

THE MUSE

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BOOK LAUNCH

On Sunday, 27th June 2010 local man Barry Hawkins launched his Book *Through My Eyes* at a ceremony at the Colonial Inn Museum, Mudgee. The book is essentially a family history and incorporating his personal reflections of life on the land over the past 166 years at Grattai and Maitland Bar and along the Meroo to the west of Mudgee. President of Mudgee Historical Society Inc, John Broadley, welcomed a large number of visitors to the launch and then asked local established author Kevin Pye to launch Barry's book. After Kevin's official speech Barry responded and thanked everyone who had assisted him with his quest. After the formal ceremony Barry signed copies of the book and a sumptuous afternoon tea was served. Visitors then had the opportunity to inspect the museum.

Congratulations to Barry on the publication of his highly readable book which adds to our range of local and family histories. Copies can be obtained at the Colonial Inn Museum or at the Tourist Office in Market Street.



Barry Hawkins



Kevin Pye

CHINESE TENANTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CUDGEGONG 1860-1904

By John Broadley

The Chinese were originally attracted to the Mudgee district by the lure of gold, but a few evidently thought farming, and market gardening in particular, was a more lucrative proposition. Evidence of their extent in this field can be found in the surviving rate records of the rural Municipality of Cudgegong for the years 1860-1904, the originals of which are held by the Mudgee Historical Society Inc.

The rural Municipality of Cudgegong was proclaimed in 1860, along with the Municipality of Mudgee and several other municipalities across the state in a burst of civic pride. The Municipality of Mudgee covered the original square mile (640 acres) of the town of Mudgee, while the rural municipality surrounded it for several miles in every direction. The rate records are often unreliable, but nevertheless serve as a useful guide. Houses come and go, acreages expand and contract, rate numbers change for properties from one year to the next, the spelling of names of owners, occupiers and localities vary considerably, localities change constantly back and forth, and the descriptions of premises change regularly.

Although the precise locations of all the Chinese market gardens are generally not known, they appear to have been close to a ready and plentiful supply of water such as McDonald's Creek, Lawson's Creek and the Cudgegong River. However, it must not be forgotten that the Chinese were masters in the art of irrigation viz the water race at Windeyer which dates from goldmining days.

In many cases the acreage leased was quite substantial, suggesting that activities other than market gardening occurred eg. cropping or grazing. One wonders what archaeological remains exist on the sites where these leaseholders lived and what sort of dwellings they lived in. Many were long-term tenants, particularly the Key family who lived on the Lawson estate (variously Putta Bucca and Bombira). Except in the early days, the Chinese leased land from the district's pastoral elite: the Cadells of Big Hill and Melrose; the Cox family of Burrundulla, Broombee and Binnawee; the Bells, who later purchased Broombee and Melrose; the Lawsons and Morrisetts of Putta Bucca and Bombira who were connected by marriage and a number of supreme court suits; William Richard Blackman of Bleak House and Binnawee; the Lowes of Eurunderee and Wilbertree; and the Crossings of Menah.

Although some of the produce from these market gardens would have gone to merchants in Mudgee, and some was 'hawked' in rural communities, Ernest Hume, in his *History of Mudgee* (1930s), suggests the majority headed towards Sydney:

"The land immediately on the northern side of the Cudgegong River around Lawson's Creek almost from Putta Bucca to Mr. W. Mills present residence was a round the years 1880-1890 devoted largely to Chinese Market Gardening and a continuous stream of Chinese vehicles laden with cabbages, cauliflowers, etc. could be daily seen wending their way along Church Street to the railway Station, the vegetables being forwarded to the Sydney Market. On the high ground, near the Mudgee bridge, one celestial familiarly known as "old Funkin", grew some magnificent water melons which enticed the youths of those times to make nightly marauding expeditions much to the annoyance of the aged celestial"

Descendants of a few of these Chinese market gardeners remain in the district, with some owning land which has long been associated with market gardening along the Cudgegong River and Lawson's Creek.

Names appearing in the rate books are: Wm. Cohen (or Chen?), Wm Boo, Boo Chee, J. Chie, George Chie, Jem Hong, Ah Sing, Ah Hoy, Ah Pay, War Key, John Key, Chooy Lee, Ah Chow, Ah Yhing, Ah Chew, Ping Hong, Ah Foy, Coon Loy, Say Coon, Lue Lee, Sun Lee, Ah Chin, Ah Ming, John Tee, Ah Key, Ah Bing and Ah Gun.

Chinese names: Traditionally, as in many Asian societies, the family name comes first in Chinese culture; this custom led to great confusion when recording Chinese names in western culture. The prevalence of 'Ah' in many Chinese names is misleading. 'Ah' is not a Chinese name, but is a prefix added to the personal name as a familiar or informal manner of address. In the English language this is somewhat equivalent to the addition of a suffix **-ie** or **-y** such that **Ann** becomes **Annie** and **Jim** becomes **Jimmy**. The bureaucrats and scribes whose duty it was to record the names of the tenants,

either directly from the tenant or relayed through an owner or overseer, obviously 'mangled' the original names in the process. With Chinese pronunciation varying considerably in intonation, it would have admittedly not been an easy task and it would appear that there was little constancy (Teong/Te Ong; Ah Chew/Ah Chow; Ah Yin/Ah Ying/Ah Yuin/Ah Yhing). Mostly it was easier to simply write 'Chinaman'! Many Australian Chinese soon adopted Westernized given names, such as George Chie and John Key, and in many cases the original family name was changed dramatically or dropped altogether.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting for 2010 – 2011 of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc will be held on Monday 16th August 2010 at the CWA Rooms, 148a Market Street, Mudgee. The ordinary committee meeting will be held first at 7pm with the AGM at 8pm. Members please bring a plate of goodies for supper afterwards.

THE MUSE

A number of members have opted to receive their copies of the quarterly journal THE MUSE via email. THE MUSE will also be placed on the Society website. This will enable superior quality copies, with colour photographs, to be delivered to members. Printed copies are now being done professionally, as the task of printing on the Society's photocopier was a burden and the quality of the copy was often not the best. Please let the Society know (enquiries@mudgeemuseum.com) if you would like to receive your copy of the THE MUSE via email.

MEMBERSHIP

Please note that membership of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc is based on the financial year, so membership fees for 2010 – 2011 are now due: \$10 for individual membership, \$20 for family membership.

MUDGEE SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS

The Mudgee Historical Society Inc was again present with a display at the Small Farm Field Days on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th July, sharing a tent with our friends from Gulgong Historical Society. This year an extensive apiary exhibit was on display, along with a model of Windermere Dam donated recently, a photographic display of the village of Cudgegong which ultimately disappeared under the waters of the Dam, and several old projectors, including a magic lantern. The display attracted a lot of interest from visitors. Thanks to all involved.

AUSTIN A40

After much bureaucracy the Society's restored Austin A40 Ute has finally been registered. Thanks to Vic Vaisey and our Secretary Pauline Bassingthwaighte for all the associated work in achieving this considerable task. The number plate is **MM2850** (MM for Mudgee Museum) and henceforth the vehicle will be used as a promotional tool around Mudgee.

WORKSHOP

As much restoration and conservation work of display items occurs on our Tuesday working bee days, two secure northern bays in our western shed area have been converted to a workshop. The Society has also purchased some tools at a recent hardware sale to equip the workshop, as the Society has largely been reliant on members generously using their own tools for work at the Museum.

BEQUEST

The Society was recently fortunate to receive a bequest of \$1000 from the estate of a Mudgee resident. Such generous bequests are greatly appreciated and the funds will be dedicated for a specific use.

WEBSITE

If you haven't already checked out our revamped website, please have a look. It now has very many postings and will be regularly updated in future: www.mudgeemuseum.com

GARAGE SALE

Don't forget our next garage sale to be held in early October. Many items have been donated already, including many household items from Honorary Life Member Betty Jackson. Betty's fridge is now in our meeting room, replacing our old fridge which was on its last legs. Thank you Betty.

MUDGEE REGION TOURISM INC

Our Society has again joined this body to promote our Museum. Our members work closely with the local tourist office, and President John regularly accompanies visiting journalists on walking tours of historic Mudgee.

MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA

The Central West chapter of Museums Australia, of which our Society is a member, met in Milthorpe, near Orange, on 16th May. Pauline and Kevin Bassingthwaighte attended the meeting and volunteered Mudgee as the venue for next year's AGM in May. A lot of planning and assistance will be required to ensure that this meeting is a success. We will keep you posted.

CUDGEGONG VALLEY MUSEUMS GROUP

This group, which incorporates six museums in the Mid-Western Regional Council area, recently staged its AGM at the Colonial Inn Museum with representatives from each of the six museums present. John Broadley and Pauline Bassingthwaighte from Mudgee remain as President and Secretary, with Arthur Johnson from Gulgong as Vice-President and Jim Walker from Sofala as Treasurer. The aim of this organization is to promote a heritage trail of the unique museums of our region and to foster liaison between member museums.

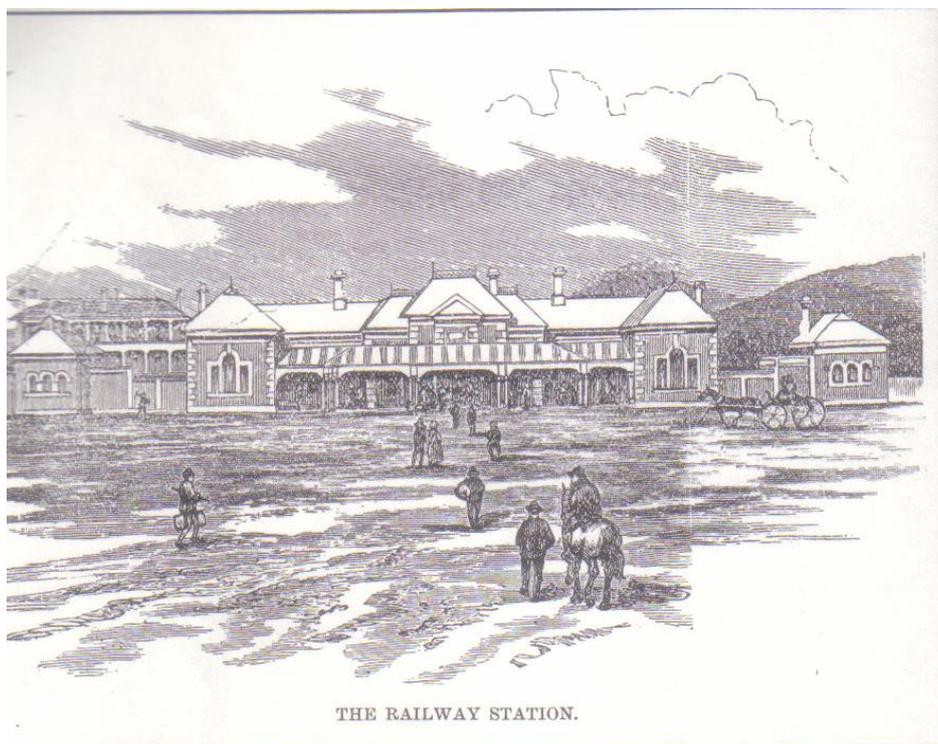
MUSEUM VISITS

The Colonial Inn Museum was visited on Saturday 28th May by a large bus group from the Tamworth Historical Society. The group inspected the museum and enjoyed a morning tea, before being taken on a tour of historic Burrundulla homestead and a town tour.

On Thursday 20th May Ilford Public School visited the museum and had their lunch in our 'backyard'. This delightful group had an abundant supply of questions and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. It is pleasing to see our museum being regularly used as an educational facility by our local schools.

MUDGEE RAILWAY STATION

With acknowledgements to Mudgee Guardian 1894



THE RAILWAY STATION.

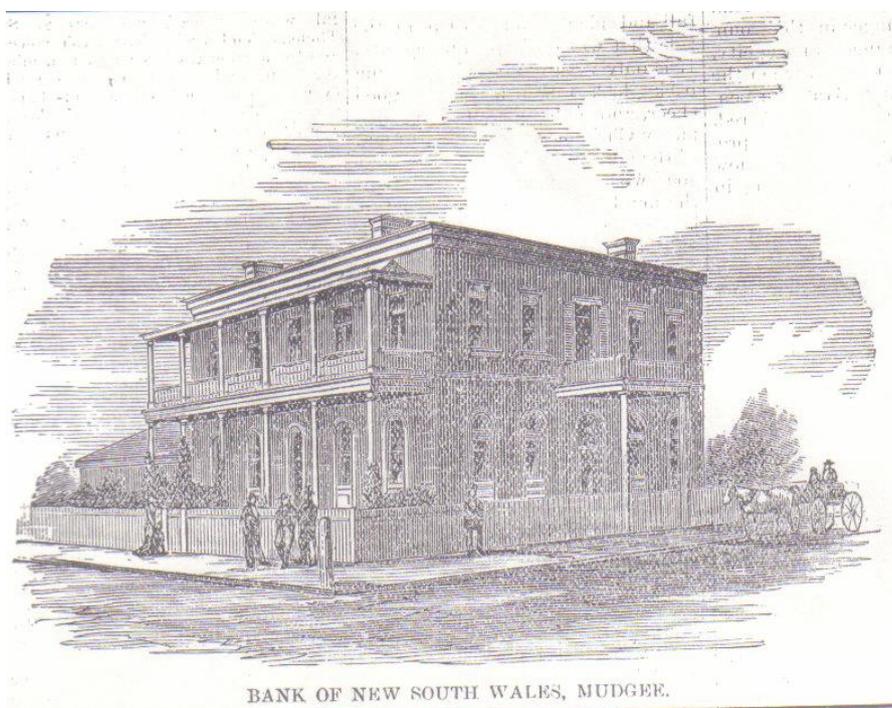
Mudgee was a very old town before the Government of the country could be convinced that a railway was only the right thing, and a long and warm agitation had to be carried on before the measure authorizing the construction of the line was carried through Parliament. However, some nine years ago the railway was completed, and amidst much ceremony and great rejoicing a distinguished company assembled to see the line officially opened. The line joins the Great Western service at Wallerawang, 85 miles from Mudgee, and 105 miles from the metropolis. The railway itself has always been regarded as only one section of a trunk line which should eventually extend northward to the Barwon, or north-east to Wellington, providing in this latter connection a straighter line for the carriage to Sydney of the heavy traffic of the far west. The railway stands in this position now – the line is carried through 60 miles of the worst country for a railway in the land, over mountains where engineering difficulties and expense are unrewarded by a fair traffic, and therefore Mudgee has to supply trade enough herself to make the line profitable, or have the standing discredit of owning a non-paying railway line.

The railway was carried through barren country, and just as it got in the rich land, where it was likely to make trade for itself, the engineers and Parliament cried enough. Every section the line would be extended now would mean enough business to pay expenses of that particular section and give, perhaps, a little surplus to wipe out the deficiency of the rest of the line. Our railway station is a

commodious one, and is capable of accommodating all the business likely to be done for some time, either in passenger, goods, or stock traffic. The passenger station, as will be seen from our illustration, is built upon the lines general in the newer stations throughout the colony, and, being of good brick, is likely to last for many years. The platform is long enough to accommodate two ordinary trains, the stationmaster's offices, waiting rooms, ticket and parcels offices are roomy, and the lamp room and other conveniences are designed in proportion. Mr. H. J. Addison is at present in charge, and proves a most capable, courteous, and genial officer. The goods sheds are roomy, and there is a great length of platform for general loading, with a crane to lift 6 tons on the eastern end. A very large quantity of wool reaches Sydney via Mudgee, and the wool season is always a busy time with the officials. One day in November no less than 750 bales were received, loaded, and dispatched by the night train, and between the beginning of the season and December about 20,000 bales were handled. Large consignments of live stock are dispatched from Mudgee, ample and convenient yards being provided for loading purposes. The engine shed is a fine large structure, and a turntable is laid down in the yard.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

with acknowledgements to Mudgee Guardian 1894

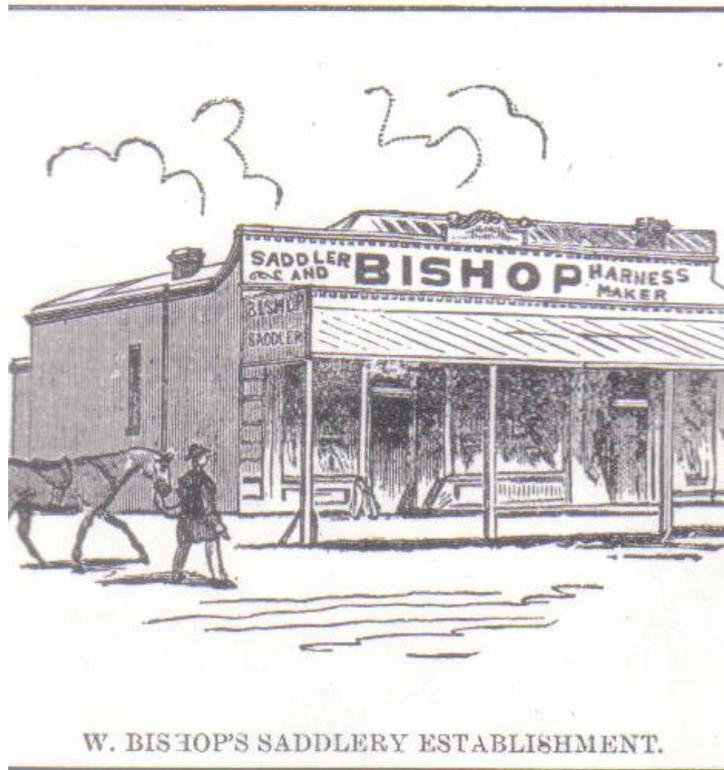


The directors of the Bank of New South Wales very early turned their attention to Mudgee as a centre for business operation.

No less than 40 years ago, the first officer arrived to open a branch, and this was done in a little building standing in short-street just past Cawarra Cottage, and which singularly enough, still bears the sign of the institution upon its wall. For a time this little place was a scene of activity, and eventually the building had to be abandoned for more commodious premises. Business in 1864 justified the erection of the fine roomy structure now in use which, being faithfully built by a Mr. J. Atkinson has weathered the climatic storms through all these years like the institution has weathered the financial storms. The building itself is of that solid and plain architecture so common in buildings of its age, and to-day looks as we heard one gentleman say "Like a cube of rock." The present manager is Mr. John J. Phillips, who has successfully financed the branch for many years with success to the institution and credit to himself. The old bank does a considerable business and with its weal or woe is wrapped up the deep interests of a large proportion of our population. The view shows Mortimer Street on the left, Perry Street having the entrance to the banking rooms.

MR. WM. BISHOP'S ESTABLISHMENT

Acknowledgements to Mudgee Guardian 1894



This must be accepted as the premier saddlery of the West, established over 40 years ago. Looking through the large and splendid stock, one is impressed with the character of the business. Take any other similar business out of Sydney in the West, and we question if there is any to surpass that of the one under notice.

Bishop's premises, in Market Street East, were acquired by Bobby Roth in the 1920s and the site developed into his iconic shop which many of us will remember with great nostalgia. Bobby's son, Max, continued the business into the early 2000s. The two-storeyed building where MacDonald's bakery is located now stands on the site.



Bobby Roth's store (circa 1930s)