

STONEQUARRY JOURNAL

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VOLUME: 10

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Picton & District Historical
&
Family History Society Inc.

**PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL
&
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

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The Secretary
PO Box 64, Picton. NSW. 2571.

Library (Resource Centre):

The "Coach House"
Argyle Street, Picton.
(Enter by the Menangle Street Carpark at the rear of the National
Australia Bank.)

Hours: Thursday: 10 am to 2 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday: 10 am to 3 pm
Or by appointment.

Meetings: 4th Sunday in the month - 10 am at "The Coach House"
- Followed by working-bee. December excepted.

Outings / Speakers: 2nd Sunday in the month. January excepted.

Membership Fees: Pensioner: \$10
Single: \$15
Family: \$20

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CONTENTS

Presidents Report	3
Calendar for 1997	8
RAHS Conference Report	4
Achievement Awards	5
News Items	5 - 6
Christmas Sydney Cove 1788	6
Sydney Cove's First Small Pox Epidemic, by Pat Shephard	7
Colin Post's Index	2



Picton and District Historical
and Family History Society Inc.

cordially invites you . . .
to our Christmas Party.
Sunday, 8th December, 1996 from 2p.m. at the Coach House.

R.S.V.P. 29th Nov.
P.O. Box 64, Picton. or Ph. Helen, 77 1276.

INDEX OF NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Published below is another instalment of this index. We are indebted to member Colin Post who has extracted these announcements from local newspapers. The society has copies of the newspapers referenced and Colin has painstakingly transcribed the details relating to the event. They are available for viewing at the Resource Centre in the "Coach House", Picton, or by writing to the Secretary. PO Box 64, Picton. 2571. (Don't forget to include a business size stamped self addressed envelope for details.)

A:- Appreciation	B:- Birth	C:- Correspondence	D:- Death
I:- In Memoriam	L:- Legal	M:- Marriage	O:- Obituary
P:- Probate	R:- Return Thanks		

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	RESIDENCE	TYPE	DATE
Dunn	Cecil		Inquest	29 Jan 1948
Dunn	Ronald George		L	17 Jan 1963
Dunn	Albert George	Hume Hwy, Yanderra	L	16 Oct 1947
Dunn	Charles & Cecil		I	21 Dec 1950
Dunn	Laura Amy	Tahmoor	D	6 June 1956
"	" "	"	L	12 Sept 1956
Dunsmore	Emily		I	16 April 1970
Durrington	Ben	Lodges Rd Elderslie	C	25 Feb 1965
Dwyer	"Mick"	Mittagong, formerly Bargo	C	27 Oct 1966
Dymond	Basil Claude		I	7 May 1958
Eagles	Annie	Picton	L	17 Oct 1968
"	"	"	I	5 Dec 1968
Eagles	Benjamin Stanley	Camden	C	23 Nov 1967
Eagles	Ernest Archer		I	17 July 1947
Eagles	Ernest James	Picton	L	17 Aug 1950
"	" "	"	R	29 June 1950
"	" "	"	O	6 July 1950
Eagles	John Thomas	"Craiglea" Oaks Rd Picton	C	21 March 1963
"	" "	"	L	23 May 1963
Eagles	Kenneth James	Lalor Park, formerly Picton	D	6 Sept 1979
Eagles	William J.	Died Wilton	I	26 July 1899
East	Albert Clarence		I	16/1/1981; 17/1/1985
"	" "	Thirlmere	L	31 July 1980
East	Robert	Died Thirlmere	I	18 July 1917
Easom (n)	Edward	Tahmoor	L	Oct 1950
Edwards	Harriett		I	27 March 1947
Edwards	Mrs	Sydney & Upper Picton	O	27 Sept 1899
Eber	Samuel	Thirlmere	L	9 April 1970
Elfar	Anthony Kahlil	Died Tuross Heads	D	19 Nov 1981
Ellenden	Ivy		D	24 July 1980
Ellis	Gordon Daniel		C	17 Oct 1963
Ellis	Linda Adele	Picton	L	20 June 1974
Ellis	William George		D	30 Oct 1969
Ellis	William George	Hume Hwy Tahmoor	C	30 Oct 1969
Ellis	Gordon Daniel	Tahmoor	C	17 Oct 1963

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As we enter our tenth year, we are confronted with the fact that ideas in a group such as ours sometimes become stale. In the past, outings to local sites have always proved to be well patronised and the last two which were organised by the previous year's committee were very popular.

After much discussion our current committee has decided to trial a new concept. Instead of two meetings per month, one being a general meeting with a guest speaker and the second being solely for the executive, there will be an outing on the second Sunday of each month with a business meeting on the fourth Sunday.

Sometimes an executive is not in a position to make a decision which may impact upon the entire society. This has resulted in some issues being dealt with at both an executive and a general meeting and discussions tend to become repetitive.

Every member will be welcomed with open arms at a business meeting. We desire your input and we need your advice. A guide with specialised knowledge will be invited to accompany us on our visits to local sites.

Maybe the new format will not be successful but at this stage we can only try. Treat it as an experiment and if it is unsuccessful we shall have to put our thinking caps on again.

However please remember, "you only get out of something that which you are prepared to put into it". The success of the experiment is in your hands.

Our committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been supportive of activities in The Coach House, especially those who have laboriously continued cataloguing our library and archival collection. We are also appreciative of those who have performed the menial tasks of dusting, vacuuming or weeding our garden. Little things but they mean a lot.

Many thanks to those who contributed "goodies" for our Christmas raffle.

We look forward to seeing you at our "Christmas Party". If you are not able to attend, the committee wish you and your loved ones a "Very Merry Christmas" and a "Peaceful and Prosperous 1997".

Jan Ross.



1996 RAHS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Jan Ross and myself represented our society at this years RAHS Local History Conference, held at Orange. We left home on Friday morning (25 October) arriving at Bathurst in time for an afternoon tour of the Bathurst Information Centre. This was the old "Central Mapping Authority". Perhaps the most important information for us as historians is that the Parish Map will cease to continue in its current form. In order to preserve the old maps and their valuable information, the Bathurst Information Centre is endeavouring to collect all editions of every parish map ever produced and have the images transferred to CD Rom. Copies of the CD's will be placed in the State Archives and State Library for public access.

On Friday evening we were welcomed to Orange by the Orange and District Historical Society, at "Strathroy", a two-storey Victorian residence built in the late 1870's and currently being restored by one of the local members. Thank you to the Orange society for their wonderful hospitality.

This November the city of Orange celebrates 150 years of history, the village having been proclaimed in 1846. Following the conference some of the visitors to Orange attended the launch of the "Orange City Heritage Trail" (and pamphlet) on Sunday afternoon.

All day Saturday and Sunday morning were spent at the conference listening to speakers who gave interesting and varied talks on subjects ranging from local history publishing; Aboriginal reconciliation; rights, obligations and access to government records and state archives; the Parish Map - towards 2000; and the value of analysing cemetery records.

The two photographs below show (on the left) our president, Jan Ross, receiving her Achievement Award for her contribution to local history from RAHS President Dr Rosemary Annable, and (on the right) Pat Shephard receiving a cheque for \$500 from the Hon. Jan Burnswoods, MLC. We are very grateful to the Minister for this Cultural Grant which will be used to publish a local history of Tahmoor, written by member Marlane Fairfax.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

This is the second year that our Society has been associated with the presentation of Achievement awards in History at Picton High School. Initially these awards have been made possible by the generosity of John Ruffels who is a former pupil of the school.

John's intention was to foster an interest in "historical research" and the Society believes that naming the awards "The John Ruffels and Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Encouragement Awards" is appropriate recognition of John's contribution to Australian History.

JOHN RUFFELS

John Ruffels was brought to Australia by the Dr Barnardo Scheme and consequently resided at Mowbray Park. He commenced his secondary schooling at Picton Central and in 1959 was relocated when Picton High School first opened.

He obtained the Intermediate Certificate at Picton but as a result of the Dr Barnardo Scheme closing Mowbray Park's doors, John completed his secondary education at Belmont High School where he matriculated with a second class honours in English.

John's passion for Australian History began when he lived at Mowbray Park but his specialist area is in the "world of intrigue and spies". He keeps food on his table by working as a postman but several contemporary Australian publications bear witness to his research skills.

Apart from lecturing on the subject and working on his own manuscript, John has assisted with a number of books based on the life of D. H. Lawrence, especially those relating to the period of the author's stay in New South Wales.

Angus and Robertson, publishers of Joseph Davis' book on Lawrence's Kangaroo, wrote:-

"Dedicated to John Ruffles
Who is better than a detective at getting to know things".

Jan Ross.

NEWS ITEMS

Please Note:

* The **Resource Centre at the Coach House** will be closed over the **Christmas Holidays** between **Friday 20 December 1996** and **Wednesday 8 January 1997**. We will re-open on Thursday 9 January 1997.

* **Fund Raising** - Members will find a book of five raffle tickets included with this journal (\$1 a ticket). Think of it as a donation with a chance of winning one of three prizes consisting of a parcel of books for each winner. The winners will be announced at the first outing in February. Money raised will go towards our publications for 1997. (see calendar of events, page 3)

* **Hanger Family Reunion** - To be held at Queen Victoria Park, Picton, on Sunday 1 June 1997. Further details will be published in the next issue of this journal. Contact: Gail Hanger (046) 842179 or Helen Hanger (046) 771276

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY FOR THE FIRST FLEET SETTLERS AT SYDNEY COVE IN 1788 /1789.

According to David Collins, the Judge Advocate and Secretary of the Colony, "Christmas day (1788) was observed with proper ceremony. Mr Johnson preached a sermon adapted to the occasion and the major part of the officers of the settlement were afterward entertained at dinner by the governor".[1]

Mr Johnson also officiated at a baptism and a wedding. The daughter of two convicts named William and Mary Eggleton was christened Sarah. Susan Gibbs was married to John Forrester, in the presence of William and Mary Worsdell.

In the afternoon, Mr and Mrs Pugh's house was burgled, and a pound of flour stolen. [2]

On 1 January 1789, David Collins recorded that "the first day of the new year was marked as a holiday by a suspension of all kinds of labour and by hoisting the colours of the fort". [3] The Governor entertained the officers at his "table". Also present was Manly, a native who had been captured a few days earlier. He is reported to have dined "heartily on fish and roasted pork. [4]

ENDNOTES

1. Collins, David. The English Colony in New South Wales. Vol.1. Aust. Facsimile Editions No.76. Librarians Board of South Australia. Adelaide. 1971. page 49.
2. Copley, John. Sydney Cove 1788. Vol.1. Angus & Robertson. 1962. page 262.
3. Collins. op.cit.
4. Copley. op.cit. 1789-1790 Vol.2 page 265.

FREEBIES - The September Journal "freebie", a book entitled, **THE DAWNING OF THAT DAY**, by H. G. J. Howe, L. Th., Rector of Christ Church, Gladesville, NSW, went to the Ryde Historical Society.

This month we have two "give aways" - the first is a set of three small black and white prints of buildings in Yass; the second is a set of black and white prints of Lismore. These are surplus to our collection, but we would prefer them to go to a local historical society or to someone actively engaged in local history research of these areas.

EDITOR'S REPORT

In March 1997 the **Stonequarry Newsletter** will be mailed out to members and fellow societies with whom we exchange publications. A second issue of the Stonequarry Newsletter will be mailed out in October. This "newsletter" will be very similar to the current "journal" in format and contents.

In June 1997 a **new "journal"** will be published. There will be one publication each year (in June) and it will contain a series of original, well researched and referenced articles of an historical nature, particularly articles relating to the history of Picton and district. We hope our members will approve of these changes which are aimed at improving the quality of our journal, making it a more professional product in appearance and content.

NEW REGISTRY FEES:

Service Type	ACT	NT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NSW (new)
Certificate	\$22	\$25	\$32	\$20.5	\$26	\$25	\$25	\$26
Cert. where Reg. No. quoted	no reduced fee	no reduced fee	\$16	\$17.5	no reduced fee	no reduced fee	no reduced fee	\$20
Search fee	##	##	\$16 (for each 5 yrs)	\$12.5 (for each 5 yrs)	\$26 (for each 10 yrs)	\$10 (for each 5 yrs)	\$10 (for each 5 yrs)	\$25 (for each 10 yrs)
Priority fee	##	\$15	##	\$14.5	\$18	\$15	\$20	\$15

6

No separate fee

SYDNEY COVE'S FIRST SMALL POX EPIDEMIC

April and May, 1789.

It is now well documented that disease has been a major factor in causing the decimation of so many indigenous people throughout the world.

Even in recent times, between the years 1988 to 1990, the Yanomami of Brazil lost 15 percent of their people, mainly to malaria and influenza. [1]

Diseases such as smallpox, measles, influenza, bubonic plague, yellow fever, cholera, and malaria all took their toll on the native populations of the Americas with the spread of colonization that began with Christopher Columbus in 1492. More than half of the population of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca people were dead from disease before their final overthrow by the Spaniards.

A sixteenth-century Mayan book recorded the following:

There was then no sickness;
They had then no aching bones;
They had then no high fever;
They had then no small pox;
They had then no burning chest ...
They had then no consumption ...
At that time the course of humanity was orderly.
The foreigners made it otherwise when they arrived here. [2]

Fifteen months after the arrival of the First Fleet the natives of the Sydney Basin were to suffer the same fate as the Indians of the Americas.

Arthur Phillip summarised an account of the beginning of a smallpox epidemic in one of his reports home to England. [3] He wrote that in April 1789 a number of "natives were found dead with the small-pox in different parts of the harbour; and an old man and a boy of about eight years of age were brought to the hospital. The man died, but the boy recovered, and now lives with the surgeon. An elderly man and a girl of about ten or eleven years of age were found soon after and brought up; of the man there was no hopes of recovery, and he died the third day, but the girl recovered, and lives with the clergyman's wife."

But perhaps the most descriptive account comes from the diary of Judge Advocate, David Collins:

The number that it swept off, by their own accounts, was incredible. At that time a native was living with us and on our taking him down to the harbour to look for his former companions, those who witnessed his expression and agony can never forget either. He looked anxiously around him in the different coves we visited: not a vestige on the sand was to be found of human foot: the excavations in the rocks were filled with the putrid bones of those who had fallen victims to the disorder: not a living person was anywhere to be met with.

It seemed as if, flying from the contagion, they had left the dead to bury the dead. He lifted up his hands and eyes in silent agony for some time: at last he exclaimed: "All dead!" and then hung his head in mournful silence.

ENDNOTES

1. Wright, Ronald. Stolen Continents. The Indian Story John Murray. London. 1992. Page 14.
2. Wright. op.cit.
3. Historical Records of Australia. Series 1, Vol. 1. Page 159.

Pat Shephard

CALENDAR FOR NEXT TWELVE MONTHS:

The following list gives some idea of the type of activities your society is planning for 1997. We have a few suggestions for outings next year but these have yet to be finalised. If you would like to suggest an interesting place we could visit then please contact one of the committee so we can put it on our list. For details about our next outing on Sunday 9 February come to the Business Meeting on 2 February, ask at The Coach House, watch the local "Picton News" or contact one of the committee by phone. All business meetings in future will be held at The Coach House.

1996

8 December Sunday 2 pm Christmas Party

1997

2 February Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
9 February Sunday Outing
23 February Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
9 March Sunday Outing
23 March Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
30 March Easter Sunday
13 April Heritage Week Launch Tahmoor publication & inspection of Tahmoor House.
27 April Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
11 May Sunday Outing
25 May Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
8 June Public Holiday Weekend
15 June Sunday 10 am Outing
29 June Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
13 July Sunday 175 Years since first land grant (9 July 1822)
Launch publication on Jarvisfield.
27 July Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
10 August Sunday Outing
24 August Sunday 10 am Business Meeting - followed by working bee.
14 September Sunday Outing
28 September Sunday 10 am A. G. M. - followed by Business Meeting .
October 100 Years of Victoria Bridge; Tour of Railway area; launch publication.