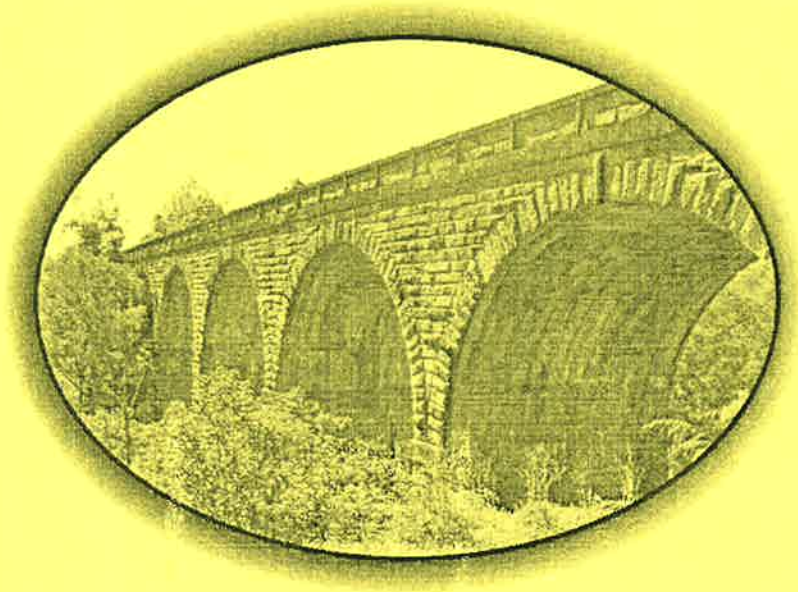


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The Stonequarry Journal



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Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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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 1st floor of Wollondilly Public Library, Menangle St., Picton.

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).

Research fees.

Members: Free

Non members: \$10.00 + photocopying. Written or emailed enquiries: \$20.00 + photocopying.

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Apologies for the lack of an earlier journal, both the editor and the photocopier needed some repairs, and both seem to be working quite well. Don't forget that contributions are always welcome, also suggestions for topics for the journal.

Newspaper cutting, unidentified source or date, but probably from the 1920s or 1930s:

DO YOU KNOW THAT :—

Stews and soups are improved by the addition of an apple cut in slices.

Never leave sugar, raisins, currants, or peel in paper bags. They all go moist and sticky very quickly.

A little turpentine added to black-lead produces a brilliant polish when applied to a grate.

Flimsy materials can be cut out more easily if first pinned or tacked to thin paper.

To rid your house of any unpleasant cooking odours, open the windows and set light to a little dry coffee on a shovel.

Gilt frames should be cleaned when dusty with warm water to which has been added a little ammonia.

Sponges can be quite easily cleaned by squeezing in water to which the juice of a lemon has been added.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are very pleased that the new illustrated version of Ken William's *Along the Menangle Road* is now available for sale. It has been quite a learning curve for those involved, but the book looks great, with a coloured photograph on the cover, thanks to Wilf Wortley and Jean Olsen. Work is continuing on a volume made up of some of the old Coach House Chronicles plus some additional chapters on the early history of the Wollondilly area. The new illustrated version of the Bargo Cemetery is also nearing completion.

Last year we had a pleasant, unexpected collaboration with the Wollondilly Library, where we are housed. They were doing some re-organising of their shelves, and offered us a variety of pre-loved items such as arch files, magazine holders, old foolscap-sized plastic sleeves etc. – culminating in the offer of some more flexible shelving to replace the last double-sided wooden shelves we had. This has enabled us to tidy up the journals section (making use of the shelves, magazine holders and some folders) and start putting all the family history/people information in one spot. This is proving to be a long term project, but well worth it.

At a recent meeting we did discuss the matter of the aging of our active members (some more than other others!), the concern being what will happen in another ten years or so. We all know that people are very busy these days, and working much longer, but if any of our local members could consider helping in some small way, it would lessen the load. For example, we're not very good about publicity, and even organising to have a table at the Library book sale has proved to be difficult. And we still need a Treasurer. While we are officially opened only on Thursdays and the second and fourth Saturday mornings (except last April when both were holidays and the Library was closed) it is possible to allow access at other times for preparation, etc.

Until next time.

Gail Hanger

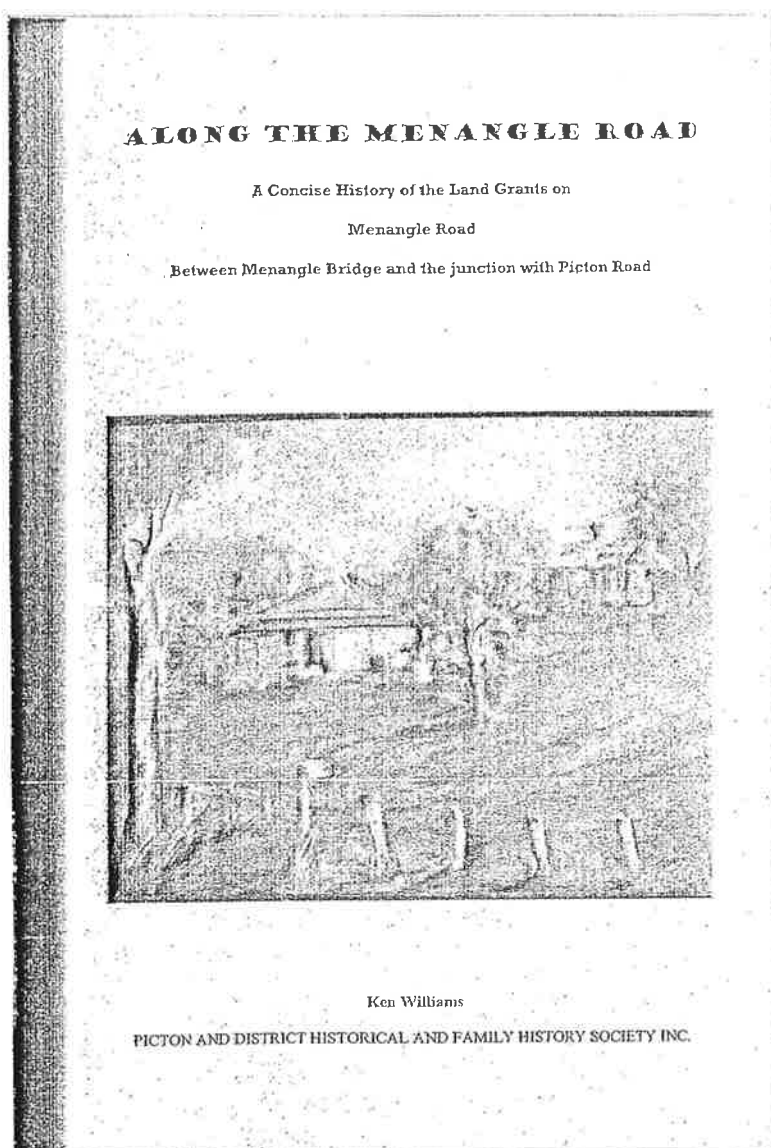
Picton High School Photos

Frank Baker has been working with the local schools on collecting photographs of all the students and teachers. It seems that there are very few student photos from Picton High School from the early years to 1988, likewise the official team photos.

Class photos have no date on them from 1958 to 1974, but if they include the teacher, it is possible to get an idea of the date.

If you can help, contact Barbara Denny at the school, or Frank Baker on 46830399, or email freundy@aapt.net.au if emailing photos, please do so at over 600 dpi.

AT LAST!



The new illustrated edition of *Along the Menangle Road* is now available, in A4 format, and greatly enhanced by a colour photograph (from a painting by Jean Olson) of the original school on Spaniard's Hill, courtesy of Wilf Wortley.

Apart from several illustrations and maps, the names of convicts from the 1824 and 1828 Musters have been added, and the index updated.

Still priced at \$15.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

2009 – INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

and Picton's connection.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the use of a telescope to explore the stars by Galileo Galilei. He had heard of the Dutch invention, by spectacle makers, in 1608, and managed to make his own instrument by the end of 1609. By the following year his discoveries marked the beginning of modern astronomy and the realisation that Earth was not the centre of the universe. The *Sydney Morning Herald* had some articles in January this year, with the above information coming from Professor Fred Watson. Another article by Deborah Smith reported the possibility that an Englishman, Thomas Harriot had used one of these Dutch telescopes in July, 1609. The pleasures of historical research!

Picton's connection is equally European in the form of Carl Ludwig Christian Rumker (also Christian Carl Ludwig), and in Sydney more usually known as Charles Luis Rumker, born in Germany in 1788.

Rumker of Stargard

Rumker was born at Stargard in the duchy of Meekleburg-Strelitz, and soon displayed an aptitude for mathematics which led to a variety of jobs before he left Germany in 1809. After stints with the British East India Company and the Merchant Navy, he was press-ganged on to HMS Benbow. The captain discovered that Rumker was a mathematician, so got him teaching navigation to the cadets; during this time he also met a famous astronomer Baron Franz von Zach, who encouraged him to study astronomy. When he was discharged from the navy, he did return to Germany and was teaching in the Hamburg School of Astronomy by 1819, but remained in contact with one of his naval captains. It was by this circuitous route that Rumker was told that the newly appointed Governor to New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane, a keen amateur astronomer and scientist, wanted to take an astronomer to the colony, and to build an observatory there. So the new Governor arrived in Sydney in November 1821 along with Rumker, and an assistant James Dunlop in his employ.

The first observatory was built at Government House in Parramatta, and some signs of it can still be seen in Parramatta Park. Rumker was able to predict the exact date of the return of Encke's Comet, on June 2nd 1822, as well as beginning a massive catalogue of the southern stars. As a result, he was granted 1,000 acres of land at Stonequarry (now Picton), which he named Stargard. He was allocated three convicts and ten cows as part of his grant, and was producing wheat by the end of 1823. Rumker seems to have been a rather volatile character, and argued with his patron, Brisbane, as well as with James Dunlop, so he retired to Stargard in mid 1823. His grant included part of a ridge, and the hill now known as Reservoir Hill, overlooking Picton, and here he built a small observatory for himself.

A visitor to the area, G.T.W.B. Boyes wrote a somewhat caustic description of the man and his home in a letter to his wife in 1824:

“Rumker is a German. A spare meagre form approaching squalidness – his eyes sunk deep in his head, his whiskers hanging down over his shirt collar – and his black hair reaching, (when it escaped from the crown of remarkably small brimmed hat, which it is constantly doing) his middle guiltless of a curve. His limbs appeared to be hooked and eyed to his body – and with an air the most distraught, he rolled about as if unhinged by intoxication. A coat that was once perhaps black permitted a dirty piece of cotton to be seen at every bend through various formed crevices that time had worn in its texture – his waistcoat had disappeared altogether and what was left of an old pair of threadbare Kersymere trowsers [sic] was nothing to speak of.

....[he] was standing at the door of his hut exactly as I have described him, or rather attempted to do so, serving out salt pork to his men when De A [DeArrietta, from Morton Park] and myself rode up to the door.

The inside of his domicile well corresponded with the exterior indications. The logs of which his hut was built – affected by the dry weather – had retired from each other as far as good manners permitted – this was an advantage as it enabled him to have an eye upon each inch of his farm without moving from his box, for chair he had none.

On the table were a broken basin, a ragged edged table knife, well blacked and eroded with vegetable acid, a German Ephemeris for 1818. A four foot telescope in a mahogany case coated with clay was lying on the sod. On the table, whose construction I could not make out, there were also half a melon – one side shrivelled, implying frugality in the use of this simple luxury – particles of tea and sugar, a bone spoon of the colour of rusty bacon. Accounts of lbs and ½ lbs of pork issued to the men interspersed with unintelligible characters similar to those in Moore’s Almanac – but more diversified in their positions – and a check shirt, offering the conveniences of a duster. To get to the dormitory one must have clambered over the fallen ruins of what might have been once a partition – the couch was simplicity itself, a dirty blanket and an old still cloak spread upon three bars of iron bark ...

The next day Rumker walked over from his farm to De A., for dinner – 8 miles through a hot wind and under a burning sun – of course a little discomposed the arrangements of his toilet.... In the course of the evening he talked much and well upon the fine arts Told me he played on the piano – murdered an air of Cimarosa’s and fell asleep.”

Rumker continued his observations while at Stargard, but he returned to Parramatta when Governor Brisbane was replaced by Governor Darling in 1826, and in December 1827 he was appointed the first Government Astronomer. The following year he received more land, and in 1829 he returned to England to get more equipment but it seems that the quarrel with Brisbane led to his dismissal from his position in 1830. He returned to Germany, and never came back to Australia.

Stargard was advertised for sale in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of December 19th, 1833, the two day sale to take place on January 6th and 7th 1834, “to commence each day at half past ten”. By this time, there were 600 head of cattle, fat oxen, Suffolk Polled dairy cattle, 40 pigs and several horses, as well as all farming utensils and equipment, plus acres of wheat, barley and maize, and “a very large quantity of poultry”. After further details, including the suggestion that “emigrants, graziers,

milkmen and contractors, butchers and others” would be interested, the advertisement concluded:

“At the same time will be leased to the highest bidder for three years, the beautiful homestead consisting of two thousand two hundred acres of land with a capital cottage, barn, stables, stockyards and all requisite buildings. One hundred acres cleared and stumped into paddocks...”

Things had improved since Boyes’ visit in 1824!

Rumker continued his work in Germany, where he was the director of the Hamburg Observatory in 1833; by this time he and Brisbane had reconciled as Rumker dedicated his *Preliminary Catalogue of Fixed Stars intended for a Prospectus of a Catalogue of the Stars of the Southern Hemisphere Included within the Tropic of Capricorn now Reduced from the Observations made in the Observatory at Parramatta* in 1832 to his ex-employer. He won gold medals from the King of Hanover in 1850, and most pleasingly from the Royal Astronomical Society in 1854, but ill health saw him retire from the Hamburg Observatory in 1857. He moved to Lisbon, where he continued to work on his southern observations, and died there in 1862.

This article is based on three by Jan Ross, in *The District Reporter* in January 2004 which uses George Bergman, *Journal and Proceedings R.A.H.S. 1960, vol. 46 part 5 pp 247-289*. George F.J. Bergman also wrote the entry for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Ken Williams transcribed the full description of Boyce’s visit, from *The Diaries and Letters of G.T.W.B. Boyes 1787-1853* edited by Peter Chapman, Mitchell Library 994-6020924/B791-2. Other material in the Society’s archives.

Vale – Liz Vincent 1947-2009

The Society has been saddened to hear of Liz’s death, on 28th May. She and her family came to Picton in 1984, and she was one of the founding members of the Society in 1987, becoming the first Publicity Officer.

Liz wrote many books on local history, as well as having a regular newspaper column in the Macarthur Chronicle, but it was her impressive collection of family history data that contributed to the knowledge of many families. Her *Index to the Picton Bench Books* is a valuable source of names, between 1829 and 1883 (with some gaps), and an often-used resource in our library. She also donated a copy of her *Index to the Entrance Book to the Picton Lock-Up 1845-1861*, and her *Catholic Records Index*. While some of her books are now out of print, her *The Forgotten Village of Picton – Introducing Upper Picton (Redbank)* recently came out in a second edition.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband John, children Jennifer, David and Steven and their families.

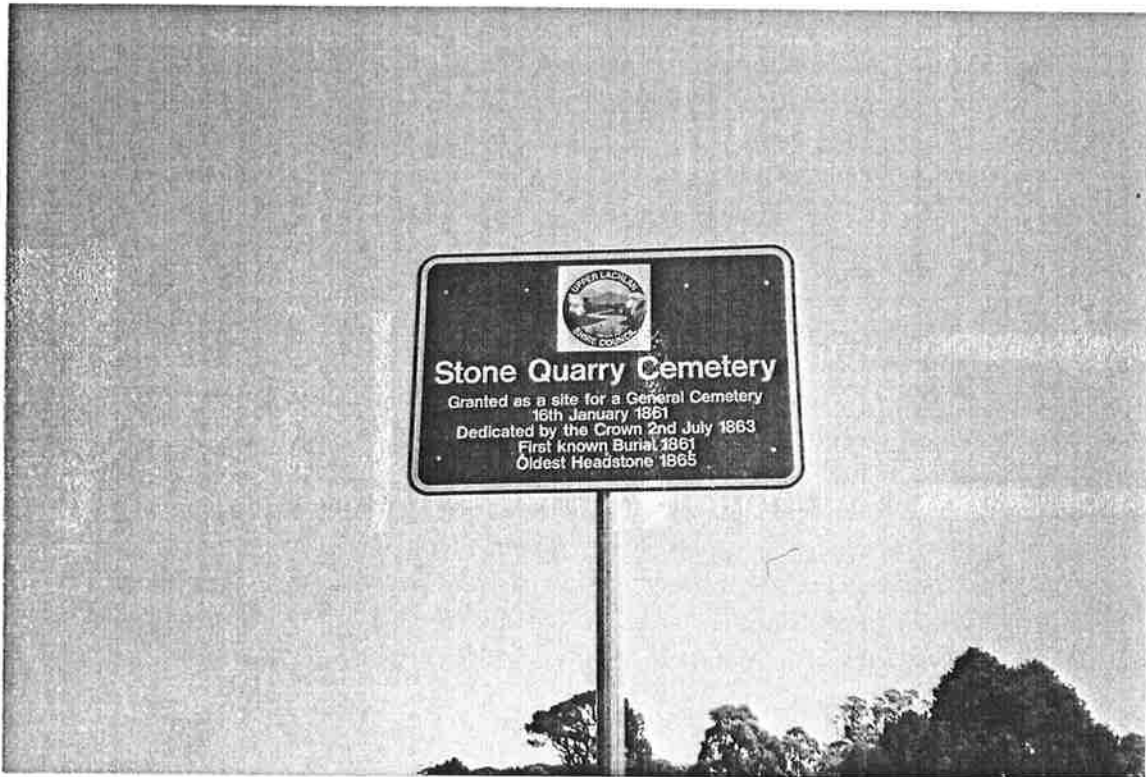
Recent Research Enquiries.

As usual, we have a mixed bunch of requests for family information, though we do sometimes get two or more requests for the same family.

Family being researched	Enquiry from
Askildsen	J. Evans
Anderson, William	J. McMahon
Badham, J.D. (Bargo Home for boys?)	J. Richards
Barker/Blattman family	P. Hardman
Blatch	D. Gill
Bradley, Frederick K.	D. Pawluczyk
Bell, Dr. William	L. Sabine
Buckingham (Buxton area)	D. Waymouth
Carter/Dietrich	R. Dietrich
Carroll (Appin area)	J. Flack
Carter	S. Jones
Clark/Blundell/New	R. Ratcliffe
Clifford, J.F.	M. Wallis
Lassau, and Eckersley (place name)	R. Lassau
Gray, Francis	J. Wallace
Harris, Emily	A. Kaldy
Howarth/Mitchell/Crispe	M. Forgie
McCain (Menangle area)	C. Weedon
McInnes, Lachlan	J. McInnes
McLaughlin, Edward	J. Bainbridge
Maguire, James	B. Hardie
Mann, Samuel	M. Mann
Merrick (Bargo, 1920s)	J. Warner
Moloney - (referred to Campbelltown)	H. Paynter
Morrison, J.F.	J. Hiatt
Mulholland	P. Martin
Mulholland/Willis	C. Kenny
Peachey	K. Hamdorff
Pooley	P. Dennis
Richardson	L. Darwen
Robinson	K. Gardner
Sant, Abel	I. Hopkins
Smart/Veness	C. Smart
Smith W.R./Treacy F.E.	V. Dalgleish
Teege (Oakdale/Picton)	B. Kolodzey
Thornton	B. Thornton
Webber	R. Hamilton
Wellings	N. Wellings
White	B. Wilson
Whitfield/West	M. Long
Whitfield	S. Daniels
Whiting, Oliver	B. Williams
Williams, Robert	C. McIntyre

We were also asked for information on baptism records for 1860, and for photos of the Thirlmere Co-op building – had to pass this one on to The Oaks people. Other requests were a bit more difficult to answer: one concerned a possible convict road at Tahmoor, another wanted information on the Labor Party in Picton in the 1950s, while the last wanted the names of nurses at the Queen Victoria Hospital. We were not able to help with these.

There have been a couple of enquiries about people buried in the Stone Quarry Cemetery, which, not surprisingly, was presumed to be something to do with the Picton area. The name Stonequarry was used here up until about 1841, and the Stonequarry Creek was named in 1798. However, our indefatigable librarian/researcher, Helen Hanger was able to find that this slightly different Stone Quarry cemetery was established at Taralga, and even managed to visit it and get some photographic evidence:



Another recent enquiry has raised some interesting questions about the certainty of land title. The research was into the history of the old, possible shop, at 216-218 Menangle Street, Picton, which has been unoccupied for some time. While the Picton Parish Map clearly shows that this was part of the Jarvisfield grant to Major Antill, which extended almost to present day Maldon, the title search suggests the land was part of Charles Rumker's grant, and in fact that the land was sold by Rumker to William Lumdsaine in 1836. The new owner later became a minister, and bought part of Rumker's Stargard, on the other side of Stonequarry Creek (see pp 4-7), which might explain the mix-up. Some time before Lumdsaine sold this land to the Whitfield family a house had been built here, possibly the old house.

Wonder what the Antill family thought about it all.

From the Records – Henry Austin of Buxton

Obituary in the Picton Post of 22nd August, 1900: The Late Mr. Henry Austin, J.P.

In the death of the late Mr. Henry Austin, which recently took place at his residence, Buxton has lost a useful and respected resident. Since his arrival in the neighbourhood some years ago, he has been an active worker in everything pertaining to the welfare and general advancement of the place. In connection with some of the pioneers of this locality, who are still among us, he took an interest, and shared in the labours, of bringing about many improvements now benefitting the residents of Buxton. With such objects in view he has filled many positions of trust and usefulness, and has from the commencement of his residence among us, been an active member of the Buxton Progress Association, which body at its last meeting, passed a resolution expressive of its appreciation of his labours for the general good. But while he hid his quota towards bringing about some of the benefits of a more advanced civilisation in regard to constructing roads, improved railway facilities, etc., the work that always seemed nearest his affections was the spiritual interests of the people. For the advancement of this work his house has always been thrown open for religious services, and it was with apparent delight that he saw his large room filled with worshippers. His kind and unassuming manner made him a favourite with all who were acquainted with him, and won the confidence and affection of the children in whom he took a special interest. At the funeral of the deceased gentleman every family in the neighbourhood was represented, many coming long distances to pay their last tribute of respect. Before starting for the train by which the remains were to be taken to Rookwood cemetery a religious service was held, conducted by the Rev. T. Kench, with whom he had been for some time associated as a fellow worker in the cause of religion. The following Sunday was made the occasion for an improvement on his death, when the Rev. T. Kench again preached an earnest and impressive sermon from the words in Revelation (new version) "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Ye, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours, and their works follow after."

The Society has a copy of the biography written by Henry's son William, from which the following information has been extracted:

Henry was born in 1834 in Kent, and came to Sydney in 1856 on the "Beechapore". He met his future wife Agnes Giles on the voyage and they married soon after arrival. Henry had a variety of jobs including as a market gardener, but by 1860 the family was living in Redfern and he had greengrocery, then became a carrier and later ran a furniture store. In 1886 he returned to England for a visit, and soon after his return he retired. After several other moves around suburban Sydney, he "purchased an estate a few miles from Picton Lakes Station [later Couridjah] ... and built a home there named "Woodbine"". Others were beginning to settle in this area, and it seems that Henry Austin suggested the name of Buxton for the village. He died 24th July 1900.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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
St. Mark's Anglican Picton	15.50
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 Coach House Chronicles are being revamped, (with a new title, as we no longer have the Coach House as our headquarters) and will reappear in one volume, possibly with some additions and/or deletions. We think this will enable us to get the new volume(s) printed, and thus look more professional. Any suggestions for topics will be gratefully received.

Meanwhile, we still have copies of *The History of the Picton District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc* from Jan Wilton & Jan Ross, as well as *The Old Razorback Schoolhouse 1882-1899* by Betty Villy.

If undelivered please return to

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PO Box 64

PICTON NSW 2571

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