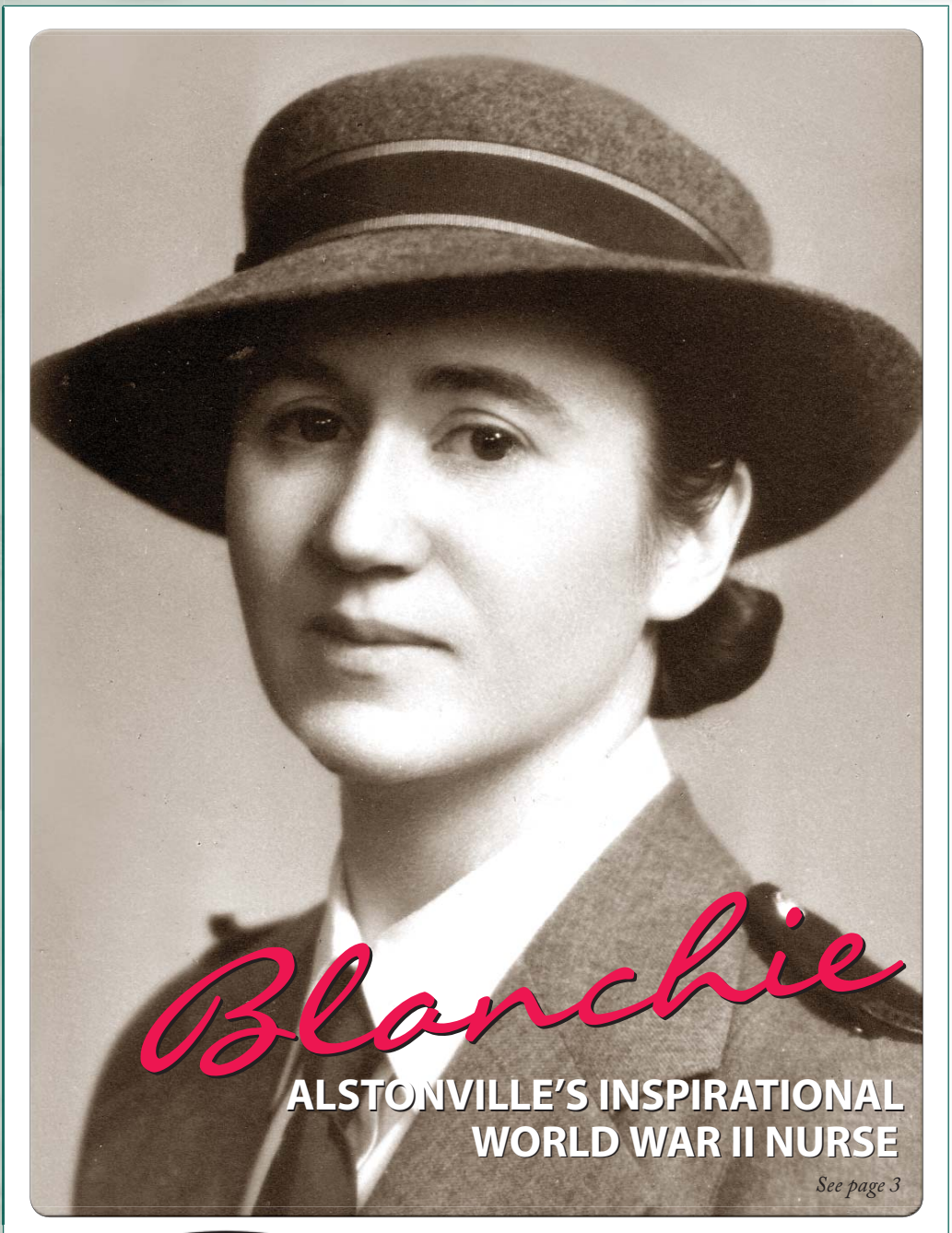
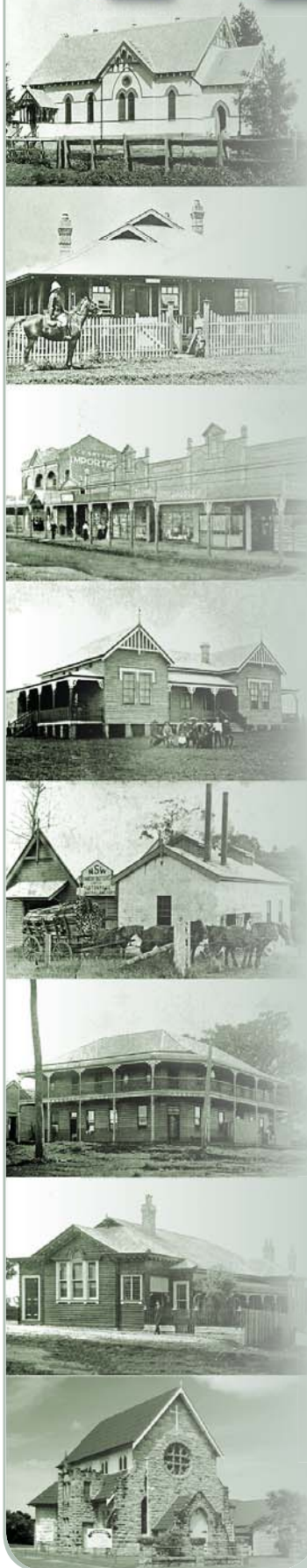




The PIONEER



**ALSTONVILLE'S INSPIRATIONAL
WORLD WAR II NURSE**

See page 3



**MARCH/APRIL 2012
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Frederiksen, Man of the Future

I CONSIDER Jens Christian Frederiksen one of the more interesting early farmers on the plateau. *The Northern Star* on 8 August 1932 has an article with the headlines 'a Richmond farm ... cheese, nuts, onions and hydroelectricity ... £168 estimated from 240 nut trees' in reference to Frederiksen's farm.

Frederiksen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1860. His father, Jacob, was a building contractor. On completing school Jens served his apprenticeship in the building trade—homes and ships—and became a carpenter. Once his apprenticeship was completed, he decided he wanted to see the world and the only way to do this was to go to sea. He served as a ship's carpenter on trips around the North Sea and the Baltic ports. As either carpenter or ship's cook he travelled all routes through Russia, Europe and South Africa. He also spent time with the deep sea fishing fleets in Icelandic waters.

It was his desire to visit Australia and on a voyage in 1881 he left the ship in Newcastle harbour—he was aged twenty-one. In fact he jumped ship and was an illegal immigrant. He was kept undercover by a family for six months, who lived next door to the Mortimers. He worked in a number of occupations during his time on the Hunter. He built droghers for Hunter River saw-millers, turned his hand to butchering and then to farming. In 1884 he married Mary Mortimer at what is now Williamtown. In 1898 Jens decided to come to the Richmond region and purchase a farm.

In 1898 he bought 200 acres at Federal but immediately sold it again to William Sheaffe. In 1899 he



Frederiksen family gathering, c.1919

purchased portions 70 and 99 at Rous Mill—50 acres. He added to this by purchasing portion 71, 40 acres in 1900, portions 83 and 84, 80 acres in 1906 and portions 53 and 54, 147 acres in 1919—in total approximately 350 acres, a substantial landholding for the plateau. His family, Mary and five children, did not move up from Williamtown until 1899 when he bought land at Rous Mill

Like everyone else, Jens grew sugar cane on his property and supplied it to the Rous Mill factory. The price of sugar collapsed about 1902/3 and Jens and other farmers on the plateau became dairy farmers.

Jens and Mary had four sons and two daughters, with their last child, Evelyn, born in March 1901, and he was naturalised on 26 May 1904. He and Mary named their home 'Ivlyln' after their two daughters, Ivy and Evelyn.

In 1908 he visited his aged parents in Copenhagen, Denmark. During his stay in Denmark he travelled around to make a study of the hydroelectric systems in operation. It was his intention to install a hydroelectric plant of his own on his return to his farm. In 1912 he installed a hydraulic ram on Youngman Creek just below the waterfall on his property. This forced water under pressure for a water supply to all parts of the farm and residences for forty years.

In 1914, with his sons, Jacob and Harold, he dammed Youngman Creek

above the waterfall, and had a pipe leading down from it to a powerhouse lower on the creek. The force of the water turned a water wheel, which in turn moved the generator. This was the first of its kind to be installed in the Richmond River region. Its output eventually supplied electricity for the dairy, the homestead, the three residences of his married sons, a sawbench and the cheese factory. The system remained in working order until the floods of 1948 destroyed it.

Soon after its installation, *The Northern Star* reported: 'The electric installation ... has given practical proof of what a progressive man can do in the way of cheap and serviceable modern methods as applied to any particular industry.'

Apart from the main activity of dairying, many other crops were grown on 'Ivlyln'. From 1921 to 1925, twenty-five acres of bananas supplemented farm income. About two acres of arrowroot were grown for pig feed during the early 1930s. Onions were grown in commercial quantities and sold locally and at the Sydney markets.

About 1930 the Foley Bros Marom Creek cheese factory closed down, and so Jens and his sons established a cheese factory on the property. Milk was supplied by their 150-herd of Australian Illawarra milking shorthorn cows. The cheese was made in 10, 14, 20 and 40-pound blocks and matured

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Alstonville's WWII Heroic Nurse

for two months. The refrigeration plant for the cooling room was powered from the farm's hydroelectricity.

A previous owner of one of the blocks of land Jens purchased, Mr Staff, had planted 240 macadamia trees in the early 1880s. The harvest in 1932 was three tons—about 28 pounds per tree—sold at 6d per pound.

The Northern Star describes the trees thus: '... planted in rows about thirty feet apart and the same distance separates the trees along rows. The aspect is easterly. So well have the trees grown that this grove has become a miniature forest primeval ... there is money in Australian nut growing.'


I was fortunate to have the opportunity to stroll among the remaining trees of this orchard in 1998. It was a strange feeling to realise that I was looking at the beginning of the macadamia industry on the plateau—the nuts I gathered tasted great. These trees have now been cleared to make way for a new plantation.

The Fredericksens invented a de-husking machine—powered by hydroelectricity, of course.

Jens was also very involved with his community. He was a steward and trustee of the local Methodist church and an enthusiastic member of the Alstonville Bowling Club.

His obituary in *The Northern Star* on 27 May 1938 concludes: 'As a progressive citizen he played an important part in connection with the development of this district. He was a man in every sense of the word and that is the best tribute that can be paid to his memory.' **KEVIN OLIVIERI**

The Innovation & Invention Display for Heritage Week will be held at Crawford House Museum, 14–19 April 2012



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Anzac Day March in Alstonville, 1982.
Jessie in the centre, front row.

JESSIE BLANCH was born to Mr and Mrs EJ Blanch of Newrybar on 18 March 1910. After leaving school at Rous she became a nurse and before World War II nursed at the Brisbane General Hospital. Despite opposition from the hospital she decided to serve overseas and embarked on RMS *Queen Mary* for Singapore. She was attached to the 2/10 Australian General Hospital AANS and was sent to Malaya in February 1941. When it looked like the war was going to reach the region, she was moved to Singapore. It was then decided to evacuate the nurses from Singapore, a move which proved disastrous. Their boat, SS *Vyner Brooke*, was sunk and they had to swim ashore. Jessie was in the water for sixteen hours.

On reaching shore they surrendered to the Japanese. Jessie, along with thirty-two other Australian Army nursing sisters and 600 others—nuns, civilians, servicemen, women and children, were all held captive on Bangka Island. Their beds were concrete slabs, there was one dripping tap in the camp for water, the lavatory was a public, putrid open drain and rations were two tiny serves of rice a day at noon and 4 pm.

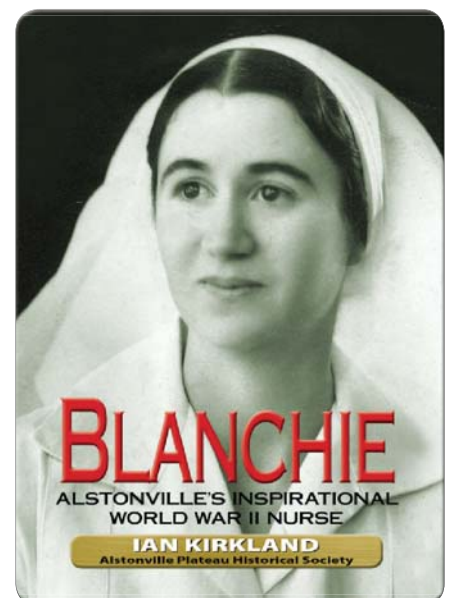
The nurses were moved to Palembang where they were housed in a 2-bedroomed cottage with the only furniture being a baby's cot. The guards tried to take advantage of some of the nurses, including Jessie, but she refused to sign the papers. They stole food from a nearby Chinese cemetery when the Chinese left food on the

gravestones. Later they were moved back to Bangka Island and then a camp at Loebok Linggau in Sumatra. It wasn't until March 1943 that Tokyo radio announced that they had been taken prisoners-of-war. After about 3½ years as captive they heard Allied aircraft dropping bombs on 11 August 1944. On 20 August the Japanese informed them the war was over. They were finally liberated by the RAAF. Unfortunately, her father passed away while she was a prisoner-of-war.

In March 1950 she was given a kitchen tea at Lynwood before her marriage to Albert Eaton-Lee. She was thanked for her time as a scholar, teacher and secretary of the Sunday School.

She was awarded a Royal Red Cross medal for exceptional and special devotion and competency in the performance of actual nursing duties. Local Federal MP, Larry Anthony, dedicated a plaque to her in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park on Remembrance Day. She passed away on 15 May 1999 and is buried in Alstonville Cemetery. Her diary and photo album are on display in the Alstonville RSL Hall.

Ian Kirkland's book, *Blanchie*, will be launched by Lieut-Col Julie Finucane OAM on Sunday, 22 April 2012 at 2.00 pm at the RSL Sub-Branch Hall, Bugden Avenue, Alstonville.



Going Off on a Tangent

RECENTLY WE RECEIVED a very clear photo of Alstonville's main street. After the accessioning process it was scanned into our catalogue system, which then allowed us to zoom in on the store at the end of the street past the Federal Hotel. We could identify that it was EE Hawthorne, A1 Store. One of the volunteers made a passing remark about it and said, 'I wonder when and what that business was about?'

Silly me put the name in my head, went home and jumped on the computer, plugged in TROVE, the Australian search engine managed by the National Library of Australia. I asked for EE Hawthorne, selected *The Northern Star* and then started trawling through the list of newspaper articles. The papers told me that EE Hawthorne sold not only groceries but sewing machines and milk powder for calves, as well as being agents for other farm machinery. From the sounds of the newspapers the business must have been a small department store. In 1914 EE Hawthorne sold his business to C Ainsworth & Son of Ballina.

One newspaper story about EE Hawthorne spoke about a CJ Loewenthal and, of course, I said 'Who's he and what does he have to do with Alstonville and Hawthorne's Store?' So then I asked Trove for CJ Loewenthal, and discovered that he was the owner of land where the A1 store was built. He also owned three other blocks in the main street.

So I dug a bit deeper and found out that Charles Jacob Loewenthal was born at Grafton in 1860, and upon his father's death he had inherited his father's general store there, and in 1888, due to the economic times and inheriting debt, one of his creditors had him declared bankrupt. I haven't discovered yet how he got himself re-established, but later papers show he became a commercial agent (a person who is the go-between two business owners when there is a sale of a business). In 1910 he sold JA Stokes' General Store at Newrybar with stock of £3000 to Frederick Fry of Condong.



'Scarba House', Bondi

I found two newspaper stories where, on separate occasions, at a meeting in 1904 of the Master Bakers at Grafton, Charles was voted to the chair. One thing that came out of this meeting was that the minimum selling price of a 2 lb loaf of bread would be fixed at 3½d until further notice. Also in 1904 a presentation was made to Charles by the Master Bakers of the Northern Rivers in the Victoria Hall, Lismore. It was an illuminated address in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the trade. This report in *The Northern Star*, 2 July 1904, page 4, is well worth a read as it mentions quite a few local families.

From an online redevelopment proposal I have found that from 31 October 1907 CJ Loewenthal owned a property in Wellington Street, Bondi, called 'Scarba' and he served as an alderman on Waverly Council in 1914-15. From another article I found that he was a driving force behind the Bondi-Waverley School of Arts. More articles told me he was a foundation member of the Waverley Bowling Club; he also supported the Royal Australian Historical Society and was a driving force of the Employers' Federation of New South Wales. By April 1916 the Lands Department surveyed the house on behalf of the NSW Immigration and Tourism Department and 27 June saw 'Scarba' transferred to the Crown, but due to the prolonged nature of the Great War, the use of the house for a

postwar immigration scheme fell into abeyance. In May 1917 the Benevolent Society took over the house and that same year The Scarba Welfare House for Women and Children was opened. The Loewenthal family remained in the Bondi area.

On Charles and Sarah (Saidee) Loewenthal's 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1909, Charles endowed a cot in the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at a cost of £30 annually for five years to be known as the Saidee Loewenthal Cot. He also gave £100 to the Sydney Hospital Saturday Fund and was a benefactor of the Royal Australian Historical Society, where school students can win the CJ Loewenthal History Prize. There were even some students from Alstonville who have won this contest.

Charles Jacob Loewenthal passed away at the age of sixty-five years on the 19 March 1925 and is interred beside his mother, Matilda, in the Jewish Section of Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney. His estate was valued at £38,472 of which £11,562 represented Government stock and £11,300 realty. Except for a few bequests his estate was left to his widow and four children. His wife, Sarah Loewenthal née Rosenwax, passed away 19 July 1925 and is interred in the Jewish Section of Rookwood.

What an interesting man!

Charles also had a brother, Abraham Marcus Loewenthal, but that is another story.

ALISON DRAPER

Recognising Alstonville District Citizens

HUGH KIRKLAND

HUGH KIRKLAND was born on board the merchant ship, *Rattler*, on 24 October 1852 while his parents, Archibald and Ann, were on their way to Australia from Scotland. The family settled near Wollongong before selecting land at East Kangaloon, near Robertson, in the 1860s.

Hugh had various jobs before marrying Elizabeth Trimble on 9 October 1878 at East Kangaloon Church of England. On 26 May 1881 he left for the Richmond River where he became a pioneer at Pearce's Creek, selecting 200 acres on 11 and 18 June 1881. He returned to East Kangaloon to sell out. Soon he owned 600 acres. Several of these farms were later taken up by his brothers, Tom, William and Archibald. Hugh also bought 226 acres from R Graham and 149 acres from the Bryens.¹ These he later gave to various family members. When he died he also owned six blocks of land at Byron Bay.

Clearing the land was tough and items were expensive. Butter was sold to the men at Tooheys sugar mill or

was sent to Lismore for shipment to Sydney. Hugh gave land for the Pearce's Creek Hall. The second Pearce's Creek School was also built on his property.

In 1890, along with other pioneers, he helped establish a factory at Pearce's Creek. He greatly contributed to the saving of Norco in the early years. While other farmers threatened to send their cream to Lismore, as a large supplier he continued to support Norco so the other farmers decided to do the same.

A cricket pitch was established near the hall in one of his paddocks. Thus began a very strong association of the Kirkland family with cricket in the district. In about 1892 he bought the district's first piano from Palings in Lismore. Often teachers of music and art stayed at his place while teaching in the area. His daughters, Chris and Boyd, were noted performers, a tradition carried on by other descendants over the years. Hugh and Elizabeth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 9 October 1928.

After church, family and friends often gathered at his residence for a baked Sunday lunch and boiled



Hugh and Elizabeth Kirkland

pudding. He died on 22 January 1930 aged seventy-seven. Elizabeth died on 14 July 1934. She turned the key for the present Pearce's Creek Hall, the second one on the site. All their children had farms in the district.

In June 2011, 130 years of Kirklands in the Pearce's Creek-Booyong area was celebrated in the Pearce's Creek Hall.

IAN KIRKLAND

1 Kirkland, Ian, *130 Not Out: The Pearce's Creek Kirklands*, p.82

Gift of Sheroo Singh Items



A RECENT DONATION to APHS were items belonging to Sheroo Singh. They were two sulky/cart lamps and a riding crop. These were donated by Ken Cording who was a neighbour of Sheroo. These were used by Sheroo when travelling in his spring cart to Alstonville and Ballina. The cart is on display in the RRHS Transport Shed at Lumley Park.

Sheroo was born in 1881 and migrated to Australia as a young man.

In 1912 he was working for Frank Bartlett on his farm at Meerschaum Vale. In 1920 he began working for Foreman Crawford at Uralba. He eventually purchased 10 acres from Foreman Crawford and worked them as a market garden. He grew bananas, pineapples, citrus and numerous vegetables. Each week he made the trip to Ballina in the spring cart. There he sold his produce at Mobb's and McCartney's markets.

A well-educated man, Sheroo assumed the role of adviser, interpreter and scribe for other Indians in the region. As he grew older he became very deaf and almost blind. This forced him to leave his property and his last few years were spent in St Anne's home in Lismore. He died on 18 June 1968, aged eighty-seven years.

KEVIN OLIVIERI



Sheroo Singh

Member Profile: John Sim

WHILE MY FATHER'S parents were Scottish (arriving in Brisbane in 1911), my mother (a Wright from Morpeth) traces her family back to First Fleet convict, Joseph Wright (1767?-1811). Joseph was transported for seven years for 'feloniously stealing' 218 lbs of lead valued at 40 shillings from the roof of a London property. Joseph committed the crime, aged seventeen, and stepped ashore in NSW from HMS *Scarborough*, aged twenty-one, having spent several years aboard the crowded hulks in the Thames awaiting transportation, firstly to America, then Africa.

After three years in the penal colony, on 13 December 1790, Joseph married Second Fleet convict, Eleanor Gott, from 'the hell ship *Neptune*', at St Phillip's Church, Sydney. They were the fifty-second couple to have married in the fledgling colony and went on to produce five sons and two daughters.

By 1794, after Joseph had served his sentence, he was granted thirty acres of land fronting the Hawkesbury River near Pitt Town, across the way from James Ruse's forty acres.

My parents met rather fortuitously. One night (after a mock air-raid) my mother (then employed at the butter factory in Morpeth) along with five



The wartime letter writers, Boyd and June Sim



John (left), of tadpoling age, waiting with his mother and some lady friends to see the Queen pass by, Rose Bay 1954

other females, was instructed to write a letter to a soldier convalescing in Darwin. That soldier was no letter writer! He doled out the letters to his mates. Boyd Sim selected the letter written by June Wright and a regular correspondence began. Surviving the bombing of Darwin, he visited the Morpeth Wrights before being posted to New Guinea.

Married in October 1945 in the impressive Edmund Blackett-designed St James' Church in Morpeth, my parents rented space in a house in Balmain. I joined them there in May 1947. Just before my sister's birth in 1950, they moved to Vacluse—a house my mother has only just vacated after more than sixty years under the one roof.

I have extremely happy memories of growing up in this most attractive part of one of the world's most beautiful cities. Then, an abundance of tadpoles could be found in a small stream that must now simply be a drain running somewhere underneath Diamond Bay Bowling Club. Close to the cliff was Peel's Dairy, from which milk was delivered each morning from a horse and cart. While learning to drive, my mother would stop and start our fawn Ford Prefect by following that same horse and cart. My job was to emerge

from the back seat with bucket and spade to collect any manure! Summer Sunday afternoons involved sailing a sabot around a triangular course from Watsons Bay to Camp Cove and then to Nielsen Park, while pre-breakfast swims at Nielsen Park were often done alongside ABC cricket commentator, Alan McGilvray.

I attended local state schools (Vacluse Public and Vacluse Boys' High) before heading off to Sydney University courtesy of a Teachers' College Scholarship at the age of sixteen. The terms of the scholarship 'bonded' me to teaching for five years—or to the forfeiture of £500.

Fortunately, I didn't ever feel trapped—in fact, I was thrilled with my starting salary of \$3607 pa in 1968. In 2007, I ended a forty-year teaching career, having taught at Barham High, Chatham High (Taree), Barham again (where Louise, later to become my wife, was appointed to my staff in 1977), Nowra High (as Head Teacher, History for eight years), Griffith High and finally Alstonville High for sixteen very enjoyable years.

Our daughter, Phoebe, arrived in 1991 and she has had the good fortune to grow up in an equally beautiful part of the world.

JOHN SIM



John (right) sailing the sabot on Sydney Harbour (check the knees!)

Alstonville's CBC of Sydney

1890s Racing News

The Northern Star, 13 December 1890

The first race meeting of Ballina Jockey Club was held on Thursday, when it was favoured with a fine day and a fair attendance which included visitors all around and as far as Lismore, with a small contingent from Sydney of the usual assorted characters frequenting race meetings.

The races were run on the new course, which is situated on North Creek at the Inlet, and is a grant comprising, we understand, 80-odd acres, a portion of which is enclosed for the course. To get a convenient road of access was for some time a difficulty, but by means of a small bridge, that was at length surmounted, and there is now a very fair road out to the course, which is distant about 1½ miles from the post office, and therefore within easy reach of the town.

The track itself is perfectly level, and 1 mile 1 chain in circuit, and has been cleared and stumped to a width of a chain. A good deal of clearing has yet to be done in the centre of the course to give as an uninterrupted view of the running, but we were agreeably surprised that so much had been done as has already been accomplished.

A strong two-rail fence near the winning post, connected with the mangroves and the water makes a saddling paddock, and some bushes laid over a temporary shed made a good shade for the racehorses.

There were two booths on the ground and were both well patronised, and the usual number of the 'fairest games in the world', in which to invest between the racing events. Two or three promising 'mills' were nipped in the bud by Sergeant Tippett and Constable Dickson, who kept the peace but the conduct of the crowd generally was orderly.

The Northern Star, 16 November 1892

The combined programme of the Ballina Turf Club and the G Troop of New South Wales Cavalry was

Continued on page 9

ALSTONVILLE'S FIRST BANK, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, opened its doors for business on 22 September 1902 and its first customer was Mr William Ambrose Crawford, whose home has become our museum.

The bank leased a dwelling owned by Mr John T Daley which was built in 1896. Mr Daley and his brother, Jeremiah, were local butchers with shops in Alstonville and Rous, and had homes either side of their shop in Main Street, Alstonville.

The partnership was dissolved on 28 February 1901 and John retired from the butcher's trade, as he was building Alstonville's Federal Hotel, which was opened on 29 May 1901.

With the Daleys moving into the Federal Hotel, the house was leased to the CBC of Sydney under the management of Mr EE Cox until 14 May 1907, when the bank purchased it from Mrs Daley for 800 pounds.

In February 1908 a tender was accepted for alterations to the premises which included a strong room, for the sum of £1152. The bank held two firearms, a Colt 38 double-action revolver (a very good revolver and in good condition) and an H and Arms Coy 32 short-barrelled gun (practically useless for shooting). In November 1908 head office authorised the purchase of a box of revolver cartridges as desired.

In 1911, LR Street, Shire Clerk of Tintenbar Shire Council, advised

the bank that it was proposed to kerb and gutter within the urban area of Alstonville and to pave the footpath. The bank would be required to pay half the cost of £11/19/3, being its share of the 99-foot frontage.

On 3 May 1916 a fire occurred at Alstonville damaging premises to the value of £12,000. Head Office asked if any of its customers had been affected by the fire giving the name of each customer and the position of his account and the extent to which he is affected.

In September 1962 the bank celebrated sixty years of banking in Alstonville. It was shared with Mr WA Crawford who still held account number one and was a valued customer of the bank. The opening of the renovated and extended premises of the National Australia Bank, which had absorbed the CBC of Sydney, occurred on 5 January 1983. The day was celebrated by the cutting of a cake by Miss Dorothy Crawford, daughter of Mr W Ambrose Crawford.

Some of the bank's managers are as follows: EE Cox 1902-1911, RJ Hargrave 1911-1921, D Tennant 1921-1929, LT Pearson 1929-1939, AD MacKenzie 1939-1951, AG Munro 1951-1958, LK Blunden 1958-1968, HW Marsh 1968-1975, LC Potter 1975-1980, BR Adcock 1980-1984, NA McAuliffe 1984-.

BRIAN WORTHINGTON

References: National Australia Bank Group Archives; APHS files



The Alstonville branch of the CBC

Hard Times

I HAVE BEEN re-reading an historical book from my library, entitled *Tales of Old Australia*, and came across an article written by a convict, which gives a sad account of the lives they led in the early days of the colony.

The second and third stories are closer to home, Coraki in fact, and give another insight into our early pioneers.

These days we think we are hard done by with the Global Financial Crisis, etc. but those early convicts and settlers had it far tougher than we could imagine ...

Macdonald's River, Hunter County, 3rd October 1845

I arrived in the colony fifty-six years ago (1789); it was Governor Phillip's time, and I was fourteen years old; there were only eight houses in the colony then. I know that myself and eighteen others laid in a hollow tree for seventeen weeks, and cooked out of a kettle with a wooden bottom: we used to stick it in a hole in the ground, and make a fire round it. I was seven years in bondage, and then started working for a living wherever I could get it.

There was plenty of hardship then: I have often taken grass, pounded it and made soup from a native dog. I would eat anything then. For seventeen weeks I had only five ounces of flour a day. We never got a full ration except when a ship was in harbour. The motto was 'Kill them, or work them, their provision will be in store.' Many a time have I been yoked like a bullock with twenty or thirty others to drag along timber. About eight hundred died in six months at a place called Toongabbie, or Constitution Hill.

I knew a man so weak, he was thrown into the grave. When he said, 'Don't cover me up: I'm not dead; for God's sake don't cover me up!' The overseer answered, 'Damn your eyes, you'll die tonight, and we shall have the trouble to come back again!' The man recovered; his name is James Glasshouse, and he is now alive at Richmond [Sydney].

They used to have a large hole



Sydney Town in the 1840s

for the dead; once a day men were sent down to collect the corpses of prisoners, and throw them in without any ceremony or service. The native dogs used to come down at night and fight and howl in packs, gnawing the poor dead bodies.

The governor would order the lash at a rate of five hundred, six hundred or eight hundred; and if the men could have stood it they would have had more. I knew a man hung there for stealing a few biscuits, and another for stealing a frock. A man was condemned—no time—take him to the tree and hang him. The overseers were allowed to flog the men in the fields. Often have men been taken from the gang, given fifty, and sent back to work.

Any man would have committed murder for a month's provisions. I was chained seven weeks on my back for being out getting greens, wild herbs. The Rev. Samuel Marsden used pressure to force some confessions. Men were obliged to tell lies to prevent their bowels from being cut out by the lash. The laws were bad then.

After seven years I got my liberty, and then started working about for a living where I could get it. I stowed myself away on board the *Barrington*, bound to Norfolk Island, with eighteen others; it was not a penal settlement then. Governor King was there. I had food a-plenty and was overseer of the Governor's garden. Afterwards I went to live with old D'Arcy Wentworth

and a better master never lived in the world. Little Billy (William Charles) Wentworth, the great lawyer, has often been carried in my arms.

We are never without a chest of tea in the house; we use two in the year. I have paid 40 pounds for a chest of tea in this colony. Tea is a great comfort.

Joseph Smith

Pioneers

In the little Richmond River town of Coraki, in New South Wales, diaries of some of the early pioneers have been carefully preserved. Reading these diaries, one is struck by the fact that a great problem in those days was getting married. The nearest clergyman was a hundred miles away at Grafton, and it was an impossible journey to take. A cedar-getter and his girl, having no means of getting there, married themselves by throwing a stone into the river and vowing to be true to each other 'till the stone floated'.

Another couple got tired after months of waiting and, according to the woman's diary, she proposed this solution: 'We can't go round the world looking for a clergyman. Let us begin together and get married when one turns up.' The man agreed and years later when a clergyman did arrive at the outlandish village he performed not only the marriage ceremony, but the baptism of their seven youngsters.

BRIAN WORTHINGTON

Reference: *Tales of Old Australia*, Bill Beatty, first published in 1966 by Ure Smith Pty Ltd

Pioneer Family News Reports

1890s Racing News

Continued from page 7

held on the Ballina Racecourse on Wednesday, about 600 people being present. Forty of the G Troop, in command of Captain Taylor, fell in on parade and marched through the town to the racecourse.

This was a fun day with races interspersed with the Cavalry showing off their skills. It started off with a race for Cavalry Chargers, which was followed with picking up Lance and Peg—won by Sergeant Daley and Corporal Daley second. Next came Tilting at the Ring with Lance—won by Trooper Cook with Trooper Armbruster second. Then Cleaving Turks Head—won by Sergeant Daley with Trooper Mobbs second.

There then followed the Trial Handicap Race. At the end of which there was the Bareback Jump—won by Trooper Cook with Trooper Eastment second. Next there was The Flying Handicap, which was followed by Tent Pegging—won by Trooper Hopf, with Corporal Reardon second. Alarm—won by Corporal Daley with Sergeant Drummond second. Wrestling on Horseback—Trooper McDonald's section were victorious.

The Breakwater Stakes race was then run and was followed by the Lloyd Lindsay Contest—two squads competed. Sergeant Daley's was declared the winner.

Lemon Cutting—won by Sergeant Daley with Trooper Russell second.

The Farewell Handicap was then run after which the cavalry competed for The Rescue, and Sergeant and Corporal Daley's sections were the winners.

MARGUERITE FULLER



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MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, William Cooke, emigrated from Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1855 and settled at Kiama on the South Coast, marrying Mary Ann King. Their five boys and four girls were all born at Broughton, now called Berry. In 1883 they moved to a farm at Wollongbar (opposite the Experimental Farm), where they were one of the first settlers in the area.

It was whilst researching material for a book I'm writing about William and his many letters to the editor that I contacted the Shoalhaven Historical Society, and acquired the following newspaper reports about the Cookes and their life in the Illawarra District.

Illawarra Mercury, 22 December 1856
Assault—Yesterday, at the inst. of William Cooke, John King appeared before the bench, Messrs Perrott and Ewer, charged with having on Thursday the 11th instant, assaulted complainant, Cooke. King pleaded guilty; and, in justification said Cooke came to his house and abused him without cause. From the evidence of a witness, William Ryan, it appeared that Cooke had provoked King in very abusive terms. Their worships fined King 5s., and 4s.6d. costs.

Illawarra Mercury, 12 August 1858
At the instance of Mary Anne Cooke, Catherine Roach was brought before the bench on last Thursday for an assault. The charge was proven, and Roach who had been the hired servant of Cooke, had to forfeit her wages and to leave her place.

Kiama Examiner, 18 June 1859
Capital Investment—86-Acre Farm at Broughton Creek: Mr K Waldron has received instructions from Mr William Cooke, to sell by Auction at the Steam Packet Inn, on Monday, 30 June 1859, a splendid farm containing 86 acres, situated at Broughton Creek, bounded on the north and west by Government land, on the east by Mr W Gray's land. The Broughton Creek runs through this farm. This is a good chance for a poor man, or



Mary Ann and William Cooke

a speculator. The land is of first-rate quality and plentifully watered in the driest season. Any person wanting a nice snug little home would do well to attend this sale. Mr W Cooke of Broughton Creek, will show the land to intending purchasers.

Kiama Examiner, 19 September 1860
Milkers and Springers: Mr GK Waldron has received instructions from Mr William Cooke, Broughton Creek, to sell by auction at the Steam Packet Inn, Kiama, on Thursday (Tomorrow) 20 September 1860, 9 head of cattle, milking and springing. Terms at sale.

Kiama Independent, 30 September 1875
Broughton Creek—Well Bred Young Bulls: GK Waldron has been instructed by Mr Cooke to sell by auction at Broughton Creek, on Wednesday next, 6 October 1875, 5 young bulls by McMahan's Prince of Wales, out of first-class cows; 2 capital working bullocks, pole or lead. Terms at Sale.

Kiama Independent, 18 January 1884
Excerpt of article titled 'Broughton Village': ... the school had re-opened in July last; on the first Sabbath 13 children, with one female teacher, Miss Elliott, the number steadily increasing until in a short time 31 were enrolled; but the removal of Mr William Cooke [who had moved to the Richmond River region in 1883] had reduced the number to 28.

JOHN BROWN



The Reading Room

The Gallipoli Samurai

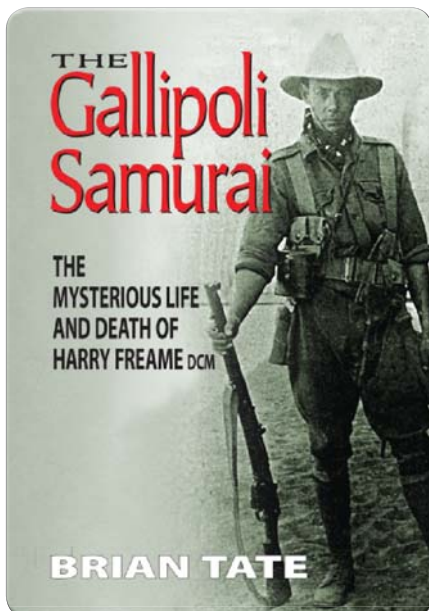
BRIAN TATE

Brian's book tells the extraordinary life-story of Wykeham Henry Koba Freame (1885?-1941) whom the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* describes as 'adventurer, soldier, orchardist and interpreter'. As well as the Gallipoli story, though, this most thoroughly researched book gives fascinating insights into nineteenth-century Japan, life on a soldier settlement farm on the New England tablelands in the 1920s and the world of espionage and counter-espionage in the 1930s and 1940s.

A Trusted Scout

During Freame's army training in Egypt, he was selected to become a scout, and it was in this role during the very earliest days of the Gallipoli campaign that he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Tate actually discusses why Freame missed out on being awarded the first Australian VC of World War I. The DCM citation appeared in the *London Gazette* (1 June 1915) and notes Freame's 'utmost gallantry in taking water to the firing line although twice hit by snipers'.

Freame's actions clearly attracted the attention of official Australian war historian, CEW Bean, whose caption (under a photo of Freame peering through a sniper's hole in Wire Gully)



describes him as probably the most trusted scout in the 1st Australian Division'. Freame had explained to Bean how, when moving through No Man's Land, he allowed only three parts of his body to come into contact with the ground. These were the insides of his knees, his big toes and his elbows. To facilitate this snake-like movement he had sewn leather patches to his uniform as this area was often littered with barbed wire, broken bottles and jagged tin cans.

Post-War Orchardist

After being wounded at Lone Pine, and evacuated to Australia, Freame was discharged on 20 November 1916. Thereafter, Freame probably received his first insights into fruit growing at the Glen Innes Returned Soldiers' Settlement Nursery, before taking up a block of land at Kentucky where he was joined by his English-born wife, May. A son was born in Uralla hospital in 1921.

Despite the fact that prize-winning apples were being produced, times were tough on these small farms, particularly during harsh winters. Brian Tate relates one story of great hardship:

'Having harvested his financially essential side crop of potatoes under extremely difficult conditions, the man loaded them onto a dray for transport to the Kentucky railway platform. Soon the wagon became hopelessly bogged forcing him to off-load, extract the dray from the mire and then reload. The angry and frustrated ex-digger was forced to carry out this soul-destroying ritual three more times only to see the wagon settle yet once more into the black Kentucky mud. Finally, irrevocably crushed, the hapless settler simply set his horse free, walked to the station and left on the next train—never to be seen in Kentucky again.'

Harry fared somewhat better. By 1932 (well entrenched into the social fabric of the local community—church, RSL and Masonic Lodge), the local paper reported that 'the enterprising proprietor' had completed his own cool storage facilities that could handle 2000 cases of fruit.



Wykeham Henry Freame, known as Harry, as a child in Japan

A Mysterious Death

The last few chapters of this book read very like a murder mystery. As a retired Australian Federal Police Officer who worked in the area of criminal intelligence, Brian Tate is able to provide many astute judgements that help reconstruct the unusual circumstances surrounding Freame's death in 1941.

Despite being well over fifty, Harry Freame was still keen to make a patriotic contribution during World War II. After some work in the area of military intelligence, Freame agreed to become part of a delegation to Japan designed to cement cultural and trade links. Unfortunately, a Melbourne paper disclosed details about his current 'special defence work'.

He was taken ill in Japan and, unable to talk properly, Freame was admitted to a Tokyo Medical Centre in early 1940 with a complete paralysis of nerves and muscles in his throat. Eventually repatriated, Freame arrived home gravely ill at Easter 1941, explaining that his condition had resulted from an attempted garrotting! 'They got me,' Harry repeated to his son and second wife several times before his death in May 1941.

Harry Freame's story is an extraordinary one and Brian Tate's book offers us truly perceptive insights into so many aspects of his very full life.

JOHN SIM

APHS Committee Report

President's Report

2012 began with a very well-attended meeting at which Delma McDonald told us of her double dose of First Fleet convict forebears. The presentation sparked a number of reflections in the audience about the contributions of particular convicts and I will elaborate on some of these in the next issue.

Many thanks to the team of helpers who assisted in various ways with the dismantling of our very popular 60s & 70s exhibition. While most of the action was indoors, Livia worked like a beaver in the garden. Thanks also to those who helped with a very quick turn-around for the next exhibition.

Sunday 29 January saw the official opening of the Loose Threads Exhibition by Virginia Silver. Prior to Ginny's kind words,



'A Country Road'—lino print, hand and machine embroidery by Enid Taylor

Enid Taylor gave an excellent explanation of some of the challenges regularly set and met by members of this group. It was particularly pleasing to see first-time visitors to Crawford House amongst the group enjoying, not only the beautiful work on display, but the delicious afternoon tea as well. Some items were for sale, so I hope you made every effort to see Loose Threads before it closed at the end of February.

Thanks are also due to Robbie Braithwaite for her interesting talk at the February meeting about Louise Tiffany Daley and the new edition of the iconic book, *Men and a River*.

It is my very pleasant duty to welcome Liz and Terry Marshall to our Management Committee. One of the first letters Liz wrote (as the new Correspondence Secretary) was to Ballina Council about lopping the large gums on our northern boundary. She has achieved immediate success, something that was beyond previous correspondents. Well done, Liz!

APHS has been pleased to



Mrs Ginny Silver opening the Loose Threads Exhibition on Sunday 29 January. Standing with her is John Sim, president of APHS.

welcome other new members recently, several with a particular field of interest to pursue. So, can I once again stress that if you know people who might be interested in the running of the library, sewing, catering, gardening, organising bus trips or guest speakers, encourage them to come along to a meeting and join up?

Plans have now been finalised for the launching of Ian Kirkland's new book, *Blanchie*, the story of Alstonville's own wartime heroine.

This will take place at the RSL Hall on Sunday 22 April at 2 pm. **Please note that this event will take the place of our normal April meeting, which would have occurred on the Sunday before.**

JOHN SIM

Alstonville Mile Post

SOME TIME ON the night of 19 December 2011 the Alstonville Mile Post reappeared in the new gardens in Main Street. It was reinstated (as part of the Main Street up-grade) just outside the Federal Hotel where it was originally positioned on the footpath. Fortunately, it arrived before Christmas Eve so Old Santa Claus knew how many miles he needed to travel either to Lismore or Ballina.

For those interested in native plants it is nestled underneath the newly-planted *Waterhousea Floribunda* (or Weeping Lilli Pilli).



We don't know how old this concrete marker is but with distances given in miles it has at least been around since 1965 (40+ years) as the decimal system was introduced in 1966.

JANE GARDINER

APHS Diary Dates

MARCH 2012 MEETING

Sunday, 18 March 2012 at 2.00 pm
Community Resource Centre,
10 Wardell Road, Alstonville
Guest Speaker: Ballina author,
Brian Tate—*The Gallipoli Samurai*.

HERITAGE WEEK

14–19 April, 2012
Heritage Week
Innovation & Invention Display,
Crawford House Museum

BLANCHIE BOOK LAUNCH

Sunday, 22 April 2012 at 2.00 pm
RSL Sub-Branch Hall,
Bugden Avenue, Alstonville

Note there is no APHS April Meeting



From the Editor

Shh! Shh! Shh! This year is National Year of Reading and while the local libraries will be celebrating during February you can join in now and come and visit our family history library. John Sim has been writing wonderful book reviews of the new books added to our shelves, like *The Gallipoli Samurai* by Brian Tate, which is reviewed in this issue and we have the pleasure, too, of listening to Brian's talk at the March meeting.

While John has enjoyed reading and then writing the reviews of our new books, please borrow a book from me, which I hope will stir you to write a review for this journal to encourage other members to join in the enjoy the National Year of Reading. *Shh!* If your interests don't fall into the above category, go to www.goodreadingmagazine.com.au and if you love reading join in the National Year of Reading. **INALEBAS**



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**



Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc.

Established 21 October 2001 • ABN 14 079 187 469

*Affiliated with the
Royal Australian Historical Society*

CRAWFORD HOUSE MUSEUM & ALSTONVILLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE:

10 Wardell Road, Alstonville—02 6628 1829 (Fri & Sun)

Email: aphs2477@yahoo.com.au

Museum Opening Hours:

Fridays 10.00–4.00 pm and Sundays 1.00–4.00 pm

Research Centre: Fridays 10.00–4.00 pm

PATRONS:

J Saffin MP, D Page MP, T George MP, Cr P Silver

SOCIETY'S AIMS:

To collect, preserve, display and provide documents and photos of a historical nature of the Alstonville Plateau and Ballina Shire for current and future generations. We welcome stories, photos and family histories for our records and newsletter publication.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS:

3rd Sunday of each month at 2.00 pm
Alstonville Community Resource Centre
Crawford House, 10 Wardell Road, Alstonville
(Guest speaker and general meeting)

CORRESPONDENCE & ENQUIRIES:

The Hon. Secretary,
Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc.,
PO Box 65, Alstonville NSW 2477
Phone: 6628 1829 • Email: ltmarsh41@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due 1 October each year
(Include Public Risk Ins. and newsletter)

Fees: Single \$20; Family \$40; Student \$5
(Please add \$6.00 if newsletter to be posted)

Corporate Membership: \$100.00 p.a.
(Incl. newsletter displays and full membership)

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Margaret Kennedy 6686 0027, Cathy Cohen 6628 8671

Past-Presidents:

Marguerite Fuller, Jane Gardiner, Ian Kirkland

Volunteers Co-ordinator: Jane Gardiner 6628 3925

Booking Enquiries:

Crawford House & Community Resource Centre
John Sim 6687 8469

APHS Publications

Alstonville District Farm Life

Alstonville High School: The First Twenty-Five Years

Alstonville's Heritage Trail • Duck Creek Mountain—Now Alstonville

Effort Earns Success: History of Alstonville Public School

Forgotten Railways of the Northern Rivers

From Buckets to Brigade: History of the Alstonville Fire Brigade

From Bush Track to Bypass • Memories of Alstonville

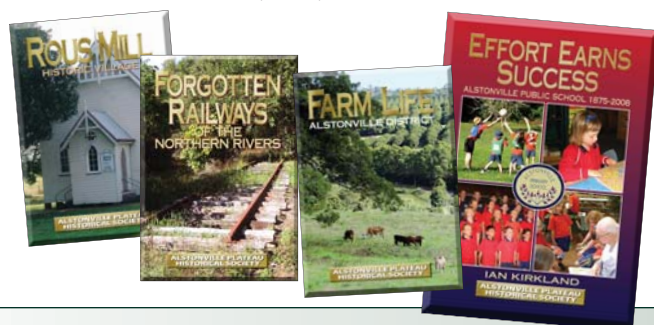
Milestones and Memories: Alstonville District

Out of Puff: The Ballina Train • Rous Mill—Historic Village

Six or Nothing: History of Rous Cricket Association

Wollongbar—Historic Village

**All these books are available from APHS monthly meetings,
Crawford House Museum (Fridays 10–4 pm & Sundays 1–4 pm),
selected outlets including Get Hooked on Books at Alstonville Plaza,
and Alstonville Newsagency or by mail order. Enquiries: 02 6628 1557**



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