

Gloucester District Historical Society Inc

Bi Monthly NEWSLETTER No 386

October 2019



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Movie Afternoons. Following the success of “Rangle River”, the first Saturday of the month is being allocated to show an old movie of local significance. This will be shown at 12.30pm for the entry price to Museum (\$5) during Saturday opening time. The October showing will be “The Summer of the 17th. Doll starring Anne Baxter who lived at Giro for four years in the early sixties, Angela Lansbury, Ernest Borgnine and others of the era.
Other movies are being sourced for the following months.

Have a browse: The web site has been updated and is much more easily navigated. Thank you Linda it is great.

Dates for your Diary:

October 30th. 2019. MidCoast Heritage Group Meeting in the Archive Centre at 10.am

October 5th. 2019 at 12.30pm: Movie “Summer of 17th. Doll” with Anne Baxter

October 21st. 2019 at 2pm. Meeting November 2nd. 2019 at 12.30pm Movie TBA

November 18th. 2019 at 2pm. Meeting

December 7th. 2019 at 12.30pm Movie TBA

President’s Report – Jenny Richards

Thank you for putting your faith in me to keep the ship afloat so to speak. As you know I am new in this position within the society and will try my best to keep all running smoothly with heaps of help from the Committee and members. I think we will have a fun and profitable year and I look forward to working with the 2019/20 Committee. I would like to thank the outgoing committee for a great 2018/19, especially Pam who kept us on an even keel and in the black. I hope this year will be a happy time for us. Bus numbers remain a bit of a worry, with some advertising maybe we can get a few more through the Museum. The town in general is finding bus numbers are down. We hope to have the picture rail up in Archive Centre and photos hung and Museum photos sorted and up on the walls shortly. The MidCoast Heritage Group meeting on Wednesday 30th. October will give us a chance to let other members of the Group, many being Historical Societies, know what great resources we have in our Archive Centre

A lovely local story (written in 2010).

In the summer of 1942 a contingent of Army vehicles attached to the 1st. Australian Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers passed through Gloucester on their trek north. On the outskirts of town a halt was called for a snack of bully beef and biscuits. Two local lads were members of this squadron, eventually it was noticed one lanky soldier named Norm was missing, apparently to visit his family who owned a local Bakery. Shortly after he returned with a cardboard box full of meat pies which were gratefully accepted and devoured by the troops. A welcome change from beef and biscuits. As years passed on, this particular Field Squadron of Engineers held an annual reunion at Nambucca Heads. As the writer of this story who attended these get-togethers recalls that whenever Gloucester is mentioned the story of Hebblewhite’s Gloucester Pie is a favourite talking point, still in the minds of Diggers after 68 years.

The Sleeping Giant

I found this “slide” from the 1960’s. Thought you may enjoy a slightly different perspective of our “Giant”. It would have been taken from Barrington West Rd. just before the junction with Barrington East Road.



The Gloucester Bucketts written by Valentine Thomas O’Connel in 1932

They stand out to the westward
Grim sentinels of the town,
Like to an Ancient fortress
What mystic in their frown?

Why did nature build them?
Mere mortal man, may ask,
Or are they uncompleted.
Did nature shirk her task?

Perhaps they were meant a stairway,
From earth up to the sky
But like the tower of Babel,
Unfinished they must lie.

During the 1930’s Mr John Saxby and a metallurgical chemist Valentine O’Connel, were cyaniding gold from the old failings at Copeland. Val being a bit of a poet penned the above lines about the Bucketts. The Bucketts were featured in an old movie in 1920’s –“The Hills of Hate”, taken from E.V Tim’s novel of the same name. The villain was thrown over the high portion of the Bucketts. Eric Payton of Cobark and others participated in the making of the movie. This information was supplied by Mr.C Ellis of Taree, late of Bowman for Newsletter 134 in 1988. (We will have to see if this movie can be sourced for one of the movie afternoons)

Wards River Cemetery.

Buried History

Gerald McCalden

The existence of a Public Cemetery at Wards River is one of the local history projects which members of the Society are currently pursuing. The first reference which has been found to such a Cemetery is in the Dungog Chronicle in late August 1900. The Gloucester Advocate had then yet to be established, but the Chronicle frequently gave good news coverage of the area to the south of the future town.

It was reported that the usual meeting of the Wards River and Johnsons Creek Progress Committee had been held recently, with a good attendance, and that one of the items on the agenda had been the report of the sub-committee investigating a site for a public cemetery. They had identified a site which was on AA Company land, and it was decided to write to the Minister of Lands requesting a grant of land for that purpose.

In June the following year Mr Price, the local MLA, advised that the (government ?) surveyor had inspected the selected site, and that the matter would receive attention. And indeed it did in due course, because on the 16th of January 1904 the Government Gazette advised that an area of 2 acres had been dedicated as a general Cemetery at Wards River. The maps cited in the original Gazettal have yet to be located, but there are strong grounds for believing that the site is situated about 200 metres down Burtons Rd on the right hand side. If so, no traces now remain of its former status.

It should be noted that, in the intervening period, in late November 1903 to be exact, the AA Co. had sold out its Gloucester Run, being that part of its holding stretching from Coal Creek up to the Manning, to the newly established Gloucester Estate Company. The GEC proceeded rapidly to subdivide the land into farming allotments, and it was from that time that the town of Gloucester first began to expand. However, this sale would not have affected the Wards River cemetery site.

In April 1904 the Government Gazette advised that the Right Reverend James Murray DD; the Reverend James Charles Meagher; and the Messrs Andrew Weismantel, Thomas Higgins, and (another?) had been appointed as Trustees of that portion of the Wards River Cemetery "set apart" for the repose of the Roman Catholic faithful, and shortly after Trustees were nominated for the sections allocated to Presbyterian Dissenters, and to Unsectarians.

Local folk memory recalls that a small number of burials, possibly of the order of five or six, took place in the cemetery, but no records have been found. Nor, as yet, has any notice of discontinuation of usage as a Public Cemetery been sighted. Despite its having been Officially Gazetted, the present MidCoast Council unhelpfully denies any knowledge of the cemetery's existence.

Research is continuing, and if you feel you can contribute in any way please contact either Effie Crawley or Gerald McCalden at the Museum.

Footnote: Two acres was a rather small area for a public cemetery, but it may have been deemed sufficient for the population of Wards River. There was a standard eight acre template prescribed by the Government for general cemeteries, with specific areas allocated to each recognized religious denomination, and also a section for rationalists. The reference to trustee appointments above suggests that this model may have been followed in the case of Wards River, but as a scaled down version.

MONTHLY ROSTER OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Jenny Gail	1 Effie Trish Dianne Gail		3 Jenny Gerald Gail		4 Liz Jess/Norm B MOVIE@ 12.30
	NO	8 Jenny Gerald Dianne Gail		10 Effie Jess Burley Gail		12 Jenny Marie Laurie
	Jenny Gail	15 Anne Madge Marylyn Dianne Gail		17 Gerald Jane Gail		19 Jenny Gerald
	Jenny Gail MEETING 2.00pm	22 Pam Sue Dianne Gail		24 Pam Margie H Gail Donna		26 Jane ?
	28 Jenny Gail	29 ? Dianne Gail	30 Meeting Midcoast heritage Group 10am I Archive centre	31 ? Gail		

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

Saturdays – 10am-2pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10.30am-1.30pm

MONTHLY ROSTER NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Liz Jess/NormB TALL TIMBERS Movie
	4 Jenny Gail	5 Effie Trish Gail Dianne		7 Jenny Gerald Gail		9 Jenny Marie L
	11 Jenny Gail	12 Jenny Gerald Gail Dianne		14 Effie Jess Gail		16 Jenny Gerald
	18 Jenny Gail MEETING	19 Anne Madge Marilyn Gail Dianne		21 Gerald Jane Gail		23 Jane ?
	25 Jenny Gail	26 Pam Sue Dianne Gail		28 Pam Margie H Donna Gail		30 ? ?

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