

The Journal

DATE : JUNE
VOLUME : 5
NUMBER : 2

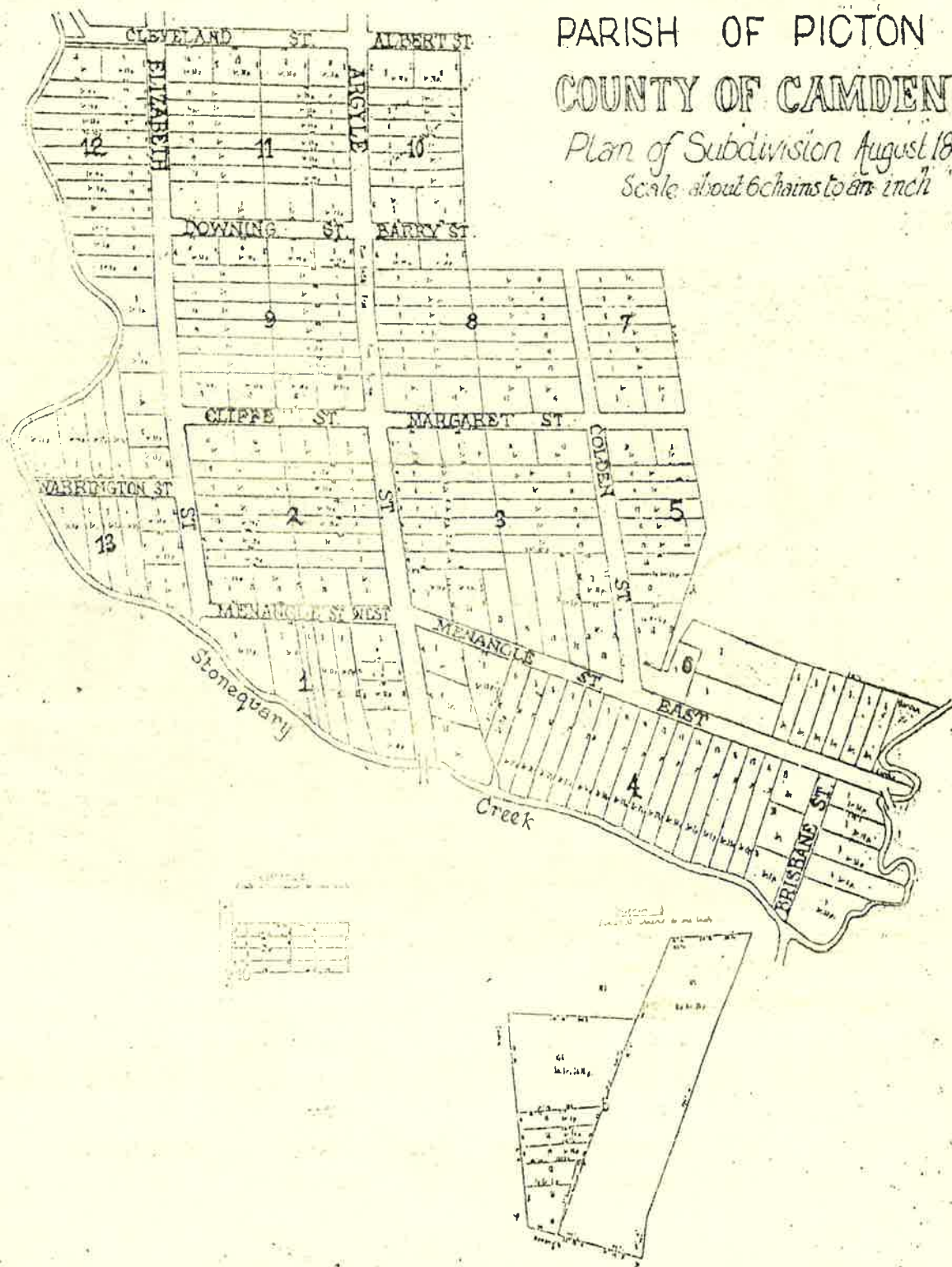


Wilton and District Historical
and
Family History Society

THE PRIVATE TOWN OF PICTON

PARISH OF PICTON
COUNTY OF CAMDEN

Plan of Subdivision August 1841
Scale about 6 chains to an inch

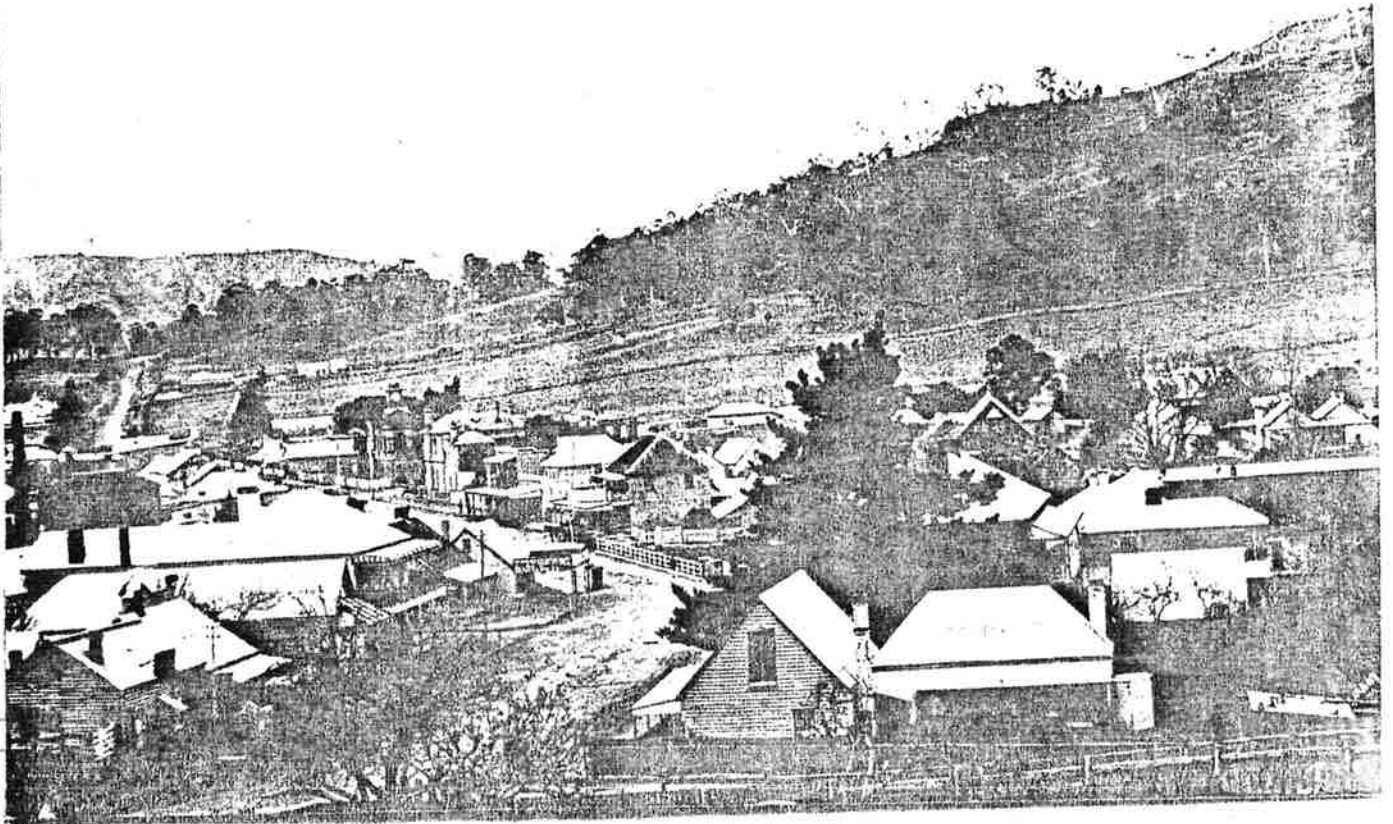


1 1/2 0 1 2 3 inches
6 5 4 3 2 1 0 6 12 36 chains

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Material in this Journal relating to the Private Township of Picton and the 150th Anniversary Celebrations was compiled by Jan Ross.



P I C T O N T O W N S H I P ca 1910

From 2 - 10 August, Picton N.S.W., will be celebrating the
150th ANNIVERSARY
of the

"FORMATION" of "THE PRIVATE TOWNSHIP OF PICTON".

The area, approximately 85 kilometres south-west of Sydney, had previously been known as STONEQUARRY.

Although only just over one hour's drive from the city metropolis, Picton has managed to retain its rustic charm and rural character. Picton is the "HOME" of "THE STONEQUARRY VIADUCT", the first consumptive hospital in Australia (Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, formally known as Harmony Home), "REDBANK TUNNEL" the first railway tunnel in N.S.W., "VICTORIA BRIDGE" the tallest timber truss bridge in N.S.W., plus the resting place in the Upper Picton Cemetery of the first Greek Settler in N.S.W.

As a major stopping-place on The Great South Road and The Great Southern Railway it cannot be denied that Picton's fortunes have fluctuated over the years.



KEY TO THE SOUTH ON THE GREAT SOUTH ROAD

Through this Town every Passenger and
Conveyance must pass up the Country to or
from Sydney.

VILLAGE OF PICTON, LATE STONEQUARRY.

Mr Stubbs has the honour of announcing instructions received from Major Antill, to submit at public competition at his Auction Mart, King-street, on Monday, the 2nd day of August, 1841, at Twelve o'clock. The above important village, now subdivided into the most valuable Building Allotments on the Great Southern Argyle Road.

PARTICULARS

SITUATION. - The Village of Picton is situated at the junction of the Argyle, Menangle, and Burragorang roads. The allotments are bounded on the north by the Burragorang road, on the west and the south by the Stonequarry Creek, running into the Bargo a tributary stream to the Nepean; on the east partly by an arm of the Stonequarry Creek, constantly supplied with water in the driest season, and partly by the Estate of Major Antill.

LOCALITY. - The Village of Picton joins the Estate of the late Mr Harpur, and is only Forty-seven miles from Sydney, thirty-five from Parramatta, twenty-seven from Liverpool, and seventeen from Campbelltown.

Many of the Allotments of the Village of Picton have positive frontages on the great Argyle road, and therefore command all the public traffic and custom that can possibly take place in this thoroughfare, i.e. between Sydney, the southern and adjacent districts. The very situation of all others for storekeepers, shops, and tradesmen of all classes.

Forty-five of the Allotments are on the Stonequarry Creek, opposite Mr Harpur's land. The other allotments are contiguous to the main road, and have access to the creek. These allotments are well suited for less expensive buildings for mechanics, or the better class of farming men, who, having families can run up a slab hut in their over hours, and have a bit of ground to turn to account for themselves, besides.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Are a Police Establishment, Gaol, Court house, all on the spot. Divine Service is performed every Sunday by a regularly appointed Minister, and as a further inducement to purchasers, and to give every comfort to the inhabitants, a steam engine is far on in progress, and will give the greatest accommodation. There is abundance of stone for building, if preferred to slab; all the land is stumped, cleared, and has been under cultivation.

The mail passes through the Village up and down every day, and the letters put in the box at Sydney at five p.m. are delivered at Picton at nine next morning.

The George Inn at Picton is kept by Dunsdon, and considered one of the best conducted and most flourishing establishments on that line of road.

There are also several classes of Tradesmen collected in the neighbourhood, who are not half suffered to answer public demand and besides their earnings are so easily obtained and work so plentiful, that they are not given to much exertion, knowing well they have it all their own way, so that there is room for twenty more shoemakers and tailors, bricklayers and brickmakers, blacksmiths and stonemasons, carpenters and glaziers, storekeepers, shopkeepers, and lodging-houses for travellers.

NOTE. - The wealthy owners of the vast southward pour all their wool and stock along this thoroughfare; on it the metropolis sends back supplies in return, every matter of business, or concern in life, intercourse, express (or otherwise) between Sydney and the South Country must go through the Village of Picton.

The purchase of these Allotments in sections is strongly recommended to up-country gentlemen. Proprietors, Settlers, Stock-keepers, Tradesmen, and monied persons, as an opening seldom occurring where a handsome rental is easily obtained on Town Building Allotments, particularly when on a Government Road, as it is to Berrima, Bong-Bong, Goulburn, Yass and all the Great Southern Outlets etc, etc.

To small Tradesman and Mechanics who are now receiving a paltry interest from the Bank (or at the hands of private individuals) they had better by far become purchasers of good Town Allotments where after one or two years they receive immense weekly rental, and live at ease themselves, more especially in a ready money neighbourhood like the Stonequarry, with a vast increasing population adjacent to large farming establishments, and surrounded by wealth proprietors.

The public are requested to make all possible enquiries respecting, Picton, and to view the map at the Auction Mart, King-street.

Liberal terms, viz - Twenty per cent, each deposit on the fall of the hammer and the residue at three, six, nine and twelve months, from day of sale, with security on the property if required.

The Australian, July 13, 1841, page 3, column 3.

Supplied by Jan Ross.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION

At the General Meeting on 12th August, 1991, the following special resolution will be put to members:

"That the rules of the Society be altered as follows -

EXECUTIVE: refers to the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

in lieu of

EXECUTIVE: refers to the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer.

CLAUSE 8: MANAGEMENT - BY COMMITTEE.

(c) At the Annual General Meeting members will meet to elect the following positions on the Council: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and additional Council members as deemed necessary.

in lieu of:

(c) At the Annual General Meeting all members will meet to elect the following positions on the Council: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer and additional Council members as deemed necessary."

M E M B E R S H I P - M E M B E R S H I P

All memberships are due for renewal as at 30th June, 1991.

Fees are as follows:

Single	\$10.00
Family	\$12.00
Pensioner	\$ 8.00

A N N U A L G E N E R A L M E E T I N G .

The Annual General Meeting of the Picton & District Historical & Family History Society Inc. will be held on Monday, 9th September, 1991, at 7.30 pm. Members are reminded that in order to vote at the Annual Meeting they must be a financial member of the Society.

P I C T O N ' S S E S Q U I C E N T E N A R Y .

The first day of August is traditionally "Wattle Day", the second day of August is "P I C T O N ' S 150th BIRTHDAY" and the fifth day of August heralds "Education Week". Each is just one good reason for planning to spend the first ten days of August in Picton. With fun and entertainment for young and old alike, nobody should feel neglected when Picton celebrates its birthday.

From 1 - 10 August, Picton will commemorate the "FORMATION" of the "PRIVATE TOWNSHIP OF PICTON" on 2 August 1841.

Souvenir badges are now on sale. A limited number of Sloppy Joes have been ordered and T-Shirts will also be available. All feature a version of the 150 year logo which was designed by Mr Barry Saxton.

S C H E D U L E O F E V E N T S .

August 1	Thursday	Proposed Tree Planting.
August 2-4	Fri. to Sun. (11am - 4pm)	Stonequarry Festival of Arts & Crafts. Picton A.H. & I. Hall, Menangle Street.
August 2	Friday (8 pm)	Official opening of the Stonequarry Festival of Arts & Crafts including the AUCTION SALE.
August 3	Saturday From 10 am 1.30 pm 3 pm 2 pm - 5 pm 10 am - 4 pm	Picton Primary School Fete. Parade commencing at Hume Oval and terminating at the Village Square. Official acknowledgement of Picton's 150th Birthday. Entertainment in Village Square. Stonequarry Festival of Arts & Crafts.
August 4	Sun. 11 am 10 am - 3 pm	Combined Church Service in Picton's Botanic Gardens. Dedication of Time Capsule. Picnic Lunch in Botanic Gardens. Stonequarry Festival of Arts & Crafts.
August 5 - 9	Mon. - Fri.	Education Week.
August 7	Wed.	Picton Bowling Club Benefit.
August 10	Sat.	St Anthony's Parish Debutante Ball.

PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

When in 1902 "Arbor Day" was celebrated by planting 119 trees in Victoria Park, a ballot was held for the position of each tree. Tree Number 1 was bought by Mr W. Larkin and planted by Miss Annie Larkin in honour of Lieutenant G. B. Forster who had been killed in South Africa. Lieutenant Forster was from 1888 - 1898 Manager of the Commercial Bank (now the National Australia Bank).

With today's concern for the environment what could be a more fitting introduction to Picton's 150th Birthday Celebrations than a "tree planting project" on "Wattle Day", 1 August.

STONEQUARRY FESTIVAL OF ARTS & CRAFT.

Organisers of this annual event, the Picton & District Historical & Family History Society, are in the throes of contacting business houses seeking their financial support. Exhibitors will observe that there has been some change in the range of categories. A number of sections based on the theme of "PICTON MAIN STREET" have been introduced for this year only. Specifically designed to suit the younger entrant it is anticipated that there will be a substantial increase in the number of entries from junior artists.

To cater for students and school children, the organisers have extended the hours of opening. Exhibits may be viewed on Friday 2 August from 11 am to 4 pm and in the evening of the same day from 8 pm. The hours for Saturday are from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, 4 August, from 10 am to 3 pm.

Although the "Festival" continues for 3 days, the official opening will be held on 2 August at 8 pm. Tickets at \$5 each will include wine and light refreshments. The traditional auction is to be reintroduced, but it will be an "auction with a difference".

Visitors to the Festival, which will be located in the Agricultural Hall (Showground) are promised a veritable array of exhibits all displaying the wide and varied talent of this district.

PICTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE.

The Picton Primary School Fete is scheduled to commence at 10 am on

Saturday 3 August. Apart from innumerable stalls, with "Goodies" for everybody, the fete committee has organised events to suit all tastes. Dance, live theatre and choral items feature in the list of entertainment. Sporting activities will include Caber Tossing, Horse Shoe Tossing and Wheelbarrow Races. Captain Comalco and Mr B will be in attendance. For the side show enthusiast there will be pony rides, a Ferris Wheel, a Chocolate Wheel and a Free Jumping Castle. Don't have too much to eat for breakfast as there will be a great variety of food available.

PARADE.

Following the fete and commencing at 1.30 pm. at the Hume Oval will be "The Parade to End All Parades".

Over 25 organisations and business houses have indicated their willingness to participate in the Parade. Vintage vehicles, penny farthing bicycles and horse drawn carts are just a few of the many attractions taking part in the Parade.

Prizes are being offered to children with the best decorated bicycles

Well known T.V. personalities Fiona Coote and the Gobbledok will also parade through town. Each will distribute samples of their product after the Parade. The Parade will terminate at The Village Square.

ENTERTAINMENT.

Once the Parade has finished everyone will congregate in the Village Square for an afternoon's entertainment. Apart from a number of static displays, the many performances will include Aerobic Demonstrations, Maypole Dancers, Scottish Dancing, Country Music, Stringed Instrument Groups and several other musical items. During the proceedings prizes which are to be awarded to the best decorated bicycles will be presented, and officially the "Formation" of the "Private Township of Picton" will be acknowledged.

CHURCH SERVICE.

On Sunday there will be a Combined Church Service which is to be conducted by the local Ecumenical Council. This will take place at 11

am in the Botanic Gardens. A Time Capsule is to be dedicated and buried for posterity.

FAMILY PICNIC.

The weekend's activities, will conclude on Sunday 4 August, with a Monster Family Picnic which is also to be held in the Botanic Gardens. Families are being encouraged to bring their "baskets" and to relax in the lovely surroundings. Wandering minstrels will entertain the crowd. Residents, new and old, from near and far, are invited to our "PICNIC in PICTON". (Wet weather arrangements have been organised).

BOWLING CLUB'S BENEFIT DAY.

On Wednesday 7 August, the Bowling Club is holding a special benefit day. The Picton Red Cross Club has undertaken to raise funds for a "Heart Start 3000 Defibulator Machine" which is made in Holland and the cost to Australia is \$11,800. Three of Picton's four ambulances have already been provided with these machines, courtesy of Mr Kerry Packer and The State Government. Each ambulance station in New South Wales received three such machines. What could be a more fitting activity to commemorate Picton's 150th Birthday than the community funding of this fourth machine.

DEBUTANTE BALL.

With festivities continuing until 10 August, the Grande Finale will be a Debutante Ball which is to be held on Saturday 10 August. This is being organised by St Anthony's Parish Ball Committee.

Whilst the committee has attempted to plan events to suit each and everyones' specific tastes, a trip to Picton's Museum must not be missed. Where is the Museum one might ask? No matter where one stands, one is surrounded by the natural beauty of the lovely rolling hills, the evidence of our colonial heritage and the examples of the wonderful monuments which have been bequeathed to us by our forefathers.

PICTON'S MUSEUM IS PICTON ITSELF!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PICTON!

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

It is always exciting and encouraging to receive letters from members who live outside the local area. The following newspaper clipping was sent to the Secretary by one of our members from South Grafton.

Joan Allerton wrote:

"Please find enclosed an article scanned from the Town & Country Journal of the 22nd July, 1871 reporting on the laying of the foundation stone of the Wilton Public School

I found this article very interesting as my forebears would have attended this school. They were descendants of Levi and Sarah White (nee Ackroyd), who are buried in the St Lukes Cemetery, Wilton."

TOWN & COUNTRY JOURNAL, 22 July, 1871. page 183, column 4.

The foundation-stone of the building for a public school, was laid on Monday, the 10th instant, by R. H. Woodhouse, Esq. J.P.

About noon, a number of gentlemen met at Mr. Wonson's where they were hospitably entertained with a sumptuous luncheon. After regaling themselves with the good things prepared by their kind hostess, they then proceeded to the Village of Wilton, where a number of people from the surrounding districts had assembled.

Mr. Badham then handed to Mr. Woodhouse a trowel, with the following inscription - "Presented to R. H. Woodhouse, Esq. J.P. on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the public school, Wilton, East Bargo, on --nday, July 10th, 1871," and said that he had the pleasure on behalf of the local board to present it to Mr. Woodhouse, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone.

The ceremony commenced by placing in a cavity in the foundation a bottle, containing the date, and by whom the stone was laid; as also some coins of the latest date. The stone was then lowered into the proper place, and after a few touches with the mallet, was declared to be well and truly laid.

Mr. Woodhouse then addressed the assembly, saying that he felt great pleasure in laying the foundation-stone of this building not only because he was a strong advocate of the public school system of education, but because he was glad to see the people of this locality availing themselves of this system. He could assure them that it was the best and most liberal system and one that was surely and rapidly spreading throughout the length and breadth of the colony. He then quoted at considerable length from statistics lately published, showing the number of public schools in operation up to the 31st Decembar last, the number of pupils in attendance, and the amount of fees. He also gave returns of the number of provisional and half-time schools pointing out the immense amount of good these schools were doing especially in thinly populated districts, where the children

would grow up in utter ignorance but for them. He also quoted returns showing the numbers of heads of families of all denomination who during 1878 applied for public provisional and half-time schools proving beyond doubt that the system is becoming acceptable to all denominations. Mr. Woodhouse then referred to the denominational system of education, and said he never could see the necessity of educating each separately. Perhaps in many cases the parents are intimate friends, and the children playing together every day, yet so soon as they are to attend school they are sent in different directions, according to the denomination to which they belong; and the early friendship is gradually and surely converted to sectarian feelings, bigotry and intolerance follow. There is no friendship so lasting as that of the schoolboy. One of our greatest poets, Lord Byron, says

"And dear the schoolboy's spot,

"We ne'er forget" -----

Boys who have been educated together and afterwards grown old, without seeing each other, if, perchance, they are thrown together they are friends at once; the schoolboys friendship only ceases at the grave. You have done your duty in erecting this building, but you must not suppose you have nothing more to do when it is completed, and a teacher appointed. You have still a more important duty to perform; you have to bring your children here one and all, and see that their attendance is regular. It is the custom, I regret to say, in some of the agricultural districts to take the children away during the busy times; if any are here with such intentions I would beg of them not to do so; for if a child is taken away only for a week, now and then, it quite upsets his mind for the routine of education; no doubt it is done with the best intention, but I can assure you nothing will compensate them for the loss of education; believe me, it is the best inheritance they can have; and by-and-by when you are all dead and gone, when your ashes are smouldering in the grave, children will then grow up who will be educated in this building, and these children as their minds become enlightened will venerate your memories; will bless your forethought in providing them a building where they can receive an education to enable them to fulfil whatever position Providence may place them in, not only with credit to themselves, but with honour to their country.

Mr. Woodhouse then requested Mr. Badham to convey to the local board his grateful thanks for the honour conferred upon him in asking him to lay this stone, as also for the trowel which he should prize, not for its intrinsic value, but because of the occasion in which he had had the pleasure of using it.

The Rev. Mr. Wilkinson then made some remarks to the meeting highly approving of the Public School system of education.

Mr. Burrett, of Camden, then proposed three cheers for the Queen, which was heartily responded to. Three cheers were also given for Mr. Woodhouse, and three for Mr. Wilkinson, when the ceremony came to a close.

In the evening a ball and supper was held at the same place, and judging from the way in which the young people enjoyed themselves, and from the late hour at which the dancing ceased, the entertainment may be pronounced a decided success.

ARCHIVES REPORT

ABBOTSFORD

Research conducted by Mr Steve Jones during the course of his architectural studies at the University of N.S.W.

Donated by Mr & Mrs Ray Jones.

Selected material compiled and presented by Mrs Edna Townsend.

Includes publications, 'Abbotsford - The Past', 'Abbotsford - The Present', the Report to the Hon. Eric Bedford, B.A., M.P. Minister for Planning and Environment - 'Into an Objection to the making of a Permanent Conservation Order in respect of the building and site known as "Abbotsford", Picton'. Photographs, copies of documents.

BOOKLETS and SUBDIVISION MAPS

Advertising brochures relating to (a) Avonweir Estate West Bargo, (b) Tahmoor Railway Station Estate and (c) West Bargo Station Estate.

Subdivision maps of - Avonweir Estate and Tahmoor Railway Estate.

Donated by Berrima District Historical Society Inc.

CAMERA

ZEISS IKON 435/20. Made in Germany with British made leather case. During W.W.II Mr Ken Buckley was forced to bale out of his aircraft over Holland. During the time he was kept in hiding by the Dutch Underground Resistance Movement he acquired the camera. It has a Tessa lens which is considered to be one of the finest of its time.

Donated by Mr Jim and Mrs Eileen Kelsall.

GEORGE IV.

Two cards advertising the Royal George Hotel.

Courtesy: Mt Victoria & District Historical Society.

LETTERS

Correspondence belonging to Mr James Hooke.

Donated by Mr F. B. Knox.

MEMORABILIA

Information relating to the 'Furphy Water Tank'.

Five shilling sterling piece presented to a Barnado Boy by the Queen when leaving England for Australia, Inscribed 'Faith and Truth I will bear unto you'.

N.S.W. Motor spirit ration ticket.

Account. S. J. Warters Motor Funeral Director. 1944.

Donated by Mr Ted Buckley.

MEMORABILIA

Identification Cards (2). National Parks and Wildlife Service (1976).

Photographs (3). Abbotsford Bridge.

Photographs (5). Theatre Group.

Programmes. Theatre Group (4)

Leaflets relating to Throsby Park.

Donated by Mr Fred Pullman.

ARCHIVES REPORT (continued)

NEWSPAPERS

Selection of local newspapers.
Donated by Mr F. B. Knox.

NEWSPAPERS

Selection of local newspapers.
Donated by Mrs Kath Sheedy.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACT (FRAMED)

Camden News. August 27, 1896. Early Days. by R. H. Antill.
Donated by Edna Townsend.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(2) Railway Deviation Camp. Picton.
Donated by Mrs Hazel Boon.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Burraborang Valley. (4)
Donated by Mr. George Parrington.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Matha and Ted Thompson. Picton Band.
Donated by Mrs Carol Kane.

PICTON MOUNTED RIFLES - MINUTE BOOKS

Donated by Mr Bruce Knox.

WATERCOLOUR SKETCH

The Coach House - Picton. Prior to refurbishment.
Presented by artist. Mr George Herbert.
This work of art has now been framed and will hang in The Coach House.

The society is indeed appreciative of these donations.

Jan Ross
Archivist

**200 th ANNIVERSARY
DESCENDANTS OF
THOMAS COZIER & JOHN LEADBEATER
WHO ARRIVED ON THE THIRD FLEET SHIP
"ALBEMARLE"
13 th October 1791**

ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A FAMILY GATHERING TO BE HELD AT TOONGABBIE
PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 1991. 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM.

CONTACT: Merrilyn Minter. 237 McCaffrey Drive, Rankin Park. 2287
Betty Maris. 15 Gowan Brae Avenue, North Parramatta. 2151.

PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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LIBRARIAN: PATRICIA SHEPHARD (046) 309 380
RESEARCH OFFICER: KEN WILLIAMS (046) 327 439

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary
Picton & District Historical & Family History Society Inc.
P.O. Box 64
Picton. NSW. 2571

RESOURCE CENTRE:

THE COACH HOUSE HOURS: Thursday 10 am to 2 pm
Argyle Street Saturday 10 am to 3 pm
Picton 1st Sunday 2 pm to 4 pm
 3rd Sunday 2 pm to 4 pm

ENTER by Menangle Street carpark - (behind the National Australia Bank).

MEETINGS:

Second Monday of each month in THE COMMUNITY ROOMS. SHIRE HALL.
(excluding January) MENANGLE STREET, PICTON. - 7.30 pm.

MEMBERSHIP FEES - FROM 1st JULY EACH YEAR.

\$ 8 Pensioner
\$10 Single
\$12 Family

THE JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED IN MARCH. JUNE. SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER.

RESEARCH FEES - \$ 5.00 PLUS PHOTOCOPYING CHARGES.

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REGISTERED PUBLICATION
NO. NBHS086

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