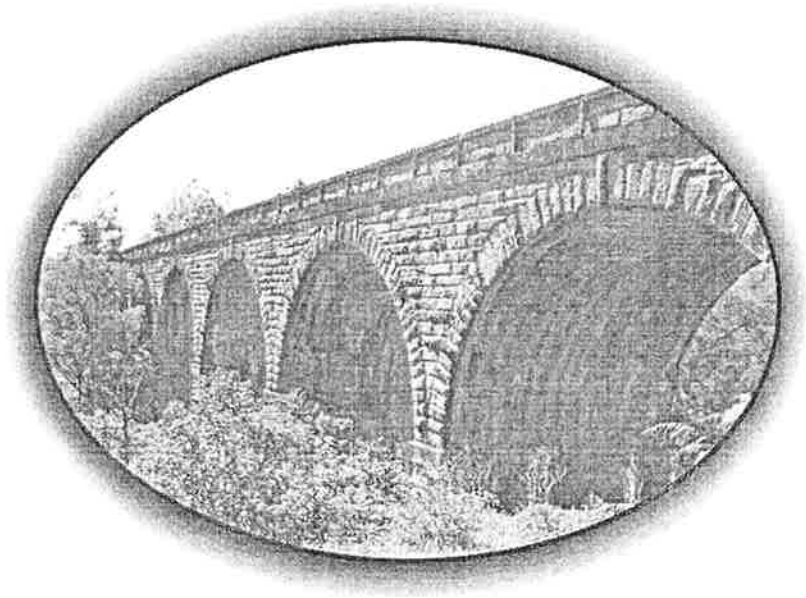


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Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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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 December meeting is held at one of the members' homes, at 11 a.m. followed by lunch.

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

Research room

First floor Wollondilly Public Library, above entrance. 10 am to 3 pm each Thursday and 10am to 12 noon, 2nd and 4th Saturday **by appointment only**.

Research fees.

Members: Free (plus photocopying costs)

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

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President's Report for 2010

Another year has come and gone, they seem to be going faster each year, although it might just be in my mind.

The Society has had a good year and our little band of active members have been hard at work. Our regular small group service our opening times, and Thursdays can be quite busy at times. We have been opening on the second and fourth Saturday mornings, but have had some difficulties over the last few months. Very few people come on Saturdays, so the decision has been made to open then only by appointment. Ken and Kate have been covering these Saturdays for several years, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

We have published a couple of new books in the last twelve months, which have been well received. Our update of the Bargo Cemetery has been completed, though our plans to self print had to be changed due to problems with our copier. It is now on sale, and we intend to update the Upper Picton and Thirlmere cemetery books, though these will be big projects.

I had the pleasure in presenting the John Ruffels History prize in February to a very excited and amazed young man; his sister had won the prize in 2007. The Picton Public School held their centenary in June; I was unable to attend at the last minute, but was ably represented by Kate Holmes. She made the presentation to the school of a copy of the Hogue Album, which was presented to the Minister for Public Education, Mr. Hogue, when he opened the school in 1910. The album had been donated to the Society in 1989.

We have received word of several of our members passing away during the year, and we extend our sympathy to their families. I have been informed today of the death of a colleague

and work mate, which makes me realize that we should not put off anything, for none of us know what lies in store.

I would like to thank all members for their support over the past year and wish everyone success with their research in the coming year.

Gail Hanger

Librarian's Report for 2010

Welcome everyone to our 23rd Annual General Meeting. I hope you have enjoyed your year with our Society and that you all have a good 2011. May I offer my thanks to the hard working team, without whom our rooms, research and collecting wouldn't get done. Many thanks to all.

We had had many enquiries for research on houses, land and families from local and interstate people. We can usually provide some information, but quite often have to pass on enquiries to other societies in the Shire or nearby.

Our library has been added to, both by donation and by purchase; some recent examples are:

- *History of the Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade*, by G. Noyes
- *There were ponies in the paddock... Celebrating 100 Years of Education* published by the Picton Public School
- *Supplement to Unmarked Graves, Mays Hill* compiled by the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery
- *Index to Convict Road Gangs, Road Parties and Iron'd Gangs 1827-1830* compiled by Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen, State Records NSW
- *Farm Days, Kids Ways* by Clare Bell.

Our own publications have been selling steadily, with the Chronicles of the early Cowpastures and Stonequarry doing well, and the Bargo Cemetery Memorials finished at last. The latter will be taken to the upcoming NSW Family History conference, where it should sell well. Gail Hanger will again be our delegate to the conference, being held on 17-19th September at Bomaderry. The State President will be attending our November meeting, if all goes well. We have received a grant of \$500 from Wollondilly Shire, to help with the publication on the 1824 Cawdor Muster, which might be out later this year.

We had a display for Australia Day, and another at the Broughton College Fair in August, the first being better patronised than the latter. We are also contributing to the "Faces in the Street" display at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre at The Oaks, as part of National History Week this month.

We had some good feedback on the articles about the Picton Public School centenary in our last journal. The replica of the Hogue Album was well received by the school.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of some members, and wish them and their families God's peace, and thank them for their support over the years. In some cases we are pleased to see that membership is being continued by other family members.

May I offer my thanks to Kate for her help on our research team, and for putting the displays together. May you all have a healthy and productive year ahead.

Helen Hanger.

Treasurer's Report, for year ending 30th June 2010

Receipts		Expenditure	
Membership	\$740.00	Postage	\$211.26
Publications	1312.60	Library books	220.00
Postage	9.65	Computer	261.89
Donations	113.00	IBE (service contract)	523.61
Sale of tea towels	320.00	Printing	1062.50
Bank Interest	11.18	Cheque book	25.00
Bus Tours	110.00	ISBN (10 numbers)	80.00
Photographs	60.00	Stationery	206.60
Research	479.19	Photo frame	38.00
Photocopying	63.40	Dept. Fair Trading	47.00
Transfer/Invest. Acc	1000.00	Conference	140.00
Fed. Govt. grant (new chairs)	1832.00	Membership	110.00
		Picton Schools	170.00
		Insurance	484.00
		Grant spent	1832.00
		Bank fees	3.00
		Flowers	52.00
		Post box	84.50
Total receipts	\$6051.02	Total expenditure	\$5589.36

Bank Statement 1 st July 2009	\$ 546.64
Income to 30 th June 2010	<u>\$6051.02</u>
Total	\$6597.66
Less expenditure	<u>\$5589.36</u>
Total	\$1008.30

Investment Account	\$1758.60
Credit Union	\$ 5.00
Petty Cash	\$ 50.00
Investment Interest	\$ 101.65

Recent Acquisition donated by the family of J.J. Cleary.

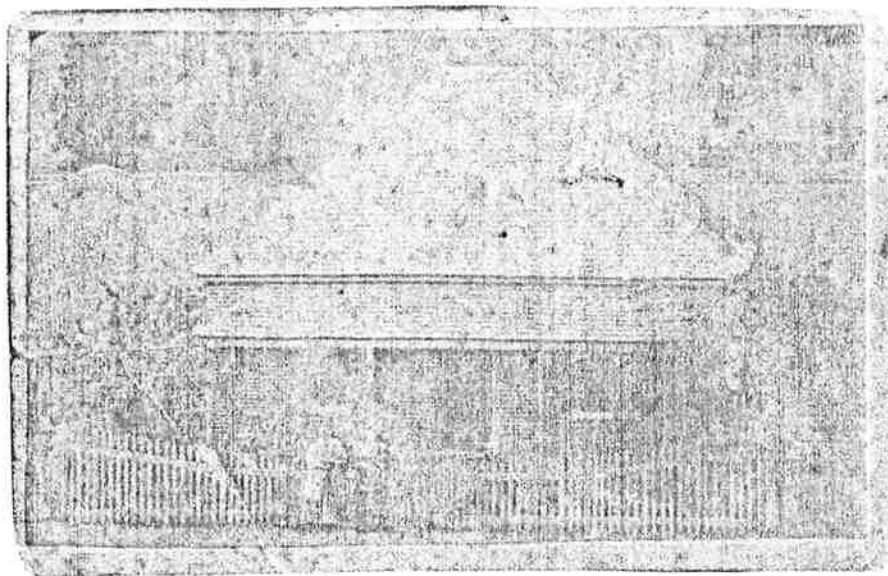
Imagine my surprise, delight and excitement when, one afternoon while catching up on some work in our room at the Library, I heard some people being shepherded along the corridor. They turned out to be Colin Cleary and his cousin Margaret, the grandchildren of J.J. Cleary who had been the Picton Council Town Clerk from 1915 to 1926. Their aunt, Patricia Cleary, was moving from her unit to a retirement home, so Colin and Margaret were helping her. My ears pricked up when I heard a murmur of early Council records, and I knew Mr. Cleary had been the town clerk in the early 20th century; the visitors had been waylaid by Gail Dunn, the head librarian (or Team Leader as she is now titled), so I had to sneak into Gail's room, and see what exactly was going on.

There were a couple of wonderful old ledgers, leather bound, as well as a bag with two albums of newspaper clippings etc., and some photographs. I picked up one of the old books, and was amazed to see that it was labeled MINUTE BOOK, BOROUGH OF PICTON. Knowing that the Picton Council was a Borough Council for only a few years (it then became a Municipal Council), well – could it be the original minute book of the Council? Nervously opening the book, yes, there were the minutes from the first meeting in May 1895 in fairly clear handwriting. (From October 1895 the handwriting is even clearer). This book contains the minutes up until August 1899; the second, larger book contains those from 1909 to 1912.

While in amazingly good condition, we will be photocopying the minutes over the next few months so that the originals can be protected from too much handling.

John Joseph Cleary was born on 29th April, 1883 near Pitt Town, and from the age of 14 moved around from West Wyalong, then from 1900 he trained as an assayer and went into mining at Junee, Condoblin, Cobar and Forbes. It was at the Calarie mine at Forbes that he met Alice Brown, who also worked at the mine, as well as housekeeping for her five brothers, and they were married at Canterbury in 1906. Back in Forbes, John was now working as a book-keeper, and then studied by correspondence and became a certified Town Clerk; he also became an alderman between 1912 and 1915. Then he received three offers to become town clerk, from Bowral, South Grafton and Picton, choosing the latter. The family (with five children) arrived in June 1915, and another four children were born here.

Many of the photographs are somewhat faded, but one is of the Cleary home in Colden Street:



I

First meeting of the Municipal Council of Picton. held in the Protestant Hall Picton at 7 P.M. on 9th day of May, 1895.

Business:- Election of Mayor.

The Returning officer presided: There were also present Aldermen Mills, McQuiggin, Wadrope, Pritchard, Nicolson, Sell, Mulholland and Bonnellan.

Proposed by Ald. Nicolson and seconded by Ald. Mills "that the election of Mayor be by show of hands" - Carried

Prop. by Ald. Mills & Sec. by Ald. Nicolson "that Ald. John Wright McQuiggin be elected Mayor for the ensuing year." Carried Unanimously.

The Returning officer then declared Alder John Wright McQuiggin duly elected Mayor. and the meeting terminated.

J. W. McQuiggin
Chairman

22nd May 1895

The house was on the west side of Colden Street, between the old Presbytery and the narrow brick house, previously part of Emmett's yard, and now part of the townhouse development.

J.J. Cleary became involved in the Labor Party, and he won a seat in the Legislative Council in 1920, but lost it at the 1922 election; he took leave from the Council during this time. He was editor of the Picton Post between 1923 and 1926, and on leaving the Council, he was licensee of the Bargo Hotel for two years. He was on the committee which established the Picton Lakes Village at Couridjah, in 1927, so that those suffering from TB could live there with their families. He left Bargo, though his wife Alice seems to have stayed on with some of their children for several years. John was Town Clerk at Molong (1928-1932) and contested the state elections in 1932 and 1935, without success, and life became very tough in these Depression years. By 1939 he and Alice, and two sons were working gold at Adelong and then near Gundagai before moving to Glebe in Sydney, where Alice ran a boarding house and John worked in the Defence Department. After the War, he inherited £1,000 and was able to buy a house.

Alice died in 1952, and John in 1962; their children were Frederick (born 1907), Margaret Rose (1908), Mary Elizabeth (1910), John Mackie (1912), James Lawrence (1914), Henry Joseph (1916), Lucy Alice (1918), Patricia (1922) and Francis Anthony (1925).

With thanks to his grandson Colin, who provided the Society with a short biography of his grandfather, the basis for this article.

Christmas recollections

Last month we received an email from Michael Lockwood who is working on a book about how Christmas has evolved in Australia. He wants to record the stories and memories of previous generations, and reflect the diversity of how Australians have celebrated Christmas over the years. He has been "a devoted family historian for several years" so has some understanding of the knowledge people have, and memories going back over generations.

So, if anyone has any photos, memories or anecdotes to share, he would be very glad to hear from you. Any inclusions in his book would be fully acknowledged, and he would respect any conditions placed on the material.

His Christmas in Australia blog site is <http://christmas-australia.blogspot.com/>; his phone number is 0425 44 2008, or visit at <http://michael-lockwood.com>.

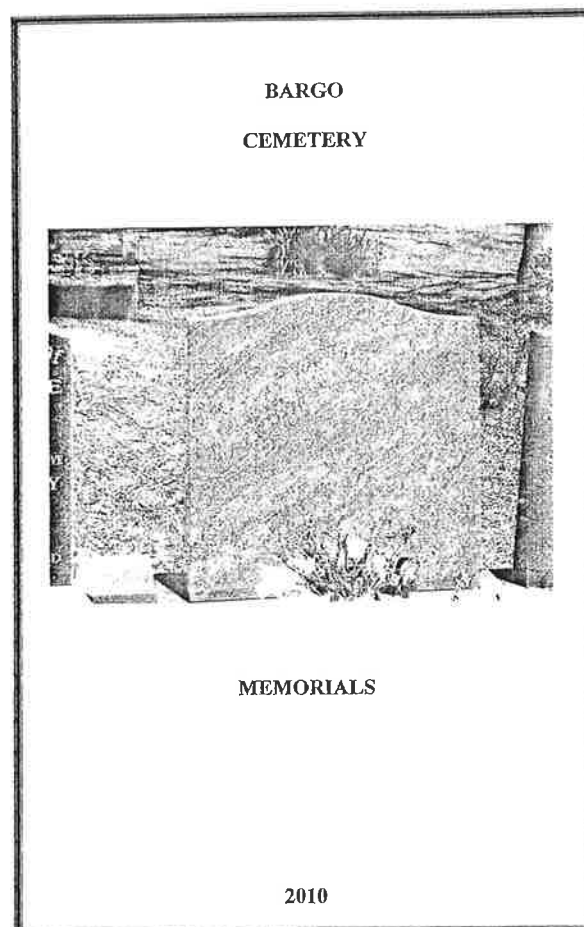
Our latest publication:

Bargo Cemetery Memorials

This is the updated and illustrated record of Bargo cemetery, up to December 2009. Gail Hanger did most of the work, with assistance from Helen Hanger.

We try to self-publish these reference books but the photographs proved to be too much for our photocopier, so after a very frustrating time we had to get most of it copied elsewhere, though Ron Callaway did the ring binding.

126 pages long, fully indexed it is selling for \$25 + \$5 postage & packing



Our other recent publications are selling steadily, and while we would like to update Thirlmere and Upper Picton, these will require a great effort, and we may have to rethink using photographs of every gravesite.

Picton Railway Station – Part II

by Stuart Sharp

The rebirth of the design

Whitton had Government approval and funding to take the three main trunk lines to Goulburn, Bathurst and Murrurundi and these lines represent the first period of trunk line development. When the lines reached their destinations, there was a lively debate in government and elsewhere about the best way, meaning cheaper, of extending the trunk lines further. What emerged as Government policy was a need for Whitton to build cheaper platform buildings in the 1870s. Throughout the 1870s, Whitton moved away from his beloved Georgian influenced design and used temporary structures and combination offices and residences. He also commenced trials with a new design in 1874 using for the first time a gabled roof as the dominant form of roofscape.

From the mid to late 1870s, there emerged a design for more structures with much higher levels of ornamentation and much larger size. Buildings at Newcastle, Sydney (the second station), Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Albury and other locations became Whitton's first class design. He used his gabled roof design as a third class of platform structure. How did he plug the status gap between first and third class? He re-introduced the design he had applied at Picton. The work of replacing buildings was taken from Whitton in 1879 but there was no change in the design for the second class of platform building. The list below shows those examples where Whitton and others used the same design as at Picton as replacement structures between 1877 and 1889:

- Binalong
- Blacktown
- Honeysuckle Point
- Eskbank
- Greta
- Harden
- Morpeth
- Newbridge
- Newtown
- Richmond
- Riverstone
- Windsor



Picton Railway Station, c.1910

Unusual is the fact that 12 examples were built as the first class of platform building between 1858 and 1871, and 12 examples were built as the second class of platform structures between 1877 and 1889.

The place of Picton in the context of the Campbelltown-Goulburn railway extension

A three-tiered hierarchy of platform structures was used by Whitton at the time of the opening of the line to Goulburn. Prior to the construction of Goulburn station, the top design was the Georgian influenced structure that was applied at Campbelltown, Mittagong and Moss Vale.

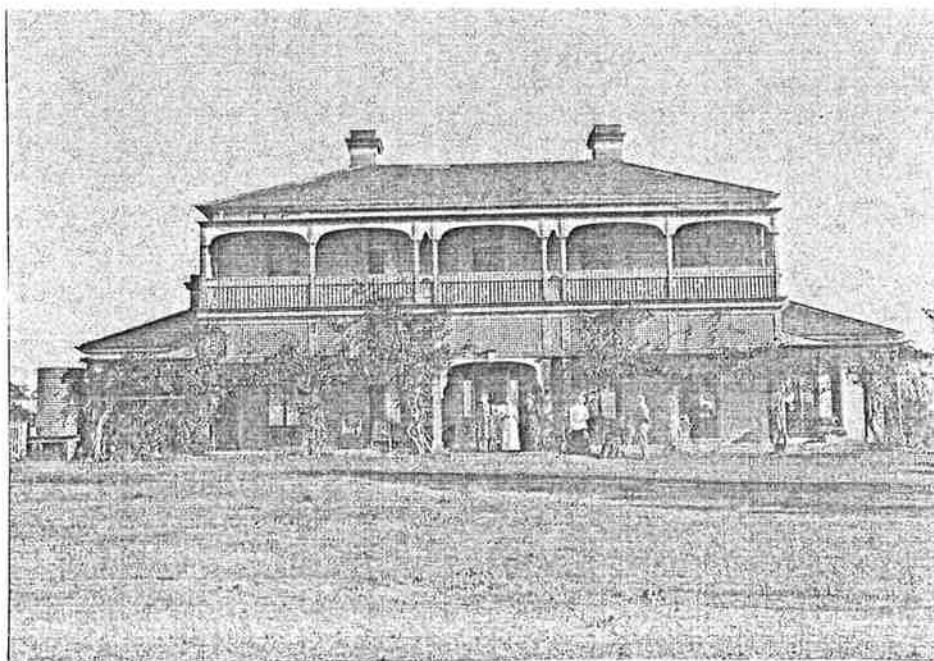
The second tier was formed by a simple residence that had a ticket office and other facilities added to it. These were built at Menangle (extant), Bowral, Jordan's Crossing (Bundanoon) and Marulan (extant). The bottom tier was formed with simple timber-framed waiting sheds and these existed at Rush's Platform (Braemar) and Mannafields (Towrang).

All railway station served some person or persons. Small waiting sheds were provided for only one or two local people. The combination building, which included the presence of a full-time Station Master, was built where the NSW Railways thought there was the opportunity for a quantity of local business. The design was also used where there was no strong, local political influence. Picton was in the top layer of platform designs. Not only was the Georgian influenced design used where there may be 100 or more people, the design was also applied by Whitton as a recognition of the influence of a local person or family.

It is hard to believe that Whitton built the platform building at Picton because of the large population. He would have been aware of the influence of the Antill family in colonial government and would not want to have upset a key, local identity. In other locations, the evidence is available that shows Whitton to be most astute as to the importance of local political influences. Liz Vincent believed that it was the influence of the Antill family that encouraged the NSW government to build the Main South line through Picton.* The unfulfilled desire of successive NSW rail administrations to by-pass Picton with a direct route from Maldon to Bargo is testament to that belief.

If the Antill family could deviate an entire railway line, it could easily demand the top tier of platform building. It is also interesting to note that the design of the Antill family home, *Jarvisfield* at Picton, had a strong resemblance to the Picton platform building, especially in the design of the roof and overall symmetry. Both were designed and built in the 1863/64 period and there was a link between the buildings so far as the architects were concerned. William Weaver, of Weaver and Kemp, designed *Jarvisfield*. At the time, Weaver was employed by the NSW Railways to supervise construction of the Windsor to Richmond extension. Weaver had also trained under the great British railway engineer, I.K. Brunel. It could well be that the design of the structure selected for the platform at Picton was used to mirror the design of *Jarvisfield*. The matching of railway stations with important local houses did occur at Goulburn and Bathurst. It is possible and probable that the precedent was established at Picton.

Jarvisfield, taken in 1910



Concluding remarks

The platform structure was classy in appearance, materials and services when built. The evidence relating to Picton station supports the hypothesis that the NSW Railways largely provided platform buildings commensurate with the size and/or nature of the towns they served. Platform buildings were not shortened or lengthened in order to reflect smaller and larger towns. In reality, all the locations served by the Georgian design were relatively small when the design was first employed up to 1871. Rather than alter the length of a standard design, Whitton preferred to use a completely different design in order to indicate that one town was more or less important than another. In short, building style rather than size was used as the determinant of the status of the location served.

Most of the 24 locations where the design has been used developed into suburbs and towns of some size. On that record alone, it seems that Whitton was an excellent student of local demography and politics. Each of these 24 places could be proud of its local station as a means of reflecting town pride.

Of the locations on the line between Campbelltown and Goulburn in the 1850s and 1860s, those which received the top design did in fact develop into major towns and cities. The lower two tiers have mostly remained as minor places. Again, Whitton got the assessment of local spatial development correct.

Of the approximately 2,000 platform buildings erected since 1855 at 1,300 stations, only a relative handful have ever been extended or replaced with larger buildings. The total is well below 5% of all structures built. Picton station is like the vast majority of other platform buildings: it has never been enlarged and never been replaced. Why? Because it and most other platform buildings, especially in the 19th century, were built in excess of local railway and town needs. Rooms have changed designations from time to time, such as the elimination of the former Telegraph Office, but there has never been an expansion of the original building footprint.

Picton platform building was built in response to lobbying from the Antill family in fulfillment of its dream of a larger Picton some day. The station was built to address future expansion of the town. John Whitton got his assessment correct in regard to what he would build at Picton. Somehow on the journey of time, NSW Governments have forgotten the concept of inbuilt, future growth and now supply projects and infrastructure that lag behind demand.

Today, Picton is the only surviving station building of the Georgian style on the Main South railway line that is largely in an as-built form and being used for its original function. It deserves the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan by its owner, CityRail

The assistance of conservation architect, David Sheedy, and local historian, Kate Holmes, is greatly acknowledged.

*L. Vincent, *The Forgotten Village of Picton*, Picton, privately published, 2004 reprint, p. 7.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Cemetery Transcripts

Bargo Cemetery Memorials (2010)	\$25.00 + \$5 p&p
Burial records of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Picton	12.00 "
Redbank Uniting Church – A Pictorial view	20.00 "
Upper Picton General Cemetery	20.00 "
Thirlmere	20.00 "

Marriage Transcripts

St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.1	\$15.00 + \$5 p&p
St. Mark's Anglican Church - Vol.2	15.00 "
St. Mark's Anglican Church – Vol.3	20.00 + \$10 p&p
Set of three volumes	50.00 + \$15 p&p

Other Publications

Along the Menangle Road (2 nd Illustrated edition)	\$15.00 + \$5 p&p
Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry 1820-1850 Volume I	20.00 + \$5 p&p
Post Cards	5 for 1.00
Fact sheets	0.50

Tea Towel	\$10.00
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Other publications available through us:

The History of the Picton District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc, by Jan Ross & Jan Wilton	\$15.00 + \$3.00 p&p
The Old Razorback Schoolhouse 1882-1899, by Elizabeth Villy	\$12.50 + \$3.00 p&p
A Brief History of Couridjah in the Wollondilly Shire, by Karyn Chalk	\$15.00 + \$3.00 p&p

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