

## NEWSLETTER

July – August – September 2012  
Volume Thirteen Number Three



SKETCHLEY COTTAGE

*Linking yesterday with tomorrow*

RAYMOND TERRACE & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.  
PO BOX 255  
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

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**COMMITTEE:** David Gunter      Laurel Young      Laraine Brown

Circa 1880 – held by the Cultural  
Collections – University of Newcastle



BITS and PIECES..... from the President.

- On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Members of Tilligerry Peninsula Probus Club enjoyed a visit to Sketchley Cottage. At the same time, Mrs. Heather Yates presented our society with the original letters of WW1 local soldier, Sam Robinson, who was killed in France in 1916. Member Mr. John Gillam in return, presented Mrs. Yates with a replica of the material She had donated to the Society. All together a delightful morning.
- THE TRIVIA NIGHT; An outstanding success. The eventual winners ( two tables) shared the booty with another table just one point behind. The abundant supper, provided by members, was enjoyed at the end of a happy evening. Thanks to Helen Giggins and her assistant David, for all their work. It is hoped the society will organise another such evening in the near future.
- 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.- As previously mentioned, 2012 is the anniversary of the naming of Raymond Terrace. One of our celebrations includes a Pioneer Dinner at The Senior Citizens Hall, Irrawang St. Raymond Terrace on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The month also marks the 38<sup>th</sup> birthday of our society. Fancy dress - Colonial theme - \$60 per person We extend an invitation to any members of the public, particularly those connected to Raymond Terrace pioneer families, to join us in these celebrations. Contact can be made by phoning Trish Harris 49873486 or Laraine Brown on 49872414 -leave a message if they are unavailable
- Membership fees are now due. If you haven't yet paid, could you please call into the Library in Raymond Terrace (Mon or Wed 10-2) or post them to PO Box 255 Raymond Terrace 2324. Thanks for your continued support.
- Please email any story that you have to contribute to [clarkys@bigpond.net.au](mailto:clarkys@bigpond.net.au).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August	6	Committee Meeting
	17	General Meeting
September	3	Committee Meeting
	21	General Meeting
October	8	Committee Meeting
	19	General Meeting
November	5	Committee Meeting
	16	General Meeting- last meeting for the year – Christmas Party – please bring a plate
	24	<b>Foundation Day Celebration</b> – Sketchley Cottage.

SUNDAY COTTAGE ROSTER: FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Sep. Helen & Bernadette  
OCT: Laraine & Laurel  
NOV: Glenys & Peter  
DEC: David & Judy  
JAN: Moira & Boris  
FEB: Helen & Berndette  
MAR: Laraine & Laurel  
APR: Glenys & Peter  
MAY: David & Judy

## EXTRACT FROM THE MAITLAND MERCURY - 17 AUGUST 1889

### My Trip to Clarence Town. (By a country correspondent)

After about nine years' absence, I determined to revisit the Williams. Accordingly, at about half-past nine I started from the Bank Hotel, East Maitland, in the mail coach, driven by that wonderful Jehu Fitz - Old Fitz they called him, so they did nine years ago, but I saw no alteration in him, his spirits on the trip being as lively as ever.

It was a sharp bracing morning, and as the coach was full we jolted merrily along, now and then revelling in the strains of Fitz's mail horn. I noticed very little difference in Morpeth. The steam punt is an improvement on the old one, but Hinton looks about the same old thing. The district around Windsor and this are very similar in appearance. The fences all look old and dirty from floods, and it seems to a visitor that the inhabitants are afraid to alter anything.

The aspect of the country changes at once on leaving Hinton. The bush has a beautiful appearance; the eucalypti tribes are very various, and being interspersed with acacia, the many shades of green foliage are delightful to any one who for several years has looked only upon dead wood and dry fences.

We dashed onwards, and it required a sharp look-out to avoid getting our necks broken from the twisting, rolling, and pitching of the machine we were packed in. A sad thought shot through my brain as we passed the tree where poor **McWilliams** was killed. I remembered his last kind greeting, as I met him near the tannery, as he was driving in his buggy to his death. Poor **Sandy McKinnon**, of the tannery, is also gone on the long journey, and I missed his merry jokes, with some others, during my very pleasant visit. But I am anticipating and digressing. We arrived safely at Seaham, which looks about the same as of old. After tasting a bottle of **Mrs. Sweeny's** wine, and resting a few minutes, we again got on board, and again passed through some pretty woodland, now and then catching a glimpse of the beautiful shining Williams. It reminded me of the dear old Medway, and of the merry hours I had spent on both.

At about half-past one we reached Clarence Town, and drove up to the hotel. I missed the jolly welcome of the landlady of old, but I had the pleasure of seeing her as well and merry as ever during my short stay in town. Dinners being on the table, we all fell to, and good substantial meals, with a bottle of host Weller's ale, made me forget some of the bruises for which I had paid Fitz 5s.

Clarence Town did not seem to have altered much at first sight, but after meeting many friends of old, and chatting a bit, I found ample scope for observation and something new on every side. The Williams flows slowly, silently, grandly on, as in former times, a broad beautiful stream, the path to every port in the world; but it is now spanned by a magnificent bridge 425 feet in length, supported by iron cylinders, the largest 6 ft. and the smallest 4 ft. 6 in. in diameter; lewis bolted 5 ft. 6 in. into the solid rock. **Mr. J.**

**K. McKenzie** was the contractor, and I was informed that the whole of the work is most faithfully executed.

The new Post and Telegraph offices were opened during my stay. The building is neat, and certainly is a credit to the town. **Mr. Cairns**, the telegraph and postmaster, kindly showed me over the rooms, which are very large and comfortable, and when the kitchen is finished, it will be a good commodious dwelling house. One feature I noticed there are no dead lights-I mean door and window shapes bricked up. I rather think this is an improvement on some of the new post offices. The new Police quarters and lockup are also very substantial brick buildings, and the Court-house now looks finished. The new Public school rather disappointed me. It is a wooden building, with a low ceiling, and the room is certainly too small for the attendance. The teacher had to put up two of the old desks in front of the new ones to make sitting room for his upper classes. The detached dwelling house is an improvement on the old Style, but it is also of wood. As I know the wood work of the old building was destroyed by white ants, I cannot imagine why wood replaced brick. The School of Arts, another addition, is a neat little structure also of wood, small, but I was informed, large enough for the town. There is also a neat little R. C. Church, and a few additions of small houses. Nearer the wharves, **Mr. S. Dark** has erected a new store, which adds to the appearance of that part of the town. It will be understood therefore that Clarence Town has not been idle ; and that great additions and improvements have taken place during the past nine years. But rambling round the hills and taking views of the whole from several different points, I could not but conclude that the house of **W. Johnston, Esq., M.P.**, still takes precedence of all others both in size and appearance.

The timber trade has greatly benefited this district. There are some thousands of logs, squared and unsquared, of splendid timber lying on the banks of the river, both above and below the town. At the present time the timber trade is dull; but a short time ago vessels of 400 to 500 tons have been sent away loaded once a month or six weeks. The ships are three parts loaded, and then filled up at Newcastle from punts sent down. **Mr. Croker** is the contractor, and **Mr. J. C. Ellis**, of Newcastle, the timber merchant. A great quantity has been sent to New Zealand. It was something new to me to see the tugs slowly wending through all the outskirts of the town; and I was glad to learn that this trade had greatly benefited many young hard-working men, who previously could barely make a living in the district. Mr. Croker is very highly spoken of by all classes, for the interest he has taken in this trade.

I was glad to see a steamboat belonging to a local company. She is named " The Favourite", a neat, commodious, and useful little screw vessel, making three trips to Newcastle per week, and paying beyond all expectation. When the streets that are commenced are finished Clarence Town will have a wonder- fully improved appearance.

My visit to Glenwilliam confirmed the opinion I had formed years ago, viz, farming is dying out; it will not pay; how can it? The farms are mostly rented at high rates; they are pretty well washed by floods; and when the lessee gets a fair crop it realises very little, and he must sell to pay the rent. One man near Clarence Town informed me that he pays £25 per year for 11 acres of cultivation. Many of the old lessees have left the district for the Clarence and other places north, and **Mr. Lattimer** is talking of letting his estate for a cattle Station.

I rode through the bush to the Dungog road, and was much astonished to observe the great amount of timber that has been cut. Some of the cutters pay the land- owner 3 1/2d. or 4d. per solid foot for sound timber and then get 9d. per foot for squaring. At this rate, one of them informed me, he could earn 10s. per day if the work were constant. The carrying, however, is accounted to pay best. While writing of timber, I may remark that unmorticed posts and rails are only 25s. per 100 at the stump, or £2 5s. delivered at Clarence Town. A good substantial 2-rail fence is erected for 3s. 6d, or 3-rail at 4s. 6d per rod, fencers finding everything.

I had a good opportunity of seeing the state of this (Dungog) road, for it was raining hard, and we met many teams besides the mail coach ploughing their way through the ruts and holes. But I noticed some

contracts were nearly finished in a splendid manner, and miles of broken metal lay ready to be spread when measured. There is no doubt that in a few months this part of the road will be in a satisfactory condition. I heard several opinions respecting the tramway applied for, from Dungog to Clarence Town. The traffic is great, and likely to increase, but I should not like to say that it will pay just yet.

I must compliment the electors of the Williams on the choice of a local M P., for W. Johnston, Esq., has obtained for all parts of this electorate benefits in the shape of roads, bridges, buildings, etc., &c, which would not have been granted by the Government to any but a thoroughly energetic and persevering member.

Waiting for the mail coach from Dungog, and while bidding farewell to numerous old friends, another appeared, who saved me from the pleasures of the aforesaid vehicle, by kindly giving me a seat in his buggy to West Maitland. Thus ended one of the pleasantest trips I have had in this my adopted country.

#### LOCAL NEWS.

**A PUBLIC HOLIDAY TO-DAY.**-The Gazette of Tuesday says that to-day, Thursday, August 18, is declared a public holiday in the district of Maitland and Patrick's Plains. While we congratulate the Northern Agricultural Association upon having secured such an aid to a successful attendance on the great day of their Show, and shall rejoice heartily with them if their triumph prove as conspicuous as their exertions are commendable, we cannot approve the grant of a holiday on public grounds. Holidays are already numerous enough, and if they are to be given on the occasion of every agricultural show, the greater part of the working year will, be consumed by a new kind of eight-hour system. A bad and troublesome precedent has been set by the grant of this holiday. One grave objection to the proclamation in that particular instance is, that due time has not been given for people to realize it. The notice appeared in the Gazette of Tuesday, and while we cannot publish the news till we actually do, no other journal has been able to give more than a day's notice: and that is not enough. The banks will observe holiday, and the wheels of business will be chocked by a partial rest forced upon people unawares.

**THE RIVER BANK WORK.**-The plans of the river bank work, which the West Maitland Council desired to inspect, have been forwarded to the office for that purpose. Having seen them, we have no hesitation in saying that, so far as we can judge, the work is being carried on in fidelity to the plan. There seems to have been no intention in the design to disturb the original surface of the bank, but everywhere to face it with stone; and this is being done. It will be understood that we desire to be just; but at the same time, as the townspeople have contributed £7000 to work which they cannot in the least control directly, every strengthening that is possible of indirect control must be ensured. Therefore we are critically vigilant; and that is the attitude the Council should preserve.

**PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS** -The Gazette of Tuesday notifies the following appointments:-Mr. William Henry Whyte, a clerk in the Customs department at Newcastle, to be landing waiter at that place, vice Hannell ; Mr Cornelius Delohery, Crown Lands agent at Maitland, to issue miners' rights, business and mineral licenses,

**GUN ACCIDENT.**-An aboriginal met with some rather severe injuries to his hand on Tuesday, through a gun accident. It is said that the cause of the accident was the bursting of the barrel of the gun. The patient

was brought to the Maitland Hospital on Tuesday, where the injuries were attended to by Dr. Alcorn, who was promptly in attendance upon the sufferer.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.**-On Tuesday afternoon a serious accident happened to a lad named Albert Dunn, employed as a messenger at the West Maitland telegraph station. It seems that the lad was on his way to deliver a message, and encountered some cows on the road in the neighbourhood of Louth Park. Dunn was cantering along, and tried to make his way between the animals, when by some means the horse he was riding came in contact with one of the cows, and tripped. The horse rolled over the lad, it is said, and he sustained serious injuries. Drs Morson and Blackwell have the case in hand, and we hear the lad is as well as can be expected, considering the nature of the accident.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**-The value of the imports at the port of Sydney for the week ended the 7th August amounted to £231,241. The value of exports for the same period amounted to £95,395. S, M,

**PUBLIC SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS** -The following gentlemen have been appointed Inspectors of Public Schools, says the Gazette of Tuesday -Messrs. John S. Jones, William Dwyer, Gerald O'Byrne, John Huffer, John H Murray, Charles Bookine, Timothy Dwyer, and Walter F. Thompson. To be second class inspectors. Messrs Jeremiah McCormack, James M Credie, Luke G. Fmigao, William Henry Johnson, George Edward Long, James Dawson, and John L. Smith. Mr Alfred W. Sladen to be principal school attendance officer. The following appointments have also been made:-Messrs W E Kemp, to be architect for Public schools, J S .Wigram, draftsman , W F Briggs, assistant draftsman , H. M. Robinson, assistant draftsman, T. A. Parkes, clerk, C. J. Alderdice, clerk, J. White, cadet.

**EXPORT OF COAL AT NEWCASTLE**-The following is a re turn of the coal exported at Newcastle for the week ended Aug 13 Total, 20017 tons, of which 4865 tone were from A A Co ,7170 from Wallsend, 1642 from the Co operative Co 4160 from the Lambton 4054 from J and A Browne's collieries, 1183 from New Lambton, 2251 from the Newcastle Coal Co, 1486 from Ferndale. To Sydney 6170 tons were sent, 764 to Melbourne, 200 to Hobart Town, 482 to Wellington, 205 to Dunedin, 1900 to Lyttelton, 200 to Nelson, 733 to other New Zealand ports, 198 to Clarence River, 95 to other colonial ports, 3248 to San Francisco, 828 to Ile Ilo, 1183 to Hong Kong, 520 to Japan

## Living and Working on the Land in the Western Division of NSW 1860s-1950s

Seeking Information From RAHS Members and Friends

### LIVING AND WORKING ON THE LAND IN THE WESTERN DIVISION OF NSW 1860S-1950S



#### A THEMATIC STUDY AND SURVEY OF PLACES

Western New South Wales – sheep and shearing sheds, droughts and flooding rains, riverboats and artesian bores – these are iconic images from the days when Australia rode on the sheep's back. While wool is no longer so central to the Australian economy, the plains and rivers of Western NSW and the pastoral life retain a central place in the Australia psyche.

Yet places emblematic of pastoral history are surprisingly unrecognised and under-represented in heritage registers, at national, state and local levels.

The aim of this project is to identify items of State heritage significance in the Western Division directly related to pastoral, agricultural and other productive activity on the land (but not mining).

While these will include pastoral and agricultural complexes – homesteads and woolshed precincts, the widest range of places will be encompassed: wells, bores and irrigation, travelling stock routes and associated sites and Aboriginal camps, indeed any places, or landscapes, that represent living and working on the land.



The time-frame is 100 years, from the 1860s, when the Land Acts opened up the pastoral lands, through the take-up of selection blocks, and the establishment of Soldier Settlement Schemes, to the wool boom of the 1950s.



We are looking for suggestions, from landholders and their descendants, local historians, local government, and Aboriginal people and communities with ties to the pastoral industry, of places you know and love that should be considered.

Please contact us at the address below with your suggestions and ideas. We plan to visit a selection of places later in the year.

For the purposes of this study, the Western Division is limited to the Shires of Balranald, Brewarrina, Bourke, Central Darling, Cobar, Wentworth and the Unincorporated Area.

The project is funded by the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Heritage. The project team consists of Jeannette Hope, archaeologist/historian, Travis Gottschutzke, archaeologist/archivist, Jean Rice, conservation architect and Robert Lindsay, teacher/local historian.



24 June 2012

CONTACT: Jeannette Hope, River Junction Research, Wentworth NSW  
Email: riverjunction@inet.net.au Phone: 03 5027 3049

Photos: Summers Collection,  
Top Hut Station

# WOODVILLE - SCHOOL OF ARTS

## Special event: we're 200 years old!

**Woodville** has an amazing history and this year is very special: our friendly and beautiful little community is celebrating its 200th birthday.

Way back in 1812, a strapping 17-year-old John Tucker junior set up the first farm outside the penal colony of Newcastle on our rich fertile soils. At the time, Wonnarua and Worimi aboriginal people were still living their traditional lives here and convict parties supervised by soldiers were cutting huge red cedar trees from the area's extensive rainforests. Tucker chose the best site beside the river, now Albion Farm. It over-looked Lake Paterson (now drained), which was 8 kilometres long.

To celebrate this important landmark, we're organising a special event:

### **"Woodville: Living History" on the weekend of October 20/21.**

It will focus on the historic precinct of Albion Farm, Iona Public School and Woodville School of Arts. We're joining forces to put together a historical exhibition of photographs and memorabilia. Attractions will include: entertainment; history walk-and-talk; raffles; sausage sizzle; local food producer exhibits; a very special historic art auction; and a chance to buy Woodville's own heritage plants.

Most importantly, Phil and Sandy Redman have generously agreed to open their fabulous gardens of Albion Farm to the public, with proceeds going to the School of Arts. We'll keep you posted in more newsletters and on our new website (<http://artswoodville.webs.com>). Phone: Viv - **0414 294 339** or Lis - **4930 3440**

### **NOT TO BE MISSED - MARK IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**

**Do you have photos or documents that will help bring to life some of the many memorable moments of the Woodville community? Floods; fires; weddings; boats; the Olympic Torch; rallies; champion livestock; ceremonies, significant local people, picnics, a trophy, newspaper cuttings . . . any image or object that relates to Woodville and may have meaning.**

The School of Arts committee warmly invites you to share your memorabilia with us to go on display at Woodville's special bicentennial "Living History" exhibition in October. We'll also add them to the historic images and documents that we have begun to build up in a digital archive—not just for safe-keeping but to share openly on our new website.

In time, this archive should be invaluable to historians, to newcomers to the district and to descendants tracing the genealogy of family and friends from the area. We would really appreciate you sharing your precious photos and documents with us: we don't want to take them from you, simply copy them for the record.

You can scan them yourself and e-mail them to: **woodvillesoa@gmail.com**

Names, places and dates really help. Otherwise, committee members will happily scan or photograph your contributions in person: Please bring them along to the School of Arts , from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, 16 June.



**QUOTES:**The twentieth century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: the growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy – Alex Carey

Nationalism is both a vital medicine and a dangerous drug Geoffrey Blainey

A Man of Business is one who becomes possessed of other people’s money, without bringing himself under the power of the law Marcus Clarke

A man may be a tough, concentrated, successful money-maker and never contribute to his country anything more than a horrible example Robert Menzies

The best way to help the poor is not to become one of them Lang Hancock

**PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

They Were Here Vol 1	\$ 35
They Were Here Vol 2	\$ 40
War Memorials of the Port Stephens Area	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace History & Heritage	\$ 25
Marriages from the Gloucester Examiner & Raymond Terrace Examiner 1894 – 1926	\$ 15
Clearing Out Sales Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter 1895 – 1930	\$ 15
Soldiers & Memorials of Seaham	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Register	\$ 30
Cemetery Master Index	\$ 25
Landholders & Others	\$ 15
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Cemetery	\$ 5
Obituary Books Vol 1 1893 – 1915	
Vol 2 1916 – 1925	
Vol 3 1926 – 1930, 1951 & 1953	

Buy any two volumes of Obituaries for \$45 or all three publications for \$65. Purchased individually the Obituary Books cost \$25.

We also have available for sale a large selection of publications not produced by the Society but covering the local district among them are:

Seaham School of Arts	\$ 15
Short History of Raymond Terrace	\$ 5

All prices exclude postage

**SKETCHLEY COTTAGE MUSEUM** is located opposite Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace and is open to the public by appointment. Bus groups are most welcome, please contact the Secretary by email or ring Sketchley Cottage on 49871036 to arrange a date and time.

The Society’s **RESEARCH ROOMS** are located in the Port Stephens Library, cnr William & Port Stephens Streets, Raymond Terrace

Open Monday& Wednesday  
9.30 am to 2 pm - other times by appointment

Membership of the Society is open to everyone with an interest in Local and Family History.  
Joining Fee \$2.00 Concession \$15.00 Full Membership \$20.00  
Family \$25.00 Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at Senior Citizens Building, Raymond Terrace at 7.00 pm.