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# The Stonequarry Journal



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## **Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.**

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### **Committee:**

President	Gail Hanger	02 46842179
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Public Officer	Peter Meyer	
Journal Editors	Kate Holmes, Ken Williams	02 46770208
Librarian	Helen Hanger	
Research committee	Helen Hanger, Gail Hanger, Ron Callaway, Elaine Callaway,	

### **Journal contributions**

Contributions should be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or typed or handwritten to:

The Editor

P.O.Box 64

Picton NSW 2571

Email: [picton1987@aapt.net.au](mailto:picton1987@aapt.net.au)

Web site: [www.stonequarry.com.au](http://www.stonequarry.com.au)

The society does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed or statements made by authors of papers in this journal.

### **Membership fees due 1 July each year**

Pensioners & school students	\$15.00
Single	\$20.00
Family	\$25.00

### **Meetings**

Meetings held at 9.30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month except January, on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Wollondilly Public Library, Menangle St., Picton.

### **Research room**

First floor Wollondilly Public Library, above entrance. 10 am to 3 pm each Thursday and 10am to 12 noon, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### **Research fees.**

Members: Free

Non members: \$10.00 per hour + photocopying. (First hour payable in advance)

Written or emailed enquiries: \$20.00 + photocopying.

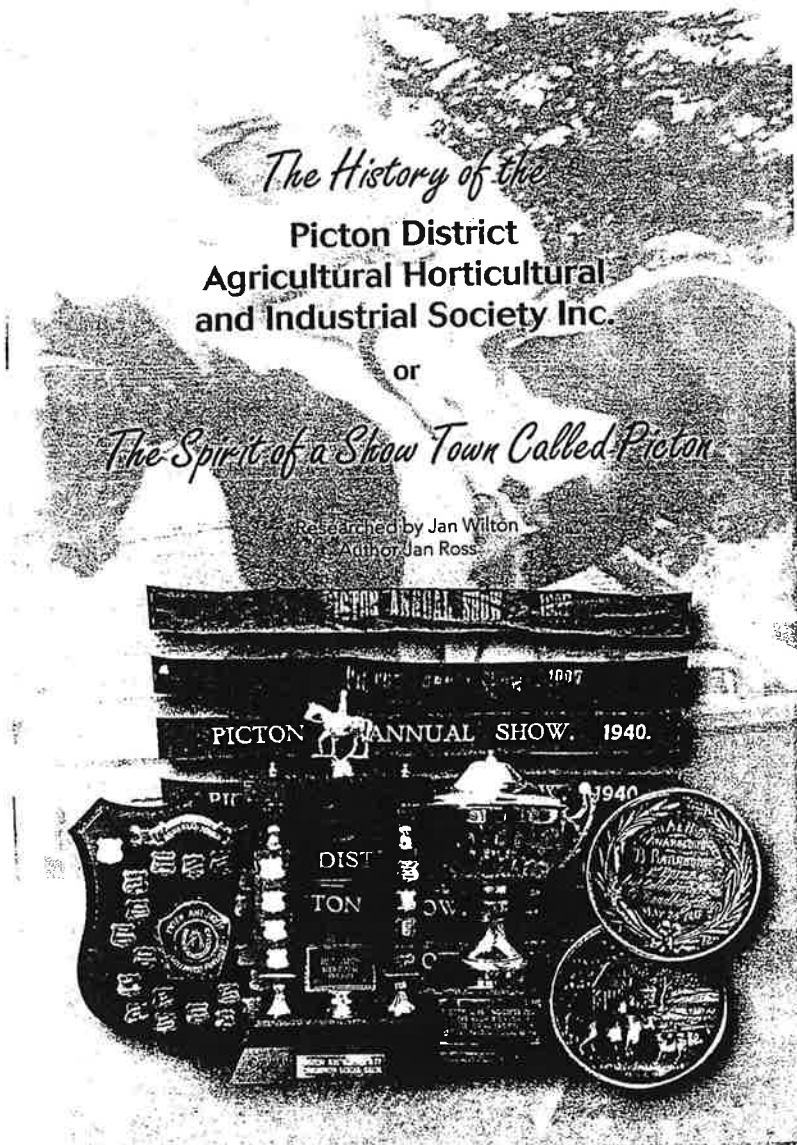
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The Picton District A.H.&I Society Inc. launched its *History* at the Show in October. It was written by well-known local historian Jan Ross, and researched by equally well-known local identity, Jan Wilton. Our Society was one of the providers of information to the two Jans. This useful addition to local history publications is available at several local outlets, including the Wollondilly Visitor Centre, Old Post Office, Picton and the Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks, for \$15.

### **President's Report 2006, Gail Hanger**

I wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support as we finish the year, we may have only a small group of active members, but we are quiet achievers.

Our publication launched at last year's Annual General Meeting, along with our other publications are selling at a steady rate. We hope to continue to update our cemetery records in the coming year, this has been on hold due to our previous IT member leaving the district. But we have our head around the technology now, and with the warmer weather will continue photographing the Bargo Cemetery.

We have put up displays again this year: The Australia Day celebrations and Back to Bargo were very good days. The Shire Days are not being continued due to rising costs, but the feed-back we have received has been very positive with lots of interest shown.

I would like to thank everybody who has helped with the continuing running of the Society, to which each of us in our own way bring expertise and experience to help each other and the visitors who attend our rooms. I believe there is nothing like the excitement on a researcher's face, when you are able to tell them about the event or person they have been looking for has finally been found.

I wish everyone good luck with their research.

### **Library Report 2006, Helen Hanger**

Another year has passed, so quickly with our Society still progressing well, although with only a small band of helpers. With many thanks to our ever ready members who do keep our Society running smoothly, without their help we may not exist.

Our research enquiries continue to roll in, with several from England, gain with great success for the enquirer and a lot of field work for me. I thank my driver, Joe, as well as the help received from other members.

We attended with our displays at the Back to Bargo Day, Australia Day, Heritage Festival Day and the Scout's 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. We were unable to attend the dedication of Mary McKillop Lane in July. We had invitations to the Thirlmere Steam Festival and other events which we were unable to attend.

We received a donation of an oil painting of Tahmoor House, plus some photographs, from Mrs Joyce Muir. We have obtained some second-hand books throughout the year, with help from our member, Laurie Taylor. Joan Brown donated a copy of the second edition of her book *The Trail Boss – The Fairley Family*. A major purchase was from the Lake Macquarie Family History Group Inc. : *St. Matthews Church of England, Windsor Parish Registers, Vol. 2 1857-1900*.

Once again we will have a delegate at the State Family History Conference, this year to be held in Liverpool in September 2006. These are always interesting events, and enable us to show off our publications.

Best wishes to the incoming committee.

# **Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.**

**Receipts and Expenditure for Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006.**

## **Receipts**

	\$	c
Membership Fees	890	00
Research	502	10
Photo/Coping	53	20
Publications	609	30
Donations	315	00
Postage/Handling	42	00
Merchandise Sales	227	80
Bank Interest	1	13
Copy of Photos	37	00

**\$ 2677.53**

## **Expenditure**

Postage	225	25
Stationery	280	43
Library Books	443	04
Computer	280	88
Bank Fees	30	62
Insurance	582	45
Printing	696	24
Subscriptions	112	00
Dept. of Fairtrading	66	00
Picton High School	200	00
Post Box	60	00
Conference Refund	120	00
Equipment service	165	00
Office Equipment	307	84

**\$3569.75**

Bank Statement 1st July 2005	\$ 1513.64
Income 1/7/05-30/6/06	\$ <u>2677.53</u>
Total	\$ 4191.17
Less Expenditure same period	\$ <u>3569.75</u>
Balance as Statement 30/6/2006	\$ <u>621.42</u>

Investment No 2	\$1048.01
Investment No 1	\$ 558.59
Credit Union	\$ 5.00
Petty Cash	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Total	\$ <u>1661.60</u>

## **Recollections of the History of Yanderra, as told by Arnold Ashton: Part II.**

The Keatings lived at Lot 2 for a few years but both Mrs and Mr died in the early 1930s and their original house no longer exists.

Mr & Mrs W Brereton Snr lived at Lot 5. They were the parents of Mrs Anne Bassett and their property is now part of her property, where she still resides.

Both the smaller log cabins on Lots 13 and 206 although they were built in 1929, as spec buildings, neither had permanent residents until after the war, they were owned by people who may have used them as holiday homes.

Lot 182 was also one of the first houses built in Yanderra. The first owner was a builder named Nichols who was involved with building a number of early houses, he was not there long and people named Judd lived there for a number of years, and the place has changed owners many times since then.

Lot 183 was the residence of the Gibbs family, originally used as a weekender, Mr and Mrs and two sons Elmo and Calvin. Later Elmo married, took over the property and raised a large family residing there until the 1950s. The house no longer exists.

Lot 184 People named Ellis were never permanent residents, they were related to the Gibbs and were regular visitors for many years. The house no longer exists.

Lot 193 The Bassett Snr family lived there for many years. In the early days, Mr & Mrs, Alf, Bill and Elsie. All except Alf left Yanderra about 1950.

Lots 46-47 The original residents were a family named Watson. Mr Steve was an American by birth (still retained an accent) and he lived with his wife and son and were well known residents here until about 1937. Their house no longer exists.

Lot 76 People named Chambers were weekenders, but were regular visitors over a period of about ten years.

Lot 74 The Tregilgas family were also regular visitors, but did not live here on a regular basis. The house [is] still standing.

Lot 103 The Harvey family were originally weekenders, but then moved here permanently after retirement.

Lot 101 A family named Wiffin lived here from 1921-1938. Mr and Mrs and son Fred, the family eventually moved to Western Australia. The house no longer exists.

Lot 119 Mrs Fitzpatrick and her sister Miss Spratt were elderly ladies who lived here on their own, for a number of years. The house is still there.

Lot 122 The Morgan family lived here and were residents in Yanderra from 1929 to about 1937 – Mr and Mrs and their daughter Gwen. The house no longer exists.

Lot 123 My Uncle and Aunt built this house in 1933 and lived here with their five daughters until about 1937. The W. Ashtons also tried poultry farming, but without success, and like so many other residents, moved away when the Depression started to ease and work gradually became more available. The house is still there.

Lot 145 Cyril Bowker arrived in Yanderra in 1931 as a young Englishman. He built and lived there with his parents until about 1940. After his marriage he moved to Lot 125 where he also was the original resident. Both houses are still standing.

Lot 144 Mr Bob Turner lived here with his daughters Jean and Doris. He was a Canadian by birth and he took over the voluntary job of collecting the mail and papers for the Yanderra Road residents from the late Bill Ames. He carried out this job until his death in the 1970s. His house is still standing.

Lot 141 Bill and Mary Devlin lived here for a couple of years, they were the daughter and son-in-law of the France family. Their house no longer remains standing.

Lot 129 The Arthur Brereton family lived here from the early 1930s to about 1937, Arthur, his wife Pearl their children Jack, Peggy and Paul. The property is still owned by the family, who visit occasionally.

Lot 128 Stan Murray, his wife and children lived here. They also arrived and left about the same time as the A. Breretons. Their house no longer remains standing.

Lot 127 Alf Williams, his wife and children lived here through the worst of the Depression years, and like his neighbours moved on about 1938. They moved to Warragamba where they still reside.

Lot 131 George McKellar was an early settler who unfortunately suffered ill health. He was a keen sportsman however, and donated the complete cricketing equipment for the Yanderra team. Also he was a good boxer and fought at Bargo where they held boxing contests during the late 1930s.

Lot 136 Albert Mellor one of the original land owners lived here until the 1940s. His house is still standing.

Lot 140 Mr P. Bowker died very soon after his arrival in Yanderra. However Mrs Bowker and their seven daughters lived here for many years, leaving about 1950.

About 1935 Yanderra acquired a primary school, this was a great advantage to the younger school children, saving them the long walk to Bargo. However, for my brother Oriel, myself, Ken France, Doris Turner, we travelled by train to High School, leaving at 6.30 am and arriving home at 6.30pm.

Another happening about 1935-36 was the installation of electricity, originally there was only three premises connected, being the Log Cabin, Wiffins, O. Ashtons. Prior to that we all were dependant mainly on kerosene lamps, battery radios and wood fires.

During the early days of Yanderra conditions were very hard for the residents, as the period coincided with the Depression years. At the beginning there was practically no employment at all, people survived with food and clothing issues, known as the dole. Later a scheme known as relief work was introduced, but as this necessitated the men travelling a considerable distance from home and only employed them for a couple of days work per week, it was still only a basic existence.

However as seems to happen in hard times, Yanderra as a community was a fairly happy place, and the people were drawn together to create their own entertainment, such as card games, dances (with the music provided by the old fashioned gramophones). I can still hear the music for the popular barn-dance, usually the old records, (The stone outside Dan Murphy's door, and the Stein song). These get togethers were held at the homes of the residents, who took it in turns, and the women brought plates of food, it is amazing how they could provide such wonderful food from so little.

There were other entertainments such as the cricket matches which were also family affairs, the women providing the food and the men sometimes managed to provide some beer, which helped them to do battle with the opposing teams. The tennis court existed for a while, it was not used a lot, then not used at all, when one resident built himself a fowl yard.

The old swimming pool was very popular and most of the kids in Yanderra including myself learned to swim there, however the yabbies made holes through the banks and the pool was empty more often than full. No-one seemed very concerned about repairing the pool or the tennis court, so Arthur Rickards sold both blocks of land.

There was another popular picnic spot at the Bargo River, to get there we had to walk about three miles through the bush, passing Tyler's property (this well known identity was an Englishman who was convinced that he would discover oil on his property, he spent many years and a considerable amount of money but without success, however he still maintained until his death that he had discovered traces of oil). Then we followed a track to the Bargo River Gorge almost directly behind where the new coal mine is built, we climbed down a steep slope to the river where there is two large rock pools and is a delightful place for a day's outing.

Now to residents who settled in Yanderra from 1935-1940.

Lot 208 An English family named Whitehead built and settled here in the late 1930s. They were an elderly couple who's family were grown up except one son Reggie who was mentally retarded, however Reg was a well known identity and popular with everyone. The family had lived many years in Canada before arriving in Australia.

Lot 101 The Streeter family were related to George McKellar and after George's death came to live at Lot 131 his property. They only stayed there a short time and then moved to Lot 101 where they lived for many years, Mr and Mrs with their children Marie, John and Gillian. The children all attended Yanderra School.



Lot 164 Bolands. The original member of the family to settle in Yanderra was Alan, who owned Lot 137-138-139. His parents arrived here some years later, then Alan went to live with them at 164.

Lot 132 Jenkins were related to the Barrass family and arrived here to live permanently about the same time, they also lived here as weekenders from 1934-1940. Their niece Gwen Collins lived with them and attended Yanderra school.

Lot 15 Miss Hill an elderly spinster lived here for many years, although slightly crippled, she was independent and very little was known of her past.

Lot 16 Dunns were related to the O'Keefes and Geof Smith. They had owned a private bus company in Sydney, before retiring to Yanderra due to Mr. Albert Dunn's ill health. They built the house, which still stands.

Lot 12 The Ward family were with the Water Board for many years, working at Chicester Dam, Avon Dam, then Nepean Dam. When they moved to live at Yanderra they brought a house from the Avon Dam township, not for sentimental reasons but because they were available, being sold after the completion of Avon Dam. Mr and Mrs and two of their sons Jack and Arthur lived here. Jack and Arthur, both bachelors in their 30s stayed after their parents' deaths, until Arthur died in the 1960s and Jack died in the 1970s. The house is still standing.

Lot 182 The Hall family lived here for a number of years, Mr and Mrs and their five children. The children all attended Yanderra school.

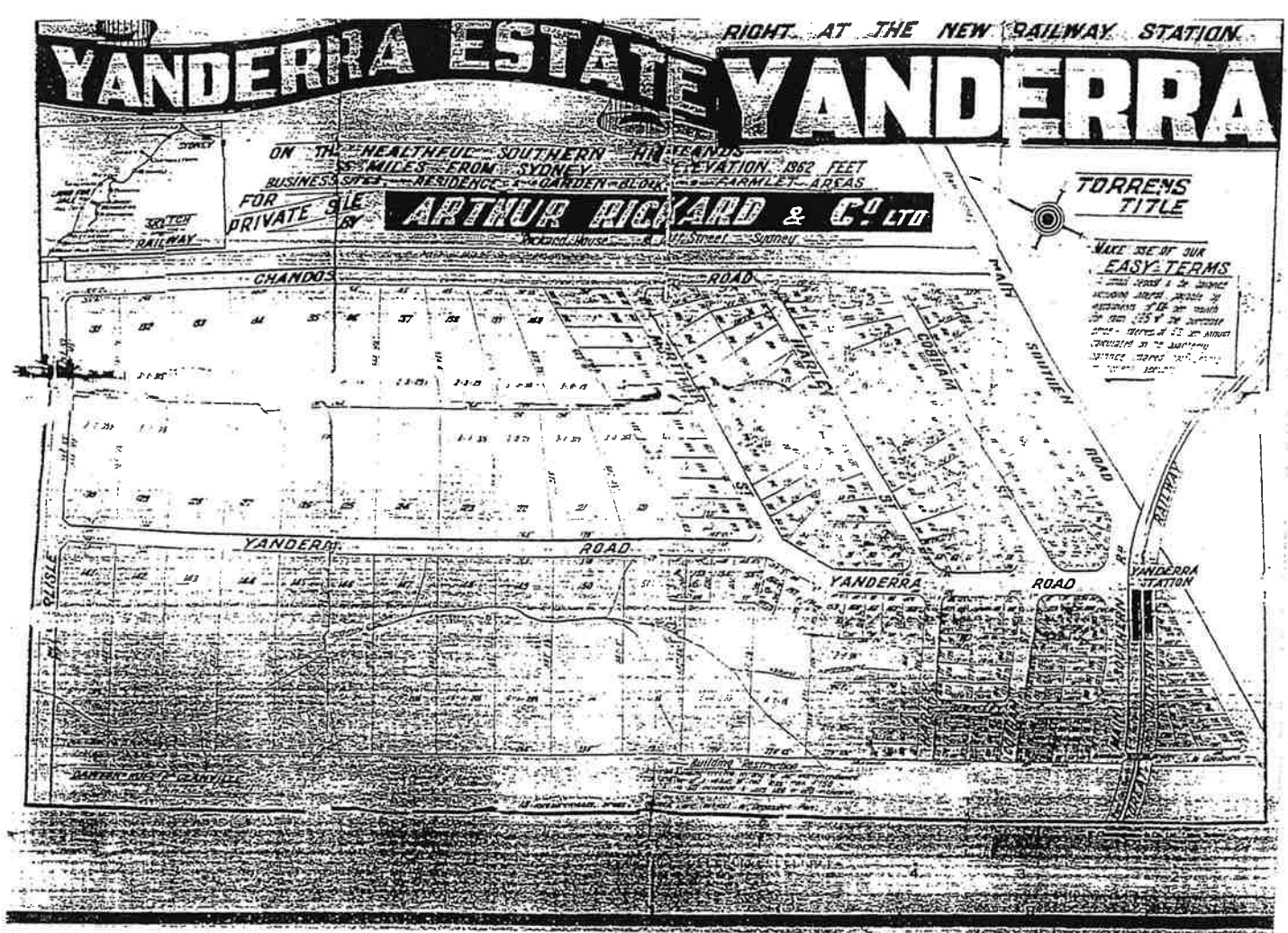
Lot 121 The Woodford family lived here for a short time, they built a very temporary dwelling, which didn't remain standing very long after they left. The Kirkwood family lived here for a short time in the late 1930s and as they lived at the Thompson property there was no lot number on the Yanderra map.

Lot 19-24 The Log-Cabin Road House changed ownership many times from 1929-1940. After Harry Smith came a young couple Mr and Mrs Arthur Rush, then Mr and Mrs Peter Bellairs, then Mrs Brennan and family, then Mr Sulsbrook and his close friend Mr Grieves.

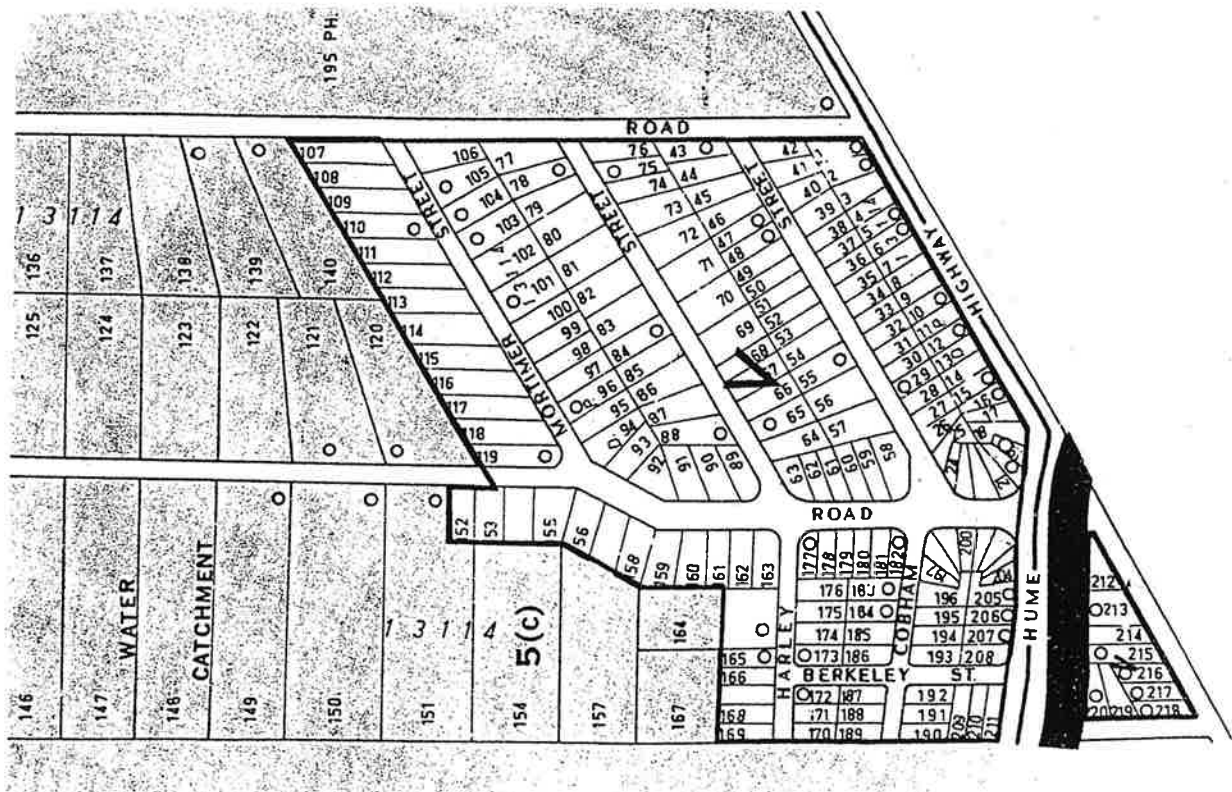
School teachers at Yanderra from 1935-1940 were Mr Mason, Mrs Wright, (I can't be certain which order they were here, as I did not attend the school), then Mr McKean.

Lot 27 A family named Eadie built the house and lived here as weekenders during the late 1930s.

*Thus ends the material held by the Society. Does anyone else have information on Yanderra, to add to our records?*



Plans of Yanderra: Above, the original 1919 development, with apologies for the poor quality, and below, the town plan in 1971.



From the Records:

The Picton Post, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1927      **Tahmoor Items**  
by "An old Tahmoor Resident"

Tahmoor of today was called Jerico (sic) 56 years ago, when the first provisional school started with 12 children and only five families were in the district. Mr. McIntyre, school inspector appointed a school board which selected a teacher and saw to every-thing in connection with the working of the school. Now we have a fine public school and a real prosperous district, with poultry and bee farms and orchards of all kinds of fruit, combined with vegetable growing. One making a trip of one and a half miles around Tahmoor could come to no other conclusion but that the inhabitants were a thrifty lot, as every home speaks volumes for its owners and occupiers – each home kept neat, with its lovely garden.

It has been the practice of residents to form what is known as a "working bee" to help anyone who gets behind through sickness or other causes. In this connection the lady folks see to the "Inner man" while their bread-winners and help-mates are assisting others. About 11 o'clock the ladies, old and young, can be seen marching to the busy bee-workers, with baskets well laden with good food. The ladies, at times, photograph the men-folk while feasting and working. (I suppose they like to see us men working, just the opposite with the men, they like to see the fair sex resting.)

"Working bees" have cleared, done up and planted trees on the streets and put guards round them.

We have a wounded soldier, whose residence is by the main road, which is a credit to him. His plot grows lovely passion fruit and every kind of vegetable – good or bad seasons are all the same to this owner.

Then we have our Major, who still does his drilling, ahem! I mean in vegetable beds and among his fruit trees. No doubt but his early training which placed him at the head of his army stands to place him at the head of his model farm, which is worth inspecting by anyone about to start small farm on a big scale. We require only small farms and men with good brains, like those who have built Tahmoor.

Now the Main Roads Board is making good progress with the main road, which will soon be completed between Picton and Tahmoor. Picton people have joined hands with us to help us along with our Shows, and the next should be a bigger success providing the season favours us. I must not forget to mention those who have, and are still working so hard to make a good show ground. Most of the labour has been voluntary, and done solely for the benefit of the young and growing town and district.

The rains since Xmas, 638 points has put new grit into all hands, and the ploughs, scarifiers and harrows are doing 60 hours a week to make basic wages and the only strikes which take place are against the ground, which always give good results.

Tahmoor Park, which has been subdivided is now making a good suburb for Tahmoor. On it are numerous cottages and a neat little dairy farm supplies the district with milk. This farm is owned and worked by an ex "man-o-war's" man who has

plenty of energy and go, and intends to make a success of it. There is also a comfortable home, with a poultry farm attached, where a deal of cultivation is going on to assist their stock.

Close by is a residence owned by a retired railway man, who is an expert bee farmer and has always devoted his spare time to bees. I am sure he will keep the busy bees humming later.

Later I will contribute a few more lines on the farming in and around Tahmoor.

*Ed. note: this is reproduced as written in the paper. It would be great to know if any of the working-bee photos have survived. Can anyone identify the people or farms mentioned? Or have more information about the Tahmoor Show. The second article appeared in the Picton Post of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1927.*

**Photographic Project**  
**Wollondilly Library and Historical Societies**  
Kate Holmes

Earlier this year we were approached by Gail Dunn from the Library, who had a grant for a small project. She was thinking of a photographic database of Shire photos which would be available through the Council website on the Internet. This is the same, or similar to, the system used by the major Australian libraries. The initial meeting was held in February, including Library staff, a representative of the firm who would reformat the photos for the project, and several formal and informal Shire historical societies. It was agreed that this would be a useful way to publicise the Shire, and the various photographic collections; it was also agreed that the three incorporated societies (us, The Oaks and Burragorang) and Council would be the points of contact. It was hoped that the project would also provide additional publicity, and income for the various groups involved.

The first challenge was copyright: this belongs to the photographer, but in our collection, the name of the photographer is often unknown. However, the Camden Historical Society has put their entire collection onto a similar web page, deciding that if anyone objected to an image, that one could be removed.

We began with photographs from the Hogue album, prepared for the then Minister for Public Instruction, on the opening of the new Picton Superior Public School (now the Primary School) in 1910. This includes photos of various schools, buildings, and views of Picton; the album was donated by the grandsons of the Hon. J.A. Hogue via a local resident in 1989. The Lenehan Collection, also donated by the family, includes photos of the Bargo River and Picton (now Thirlmere) Lakes taken in 1884; Henry Lenehan was the assistant government astronomer from 1870 to 1906. From there we moved to some of the other 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs, which were presumed to be out of copyright. Then we have added some of groups of people, to provide some variation to the database, but only a small part of our total collection will be included.

The project was launched in September by the Mayor, Phil Costa, though additional photographs can be added until the end of this year. The Library also produced book-marks using some of the photos, to further publicise the project.

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

<b>Coach House Chronicles</b>	<b>\$</b>
Lieut. General Sir Thomas Picton	3.00
Harmony Homes	5.00
Vault Hill Picton	3.00
Tahmoor Post Office	3.00
St. Mary's Towers	5.00
Antonio Manolis	3.00
 <b>Cemetery Transcripts</b>	
Bargo General Cemetery	10.50
Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton	12.00
Redbank Uniting Church – A Pictorial view	20.00
St. Mark's Anglican Picton	15.50
Upper Picton General Cemetery	20.00
Thirlmere	20.00
 <b>Marriage Transcripts</b>	
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
 <b>Other Publications</b>	
Along the Menangle Road	15.00
A stroll through St. Mark's Churchyard	8.00
Thirlmere Public School	6.00
The Antills of Jarvisfield Picton	10.00
Picton	5.00
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50
 Tea Towel	 10.00

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