

## **New “Stories from the Past” on Bucketts Radio**

When the Gloucester District Historical Society was invited to prepare a series of 10-minute programmes to be broadcast as part of the celebration of Bucketts Radio's increased broadcast reach through the installation of the new transmitter at Kia Ora Lookout, a small group of members decided to take up the offer. Recordings made by our well-known local Historian, Robin Budge, and former President, Jim Hoggett, have been on air for many years now, and they are a hard act to follow.

We now have 14 episodes ready for air with more to follow. The story of John Macarthur's role in the Australian Agricultural Company, which was responsible for the first settlement in the Gloucester area, was told by Lyn Stewart. Margie Higgins prepared a brief history of the Higgins family, and Janice Sansom wrote and related stories of Wards River, where she grew up. The remaining episodes were prepared by Patricia McCalden, drawing on information from the Gloucester Museum Archive and newspaper articles online on Trove, the National Library website.

We were lucky to persuade Rod Burrows to relate the stories for us, and you will hear Scott Hoy's voice in one of them.

“Stories from the Past” covers varying episodes in our history, and some of the challenges that the residents of the Gloucester district had to deal with. How do you get your goods to the market in Sydney and Newcastle when the main road is a bush track? How do you get *yourself* there? What happened to St Clements - Gloucester's beautiful first Church? What if you break your leg out in the bush and the hospital is 97 kilometres away with flooded rivers to cross, and a hill that's too dangerous to drive over? Then there's the unsolved case of the baker's wife who vanished from their home in Gloucester.

Broadcasting is planned to begin on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Each episode will be repeated four times in that week, so you will have an opportunity to listen again if you wish. The Broadcasting times will be as follows: Monday 7:45am, Wednesday 6:45pm, Friday 11:45am, Sunday 9:45am.

A big thank you to those who have contributed to this project, and to Shayne Holstein from Bucketts Radio for giving us the opportunity to carry it through. We hope you enjoy travelling back in time by tuning in to FM104.1.

Patricia McCalden, 18/08/2023