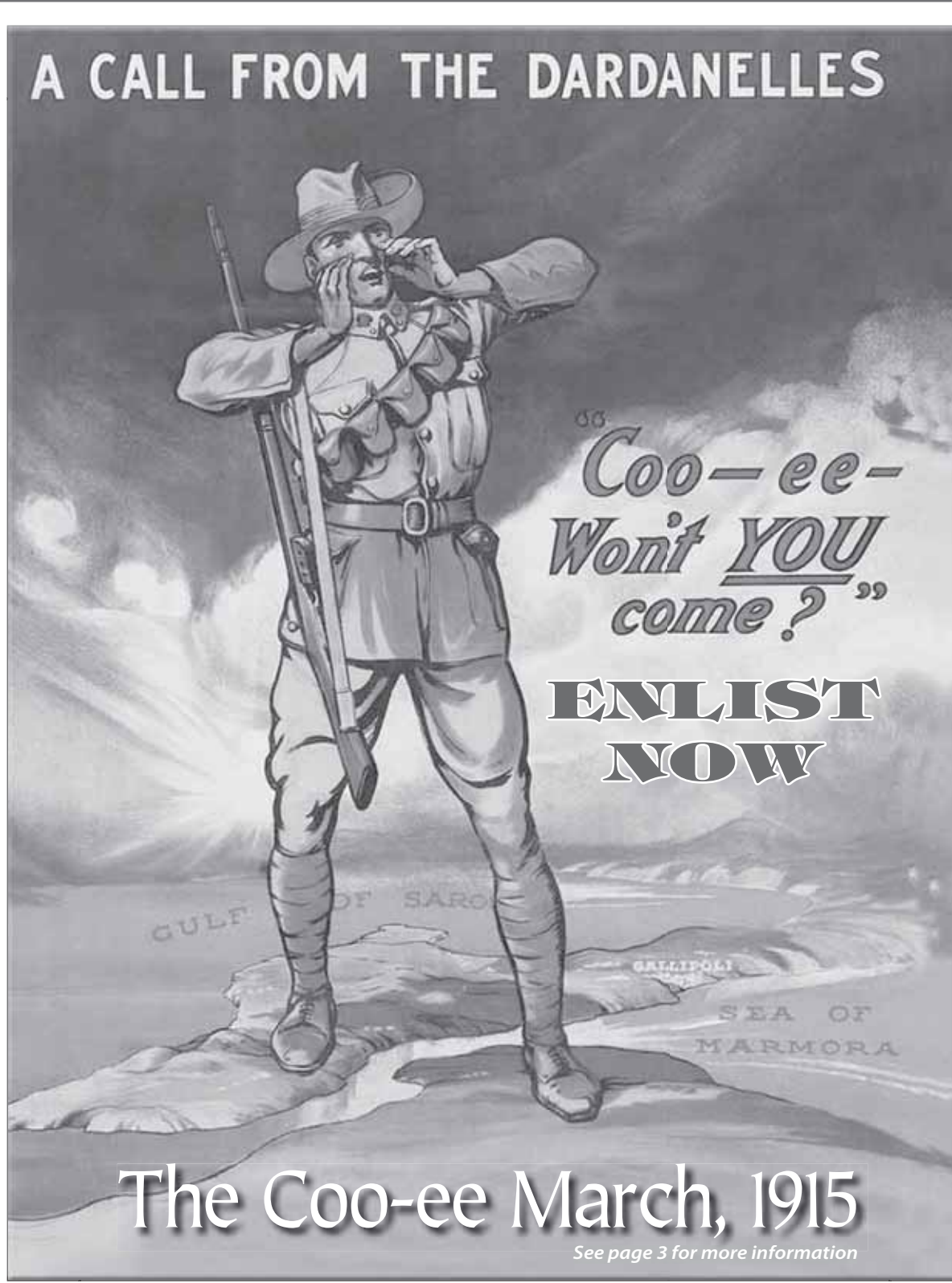




The PIONEER

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



*“Coo-ee-
Wont YOU
come?”*

**ENLIST
NOW**

The Coo-ee March, 1915

See page 3 for more information

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.
June 2016 • Volume 16, No. 2



JUNE 2016

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APHS Publications

APHS books are available from the 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



- Tibouchina Town: Alstonville 1865–2015*
Recognising Ballina District Citizens (Book 1)
They Served Us Well
Go North Young Man • Still Greater Effort
An Udder Story—Dairying on the Plateau
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Blanchie—Australia's Inspirational WWII Nurse
From Bush Track to Bypass
Alstonville High School—A Community School
Wollongbar: Historic Village
From Buckets to Brigade—Alstonville Fire Brigade
Effort Earns Success—Alstonville Public School
Rous Mill: Historic Village
Forgotten Railways of the Northern Rivers
Milestones and Memories: Alstonville District
Alstonville's Heritage Trail • Out of Puff
Duck Creek Mountain now Alstonville (2nd Ed.)



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Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc.

Established 21 October 2001 • ABN 14 079 187 469


Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society

**CRAWFORD HOUSE MUSEUM
& COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE:**

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

Email: info@aphsmuseum.org.au

Website: www.aphsmuseum.org.au

 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Crawford-House-Museum/237678339768274>

Museum: Open Fridays 10.00–4.00 pm and Sundays 1.00–4.00 pm

Research Centre: Open Fridays 10.00–4.00 pm

PATRONS: K Hogan MP, T George MP, Cr D Wright, Mr 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:

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(Incl. newsletter advertisement and full membership)

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Past-Presidents:

Marguerite Fuller, Jane Gardiner, Ian Kirkland, John Sim

The Coo-ee March

On a recent visit to Canberra I was determined to add to my knowledge of Australian history. After delivering John Sim's and my interview with Tom Hale, the Bonalbo World War I Digger, to Tim Sullivan at the Australian War Memorial I decided to come home via Canowindra, Cowra, Dubbo, Gilgandra and Tamworth. There were three main reasons for this.

Firstly I wanted to visit the Cowra Breakout site and War Cemetery. At the Cowra Tourist Information Centre is an excellent presentation where a miniature woman lights up and tells the story of the breakout.

Secondly I wanted to learn more about the Coo-ee march during World War I, which started at Gilgandra.

The third reason was that I had discovered there was a Bradman Museum in Tamworth which had more Bradman memorabilia than the Bradman Museum in Bowral.

On talking to people about my trip after I came home I was amazed to find that there are many people who do not know much about the Coo-ee march. Two brothers, RG Hitchen (a butcher) and Bill Hitchen (a plumber) were talking one day in 1915 outside the butchers shop in Gilgandra. The idea of marching from Gilgandra to Sydney, recruiting along the way, came about from their discussion.

At this time, after the disaster of Gallipoli, recruiting had become difficult. On 10 October 1915 twenty-six men began the long walk to Sydney. The march had been initially met with strong resistance from the authorities but eventually assistance was provided to help the march become successful. Along the way the marchers were greeted by large crowds, welcoming speeches were given in the villages and towns, dances were held and the men were given presents and food. By the time they had reached Sydney 515 km away on 12 November 1915 their number had increased to 263.

At the Gilgandra Tourist Information Centre a room is devoted to the march. As well as much information and excellent photos there are items such as flags and musical instruments carried on the trip. There is also excellent coverage of the re-enactment march held in 2015.

It is interesting that Lismore had a connection with the march as Lismore teacher CC Grassick, principal of the local school, wrote a poem Coo-ees and sent it on a postcard to each of the Coo-ees.



North Coasters Recruiting March, Port Macquarie, 1916

An excellent book called *The Coo-ee March* by John Meredith was first published in 1981.

What I didn't know was that there were many other marches throughout eastern Australia. These included:

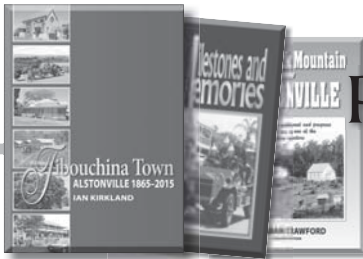
Waratahs	Dec 1915	Nowra to Sydney	120 recruits
Kangaroos	Dec 1915	Wagga to Sydney	230 recruits
Wallabies	Dec 1915	Narrabri to Newcastle	173 recruits
Dungarees	Dec 1915	Warwick to Brisbane	125 recruits
Men from Snowy River	Jan 1916	Delegate to Goulburn	144 recruits
Kurrajongs	Jan 1916	Inverell to Narrabri	150 recruits
Kookaburras	Jan 1916	Tooraweenah to Bathurst	100 recruits
North Coast Boomerangs	Jan 1916	Grafton to Maitland	240 recruits

The latter march travelled mainly by train and was the most successful recruitment march. I am glad I have increased my knowledge of an important World War I event.

IAN KIRKLAND



The Coo-ee March passing through Katoomba, 1915



Plateau Milestones

1944–1959

1944

- Alstonville Public School became a Central School

1945

- Alstonville Country Party branch formed
- A Peace Ball was held to celebrate the end of WWII
- Chamber of Commerce was reformed
- Tintenbar Shire Council took over the maintenance of the croquet and bowling club greens

1946

- Permanent picture shows began at Oberon Theatre in Agricultural Hall

1947

- Licence for the Federal Hotel was transferred to Alfred Riley Jnr
- Norco butter factory at Maguires Creek closed
- Norman Clough bought KK Martin's store
- ATB Gordon became the village's first postman
- Alstonville Citizens' Rights Committee formed
- Night tennis began in Alstonville

1948

- Dedication of the first Paddy Bugden Memorial
- WWII Honour board erected at Methodist Church
- Alstonville Sports Association was formed, with Mr B Daley as president

1949

- Sunday sport permitted on Alstonville Memorial Park

- Elizabeth Ann Brown Park established
- Alstonville New State Committee formed
- National Fitness Committee formed
- Alstonville Bowling Club celebrated its silver jubilee

1950

- Federal Hotel was sold to Haberfield Investments
- RSL gained ownership of School of Arts hall
- Alstonville Methodist Mothers' Club began
- Inaugural meeting of Church of England Men's Society

1951

- Land resumed for the Tropical Fruit Research Station on Perrys Hill
- Alstonville Public School celebrated its 75th anniversary

1952

- Dr John McGill began his thirty-five years' of practice in Alstonville
- Marked pedestrian crossing placed near Methodist Church

1953

- Celebrations held for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation

1954

- The new Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Rosary, was blessed by Bishop Farrelly
- Marked pedestrian crossing placed from the post office across Main Street

1955

- Junior Farmers' banquet held for the first time

1957

- A women's bowling club was formed
- Mr JS Easter, MLA turned on Alstonville Water Scheme to 121 households

1958

- Alstonville Tropical Fruit Research Station opened

1959

- Baptist Church in Main Street opened by Mr T Peffer
- Road through the village named the Bruxner Highway



Dedication of the Paddy Bugden Memorial, 1948

Alstonville Cricket 1901 to 1931

In 1900 Alstonville found it difficult in securing a new ground and wicket area while the Show Society was constructing a new fence around the parade ring. Eventually Tom People loaned his paddock near where the first Federal Hotel was built in 1898. This new ground took two years to develop with a concrete wicket being laid. The first match on the ground was between Alstonville and Rous Mill in 1902. Rous Mill won the match by seven runs.

Alstonville competed in the Cupitt-Corlis Interdistrict trophy which started in 1901. Teams from the Richmond River area competed with the winning players receiving a blazer each. During the early 1900s Alstonville always enjoyed an annual visit to Grafton over the Easter break to participate against Clarence club teams and a Grafton representative team. It is interesting to note that Charlie Eggins who played for Alumny Creek Club in Grafton moved to Alstonville and continued his cricket success with the local side.

Arguably the first century scored by an Alstonville batsman in 1st grade was in 1905/06 season by H Brimstead who scored 113 runs against Pearces Creek.

In 1908/09 season club cricket along the Richmond River was divided into three sections: Lismore or Town section, taking in all teams connected to the Lismore District Cricket Association; Alstonville-Wyrallah section which included Alstonville Cricket Association, Goonellabah, Gundurimba, Tregeagle and Wyrallah; Eltham-Byron Bay section which included Clunes, Eltham, Dunoon, Nashua, Byron Bay and Pearces Creek.

Perseverance won the Lismore section, Nashua won the Eltham-Byron Bay section and Alstonville won their section.

These three successful teams competed in a play-off to determine the best 1st Grade side on the Richmond River. Alstonville had to play Nashua in the final played over three consecutive Saturdays. So great was the interest in the match that many spectators arrived in sulkies, buggies or horseback. Cars hadn't made their entry at that time. Charlie Eggins (119) and Erwin Gray (60) secured the victory for Alstonville.

In 1910/11 season the Alstonville section of the Richmond River District cricket competition



Alstonville Cricket Team, 1911

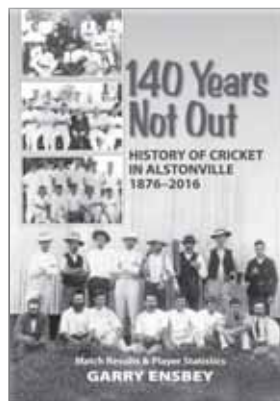
Back Row (L to R): F Miller, H Robinson, C Eggins, H Cottee, G Vidler; Middle Row (L to R): J Payne, S Brown, J Cupitt (capt), Dr Forsyth; Front Row (L to R): G Weston, T Kirkland, G Anderson.

comprised of teams from Tregeagle, McLeans Ridges, Goonellabah, Alstonville, Ballina, Teven and Rous.

Competitive club cricket competitions were suspended during World War I period, resuming in 1918/19 season. In their first game against Tregeagle, Alstonville had a classy win with George Weston taking 9 wickets for 7 runs including a hat-trick to dismiss Tregeagle for 21 runs.

Alstonville formed their own association in 1919/20 season to the displeasure of the Richmond River Cricket Association. Clubs participating were Alstonville, Rous, Tregeagle, Goonellabah and McLeans Ridges. This association lasted until the end of the 1927/28 season. Alstonville club decided to join Rous association for the 1928/29 season. During their short stay in this association before their move into the Lismore District competition in 1931/32, Alstonville never won an A Grade competition despite having an extremely strong talented side. In the 1930/31 season Verne Eggins captured 114 wickets at 5.94 and scored 555 runs at 55.50, Mervyn Eggins took 58 wickets at 9.58 and 371 runs and Harland Eggins took 30 wickets at 9.46 and 356 runs, yet Alstonville couldn't still win a premierships.

GARRY ENSBEY



*If you're interested in cricketing in Alstonville, make sure you preorder your copy of the new APHS publication, **140 Years Not Out: History of Alstonville Cricket 1876-2016**, by Garry Ensbey, to be launched in October. For further information, please contact Garry on email: gmensbey@hotmail.com*



Research Nook

CHANCE MEETING AFTER 78 YEARS

I FIRST BECAME acquainted with Ina (le Bas) in 2015 when my mother Betty McAnelly (née Virtue) and I heard events were being planned by the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society to celebrate 150 years of settlement of Alstonville; originally known as (named) Duck Creek Mountain.

My mother, aged ninety-one, has a good memory of, and interest in people, places and events, having lived all her life in the local area. She was aware of our family's connection to Ellen Freeborn (née Sharpe), who was the wife of Andrew Freeborn. We found Ina also has a connection to Andrew Freeborn through the Cooke family.

Three tickets, to include Shirley McAnelly, my sister-in-law, who researches and records our family history, including the Sharpes, were booked through Ina to attend the sesquicentenary dinner. Ina placed

us at the table with the descendants of Andrew Freeborn. Ann Murray, who has sadly passed away since the celebrations, and Betty, my mother, were seated together, and already well known to each other. They were each presented with a posy of roses during the official proceedings of the evening, being the oldest descendants of Andrew and Ellen Freeborn. It was a lovely and memorable occasion that Mum, Shirley and I enjoyed immensely.

Ina's grandmother, Isabella Cooke, was the wife of one of the first settlers of Bexhill, Mr SR Cooke. In an edition of the *Northern Star* in August 1938 Isabella Cooke and my great-grandmother, Elizabeth Sharpe, (eldest daughter of George and Sarah Windsor), are together in a photograph (*at right*) at the official event held in the School of Arts of the Switching on of Electricity to the village of Bexhill. Elizabeth Sharpe, aged sixty-three at the time and having lived in Bexhill for fifty-nine years, was given the honour of pressing the switch. My uncle, Grant Virtue, can recall the occasion.

Ina's uncle, Mr E Cooke, chairman for the event, presented my great-grandmother with an inscribed silver vase. The vase was handed down to me by my grandmother, Marjorie Virtue.

Of interest is the documentation



of Isabella's name recorded in the *Australian Dress Register*. Isabella's wedding dress, which she made, is currently on display at the Crawford House Museum wedding exhibition. My great-grandmother did dressmaking for a living so we can only surmise these two ladies may have been friends or well known to each other at least, having had an occupation in common. Although Isabella was residing at 'Laurel Hill' Alstonville by 1938. In the course of conversation Ina and I found that 'The Pines' once owned by William Cooke, was located where my husband and I had bought and built our home and lived and raised our two children for twenty years in the 1980s and 90s.

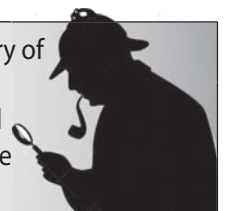
Ina and I thought it would be fitting to be photographed together (*at left*) with the vase almost seventy-eight years after our grandmother and great-grandmother were photographed together on an occasion of significance to the history of the local area.

ELIZABETH EYEARS

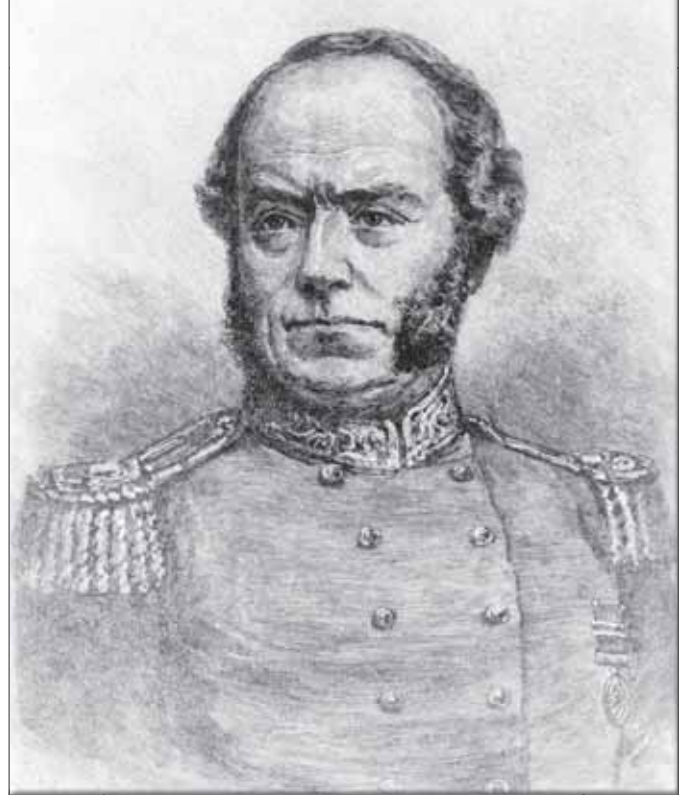


Alstonville Plateau Historical Society provides a service to the public to research enquiries into the history of people, places and events relevant to both the Alstonville Plateau and Ballina Shire.

The Research Centre is open Fridays 10.00 am to 4.00 pm or by arrangement, and it is recommended that prior to a visit you contact us either by email (info@aphsmuseum.org.au) or at the Research Centre so we can send you our research form and ensure we have a member to help you.



Major Thomas Mitchell—The Man Who Surveyed NSW



Major Thomas Mitchell

Thomas Mitchell did more than any other to map his adopted country and entered Australian history during Governor Darling's rule. He was born in Scotland in June 1792 and offered the position of assistant to John Oxley in 1827.

Mitchell was a skilled artist and spent much of the Peninsula War in Spain and Portugal surveying the routes that contributed to Wellington defeating the French at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. His Australian exploration is littered with the names of people and places from this period.

Governor Darling's instructions were '... that Major Mitchell is to be considered as standing next in rank to Mr Oxley (Surveyor-General), whom he will succeed.' With the promise of £500 a year, in addition to army half-pay, Mitchell and his family arrived in Sydney in 1827. Nine of the next twenty-eight years were to be spent away from the colony—either on long expeditions or on leave of absence trips to England.

The astounding feature of Mitchell's colonial career is that he quarrelled with everyone—particularly the four governors under whom he ostensibly served but towards whom he displayed a superiority tinged with disrespect. Darling, Bourke, Gipps and Fitzroy all regarded him as a difficult man, given to insubordination, and on occasion would tend to ignore official orders if he felt so inclined.

None of the governors doubted that he was intelligent and industrious, but the opinion of Darling reflects very much what his successors thought of Mitchell: 'His object seems to be his own fame, that everything should originate with him or be improved

by him. Major Mitchell's representations generally are the result of disappointed and of a captious jealous disposition. He is a good practical surveyor and an excellent draughtsman; beyond this he possesses no merit. He is a man of no arrangement and is totally unequal to the management and proper conduct of a department.'

Early in his colonial career he had recorded his conviction that a proper trigonometrical survey was the only way to cope with the problem of surveying the colony and for the remainder of his term his department surveyed on this basis. When all the conditions under which he travelled and made his observations are considered, his accuracy was remarkable.

He pushed himself and he demanded too much of those who worked with and for him. He took delight in the superior attitude that annoyed his governors and was proud to be thought difficult and unapproachable.

Major Sir Thomas Mitchell—he was knighted in 1839—undeniably intelligent and expert at survey work, was egotistical, jealous and obstinate. Too often his search for fame led him to take on too much, so that the fame continually eluded him. His jealousy towards Oxley and Cunningham was of a petty variety, yet he could conduct a life-long friendship with Hamilton Hume.

He was another of those remarkable people who helped in the development of Australia in those early days.

BRIAN WORTHINGTON

(Excerpt from *Complete History of Australia* 1974)



Painting of the Mitchell house in Stanwell Park, by Henry Grant Lloyd, 1860



From the Library Shelves

1936 POCKET DIARY

LIKE LAST EDITION, this column will also be focussed on an item of family history and I will attempt to show how it might be used to teach students visiting our museum as a school group. The 'book' is my father's 1936 pocket diary kept—rather spasmodically, I might add—by a nineteen-year-old who had just recently moved (with his family) from Brisbane to Sydney.

Why choose such an item, you might be asking? Perhaps it was partly material brought back from the recent Lismore Conference addressed by the Catholic Education Officer asking historical societies to consider what they may be able to offer in support of history teaching in schools. I also mentioned this diary at a recent talk I gave to the Richmond Tweed Family History Society. But it was our own May Guest Speaker's cricket talk that really planted a seed! Thanks, Garry.

I would obviously show my student audience the small red leather-bound diary and ask what they thought it might contain. A clue could be provided with a photo (on our TV screen) of Bebarfalds Department store, opposite the Town Hall, as this was my father's first employer in Sydney. Guesses could become more accurate were I to reveal that young Boyd had previously worked in one of his

father's menswear stores in Brisbane.

I would then reveal contents of a rather surprising page headed 'Comparative Hat Sizes' (*pictured below*).

It listed 14 graded sizes for hats manufactured in America, Germany, France and England/Australia. In other words, 56 hat sizes crammed onto a small page.

Why would this data be included in a young man's diary? Clearly, so the young assistant would easily be able to indicate that the sweaty and battered Australian size 7 and a quarter would become a 58 in the latest French model.

Again, to eventually assist background answers to such a question I would show some photos of crowded cricket arenas for a Bradman-era test. Could there even be one of mens' hats being tossed in the air as a century had just been scored?

Now, teachers often inform us that the class topic being studied is Changes-over-time or 'Then and Now', so I'm certain that the student audience could come up with several ways in which cricket (and cricket crowds) have changed over the last 85 years. A modern shot of a 'Big Bash' crowd should elicit any extra details they had overlooked. How many can you come up with?

The more challenging conclusions (perhaps for the older student groups) might involve using these photos to talk about wider social changes over that time. Are modern 'Bread and Circuses' reflective of shorter modern attention spans? Has commercialism begun to dominate sport? Is this a good thing? Do women/girls constitute a bigger proportion of the contemporary crowd? Why?

Use could be made of an

examination of some of the advertisements from the first 30 pages of the diary—this time presented to pairs of students via a photocopy. The diary was clearly a 'freebie' from James Hardie & Company Ltd, whose address was 'Asbestos House' on the corner of York and Barrack Streets, Sydney! Their question could even be: how many different asbestos products can you find? The brand name Fibrolite seemed to cover flat or corrugated sheets for roofing or ceilings, pipes, ventilating flues, cattle troughs, brake linings and clutch facings and even school blackboards. All such products contained some asbestos. How times have changed!

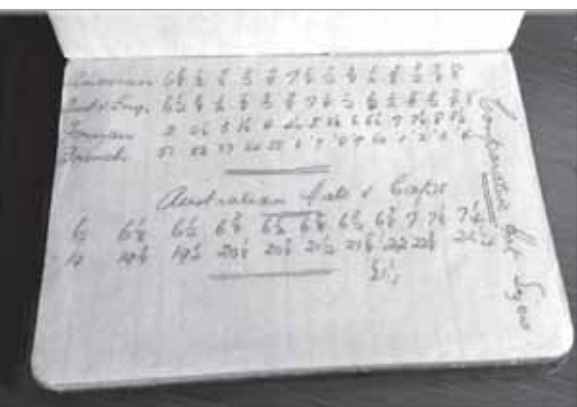
Then, for a final activity (and one which would involve even older students and some mathematical calculations), I would provide a screenshot of an entry at the rear of the diary that is a log of petrol consumption on a road trip from Sydney back to Brisbane. 'Gallons' and 'miles' would need some explanation—and perhaps a conversion table.

An 8 am departure from Vaucluse with a full tank of petrol led to a first stop at West Maitland for 4 gallons of petrol costing 7 shillings and 4 pence with a further 4 gallons at Tamworth costing 8 and 4 pence. Details of the whole trip are recorded.

Clearly, though, students could draw some conclusions about the size of petrol tanks and even fuel economy rates. If provided with average weekly earnings for 1936 and 2016, some may be able to work out whether it is now cheaper to run the family car.

Enough, I hear you exclaim! My only defence: once a teacher, always a teacher.

JOHN SIM





President's Report

Volunteer's Certificate

I was delighted to present Joyce Houselander with our Volunteer's Certificate for the month of April although she had been sewing profusely since the 'Gowns, Veils, Vows & Ties' display was just in the planning stage. Joyce made the flower girl and page boy outfits for the Faux Wedding to open the display on 20 March.

Lois Hennes also asked Joyce to make a number of items to help display some of the gowns in a beautiful manner like the lovely white or cream gown hangers which were either embroidered or had lace appliquéd to the stunning padded hangers.



Ina and Joyce Houselander

Cooke Research

One day while I was at Crawford House, a call came through from Kay McIvor of Brisbane asking if the society had any information on William and Mary Ann Cooke.

Being the resident Cooke historian, I took the call and arranged for Kay and her husband Malcolm to visit Alstonville. Kay's great-grandmother Sarah was a sister to my grandfather, Samuel



Kay McIvor, Robbie and Margaret Orr, Ina, Jane Cooke and Malcolm McIvor

Robert Cooke and to Ian Cooke's grandfather Dixon Cooke. Ian and Jane Cooke and I spent three pleasant days showing Kay where her great-grandmother lived when she first came to the north coast aged fourteen with her parents, William and Mary Ann Cooke.

They lived on the property now called 'Pines on the Plateau' at Wollongbar and Margaret and Robbie Orr were delightful hosts showing us perhaps where the original home 'The Pines' was before it was burnt down (see *Pioneer*, Vol. 12 No. 1).

Quota Award

I was taken by surprise at the April meeting when John Sim introduced Julie Lee and Maree Pollock, who had come along to present me with a certificate indicating that I had been



Ina, Ian Cooke and Kay McIvor at Crawford House, viewing the material held on William and Mary Ann Cooke

APHS Monthly Meetings

Community Resource Centre
10 Wardell Road, Alstonville

2.00 pm third Sunday of the month

19 June 2016

*'Musings on the Presentation of History
... a ramble round the world'*

Dr Bill Boyd

17 July 2016

*'The Albert Lyrebirds of the Uralba
Nature Reserve'*

Mike Fitzgerald, Alstonville Vet Surgeon

21 August 2016

*'Tom Skeyhill—WWI Poet and
Entrepreneur'*

Gordon King

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Maree Pollock, President elect, Julie Lee, the present President of the Alstonville/Wollongbar Quota International and Ina le Bas

awarded the Quota International Alstonville/Wollongbar Memorial Community Woman of the Year for 2016.

'Ina is always friendly, outgoing and open minded in her attitude. She works tirelessly and without fuss, always supportive of her local community and the people who reside within.' The award carried a cheque for \$250 for a charity of my choice and a posy of roses.

Gate Repairs

Thanks once again to Eric Clark for repairing the gate into Elizabeth Ann Brown Park. I was

happy to present Eric with a small token of our appreciation at the May meeting.

Thanks to Volunteers

With the extra groups coming through the museum to view the wedding display, let me thank our willing volunteers who have poured out over 100 cups of tea or coffee and for being the guides through the house.

Over the past month the Laurel Group, the Uniting Church ladies, the Ancillary staff from the High School and the Wollongbar Probos have all visited and expressed their appreciation of the wonderful display.

St Carthage's Senior groups have visited on three occasions. Their Monday, Wednesday and Friday Groups have all enjoyed their visits especially when Livia welcomed them in Italian and explained the exhibition to them.

CRC Rental

The society is pleased that the CRC is being rented by a number of community groups which is bringing in valuable dollars to meet our commitments. Ballina Shire Council C Ward meetings are held quarterly.

Revamped Office

Do look into the office and admire the new cupboards that have been built above the original ones. As our records are growing so rapidly extra cupboard space was needed to house the many documents and files the society is creating for future researchers.

Book Sales

Thanks to the many helpers who have manned the stalls selling our much sought after publications at the Antique and Collectables Fair,

the Quota Craft and Garden Fair, the Ballina Hospital Auxiliary at the Lennox Head Craft Fair and the Alstonville Family Fun Day.

Health Report

In the March *Pioneer* I recorded a get well message to Jane and Brian. They are both now on the road to recovery but Brian has indicated that he would like to be relieved of his positions within the society and it now needs three members to fill his shoes.

Susanne will attend to the sale of our publications, Gwen will take on the membership role and Richmond will do the statistics.

The Management Committee wish to thank these three members for coming forward and Brian you can rest assured that your valuable contribution to the society is recorded and we wish you all the best healthwise.

Baptist Church Anniversary

It was a pleasure to attend the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Baptist Church at the invitation of Pastor Allan Jones and to be shown the historical memorabilia by Elaine McCormack, and to be greeted by Merlene Hellyar, Gwen Christie and June Williams.

Chamber of Commerce

Susanne and I have been attending the Alstonville/Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce meetings which alternate between Breakfast Meetings at 7.30 am or evening meetings at 5.30 pm.

It is proposed the APHS will host the evening meeting on the 6 September, which will include a viewing of our 'Stories of Alstonville Businesses' display.

APHS Display Diary
Regular displays are held at
Crawford House Museum
10 Wardell Road, Alstonville
1-3 July 2016
The Airing of the Quilts
11 September-9 October 2016
Stories of Alstonville Businesses
(Personal stories with photographs)
4 November 2016-19 March 2017
Children's Toys and Games
(incorporates social aspects—
childcare & preschool)
Any enquiries, call 02 6628 1829
Friday & Sunday

Research Religious Tensions in NSW before 1930

APHS has acquired a research paper, available to members, titled 'Sectarian Conflict in the Richmond River Region of New South Wales 1870–1930'. Undertaken by APHS member John Brown and reviewed by the University of New England, the paper examines religious tensions in the region at that time. John would welcome comments and any anecdotal data in the form of letters, memoirs and oral accounts of sectarianism of that time.

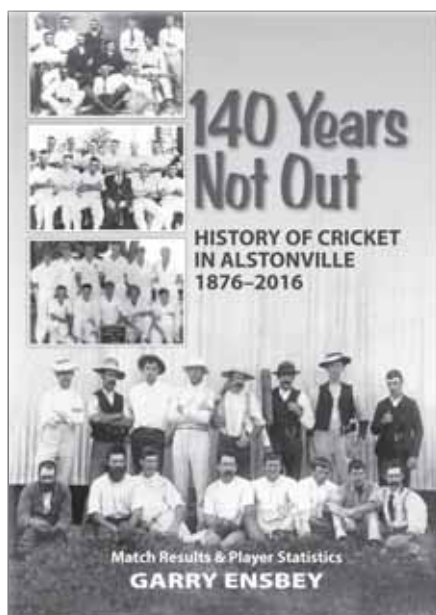
John is a great-grandson of William and Mary Ann Cooke, who settled in the region in 1883 after having lived in the Illawarra.

He can be contacted directly by phone 02 99992387 or email: brownyyy@netspace.net.au

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Cricket Book Launch

The new book from APHS, *140 Years Not Out—History of Alstonville Cricket 1876–2016*, by Garry Ensbey, will be launched at



Visitors to the 'behind the scenes' event at Crawford House

a special dinner by well-known Alstonville cricketer, Brendan Drew, on Saturday 1 October 2016 at the Alstonville Plateau Bowls & Sports Club at 6 pm.

For more information about the launch, or if you wish to preorder your copy, please contact Garry Ensbey on email: gmsensbey@hotmail.com

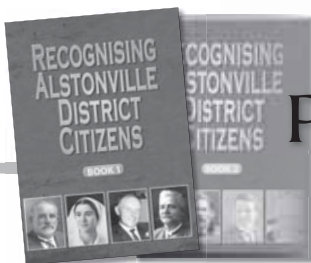
Curator of Wedding Displays

To enhance its bridal exhibition Crawford House Museum hosted a special 'behind the scenes' event to reveal how customs, the period, availability of new materials and even the determination of the bride have influenced the design and making of wedding dresses.

Exhibition Curator, fashion guru Lois Hennes, guided visitors through the gowns (*pictured*), and this was followed by light refreshments.

The exhibition, which closed in early June, featured some of the finest wedding costumes seen in regional NSW. It featured forty-nine wedding dresses ranging in date from 1883 to 2014 in a variety of styles, fabrics and colours. Also displayed were bridesmaid and flower girl dresses, and over one hundred photographs of local brides and grooms—along with other wedding ephemera spread throughout the exhibition.





Pioneer Profile

SAMUEL CHRISTY TRIMBLE MBE

Slammin' Sam Trimble was born on 16 August 1934 in Lismore. As a teenager he played cricket in the Clunes Association as a batsman and he also bowled leg spin. However, it wasn't very long before Sam and his brother Ken became prolific runscorers, both at club level and at inter-district level.

Sam played cricket for Queensland from 1959 to 1976. His first class career was 144 matches, 262 innings, 10,282 runs, with a highest score of 252 not out and an average of 41.79. He scored 26 centuries.

Sam never played test cricket for Australia although he was twelfth man against the West Indies in 1964-5. During this time Bob Simpson and Bill Lawry had a stranglehold on the Australian openers' positions. In 1970 he captained a Second XI to New Zealand comprising Greg Chappell and Dennis Lillee. In an

unofficial test in New Zealand he made 213. In 1971 he scored 177 against an English attack including John Snow and Peter Lever.

He held the record for the most runs for Queensland until he was surpassed by Stuart Law in the late 1990s. He still remains as the third highest rungetter for Queensland and features in the Century Room at Allan Border Field with ten other Queensland players who played 100 or more first class matches for Queensland. He captained Queensland on 39 occasions and was named in the Queensland Cricket Team of The Century. He was awarded a Member of the British Empire in 1975 for his services to cricket. After his retirement he ran the indoor nets at the Gabba for many years.

In March 1984 a Golden Oldies Cricket movement began in Auckland, New Zealand. Sam



Sam Trimble (front) with Bill Pearson, former Clunes Association representative, on 1 September 1990 in Lismore when a Wanderers team played

played along with other past greats Neil Harvey and Ron Archer from Australia, John Edrich and Mike Denness from England and Bert Sutcliffe from New Zealand.

He has never forgotten his roots. In 1990 he played in a Wanderers cricket team in Lismore. In 1992 Sam captained a team of past Clunes cricketers against a Lloyd Strong led XI at the Booyong centenary celebrations. On 1 October 2001 he was also at Booyong when a book on the Clunes Cricket Association was launched. The oval at Bexhill is called Sam Trimble Oval.

In 2012 he was named in an Australian cricket's unlucky XI. His son, Glenn, also played 57 first class matches for Queensland scoring 2881 runs at an average of 33.11 and took 30 wickets at an average of 29.33. He also played two one-day games for Australia. Glenn retired in 1990.

IAN KIRKLAND

Recognising Alstonville District Citizens, APHS



Sam Trimble's team which played Lloyd Strong's team at Booyong centenary celebrations in 1992, (Back row) Ian Kirkland, Bruce Parker, Lindsay Trimble, Lyle Beddoes, Garnet Johnston, George Priddle, Glen Fields, Dennis Clarke, Bill Pearson; (Front row) Jim Parker, Brian Moore, Geoff Trimble, Sam Trimble, Ken Trimble.