



The Newsletter of the
**CLARENCE RIVER
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**
 Established in Grafton City in 1931

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Oddfellows Sports Day on Elizabeth Island.1885

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OFFICE BEARERS

President: Steve Tranter

Vice Presidents: Nita Child & Patricia James

Secretary: Robyn Schaeffer

Treasurer: Anne Ellem

Committee members: Vickie Beith, Cheryl Barnes, Suzanne Gibson, Judy Johnson and Rosemary Marshall

Public Officer: Bill Dougherty

Research Officer: Hazel Lawson

Recorder/Librarian: Vacant

Roster Clerk: Suzanne Gibson

Newsletter: Steve Tranter/Rosemary Marshall

Hon. Solicitor: Joe Fahey

Principal Patrons: The Duke and Duchess of Grafton

Patrons: Kevin Hogan MP, Ritchie Williamson MP, Mayor Ian Tiley, Bill & Dot Dougherty.

Schaeffer House is open from 1.00pm to 4.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sundays. Other days by appointment, please contact the Secretary on (02) 66425212. Research Room is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 3.30pm.

Membership fees are due in **January** each year. Fees remain at \$25 for Individuals, couples or families. Be sure to pay fees prior to the **AGM** in **March** if voting rights are to be retained. New members who join between 1 September and 31 December are deemed to be members up to 31 December of the following year. **Please note that donations to Clarence River Historical Society of \$2 or more are tax deductible.**

JOTTINGS FROM THE HOUSE

Work around the house

As always the work around the house continues to occupy many of the volunteers' time. Updating of labels continues unabated with more information being added to them also. Photographing of the collection also continues with close to half the items now documented.

Vintage Bridal Collection

Vice-President Nita Child has put together a new display entitled "Vintage Bridal Collection." She has been very successful in obtaining additional gowns from a number of sources to supplement the collection we have here at the house. The display has been extended until the 04 June 2023.

Contributions

We welcome articles/contributions to our newsletter from our members. If you have an item of interest, please contact our Secretary, Robyn.

Items on Display at Library

Suzanne Gibson has been engaged in coordinating items of interest to lend to the Clarence Regional Library for display.

For this exhibition, she has chosen historical items used for the morning and/or afternoon ritual to coincide with Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Beautiful decorative cups, saucers and plates and a silver tea service and crockery cake display have been selected to lend.

Also included are historical baking implements such as an old tin cake mould and a glass rolling pin.

Suzanne has also selected for display a mixing bowl, icing set and wooden spoon.

A recipe book which "contains full directions for the preparations for appetising dishes for all occasions" and The Willow Housewife's hand book on cookery also feature in the display.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

(Compiled by our Research Officer, Hazel Lawson)

MAY 2023.

PERSONAL VISITS.

LES William (Billy) Robinson, locating his son or his grandchildren.

ROWAN. Researching The Shannon and Skinner families.

ERIN. Researching House 111 Spring Street, South Grafton.

GARRY. Researching House 24 Clarence Street, Grafton.

TINA. Information, Jean Margaret Saunders, Father Arthur Saunders, Mother Emma Ryder 1915.

DAVID. Information on Faulks Family. Eileen Elizabeth Williams (nee Faulks) husband Bert Williams . Parents William Faulks and Margaret Blain.

ROD. Info regarding vacant land between Dobie and Powell Street, along Queen Street.

DON. The Tindal letters. Copies of letters, " Koreelah" run/station.

WENDY. Grafton High School rowing club.

ROBYN. Researching Bowden Lectures and John Small.

JAN. William John Starling, wife Emelie Hann married 13/9/1866. Emelie died of Typhoid Fever 31/3/1867. Information on William's time spent in Grafton and Glen Innes in 1874.

ALAN. John Marsh 1838 lived at Carr's Creek, later moved to Palmers Channel.

ROSANNE. Researching the Austen Family.

BY EMAIL.

CLAUDE. Researching Dr. Ventry Smith (Govt. Doctor.)

JOE. Eliza Holloway (nee Williams) died 12/7/1862. Son 11 years old.

STEPHEN. Goldfields around Ewingar , Lionsville & Solferino.

PAMELA. Looking for a family History Book, called Bondi Pioneer.

JOANNE. Information on the Connor Family, Grand mother Ruby Connor Born 1889 Parents John Connor and Catherine Yager.

SHAUN. Patrick Cronin, Land record Property Waterview until 1913, son John Patrick bought land Junction Hill 1910, information and Land Record.

LEIGH. Images of prison staff in uniform, gov. run goals. Sleeve patches, hat badges, headdress, uniform shirts, tunic, rank.

BEV. Thomas Smith, lived at Southgate, how did family travel from Williams River to Southgate, pre-1900.

KAREN. James Sullivan and wife Mary Ann O'Grady, any reference to James and his family in the Clarence region.

LISA, Thomas Charles Monaghan exact location of burial in Maclean Cemetery in 1959.

ROBYN, Information on Robert Alexander Rankeillor.

DEBORAH, Seeking information on the Cedar of Lebanon tree sourced from Henry Volkens. Is it the tree behind 129-131 Fitzroy Street.

BARBARA, Seeking information on Walter Craigie, grandfather of Robert Craigie Law.

JAN, Seeking information on the Fraser Brothers, Patrick Lauder born Scotland 1823, James born Scotland 926 and William born Scotland 1833. All died in Grafton between 1890 and 1904.

ELIZABETH ISLAND PARK

No-one is quite certain just how many islands are in the Clarence River, some put the number at over 100 and others at just under 50.

Elizabeth island is one such island. It is down river from Susan Island near Grafton city and adjacent to the present Corcoran park and in fact, is one of the larger islands in the Clarence River. It is approximately 55 acres in area and in the early days of Grafton was opposite Kirchner's old sawmill and Rosewood Farm. It was used for recreation by groups of people, particularly church, civic and lodge groups in the early days of Grafton.

It was claimed that Elizabeth Island was named after either Thomas Small's daughter Elizabeth or the wife of William C.B. Wilson, the Government Surveyor whose maiden name was Elizabeth Hall.

Trustees were officially appointed under the Public Parks Act of 1884 and, at the first meeting in April 1884 met to plan improvements to the park and construct a new building and jetty. It was decided to ask Parliament for 500 pounds. Much correspondence finally resulted in a grant for 450 pounds which was a considerable sum of money in those days.

Eventually a pavilion and jetty were

planned and built by 1887. At the same time, applications were received for the position of resident caretaker.

Many local church, lodge and civic groups applied to use the facilities for holiday outings, picnics and dancing, rent being 5 to 15 pounds per day. Stock, but not goats was allowed on the island for agistment

Amalgamation of the Susan and Elizabeth Island Trusts took place in 1905 into one trust administered by Messrs Lipman, Sanders, McKittrick, See, Beatson and Carsen and the islands were both re-dedicated. In 1907, it was decided to move the pavilion and rifle



The Pavilion, Elizabeth Island, date not known.

range from Elizabeth Island to Susan island as Elizabeth Island was being increasingly used more for grazing and Susan Island was becoming more popular for recreational activities.

GRAFTON MEMORIAL AVENUE OF TREES

An avenue of trees in Bacon Street dedicated to the memory of servicemen who died during the Great War (1914-1918) was dedicated by the Mayor of Grafton (Aid H. M. Baldock) on behalf of the people of Grafton.

About 30 citizens attended a meeting held at the Town Hall in November 1920 to consider the formation of an organisation with the object of erecting a district memorial to those who had fallen in the war and from that meeting, delegates were appointed to meet with citizens of South Grafton to further expand the idea of a district memorial and a fund was duly opened to pay for it. The group decided eventually on an avenue of trees.

Planting of trees as a memorial to fallen soldiers is not new. These memorials have an important cultural, ecological and emotional significance. Tree memorials provide a living symbol of remembrance that can last for generations. Trees are long lived and have the potential to grow for hundreds of years, thereby providing a tangible link to the past and a reminder of the person being commemorated.

The avenue of approximately 45 trees, supplied by Council, extended from the Grafton Public School towards Cranworth Street and included a fine selection of flowering trees which, it hoped, would add to the arboreal beauty of the city of Grafton in the future. Each tree had a small plaque underneath it to honour the fallen soldier. Plaques no longer exist.

Plaques are an important way to honour and recognise the sacrifices made by military persons during times of war. They are usually made of metal such as bronze and are inscribed with the name of the

soldier, their rank and the date of their service. They may also include emblems representing the branch of the military in which the individual served.

In 1949, a further lot of trees were added to commemorate the fallen soldiers of World War 2. The establishment of the avenue arose from a conference of ex-servicemen organisations with the City Council Tree Planting Committee and was designed to perpetuate the memory of district servicemen. A large crowd attended the dedication ceremony with the Mayor Aid W.T. Robinson saying he hoped that in years to come the avenue would grow into something of beauty as well as a memorial to those who died in the wars. Sir Earle Page MHR spoke of the avenue which seemed to be of great significance because it was a living memorial, something to be cultivated and looked after by families of the fallen.

He also noted that some of the men whose memory would be perpetuated in the avenue had been scholars of the Grafton Public School from which the avenue extended.

In all some 128 trees stretching from the school to Cranworth Street were planted. From the school to Mary Street, the trees comprised weeping figs and pecan nut trees alternately, and Jacarandas lined the northern side from Mary Street to Alice Street with Australian Wattles and Christmas bush on the Southern side. Turf to Maud Street featured both Queensland wheel trees and Cape chestnut trees while Magnolias lined both sides of the street from Maud Street to Reserve Street. From Reserve Street to Cranworth, the Cassia Fistula, Crepe Myrtle and Bauhenia trees were planted in rotation.

ANDROSSAN

MR. J.H. BRODIE'S RESIDENCE & NEW DENTAL SURGERY

Unfortunately we do not have a date or even a year with which to attach to this story. It would be safe to suggest c1900 and if the TROVE reference is to be considered, the building was completed in 1905 (Mr. J.A. Brodie mentioned in the newspaper reference is we think a misprint - our records suggest that his first names were James Hanson).

But in any account there is no disguising this residence and business as a small structure. It would have been a very imposing building in its day considering the nearby structures/open areas.

Grafton, even at this time was described by visitors and new arrivals as one of a multitude of imposing residences, some on a very grand scale. This was a source of great pride in this city and can be seen to have been implied by the local newspaper/s of the time.

One such description reads "The architecture of Grafton has received an important addition by the erection of a dental surgery and dwelling for Mr. J.H. Brodie, at the intersection of Duke and Fitzroy Streets. The new building which is a two-storey one, presents an attractive front to Fitzroy Street, and a good side view also to Duke Street".

The paper went on to describe the residence in great detail and it is enlightening to consider what was state of the art of the time, not only in the residence but the medical area as well.

"Building works were carried out by Strauss Bros on plans prepared by Mr D

G Grant, architect of Grafton. The compartments of the main building are all bay rooms which add much to the attractive appearance; as do the verandahs which flank the building on the two street frontages and also the back. A steel frieze, picked in delicate colour, adds to the appearance of the balconies.

On the left of the porch at the Fitzroy Street entrance is the dental surgery, 12x14 feet. The lighting is a special feature, there being prettily designed windows and doors with fancy figured mottle glass. The waiting room situated on the right of the porch is also well lit with a sitting room at the rear. This is separated by a six foot hall from the dining room which fronts Duke Street. Both are commodious compartments.

The rear of the ground floor is occupied by the kitchen, work room, cupboard and pantry with cellar. Water is laid on to these rooms from a tank near the rear off the building, one being specially allotted to the bathroom, which is situated upstairs and is lined with steel and supplied with an enamelled cast iron bath.

The partitions and inner walls are plastered and the Wonderlich steel ceilings give a very good effect.

A polished pine staircase leads to the upper floor where the sleep rooms are situated, the four main ones being separated by a four foot hall, a servants room occupying a position on the western angle.

The lower floor is raised on brick piers to above highest flood level and brick lattice

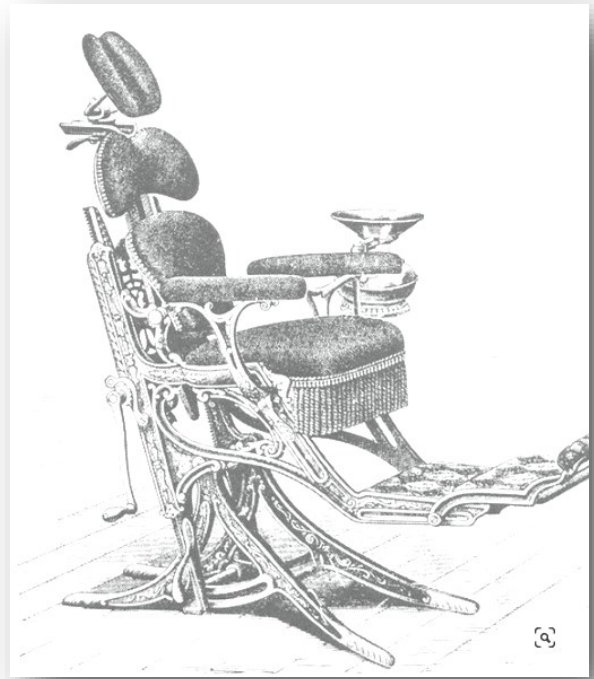
ANDROSSAN (CONTINUED)

work provides plenty of ventilation under the building. Ventilation in the roof area is achieved by four gable ends as well as the cornices under the eaves of the building.”

Stabling, coach and washhouses are situated at the rear of the building.

Further research would be needed to determine the exact location of “Androssan” at that time.

The photograph does not allow us to draw a reasonable conclusion as to which corner it was situated. With respect to the history of this location it is safe to say that this area has undergone major changes up to the present time.



Antique dental chair c1872.



Androssan c1905

INTERESTING ITEMS IN THE HOUSE

A tea caddy is a small box or chest which holds tea leaves. The word "caddy" is derived from the Chinese word "catty", a Chinese unit of weight equivalent to 600 grams, in which tea used to be sold .

. When *Camellia sinensis* leaves were first introduced to England from China in the 17th Century, they were prohibitively expensive and quite rare. In the 1690s, the Countess of Argyll was said to have paid over £10 for just 6 ounces of tea, at a time when her estate lawyers' annual income was a mere £20.

Because of the expense and rarity of tea leaves, its storage and preservation were important concerns. Tea caddies were created to protect the tea leaves from moisture, light, air and pests which would cause them to lose their flavour and

When drinking of tea became popular in aristocratic circles, the need arose for tea caddies to have lockable devices to prevent theft by the masses. Sometimes the wealthy families would hire an expert craftsman to create beautiful and ornate caddies that would protect the tea. They would craft unique tea caddies made from wood such as mahogany and rosewood, brass, copper, pewter and tortoiseshell. Some were intricately decorated with inlaid and had ivory, ebony or silver knobs.

As the popularity of tea grew, tea caddies became more affordable and accessible to the middle classes, often being used as a status symbol and coming in all shapes and sizes, including round, square and rectangular. Some were even

made to look like miniature chests of drawers, with compartments for different types of tea. Some had just two compartments, one for green tea and one for black tea.

Today, tea caddies are still used to store and protect tea but they are more commonly made from plastic or tin. They are

often sold with tea

inside, making them a popular gift item

aroma. The best quality caddy is made from an odourless material such as metal, porcelain, silver or wood and it was usually lined with metal. Tight fitting lids were required to keep the freshness of the tea.

Schaeffer House has been given several interesting tea caddies, in different shapes and sizes. Three of these are made from tin, highly decorated whilst the other is made of inlaid wood.



Assorted Tea Caddies

IN THE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY WITH PAT JAMES

Our Lemon Myrtle Tree

Visitors to Schaeffer House Museum are usually impressed by the trees that shelter our outside garden. The largest is our wonderful Norfolk Island Hibiscus planted in 1900-1901 when the house was built. Since then the original garden has changed so that the native Callistemons (bottlebrush) line the side fence and the Lemon Myrtle tree shelters the front garden. In Spring, this small tree is covered in dainty white blossoms, a magnet for our native bees, honey bees, hover flies and many other insects.

Humans have discovered the value of the leaves which have a wonderful lemon scent when crushed. The leaves can be dried and used in cooking and make delicious tea and Aboriginal friends take the leaves for smoking ceremonies.

Visitors all enjoy the shade and shelter: ask our resident Gnomes!

Schaeffer House welcomed a very keen group of ladies from U3A Garden Club who came for a visit in March to learn about our garden and the plants we grow. They had morning tea on the beautiful front verandah and spent nearly 2 hours exploring the gardens around the house. Unfortunately they didn't have time to look inside Schaeffer House but swapped plants and took cuttings from the garden. We need keen gardeners to grow a wide variety of plants to provide suitable habitats for the insects and animals which are in danger of disappearing.

Pat James



Lemon Myrtle Tree in front Garden of Schaeffer House

DISTRICT NAMES

More district names and their derivation.

Mary Street. Is one of the streets named after Princess Alice Maud Mary, eldest daughter of Queen Victoria.

Busby's Flat. Was also known as Mongogarie. The run was taken up by Alexander and William Busby of Dalkeith Station near Cassilis in 1814.

Oliver Street. Is the next street to Fry Street. It was named after Oliver Fry, who was commissioner of Crown lands for the Clarence from 1843 to 1856.

Elizabeth Island. Surveyor W. C. B. Wilson claimed that he had named this island after his wife whose name was Elizabeth.

Fisher Park. Was named after Thomas Fisher, storekeeper and Mayor of Grafton in 1873 and 1874. In 1887, the council passed a resolution changing the name to Centennial Park but it had no effect and the old name stuck.

Craig Street. A new street leading to the approach of the overhead or vehicular level of the Clarence River bridge. The bridge was opened in July, 1932 and the street was so named to commemorate the part taken by Richard Craig in the discovery and opening up of the Clarence River district.

Susan Island. Was named after Susan, daughter of Thomas Small, of Kissing Point, who was the owner, with Henry Gillet of the schooner Susan, the first vessel to enter the Clarence River. Susan Small became the wife of Captain Henry Alderson and mother of the late Ald. W H Alderson.

Calliope. Is an area near the Ulmarra township. A school was opened there in 1890 and the late Alexander Lobban, Inspector of Schools, adopted a suggestion by Mr. Surveyor J. O. Burgess

and named the school after the British gunboat Calliope. A terrible cyclone had swept Samoa in 1889 and every ship in the harbour had been destroyed except the Calliope which had steamed out to sea and so escaped.

Kemp Street. Section 3 of the city of Grafton was formerly Sharp's Paddock. After the land was sold, it was divided into blocks by a company led by the chairman the Hon. Charles Kemp. The street runs alongside the Crown Hotel from Prince Street to Queen street.

Pillar Valley. Was so called from the peculiar rocks resembling pillars, which overlook it from the north.

Mann River. This river was named after Gother Kerr Mann, who with James Hooke originally held the stations of Cungelbung and Buccarumbi in partnership. Mann is supposed to have been one of Archibald Boyd's party which came down that river from the tableland in 1838.

McKittrick Park. Located in South Grafton taking its name from the late John Thomas McKittrick who was several times Mayor of the town.

Clarence River. The name was first applied to the Tweed River by Captain Rouse in 1828. He did not know that Oxley had already named it the Tweed in 1828. A Gazette notice of November 14, 1839 directed that the river known as the Big River in future be called the Clarence. In 1828 William Duke of Clarence, brother of the King was head of the navy and held in high esteem by his subordinate Captain Rous but when the name was transferred to this river in 1839, William had been dead for 2 years, having in the meantime reigned seven years as King William IV of England.

VINTAGE BRIDAL DISPLAY

Bridal display

On May 4th, Schaeffer House hosted a beautiful display of 18 vintage bridal frocks donated to the Society over many years. The collection of gowns mainly in cream and white tones are displayed throughout the beautiful rooms of Schaeffer House. The event was well attended by many visitors and opened by our new State member for Clarence, Richie Williamson. We were especially fortunate to welcome some of the brides and/or their families who kindly have donated items.

Fabrics used in the gowns include beautiful silk crepe, heavy slipper satin, chenille georgette and taffeta embossed satins trimmed with French, guipure and cranberry laces. Some of these fabrics were purchased from Bloods store in Prince Street at quite an expensive price.

It is interesting to see the change in style of the gowns and veils; in the necklines, sleeves and trains. The use of sequins, tiny covered back buttons and beading feature on many of the frocks. Intricate handwork and embroidery and quilting is also evident on some gowns.



The dresses, most of which are hand made, date from 1909 and showcase styles and fashion through the years until the 1970s. Each frock has either an image of the wedding gown on the occasion or a description of the frock. The Society is also fortunate to be entrusted with some of the wedding accessories such as the garters, horseshoes and the specially dressed dolls used on the bridal cars.

Many were worn by more than the one bride and were passed through the family during tougher times. A beautiful afternoon tea was served at the close of the guided tour.

The photo below shows our member for Clarence, Richie Williamson with two of the feature gowns, one worn by Estelle Woods in 1941 and the other worn by her daughter Janet in 1967 in the Drawing Room of Schaeffer House.

BILL'S COLUMN

The recent coronation of Charles III as King of England has set me thinking "Royal", so I have unearthed the story of his Grandparents' visit to Grafton in 1927.

This is a reprint of an article from 10 years ago.

One of the many treasures in the Mayor's room at Clarence Valley Council is the Visitors Book - a quality hard covered journal.

The first entry in the book is dated 1924. This book is now full and a second one has begun.

Turning the pages one is continually and pleasantly surprised by the 'notables' entered here. Many famous characters, not the least is the last King of England. Yes, the then Duke and Duchess of York, who visited Grafton 13 April 1927.

Anyone who saw that beaut movie, 'The King's Speech', will relate to our last King and to his charming Queen – the 'Queen Mother' as we knew her.



Duke and Duchess of York 1924

Back to our Visitor's Book. The names entered are just 'Albert' and underneath 'Elizabeth'. The next line reads 'Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York' and then the note

"Ascended to the Throne 12/5/37."

People of this time will remember the high drama of the abdication of the former King and his love of the divorcee Mrs. Simpson. I well remember sitting

around the old wireless listening to the broadcast of the Coronation. I was 7½ years old at the time.

But back to The Daily Examiner and its coverage of the Royal visit. These days we would call it a whirlwind tour. The Royal train arrived at Grafton Station from Casino at exactly 5pm, 13 April 1927 and departed from South Grafton Station at precisely 6.20pm that same evening.

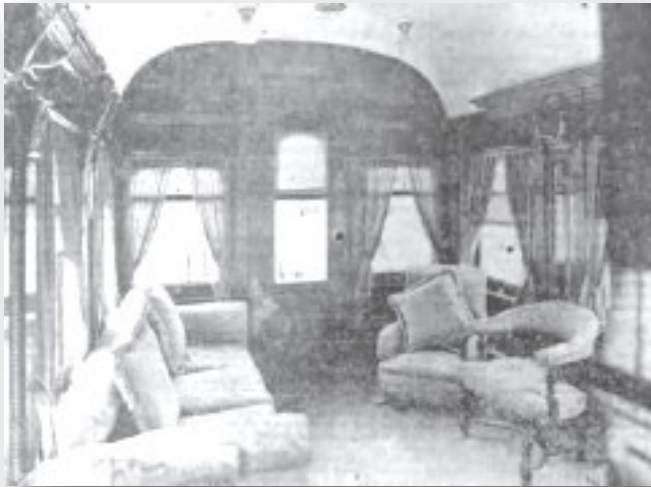
A photo of the interior of the Royal train as it appeared in the Daily Examiner of 14 April 1924, is shown on the next page.

They sure crammed a lot into their short visit — A reception by the Mayor, Alderman W T Robinson at the then Grafton Town Hall (the site of the present Civic Centre), where 1,200 children witnessed the proceedings and a crowd of 6 -7,000 people crammed the surrounding streets. The 41st Battalion formed a Guard of Honour. One would assume that it was during this time that the Duke and Duchess signed our Book. Following this ceremony the Royal couple were taken for a drive around the City and neighbouring 'countryside'. Next it was down to the punt on the trip to South Grafton. The Duke commented on our magnificent River and his surprise that there was no bridge. We know the bridge did finally arrive in 1932.

A little sideline on the punt trip – one of the punt workers, Mr. J R Mackie was a 'townie' of the Duchess. Despite his working clothes the Mayor insisted on introducing Mr. Mackie to the Duchess. Mr. Mackie was from Forfarshire and knew Glammis Castle, the Duchess' former home. The Duchess was very interested to meet Mr. Mackie and shook hands with him in the most cordial manner. The Duchess asked him how long he had been in Grafton and when he stated that it was 30 years since he left

BILL'S COLUMN (CONTINUED)

Dundee, she told him of the progress made in that town since he was last in it.



Interior of the Royal train 1924

A short drive around South Grafton ended at the South Railway Station where the platform was carpeted for the occasion. The Mayor and Mayoress of South Grafton, Alderman and Mrs. S A Jones were on hand to farewell the Royal couple. In the course of conversation the Duchess remarked to the Mayoress, 'We have had a lovely drive round Grafton. It is so pretty and I quite enjoyed it'.

Indeed this was surely one of Grafton's most memorable days.

Bill Dougherty

NURSE MARGARET JANE MCKNIGHT

Nurse McKnight was a midwife in the Grafton area from 1903 until 1943. The first mention of her being in the area is to be found in the "Clarence and Richmond Examiner" of October 1903 when she set up her private hospital "Parkview" situated in Prince Street, Grafton.

Nurse McKnight was born Margaret Jane Smith, the third child born to William and Margaret Jane Smith (nee Allison) on 4th

October, 1864 at Stockton in the counties of Durham and York, England.

Margaret came to Australia by herself around 1885 and worked at the Gladesville Mental Hospital from 1855 to 1888 during which time she completed a course of special study.

She married John McKnight in 1891. John had been in the service of the Royal Irish Constabulary and was on the staff of the Grafton Gaol.

On 22nd January, 1904, Nurse McKnight was advertising her private hospital "Wahroonga" in Dobie Street, Grafton where she remained throughout 1905. In 1906, she operated a Hospital in Duke Street and this became her hospital for the next ten years. In June 1917 further advertising places her at "Haddon House", in Queen Street. This house had previously been the home of Charles Page and his family.

Nurse McKnight's hospital in Bacon Street was used to accommodate patients for many years. She was well known for her willing service to all regardless of creed or colour or the distance from town. As a midwife, she is credited with bringing hundreds of Grafton people into the world.

When she retired from active service she was presented with a framed "illuminated address" on behalf of the medical profession, friendly societies and friends as a mark of appreciation for her services. This is in the possession of the Society.

John McKnight passed away on the 25th June 1914 in Duke Street Grafton. He was only 52 years of age. When he passed away, he had held the position of Warden of the Grafton Gaol.

Nurse McKnight lived to 78 years of age and passed away at the Grafton District Hospital.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is one with many anniversaries - some good and some not so good. The Society is working in conjunction with the Clarence Valley Council, RSL (Sub-Branch) and Scouts (Grafton Branch) to commemorate two major ones being the 100th year of the Grafton Cenotaph dedication and the 80th year since the terrible tragedy falling on the municipalities of Grafton and South Grafton in the Scouts (Cubs) drownings in 1943. Both these anniversaries fall in November and December respectively and it looks like we will have very fitting ceremonies tied to these dates.

A wonderful display organised by Vice President Nita Child entitled "Vintage Bridal Collection" has been bringing many visitors eager to see the collection. The bridal gowns and other items date from early 1900s to the late 1980s. The formal opening was made on 4 May by the State Member for Clarence, Ritchie Williamson. A reasonable sized crowd arrived on the day along with some lucky people who chose the day to visit the museum and got to enjoy the afternoon tea put on for the opening.

Volunteer numbers remain constant albeit with time off by some for much earned breaks from the constant work in the house and the Research Room. Well being of the volunteers is, as always, a major consideration and breaking up the sometimes long hours working is an important part of the routine for the house.

Along with technology advances in this day and time, I have added a program that will initially be quite small but will add to the displays and also allow for the capture of more information. I am referring to oral history and we have purchased an appropriate recorder for this purpose. We look forward to adding another aspect to the museum experience.

Kind Regards, Steve Tranter

DIARY DATES 2023 & ON THIS YEAR

Committee Meetings

June 28,
July 26,
August 23.

Major Displays

Vintage Bridal Costumes 13 April —04
Jun 2023

In House Displays

Remembrance
Day Display — 11 November 2023

Open Days

Jacaranda Week 30 Oct—5 November
19 November 2023

Christmas Party

TBA November 2023

On this year

Grafton Gaslight Co formed 1883
Gaol (3rd) opened in Queen St. 1893
Grafton Telephone Exchange 1903
First Railway Line opened (north) 1903
Cenotaph dedicated 1923

100 YEARS AGO

Compiled by our Research Officer, Hazel Lawson

Extracts from the Daily Examiner of February, 1923

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE GRAFTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

From Geo. Nesbitt MLA offering to take up with Lands Dept. the question of extending of the Memorial Park by the utilisation of the old Custom House site:-Received.

From the Board of Fire Commissioners, notifying the acceptance of a tender for 2364 pounds for the extension of the fireman's quarters at the Grafton Fire Station:-Received.

From the Cricket Association, applying for the sole use of Fisher Park Oval on March 10th, as on that day a match has been arranged which would begin at 10 o'clock in the morning. Permission Granted.

An application was received from G F Collins, South Grafton for permission to sell ice cream within the municipality. It was recommended the application be granted on the same terms as a former applicant, namely the payment of a fee of 6d. per month.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS. Tenders are invited for the construction of a Rifle Range at Maclean. Plans and, specifications may be seen at the Police Station Maclean. Tenders close 10th proximo. JAMES R HANNA. Captain.

POSITIONS VACANT. Clarence River County Council. Applicants addressed to the chairman will be received up to noon on the 8th proximo, from qualified candidates for the position of County Clerk. Present salary, 104 pound per annum. The successful applicant to provide office accommodation.

Preference will be given to sailors and soldiers in accordance with section 95 of the Local Government Act 1919. D N MAXWELL -Chairman, CG McKEE -Acting County Clerk, Clarence River County Council, South Grafton February 20 1923.

GRAFTON RURAL SCHOOL Competitive Cookery Exhibit, shown in cooking school on Wednesday, February 28th at 3pm. Admission Adults 6d, children 3d. Send your entries to the school by Monday February 26th • Good Prizes.

Big fat hefty full size Kapok Mattresses, with sides 6" thick for Four Pound Seventeen & Sixpence usually Six Pound ten shillings at E G Powell, to February 28th•

Enamel saucepans, 2/-each; Aluminum saucepans 2/-each; 2 Large size enamel colanders, 3/-. All at H H Sanders, Furniture Warehouse, Grafton .

A BIT OF OLD GRAFTON -MAKING ROOM FOR NEW HALL. A building recently acquired by the Methodist Church Trustees from Mr. George Shonbein has a long and chequered career. It is to be demolished for removal and on the land where it stands is to be built a Methodist Hall. The old building, the front portion of which is of brick and the rear of wood has recently been occupied by the Grafton Dye Works and is situated at the corner of Prince and Bacon Streets. The building was erected in 1856 and has stood the march of time for 67 years, it was first built by Mc McAlpine but was used for 12 months as a National School after the school building was demolished by a cyclone. The new Hall will be called "Clarence Hall".

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE MUSEUM

(**Bold** denotes new additions).

TITLE	PRICE
Across the Bar	\$20.00
A History of the Clarence River	\$35.00
A place by the River, 150 Years of Tabulum History, Part 1: 1839 to 1919 by <i>Isabel Wilkinson</i> .	\$35.00
A Place by the River, 150 Years of Tabulum History, Part 2, 1920 to 1989 by <i>Isabel Wilkinson</i> .	\$35.00
Bawden Lectures - with Notes [New Edition]	\$35.00
Bawden Lectures - without Notes	\$20.00
Bombers over Grafton	\$20.00
Corn Beef and Damper - <i>Isabel Wilkinson</i> .	\$35.00
Early Days On The Clarence	\$20.00
Early Midwives in Grafton and South Grafton by <i>Robyn Higham</i> .	\$25.00
Forgotten Country - <i>Isabel Wilkinson</i>	\$35.00
Four Legs But No Wheels	\$35.00
From Glen Innes to South Grafton: Early Days Along the Old Road by <i>Sheila McLennan</i>.	\$25.00
From Rivertree to the Sea	\$30.00
Grafton Floods to 2011	\$40.00
Heritage In Line	\$25.00
History of Grafton Hospital	\$40.00
Life and Times of Eatonsville by <i>Sheila McLennan</i>.	\$25.00
Memories of Southgate Village by <i>Nita Child</i>.	\$25.00
Men We Have Met	\$30.00
Old Grafton to Glen Innes Road: The Recollections by <i>Sheila McLennan</i> .	\$45.00
Pre 1900 Clarence River Pioneer Register published by CRHS Inc.	\$45.00
The Journal of Abner Gray A4	\$30.00
The Journal of Abner Gray A5	\$20.00
That's What They Taught Me (When I went to school) Part 1	\$35.00
That's What They Taught Me (When I went to school) Part 2	\$20.00
The Journal of George Abner Gray	\$20.00
The City of Grafton	\$20.00

Produced by the Clarence River Historical Society

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