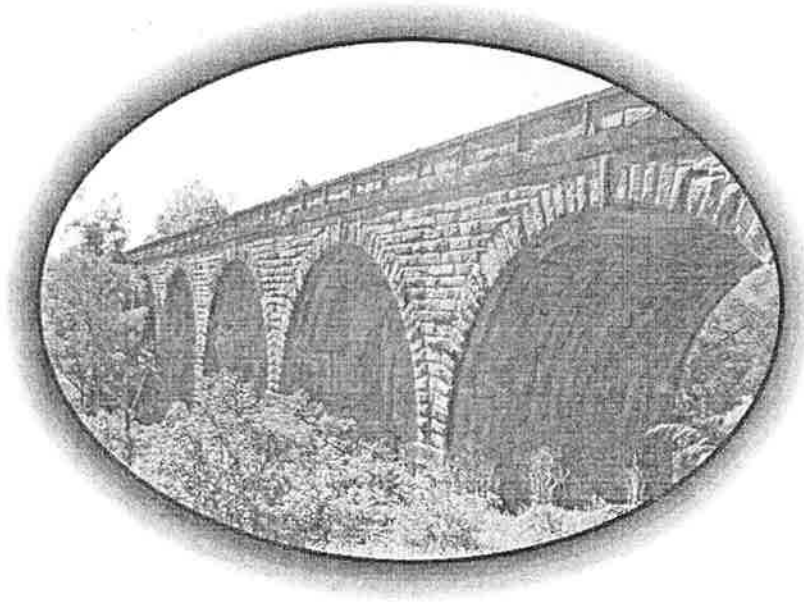


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Family	\$25.00

Meetings

Meetings held at 9.30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month except January, on the 1st floor of Wollondilly Public Library, Menangle St., Picton. The December meeting is held at one of the members' homes, at 11 a.m. followed by lunch.

The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Saturday in September, before the monthly meeting.

Research room

First floor Wollondilly Public Library, above entrance. 10 am to 3 pm each Thursday and 10am to 12 noon, 2nd and 4th Saturday (closed on public holidays).

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Ed. note: apologies for the error in the Boer War item, on page 1 of the previous Journal (which was a last minute addition), but we are well past the centenary of that War.

President's Report

As you can see from the following article, the reports from the school centenary celebrations were fantastic, and I am very sorry that I was unable to attend, having just come home from hospital.

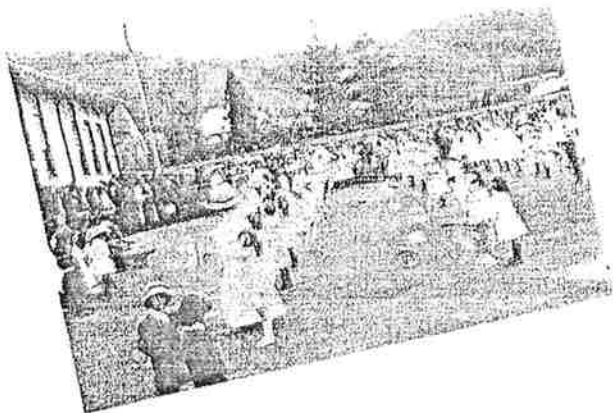
Please note that the price for our new Chronicles book, advertised in the last journal, has been reduced to \$20 + \$3 postage & packing. It was only when we compared the printed book (and the printer's computer was down for some weeks) that we decided on this change. Our other publication, **Bargo Cemetery Memorials**, which we are trying to print ourselves is going rather slowly. Our photocopier hasn't liked all the photographs, so there have been several visits from technicians, and we hope that all will go well now. For those likely to attend the next Family History conference at Bomaderry in September, we should have a plentiful supply of both books.

We have applied for a grant from the Wollondilly Shire to help us publish a major book later this year, so it has been a productive time for our small Society.

One of our members, Frank Cracknell, has very kindly responded to the note in the last Journal about the Boer War Day by giving us a copy of a Boer War diary from his family records. Frank has given us lots of material about his family over the years, which we greatly appreciate (and one day Kate hopes to do more on the Picton storekeepers....).

We continue to be busy with requests for information, as well as having a steady sale of our various publications.

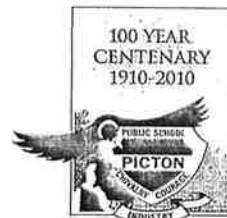
Gail Hanger



1910—2010



Thank you for joining with us
in celebrating our Centenary.



Picton Public School Centenary Celebrations Program

1910 - 2010

Term 2 : Week 7
Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th,
Saturday 5th June



Picton Public School Centenary Celebrations

Day 1— Thursday 3rd June

Time and Location	School Program Focus
9.40 to 10.00 COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area)	Official Welcome: Lyn Fraser— Principal Special Performances: Choir: <i>I Vow to My Country / School Song</i> (Mrs Vicki Bywater, Mrs Coleen Lui) Dance: <i>All Kindergarten Classes: Shake a Tail Feather</i> (Mrs Janeen Jackson)
10.00 to 11.30 All Classrooms And Playground	Open Classrooms Classroom Learning Focus: <i>Human Society and its Environment – 'Then and Now': The History of Picton Public</i> Frieze Frame: Art Work in the Playground and Classrooms (guide available) (Please note children must stay with class teacher.)
11.30 to 12.00 Outdoor Classroom near Coffee Van	Morning Tea for Visitors Tea and Coffee Van will be available and cakes / slices provided by the P&C for Morning Tea. Please note: The Canteen will be open and will be available for purchasing items.
12.00 to 1.00 COLA	Showcase of Special Programs 12.00 - 12.30 Dance: <i>'Then and Now': Year 4/5 Girls Dance Group – Funky Hip Hop 'You've Changed'</i> Year 3: <i>Barn Dance</i> (Miss Michelle Jourdan) Choir: <i>Fields of Gold</i> (Mrs Vicki Bywater, Mrs Coleen Lui) * 12.30 - 1.00 Interactive Whiteboard Demonstration (Mr Jim Harvey) * 12.30 - 1.00 Debating and Public Speaking: 'Homework is Vital to a Good Education' (Mrs Suzanne Capps)
COLA 5B Classroom 6C Classroom	
1.00 to 2.00 Outdoor Classroom	BBQ Lunch provided by P & C (Gold Coin Donation) BBQ lunch is for adults buying only. Please note: the canteen will be open and will be available for purchasing other lunch items.
Special notes: 11.30—12.00	Children will eat their lunch as normal at this time either ordered from the canteen or brought from home. Normal lunch orders can be placed for students.
1.00—2.00	Parents and carers can purchase their child a sausage sizzle. However, due to supervision requirements only adults will be allowed to purchase.



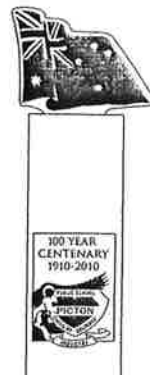
Picton Public School Centenary Celebrations

Day 2— Friday 4th June

10.15 to 11.30 COLA	Centenary Assembly: Mr John Douglas (MC) (Captains and special guests will be speaking.) Our time capsule will be commemorated.
12.00 to 1.00	Picnic Lunch – please join your children / families for lunch in our playground. (Canteen will be open for visitors)
1.00 to 2.00 Outside Library	Costume Parade: Mrs Liz Boyd (MC) Through the Century: 1910 to 2010 Students and staff will be dressed in historical costume from 1910 through to 2010. An interesting parade!
2.00 to 3.00 COLA	Concert Band Performance: Mrs Jennifer Gibbins A wonderful program from our talented performers to conclude our open day program including past students and tutors.

Day 3— Saturday 5th June

9.00 to 12.00	Open Day, Guided Tour and Morning Tea Meeting at the Library, entry via gates on Lumsdaine Street, View Street and Remembrance Drive.
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Centenary Celebrations at the Picton Public School, Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th June 2010.

As you can see from the program opposite, the organizers outdid themselves with the number and variety of activities over the three days. We had a lot of rain in the week or so beforehand, with more on the Wednesday and Thursday nights, but it did not rain during the day. Helen Hanger, with her husband Joe and several other family members attended the special Assembly on Friday; our President Gail Hanger was unable to attend, and Kate Holmes stood in for her, presenting the replica of the Hogue Album to the school.

It may not have rained, but it was grey and cold; fortunately the assembly was enlivened by the staff and children dressing up in old style clothes (some presumed to date from 1910, while some were from different periods). The Principal, Lyn Fraser was resplendent in her dress and hat, but many of the children were in shirt sleeves, and they must have been well chilled by the end of the assembly. Fortunately there were several student performances, one by the choir and three dance routines by different classes that allowed everyone an opportunity to move, sometimes even in time with the music. It was a terrific performance from all the students, and everyone behaved extremely well.

Proceedings began with the playing of a didgeridoo and an acknowledgement of country, after which the MC, Mr. John Douglas gave a brief history of the school. Between the student items, the school captains Jacob Hackett and Brodee Mate spoke, along with Mrs. Joan Brown (ex student and ex teacher) and the youngest student, Cheyenne Brandt. The oldest known student from the well-known Baxter family, 98-year-old Beryl, was too frail to attend, though other members of the family were present. John Douglas read out some of the recollections sent in by past students, and it is planned that these will be put into a book to complement the school centenary publication available now.

It was then time for the Society to present the copy of the Hogue Album to the school, which was received by the Principal and the two school captains. Most of the work done on preparing the album was done by Gail Hanger, with help from Helen; we were able to duplicate the original captions to the twelve photographs of the town and its schools through the miracle of modern colour photocopying, thanks to the Library copier. We couldn't duplicate the size of the original album, or the gold embossing, but it was a great effort by Gail to put it together.

One of the last items saw some material added to the time capsule, with more to come recording this celebration. It will not be buried!

Among those thanked at the end of the assembly was Frank Baker, who has spent a great deal of time collecting photographs of school teachers and classes over as wide a time as possible. In fact, it was a nudge from Frank that encouraged us to duplicate the Hogue album for this special occasion.

Despite the cold weather, it was a great occasion, and the school is to be congratulated on all the hard work that everyone put in. It was such fun to see everyone dressed up in costume, and parents must have been scouring the charity shops for clothing that could be adapted for the occasion.

After the assembly there was time to visit the historical display in the library, which was quite amazing – such a lot of work.



There were further activities in the afternoon, but we had gone home to recover from the cold. A dinner was held on Friday night, and some 200 turned up at the Picton Bowling Club for another enjoyable event.

Saturday dawned sunny, which was a great relief. This was a day for the old (or not-so-old) students to gather and have a good look around the school, catch up with old friends, and enjoy a particularly fine morning tea. The school had been decorated within an inch of its life, with displays of students' work in classrooms and hallways, and even some access to the almost completed new hall. Attendees this morning included some who were only able to come down that day, but names bandied about included Bollards, Baxters, Ruddimans, Crakenthorpes and Brodies, many of whom were students in the 1940s-1950s.



The centenary was well covered in the local press, with a particularly good selection of photographs from the assembly shown in the Wollondilly Advertiser of 9th June. The book is available from the school, and the Visitor Centre, for \$20.

Some notes from the history of the Picton Public School, 1910-1920.

Having explained in the last journal that there were no surviving Picton newspapers from 1910, a chance discovery some two weeks before the centenary, in the extensive Bruce Knox collection, explains why. Apparently two lads came to the newspaper office after the Second World War and asked to borrow the newspapers for that year so that they could write a story about the opening – and the papers were never returned. Mr. Knox had also come across a newspaper clipping from *The Town and Country Journal*, June 15, 1910, and this has been tracked down in the State Library. It is slightly longer than the Sydney Morning Herald item, and included a photograph apparently showing the school children, teachers and some guests, with the school in the background, but it is so dark that there is no point in reproducing it here. (A copy was rushed to the school for inclusion in the historical display).

NEW SCHOOL AT PICTON.

Mr. J. A. Hogue, Minister for Education, visited Picton on June 8, for the purpose of performing the ceremony in connection with the formal opening of the new Superior Public School recently erected there. The day was delightfully pleasant, and the pretty little town between the hills presented an unusually gay and festive appearance.

Mr. Hogue arrived by the mid-day train from Sydney, and with him were Miss Hogue, Mr. W. M'Court, M.L.A. (Speaker), and Mrs. M'Court, and Mr. G. W. Fuller, M.P. The party was met at the railway station by the Mayor of the town (Mr. J. W. M'Guiggin) and other citizens, and escorted in vehicles to the school.

A good display of bunting and the presence of a large number of neatly-attired children in the playgrounds, provided an attractive scene, to which interest was added by the presence of a guard of honor of cadets. On the arrival of the Minister and his party the pupils of the school, under the direction of their principal (Mr. J. J. Kelly), gave a display of physical exercises. They acquitted themselves in a highly meritorious manner, and evoked generous applause from the visitors.

This part of the programme over, the Mayor in a few brief remarks presented Mr. Hogue with a gold key, subscribed by the pupils, as a memento of the occasion, and with which he was asked to formally unlock the main entrance door to the school. The Minister having acknowledged the gift, complied with the request. Then followed an inspection of the interior of the building, and subsequently the ceremony of formally declaring the school open. This latter function took place at the rear of the building, where a fairly large gathering of townspeople and school children had congregated to witness the proceedings.

The newspaper clipping had been kept by Mrs. Jessie Ray (nee Ridgway) who had attended one of the small private schools in Upper Picton before being considered old enough to go to the Menangle Street school, not long before the move to Argyle/Lumsdaine Street. Mrs. Ray also said that she had been the first to turn the key in the door. "She was walking down to the school and Mr. J.J. Kelly, headmaster met her and gave her the key to open the door. He was going down to meet the procession of children coming up from the old school in Menangle Street" (recorded by Bruce Knox in 1979). We understand that it was her younger sister Phyllis, later Mrs. Hilder, who carried the key on a cushion up to the new school – perhaps this was the ceremonial key, and that used by Jessie was the everyday key.

The new school, with four classrooms to cope with 200 students as built by Mr. M Christiansen for £2207, and it soon became possible for the Department to rent the house (built in 1899 for Mr. Clifton, storekeeper, and now the Administrative Building) as the headmaster's residence. In September 1913 the house and land were bought for £700, and the school now had between two and three acres of land for playgrounds and a horse paddock.

Some highlights of the first decade (taken from the local newspaper) include:

- As early as 1911 an attempt was made to form a Parents and Citizens Association, but although a committee was formed, it seems to have faltered almost immediately. It re-started in mid 1913.
- In November 1914 lightning struck the school, and brick fell from the gable into the schoolroom, injuring four children – a miracle that none of the injuries were serious.
- Picton's water supply became undrinkable in January 1916; apparently the town clerk told the headmaster that it was "rotten", and children were being kept out of school. So three 600 gallon water tanks were installed, one being for the residence.
- During the First World War, students put on concerts to raise money for the Patriotic Fund; later they establish a vegetable garden and in January 1918 were able to send 5 hundredweight of food to soldiers' families. There was a "vegetable depot" in Sydney and the food was distributed by the Red Cross War Chest, Exeter House for Soldiers and Postey's Fund; the depot closed in September 1919.
- By September 1918 the school was compiling an honour roll, and soon had raised £30. At the end of the year Mr. Kelly (headmaster) was leaving after 9 years. He had been the secretary of the "Win the War League", president of the local band, and assistant returning officer for the Picton subdivision of the Werriwa electorate. Mr. McDonald was to replace him.
- By February 1919 the influenza epidemic was causing concern, and plans were made to use the school as an emergency hospital if needed. The new headmaster warned teachers not to travel to Sydney and bring back the flu. By April the school was closed, and 8 patients were in the "hospital"; another 7 patients were in the railway camp hospital (this camp was just south of the railway bridge crossing Argyle Street, on the west side – they had been building the new railway line, which opened this year). The camp hospital was later amalgamated with the school, and at least three people died. The school re-opened on 26th May.
- In March 1920 there were further calls for a P&C Association, and a committee was formed. This seems to have been more successful.

So the school played an important role in this difficult first decade. We'll have more information in future journals.

Picton Railway Station

by Stuart Sharp

The question to be examined

The selection and size of a railway platform building serving a location in NSW within each design group has always been roughly in accord with the size and/or nature of the locations served. This article examines the designs of buildings surrounding the opening of Picton station in 1863 and to assess whether the information about Picton station accords with the overall link between stations and towns. The objective is to determine whether the town of Picton received the correct style and size of platform building at the railway station. The methodology is to examine Picton station and use the geography and chronology of it and other stations to determine whether the town/station hypothesis is correct.

Background to the opening of Picton station

The NSW Railways was the second government-owned railway in the world and the first government-owned railway in the British Empire. It started with a railway between Sydney and Granville in 1855. The line reached Picton in 1863 and continued south to the NSW/Victorian border at Albury.

Anything owned by governments are subject to high levels of political influence. The NSW Railways was certainly in that category. John Whitton arrived in NSW in 1857 as Engineer for the Railways. His first expression of what he considered to be a railway station was built at Campbelltown in 1858, now demolished. Its main architectural feature was the use of a full-length hipped roof. It was a brick building measuring 70 feet nine inches long and 17 feet wide. The rooms were designated for use as a Parcels Office, a Booking Office, a General Waiting Room, a Ladies' Waiting Room, one toilet closet for women and a single toilet for men. Two chimneys punctured the roof for the heating of the Booking Office and the Ladies' Waiting Room but no other rooms were heated. This design and floor plan became the prototype for a new class of platform structures.

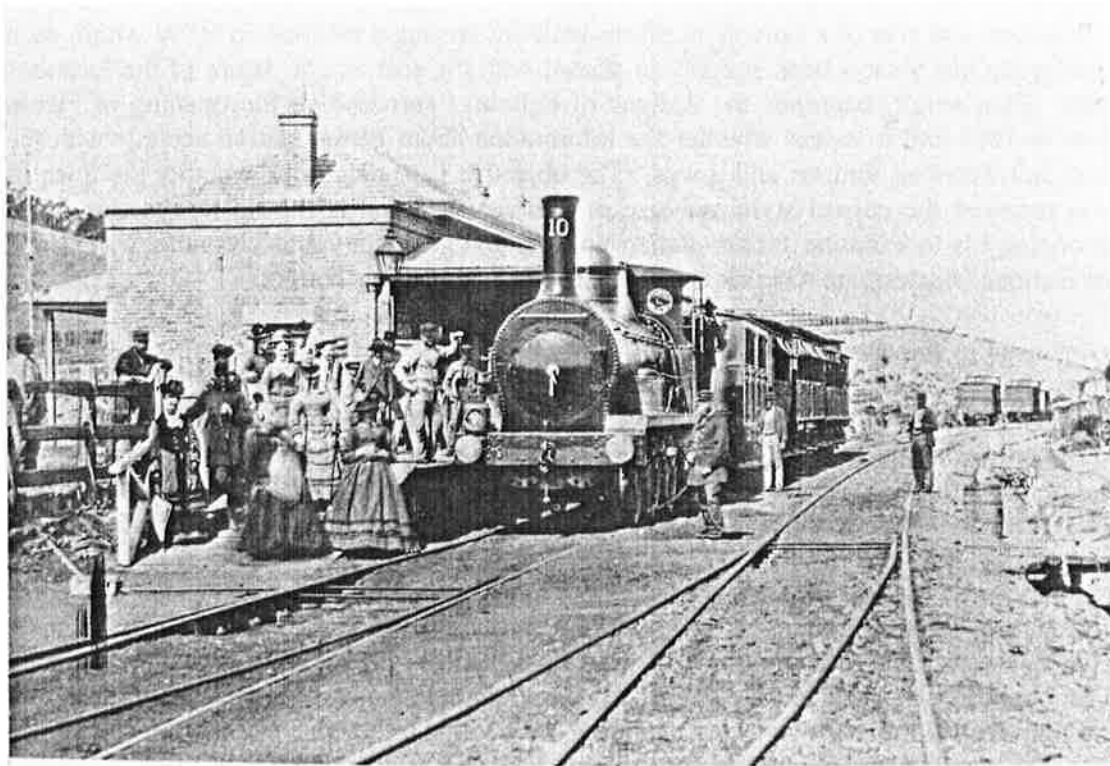
Whitton slightly expanded on his design in 1859 when he approved the plan for the existing building on No. 4 platform at Parramatta. The major design difference was the addition of pavilions at each end of the structure. These had parapeted walls which hid small hipped roofs. This overall plan became the standard until 1870 apart from one feature. At both Campbelltown and Parramatta Whitton approved the use of porched entries, though one was built at Parramatta only, and never again used. Whitton used the design (without the porch) at Singleton in 1862.

The features of Picton station buildings

By the time Picton station was opened, Whitton had resolved to use the Georgian influence as his structure for the most important locations.

John Whitton's name is on the plan for Picton station. He approved a building 82 feet long by 17 feet wide externally. It followed the standard design platform structure that Whitton had been evolving since 1858 and was first fully expressed at Penrith the previous year. The spaces in the Picton building were divided for the following uses: combined Porters' and Lamp Room, Parcels Office, Combined Booking Office and Waiting Room, Telegraph

Office, Ladies Waiting Room and a single toilet each for men and women. The men also had a slate-lined urinal with partitions for four men. Each man was allocated a very generous space of two feet nine inches, a size that was reduced over time on later buildings to less than two feet wide.



Picton Station in 1874, donated by C. Sproule to the Society

What was absent is interesting. Heating was provided for the porters and the ladies but no heating was provided for those in the main waiting room or staff in the Parcels, Telegraph and Booking Offices. The roof was clear of any feature, with single chimneys being provided where the hipped roof met the pavilions. Every aspect of the structure appeared symmetrical: the floor plan was symmetrical and pedestrian access from the street was through a pair of centrally located doors with the windows not only symmetrical but identifying the various rooms. There was no internal access between any two rooms in the building. Every room, apart from the central pedestrian access to the main waiting room, was accessed by single doors from the rail elevation. As travelers walked towards the building, they would have noticed the sandstone flagging underneath the canopy. The platform on the rail side was formed with ironbark planking six by three inches. Unfortunately, the original posted canopy on the rail elevation was replaced in 1965 by the present unsympathetic cantilevered awning.

Picton station was an elegant building and this status was not only achieved by the overall design but by the materials and services. The roof was sheeted with Welsh Bangor slates, otherwise known as Purple Bangor slates, due to the purple tinge of the material which was quarried in the Bangor area of Wales. This was the standard roofing material for NSW Government buildings in the 19th century. The 1863 plan for the structures shows "Duchess" slates, which was an indicator of the size of the individual slates, in this case 24 by 12 inches. Another elegant feature on the road elevation was the placement of Morewood and Rogers

patented iron roof tiles over the porch. These were imported from North London and are still in place on the structure. Both male and female toilet wastes were drained into a cement line "cess". This was a revolutionary advance over the continual replacement of night soil pans in the toilets. Cement was also used in the brickwork and for the setting of the stonework in the front of the structure.

The overall high level of presentation was capped off by a selection of plants from the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

It is with ease that one can conclude that Picton station when opened in 1863 was an extremely attractive and elegant building.

A comparison with later structures

The building at Picton was not only approved by John Whitton as Engineer but, from comments made by him at the opening of Singleton station the previous year, the design was one that pleased him. It can be assumed that Whitton himself directed and supervised the design process.

The NSW Government had achieved a spectacular extension of the telegraph service throughout NSW. In 1858, not only had Picton been connected to the telegraph system but it extended as far south as Albury. By 1861, Queensland, NSW and Victoria were connected to the system. With this in mind, it was a little bizarre for the building at Picton to feature a separate Telegraph Office. It can only be assumed that the post office that existed in Picton was not connected to the telegraph line. There was a small window at the station through which members of the public at Picton could send and receive their telegrams. Very few subsequent platform buildings after 1863 had a Telegraph Office and its inclusion in the Picton structure must be seen as an undertaking specifically in response to local circumstances.

Whitton used the same design for the platform building at Mittagong in 1866. It measured 85 feet six inches long by 17 feet wide externally and its floor plan reflected much the same as Picton but without the Telegraph Office. (This was integrated into the 1873 two-storey refreshment room and is not the present building at the Sydney end of that building). In 1867 Whitton again used the same design at Moss Vale, with a structure 82 feet six inches long by 17 feet wide. Again, there was no telegraph office but Mittagong and Moss Vale structures provided heating to all rooms where people waited or worked.

Whitton was overseas when the plan for the Goulburn building was approved. In his absence, William Mason approved the Colony's first Italianate detailed platform building. By its larger size and very high level of ornamentation, the structure at Goulburn became the new first class design for platform building. It had replaced the Georgian style as the style for the most important locations. The building at Goulburn was 108 feet nine inches long and 28 feet wide where the bay windows are located. It was bigger and classier than all previous examples of the style, being the first building to include refreshment facilities. It was the first since Picton to have Telegraph Office which was no larger than that at Picton but was inconveniently located at the extreme end of the buildings. While the level of ornamentation of the Goulburn structure was higher than that at Picton, they shared some fundamental design criteria, including an overall symmetry, low-pitched roof, central access and pavilions at each end.

Whitton continued using the same design as at Picton up to 1871. Scone was 74 by 17 feet built in 1870 and Murrurundi on the Main North line was of the same measurements, erected in 1871. Both were very much copies of the Picton building but without the telegraph office. On the Main West line, Mount Victoria in 1867 and Bowenfels were about the same measurements but were the only examples not built in face brickwork. Both were built from local sandstone blocks.

A summary of similar structures

Thus, by the end of the first period of main line railway construction, Whitton had used the design family of which Picton was an example at the following locations upon the opening of the three trunk lines:

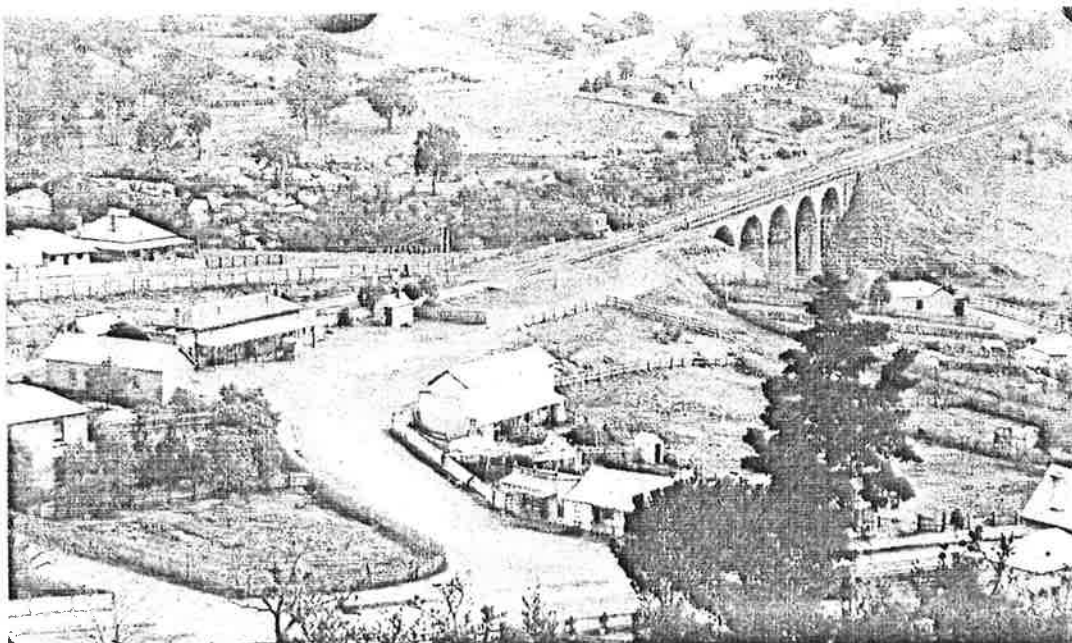
- Campbelltown
- Picton
- Mittagong
- Moss Vale
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Mount Victoria
- Bowenfels
- Singleton
- Muswellbrook
- Scone
- Murrurundi

It is of interest that each of the trunk lines received four buildings of the same design.

To be continued...

Stuart visited the rooms in March, along with David Sheedy who was researching the Thirlmere stationmaster's cottage. He very kindly sent this article on the place of Picton station in railway history; it has been slightly edited, and will be continued in the next Journal. Note that it was common for the telegraph office to be at the railway station in smaller towns, and there was no purpose-built post office at Picton until 1892.

Picton railway precinct c. 1910, from the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Div.)



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The new *Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry, 1820-1850 Volume I* is now available at the amended price of \$20 + \$3 postage and handling.

Cemetery Transcripts

Bargo General Cemetery	10.50
Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton	12.00
Redbank Uniting Church – A Pictorial view	20.00
Upper Picton General Cemetery	20.00
Thirlmere	20.00

Marriage Transcripts

St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.1	15.00
St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.2	15.00
St. Mark's Anglican Church – Vol.3	20.00

Other Publications

Along the Menangle Road (2 nd Illustrated edition)	15.00
A stroll through St. Mark's Churchyard	8.00
The Antills of Jarvisfield Picton	10.00
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50

Tea Towel	10.00
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The Bargo Cemetery update and with photographs is taking a little longer as there have been some problems with photocopying.

Meanwhile, we still have copies of *The History of the Picton District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc* from Jan Wilton & Jan Ross ((\$15.00), as well as *The Old Razorback Schoolhouse 1882-1899* by Elizabeth Villy (\$12.50) [plus postage in both cases].

And we are now carrying *A Brief History of COURIDJAH in the Wollondilly Shire* by one of our members, Karyn Chalk at \$15 + postage.

If undelivered please return to
PDHFHS
PO Box 64
PICTON NSW 2571

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