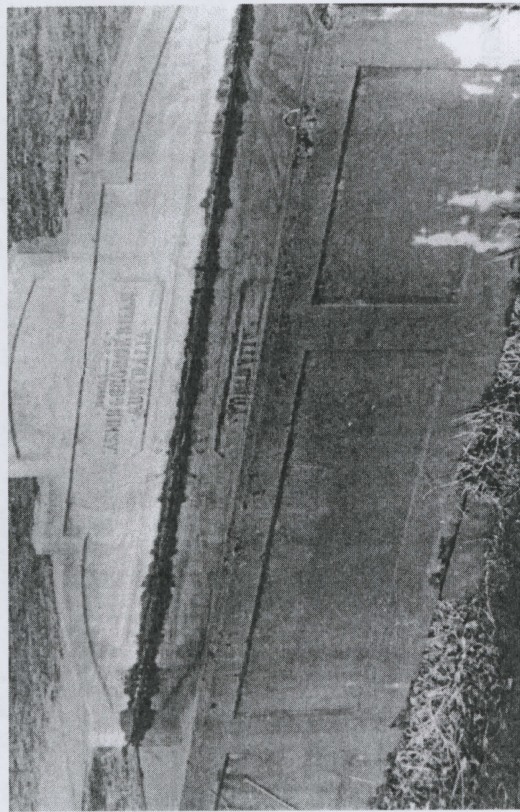
Email: queanbeyan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Post to: Queanbeyan Public School
Isabella St Queanbeyan 2620

and include your name, address, phone number, email address, the years you attended QPS and anything you would like to add.

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DONATED BY ANNIS AND GEORGE BILLS AUSTRALIA



The Crawford Street Trough, Queanbeyan Age June 18, 1965 p1

Once upon a time, some fifty years ago, Crawford Street in Queanbeyan, boasted a horse trough. It was of concrete construction, some two metres long, and bore the inscription:

DONATED BY
ANNIS AND GEORGE BILLS
AUSTRALIA

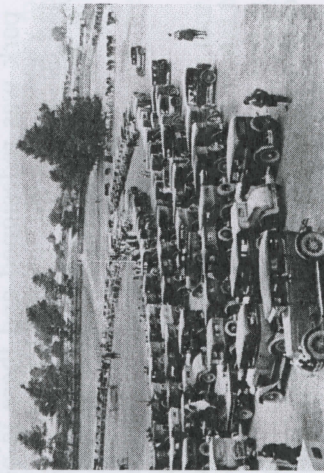
George and his brother came to Australia as young men and set up a wire mattress construction company in Sydney. They were successful and George developed a keen interest in seeking out cases

of human need, giving many thousands of pounds anonymously to assist the needy folk. He and his wife Annis were childless, and following the death of George in 1927, a trust fund was set up, believed to be around £70-80,000.

One of the purposes of the trust, as set out in George Bill's will, was to: "...construct and erect and pay for horse troughs wherever they may be of the opinion that such horse troughs are desirable for the relief of horses and other dumb animals either in Australasia, in the British Islands or in any other part of the world subject to the consent of the proper authorities being obtained."

Each trough cost £13 plus transport and installation. The majority of the troughs were installed in Victoria and New South Wales between 1930 and 1939. Initially they were individually designed and constructed, however by the early 1930s, they were produced in Hawthorn to a standard design. The troughs were pre-cast concrete with a curved pediment and inscribed "Donated by Annis & George Bills Australia".

By the mid 1930s Queanbeyan was rapidly becoming a motorised town but there was still a need to provide water for the Bill's horses and other dumb animals.



The motorization of Queanbeyan. The Queanbeyan Show 1938. Lea-Scarlett Collection, Queanbeyan City Library

2013 – THE YEAR THAT WAS FOR QDHMS

Our cover story tells it all, but it was a busy year.

In 2013 and the lead up months of 2012, we.....

- Researched names citizens for the bollards in Crawford St
- Created a power point program for the opening of Crawford St
- Created the mosaic panel of the old courthouse for Crawford St
- Provided story boards and historic curtain for Moving Memories at the Q
- Created our own magnificent *The Way We Wore* blockbuster
- Provided a continuous stream of photos for many groups who celebrated including the *Age*, the *Canberra Times*, the *Chronicle*, the Visitor's Centre, the Show Society and the ABC
- Lent objects to Canberra Museum and Gallery for an exhibition on Qbn
- Negotiated and installed the magnificent *Capital Idea* – the story of Henry Halloran and his Freehold developments
- Developed a marvellous and continuing oral history program, *Queanbeyan's Living History*
- Supported with photographs from our collection various publications, including Nichole Overall's *Queanbeyan City of Champions*
- Collaborated with Queanbeyan City Library to develop a highly successful Heritage Week program that included the *Pub Crawl with a Shot of Poetry*
- Maintained the Museum and kept it open at weekends over 90% of the year
- Opened the museum to school groups and touring groups throughout the year
- Farewelled our young treasure Elise Bernard, who married Chris later in the year and is now Elise Wells
- Continually improved the grounds and the exhibitions with a new look for the laundry and the back yard

On May 15th 1936 the *Canberra Times* reported that the Queanbeyan Council had been requested by the Ratepayers Committee to erect a horse-hitching post in Lowe Street, between the small and big gates of the park. They also asked that the bank of the Queanbeyan River, in front of the saleyards be graded to enable stock to be watered there as the council had refused an earlier request of the association to provide a drinking trough in Crawford Street.

Perhaps the Bills' generous offer overcame Council's objection, because most certainly Queanbeyan did have a trough established in Crawford Street alongside the swimming pool and donated by Annis and George Bill. According to the front page of a *Queanbeyan Age* it was there in mid 1965 when it was declared an eye sight that was overrun with weeds and grass, and someone ought to do something! Someone did, and it disappeared from Crawford Street.

There was another trough – this one in the centre of Lowe Street. The Boer War Memorial stood on the middle of the intersection of Monaro and Crawford Streets and by the mid 1960s it had become a traffic hazard. The Lowe Street trough made way for the Memorial.

But where did they go? There was a lead that the one from Crawford Street crossed the road to the Apex park and lived alongside the tractor, but that little park was redesigned and there is no trough in evidence. Another lead suggested one may have been given to the Queanbeyan Pony Club for use at its Racecourse site, but it is not in evidence now.

Fred Monk, Background Information
Queanbeyan Age June 18, 1965
Sheedy & Percy, Moneroo to Monaro, Queanbeyan City Council 1995, p 90

Dr PATRICK BLACKALL

(1858 - 1932)

Mayor of Queanbeyan 1900-1903



Patrick Blackall was born in County Clare in Ireland in 1858. He received his education in Ireland and secured his degree of MD in 1881, MAO in 1885 and MCh in 1884 at the University of Ireland before arriving in Sydney on the *Ivanhoe* in 1888.

He first practiced in Australia in Wynyard, and then near Wollongong before deciding that the dry country air would better suit his health⁸ and serendipitously Dr Morton's Queanbeyan practice in McQuoid Street became available in 1890. January 1891 marked the beginning of Dr Patrick Blackall's long association with the Queanbeyan Hospital and he became the town's longest serving medical practitioner. During his long residence in the town, he earned widespread affection and respect in the community, both for his devotion to duty and for his practice of treating all patients irrespective of whether they could pay or not.

⁸ This is surprising, given that he grew up on the sea front of the western coast of Ireland.

He became known and respected over a wide area owing to his philanthropic actions, both medical and private. For many years he did his own dispensing and on numerous occasions when called to a patient at Brindabella, endeavoured to ascertain the type of case and took his drugs and instruments with him on horseback. On one occasion he returned from Brindabella to find another call awaiting him at Captains Flat. Immediately he changed horse and proceeded to the case. At the death of Dr Richardson he was appointed Government Medical Officer and held the post until his death. As a highly successful medical man he was one of the first in the district to use chloroform in surgery.

By the early 1890s Dr Blackall had involved himself in community life. He was a Justice of the Peace, Vice President of the rifle club, member of the Benevolent Society, president of the Debating Club, secretary of the Cricket Club and Vice President of the Cyclist's Club

In 1892 he involved himself in the politics of the town by joining the Progress Association. On February 9, 1908 he was elected to Council with overwhelming support from the voters. As an Alderman he was committed to improving town and the lives of those who lived in it. He donated the first one hundred books to the School of Arts to get the library going.

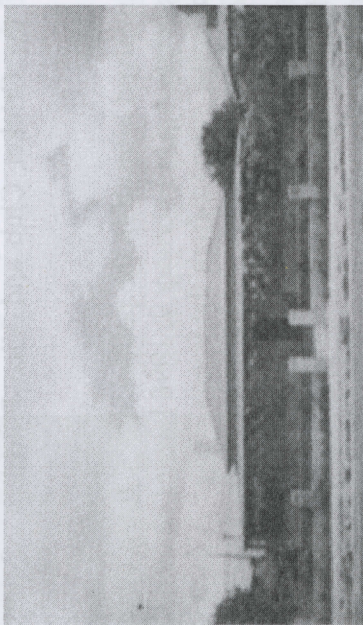
In July 1900 he became Mayor for a three year term. Blackall was a great advocate for the National Capital to be built on the Limestone Plains and was part of the committee that presented the town's case to the Oliver Commission. In 1904 the sitting member for Queanbeyan E W O'Sullivan declined to contest the election, believing he would lose out in a greatly changed electorate.

Patrick Blackall contested the seat in his place but was defeated by the small margin of 16 votes. From 1904 until the end of 1906 he

continued in his role as alderman when he resigned on a matter of principal and believing that his departure would allow a more stable council that would concentrate on the needs of the town's people.

In 1899 he had married Alice Hayes and the couple settled into Helman's Cottage at 182 Crawford Street. There were eight children from the marriage.

The family had outgrown Helman's cottage and Dr Blackall bought the property that included the house at 5 Campbell Street and renamed it Killard, after his father's home in County Clare. In later years the land was subdivided, with a street being named Blackall Avenue in his honour. The original building was retained by him for his practice.



Killard, at 5 Campbell Street was built in 1886 for C H Emery, the Crown Lands Agent. It later belonged to Charles Unthank O'Hanlon who was Patrick Blackall's brother in law, and from whom Blackall purchased the property. The property was demolished to make way for a house that later became the fore section of what is now Queanbeyan Nursing Home.

Dr Patrick Blackall died on December 8th, 1932 and despite having lived in Canberra in the later years of his life, is buried in the Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery.