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# The Stonequarry Journal



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## Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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### Membership fees due 1 July each year

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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 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.

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

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### President's Report

The year is almost half over and it will be Christmas again before we know it, and I haven't done half the things that I said I was going to do.

We have been busy at the Society's room with research, but our photocopier has been causing many problems. Finally we have had to purchase a new second-hand one; we just need to pay for it. To this end we are running a raffle, so please buy a ticket – see page 8.

For many years, Victorian births have been available to 1920, and we have wished that the other states would follow suit, well we have a wish, but NOT the way we want. The Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages in Victoria re revising their access policy which will come into effect in the latter half of 2007, this will close access to births for 100 years. The Edwardian Index and the Great War Index microfiche and CD will be withdrawn from sale. So if you have been holding off buying that birth certificate ...!!!

Some good news to end with: Queensland has put their BDM online. The address is [www.justice.qld.gov.au](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au) and follow the links.

Until next time,

Gail Hanger.

## VALE – Peter Robert Webeck

*This is a slightly edited version of the obituary sent to the Society by his son Mark. Versions have also appeared in the local paper, and the Sydney Morning Herald.*

Peter Webeck passed peacefully away in Canberra on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007. He was born on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1928 in Sydney and grew up with his younger brother George in the Hurstville region. He was educated at Canterbury Boys High School and graduated in Pharmacy with distinction in 1949 from the University of Sydney. Peter operated pharmacies in Janalli and Oyster Bay, then moved with his wife Joan and children to Picton in 1960 to operate the Picton Pharmacy and to commence his many years of dedicated service to the Wollondilly community.

Peter's contributions included being Foundation President and member of the Rotary Club of Picton (1966); co-founder and later Chairman of the Wollondilly Co-operative Building Society (1966); Foundation Treasurer of Antill Park Picton Golf Club (1966-1971); Convenor/Chairman of Queen Victoria Hospital Support Committee for the purpose of updating aged care facilities at nursing home and hostel levels in the local region (1995-2002); Foundation Chairman then Secretary of the Combined Wollondilly Chambers of Commerce (1997-2002); Chairman of the Wollondilly/Bradman Foundation community fund (1998-2002); and Chairman of the Camden Park Preservation Committee for the preservation and improvement of historic Camden Park (1975-2002).

He was elected to the Wollondilly Shire Council (1965-1980) and became Chairman of the Industrial Development and Finance Committee. He was responsible for encouraging a number of significant businesses into the Wollondilly area including Tegel's poultry business at Tahmoor, as well as Heugla Carpets and Berryman Furniture. He was elected Deputy Chairman of Electricity Supply Authority, Nepean River County Council.

Peter was appointed by the State Government to the Local Government Appeals Tribunal; was a member of the Housing Commission Advisory Committee (Wollondilly) from 1970-1977; was Director/Treasurer to two NSW public hospitals (Picton and Wentworth Falls) from 1972 to 1982; and served as a local government representative on Macarthur Development Board (1975-1980).

His service to pharmacy had many highlights from his Vice-Presidency (Finance) of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Branch, and his presidency of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch for a record term of 8 years from 1984 to 1992. He was very involved in anti-AIDS syringe programs, for which he received the Pharmaceutical Society award in 1993. He was the Wollondilly Shire Citizen of the Year in 1996, and in 2000 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Peter was a generous and highly intelligent man who derived a great deal of satisfaction in the helping of others. He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife, Joan; his brother George; his children and daughters-in-law Mark & Johanna, Grant & Margaret, and Louise; and his grandsons Nick, Eddie, Oliver and Charlie.

**Further information on Tahmoor  
From member Val Astley**

I can answer some of your questions [*see the last Journal, Vol. 20, no. 3 p. 9*]. Although I have only lived in Tahmoor since 1950, I have been listening to older residents all that time, and still have an excellent memory.

Even in the fifties most people farmed poultry and grew fruit & vegetables for market. The eggs & produce were transported to Sydney daily, mainly by Burdens carriers, also by Mr. Gosbell who had an orchard on the corner of Milne and Bronzewing Streets.

In 1927 there were many poultry farms, Edgar Childs in Byron Road and Parrotts in Bronzewing Street among them. My husband's parents did not start theirs until 1932 in Nattai Street. I think Moses Brown and Trevor Austin were already making their living this way, also Shortlands and Jim McKenzie, all in Nattai Street.

The Knorr family, down in the valley at the end of River Road, who were long-time residents, were self supporting, even to brewing their own wine. Mrs Stone, who bought them out, loaned various artefacts from the property to Bruce Knox to exhibit in his small museum at Pheasant's Nest. Whether these were returned when Bruce died I do not know.

Mrs Stone also told me about a man who had a farm/market garden on the corner of Stilton Lane and Remembrance Drive, opposite the Sawmill at Myrtle Creek Bridge. The man, whose name escapes me, took his produce in a horse and cart to sell in Picton, and was killed by a vehicle on his way home one evening. Could this be the 'wounded soldier' referred to? [*See notes page 5*]

Bill told me once that Revell's dairy which I knew in the 1950s, had belonged to Major Roberts [*see p. 5*]. This property, opposite the current Uniting Church, was in Thirlmere Way on the Tahmoor side of the Sports Oval. I remember Mr. Revell well in 1953 from when I worked at the Post Office/Newsagency and got to know most inhabitants.

The Showground was off Rockford Road, somewhere behind Stratford House (once a school, and the residence of the Gorrock family); however, Tahmoor Show was conducted during the 1920s in Tahmoor Park, overlooking Myrtle Creek. Mrs. Miller, who used to ring me and chat sometimes, before she died in her mid-nineties, said that the Show had spread into what is now my property, from Pear Tree Hill, the hilly part of Tahmoor Park, outside my back gate. She still had a hand-bill advertising this (which now belongs to her daughter Betty) and the pear tree lived on until about 1970. They had been wonderful shows.

The dairy farm mentioned at Tahmoor Park is surely Keith and Mona Moores' at Myrtle Creek, it couldn't be Kent's dairy s that is not on the Park, but over Myrtle Creek Bridge.

Re the apiarist, Eric Gray had an orchard in Park Avenue and was an ex-railway man from Junee, but 1927 could be a little early for him – maybe his son John could advise?

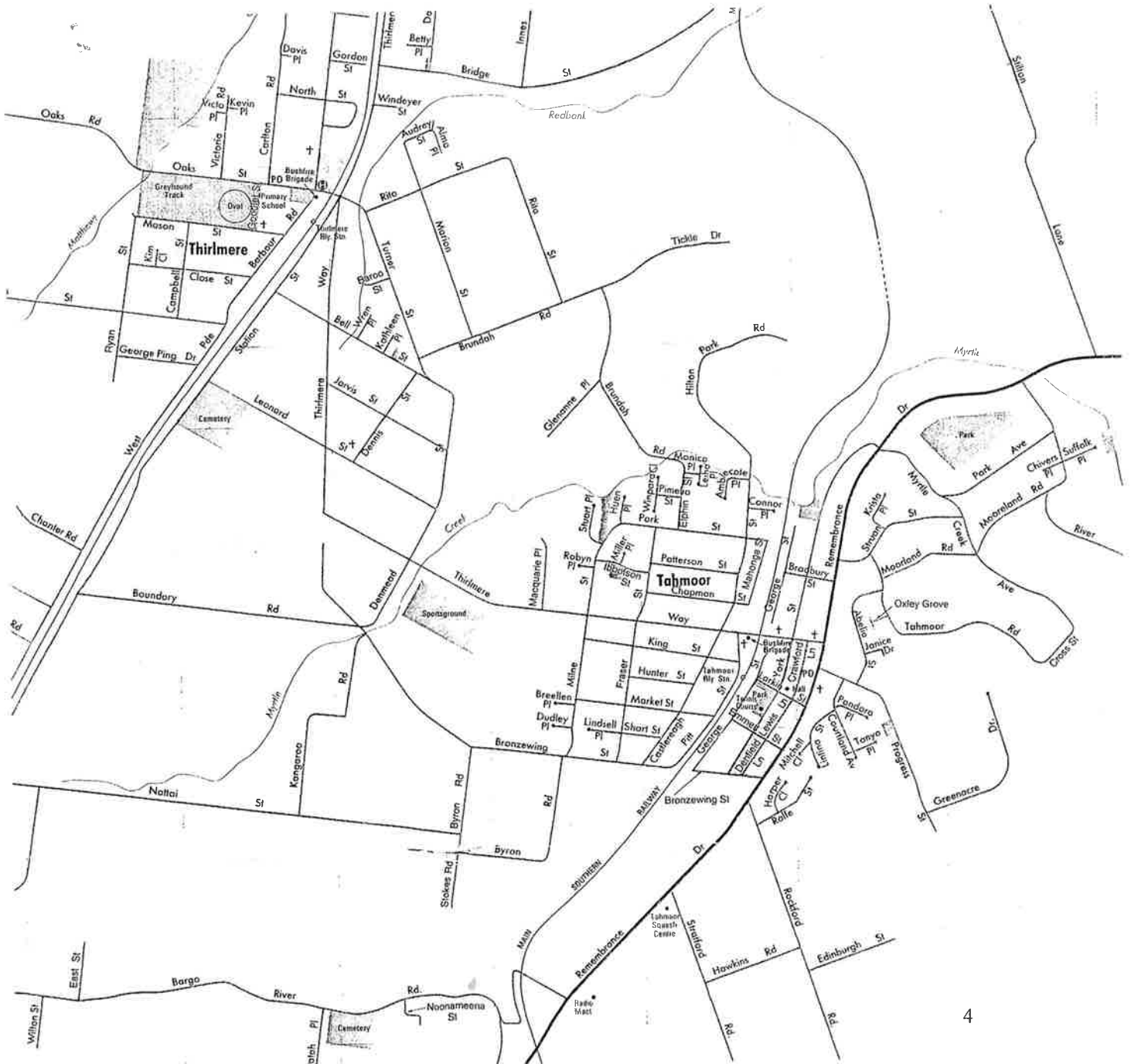
Hilliers were here long before this time, I think nearer 1920 from memory of chats with Harry Hillier, and had poultry and mixed farm and possibly bees since Reg Hillier has produced honey until recently, but their property is across the railway line.

Perhaps Totterdells had bees? Certainly Knorrs must have had them, but neither would be referred to as "railway employees", and they are both away from the Park.

Maybe this will jog someone else's memory?

Incidentally, George and Christy Vock said that they went to school at Wattle Farm in Arina Road before the school at Tahmoor, might be worth some research.

**Thank you for this information, Val, it is always great to get feedback from our members. Are there any others with information? It has encouraged me and Helen Hanger to further research – see over.**



The market gardener was probably **Alfred Crane** who died in 1950. His obituary appeared in the Picton Post on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1950, on page 1:

#### ELDERLY MAN DIES – AFTER BEING HIT BY CAR

A very well known figure in Picton, Mr. A. Crane, who has been seen in town every week for years with his horse and cart of vegetables, died this morning after being knocked down by car on the Hume Highway about mile and a half out of Picton.

Apparently he was doing his regular trip into town with vegetables, which he grew himself at Myrtle Creek, where he lived, and from information ascertained by police, it is believed he got down from his cart and was talking to the driver of a lorry on the western side of the road. When finished the conversation and about to return to his cart, he turned and walked right into a car travelling in the opposite direction. Picton police were informed immediately, and Camden District Ambulance rushed to the spot, however, it is thought that Mr. Crane died as he was being lifted into the ambulance. His body was conveyed to the morgue at Camden.

It is thought that deceased was about 80 years of age.

**Major Charles Edward S. Roberts** died in February 1940. His serious illness was reported in the Picton Post on February 7<sup>th</sup> : His many friends throughout the district will be sorry to learn that Major Roberts of Fothergill, Tahmoor, ... (has) pneumonia. He was taken by ambulance from his home to a Sydney hospital .

His obituary appeared in the paper on February 28<sup>th</sup> (his death being reported on February 21<sup>st</sup>).

... The deceased gentleman, who was 57 years of age, prior to coming to this country was an officer of the Royal Engineers in England. He served throughout the Great War and for the last two years of it was deputy assistant director of docks at Calais and afterwards assistant director of docks at Dieppe.

The late Major came to this district some 15 years or so ago, and had resided at Tahmoor ever since. He was coroner for the district for some years, and it is considered that his sense of duty which impelled him to leave a warm room and go out into the cold night air to view the body of a lady who was killed in a motor accident at Tahmoor contributed to the serious illness which ended in his death. He was most gentlemanly in his character, courteous, and his memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

A wife, three sons, a daughter and brother survive. ...

A further check of the Picton Post notes on January 31<sup>st</sup> a car accident near Myrtle Creek, with one fatality, which is probably the matter referred to in the obituary. As Helen Hanger remembers, he road had a much sharper curve to it then, and there was often some mist or fog in the hollow, even in summer.

More information about Tahmoor in the 1920s comes from an article on another interesting Tahmoor resident, **Hilda Jordan**. Her story [here slightly edited] was recorded in the *Picton News*, 16<sup>th</sup> July 1987:

### THREE CHEERS FOR HILDA

One of Tahmoor's Golden Oldies turned 90 last Friday, July 10. Hilda Jordan came to Tahmoor 66 years ago in October 1921. Birthday celebrations at her Castlereagh Street home were held all day Friday with friends and relatives dropping in to wish her well.

Hilda's living area is overloaded with an assortment of cards and hand-made gifts. This great-great-Grandma has entered the computer age courtesy of one of her offspring who produced dot-matrix "Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday" banner which Hilda proudly displays across the breadth of the room. Hilda had four children who produced about 20 grandchildren who have subsequently overwhelmed Hilda with 41 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

The family moved to Tahmoor during the lean years after spending several years on rural properties elsewhere in the state. They were brought to the area by work available on the then new railway line [actually the new deviation]. It was quite a different community in those days. Hilda describes Tahmoor in the twenties as "one big happy family with everyone helping each other through the hard times." There were only about a dozen houses in [Tahmoor]. Hilda recalls the commercial hub of the town as being the Post Office, run by a Mrs. Stewart and the solitary general store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gorrick. The weekly shopping was done at Thirlmere or Picton.

Hilda carried her youngest child several kilometres through the bush from their Elphin Street house to the Thirlmere shops to buy meat and groceries. Bread would come by horse-drawn cart from Picton and was threepence a loaf. For entertainment there were dances and community gatherings at the local hall. In 1927 times were tough for the Jordans with Hilda's husband unemployed for a period of eight months. During this period Hilda grew pounds upon pounds of tomatoes on a field ploughed for the family by neighbours. She says that much of the development of Tahmoor in the early days could be attributed to the local Progress Association and the Agricultural Bureau. "People worked together, sometimes all weekend. Much was done on voluntary basis," she commented.

One bleak and wet winter's night an accident on the railway line saw the local ladies baking trays of scone and carrying buckets of tea throughout the night to satisfy hungry passenger and workmen.

Three of Hilda's children, Flo Diamond, Irene Davis and William Jordon still live in Tahmoor, while the fourth, Ida Johnson, lives in Bulli.

Hilda was born in Exeter, near Moss Vale, and was one of 12 children. She attributes her longevity to a quiet life, with no drinking, smoking or gambling. She regrets the busy life of today, and that she is a stranger in today's Tahmoor. [*Hilda died in December 1991*].



## Train Journey to Sydney in the 1930s

by Clare Bell of Bargo

Sydney. The Big Smoke Dad calls it. Mum catches the train to "Town" twice a year. This trip she is taking Kevin, my young brother, and me, to see the City and Harbour Bridge. Mum drives the sulky to Tahmoor, five miles from our farm. We unharness Billy, our creamy carthorse, in Grandfather's small paddock, and push the sulky into the shed alongside his 1934 Chevy.

The green engine of the train steams into view and we rush to the carriage door. A corridor runs along the platform side of the station. Opening from it are doors to small compartments called dog-boxes. There is room for six or seven people on benches on either side. You raise a single seat to open a lavatory door. We didn't see anyone use it the whole journey. Above the window heavy glass water-bottle hangs in a sturdy metal case along with a glass on both sides of it in case anyone gets thirsty.

Kevin and I gasp in fright as we roar through tunnels. We see ourselves saucer-eyed in the window, even though a dim light shows in the roof of our dog-box.. Railway fettleers working on the line shout "Paper" as the train slows, and people who have read their morning news roll the paper up tight and hurl it out the window to the men to read at "smoko".

As we travel toward the city houses are crammed against each other with tiny front yards and no space in between. 'Where do children play?' we ask Mum. She is busy knitting grey socks for Dad and says, 'Oh, there are parks near some homes.' Lots of people get off the train at different stations. The train whistles and hurries on to the next station. 'How will we know when we are in Sydney?' We might be carried on somewhere else?' I ask Mum. 'Don't worry' Mum smiles, 'the train stops at Central. Everyone alights at Central.'

Mum makes us wait while everyone pours off the train. 'We'll visit the Traveller's Aid Rooms and freshen up before we tackle the trams.' The Traveller's Aid ladies give us a drink of milk and a biscuit and tell us we are beautiful healthy children.

We walk down a long slope; cross busy streets till we get to Grace Brothers in Broadway. I can't see the top of the shop it is so high. Mum knows the shop people. A lady measures her feet for her Selby shoes. 'You should get your shoes in a month' the lady tells Mum. 'We'll pop them in the post as usual.' 'Thank you very much' Mum says. We catch a tram to David Jones store. It runs along tramlines. You step onto it from the street. Mum pays the conductor. He swings along the running board collecting fares. Kevin and I stare at him. At David Jones we wait outside a cubicle while a lady measures Mum for special corsets. Mum gets Selby shoes and a pair of corsets every year. 'They are my only luxuries' she says.

'We'll go in the lift to the Cafeteria for morning tea now' Mum tells us. The doors clang shut. A uniformed man sits on a high stool in the corner. 'First floor haberdashery' he says in a bored voice. 'Second floor ladies wear' and so on until we got to the fifth floor where the cakes are.

## RAFFLE

Members will find 6 raffle tickets enclosed with this Journal, and if you wish to participate, please send \$5.00 (with your membership renewal).

1<sup>st</sup> prize: a CD Macquarie Park Cemetery (formerly Northern Suburbs)  
(value \$70)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: a Gift Certificate from Marilyn Rowan Transcription Service  
(value \$30)

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: a copy of Ken William's *Along the Menangle Road A concise History of the Land Grants on Menangle Road between Menangle Bridge and Picton Road* (value \$15).

The draw will take place at the monthly meeting on **Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>** (there is a time limit on the gift certificate).

So please be prompt! And good luck.

## Happy Anniversaries

The Picton District Historical & Family History Society began at a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1987, and by a strange coincidence, the earlier Wollondilly Historical Society had been established in November 1967. The latter seems to have been re-formation of the Picton Historical Society which began in June of 1963. Both of these earlier societies struggled to keep up an active membership and lasted only a few years. It is interesting to note that the Picton Historical Society subscriptions were set at 1 guinea for gentlemen, and 10/- for ladies and minors! Do any of our current members have any recollection of these earlier societies? The present Society holds some notes from Mr. Bruce Knox, as well as some stationery, cheque butts etc. from the Wollondilly Historical Society, and there are references in the local paper to meetings and activities.

Some 65 people attended the March 1987 meeting, held at the Peasants Kitchen restaurant (in the 1862 Railway Hotel, corner of Argyle Street and Barker's Lodge Road):

Jan Ross, Val Malcolm, T. Kooyman, M. Connor, G.S. & Roberta Reid, Rosalie Lambert, Darrell Harvey, Robert Wood, Peter Chadwick, Muriel Allen, Dot Smith, Clarice McKinnon, Jean Ray, Jim & Robyn Buckley, Colin Miller, Cecil Tickle, Din Jones, Grant McClafferty, Barbara McClafferty, Peter Meyer, Janet Sheils, Betty Hunt, Sylvia Rossegger, Patricia Shephard, Peg Gard, Pat Connolly, Fay Querk, Pat Doherty, John & Karen Paul, Lynne Thomas, F. Bodkin, A.M. & C. Daley, David Crump, Phillip Smithers, Ronnie Emblem, Laurie Sheldrake, Nancy Ruddiman, Evelyn McDonald, Julie Sheppard, Bill Dibley, Des & Merran Ryder, Joan Brown, Joan Warton, Dorothea & Jack Pemberton, Liz Vincent, Sonja den Hertog, John Stringfellow, Rod, Cathy, Sarah, James, Samuel and Julian Hoare, Harry & Lorna Hoare, Cynthia & Noel Collison, Muriel Scott and Sally Kalina.

And some are still members!

The official inaugural meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, and a busy program was soon established:

*News 19 March '87*

## Historical Society for Picton and districts

Seventy people attended a meeting at The Peasants Kitchen Restaurant at Picton on Monday night, March 9, to discuss the formation of an Historical Society for Picton and surrounding districts.

This was a tremendous and encouraging show of interest by the people of the area in their history.

Among those present were the president, treasurer and research officer of The Oaks Historical Society, Joan Warton, Librarian at Campbelltown Library, Gavin Andrews from Y'Harawal local aboriginal lands council and Betty Hunt from Macarthur Promotions.

The meeting discussed the scope of the work the Society would like to do including collecting and researching family histories, the need to progress slowly and the work and commitment needed to carry out research thoroughly.

A questionnaire was handed out for the purpose of ascertaining which areas people were interested in and the level of involvement they would take in the Society.

Unfortunately, there were not enough questionnaires to go round as the number of people attending far exceeded expectations.

Those who missed out and anyone else interested, may pick one up at Picton Newsagency or phone one of the contact numbers.

The name of the Society was discussed and the majority chose Picton and District Historical and Family History Society.

Fees were also discussed and the meeting decided as follows:

Joining fee: single and family \$5, school-children \$2.

Annual subs: single and family \$5, school-children \$2.

It was not the intention to take fees on the night, however, nine single and nine family memberships were received and donations of \$100 from Mr and Mrs L Fairfax and \$10 each from Mr and Mrs Con-

nolly and Mr and Mrs H Hoare were gratefully accepted.

The inaugural meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, April 13 at 7.30 p.m. at The

Peasants Kitchen Restaurant, cnr Oaks Road and Argyle Street, Picton.

Enquiries: Jan Ross 771430 (b.h.) 819928 (a.h.), Liz Vincent 771726, Marlane Fairfax 818026.

Many thanks to Lyn Thomas of The Peasants Kitchen for the free use of the restaurant for the meeting and the supper she provided.

*PICTON NEWS 23-4-87*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Picton District Historical & Family History Society held their inaugural meeting on Monday April 13 April at the Peasants Kitchen Restaurant. Once again attendance was high.**

The election of office bearers for 1987 was held. The committee is as follows.

President Marlane Fairfax, Vice President Bob Wood, Secretary Jan Ross, Treasurer John Stringfellow, Public Officer Bob Chadwick, Publicity Officer Liz Vincent, Research Officer Mr Collison.

Subscriptions for membership are as follows. Joining fee family \$5. Family membership \$8 per year. Single joining fee \$5. Single membership \$5 per year. Child under 18 years joining separately \$2 joining fee and \$2 per year. Pensioners \$2 joining fee and \$2 subs per year.

The Society will be affiliating with the Royal Historical Society which will be an advantage to the local Society.

General business was discussed and many members off and away to commence research work and organise future happenings.

Walking tours on Wednesday April 22

and Sunday May 3 were organised. Mr Dunning spoke on his Genealogy course at Picton Evening College. Mr Bob Wood, Vice President and Senior Officer at Land Titles spoke and was received enthusiastically. For those owning property in the district it was especially interesting.

The raffle of a painting of the Picton Post Office painted by Joan Brown and donated to the Society will be drawn at the next meeting.

A monthly newsletter will be available to members and will be ready within 2 weeks of each meeting from the Newsagents in Picton or Publicity Officer Liz Vincent 77-1726.

The next meeting will be Monday May 11 at 7.30 pm at the Peasants Kitchen Restaurant Picton.

The speaker will be from the National Trust Society.

Enquiries to President Marlane Fairfax on 81-8026.

*Picton News 14-5-1987*

## Picton & District Historical & Family History Society

**Attendance was once again high at the May meeting held on Monday 11 at the Peasant's Kitchen Restaurant Picton.**

The raffle for the painting of the Picton Post Office donated by local artist Joan Brown was drawn and won by Joan Cook.

A daytime social meeting will be held on the Wednesday following the monthly meeting. It will be also held at the Peasant's Kitchen, 12 noon to 3pm. This will enable members unable to come to the nightly meeting to meet other members and participate in activities. This month it will be Wednesday, May 20.

The magazine/newsletter is to go quarterly, i.e., end March, June, September and December each year. Articles, letters to Editor, queries, etc., are welcome. These may be forwarded directly to the Editor Liz Vincent, P.O. Box 111, Picton or phone through on 771 726.

Local cemeteries are presently being transcribed by members. A picnic day is planned for Sunday, May 31, to transcribe Upper Picton Cemetery. Com along and bring the family 10.30am start. Participants will work in pairs with all paper and instructions supplied.

If you can spare a few hours and are interested in Oral History, Pt Shepherd would love to hear from you. Phone her on 309 380.

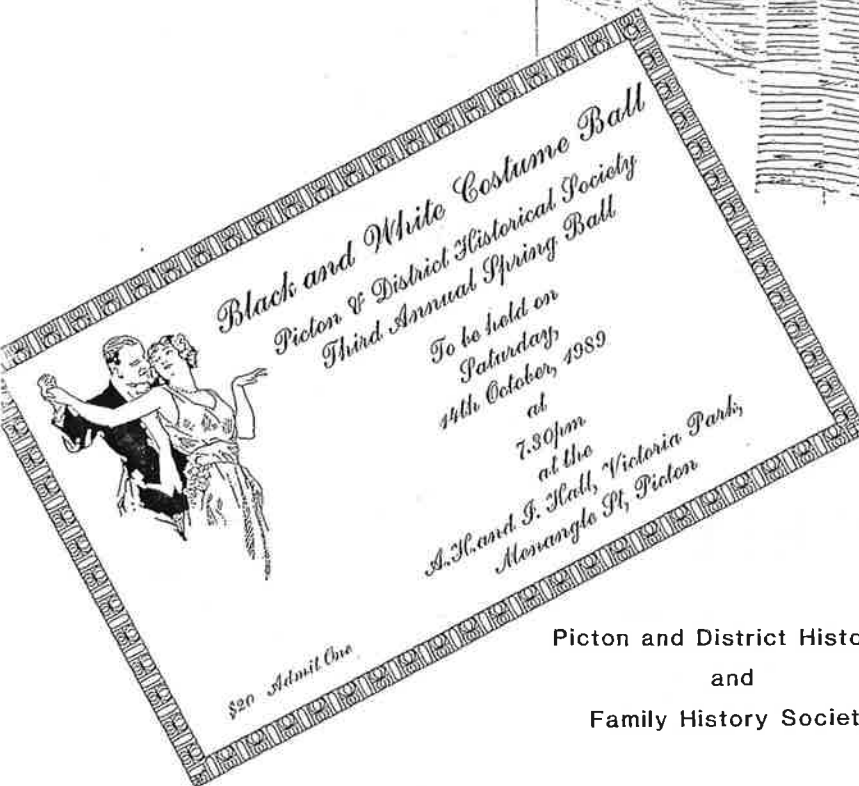
Copying of court records are also now underway. This can be done at times suitable to the Courthouse staff. Contact President Marlane Fairfax on 181 026.

The meeting concluded with an interesting talk by National Trust representative Chris Pratton.

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Newstetter of  
 Picton and District  
 Historical and Family History  
 Society



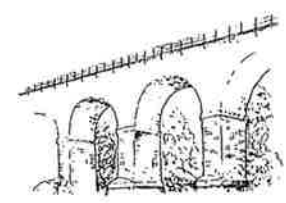
*Black and White Costume Ball*  
 Picton & District Historical Society  
 Third Annual Spring Ball  
 To be held on  
 Saturday,  
 14th October, 1989  
 at  
 7.30pm  
 at the  
 A.H. and J. Hall, Victoria Park,  
 Mossmyle St, Picton

\$20 Admit One

Picton and District Historical  
 and  
 Family History Society

Presents

**THE  
 STONEQUARRY  
 FESTIVAL  
 of ARTS and CRAFTS  
 1988**



THE 'STABLE' - GEORGE IV HOTEL  
 FRIDAY 11th November, 8.00 p.m.,  
 OPENING and PRESENTATION  
 SATURDAY 12th November, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 SUNDAY 13th November, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

<b>Coach House Chronicles</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
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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