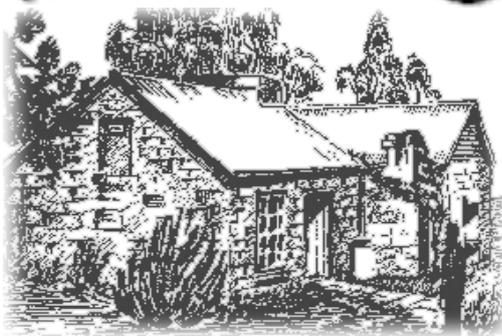


# COORANBEAN COURIER



RED COW INN COORANBEAN  
HENRY KENDALL COTTAGE  
WEST GOSFORD CIRCA 1836

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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**BRISBANE WATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

Founded 1950

**Henry Kendall Cottage and Historical Museum**

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society -  
Museums Australia-Museum and Galleries Foundation-National Trust

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**Supported by Gosford RSL Leisure Living**

## AROUND THE GROUNDS

### ***Heritage Festival***

BWHS participated in the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Festival, the theme of which was ***“Amazing Stories: innovation and invention”***.

We featured the story of Garnet Adcock and his involvement in Gosford's citrus industry. This is a intriguing story about the second owner of Henry Kendall Cottage, with our new Display portraying this. Our display includes a copy of Garnet Adcock's scrapbook, and a copy of his Diary, as well as items relating to the Citrus Industry generally, the history of Jusfrute, and other pioneers of the once-thriving Citrus Industry on the Central Coast.

We were delighted to welcome about forty visitors to our Open Day on April 18<sup>th</sup> despite the heavy rain experienced on Tuesday and Wednesday. We're very grateful to Geoff Potter, Local Studies Librarian at Gosford City Library, for his assistance, the loan of material for our display and for copies of some great photographs. □

The folk from Alison Homestead were our guests and we heard from Phillip Morley, President of Wyong Historical Society, Geoff Potter, and Local Historian, Kay Williams. Phillip related some of the wonderful history of the Wyong area and Wyong Historical Society. He also told us about the good progress Alison Homestead is making in recovering from the disastrous fire in December. We wish them all the best.

Geoff Potter gave us some interesting facts, told good stories and showed some great photos relating to the early pioneers of the Citrus Industry on the Central Coast.

Kay Williams also gave an interesting talk about the early pioneers and their properties in the Hawkesbury area of Gosford. It was a fascinating and enjoyable day.

A big Thank You to our Curator, Kreenah, and those members involved in mounting our display, cleaning up and rearranging parts of the one in the Slab Shed, and for the delicious Afternoon Tea.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, to close the Heritage Festival, there was another Open Day, with two interesting guest speakers, Local Historians Gwen Dundon and Elaine Fry, a Sausage Sizzle and other delectable food.. It was another entertaining day, with the opportunity to meet Gwen and Elaine, join in the conversation and ask questions. Just a gold coin admission again. Big thanks to members for their assistance.

## AROUND THE GROUNDS (cont'd)

### **2012 Program**

Check out our coming events. The next big item is our .....

### **WORKING BEE!!!**

Sadly everything is getting dusty again! There is a Working Bee scheduled for Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 to whenever. We aim to –

- Tidy up and vacuum Storeroom 1 (museum)
- Tidy up and vacuum Archives Room
- Dust and vacuum Cottage kitchen
- Dust and vacuum Wash-house

We'll be starting about 9.00-9.30 but please try to come, even for just an hour or two, at whatever time suits you. **Many hands make light work! Free Pizza for lunch, free tea, coffee & biscuits all day.**

### **Street Stall**

Items are being collected now for our Street Stall in October. After our very successful Street Stall in October 2011 we know that the earlier we start collecting items the better

We had a large collection of bric-a-brac, books, CDs, DVDs, plants and so on and we raised quite a bit. **So let's do it again!**

### **Nostalgia Day**

Friends of Gosford Regional Gallery held a Nostalgia Day on Sunday, April 22 in which we were invited to participate. Our display included Artifacts, Old Photographs and Sub-Division Plans as well as our monographs to sell. Edith, Shirley, Bob and Ingrid participated and it was a well-attended and enjoyable day.

### **Bunnings BBQ**

This was held on Sunday, April 22 too and thanks to Kate Rowland, David Benwell, Edith, Margaret and Ingrid for their participation. This day was also well attended and \$747 was raised.

**Duty Members**

Please make sure that if you suddenly find that you can't do your museum duty please contact Margaret (in charge of the Roster) or another Committee Member to advise of this. **It only takes a phone call!** We had a situation recently when a duty member had not advised Margaret or anyone else of her impending absence and it caused quite a few problems. Fortunately a committee member stepped in to help but it could have been avoided.

**COMING EVENTS - PROGRAM 2012**

- MAY 19 9.30 Working Bee**  
Vacuum & Tidy Storeroom 1 (Museum),  
Finish Vacuuming Slab Shed, Vacuum Wash-house,  
Cottage Kitchen : Archives Room  
*Lunch of Pizza, Salads*
- JUNE 19 Outing to Newcastle Museum** (watch for details)
- JULY 17 1.00 Winter Gathering** – Soup and Rolls Lunch followed  
by Guest Speaker ... TBA
- AUGUST TBA Outing/Bus Trip** to ... TBA
- Start on History Week Display**  
-selection, dismantling of current display, erecting etc
- SEPTEMBER 8-16 History Week**  
– **Theme : Threads** – History and meaning of  
Clothes/Fashion  
**Spring Gathering**
- OCTOBER 26 Street Stall – Stall No. 2 William St Plaza**
- TBA Musical Afternoon**
- NOVEMBER TBA Outing/Bus Trip**
- TBA Bush Poets**
- DECEMBER TBA Christmas/Birthday Gathering-** HK Grounds

Other Activities – Possible other Stalls etc (such as Beach Farm in Sept)

*Continued here is the interesting Paper presented at a Society meeting by Harold Robinson, a son of Charles Robinson, who established 'Woodlands' a large country home with a mixed orchard of citrus and other fruits. The 'mountain area' referred to is presumably the Mangrove Mountain area. The 'eighties' and 'nineties' would be the 1880s and 1890s. Good reading!*

## **PIONEERING OF THE CITRUS INDUSTRY IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA**

By H S Robinson

### **(continued)**

While on a more or less personal note, it may be of interest to members of the Society, to refer to the name of Horace Blackett, who then owned what is now Mr J Studds' property, he was a brother of the well known city Architect, who, if I remember rightly, designed the Berrima gaol and several important buildings in Sydney, and I have heard, the old Church at East Gosford.

As will be seen, no plantings on a commercial scale had begun, and no citrus fruits tried out, although seedling Parramatta oranges were to be found in home orchards around Brisbane Water.

The first plantings of these fruits at Somersby was made by my father Charles Robinson at Woodlands towards the end of 1888 when approximately fifteen acres were set out and consisted of Parramatta, Emperor Mandarins and Lemons. This was the first commercial orchard in the district, its success led to a general planting of citrus on the Mountain, and the gradual settlement in the district.

Until this period, there were only two selections between Somersby and Mangrove Creek, the first being that occupied by Mr Henry Parsons, one time storekeeper at Gosford, and afterwards part time schoolmaster at Somersby and Ourimbah Creek Schools, the other about twenty miles out.

It was not until the arrival of Mr Walter Black, about 1908, 20 years later that settlement of the Peats Ridge, Mangrove Mountain and Kulnura areas began in earnest. Many from the city, and old growers from the Galston and Dural districts taking up holdings, notable among these being the Moores, Roughleys, Gallards, Cowlshaws and Kelynacks to mention a few.

Messrs Sam Moore, Oscar Brooks and Tom Hunter were the first three Fruit Inspectors appointed by the Agricultural Department when the regulations in regard to fruit growing came into force.

## Pioneering of the Citrus Area in the Mountain Area

Another early settler, a Manxman, whose name eludes me, had a small selection on Mooney Creek, this was alongside the present bridge on the main road to Sydney, the site is now used as a camping area, his planting consisted of from twenty to thirty trees, and a few vegetables. This settler placed his weekly produce in a rowing boat, drifted with the outgoing tide to Brooklyn, sold his wares, stocked up with fresh supplies and with the incoming tide, began his homeward way.

Owing to ill health, I spent breaks from school, and the school vacations on the farm, during these periods I gained an insight into the workings of an orchard, which stood me in good stead when I took over control of Woodlands about 1900.

Apples then were by far the largest planting all of which were grafted on Northern Spy Stocks, the original block of these trees were planted on the advice of the Fruit Expert (Mr Benson). To make sure some of his recommendations would prove suitable, about 36 rows were planted, each row to a different variety, these under any system of marketing would be insufficient to put up a decent pack, so were rooted out. I very much doubt if any of the present day Apple growers have even heard the names of many of the varieties, for none of them are grown today.

These, and other plantings such as Allsops, Carrington, Jonathon and Rome Beauty together with a bed of over 100 trial varieties of Apples worked on Paradise Stock, about 30 odd acres in all, these disappeared a few years after my taking over the management of Woodlands, and were planted to citrus. An experimental lot of citrus were adjoining the apple trials, these too were uprooted and the block planted with Navels.

At this period, it was decided to confine all future plantings to oranges, Spot had made the growing of Emperor Mandarins a doubtful proposition, and the handling of large crops of Passionfruit together with three varieties of citrus all in full bearing, more than we were able to cope with.

Gradually the Passions, Lemons and Mandarins went by the board, then the original planting of Parramatta, this enabled us to concentrate on two varieties, Navels and Valencias.

Many in this district thought in planting Citrus my father had qualified for the first vacancy in Callan Park and about 1896, when the first lot of Passions were planted, a fruit that had never before been commercially grown or marketed, there was no hope for him whatever, however for many years the vines carried excellent crops, and were free from Spot and Bullet.

### Pioneering of the Citrus Area in the Mountain Area

In one year alone these vines produced a crop which averaged a price of Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds per acre, I can assure you, it was not very long before every grower on the mountain was trying to get in at the front door. When these vines were rooted out, the ground was planted to Emperor Mandarins which grew luxuriantly and produced prolific crops, which was shortly after Mr Black's arrival in the district, and it was these crops that induced the Galston and Dural growers to settle on the Mountain.

Extensive plantings of citrus began about this period ; newcomers planting Passions between their citrus and others increased their areas.

Throughout the years both Woodlands and Palotta had been gradually increasing their areas and by 1916 the combined plantings exceeded 100 acres but owing to about difficulties about 1920, a considerable portion of Woodlands planting was rooted out and put down to pasture while other blocks of trees were disposed of.

Some of you know what hungry looking, uninviting country the Mountain looks but let me say as one who knows it, that with proper management it will produce citrus fruit of quality, better than any other I have seen elsewhere and that does not exclude the Sunkist oranges of California. An old saying that life is what you make of it applied equally to the soil and how you handle it.

Conditions in the citrus industry have altered during the past 20 to 30 years, the grower has been relieved of packing his own fruit, and of its transport to market, the tractor and the power spray have reduced his working time, enabling him to plant up far larger areas, the drudgery of earlier years has passed, this has been followed by the everyday comforts of the home, refrigerators, wireless, telephone, daily mail and other amenities which enable one to keep in touch with the outside world, while the motor car gives one freedom and relaxation from the confines of the farm, however they do not overcome the essentials that make for success.

Before concluding my remarks I would remind you that the Department of Agriculture in those days was a very small affair, specialization was unthought of, we had one expert who was expected to know everything from propagation to the marketing of pineapples to stone fruits, of dehydration, canning, irrigation, fumigation and spraying, the impossible was expected of him...

*CONTINUED IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF 'COORANBEAN COURIER'.*