



**PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM, PATERSON, NSW**

**PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED**

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

Consultant Editor:  
Dr A C Archer

Editor:  
Shirley Threlfo



The opening of the Paterson Court House Museum in 1974. Stan Priestley, Bill Keppie and Milton Morris AO planting a native bottlebrush.

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

VOLUME 17 # 1

ISSN 1321 4438

FEBRUARY, 2010.

*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 2010**

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

**PRESIDENT:** Dr Cameron Archer

**SECRETARY:** Virginia Daniels Ph: 49385459

**TREASURER:** Shirley Threlfo Ph: 49341005

**VICE PRESIDENTS:** Kathy Lyall, Lindsay Kidd

**JOURNAL:** Shirley Threlfo Val Anderson

**MUSEUM CURATORS:** Val Anderson, Bill Keppie, Valma Patfield,

**PROJECT COORDINATORS:** Kevin Hawtin, Wayne Patfield.

**RECORDERS:** Mabs Keppie, Valma Patfield & Mary Dunlop

**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Dr Cameron Archer

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

**FAMILY HISTORY:** Pauline Clements, Shirley Threlfo and Olga Marquet.

**HON AUDITOR:** Cathy Easdowne

**PATRONS**

Mr M Morris AO

Mr R Baldwin MP

Mr G Souris MP

Mr G Wall

Mr J Thompson

Mr R Booth

---

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

---

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



- **RAYMOND TERRACE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Life Membership Awards.  
Hunter Valley local history stalwarts, Sue and Boris Sokoloff, have been awarded Life Membership to Raymond Terrace & District Historical Society. The presentation took place at the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society and a tribute night to the opening of Sketchley Cottage Museum.  
Both retired teachers, they had held executive positions with R T H S and the Hunter Chapter of Museums Australia. Boris has for many years been considered an authority on the Indigenous Worromi people and in 2006 was the author of *Aborigines in the Paterson-Gresford District* published by Paterson Historical Society. In 1991 Sue wrote an extensive history of the Young Wallsend/Edgeworth District.  
Sue and Boris are valued active members of our society – we look forward each year at our Christmas gathering when they present highlights from their many overseas trips  
Congratulations
- **The Rugby Union World** lost one of its greatest players when international, Cyril Bourke of Waratah passed away in January. PCH Museum had immense pleasure some years ago in accepting from Cyril and his wife Marj, some of Cyril's mother's linen which forms the nucleus of a linen cabinet display in the Museum.
- **SUNDAY MUSEUM ROSTER.** For over 30 years now Paterson Historical Society members have been consistent in opening the PCH Museum, when appropriate, each Sunday. Special thanks are extended to Cameron Archer, Val Anderson, Pauline Clements, Virginia Daniels, Mary and Maurice Dunlop, Jennifer Dunn, Michelle Ellicott, Bill and Mabs Keppie, Kathy Lyall, Valma Patfield and Shirley Threlfo.
- **THE FORMER ANGLICAN RECTORY** has new owners. The ownership of one of Paterson's significant historic homes has changed hands. The former Anglican Rectory is situated opposite John Tucker Park and on the main road through the historic village of Paterson. Betsy Perrottet has been a wonderful custodian of "The Rectory" (affectionately known to Betsy as her "Grand Old Lady") since purchasing from Cameron and Jean Archer in 1987. The original Anglican Parsonage was built in 1839 for the first incumbent, Rev John Jennings Smith, renovated several times and finally replaced in 1906 by the present Rectory built in the same grounds. The Archers leased The Rectory in 1975 and purchased in 1976. Over the next twelve years the building and its grounds were faithfully restored. Paterson Historical Society has presented a copy of the original architectural plans by W Haughton Bett to Betsy with best wishes for the future. Val Anderson.



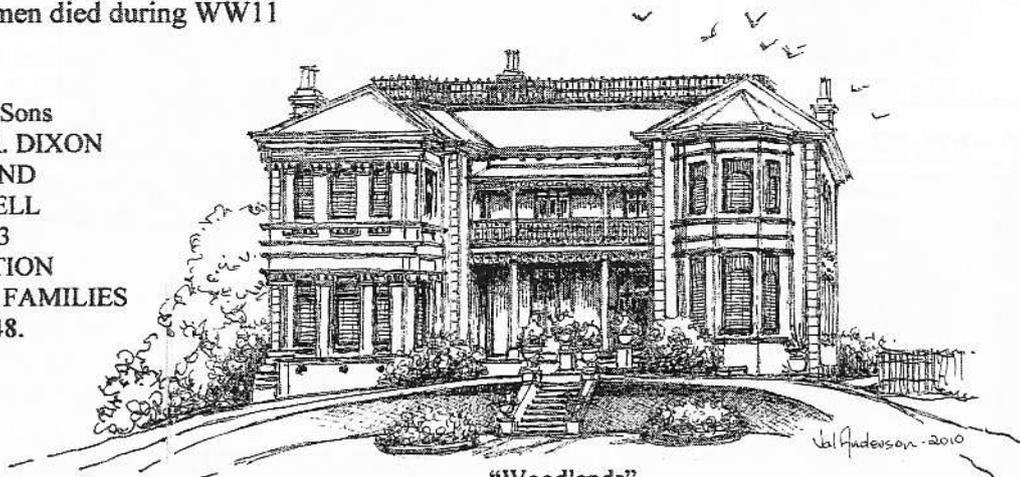
## PATERSON HAS ITS OWN "CENTAUR" CONNECTION

Shirley Threlfo

On 14 May 1943 a Japanese submarine sank the Australian Hospital Ship, "Centaur" off the coast of Queensland. The "Centaur" had sailed from Sydney on 12 May and two days later 332 souls would be lost.

In St Ann's Presbyterian Church at Paterson, until the building was cleared in November 2009 to be placed on the real estate market, there was a joint memorial chair honouring two local boys Don Dixon and Eric Newell. Both men died during WW11

In Memory of our Sons  
FLIGHT SGT. D.W.R. DIXON  
1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 1944 AND  
SGT. E.L. NEWELL  
14<sup>th</sup> MAY 1943  
KILLED IN ACTION  
DEDICATED BY THEIR FAMILIES  
27<sup>th</sup> MAY 1948.



"Woodlands"

"Woodlands" Church Street, Newcastle built in 1879 as a private home has a connection with the hospital ship "Centaur". During WWII it was a hospital called "Centaur" believed to be named after the sunken hospital ship.

On 1 June 1944 Sergeant Dixon, Service Number 428957, was flying an Avro Anson, Serial Number EF927, when it collided with another Avro Anson, Serial Number N9733, in poor visibility after take off and crashed and caught fire. At the time of his death he was attached RAF 3 Advanced Flying Unit out of Halfpenny Green Aerodrome (Wolverhampton).

Eric Livingston Newell enlisted in the army, from Vacy, on 2 September 1940.

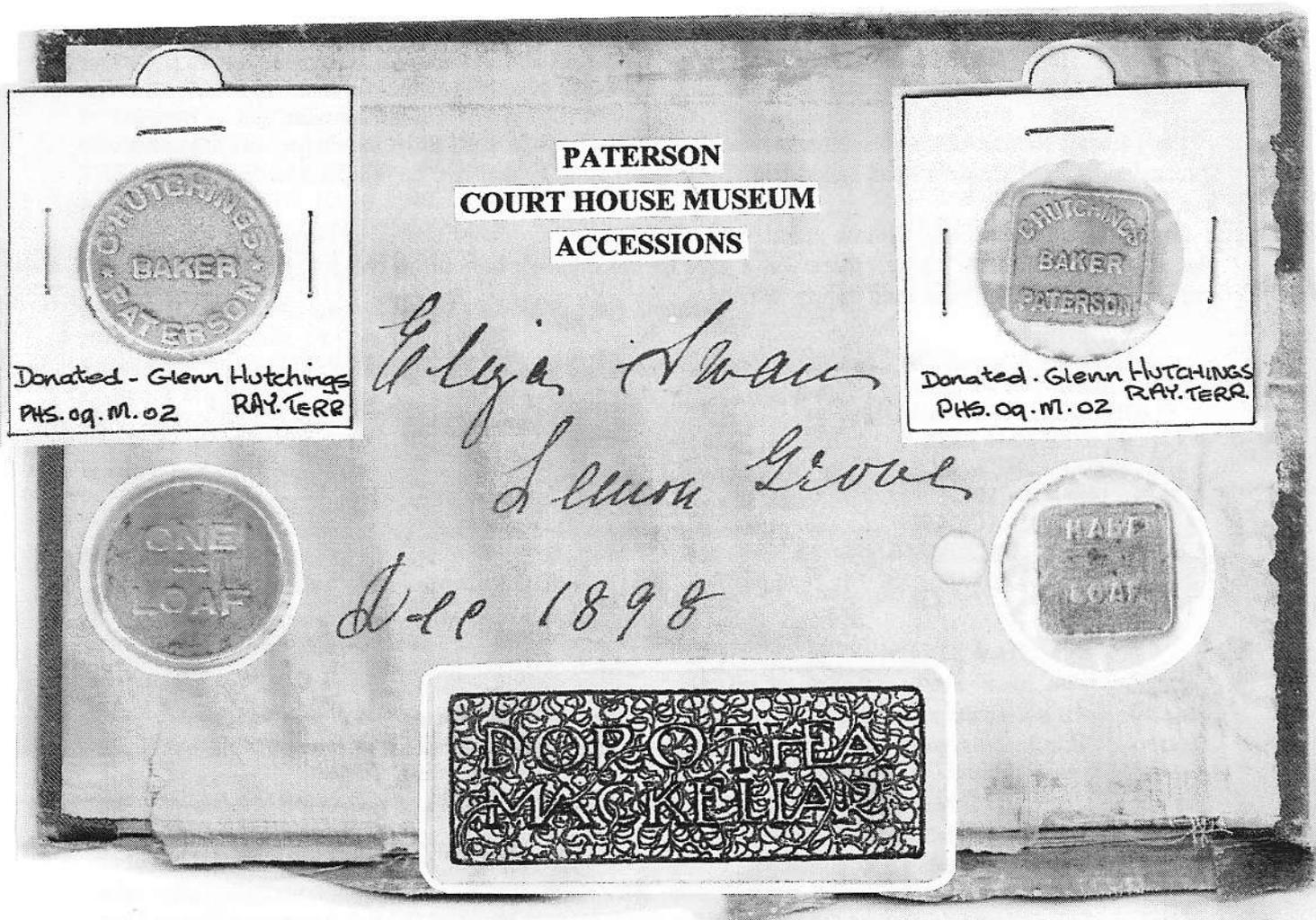
Eric, Service Number NX47684, was a Sergeant attached to the Australian Army Medical Corp, 2/12 Field Ambulance and perished, along with 332 other souls, when a Japanese submarine sank the Hospital Ship "Centaur" off the coast of Queensland on 14 May 1943.

The "Centaur" had sailed from Sydney at 0945 hours on 12 May 1943 and was torpedoed at 0400 hours 14 May, 1943 approximately 50 miles ENE of Brisbane.

The 2/12 Field Ambulance had been at Darwin during the bombing before boarding the "Centaur" at Sydney. The sinking of the "Centaur" almost entirely wiped-out the 2/12. This information supplied by member Lesley Gent.

World-renown shipwreck hunter David Mearns found the wreck of AHS "Centaur" on December 20, 2009 about 48 kilometres east of the southern tip of Moreton Bay, Queensland at a depth of 2059 metres.

The Dixon family were residents of Paterson for many years including the war years and lived in a house opposite Stocker's Garage. Bob Dixon was the rabbit inspector and rode a horse in the Gresford/Lostock area checking the various properties. He and Mrs Dixon attended St Ann's Presbyterian Church and were strong supporters in its management. Mrs Dixon played the organ for the services. Their three children Donald, Joan and Peter grew up in Paterson. Joan married Philip Lucock a student minister who came to the Maitland and Paterson churches. He later became Federal Member for Lyne. In 1953 Peter purchased part of the Brisbane Grove property across the river from Paterson and he, his wife and two children (a son called Donald after Peter's brother and a daughter Jan) lived there until 1963 when they sold and moved to Monkerai. Robert and Mrs Dixon lived in Paterson until their deaths.



**SWAN FAMILY SIGNATURE ((Centre))**

John Swan arrived in Australia on the “Coramandal” on 7 May 1804 as a convict and eventually settled at Lemon Grove, Paterson. Following John’s death on 10 April 1833 his son Richard, with wife and 8 children arrived from England to take up his inheritance of Lemon Grove. Richard’s son, John Jnr married Eliza Ryan on 20 October 1845 at West Maitland – they had 14 children. Swan descendants lived on Lemon Grove until sold to Mr Pottie in about 1959 and in turn to Mr and Mrs Latter in 1973 (Mrs Joan Latter is the current owner)

Reference: Writings of Shirley Coote – Swan Family Historian.

Other signatures John Swan – Lemon Grove – November 11<sup>th</sup> Paterson – 1869.

Mrs Swan – Lemon Grove – 1891

Eliza Swan – Lemon Grove – Dec 1898. December – *so dry – so dry.*

**PATERSON BREAD TOKENS – (Sides)**

Two original Paterson Bread Tokens donated by Glenn Hutchings of Raymond Terrace, NSW. Glenn’s father C Hutchings owned the bakery and Hutchings bread tokens were used in bread delivery between 1942 and 1957 in the Paterson district.

**WOODCUT BOOK PLATE – (Bottom centre)**

A book plate copy from one of five books formerly owned by Dorothea Mackellar and donated to PCH Museum by retired school principal and avid autograph collect, Norm Lilley of Old Bar, NSW. Norm purchased the books from a collector in Hervey Bay, Qld. The following is an extract from a letter written by Henry Gay, from Hervey Bay to Norman Lilley explaining how he acquired these books.

*"There is nothing really startling in gaining the possession of these books but the background, to me, is a little strange and though I wasn't suspicious at the time the behaviour or reaction of the person selling them was a little strange.*

*It was around 1972 when I was working at the Spencer Street end of town and I discovered a book shop run by two ladies, well one was in her late 30's and the other was in her 20's. Perhaps they were running it for their mother, for I gathered they were sisters.*

*At that time I was collecting books and records and trying to raise a small family which inhibited the purchase of books, specially plays and biographies. During one lunch hour I discovered the enclosed books and was more interested in the woodcut name plates.*

*I asked the girls if they had any more books belonging to Miss MacKellar; were they the recipients of her estate? No, they hadn't and weren't. I asked them where they got them from. One of the girls said a person brought them in to swap with other books.*

*Telling the girls I thought the price of them was rather cheap; of course I said the former after I had paid for them, and they looked at me as if I was an idiot. (Perhaps I am one now as my wife and kids have formed that opinion.), then I said I was happy to obtain something that belonged to Dorothea MacKellar.*

*They looked at me strangely, as I said, Dorothea Mackellar, the poet who wrote My Country, the poem every kid in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade learned to recite. From their reaction they gave me the impression that they didn't have a clue about what I was talking. So really there is nothing dramatic in the story. I wish I had a better ending but that was it."*

**BOOK "My Heart – My Country" the story of Dorothea Mackellar donated by John Partridge of McDonalds Book Store – Maitland.**

*Dr Mackellar, looking for a country property leased Torryburn near East Gresford, about twenty-five miles from Maitland, with the option to buy. The homestead was brick, part convict-built. All the young Mackellars loved Torryburn and hoped their father would buy it outright. They were really thrilled when he did and it became truly theirs\*...Drought came to the area and the ground dried and opened like crazy paving... Day after day the skies remained pitiless blue... then the blessed rain fell steadily for several days... the ground now no longer bare but overlaid by a delicate veil of green that seemed to thicken as she gazed. P52-p54 "My Heart - My Country"*

\*In September 1898 Charles Kinniard Mackellar purchased Torryburn from Robert Logan's estate. (LTO Book 627 No 821) Mackellar's ownership coincided with a lengthy drought of almost unprecedented severity. However, these dry times are of particular significance for here "My Country", the famous poem by his daughter had its beginning. Dorothea Mackellar was thirteen years old when her association with this region began. She wrote the poem in her teenage years, inspired by wondrous natural events at Torryburn. The drought broke while she was staying there, in 1900.

From the writings of the late Harry Boyle OAM.

#### **DONATED DOROTHEA MACKELLAR MEMORABILIA**

**BOOK -** "Fancy Dress and other verse" by Dorothea Mackellar has been donated to the PCH Museum by Justine Smith and Michelle Kearney of Hilldale. "Fancy Dress" contains 64 poems written by the poet, author of our best known poem "My Country." Mackellar wrote "Fancy Dress" her last book in 1926 at Tarrangaua, Lovett Bay, Pittwater, NSW. Tarrangaua meaning "High Hill" was designed by renowned architect Hardy Wilson in 1924 for Mackellar as a private retreat accessible only by water. The Federal electorate of Mackellar which includes Lovett Bay is named after the poet.

Val Anderson

RELEASE

By Dorothea Mackellar

Out I came on the balcony  
To drink the hue of the evening sky,  
The nameless colour of summer night –  
Blue-green, green-blue as amozonite  
But tissued soft as a leaf-hid flower –  
Out I came in a magic hour.

Seven black swans flew overhead,  
An arrow aimed at the evening star;  
Swift, unwavering, so they sped  
From the salt lagoons to the West afar,  
With a clinging cry as the black bolt flew  
By the black Bridge-lattice against the blue.

Sydney's profile was dome and tower,  
Beauty spun from the pitying hour:  
In lilac, purple and blue and grey  
Sydney's waters were whispering "Stay!"  
But there fell the clang of the black swan's cry:  
Out and away with them straight flew I.



Dorothea Mackellar OBE



A life-size portrait of Dorothea Mackellar on loan to PCH Museum in May 1966 by the State Library of NSW, later given to the Museum it being the closest repository to the origins of the poem "My Country."

Release appeared in *The Peaceful Army – A memorial to the Pioneer Women of Australia 1788-1938* which was published in 1938 on behalf of the Women's Executive Committee and Advisory Council attached to Australia's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Council.

On the Literary Sub-committee were:

Flora Eldershaw  
Dame Mary Gilmore  
Dora Wilcox  
Miles Franklin  
Marjorie Barnard

Lesley Gent



Every care is taken to check the accuracy of information printed but we cannot hold ourselves responsible for errors. Unless an article is marked © COPYRIGHT, Historical & Family History organizations have permission to reprint items from this Newsletter, although acknowledgement of author and source must be given.

**FROM OUR FILES – 1992**



Major excavation work to correct drainage and building deterioration at PCH Museum was carried out in 1992. Financed by NSW Government – Dungog Shire Council and Paterson Historical Society on a dollar for dollar initiative grant badly needed building restoration, gravity drainage externally, ground re-contouring, major tons of soil build-up removal from the building cartilage together with internal and external painting saw the former Court House “reborn” as a heritage building treasure. Project Co-ordinators – Cameron Archer, Mac Mayne and Bill Anderson.



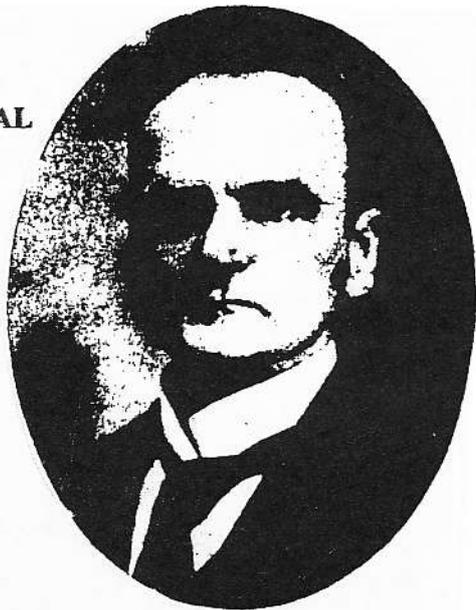
Photos: Bill Anderson

**FROM JACK SULLIVAN'S FILES**

**MACKELLAR DONATION TO PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL**

*Town & Country Journal*

27 April, 1901 Jack Sullivan.



Dr Charles Kinnaid Mackellar, who has presented £1000 to Prince Alfred Hospital to found a Soldiers' Ward to be named after his son Keith, killed in Africa

Keith Kinnaid Mackellar (1880-1900) was killed in action in South Africa on 11 July 1900, during the Boer War. He was Second Lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Horse Squadron. His remains were returned to Australia and interred in the Mackellar family grave, Waverly Cemetery, NSW. (Ed)

**MACKELLAR CONNECTION – Boer War Memorial Tribute**

*Sydney Morning Herald* 7 July 1902 Jack Sullivan

**THE SCOTTISH RIFLES  
IN MEMORIAM SERVICE**

The numerous congregation which assembled yesterday morning at Scots Church was privileged to witness a touching ceremony in connection with a church parade of the Scottish Rifles, under the command of Colonel Campbell. The ceremony consisted in the hanging of a wreath of white and blue violets under the tablets which commemorates the death in South Africa of Lieutenant G.J. Grieve, Lieutenant Mackellar, Corporal S McLennan, Private D. Fraser, Private S.C. Atchison, and Private J.K. Matheson. There was a large muster of the Scottish Rifles, the corps being accompanied by its regimental brass band as well as by the band of pipers. The Military Commandant, Brigadier-General Finn, was also present.



**MUSEUM ACCESSIONS**

- **BOOKS** – Ironmongery – Gingerbread Man – Wine Industry – Jack Sullivan
- **PATERSON BREAD TOKENS** – 1942-57 – Glenn Hutchings
- **GOSTWYCK CD** - Lesley Gent
- **A4 PHOTO COLLAGE** – 1830s Cedar Court House Appointments – Norfolk Island – Val Anderson
- **GUIDE TO ASSIGNED CONVICTS – PATERSON GRESFORD AREA** – Donald A Readford
- **BOOK** – “From Saddlers to Settlers” – Wendy Cox
- **ADVERTISEMENT 1925** Martins Creek Quarry – Lesley Gent
- **3 SMALL BIBLES** – Chris Fibbins
- **SWAN FAMILY** signatures – Museum
- **5 SLIDES 1974** PCH Museum opening – Museum
- **5 BOOKS** (previously owned by Dorothea Mackellar) – Norm Lilley

## TRIBUTE TO ED TONKS – LOCAL HISTORIAN

Edward Ernest Tonks was born in Waratah, Newcastle in 1950. After graduating from the University of Newcastle with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Diploma of Education Ed taught for 38 years with the NSW Department of Education – at Francis Greenway High 1974-81 and Kotara High 1982-2009 – his subjects, social science and history.

Ed Tonks is highly regarded for his research in coal mining, mining disasters, war and dedicated memorials, cemeteries, railways (a particular interest in Goninan-built locomotives), WWI and WW11 personnel, Hunter Valley Bridges and Pits and Pubs – these subjects resulting in many publications. As acknowledgement for his fine contribution to local history Ed received the Centenary Medal in 2001 – The Award for Excellence from the Friends of Newcastle Regional Museum and in 2007 delivered the John Turner Memorial Lecture at Newcastle Town Hall. Ed is in high demand as a lecturer and tour guide for the National Trust, community and professional groups. With wife Julie, Ed has travelled to France and England to cover extensive research. Paterson Historical Society look forward each year to Ed's "Annual Address" – it has been many years! In retirement Ed will concentrate on the things he does so well – research, publishing – tours and presentations.

Val Anderson 2010.



### POLICE Vs BAKER RE BREAD SALES!

*Maitland Ensign* – 13 November 1861

One of the policemen here, last week, cited our common baker before the bench (the only J.P. in attendance being Mr. G. Cory) for insulting him. It appeared from the evidence that the defendant has been in the habit of selling bread obtained from Maitland, by the mail cart. The constable had sent to several of the defendant's regular customers, stating that he would be able to supply them with bread of a better quality. The defendant met this constable soon afterwards and remonstrated with him about his mean sly ways towards himself and family, who, he stated, had much difficulty in supporting themselves. The policeman called the defendant some very provoking names, which caused a retaliation; hence the summons. The J.P. very properly made the policeman pay all costs and gave him a reprimand. I doubt whether he would have got off so well had he played the same game with the police magistrate, at Maitland. We are not conversant with the form of oath taken by a policeman when he is sworn in, but this we know that he has to serve the Queen day and night when required, and that faithfully. Now I ask in the name of all that's just can he do so when he is hawking bread for sale to the injury of his neighbours? I leave the public to answer. It should be stated that the price of bread here has been below Maitland price for some months past.



### MOVING THE POUND FROM "OLD BANKS" (LEMON GROVE) TO PATERSON IN 1840.

State Records – Dr Brian Walsh

"Approve of the removal of the Pound to the Township, may I request that you will cause the enclosed notice to be inserted in the Government Gazette."

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant

Edw. Johnstone J.P.

**NED KELLY** is back in the news – is the new find really his skull?

Rex Meehan former East Maitland Magistrate

When NED KELLY, Australia's most famous bushranger, was captured at Glenrowan in north-eastern Victoria in 1880, he was asked why he chose to attack the police rather than try to escape. Bleeding and in pain from thirty bullet and shot-gun pellet wounds, Kelly shrugged his shoulders and said: "A man would be a nice sort of a dingo to walk out on his mates."

His mates had to die at Glenrowan and Ned Kelly went back to die with them, a gun in his hand. "A man gets tired of being hunted like a dog in his own native land," he said. "I wanted to see the thing end."

Ned Kelly has become part of the language. In that sense, he's our first immortal. He is one Australian, our professors say, who has a chance of being remembered for a thousand years. And this is only fair. For he is the history of 100 years of Australian bushranging, the memorable first 100 years when bushrangers added fire and flamboyance to Australian life and character. They were Australia's own prodigal, plundering sons.

But few of them were forgiven ...

Here is a list of some of the better known bushrangers with their ages and manner of deaths

Ned Kelly, 25, Hanged

Joe Byrne, 23. Hanged

Steve Hart, 21. Shot dead and burned,  
probably suicide

Dan Kelly, 19. Shot dead and burned,  
probably suicide.

Ben Hall, 27. Shot dead

Johnny Gilbert, 25, Shot dead

Johnny Dunn, 19 Hanged

Johnny O'meally, 22. Shot dead

"Bold" Jack Donahoe, 22. Shot dead

William "Jacky Jacky" Westwood, 26. Hanged

Fred "Captain Thunderbolt" Ward, 34. Shot dead

"Captain Moonlite" Andrew George Scott, 37.  
Hanged.

"Mad Dan" Morgan, 35. Shot dead

Matt Brady, 27. Hanged

Frank "Captain Melville" McCallum, 35. Died in prison cell;  
almost certainly murdered by warders.

Fred Lowry, 27. Shot dead

John Lynch, 29. Hanged

Tom Clarke, 26. Hanged

John Clarke, 24. Hanged.

## JOHN GILBERT - BUSHRANGER

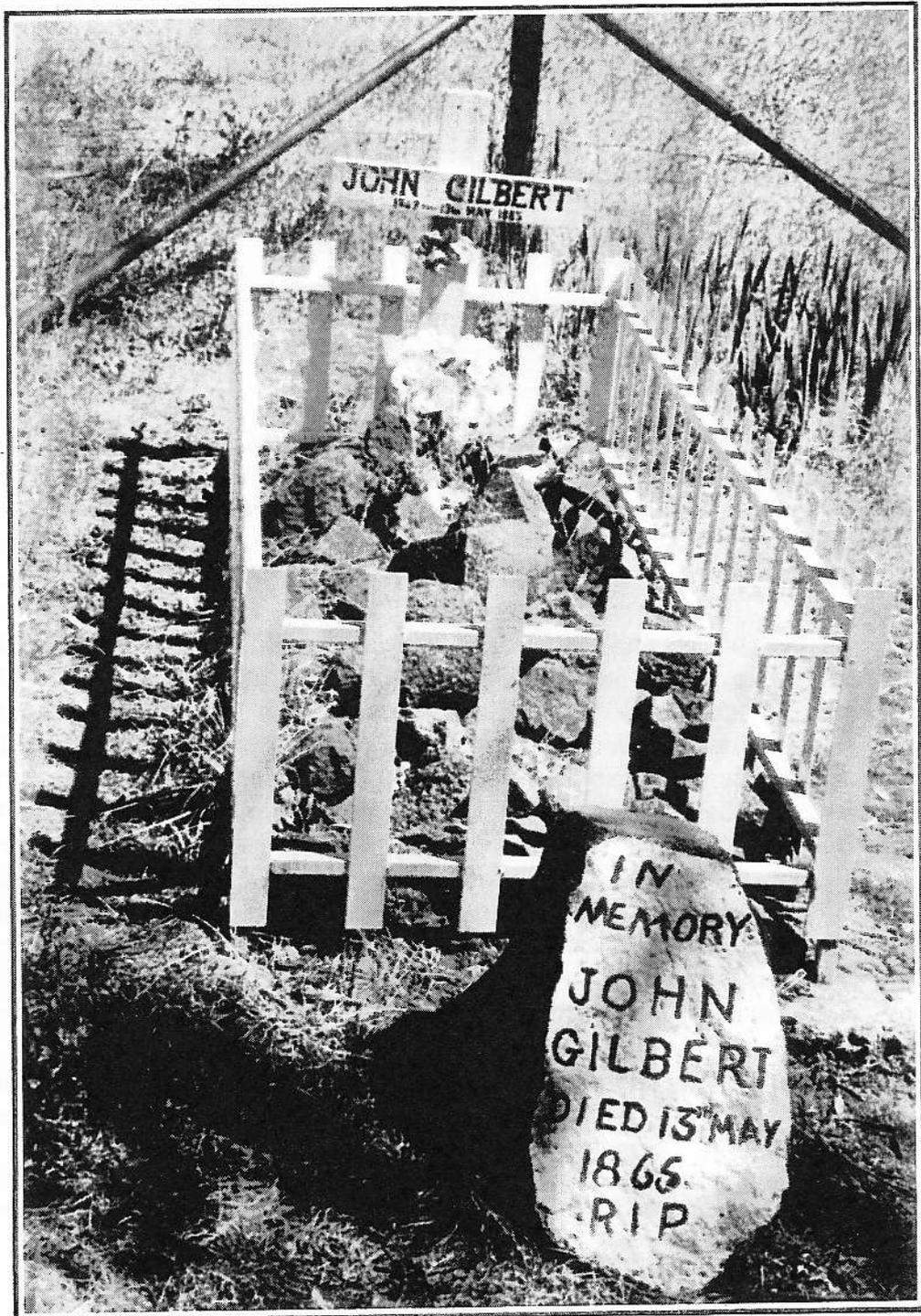
WAS SHOT DEAD BY CONSTABLE JOHN BRIGHT IN A BATTLE WITH POLICE NEAR BINALONG ON SATURDAY 13th MAY, 1865. ONLY 25 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH HE HAD FOLLOWED A LIFE OF CRIME FOR 12 YEARS AND WAS THE MOST RECKLESS VILLAIN OF THE GARDINER-HALL GANGS OF BUSHRANGERS. ON THE CREDIT SIDE IT CAN BE SAID THAT HE WAS A SPLENDID HORSEMAN, A DEADLY SHOT, GAME WITH FISTS OR GUN, ALWAYS POLITE TO WOMEN AND OF IRREPRESSIBLE GOOD HUMOUR AND WITTY SPEECH. ON TUESDAY, 16th MAY, 1865, THE BODY OF "FLASH" JOHNNY GILBERT WAS BURIED IN THE POLICE PADDOCK NEAR BINALONG TOWNSHIP.

ERECTED BY EDGAR PENZIG

Photos: Don Threlfo

Other bushrangers — Martin Cash, Frank “Darkie” Gardiner and Harry Power, to name a few of many — served long, hard years in prison. And all but one of them died poor. (“Darkie” Gardiner bought a saloon in San Francisco after his release from prison. He was killed there in a brawl.) The life of a bushranger, the “short life and a merry one” as Steve Hart is said to have declared when he left his farm to join the Kelly Gang, was no life at all.

The first bushrangers were convict “bolters” who took to the bush to escape the discipline of the prison settlements. Some tried to live off the land and robbed free settlers only when desperate for food and clothing; others simply resumed the criminal careers which had been interrupted by their transportation to Australia. Either way, the “bolters” were shown no mercy when they were recaptured. Sentences of 1000 lashes were not uncommon. James Barry, an Irishman who broke into a free settler’s home, collapsed after 270 of his 1000 lashes. On medical advice, he was given the remaining 730 lashes in four instalments of 150 lashes and one of 130.



**BLUE METAL**

# Martin's Creek Metal Quarries Limited

can supply the highest-grade Blue Metal, Ballast, and Broken Metal in all gauges for road-making and concrete construction works. Our metal (hornblende andesite) is the hardest in the State, and consequently more lasting. It spreads much further than other road-making materials, and is therefore more economical in the long run.

.....  
**Let your first cost be your last cost**  
.....

Our quarries are situated on the main railway line at Martin's Creek, thirty-six miles north of Newcastle, New South Wales, and quotations for metal and general information will be supplied by—

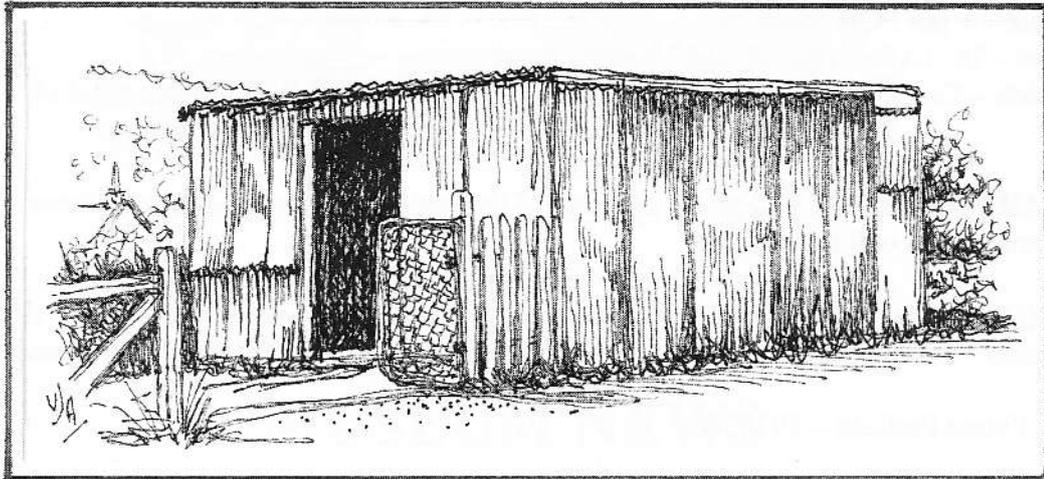
H. P. CONOLLY,  
Sales Manager,  
Telford Street,  
Newcastle.  
'Phone—212 Newcastle

THE QUARRY MANAGER,  
Martin's Creek.  
'Phone—2 Martin's Creek.

THE SECRETARY,  
Tyrrell House,  
Telford Street,  
Newcastle.  
'Phone—378 Newcastle

## KNOW YOUR LOCAL AREA

Where and what was the use of this building?



### PATERSON'S 1989 EARTHQUAKE REMINDER

Val Anderson

Twenty years ago on 28 December 1989 at 10.27 am an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale\* was felt over much of New South Wales. Many residents of the Paterson district have stories of how they were affected by that event, but as time passes they are just memories that pass into folk lore or are forgotten.

The epicentre of the quake was beneath Newcastle but at the Paterson Court House Museum there is a permanent reminder of that fateful day. On the canopy wall of the Court Room behind the life size photo of Dorothea Mackellar a movement line can be clearly seen. In the stairwell behind the Court Room the actual fracture remains untouched and creates much interest from visitors who recall "where I was ...." at the time. (Following the tremor Dungog Shire Council engineers immediately assessed the building as being secure).

PHS member Cynthia Hunter's research book on "Earth Quake Tremors – felt in the Hunter Valley since white settlement" reveals that an earthquake was recorded by Governor Phillip only five months after the landing of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788. Other research reveals shocks and earth tremors along the Paterson River in 1837, 1841, 1842 and a major disturbance in 1868.

In his foreword to "Earthquake Tremors", Dr Kevin McCue of Australian Seismological Centre, Canberra states "Cynthia Hunter's research is already enabling seismologists to make a more educated analysis of seismic risk to Newcastle and surrounding areas than was previously possible."

This highly recommended publication is available from the Court House Museum – Sundays 11 am – 3 pm or by contacting Valma Patfield 49385060.

\*Charles F Richter, a United States seismologist working at the California Institute of Technology in the 1930s developed a scale which bears his name and by which all modern earthquakes are measured.



## PATERSON ANNUAL TOWN WALK

**Date** - 14 March 2010

**Time** - 1 pm PCH Museum

**Cost** - \$5. (Afternoon tea and Museum entry)

**Guide** - Dr Cameron Archer, President Paterson Historical Society, Principal of Tocal College

**THIS YEAR'S FEATURES** - Special opening of St Ann's Presbyterian Church where afternoon tea will be available.

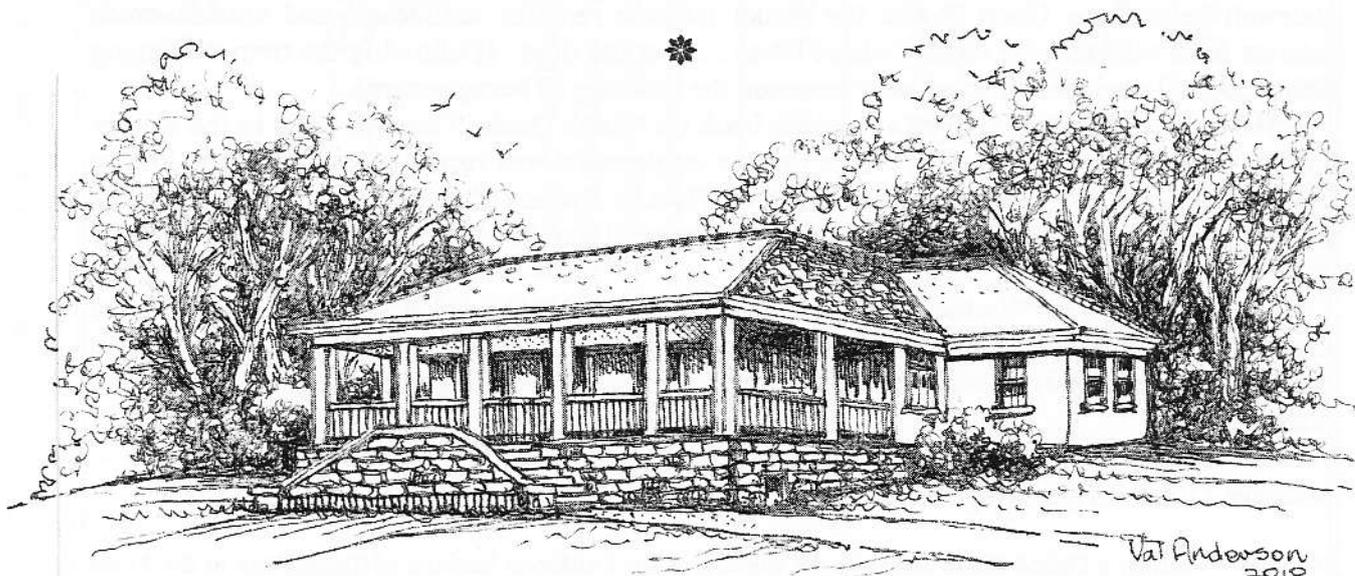
**TALKS** - (Dr Archer) St Ann's - 1919 Swine Flu - Commercial Road - visit WWII Air Raid Shelter - Hallinan Bassinet and Linen - 1884 St Columbia's bell will commence walk.

**Contact** - Valma Patfield - 49385060



## GUEST SPEAKERS FOR 2010

- 1 April Building the catamarans on "Brisbane Grove"
- 6 May Dr Janis Wilton - "Local Museums - Objects and their stories" UNE Lecturer.
- 1 July Wayne Patfield - Riverboats
- 2 September Ed Tonks - Adamstown War Memorial
- 4 November Sue and Boris Sokoloff - (One of their world jaunts).



## TARRANGAUA - 1924 - LOVETT BAY

Pittwater NSW where Dorothea Mackellar wrote "Fancy Dress", her last book of poems.

(see page 4)