



Fibouchina Town ALSTONVILLE 1865–2015

PIONEER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.
June 2015 • Volume 15, No. 2



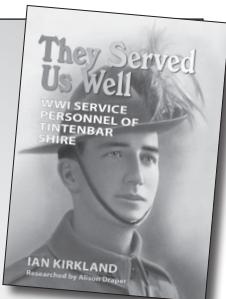
JUNE 2015

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APHS Publications

APHS books are available from APHS monthly meetings, Crawford House Museum (Fridays 10–4 pm & Sundays 1–4 pm), selected outlets including Alstonville Newsagency or by mail order. Enquiries: 02 6628 1829



- Duck Creek Mountain now Alstonville (2nd Ed.)
Milestones and Memories: Alstonville District
Alstonville's Heritage Trail • Out of Puff
Forgotten Railways of the Northern Rivers
Rous Mill: Historic Village
Effort Earns Success—Alstonville Public School
From Buckets to Brigade—Alstonville Fire Brigade
Wollongbar: Historic Village
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From Bush Track to Bypass
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Ballina: Early Days • Postcards from Alstonville
Flying the Flag—Alstonville During World War II
Recognising Alstonville District Citizens (Books 1 & 2)
An Udder Story—Dairying on the Plateau
Go North Young Man • Still Greater Effort
They Served Us Well
Recognising Ballina District Citizens (Book 1)



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Affiliated with the
Royal Australian Historical Society

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Research Centre: Fridays 10.00–4.00 pm

PATRONS:

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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)

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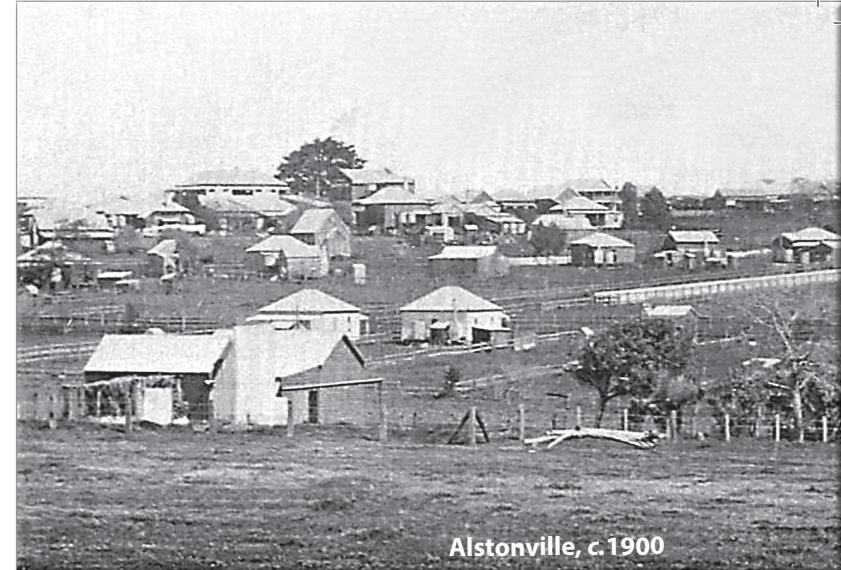
The Richmond River was visited in 1828 by Captain Henry Rous who explored it as far as Tuckean Swamp. Moreton Bay escapee, Richard Craig, passed through the area on his way to the Clarence in 1830 and this led to the beginning of the cedar industry. By 1842 the cedar-getters had arrived overland from the Clarence. The area from Coorabell Hills to the north to the escarpment overlooking Tuckean swamp and the Richmond floodplain to the south and to the west from about Minyon Falls to Boat Harbour and Marom Creek became known as the Big Scrub.

Some of the birds found in the Big Scrub were the Bush Stone Curlew, Coxen's Fig Parrot, Regent Honeyeater, Barking Owl, Magpie Goose, Freckled Duck, Masked Owl, Red Goshawk, Australasian Bittern, Brolga, Comb-crested Jacana, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Superb Fruit Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Albert's Lyrebird, Black-tailed Godwit, Osprey and Broad-billed Sandpiper.

Animals found included the Giant Barred Frog, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Long-nosed Potoroo, Red-legged Pademelon, Wallum Froglet, Black Flying Fox and the Eastern Long-eared Bat.

Foreman Crawford quoted from the Jubilee Souvenir of the Methodist Church in *Duck Creek Mountain now Alstonville*:

This wilderness of scrub was the home of myriad of birds, many being of unsurpassable beauty. Here were great flocks of harsh-screaming white cockatoos, black cockatoos with their plaintive cry, parrot and pigeons in wonderful variety and countless numbers, laughing-jackasses, beautiful rifle birds, dragoons, regent, satin and cat-birds, lyrebirds with their remarkable tails and mocking cries, coach-whips noted for their striking calls,



Alstonville, c. 1900

Early Settlement in Alstonville

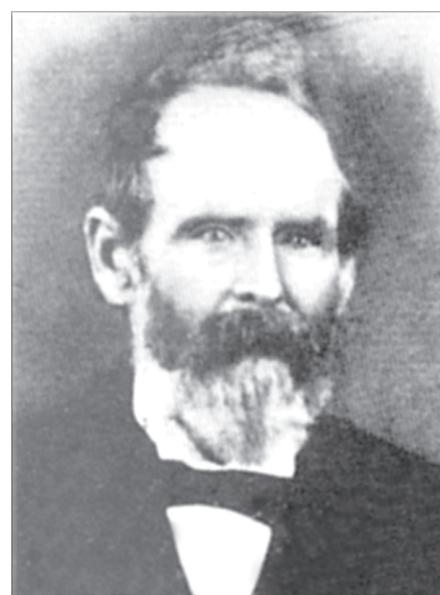
bowerbirds with their curious playgrounds, brush turkeys, the builder of immense nests of heaped rubbish and leaves, pheasants, tallawongs and numerous others both large and small. Wonderful was the melody ringing through the bush on a spring morning from ten thousand birds' throats. Here also dwelt the bandicoot and the bush-rat, porcupine, the cunning goanna, the lizard and the treacherous snake.

As Alstonville was part of the Big Scrub area early cedar-getters came to the district. In the 1840s cedar camps were established at Teven and Duck Creek and the cedar getters worked their way up the mountain to the Alstonville Plateau. The logs were hauled by bullock team to the Richmond River and eventually found their way to Sydney. The Plateau became a rich farming area due to the volcanic soils from Mt Warning. It has a sub-tropical climate with average daily temperatures being between 19C and 27C and a rainfall averaging 1740 mm per year.

Continued on page 7



Early Alstonville settlers, Andrew and Ellen Freeborn (left), William Crawford (centre) and Mr and Mrs John Robertson (right)
(Photos: APHS)



Andrew Freeborn: Alstonville's First Selector

As we celebrate Alstonville's achievements over the last 150 years we need to think about the massive changes to the district since our first selectors arrived that long ago. As mentioned elsewhere in this edition the area was covered in very thick scrub when Andrew and Thomas Freeborn arrived from the South Coast and selected on Duck Creek Mountain.

Andrew and Thomas Freeborn, sons of William and Catherine Freeborn, were born in Co. Fermanagh, Ireland in 1833 and 1830 respectively. Andrew boarded the vessel *Kate* at Portsmouth on 16 August 1855 and arrived in Sydney on 4 December 1855. Thomas boarded *Hilton* on 27 June 1855 and arrived in Sydney on 2 October 1855. They joined their older brother Alexander and his wife Susannah who had arrived in 1850 and settled at Gerringong.

Andrew met Ellinor (or Ellen) Sharpe, daughter of John and Margaret Sharpe, and married her on

6 May 1858. The Sharpes were pioneers of both the South and North Coast districts as they established a sugar mill at Prospect near Ballina. Andrew and Ellinor had a young family when they moved to Ballina. Thomas had already explored the district by rowing boat and by walking along cedar-cutters' tracks to Duck Creek Mountain.

When he reported to Andrew what he had seen the brothers decided to go to Casino to stake their claims. On 21 December 1865 Andrew received Portion 1 of 60 acres and Thomas Portion 2 of 100 acres.

Here Andrew cleared the land, sowed grass and made the first butter in the district. He had obtained cows from his father-in-law. He also began growing arrowroot which was successful and later sugar, which was not as successful. It was obviously a tough life for Ellinor as she was bringing up eleven children as well as helping Andrew with various chores on the property. Unfortunately, she died of scarlet fever in Sydney on 28 July 1876. In 1877 Andrew married Isabella Moore Brown, widow of Thomas Gibson Brown but they later separated.

Andrew became secretary of the School Board but ran into trouble by accepting a tender for school renovations without the approval of the rest of the Board. He was replaced on the Board. He was frequently called upon to attend to injuries suffered by the early settlers and was a respected church member.

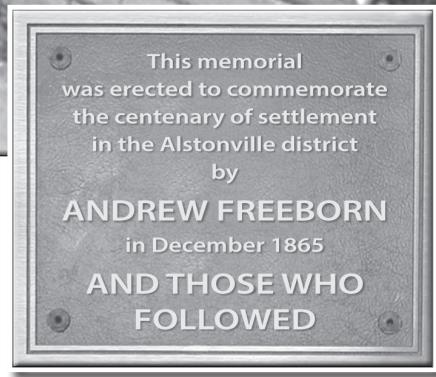
Thomas died on 12 August 1884 and Andrew acquired his land and ultimately owned 233 acres. The property was eventually owned by his son, William, whose descendants are attending our celebrations this year. William ran a sawmill but sold the property to his brother-in-law, Dixon Cooke in 1906. William had built a fine home, later named 'Fairfield', for his wife, Isabella (née Cooke). This home was moved in the 1980s with the establishment of the Fairfield Estate to Johnston Road, Clunes.

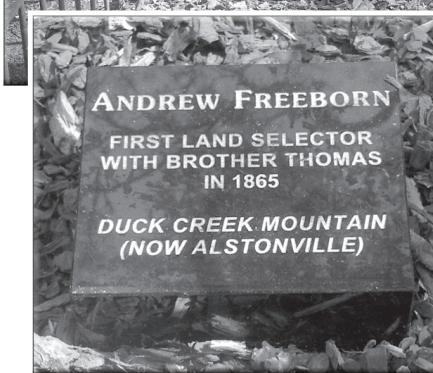
Andrew Freeborn died on 6 February 1905 and is buried in the Presbyterian Section of the General Cemetery at Alphadale. We thank our pioneers for their foresight in developing the district.

IAN KIRKLAND

Adapted from notes made by Marguerite Fuller

The First Selectors' Memorial, erected in 1965 to commemorate the centenary of settlement in 1865





TOP: A Golden Anniversary group outside 'Fairfield', originally the home of Andrew Freeborn's son, William and his wife, Isabella

LEFT: Isabella Freeborn (née Cooke) and her daughters

RIGHT: An early Alstonville show with 'Fairfield' homestead in the background

SECOND LEFT: Andrew Freeborn's grave and plaque at Alphadale Cemetery

In the 150 years since Andrew and Thomas Freeborn first settled at Duck Creek Mountain, Alstonville has undergone many changes. The surrounding district has been transformed from Big Scrub to a sugar-growing area in the 1880s and 1890s, to becoming one of Australia's leading dairying districts from the early 1900s to the 1960s. The village started growing in the 1970s, firstly with dairy farmers retiring, and then many new settlers arrived from Sydney and other areas—helping to make Alstonville the proud village it is today.

Research Corner

A CANNY SEVENTH SELECTOR



Of the selectors who followed the Freeborns, James Mellis was the most intriguing to research and then to check my facts I spoke with Dorothy Crawford as James was not in the area for long.

James Mellis was a native of Dundee, Scotland and left Liverpool 26 August 1857 on *David G Fleming* and arrived in Melbourne 27 November 1857. He was a wheelwright by trade, but was also a general handyman. James took up a big timber-getting contract with a company in Melbourne and worked with eight other men.

On 11 July 1867 James left Melbourne to select land on the Richmond River 11 July 1867 which was Portion 10 of 80 acres and his next door neighbour was William Crawford.

He named his property 'Moomoombin' which Dorothy said means 'the place of a little waterfall'. She also said that

James would call across to William and share pleasantries before asking politely the time of day and William would always tell him to the nearest hour.

On 29 October 1924, in a letter to the editor of *The Northern Star*, Alexander Brown wrote that in June 1872 they arrived in the 'big scrub' and saw sugar cane growing on Mr James Mellis's selection, about three-quarters of a mile from Alstonville town on the Wardell road, now occupied by Norman Crawford, right opposite his brother's home.

Mr James Mellis had wooden rollers turned by hand therefore this was recognised as the first sugar mill in the area. The cane was then from four to five feet high in stalk and of the ribbon variety. It must have been planted in 1871.

James married Catharine Couper MacFarlane and the

marriage was registered in Lismore in 1893. James and Catharine welcomed a son, Alexander, known as Sandy, in 1898.

William Crawford tried to convince James not to go back to Scotland but February 1898 saw James sell everything that he owned as he had sold the farm to William and he was leaving the district. He came back to Queensland in that same year and settled at Bli Bli and went in for dairying.

Paspalum was not known in that district and for some time good business was done selling the stools and seed from Brisbane to Bundaberg. The claim is that he was the first to introduce this grass to this district but a stroke of paralysis put an end to his activity and rendered an active man an invalid for his last twelve years of life.

James Mellis passed away 10 April 1913 when a resident of Nambour, leaving a widow and a son.

Catharine Couper Mellis, née MacFarlane, was born at Govan Lanark Scotland and passed away 9 July 1935 at Nambour. Their son, Alexander, married Alice Edith Baker and they had Gordon James MacFarlane, Beronis Edith Jean and Heather Isobel. The family moved to Finch Hatton near Mackay, where Alexander was a contracting carpenter and farmer. All three children married and had families.

ALISON DRAPER



A very old photograph of James Mellis outside his hut

Early Settlement in Alstonville

Continued from page 3

Andrew Freeborn became the first selector at Duck Creek, as Alstonville was then known, on 21 December 1865. His portion 1 was of 60 acres. On the same date **Thomas Niblock Freeborn**, his brother, selected portion 2 of 100 acres. These selectors followed:

John Robertson

6 June 1867	Portion 5	40 acres
6 June 1867	Portion 4	150 acres

JD Newbon

6 June 1867	Portion 7	63 acres
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Angus Robertson

6 June 1867	Portion 3	150 acres
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William Crawford

27 June 1867	Portion 8	150 acres
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James Mellis

11 July 1867	Portion 10	80 acres
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John Graham

10 October 1867	Portion 6	40 acres
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William Crawford

5 December 1867	Portion 9	50 acres
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William Robb

12 August 1869	Portion 16	280 acres
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Neil Sharpe

12 August 1869	Portion 23	50 acres
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William Barlow

19 August 1869	Portion 22	170 acres
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Hugh Robb

9 September 1869	Portion 16	280 acres
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James Ryan

9 September 1869	Portion 26	75 acres
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William Bowden

16 September 1869	Portion 24	50 acres
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James Ryan

18 November 1869	Portion 27	80 acres
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In 1873 comments were made in the *Argus* about the Duck Creek Mountain area and its suitability for farming. This resulted in several replies stating how fertile the soil was, that there were several creeks and that the roads were passable.

Living in the bush was very difficult. Hugh Kirkland describes his life before the railway came to Booyong. The railway was also useful to Alstonville citizens as they could send their produce to Byron Bay to be sent to Sydney by boat:



Ballina Road, early 1900s

Before the railway came, I have started from home about 9 pm with bullock dray and load of pigs to catch steamer at Lismore and arrived before sunrise, and back home about 9 next night with a mixed load of stuff for my neighbours. No 8 hours, then, no 15 bob a day, still the cockey got his land for nothing. How many would try it today? My wife only saw a woman about once in 6 or 7 months. Worked all day felling brush, burned off 3 or 4 hours at night for a spell. We had inkweeds to contend with, dig them out today, tomorrow they would be growing again. With the wet weather it seemed as though we were only transplanting. But the blight helped us; it rotted out acres of them. I believe it was the Irish blight which took our potatoes and beans and other vegetables and our bananas.

We are given a good picture of what the Alstonville countryside was like by the description of some of the farms when they were advertised for sale. On 20 December 1879 John Graham had for sale his Seaview Farm of 50 acres of scrubland of which 20 acres were cleared and sown with grass, 6 acres were ready to fire and 60 chains of fencing had been erected. It had a slab home with a good orange orchard and other fruit trees.

The following April James Hickey's farm of 40 acres on McGuire's Creek was offered for sale. It had 14 acres felled and partly cleared, 10 acres ready for ploughing and a good slab and shingled residence. In April 1881 Michael O'Connell had 47 acres with 7 under grass, 6 under cane, 27 felled and ready for burning off as well as 63 acres with 60 under grass, some cane and a 6-roomed house and dairy and a third property of 60 acres with 10 acres of grass and 10 of cane within a mile of the Victorian Sugar Co. Mill.

IAN KIRKLAND

Abridged extract from *TIBOUCHINA TOWN: Alstonville 1865–2015*
Alstonville Plateau Historical Society, 2015

Celebrating 150 Years

Several years ago the Historical Society discussed having a new book produced on the history of Alstonville. The idea was dropped because of the expense of having someone research and write it. As 2015 is a very significant year in the village's history I felt it was important to have this history documented. Foreman Crawford did a magnificent job, with limited resources, in compiling *Duck Creek Mountain*. This has served as a very valuable resource for people wanting to know more about the district.

Tibouchina Town is a book to complement Foreman's production. I started from scratch and didn't consult *Duck Creek Mountain now Alstonville* or *Milestones and Memories* until I had done an enormous amount of research from newspapers and other resources. This allowed me to take a completely different approach to that used previously. It was only in the final stages of writing **Tibouchina Town** that I looked at these past productions to ensure I had covered all the topics, which I thought were essential in telling the village's story.

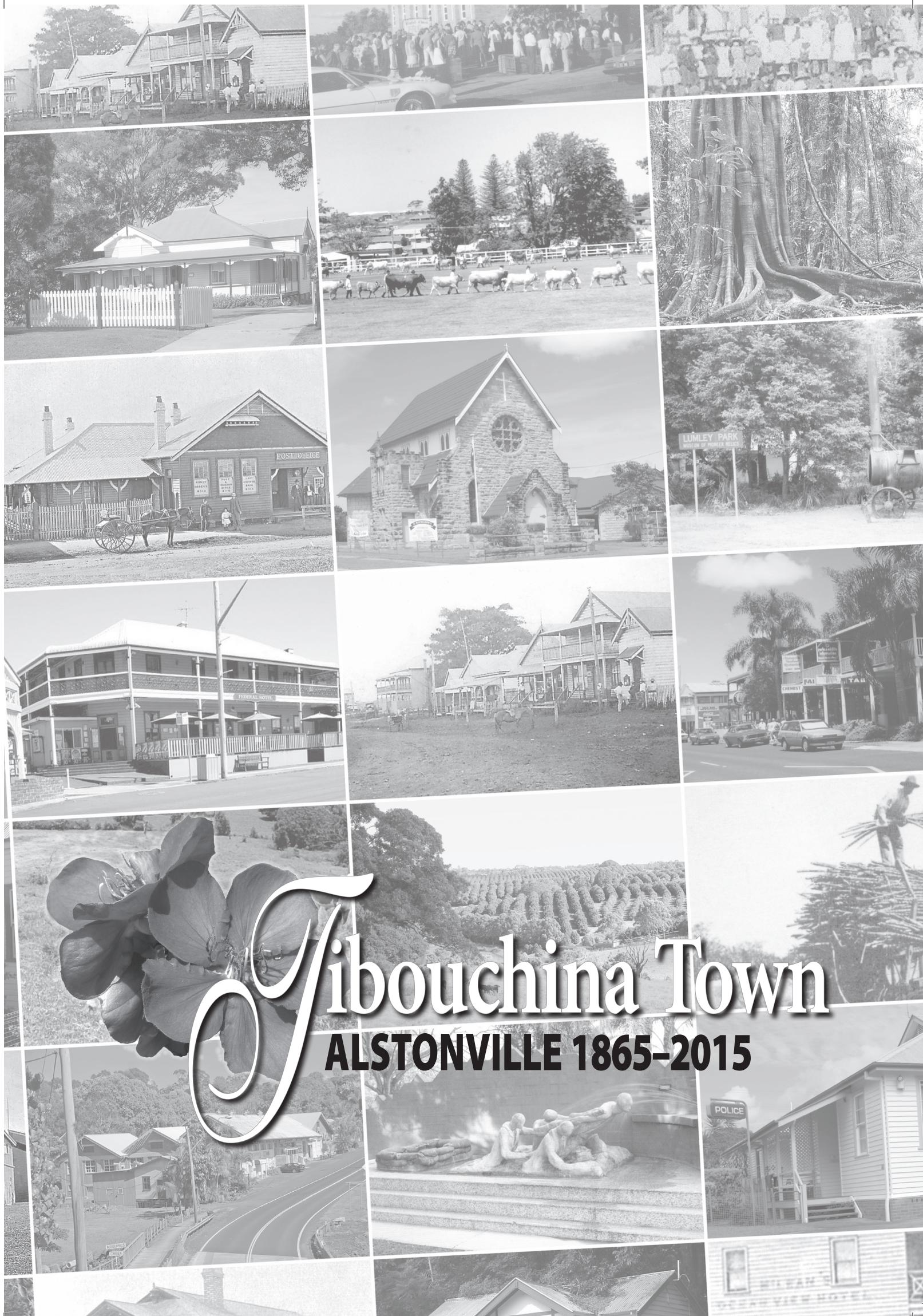
This book covers the period from the selection of the Freeborns and the other families who followed soon after, through the cedar-getting, sugar and dairying periods up until the present time. The district has a very rich history. During the war years it was one of the most patriotic districts in Australia. When the village started to grow in the 1970s and 1980s the villagers showed an enormous amount of pride in the village. The name for the book, **Tibouchina Town**, was selected because of the publicity Ken Dunstan obtained for the district when he produced varieties of the tibouchina which was grown throughout the urban area.

It is divided into chapters on various subjects. The following topics are covered:

- Early Settlement • Promoting the District • An Agricultural District
- Establishment of a Village • Communication Services • Transport in the Area
- Keeping Law and Order • Fires and Fire Brigades • Banking • Health Services
- Education • Religion • Lodges • Tintenbar Shire • During the War Years
- Cemetery and Memorials • The Service Clubs • Parks, Gardens/Sporting Fields
- Sport • Entertainment • Entertainment Venues • Retirement Villages
- Political Organisations • Neighbourhood Groups • Summerland House Farm
- Shows, Festivals & Markets • Centenary Celebrations
- Celebrating 150 Years of Achievements

The large format book includes many new photos, some of which have been taken of events in 2015 right up to the time the book was sent for publication and, thanks to a \$2000 grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society, this publication will hopefully do justice to our village and be a popular source of information for generations to come. The book will be launched at the 150th Celebration Dinner on 5 September at the Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre.

IAN KIRKLAND



Women of the Plateau

MARGARET McGOULRICK



Margaret McGoulrick— Assisted many worthy causes (1857–1930)

Over the period of our Cheering Up the Troops exhibition I have come to know the mother of Our Dear Boy, the young soldier Jack McGoulrick from Rous Mill. Initially, I thought Margaret McGoulrick (née Paterson) was just an anxious mother who was worried about her only son and constantly sending him postcards and parcels.

However, I discovered she was really an imaginative woman who would take bold steps to assist the war effort. This was first alluded to in her obituary which states ‘... the late Mrs McGoulrick was an active worker during the war and assisted many worthy causes until blindness overtook her’.¹ But it is the typed letter from General Sir WR Birdwood, on display at Crawford House Museum, which shows her true colours. This letter, sent from the front



General Sir WR Birdwood

in January 1918 and addressed to Mrs McGoulrick, is signed by General Birdwood (known as Birdy by the Anzac troops). In the letter the General thanks Mrs McGoulrick for the socks she sent to him and his troops and points out how useful they will be during the wet winter months when he endeavours to have the troops fitted with two clean pairs of socks per day.

To have the courage to send a parcel to one of the most well-respected generals of the Allied Forces was a bold step. Can this be attributed to her Scottish background?

Margaret was born in Dundee and married John McGoulrick in 1888. They had one daughter Catherine in Dundee and two other children, Margaret and John, known at Jack, in Rous Mill.

Now back to the story of the socks. An article published by *The Northern Star*² reveals there was more to that story than just knitting and sending socks to General Birdwood. ‘She charged 6p to knit a row and by this means she collected 7 pounds 4 shillings and out of this she purchased 3 pounds worth of wool for making socks.’ The same article tells us that not one boy had gone to war from the Rous Mill district without a pair of socks or mittens from her.

Additionally, a postcard lent to us by family member Rita McGoulrick shows Margaret was sending parcels to the Chapel Hospital of Cazin–Perrochaud at Berek Beach, which is near Calais in France. Today this building is one of a suite of historic buildings in the town of Berek Beach, but then it was a hospital run by a religious order who were looking after wounded men.

Both Margaret McGoulrick, and last issue’s Annie King, illustrate the hard work our Plateau women put into the war effort.

JANE GARDINER

ENDNOTES

1 *Northern Star*, 24/12/1930, p6

2 *Northern Star*, 27/3/1918, p5



La chapelle de l'hôpital Cazin-Perrochaud, France

Notable Centenaries

As a result of an overseas trip, I do not have a book review for this issue but have decided to say a few words about historical anniversaries.

'How extraordinary!' I hear Mrs Sim exclaim. But the truth is neither one of us is very good at remembering our wedding anniversary.

Every so often in Spain (via emailed minutes of various committee meetings) I was kept abreast of the latest activities to become part of this year's celebration of the sesqui-centenary of European settlement in Alstonville.

While away, however, I was reminded how localised certain anniversaries can be. The commemoration of the centenary of the Anzac Day landings, by all accounts, was a very big event both here and in Turkey. After all, quite a few years ago, our government had formed a special committee to plan the event. Member, Roger Stanfield's daughter, Matina, was on that committee along with two former prime ministers. Sadly Malcolm Fraser died about a month before he could witness those moving ceremonies.

Perhaps because of its non-involvement in the world wars of the 20th century, the event was hardly mentioned in the Spanish media. There was no live TV coverage of the Gallipoli Dawn Service. Over breakfast on 26 April on a hotel TV screen in Ronda, I caught a fleeting glimpse of Bill Shorten speaking at Anzac Cove. That was all we saw.

This, of course, is not to say that Spain is averse to celebrating anniversaries—or even just plain celebrating, for that matter. Multiple copies of



Teresa of Avila, by Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640)



Romanticised 19th-century recreation of King John signing Magna Carta, 15 June 1215

the same poster appeared on monastery, church or convent walls in Madrid and in several cities further south. These featured a beautiful Rubens' painting of St Teresa of Avila, the 'founder' of the Barefoot Carmelite Order of Nuns and Friars—28 March 2015 was the 500th anniversary of her birth.

On the other hand, not much evidence could be found (even in the splendidly crammed Naval Museum in Madrid) of the fact that this year is also the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Conquest of Cuba and the founding of Havana. No doubt, though, in Cuba there will be some colourful post-colonial acknowledgement of the city's history—particularly its more recent history, I suspect. The museum did have on display a large painting (done some 200 years after the event) of a very romanticised version of Columbus arriving in the New World in 1492.

It is appropriate, then, at this point to acknowledge that one man's celebrations may not be the reason for jubilation amongst his neighbours. The 1988 Bicentennial festivities on and around Sydney Harbour reminded many Aboriginal Australians of a much less happy consequence of the arrival of those first Europeans.

In a large pile of mail that accumulated over our six-week absence was the May-June issue of my *Stamp Bulletin*. It informed me that 15 June 2015 was the 800th Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede, near Windsor, by King John. Although we are such a long way from Runnymede, the importance of this signature to our constitutional and parliamentary history is bound to be recognised in this country in some fashion.

So, while we participate in a number of special events this year, we should not feel sheepish about our 150 years compared to other places and their 500 or 800 years.

The best way to do this is to remember proudly that our 150 years is just a dot at the end of a very long timeline of history in this country.

JOHN SIM

Alstonville Treasures

WILLIAM TERRY'S MIRROR & COMB SET



The mirror and comb set of William G Terry, tailor of Alstonville, is pocket-sized, made from xylonite and consists of three pieces—an outer case, a mirror fixed into a xylonite backing and a tiny comb (presumably for grooming a moustache), which slides into the case. The case measures 55 mm x 75 mm, the mirror 48 mm x 73 mm and the comb 73 mm x 17 mm.

William George Terry was born at Ulmarra, NSW in 1885. On 19 January 1910, aged 25, he married Emma Clara Morrish at St Bartholomew's Church, Alstonville. They had three daughters, the eldest being Beatrice Joyce who was born in 1912 and died in 2004.

By mid-1911 William Terry had established a tailoring business in Main Street,



William Terry

Alstonville. Terry and his family lived behind the shop, which was one of several in the building. On 3 May 1916, a fire broke out in one of the premises, but burnt itself out. On inspection of the damage, Terry and other tenants of the building were suspicious of its cause and reported the



Terry's mirror and comb set

matter to police who investigated the premises and evidence. Newspaper clippings from the time report that the Coroner's finding was that the fire had been 'wilfully and feloniously' started by a person or persons unknown. Whether as a consequence of the fire or for other reasons, by around 1920 Terry had moved to Mullumbimby and re-established his business there.

During the 1912–1914 period in Alstonville records reveal the price for one of Terry's handmade suits would have been £5 (\$10). There is evidence to suggest the business was going well as Terry employed Reg Wicks (who married Terry's sister, Laura). At this time Terry would have been presenting these xylonite mirror and comb sets to valued customers as 'gifts of exchange'. This was considered a form of etiquette in the customer/retailer relationship, where the customer would receive a gift in exchange for the purchase of an item.

The comb and mirror set was made in Germany indicating that Terry went to considerable lengths to import a quality product. Terry would have been looking to live up to his advertised image of 'High Class Tailor', as well as to establish an ongoing relationship with his customers through their 'personal grooming'. From the customer's perspective, owning a new suit from a high class tailor implied an appreciation of top quality and hence the need to look smart.

KEVIN OLIVIERI



**150th Celebration Dinner on
Saturday 5 September at the
Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre**

Come and be entertained by the Headliners Chorus and the Awesome Voices Choir.

Meet the descendants of Andrew and Ellen Freeborn who will have travelled from far and wide to be amongst you. Richard and his wife, Kathy, from the States, Thomas McGovern and his sister, Catherine Meadows, from Melbourne and hopefully when this news gets out more of the descendants will come forward.

Our family historian, Margaret Edler and her husband John, will be coming from Sydney and I

am sure Margaret will be able to show you where you fit into the picture.

The society wishes to acknowledge the great work done by many people in Alstonville who have worked for 20 or 25 years in various capacities to make Alstonville what it is today. A nomination form is on the Crawford House Museum website if you care to nominate a worthy person. Dr Russell Strong will present these awards.

Another highlight of the evening will be the launching by Ian Cooke of Ian Kirkland's history of Alstonville called *Tibouchina Town*.

I have almost forgotten about the food—Julie Davis' In Good Taste Catering will prepare a two-course meal and the Floral Group from St Bartholomew's Church will decorate the tables in a novel way.

Dinner and the evening will cost \$45 and the Society will supply 4 bottles of Renegade Wine—two red and two white—to each table of six persons. There will also be a 150th Celebration cake to cut.

Ina le Bas

Time Capsule for Alstonville

The society has bought a time capsule to be buried in Freeborn Park and opened again in 2165 during Alstonville's Tercentenary. The capsule is made from stainless steel and measures 315 mm inside diameter x 500 mm deep and 5 mm thick.

The society has plans to collect memorabilia about Alstonville, particularly the 150th photos, a greeting message to 2165 Alstonvillians and some timber from the pine trees that had to be felled. School students will be encouraged to write letters to their respective classes in the year 2165. Of course, the local newspapers, coins and stamps will be included.

Once the capsule is ready for sealing, the maker, Steve Dawe, will draw out the oxygen and replace it with argon gas. It won't be fully buried—it will have a slab of concrete over the capsule with a plaque indicating how to open it in 2165.

Your suggestions for other inclusions would be very much appreciated.

TOP: The society's time capsule

BOTTOM: One of the pine trees in Freeborn Park that had to be felled



• APHS Display Diary •

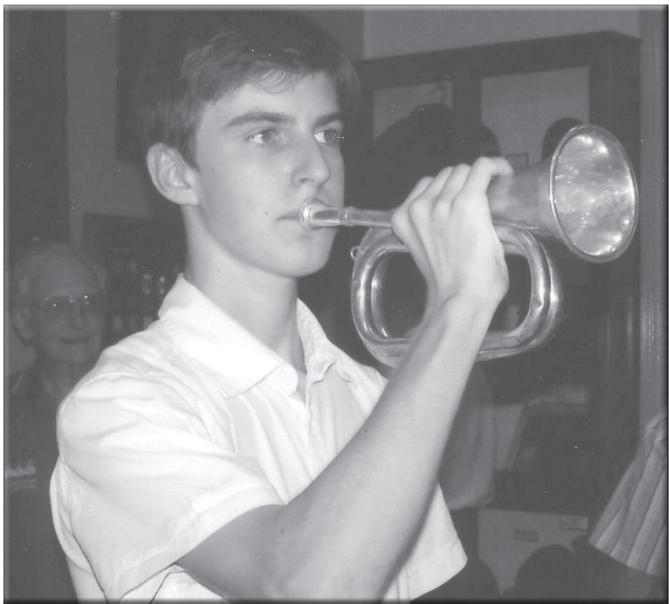
Regular displays are held at Crawford House Museum, 10 Wardell Road, Alstonville

Airing of the Quilts: 3, 4, 5 July 2015

Admission \$7 with cuppa, \$5 just for viewing quilts

Twenty Treasures of Alstonville: 7 August–30 October 2015

Any enquiries, please contact the Display Co-ordinator, Jane Gardiner on 02 6628 3925



TOP LEFT: Brigadier the Hon. Dr Brian Pezzutti CSC RFD launching Ian Kirkland's book, *They Served Us Well*

TOP RIGHT: Bohdi Scott-James playing bugle at the launch

LEFT: Display case with World War I memorabilia

RIGHT: Sing Australia Ballina Choir at the Cheering Up the Troops display opening

THIRD RIGHT: Ina le Bas (President APHS), David Wright (Ballina Mayor) Graham Gooding (Alstonville Sub-branch RSL) and Tim Sullivan (Australian War Memorial) at the display

BOTTOM RIGHT: Elaine McCormack blowing out the candles on her 80th birthday cake

APHS News



President's Report

They Served Us Well

On Sunday 19 April, Brigadier the Hon. Dr Brian Pezzutti CSC RFD launched Ian Kirkland's book, *They Served Us Well*, which is a splendid record of the service personnel from the Tintenbar Shire who served in the First World War. Alison Draper researched family and service records to assist Ian compile the book.

Cheering Up the Troops

Jane Gardener has been responsible for putting this display together after her research with the Australian War Memorial revealed it had a number of items belonging to service members from our area.

Sing Australia Ballina Choir was a most welcome addition to the entertainment by singing many WWI songs.

Elaine McCormack OBE*

Yes, Elaine has reached her 80th birthday and she was honoured with a wonderful birthday party at the Baptist Church with many friends and relations there to wish her well. (*Over Bloomin' Eighty!)

Gold Work Embroidery

The society was again privileged to host the display of the Gold Work by the ladies who meet in the Community Resource Centre twice a month.

June Fiford, their tutor, was visiting Alstonville and they took the opportunity to display their work for her. Due to popular demand the closing date was extended a further two weeks.

New PA System

In preparing for the official opening of the Cheering Up the Troops it was found that once again the PA had let us down.

John Sim had a few worrying moments until he was able to hire a system for the afternoon. This led the committee into making further inquiries for a suitable system for our needs and we have now purchased a reliable one.

Another purchase to assist our volunteers is a trolley to carry our books to various venues for sale.

The Management Committee has also attended to a broken window sash in Crawford House.

Tea and Scones

Devonshire Teas have been very popular with our visitors—U3A, Uniting Church Fellowship, St Carthage's Aged (3 groups), Moving Aged, Rotary Exchange Students from Denmark and Ballina Army Association have all visited in the past two weeks.

New Member

Welcome to our new member Mrs Rose Wisemantel. I hope you enjoy your membership with us and find the society's work interesting.

Monthly News Sheet

Gwen's monthly news sheet should produce better custodian attendance. Thank you Gwen for offering to produce it and with Jan's help it is sent out by email to our custodians. A hard copy is available for those who are not on email.

Ina le Bas



June Fiford with Lois Hennes at the Gold Work Display

APHS Monthly Meetings

Community Resource Centre
10 Wardell Road, Alstonville
2.00 pm third Sunday of the month

21 JUNE 2015

Guest Speaker: Elton Cummings
'Westpac Helicopter'

19 JULY 2015

Guest Speaker: Gordon King
'Plot to Assassinate
the Duke of Edinburgh'

16 AUGUST 2015

Guest Speaker: Christine Johnson
'Subject to be Advised'

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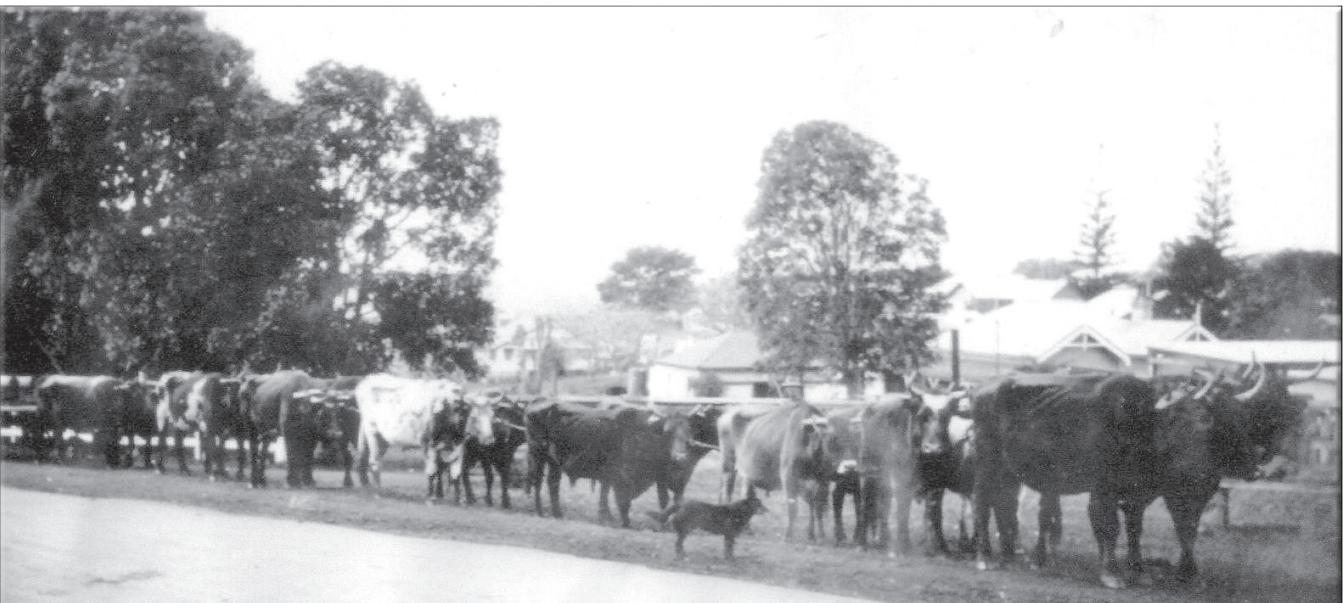
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Diary Events Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Settlement of Alstonville

- June 21** Celebration Bowls Day at the ABC. 150 bowlers will be on the greens that day
- June 25** Blue Light Dance for Years 7–12, Leisure and Entertainment Centre
- June 27** Rotary Reunion and Changeover at the Catholic Hall;
8–12 noon, Uniting Church Market Morning
- July 3–5** Airing of the Quilts at Crawford House Museum
- August 1** Dance Party at St Joseph's Hall. Come along, BYO everything
- Aug 7–Oct 30** Alstonville's Twenty Treasures display at Crawford House
- August 29–30** Quota Craft Fair at Leisure and Entertainment Centre
- September 2–5** Alstonville's 37th Spring Orchid Show in the Plaza
- September 5** (Morning) Community Groups in Plaza and Elizabeth Ann Brown Park;
(Evening) 150th Celebration Dinner, Leisure and Entertainment Centre
- September 6** Garden House Wine and Cheese afternoon
- September 7** Displays in the Plaza
Trivia Night at Bowling Club
- September 10** Ballina Cup Race Meeting
- September 10–12** St Bartholomew's Floral Display in the church
- September 11** Family Night at the Federal Hotel
- September 12** Alstonville-Wollongbar NSW Rural Fire Brigade Community Information Day
at the showgrounds;
12 noon Street Parade and showground events, 3–9 pm, finishing with fireworks
- September 13** Combined Church Service at the Baptist Church
- September 14** Unveiling of 150th Plaque on cairn in Parkland Drive

The last time a local working bullock team walked through the streets of Alstonville was back in 1929 (*pictured above*). If you weren't there then make sure you are in the Main Street on Saturday 12 September to see not only the working bullock team but floats, veteran and vintage cars and bands.

I would like to thank the Alstonville community for putting this diary of events together. They have come together with enthusiasm and creativity to put this show on the road. For example, the Bulwinkel Landcare Group is preparing the Bulwinkel Park ready for visitors and there are investigations being held to restore the Ken Dunstan Memorial Garden.

Ina le Bas, Chairperson, 150th Celebration Committee