# Stonequarry Tournal

DATE: Sept 1994

VOLUME: 8



Micton & Mistrict Kistorical

Asimily Kistory Society Inc.

# PICTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Menangle Street, Picton.

(excluding January)

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## CONTENTS

EULOGY FOR PEG GARD by Stephen Gard	1 - 2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Nicole Hanger	3 - 4
COMING EVENTS	4
APPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL by Pat Shephard	5 - 8
AT AUNTY SOPH'S by Nancy Peisley	9 - 10
LIBRARIAN'S REPORT by Dianne Irwin	11
HISTORICAL TRIVIA contributed by Jim Munro	9 12
MY HOMEDOUGLAS PARK by Christopher Smith (Grade 6 Douglas Pa	rk School) 13

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. Memberships became due and payable as at 1 July 1994. A Membership renewal slip is included in this Journal. Single - \$10.00. Family - \$12.00. Pensioner - \$8.00

# IF A RED DOT APPEARS HERE

OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST JOURNAL.

## 1916 - 1994

The Society lost another of its much valued and loved members with the passing of Peg Gard on 30 August 1994. Peg held the position of Social Secretary and "General Hand" which consisted of assisting with school groups, cleaning the rooms, setting up and packing up for meetings, gardening, etc. etc. So many odd jobs were done by Peg that few realised the effort she put in until she had to give it up due to her failing health.

At her funeral on 2 September, her son Stephen read the Eulogy which expressed precisely Peg's character and the reasons so many of us were drawn to her and are the better for having known her.

The following is an extract from the Eulogy by Stephen Gard.

Born Margaret Anne Hellmrich in 1916, child of a family of seven. The Hellmriches were a close family, with strong and much-loved parents. But the natural pairing off of the children often left Mum the odd-one out: there were two older girls, two younger girls, and two boys — so Peg was always the loner, a situation which she spoke of with amusement. It set her apart right from the outset, and seemed somehow to indicate that she was a special person. She was born when Sydney's suburbs still had dirt roads, when the tradesmen who called with meat and milk were just beginning to arrive in motor cars, when there was more bush than bustle. She played in the bush and swam in the dams still to be found in places like North Rocks, and spent a thoroughly Australian childhood, free and noisy and busy, of picnics and holidays at the beach, of laughter and chatter around the dinner table.

Peg disliked school the way she disliked all kinds of regimentation that repressed her free spirit. She left school forever at the age of 14, and was delighted to do so. But she had a lively mind, she was an omnivorous and tireless reader, and she was interested in just about everything. There were few subjects she couldn't contribute something to a discussion about, and her book case was always crammed and the paper was thoroughly read and the crossword completed, before it left to serve somewhere in a garden bed.

She married Don Gard in 1940, and they raised three children. It must be said that it was not a happy marriage. When they separated in 1972, they were able to live their lives in a far more satisfactory manner, but I know that there was sorrow on both sides that they hadn't been able to make their marriage last.

Mum found work as a nurse's aid, tough physical labour for a middle-aged woman, but she stuck to it, and kept on with her nursing until 1983, when Annette and I invited her to come and live with us. She was a third parent to my children from that day on, and made Thirlmere her home, and as she did everywhere, made many, many friends.

Peg was community minded - she was a member of the Historical Society, VIEW Club, Probus, a committee member of Safety House and Play Group, a volunteer at the local library, a butterer of buns at the school tuck shop. In her last years, Mother Church

and Peg called a truce, and Peg went down to sort rags for the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

But she was even more active as a full time counsellor, the kind who rolls up the sleeves, preparatory to helping you in the most practical way possible. Mum had three official children, but she had so many other 'adopted' sons and daughters, people who found in her a true friend, a real listener, and a source of sound and very practical advice. Mum wasn't perfect: she had her prejudices against some things and a few people, and she had a large measure of intolerance for anything she considered to be nonsense. Sometimes she was wrong about things - just like the rest of us. But in the end, Peg's intolerance was a healthy, gusty force, a wholesome intolerance, that swept away foolishness, self-pity, hysteria. It got people out of the dumps and back on course with their lives.

When we speak of Peg, we must speak of gardens, too. She was a singularly raffish but abundant kind of gardener, quilty of thieving cuttings from everywhere - except that she called it 'acquiring'. Her gardens were a museum, or perhaps a souvenir cabinet, of every place she'd ever been - I have seen her rob graves. But she shared her garden, too - there are pieces of Peg in so many gardens. She wasn't a creator of delicate tidy gardens of controlled borders and neat lines. Her own garden was always ebullient and free, on the verge of rebellion, and sometimes she would sally forth like the Assyrian, with his cohorts in purple and gold, and spend a red-faced, sweating day attacking it with secateurs and saw, accumulating a great tangle of branches, cuttings and brush - and then it was time for a great joy of hers, burning off. So many dusks I have seen her, standing beside a fire like a witch, leaning on her rake, with a couple of imps joyously dancing around the flames and poking sticks into the coals.

Mother didn't have green fingers - she had green muscles and sinews and backbone, and things she planted grew from the sheer joy and energy she put into gardening. I don't think they dared not to grow. So many gardens she made - wherever she was living, a garden would appear, even in the unpromising soil of the windy back yard of a tumbledown terrace house in North Sydney - huge blooms were soon nodding over the fence. If you want to have a conversation with Peg again, I suggest that you seek her company in your garden.

#### OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although I have resigned from my position as President, I still wish to be involved with the Society but due to ill health and family commitments it will not be to the extent of last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and members who supported me throughout the year, not only as President but also as Co-ordinator for the Arts and Crafts Festival.

The Society has had a very sad year with the death of Mr F Bruce Knox (Honorary Life Member) in June and Peg Gard, a very hard worker for the Society, in August. These two membets will be greatly missed by everyone.

I wish to congratulate the new committee on their positions and hope that the Society continues to prosper and grow.

HISTORIC PICTON - A WALK THROUGH PICTON'S PAST

I received in invitation in the mail to the book launch of above publication written by Liz Vincent. It said to meet a bus at Picton Railway Station and we would be taken on a mystery tour. With great excitement everyone boarded the bus trying to work out where we were going and where the mystery distination for the launch and afternoon tea would be. Our bus ride took us to and past about 23 historical places of Picton and our distination was Mowbray Park. He we were told how the book came into being and were able to purchase it. Everyone was most impressed with the final product. The back cover of the books says "Twenty seven historic sites have been selected with a brief history of each site written and researched by local resident Liz Vincent and complemented by the superb photography of John Kooyman. In the centre of the book you will find a map with each site numbered." I found the book to be informative and easy to read. We havew copies available at the Coach House at a \$7.50 plus postage for anyone interested.

Nikky Hanger.

# STONEQUARRY FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS 1994

The Festival was successful again this year with the raising of approximately \$2,000.00. We didn't have quite as many entries as last year, but I had many calls from people with the flu who were unable to finish their projects in time. Opening night was bitterly cold and not as many turned out as last year.

Thanks to the following people and groups: Helen and Joe Hanger, Gail Hanger, Michael Hanger, Frank Hanger, Marie and Hugh Wonson, Nicole Peck, Stacey Carleton, Stacie Bassett, Sue Southwood, Bob Wood, Lorna and Harry Hoare, Wollondilly Garden Club for doing a wonderful job with the flower arrangements to brighten up the hall, Mrs Bollard for her lovely scones for the morning and afternoon teas, Mrs Fegent and all the others who made delicious cakes and slices, to all the people who supplied the lovely supper for Friday night.

This year we had many groups displaying their talents, Spinners, Lacemakers, Leadlight, Folk Art, Ceramics and Lino Cuttings. Silk Painting items were on display only as the demonstrator had

the flu. On the whole, the weekend was a success with many people asking about next years Festival.

The winners of our raffle were:

1ST - MR LARKIN (QUILT)

2ND - MRS ALLISON CARTWRIGHT (DINNER FOR TWO)

3RD - MARGE ORDIGE (GARDEN VOUCHER)

4TH - MRS G COLLINGRIDGE (FRUIT BASKET)

Many thanks to all who supported the Festival this year.

NICOLE HANGER.

## COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 10 GENERAL MEETING - JAMES (WAL) LOCKWOOD - FLAVOURS, FRAGRANCES AND FAR AWAY PLACES.

NOVEMBER 14 GENERAL MEETING - VINCENT PIKE - LEGAL HISTORICAL & SOCIAL ACUMEN

DECEMBER 12 CHRISTMAS MEETING

\* \* \*

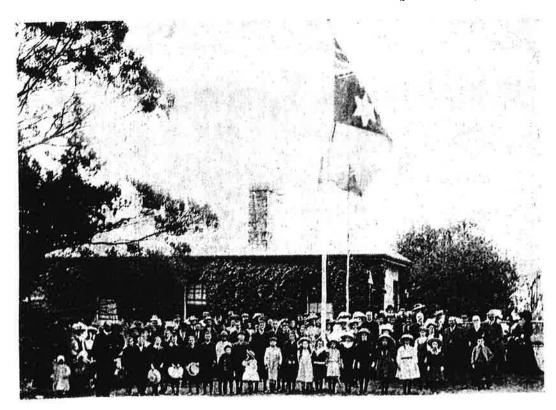
## FROM THE EDITORS:

Neither of us are able to continue with this position and we would both like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed articles and helped with the copying, collating and posting of the Stonequarry Journal during our term as Journal Editors. Many thanks also to those who have expressed their appreciation at our efforts.

Nancy Peisley and Marlane Fairfax.

# APPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Pat Shephard



# Original Teacher's Residence and School, built 1867:

Currently used as a teacher's residence, this Victorian Georgian building was built of coursed sandstone, with weatherboard extensions and corrugated iron covering what was once a shingled roof.

A letter from the Appin school teacher, Clarence G Dyce, in 1913 states that the "Appin Public School was erected in 1867, and is constructed of fine freestone obtained locally." (1)

A Mr McBeath built the school and residence at a cost of between two and three hundred pounds. (2) According to Mr Dyce, "the inhabitants contributed half the cost of construction." (3)

On 13 February 1898, the village of Appin experienced a bad storm and "rain came through the shingles and soaked the plaster of the ceilings of the school room, class room, bed room and sitting room and the plaster in these rooms has fallen in large patches". (4) In August 1898 a new timber ceiling and downpipes were installed. (5)

On the 11 August 1903, Clarence Dyce complained about the inadequate accommodation for his family. Mr Dyce replaced a John Lawton as teacher at Appin in 1902. Mr Lawton had been forced to resign through "chronic inflamation of Ethel chest".(6) Apparantly his condition was brought on by the poor living conditions at the school and residence. Mr Dyce wrote a letter of complaint. (7)

I beg to point out that there are only two bedrooms one of which is a skillion. The building was erected in 1867, and no proper provision for ventilation exists in the back room. I have four children ranging in age from 13 1/2 to 5 years, the eldest being a daughter, and the sleeping accommodation for them is inadequate both in a physical and in a moral sense.

I therefore respectifully ask that an additional room be erected before the summer heat comes.

The Dyce family had to wait for more that three years before the Department of Public Works approved the addition of a "bedroom and fireplace", plus other renovations. (8)

#### A New School in 1928:

In 1925 the poor condition of the Appin Public School and Teacher's Residence resulted in the decision to build a new school and to convert the old school and classroom into additional rooms for the Teacher's Residence.

The new school was built on land south of the old building. In 1925:

Plans were prepared and the work was earmarked for attention as soon as funds became available. Tenders were invited in January, 1928, and that of Messrs. Alderton and Long was accepted in February, the amount being 817 pounds. The building was occupied in December of that year, after being officially opened by Mr. Clemens, the district inspector of the time. (9)

By 1961 the one classroom school was proving inadequate and in 1962 the Public Works Department began building two more weatherboard classrooms to the west of the older building.

In 1968 a further brick extension to the Appin school was officially opened by the Director of Education, Mr R. G. Jeffrey, who unveiled a brass plaque to mark the occasion.

#### **ENDNOTES**

- (1) Letter from Clarence G. Dyce, teacher, to Director of Education, Sydney. 30 Sept.1913. Appin School Files. (ASF) A.O.5/14665-2b.
- (2) <u>Appin Public School Centenary 1868-1968</u>, Appin Public School Centenary Committee. 1968. p.1.
- (3) Dyce to Director of Education, op. cit.
- (4) Letter from John Lawton, teacher, to W.H. Johnson Esq.,
  District Inspector, Public Schools. 14 Feb. 1898. Appin School
  Files. A.O. 5/14665-2a
- (5) Report from Clerk of Works. 12 Aug. 1898. ASF A.O.5/14665-2a.
- (6) Letter from John Lawton to District Inspector, 1902, Appin School Files, A.O. 5/14665-2a.

- (7) Letter from Clarence G. Dyce, teacher, to Inspector of Public Schools, 11 Aug 1903, A.S.F. A.O. 5/14665,2a.
- (8) Report from Department of Public Works NSW, to Under Secretary for Public Instruction. 11 June 1906. A.S.F. A.O. 5/14665-2a.
- (9) <u>Appin Public School Centenary 1868-1968</u>, Appin Public School Centenary Committee, 1968, p.1

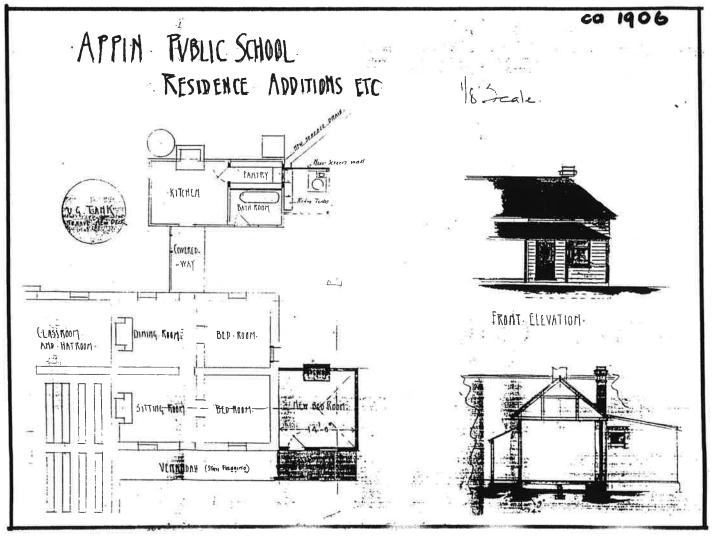
PHOTOGRAPHS: (1) Appin School 1908 from <u>Appin Public School Centenary</u> booklet. (2) P. Shephard, 31 March 1992. (3) Plans - A.O. 5/14665-2a.

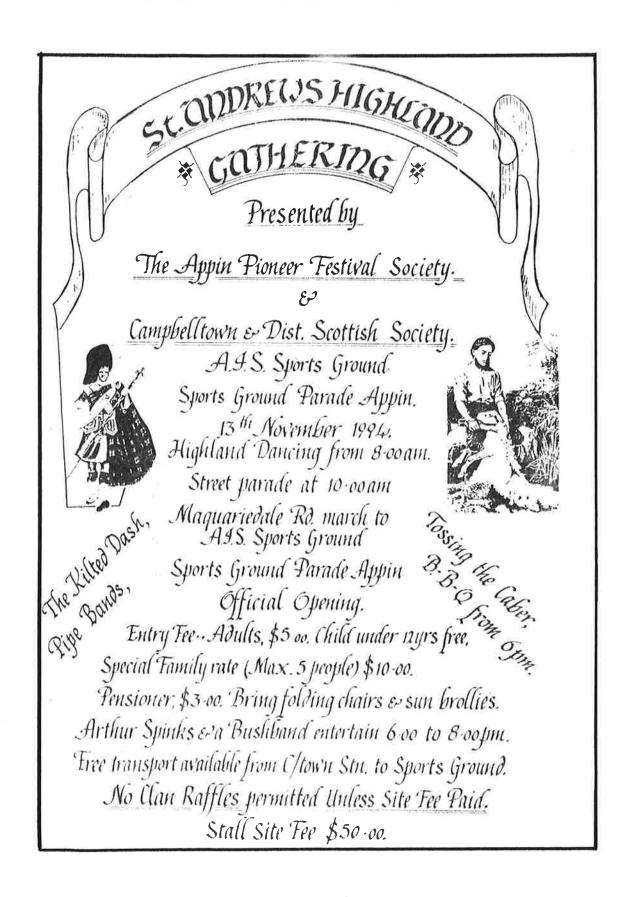
Appin Public School built 1928



# TEACHERS IN CHARGE

Name	Date of Appointment	Name A <sub>1</sub>	Date of polatment
James Poulton	1868	Vernon Barwick	1925
John Boate	1875	Fred Robbins	1932
Charles Capon =	1878	Robert Walpole	1933
W. Murray	1881	Walter Harrison ===	1933
Robert MacKenzie	1883	D'Arey Dickson	1936
George Sponswick	1884	Harold Sherwin	1946
Burnet Levy	1885	Laureva Mason	1951
James Drummond	1888	George Ross	1954
John Lawton 💯 🚟	□ 1892	Leslie Britten	1956
Younie	1901	Alexander Simond = =	1959
Clarence Dyce	1902	Andrew Curnow	1961





## SUNDAY, 13 NOVEMBER . . APPIN SPORTS GROUND

In addition to the above activities, the **APPIN PIONEER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE** will be providing a display of historic memorabilia by the Appin Festival's Historical Sub-Committee, and by neighbouring historical societies. There will also be tours of the Appin Church Graveyards by local historian, Verlie Fowler, and of historic homesites by Picton local studies librarian and Town Crier for the day, John Daley. Other activities include tree planting, bush cooking, Aboriginal dancers, craft demonstrations, and more...

#### AT AUNTY SOPH'S

by Nancy Peisley

The Second Fleet arrived in 1790 and with it came my first ancestors to these shores. They survived the treacherous trip aboard the convict ship "Neptune" as convicts. Rose Flood and Charles Cross married and became farmers in the Hawkesbury area. Their graves are side by side at St John's Church cemetery, Wilberforce.

There were six children of this union and my Great, Great Grandfather, Christopher was the fifth child. Over a period of time the family acquired properties in various areas around Windsor, Wilberforce and Cattai. Christopher had land at Cattai alongside his brother, Edward and on this land a dwelling was built.

Now I can start my recollections of yesteryears as a child. My Great Grandfather had a large family of which my Grandmother, Nancy was the eldest and her sister Sophia was the sixth child. Sophia married a cousin, Charles Cross and they lived on the farm opposite Christopher's land.

My Grandmother was very talented in many ways as she could play various musical instruments, taught music and managed her own piano business. But, wait for it, she could also drive a car. Oh glory be, fancy a lady driving a car in the early 1920's.

Her first car was a 1922 Buick, and over the years my sister Mavis and I would sit up in the back seat like Jacky (as the saying goes). My Grandmother would drive, but she employed a man to sit in the front with her and always referred to him as the chauffeur. I don't think that he could even drive!

Once when I was about seven we were driving through Liverpool and my grandmother ran into the back of a parked car. Certainly, she reckoned that it wasn't her fault! Oh boy, what exciting trips we had.

Then would come a Sunday when Nancy would say "Come along girls, help clean the car" (you know who cleaned it under instructions). When this was done great care was taken in donning our Sunday best and then off to Cattai to visit Aunty Soph and Uncle Charlie. This was the highlight of our life.

Mavis and I were able to run wild. Forget the good clothes. We raced through the orange and mandarin orchard, then we tackled the paddocks with the watermelons. All this time we had several dogs as our companions and after all this exertion we decided to collect the eggs. There were chooks going everywhere with dogs chasing them, also Mavis and I shooing them off the nests. When this was all done, we had to get cleaned up for lunch. Mavis and I can still remember our Aunty soph's kitchen with the big fuel stove and the floors and tables scrubbed white but best of all the smell of scones and cakes baking in the oven.

Aunty Soph told me one day "You must look after your teeth", as an example she quoted "you know Uncle Charlie is 62 and has all his teeth except two which a horse kicked out."

As the day wore on we then had to visit across the road. In Christopher's hut an old couple were living. Some sort of Great Aunt and Great Uncle so our Dad told us and we had to be on our best behaviour. As Mavis and I would cross the road we would giggle and try to guess what paper would be on the walls, because every now and then the Aunt would paper the timber walls with either brown paper or newspaper.

Maybe this was to keep the draughts out. The floor was hard packed dirt and the open fire was always burning with the old iron kettle madly boiling for a cuppa. The smell of freshly baked damper oozed through the front door as Uncle opened it and Mayis nudged me and winked. Boy was it hard not to giggle.

Everything was spick and span in these two little rooms. The table set with a lovely cloth and in the middle was this big bowl of home made jam and a big pot of cream. When our visit was almost over the Aunt showed us a beautiful patch work quilt she had made. After fond cuddles and kisses, back to Aunty Sophs we would go.

Mavis and I did not know anything about these people, maybe our elders thought we were mind readers. But when we started our family history research we found this old couple to be our Great Great Aunt and Great Great Uncle John who was Christopher's last child named John David.

We only knew them as Great Aunt and Great Uncle and it is such a pity we did not know them better because I think Great Great Uncle John and Great Great Aunt Charlotte would have told us many tales about their parents, brothers and sisters.

The hut is still standing and was occupied by our cousin Frank Turnbull, who lived as John and Charlotte lived. When we visited him we missed the past. I don't know what will become of the hut now as Frank died in 1992.

Gone are those days of our childhood and I know at sometime in the near future Mavis will write a lot more about our escapades at Aunty Sophs.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

by Dianne Irwin

# NEW ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY

Herb Lack & Family of Campbelltown
Pansy the Camden Tram (an illustrated History of Campbelltown to
Camden Branch Railway).
The History of Bankstown District Hospital
Pioneer Register of Goulburn & Districts - pre 1860
Cemeteries in Australia, A Register of Transcripts 1994.

Members Interest Directories from Goulburn; Hurstville; Lithgow.

PIONEER SERIES OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES 1788 - 1888

We were able to purchase these fiche after receiving donations from four very generous members, new member, Mr J W Lockwood, and three other long time members who wish to remain nameless. To these members a very big THANK YOU.

As my term as the Librarian is up, I wish the next Librarian well and happy researching, NOT USUALLY YOUR OWN, BUT EVERYONE ELSE'S! I would like to thank the members that have helped me in the Library during this time, mainly, Pat Shephard, Jan Ross, Marlane Fairfax and Ken Williams, for their many roster hours every month (not to mention the many other hours spent in the rooms or on work at home). Also to Helen and Gail Hanger for filling in sometimes at short notice.

We now have 630 items in the Library, this includes books, microfiche and microfilm. There are 98 members on the mailing list and of these there are 79 financial as at 1 September. We also exchange Journals with 80 Societies.

The following is part of our Constitution. Perhaps some new members may not be completely aware what the Society means and maybe some longstanding members may like a refresher. HISTORY is the operative word!!

Our aim is to research, authenticate and record all HISTORICAL information relating to our district.

RESEARCH RECORD RETAIN

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

Contributed by Jim Munro

More than 31000 Australians were Prisoners of War during World War 2.

The British Army Commander, Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, toured Australia in the summer of 1909-1910, at the request of the Government, to advise on defence.

During W.W.I, Naval Guard boats patrolled the narrow stretch of water between Potts Point and the Naval Station on Garden Island. By W.W. 2, the Island was joined to the Mainland, by the Captain Cook Graving Dock and its environs.

The Sydney Firm "Bon Marche" Limited, after W.W.I, advertised that if Returned Servicemen brought their army uniforms to them they would turn them into suits, cheaply.

Australian soldier, Cpl. Leonard Keyson, gained the Victoria Cross in 1915 at Gallipoli, when he remained on duty for 50 hours, throwing back live enemy bombs from the trenches.

The first shot fired in the British Empire after Britain declared war on Germany in 1914 was one fired across the bows of the German freighter "Pfalz", from Fort Nepean, Melbourne, on August 14, 1914.

The first Australian Flying Unit in W.W.I left by ship in 1916, while Australian Troops were training in Egypt, for the campaign in France.

There was much angry dissention in 1917, when conscription for W.W.I was again rejected, in the Second Referendum.

Feeling against Germany was so bitter in Australia during W.W.I that many towns with German names were changed to English names. For instance; Germanton and German Creek in NSW became Holbrook and Empire Vale.

In the 1920's following W.W.I eligible people could buy a home under War Service Homes Act for about £800.0.0 (\$1,600.00). Finance was comparatively easy, with repayments about £3.10.0 (\$7) a month.

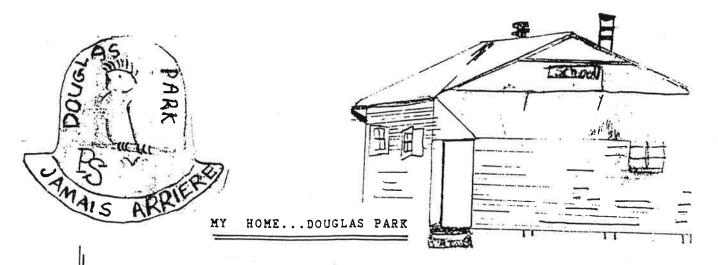
Thousands of people fled Sydney to the Blue Mountains, Bathurst and Bowral during W.W.2 to escape threatened enemy bombing raids in the city. On State Parliamentarian described them as "rats".

In the 1930's before W.W.2 hundreds of Japanese "Tourists" visited Australia, photographing defence installations. Unsuspecting locals called them "camera maniacs".

During W.W.2 the Commonwealth became the "Sales Tax" levying authority, taking tax harvesting away from the States.

The pride and joy of the Valour of our soldiers in the Boer War was shared by a Melbourne Brewery which advertised in 1899, "Soldiers of the Queen" Fosters Ale & Stout were supplied to all Australian Troopships.

The following verse was written by Christopher Smith, a Year 6 Student at Douglas Park Public School as part of the 1994 Minds in Motion Program on local history. The Program was conducted by Teacher/Librarian, Mrs Joan Brown of Picton Public School with input by members of our Society, Fred Pullman, Pat Shephard, Jan Ross and Marlane Fairfax.



Many people live in my town,

And most of them could show you round.

But this is not what that's about.

It's the history that you all doubt!

It was Thomas Mitchell who found the land.

Thomas Mitchell who was so grand.

He had a house, and it was big,

And all his convicts helped him dig.

Jamais Arriere made the town.

In 1883 the school was found!

In 1920 the railway was made,

And at Douglas Park all kids played.

It was Col Smith who started the Fire Brigade,
And in 1925 the school move was made.
Here we are in '94....all has changed,
And our population has ranged.

By C.Smith Grade 6

Douglas Park School. 1994.

# PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

# PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY:

PEEPS AT PICTON'S PAST by F B Knox	\$7.50
MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY	2.00
BARGO GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	10.50
UPPER PICTON GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	20.00
REDBANK UNITING (FORMERLY WESLYAN) GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT	10.50
ST MARK'S ANGLICAN PICTON GRAVEYARD TRANSCRIPT	15.50
THIRLMERE GENERAL CEMETERY TRANSCRIPT	20.00
COACH HOUSE CHRONICLES	
NO. 1 RAILWAY PRECINCT RAMBLE (Picton) by Jan Ross	5.00
NO. 2 WILTON-EAST BARGO. A Brief History by Pat Shephard	3.00
NO. 3 LIEUT. GENERAL SIR THOMAS PICTON K.G.C.B. by Cynthia Collison	2.00
NO. 4 VAULT HILL (Picton) by Jan Ross	2.00
NO. 5 HARMONY HOME (Picton-Thirlmere) by Jan Ross	4.00
NO. 6 IT HAS NO DEFINITE NAME - A POSTAL HISTORY OF TAHMOOR 1892-1916, by Marlane Fairfax	2.00
NO. 7 ANTONIO MANOLIS, THE FIRST GREEK & ATHENIAN BORN SETTLER IN NSW, by Jan Ross	2.00
NO. 8 PICTON COURT HOUSE & LOCK UP, by Jan Ross	2.00
NO. 9 ST MARY'S TOWERS - DOUGLAS PARK. NEPEAN TOWERS - WILTON, EAST BARGO. PARK HALL - EAST BARGO. by Patricia Shephard	5.00
OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE:	
THIRLMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL 1888-1988	5.00
HISTORY OF THE FORBIDDEN LAND - Wollondilly Shire Council	5.00
THE TRAIL BOSS. THE FAIRLEY FAMILY AND PICTON HISTORY, by Joan Brown	12.00
CHRONICLES OF APPIN NSW, by Syd Percival	8.00

