

AROUND THE GROUNDS

Welfare

Margaret Pearce, Snr Vice-President and Publicity Officer, is recovering well and we look forward to seeing her soon. We've missed you Margaret so hope you're 'back on deck' before much longer.

Street Stall

Please continue de-cluttering and give us your unwanted items for our Street Stall in October. Any unwanted items of bric-a-brac, books, CDs, DVDs, plants and so on can be left at the museum and there is room in our Storeroom 2 to keep them for the Stall. We want to repeat the successful Street Stall that we had last year!

History Week

Member Tracey Dillon is doing a lot of work in Storeroom 1. She has located quite a few wedding dresses and other items which will feature in our display for History Week "***Here Comes the Bride!***" (see *Program 2012*).

Fairview Homestead Excursion - June 10th

We had an early start at 8.15 from HK Cottage when a few of us joined David Benwell and Kate Rowland on an excursion to *Fairview Homestead*. David kindly drove the mini bus to Central Mangrove Community Hall where we joined a convoy down to Dubbo Gully and *Fairview*. This is the old homestead which is under threat of demolition. It has been sadly neglected by Gosford City Council and can only be viewed from outside now. Dubbo Gully is a lovely historic area, the site of some of the earliest settlements in the Central Coast and, through a convict trail, linking with the Great North Road. This was the gateway for travel from Sydney to the Coast. Prior to roads and railways, the only way to the central coast was via the Great North Road and Simpson's Track into Ten Mile hollow where *Fairview* stands. *Fairview* often provided accommodation and sustenance to weary travellers on their way through the valley. The homestead is near to the site of St. Thomas' Church and its historic cemetery, with graves dating back to 1851. We called in to view the cemetery and were pleased to see how well the dedicated bunch of volunteers look after it.

After a sausage sizzle, and some nice sweets supplied by Ingrid, David showed us a couple of remaining sections of the Great North Road and took us for a lovely drive down Bumble Hill and through Yarramalong and Dooralong Valleys. Thank you David and Kate for a nice interesting day.



Fairview Homestead – BWHS Tour June 10, 2012



The road down to Dubbo Gully - BWHS Tour June 10, 2012

Newcastle Museum Visit

A group of us went by train to Newcastle Museum on Tuesday, June 19th. The museum is located in the former heritage-listed Honeysuckle Railway Workshops that were such a big part of Newcastle life for many years.

We toured around the various exhibits of *Work and Play*, *Science and Mining* in the museum and then went to a sound and light show, *Fire and Earth*, about the two former major industries in Newcastle. The show demonstrated some of the massive machinery, the hard work involved in the Steelmaking industry and we experienced the associated noise, heat and smells. I think we all came away with a great deal of admiration for the men who had worked in those industries.

After lunch at the museum we visited a nearby Antique Store and saw loads of furniture and artefacts. All very interesting! Then a short walk to Civic Train station and home. A most enjoyable day and it cost less than \$15 for the day! Can't do much better than that!

Museum Duty

Please make sure that if you suddenly find that you can't do your museum duty you contact Edith or Margaret or another Committee Member to advise of this. **It only takes a phone call!**

Coach Bookings

We had a few bookings in May and June but things have quietened down in July. Let's hope we get some more bookings soon,

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| <i>July</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>12.00</i> | <i>Widden Group Hornsby</i> | <i>10 visitors Urn</i> |
| <i>August</i> | <i>15</i> | <i>2.00-2.15</i> | <i>Ryde Eastwood Snrs</i> | <i>40 seniors</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>2.00</i> | <i>Terranova Tours</i> | <i>40 visitors</i> |
| <i>October</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>2.00</i> | <i>Terranova Tours</i> | <i>40 visitors</i> |
| <i>"</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>10.00</i> | <i>McMasters Beach</i> | <i>45 visitors by car pool – guide and urn required</i> |
| <i>"</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>2.15</i> | <i>Green's Coaches</i> | <i>40 seniors</i> |
| <i>"</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>11.45</i> | <i>Cardwell Coaches</i> | <i>30 visitors</i> |

(See photos of *Fairview* excursion and other activities on our Notice Board)

COMING EVENTS**Winter Gathering – July 17**

1.00 – Welcome - then Lunch of **Soup and Rolls** and our **Guest Speaker, Angela Allan, will be here about 1.30-2.00**. Angela is from Ireland, married to Norman whom many members have no doubt met. Angela and Norman have been in Australia for about 3 ½ years, living here on the Central Coast. Angela has a wonderful Guide Dog, Hamish, and will be telling us about her experiences with him and Guide Dogs generally. We're sure you will find this very entertaining.

PROGRAM 2012

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| July 17 | 1.00 Winter Gathering – Welcome then Soup and Rolls Lunch followed by Guest Speaker, Angela Allan about 1.30-2.00. |
| August | (tba) Outing/Bus Trip , probably to Hyde Park Barracks |
| Early September | Start on History Week Display - dismantling of current display, selection, erecting new display |
| September 8 | Beach Farm French Market |
| September 8-16 | History Week – Theme : Threads – History and meaning of Clothes/Fashion : “Here Comes the Bride!” |
| October 26 | Street Stall – Stall No. 2 William St Plaza |
| | (tba) Musical Afternoon |
| November | (tba) Outing/Bus Trip |
| | (tba) Bush Poets |
| | Spring Gathering |
| December 10 | Christmas/Birthday Gathering- HK Grounds More details later |

(Much of the information in the following article is taken from a publication by the Central Coast Family History Group, ***St. Thomas' Church of England : Upper Mangrove Creek***)

“Dubbo Valley, (Upper Mangrove Creek or Island Flat) is one of the best-kept secrets on the Central Coast, being a pristine area surrounded by rocky mountains and heavily wooded hills. The fresh water Mangrove Creek flows through this picture-perfect setting. *Fairview* Homestead is near to the very historic St Thomas' cemetery with graves dating back to 1851. Opposite the cemetery is the site of the former St Thomas' Church which was destroyed by bushfire in 2002.

The first church was being used in the 1850s by the Rev. Alfred Glennie. The second church was built in the late 1890s or early 1900s. From the early 1840s to late 1940s it seems Upper Mangrove was a busy little community, although other reports have a few people living there much earlier than this.

The pioneers who didn't make their way through Ten Mile Hollow from Wisemans Ferry mostly came up the river and creeks by boat. They would have been looking for timber, land and good water. As they cleared the land the trees were cut to split slabs for the walls of buildings. Forest Oak was a favourite for roof shingles but on less important buildings stringy bark was widely used.

Fences at first were all made with posts and rails which were very strong and lasted for years but they were very labour intensive and gradually were replaced with post and wire fences.

The river was very important in the early days as there were very few adequate roads. Sawmills were dotted in the gullies leading to Mangrove creek and much of the timber sawn in those days was shipped down the river by boat. Boats fitted out as grocery, butcher and drapery shops made regular trips up and down the Hawkesbury river and Mangrove creek.

People earned a living cutting shingles, wheel spokes, stripping wattle bark for tanning leather, burning shell deposits to make lime, as well as growing crops and raising pigs, sheep and cattle. In later years railway sleepers, turpentine poles (for wharf poles) and other timber all found its way down the creek.

The little St Thomas' cemetery still stands on the side of the hill adjacent to Island Flat although the church house, which had doubled

as a part-time school for many years, has given up to old age and termites and collapsed soon after a gale. The oldest grave is that of Esther Park who died in 1851.

The graveyard was very well looked after in the old days but as people moved away it was allowed to go wild, the fence fell down, cattle roamed through breaking headstones, and scrub took over. A new interest was taken in the valley by Council when it was taken over as a water catchment area. A new post and rail fence was built, broken headstones were restored, trees planted as well as many hundreds of bulbs. ...”

The following extracts are from an article written by Keith Paull, (Family History Group) for Brisbane Water Historical Society in September 1990.

“ ... work was carried out in the tiny St Thomas’ Church of England Cemetery, Upper Mangrove creek. In 1985 a new post and rail fence was erected to replace one which had been built before the turn of the century. A boulder with commemorative plaque “In Memory of the Pioneers of Mangrove Creek” has also been placed near the stile through the post and rail fence.

St Thomas’ church, once a proud little building in the heart of a hard-working community, has helped to hold the valley people together but time, weather, old age and termites combined with a windstorm some years ago, rendered the church to little more than a heap of timber and rusted roofing iron.

A beautiful handmade and embroidered Altar Cloth was used until there were no longer services in the church. The remaining Prayer Books and the Altar Cloth are now used in services at St. Albans on the Macdonald River.”

References:

St. Thomas’ Church of England : Upper Mangrove Creek. –Gosford, NSW : Central Coast Family History Group Inc., 1997

(Copies of this publication are for sale in the Bookshop at Henry Kendall Cottage and Historical Museum)

The Saving of Fairview : Central Coast Heritage Committee, Friends of Fairview. – Community Environment Network (Internet), 2008