

THE MUSE

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PO Box 217, Mudgee, NSW, 2850 Website: www.mudgeemuseum.com
President: John Broadley 02.6372 3365 Email: jbr71056@bigpond.net.au
Acting Editor: Fay Wells
Secretary: Pauline Bassingthwaighte 02.6372 3078

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50th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Mudgee Historical Society celebrated their 50th birthday on Saturday 24th May 2014 at the Colonial Inn Museum.

We were pleased to welcome the National Trust and Eurunderee School who both had displays.

Many people visited the Museum to view our vast collection of items which included a very interesting display of photos of yesteryear including business, transport, rural, sport, hotels, and miscellaneous. We received many compliments about the displays and several people were interested to find out about researching their family history.

Barry Wells, Acting President, welcomed visitors and gave a brief talk on the history of the Museum.

Catherine Cox daughter of Dick Cox one of the founding members of the Historical Society and Museum and Mary Mills who is a long standing member cut the birthday cake which was then distributed to guests.

Visitors enjoyed a lovely day in the sunshine, live music and entertainment whilst having afternoon tea.



Cutting the Cake



Visitors enjoying the music

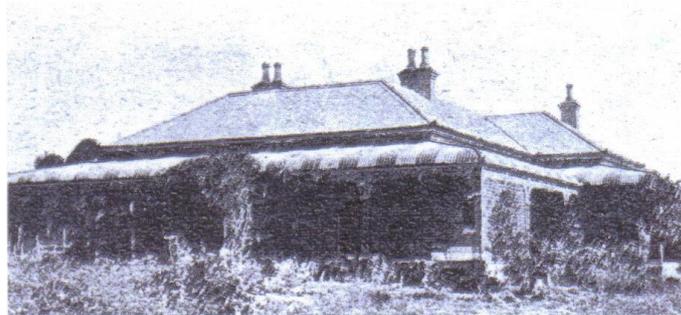


Some of the collection of Pictures on Display



Having a look about

“WOODLANDS” MUDGEE



"Woodlands" c.1906

The 80 acre Woodlands property was taken up in 1894 by William Abernethy for £180 (\$360). The home was commenced in 1896, and completed within three years.

The slate foundations, wall bricks and cast iron verandah columns were supplied locally. Much of the other building materials (e.g. the long oregon timbers used as roof rafters) were brought overland or by train from Sydney.

Concreters, carpenters, bricklayers and labourers camped on site during the original construction periods of a quite substantial dwelling.

The original house is of typical Federation style: central hallway from the front door, with two rooms either side, leading to the body of the house of dining and sitting rooms, kitchen and butler's pantry, and rear rooms via other passageways. It is apparent that the building was all of the one period, and had 11ft (3300mm) ceilings throughout.

Extensive Australian cedar joinery is in every room, and painted sections at the rear were stripped/replaced and repolished during the renovations. The renovations were major, but the building was structurally sound with “good bones”.

All but one ceiling was replaced and period cornices and roses added, and the house extended from the kitchen to provide an open living area, and an extension of the original verandah incorporated.

The grounds and gardens were reclaimed, and some fence lines to the house yard extended.

The current owners, John and Christine Bentley, purchased the property in 2002, and in 2007 extensive renovations were begun. These were completed by 2009, when the owners moved in.



Woodlands Today

MUDGEE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Early in the year 1846 an Agricultural Society was formed in Mudgee

It was held on the reserve now known as Robertson Park where special pens were erected for the occasion. The date of the first show was Wednesday, 22nd April, and there was a fine attendance. It is recorded that the cattle exhibits on that occasion could not be beaten in the colony.

The first show committee were Messrs. Robert Lowe, Henry Bayly, Nicholas P. Bayly, Edwin Rouse, Geo. H. Cox, and W. H. Lowe, the latter gentleman being Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. The show was financed by direct contribution only until the year 1861 when a meeting was held and a Society founded on a basis of Annual Subscription.

The first show under the new regime was held at Putta Bucca on Friday, 24th May 1861. The officials of this Society were Hon. G. H. Cox (President), Robert Lowe, George Ramsay and N. P. Bayly (Vice Presidents), W. H. Oliver, Treasurer, W. Howarth, Hon. Secretary, and a committee of thirty members.

Later it was found necessary to look for a more suitable place to hold the shows owing to increased population and growth of town and district generally.

Eventually Mr. G. H. Cox agreed to let the Show Committee have a piece of land on a 99 year lease basis at a nominal rental. The land was situated at the south eastern end of the town, at the corner of where the extension of Horatio Street meets at the Old Sydney Road or Burrundulla Avenue as it is now called. (Sic.) Alderman W. R. Blackman and J. Healy were trustees.

On the occasion of the railway system being extended to Mudgee, the line cut through the show ground property and this meant that the show authorities were forced to look for a new site. The property was afterwards occupied as a dairy farm by a Mr. Dennis Love. Many fine and successful exhibitions were held in these old grounds.

In about the year 1880 some difficulty arose amongst the bodies concerned in agricultural matters. And an opposition society was formed. After a conference of the two bodies was held, they decided to amalgamate, when the Mudgee Agricultural Pastoral Horticultural and Industrial Association was formed.

On 14th October, 1881 about twelve acres of land was obtained and dedicated as a show ground, and on 4th November, 1893, an additional nine acres was dedicated. Later on a further ten acres was obtained making a total of thirty one acres.

In the centre of the ground a fine trotting track and show ring have been laid down.

This forms the present show ground situated at the foot of Flirtation Hill with frontage to Perry and Nicholson Streets.



Help: – Does anyone know what the above item is called and exactly what it is used for.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The AGM of the Mudgee Historical Society
will be held on Monday 18th August 2014
in the CWA Rooms, Market Street, Mudgee**

The General monthly meeting will be held from 7.00 p.m.

The AGM will follow at 8.00 p.m.

All welcome.

Members please bring a plate.



THE COACHING DAYS

With acknowledgements to Ernest Hume 1869 - 1954
"A History of Mudgee"

This article and others were written over many years of Mr. Ernest Hume's life.

About one hundred years ago or more, commercial trade was mostly done with West Maitland and Newcastle. The Mudgee to Cassilis Road is still known to old inhabitants as Maitland Road. The first mail coach run to Cassilis was by Mr Trotter; the coach contacted with the Maitland line.

The first mail through to Sydney was a heavy spring cart with two horses, one an outrigger.

When the railway from Sydney was constructed only as far as Wallerawang the means of transport to Mudgee was by coaches and bullock and horse wagons. Some of the large coaches were capable of accommodating as many as 15 to 20 passengers. These were drawn by five horses, and there are not many today, who like the writer, had the experience of rambling down the road to Wallerawang to the thunder of the hoofs and the crack of the whips. Those were the days when travel provided much healthful excitement. The Sydney Road was a veritable beehive of coaches, vans and also teams of never less than ten horses or a dozen bullocks.

Bi-weekly and Tri-weekly vans travelled to Wallerawang, among the Jehus being J. Dorrington (driver for J. Arnold & Sons) Sid Norris for T. Cheshire, Sam Clarke, J. James, C. Richards, G. Quinsey, and John Mawbey. The leading teamsters were Wm. Mash, J. Stahl and Tom Tarrant with vans and teams.

The first Royal Mail coach contractor was William Readford, who was then proprietor of the Maitland (now Club House) Hotel. The coaches left the Royal Hotel twice a week, the first driver being Bob Hunter. Later Cobb & Co. bought out the Sydney line of coaches from Readford and had offices at the Royal Hotel conducted by Simeon Moses. Mr. Miller was Manager for Cobb & Co. while John Barry attended to the traffic arrangements.

The mail contractors were Messrs. Cobb & Co who ran daily mail coaches to and from Wallerawang, and were well patronised. Across from what were the first railway gates Ewen Stoddart conducted the Inverness Hotel, a boon to the teamsters, as he had some excellent turn-out paddocks. He also had a horse works chaff cutting machine and next to it was W. Woolley's

blacksmith forge. While across the road a Mr. Parsons had a shoeing forge, so teamsters and others had no difficulty in having their horses shod and necessary repairs affected to their vehicles.

A few hundred yards over towards Redbank were a number of brick kilns where the bricks for many of the older Mudgee Buildings were made, and about half a mile further on was Mrs. Murray's Burrundulla Hotel. At the seven mile peg Billy Croome kept the Mullamuddy Hotel, afterwards conducted by Jim Ward, and later J. Kurtz. It was Jim Ward who struck gold on Horse Flat, which led up to a rush. This was Cadell's property, Cadell sold several blocks in the paddocks and nearly all the diggers did well. I mention these facts as the places were all stopping stages for the teams and coaches.

Cobb & Co ran their coaches by stages, and the first stopping place was at Pauling's Hotel Appletree Flat. The stables and turn out paddocks were opposite the hotel and accommodated about 20 horses.

At the foot of Stoney Pinch there was a toll bar. The Pinch at that time was a notoriously bad portion of road, and many severe and fatal accidents occurred there. It was a veritable nightmare to Cobb & Co and teamsters.

Among those who drove for Cobb & Co on the road might be mentioned such hardened Jehu's as the late Dennis Doyle, John Barry, Chas. Bissell, Joe Jenkins, John Bax, Pat Toohey (killed in a coach accident at the age of 54 years), Sid Brown and Tom Sheridan.

Cudgegong, 22 miles from Mudgee was another stage for Cobb & Co at this place J. Albert and King Wilkins kept hotels, and Abel Wilkins kept the blacksmith shop; which always adjoined the hotels in those days.

In Mudgee, Cobb & Co's stables were first situated at the Royal Hotel, on the corner of Market and Lewis Streets kept at that time by Simon Moses. This was a busy centre in the early days.

The next changing place for Cobb & Co's horses was Cunningham's Creek Hotel kept by Tom Eames. At this stage the Wallerawang drivers took the reins from the Mudgee men. The journey from there to Wang was mostly made in the dark.

The coach then went through to Ilford, stopping on the way at two hotels, one kept by a Mr. Guthrie. Passengers were picked up and let down at these hotels. Then on to Cherry Tree Hill, halfway up which there is a spring of water, very cold all the year round, and was a boon to the early travellers.

The next stage was Running Stream, where the Leighton family were the principal residents at that time. On the coaches rumbled to Round Swamp where they again changed horses. The Barraby family were old identities of that locality. Abe Freestone kept an hotel further along.

Mails and parcels were picked up at Capertee, which village then consisted of the hotel, store and post office, kept by Mr. Shervey. Capertee was then a favourite camping ground for teamsters.

From Capertee the coaches ran to Crown Ridge, on to Ben Bullen and then Wallerawang, which was reached about midnight. Cobb & Co's men, were always strictly on time.



GRIST MILL

Although the terms “gristmill” or “corn mill” can refer to any mill that grinds grain, the terms were used historically for a local mill where farmers brought their own grain and received back ground meal or flour, minus a percentage called the “miller’s toll”. Early mills were almost always built and supported by farming communities and the miller received the “miller’s toll” in lieu of wages. Most towns and villages had their own mill so that local farmers could

easily transport their grain there to be milled. These communities were dependent on their local mill as bread was a staple part of the diet.

The above photo is of our “mill stones” in the Museum’s yard where the working bee people enjoy their morning tea. It is believed that they came from a flour mill in Mudgee from the early days.

MUDGEE SALE YARDS

With acknowledgements to Ernest Hume “Mudgee Memoirs”

The first sale yards in Mudgee were established in the early part of 1850. They were in Church Street on a site opposite Messrs. Loneragan’s present buildings. The early day auctioneers were W. Christian, Geo. Walker, and Albert Cox (W. Cox and J Davis).

The next yards were in Mudgee East. On the rise opposite the old two storied building at the extreme end of Gladstone Street at that time occupied by G. Brodribb, Solicitor, and extending to Mortimer Street. These yards were conducted by W. C. Reynolds, afterwards Council Clerk to Cudgegong Council. Next were Crossing & Cox, who conducted their sales in yards, built on the corner of Mortimer and Perry Streets, now Mudgee Tile Centre.

The Masonic building in Perry Street was originally built by Crossing & Cox as offices and store rooms for wool, etc. After some years the firm changed their yards – about 1888 – to the west end on the corner of Cox and Court Streets and Gladstone Street where Braeholme Private Hospital afterwards functioned for many years. Whilst these yards were in operation the late Jas. Underwood and Sons, P. Phillot and others would bring large mobs of Queensland cattle, which when auctioned brought buyers from all parts of the State. Some of the trips would take months to complete and it was always most interesting to listen to the adventures of these men, who would be cut off from civilization for weeks. The firm of Crossing & Cox also had up to date yards at Gulgong and Hill End.

In the year 1899 the Municipal Yards were established in the Cudgegong Shire, on Saleyard Lane, at the west end of Mortimer Street. The Saleyards are now situated on the Abattoir Road