



**THE JOURNAL OF  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED**

**MUSEUM NEWS**



A very successful project to encourage locals to grow their own Paterson River Orange Tree will be repeated next season to cater for those who missed out this year. Our appreciation to Paterson Post Master Peter Swain for use of his Post Office. (Fruit was taken from the Paterson River Orange Tree growing in the Museum's grounds)

Photo: Val Anderson

THE AIM OF THE PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM  
IS TO HOLD ITEMS IN TRUST  
FOR THE PATERSON COMMUNITY  
THE HUNTER VALLEY AND AUSTRALIA

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*Affiliated with:*

**Royal Australian Historical Society**

**Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter**

**RURAL MUSEUMS**

are a reflection of their community's identity

**PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2006**

**AFFILIATED** with Royal Australian Historical Society Inc. and Museums Australia Inc.

**PRESIDENT:** Cameron Archer

**SECRETARY:** Pauline Clements

**TREASURER:** Shirley Threlfo

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**JOURNAL:** Pauline Clements, Val Anderson & Shirley Threlfo

**MUSEUM CURATORS:** Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Bill Anderson

**RECORDER:** Mabs Keppie and Shirley Threlfo

**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Cameron Archer

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:** P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson, R Stevenson.

**PATRONS**

Mr M Morris A M

Mr R Baldwin MP

Mr G Souris MP

Mr G Wall

Mr J Thompson

**MEETINGS:** First Thursday of each month—7.30 pm at the Paterson Court House Museum.  
(Recess December/January)

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Annual subscriptions due February each year. \$5 Single. \$10. Family.



- The completion of the restoration on the Hearse Shed in John Tucker Park will commence this month when bricklayer Ray Rumbel (who has been touring Australia) is back on the job.
- Further security of the museum building has also commenced. Bill Anderson is placing internal mesh to vulnerable windows.
- P.H.S. extends a warm welcome to new members Ian and Maxine Weir. Ian will assist with museum security.
- Once again, the RAHS has given the society valuable financial support of \$400.00 from funds available from Arts NSW towards Kay Ingle's publication – "John Powell – Orange Grove."
- Member Alan Dunlop, veteran car enthusiast, has been buying again – this time it's a Rolls Royce! This vehicle was formerly owned by the Alexanders of Tocal.
- Combined member research has commenced on the area around the Old Punt entry at the Paterson/Woodville Bridge and Fig Tree site at the entrance to Paterson.
- Member Lesley Gent will present the 2008 Heritage Address – her subject will be "George Priestley of Gostwyck."



**REMAINS OF GOVERNMENT WHARF, PATERSON**

Photo: Margaret Dent - 1999

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**GERMAN IMMIGRATION TO THE HUNTER  
IN THE MID 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY – THE TRAPPEL  
FAMILY FROM ELTVILLE AM MID RHINE**

In 1850 Johann & Elisabeth Mary Trappel from Eltville then in the Duchy of Nassau, Germany, and without children were recruited as assisted German immigrants under a scheme created by Wilhem Kirchner, Consul for Hamburg, for the purpose of supplying farm labourers to Landholders in the Colony of NSW. Reference to this Scheme is contained in the “Journal of Hunter Valley History” Vol. 2 No. 1 – 1986 at Pages 1 – 29.

The Trappels travelled via the Rhine River to Hamburg (about 400 Kms) and boarded a Kirchner chartered ship, the *San Francisco* with 127 other passengers – of the 42 families on board 13 gave their town of origin as Eltville. This ship crossed the English Channel to London and sailed via Cape Town and arrived in Sydney Town on 31 March 1852; then by coastal steamer to Newcastle and up the Hunter River to Morpeth; and probably to Paterson by river transport or by bullock-drawn cart.

They first gained employment on a 4000 acres property owned by Robert Logan at Campsie near the junction of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers. Whilst living there three children were born to the German born “Alien” couple:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Son - **JOHN** (Jnr) on 25-3-1855 – married Mary Killner with issue of 10 children. He died aged 41 yrs in 1896 and she in 1935;
- Daughter - **MARY** on 18-11-1857 but died at 5 yrs from Diphtheria on 27-7-1862;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Son - **GEORGE** on 26-9-1859 – birth registered at Paterson Court House Registry – married Annie Mary Schafer with 13 children (3 died during infancy). He died in 1930 and she in 1950.

They lived there until they received their land grant at Wallaroo Creek (Woerden) in 1866. Johann (John) aged 59 years received a Certificate of Naturalization on 7 September 1871 and swore his Oath of Allegiance as a British subject on 9 November 1871 at Paterson before JPs Cory and Frankland. As a consequence he obtained final possession of the deeds to his grant of land on 14 November 1872. Further adjacent lands were acquired and the extended families owned and operated dairy farms on those lands at Woerden and the lower Hunter region.

4<sup>th</sup> Generation great grandson, Geoffrey Roland Brown born 1937 at West Maitland, was appointed Stipendiary/Local Court Magistrate Taree District 1978-82, East Maitland District including Paterson/Dungog 1982-87 and Newcastle and Wallsend 1987-97. His brother Christopher Charles Brown born 1944 at Maitland was appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions and Registrar at Dungog 1966-1968.

“The Trappel Story from Germany to Australia” was researched by Ruth Trappel and Geoff Brown with assistance from family members including our German cousins located by Geoff in Eltville am Rhine during 1985.



Mrs Dunning of Paterson, has returned home after seeing Bride, her younger daughter, settled in her new life. Bride has entered the O.L.S.H.Convent at Bowral.

Mrs L. Clements and her baby daughters of Paterson, have returned home after a pleasant holiday in Sydney.

*Maitland Mercury*, Thursday 18 December 1930 – Lesley Gent



**SPLENDID ORANGERIES**

A citrus fruit expert who recently visited the Paterson and Allyn Rivers district expressed the opinion that in no place in Australia was the citrus orchardist more favoured climatically and geologically than in the beautiful hill country which forms the watershed of the two rivers and this view is shared by Inspector Smith of the Department of Agriculture, who has given material assistance to growers, during the past five or six years.

The growers have learned a great deal, but they have much more to learn before their orangeries reach that status which has long since been attained by the orchardist of the Western States of America where nothing is left to chance, as is too much the case in these districts. The expert is always faced with the conservative traditions of the past, when he urges the adoption of modern methods, either in the orchard or in the preparation for markets. What was good enough for the father should certainly be of benefit to the son. Some men will not realise that, if by crude methods a certain income can be assured, the adoption of experts' ideas must handsomely increase that income. There are others, brainier fellows who move with the times, and whose bank balances increase accordingly. Inspector Smith urged the grading of oranges, lemons, mandarins, etc., and showed that better prices would be assured for the better class of fruit, with a large increase on the average. A few adopted the system; others followed in their wake, and now only a few old conservatives cling to the old method. Grading is an absolute essential in the fruit market and it pays.

The district is singularly free from pests that worry the lives of citrus men in other parts of the State.

The question of distribution is one that exercises the minds of those who look to the Paterson and Allyn district as the source of the citrus fruit supply of the future for the Maitland and Newcastle districts. Some of the growers complain that they are in the hands of the middleman and sometimes of a series of middlemen, some of whom make more out of a deal than the producer. In this respect another lesson might be taken from America, where co-operative selling and distribution has been reduced to an art. The grower notifies his association that his crop is ready for the market, and the association, which has its own consumers, sends the fruit direct to them. The grower receives a high market rate for his fruit, backed up by a solid dividend annually from his association. Under present conditions the grower may sell his crop as it stands, the buyer taking all risks or he sends direct to Maitland, Newcastle, or Sydney agents, or he sells through the Paterson weekly market in bulk or by the case. Even granting that the middle man makes much out of the deal in these cases, there can be no denial of the fact that the orange growers have been doing well, and that followed on methodical lines the industry is a profitable one with a minimum of labour under ordinary conditions.

*Newcastle Morning Herald* 3 August 1917 – Cynthia Hunter

**CITRUS ORCHARDS IN PATERSON AREA (over the years) 2001**

Bill Keppie

**PATERSON RIVER SEEDLING ORANGE**

John Tucker (Fred Whybin, Keith Corner)

William Tucker

Albert Dennis

Dick Auckett

Walter Keppie

Perce Keppie

Frank O'Connor

**PATERSON RIVER SEEDLING MANDARINS**

Bert Fry (Stan Fry, Garry Foster)

Keith Corner

Stan Priestley (John Priestley)

**OTHER ORANGES**

Jack Whybin

Keith Corner

Stan Priestley

**OTHER MANDARINS**

Keith Corner

Peter Dixon (Don Threlfo, George Richards)

John Priestley – only orchard in production (Oranges and Mandarins)



"BRISBANE GROVE" - MIDDLE ORCHARD (DON THRELFO)

## Tillimby Estate

### SUBDIVISION SALE.

The Tillimby Estate, near Paterson, owned by the late Mr. A. A. W. Nivison, was submitted to auction by Mr. E. W. Sparke on Thursday afternoon. The sale was held in Mr. Sparke's rooms, Pastoral Chambers, West Maitland, and the room was crowded. The estate was subdivided into 23 lots, ranging in area from 16 acres 3 roods, to 637 acres 3 roods 15 perches.

The total area of the estate is 7172 acres, and it has been in the possession of the Nivison family for about 70 years.

Sales were as follows:—

Lots 1 and 1A comprising 124 and 99 acres respectively realised £25 per acre; purchaser Mr. W. Hinton.

Lot 2, of 175 acres £21/10/ per acre; purchaser, Mr. W. J. Fairhall.

Lot 3, 136 acres £15 per acre; purchaser, Mr. S. Leggett.

Lots 5 and 5A, of 91 and 156 acres respectively, £11/10/ per acre, purchaser Mr. Albert Taylor.

Lots 6 and 6A of 89 and 209 acres respectively, £7/5/ per acre; purchaser Mr. Albert Taylor.

Lot 7, of 300 acres, £29 per acre; purchaser Mr. Geo. Priestley.

Lot 8, of 44 acres, £54 per acre; purchaser Mr. H. A. Fry.

Lot 9, of 16 acres, £50; purchaser Mr. H. A. Fry.

Lot 11, 26 acres, £19/15/; purchaser Mr. John Gibbs.

Lot 12, 32 acres, £6/10/; purchaser Mr. W. J. McGill.

Lot 16, 246 acres, £7/2/6 per acre; purchaser, Mr. Norman Taylor.

Lot 17, 222 acres, £8 per acre; purchaser, Mr. P. Cleary.

Lot 22, 482 acres, £7 per acre; purchaser, Mr. J. A. Smith.

Lot 23, 469 acres, £6/10/ per acre; Mr. A. Richardson.

Lot 24, 388 acres, £7/7/6; Mr. A. Richardson.

The Tillimby Estate Auction took place in May 1924

Jenny Crowe  
Bay View – NSW  
Priestley Family Historian

# LEMON GROVE

MAITLAND MERCURY – November 1896

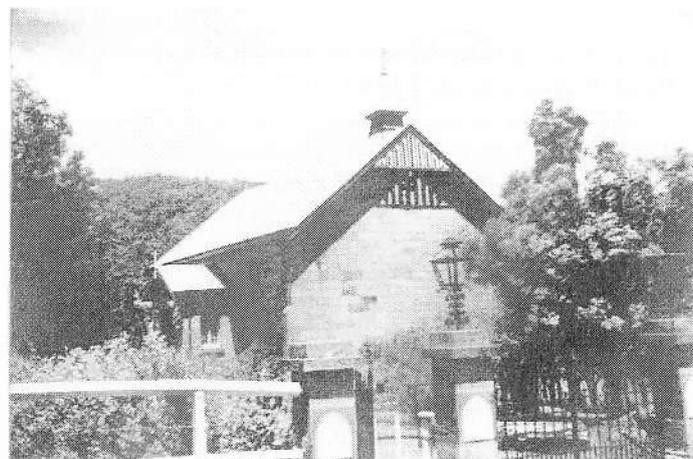


PHOTO-Mabs KEPPIE

## PATERSON.

Memorial gates have been erected at the entrance to St. Paul's Church grounds at Paterson. The gates are handsome in appearance, and though not ornate are substantial. They are not so light as they seem, for each of the wide gates has an approximate weight of 2cwt. 1qr., while the wicket gate is of the same pattern and proportionately heavy. The gates are between three stone piers (two were originally in loco, but are now distributed between the three). The piers, 6ft. high, have each a marble tablet. The centre one bears this inscription: "In loving memory of Rev. John Shaw, B.A., Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and Incumbent of the parish of Paterson, for 15 years. Died 17th Jan., 1904. Erected by parishioners and friends." The tablet on northern pier has inscribed thereon, "St. Paul's Church, Paterson," while the tablet to the south simply bears "1905." The whole contract for erection of gate has been faithfully performed by Mr. Thos. Browne, monumental sculptor, of West Maitland. The gates cost £45. These gates will recall the memory of one of the best men who ever lived, and one of the best clergymen ever given to Australia. May we all be imitators of the God-made man whom the above gates commemorate.

Maitland Mercury – April 1905

Jack Sullivan

**TO LET BY TENDER, THAT PROPERTY** on the PATERSON RIVER known as LEMON GROVE, consisting of about 200 ACRES of RICH AGRICULTURAL and GRAZING LAND, well improved, and in a high state of cultivation. Largely stocked with Fruit Trees—chiefly Oranges. Tenders for portions as small farms or for the whole will close on the 1st day of May next; possession given on the 1st day of July, 1896. Particulars by letter, or personally, on application to Mrs. E. Swan, Lemon Grove, Large. As no description in an advertisement would do this property justice, it must be seen to be appreciated.

3981

Harry BOYLE OAM

## WORLD WAR II AIRFIELD, WALLAROBBA

The following notes have been written as a result of a visit to the property of Mr Merv Marquet, 1760 Dungog Road, Wallarobba on 7 April 2007.

The airfield was constructed by the Defence Forces during World War II in association with the planned response to an invasion by the Japanese. Mr Marquet, a returned serviceman was not living at Wallarobba when the airfield was constructed; in fact he was serving in northern Australia and overseas.

The Brisbane line was seen as the last point of defence for the continent if it was invaded by the Japanese. Areas south of the Brisbane line were to be defended and a series of defence installations were constructed if they were to be required. It seems that this airfield was constructed as part of this overall defence strategy. The actual airfield is on an adjacent property however most of the aircraft dispersal points called "Hideouts" were on the Marquet family property.

The airfield is a kilometre long, running from near the Brookfield-Wallarobba road, to Wallarobba Creek in the north. The airfield was gravelled and covered with tar. A key feature of its construction was the provision of camouflage accommodation for aircraft at some distance from the airfield. It seems that one of the attractive features of the site for an airfield was the general flat terrain as well as its Tea-Tree scrub to the east of the airfield. A gravelled road was constructed from the edge of the field to the north along the edge of the Tea-Tree scrub.

At various intervals along the gravel road aircraft dispersal points or hideouts were made in the scrub for the planes to be hidden. The camouflage included large pole and wire structures over which green Hessian and other material was draped to make them appear as part of the scrub. Obviously the Hessian and most of the poles have gone but some of the wire and the odd post remain. These areas were also gravelled and tarred. The access road to them had a series of pipe culverts and constructed concrete headwalls as part of the overall design. Evidence exists on part of the original airfield that it was also tarred and gravelled to a depth of around 300mm.

Evidence was found across the property as to the presence of the airfield however over the years the gravel has been salvaged for use on the property, neighbouring properties and also by the Shire Council on some occasions. Some of the posts from the aircraft shelters were used for firewood and the wire has been pushed up to avoid it being a problem for livestock. Amazingly the Tea-Tree scrub has not grown over the camouflaged areas mainly because they were thickly gravelled and most of it was tarred. Some of the tar can still be seen in the odd location.

The airfield used to be easily accessed from the Brookfield/Wallarobba Road however this is not possible now due to changes in property ownership and boundaries. In past times the airfield was used as a site to spread Superphosphate fertiliser on local properties. This has not occurred for some time and because significant sections of the field's gravel have been extracted for other uses, it is now not possible for the field to be used as a landing ground. The most recent extraction of gravel was for an overpass over the railway line to a nearby property. A sample of the woven wire used for the camouflage nets has been procured and will be added to the collection of the Paterson Historical Society.

At the time of its construction the airfield land was secured from the property owners and fenced off from their land. This land transaction/arrangement has since been reversed so there is now continuing ownership and access by the property owners involved.

The airfield represents an interesting element of the Australian World War II war effort. Very few planes used it during the war, in fact it was constructed as one of the last lines of defence of the nation against the enemy, and fortunately it was not required.

The assistance of Mr Merv Marquet to access the airstrip and his readiness to share his knowledge of its history is appreciated.

A C Archer.

**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**UPPER DIVISION**  
**1941**



PHOTO and TEXT - BRUCE DODDS - JARRO

- Back :** Max O'Conner, Des Butler, Graeme Dunn, Ron Fairhall,  
Keith Roberts, Max Stuckings, Allen Rooney,  
Keith Jordan, Fred Clerk, Neil Ingram.
- Third :** Grace Penfold, Una Clements, Thelma Graham,  
\*Kim Gregory, Pauline Godwin, Heather McGill,  
Edna McGill, Heather Smith, Mona Herd, Violet Penfold.
- Second:** Kevin Bannister, Gwen Humphries, \*Neta Moylan,  
Daphne O'Conner, Patty Stone, Maree Wyborn,  
Mary Hamilton, Marie Partridge, \*Dawn Wright,  
Audrey Rooney.
- Front:** Shane Fenley, Walter Hancock, Doug Phillips, (\* asterisk denotes -  
Charlie O'Conner, Stan Rooney, Max Cork, not certain )  
Bruce Dodds, \*Ernie Taylor, Barry Burgess.



**Cheddar Cheese from a Local Factory:-** Some time since we described Mr HH Brown's cheese factory at Colstoun, Upper Paterson. Operations were then more in anticipation than reality. But now the establishment is in full work and is turning out cheese of high quality. The Cheddar, for which Messrs Wolfe, Prentice and Company's warehouse in West Maitland is by advertisement elsewhere declared the depot, is a very fine article. We have been enabled to sample it and pronounce it, for flavour, ripeness and richness quite equal if not superior to the imported English Cheddar, which we have seen. We have no doubt that in the Australian market it will gradually supersede the introduced commodity as indeed it is deservedly doing already. Given enterprise, a generous appreciation by the public of its results, and a determination on the part of manufacturers to do their best to maintain quality and to deserve success, and local industries will surely establish themselves. We are pleased to know that Mr HH Brown is commending his ware by strict attention to the first essential to enlist public favour – quality; and that through the medium of so well known a firm as Messrs Wolfe, Prentice and Company his Cheddar cheese may become part of the larder of every household. The position it has attained is creditable to Mr Brown's enterprise, and to the districts of Paterson and Hunter, and we look for a large addition to the yield of the factory, as the outcome of the announcement above referred to.

*Maitland Mercury* 17 September 1898 – Cynthia Hunter

## THE MELBOURNE CUP

Courtesy Lindeman's Wines and Jack Sullivan

From the first meeting in 1861, this race has always had the power to bring the affairs of two nations to a halt, from Darwin to Dunedin, parliament house to presbytery. People put aside all other considerations for the few minutes it takes to inscribe another name on the list of Melbourne Cup winners.

The Melbourne Cup originated from a jealous and petty squabble between the Victorian Turf Club (VTC) and the Victorian Jockey Club (VJC) who had shared tenancy but no co-operation of Flemington Racecourse and who each ran their own meetings similar in style and name.

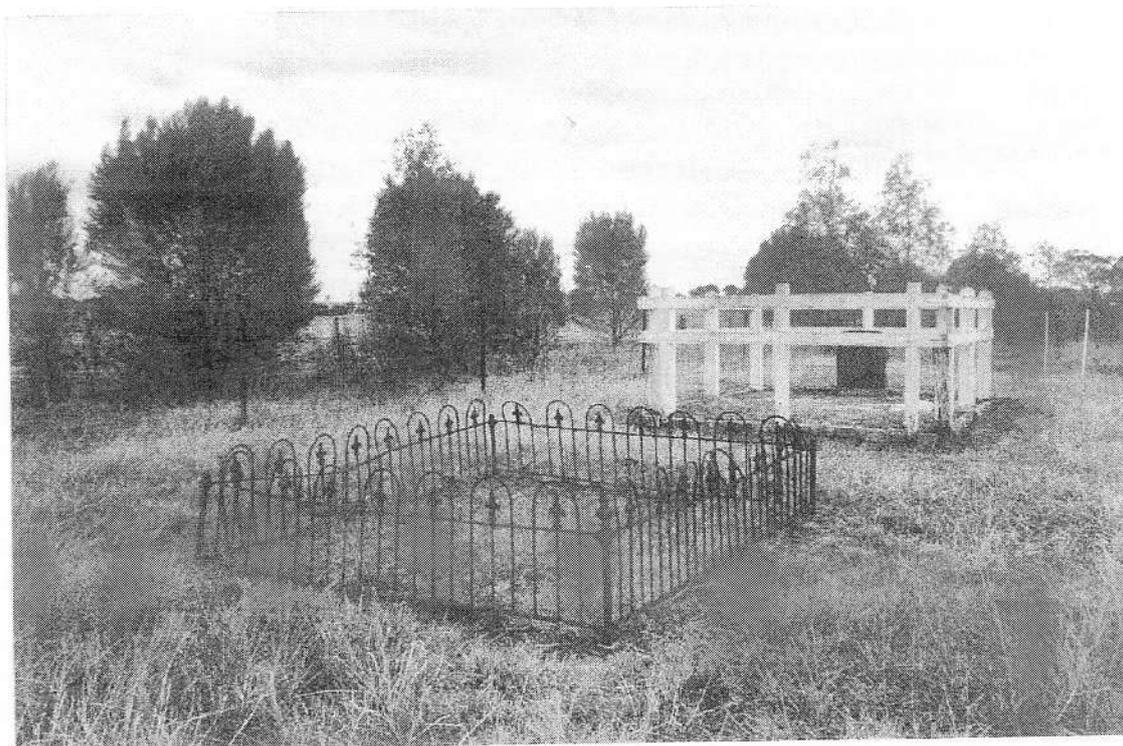
In 1861 the VJC conducted the inaugural Victorian Oaks Stakes. The difference this time was that the VTC decided to change the follow-the-leader stance and adopted a proposal by one of its committeemen, the controversial Captain Robert Standish to change from the classic chase and make it the richest event on its year's programme – a handicap race, to be known as the Melbourne Cup.

The Melbourne Cup of 1883 attracted a very disappointing field of only seven very ordinary horses and it was this problem that led to the VTC and VJC foregoing their separate identities and forming a new body called the Victorian Racing Club (VRC)

As early as 1865 Melbourne Cup Day in Victoria was declared a public holiday helping add to its unique attraction.

The Melbourne Cup Day has always had its critics and always will, but the entire populations of Australia and New Zealand put their resounding enthusiasm on the race each year on the first Tuesday of November.

Dual Melbourne Cup winner, Peter Pan was born at "Baroona" Singleton in 1929. He won the cup in 1932 and 1934.



PETER PAN'S GRAVE – "BAROONA", SINGLETON  
Photo: Bill Anderson – 1988

