FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newsletter covers the period of Bathurst’s major celebrations during May. It is an important time to reflect on the pioneers of Bathurst and district and their struggles, frustrations, achievements and aspirations since 1815. How tough was it in those founding years of the township of Bathurst from its resurveying in 1833 and the commencement of selling blocks of land in the town.

Plans for ‘The Bathurst 200 Theo Barker Memorial Lecture’ to take place on Friday evening on 14th August, are well underway with Associate Professor Grace Karskens, University of New South Wales, Sydney, being the guest speaker. The lecture is to be held on the Bathurst campus of the University commencing at 6pm. CSU have graciously agreed to include the lecture in their Exploration Series of public lectures for 2015. The title of her talk is – ‘Life on Australia’s first frontier’.

What was it like to make a life in the early farming districts of Australia’s first frontier? How did people learn about the new country, how did they make new families and communities, how did they remake old cultures? And what happened to them? In this talk Associate Professor Grace Karskens will present some of the findings from her current research on the people and environments of Castlereagh and the Nepean River in the early colonial period.

Grace is the author of a number of histories on early colonial NSW, especially dealing with early Sydney and The Rocks. Her best known book is probably “The Colony A History of Early Sydney” (2009), which won the Prime Minister’s Literary Award in 2010 for non-fiction. She is also the author of the first detailed study of Cox’s Road (1988).

Last month a group from Bathurst and I attended the Australian Pioneers Proclamation Lunch at Sydney’s Union University & Schools Club. The Reverend Andrew Sempell, Rector, St James Church, King Street, and former Dean of Bathurst said grace.

The Club’s President Robert Bishop and the Pioneer’s John Lanser gave us a fine welcome. Australasian Pioneers’ Club President Christopher White and the Convenor John Lanser organised the event.

Dr Robin McLachlan was introduced by John Lanser, Convenor, who then delivered his talk – “A DELIGHTFUL SPOT” - THE PROCLAMATION OF BATHURST IN 1815 – AND BEYOND. The vote of thanks was given by Professor Emeritus David Carment, A.M.,

It is pleasing to see those dressing up to attend functions in colonial costume. The Bathurst RSL Club has sponsored the colonial costume competition that is taking place in May at the Colonial Fair. The Society has a pamphlet at the front desk which gives several patterns that are suitable for costumes and the patterns are available from Spotlight.

At our February Muster we did a bit of an experimental evening whereby we asked anyone who intended to come to bring along a family treasure or interesting item for a “Show and Tell” session. There were an interesting lot of items brought along. Samantha Friend talked about an interesting display of silverware presented to Mr. T. C. K. McKell, one time Police Magistrate at Bathurst on the occasion of his departure. Lindsay McKellar brought a letter in ‘braille’ from Maggie Morrison to his mother. Lyn Cubitt had a family treasure in the form of a brooch which she had been trying to identify for years, this belonging to her Great-Grandmother. She also brought in a baby dress made of natural wool now yellowish from maybe the 1860s. Barry Cubitt exhibited a selection of English newspapers and magazines which had been printed on various days for special occasions such as the landing on the moon, Winston Churchill’s funeral and outer space trips.
Jill Jussberg revealed a pair of silver thimbles, one etched and the other plain and explained the differences and who had used them. Chris Stewart made us test ourselves showing several items which we endeavoured to say which were — “Real, Fake or Otherwise”. One item was an old looking lamp made by the “Matilda Lamp Company of Lithgow” and guess what, it was a fake.

I showed a pair of WWII vehicle headlight which civil and military authorities enforced their use after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour and especially after the bombing in Darwin in 1942. Their use was to lower light levels on cars and vans to what the Government said were brownout conditions. There use led to a number of traffic accidents around Bathurst and district and one needed an excuse to be out driving at night. Despite this the Government would lift their use at first though it was finally done in July 1943. A very early Wiradjuri breast plate was also shown.

The Flag Staff Project (above with the initial slab) is all but finished depending on the weather. It is the culmination of over four years work by a group of local people who had a vision to mark a project to celebrate Bathurst’s 200th anniversary with erection of a new Flag Staff where Governor Lachlan Macquarie raised the original flag to proclaim the town of Bathurst on 7th May, 1815.

The erection of The Flag Staff was under the orders of Governor Macquarie and is one of the most significant events in the history of Australia as it marked the earliest gateway to inland New South Wales, and so Australia. The event enabled the opening up of the fledgling nation’s wealth and prosperity.

The Flag Staff was the finish of the first road over the Blue Mountains, built by William Cox, and was the official survey point for laying out Bathurst and the region.

As the project has progressed it is even more evident that the structure brings together the significance of what took place on the banks of the Macquarie River some 200 years ago. The 200 year story of Bathurst begins with and at The Flag Staff, on the banks of the Macquarie River. The Flag Staff was Bathurst. This was the start of the very first inland European settlement in the history of Australia.

Recently most of those who came up with a concept (above) and moved it forward, especially local architect, Henry Bialowas, who designed the project, that Bathurst Regional Council has been able to construct that will see The Flag Staff site become a treasured and iconic place in Australia’s history.

Contractors for the project, Tablelands Builders Pty Ltd, under the watchful eye of Phil Hampton, himself a history buff, have worked with staff of the Bathurst Regional Council to see the project finished on time ready for the great day. As I write this the last of the tiles are being laid, the grass is about to be planted, the glass to go over the original plaque needs to go in and the new flag staff is to be erected.
The Bathurst Bicentennial Colonial Fair Committee under the auspices of the Bathurst District Historical Society has been holding meetings every week for over ten months. It has been a mammoth job to come up with the concept for two Colonial Fairs – one on Thursday 7th May and the other on Saturday 9th May, construct a life-size slab hut typically from the early days, make hundreds of costumes, liaise with numerous attractions and events from throughout New South Wales, promote the event, get road closures, organise food outlets, work out layouts, coordinate volunteers, promote the event, get the various permissions, liaise with Council staff to use various parts of the Macquarie River bank, etc.

Whilst Bathurst Regional Council provided some of the funds other sponsors have had to be found. Thousands of hours have been put in by the volunteers on the committee to see this event happen.

Over the past year the Society has experienced increasing numbers at our Monthly Musters which sometimes has made them cramped and uncomfortable. The committee has recently decided to move musters to the Uniting Church Activities Hall (between the church and the 1837 Hall) in William Street, opposite Machattie Park. There is good parking, air conditioning, supper facilities, plenty of chairs and a more open and pleasant atmosphere.

The first muster at the Uniting Church Activities Hall will be on Thursday, 16th April, with a 7.30 pm start. Member Tim Sargeant will speak on Blair Wark, who served in World War I and won the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration for gallantry “in the face of the enemy” that can be awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces.

Members are still requested to bring a plate and a donation box will be available if you wish to assist with the costs of renting.

Just a reminder that the Society has arranged for a special Gallipoli, ANZAC, Light Horse and World War One display to mark the centenary of Gallipoli and Bathurst’s 200th Anniversary.

The “Anzacs At Gallipoli” tribute and display in the Museum will see many new artefacts put on display from both private collections as well as items from the Society’s memorabilia from the Great War and Gallipoli.

The display will go from 17th to 30th April and on Anzac Day the museum will open for a time after the dawn service and then at 10am.

Samantha has been busy co-ordinating school tours through the museum as more and more schools introduce local history segments. Thank you to those volunteers who have come in specially to assist with the school children. I must say that these youngsters are very keen to learn about Bathurst and history generally.

Over the past weeks Samantha has also been planning the Society’s entry in the Peoplescape. Our entries are now complete ready to hand over which will see all entries placed out on the lawn of the Bathurst Court House.

Note - 16th April (Thursday) Book Release and Muster afterwards. The book “How The West Was Won.” by local author Robert Ellis is to be launched with Tim Sergeant talking about Blair Wark and his VC afterwards.

Alan McRae, President
SOCIETY MONTHLY MUSTERS & ACTIVITIES

Please note that from April 2015 the Monthly Musters will be held at the Uniting Church Activities Hall (between the church and the 1837 Hall) in William Street, opposite Machattie Park. Musters are open to the public. There is a tradition of having supper afterwards and people are requested to bring a plate of goodies for supper. A donation box will be available if you wish to assist with the costs of renting.

For further information please contact Chris Stewart, Monthly Muster Master on 0408084450.

12th April (Sunday) - Bathurst Cemetery Wander – see Autumn Colours booklet.

16th April (Thursday) Book Release and Muster

A new book by local author Robert Ellis is to be launched in Bathurst. Called “How The West Was Won” Robert helps us celebrate the Bathurst Bicentenary by giving a detailed narrative about the arrival of the first Europeans into inland Australia from a local history perspective and from the point of view of Aboriginal Australians. The book, Robert’s latest in a long series published by him over many years, is a wonderful addition to our knowledge about the people, personalities and events which defined that moment in Australian history when the Wiradjuri people and the arriving Europeans first confronted each other on the Bathurst Plains and beyond to the west. Its narrative brings to life many almost forgotten stories of triumph and of tragedy, of those pioneers and heroes who are remembered from that distant past. The book has eight chapters which range across subjects such as the crossing of the Blue Mountains to the inland journeys of Oxley and the opening up of the ‘frontier country’. Robert Ellis presents us with an interesting, personal telling of the events which led to modern Australia.

The book will be launched by Mr Alan McRae, President of Bathurst Historical Society, at the forthcoming Monthly Muster of the Society in the Uniting Church Hall at 6.15 pm on Thursday evening 16th April 2015 followed by the muster (details below) at 7.30pm.

16th April (Thursday) – Muster - Tim Sargeant

- Hear about Bathurst’s Victoria Cross winner – Blair Wark who served in World War One. He was from the family who had established the first gasworks in Bathurst. He enlisted in Sydney on 15th September, 1915, and won his Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery, initiative and control during the period 29th September to 1st October, 1918, in the operations against the Hindenburg Line in France. At the time Blair was with the 32nd Infantry Battalion. He did come home after the war.

17th to 30th April - “Anzacs At Gallipoli” tribute and display in the Museum. Special display of World War One artefacts and some of the Society’s memorabilia from the Great War and Gallipoli.

19th April (Sunday) – Long Swamp Cemetery Tour 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

26th April (Sunday) My Block Tour 10am to 12noon and then Kelso Village Walking Tour 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

2nd to 9th May – REFLECTIONS – 200 Years of Women’s Fashions in BMEC. With the support of the Bathurst District Historical Society, vintage garments and accessories will be a feature of the massive display at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre from 2nd to 9th May. Garments dating back to 1815 are complete with undergarments, bustles and the history of the women who wore them. Hand-sewn fashions from France, England and Europe. Visitors will follow through the years of changes in women’s fashion of fabric, style, weight and techniques, a visual fair for all ages.

Work is still in progress documenting and photographing garments offered by our community. Organisers are grateful to our seniors for preserving garments and family history, also to our younger generation of skilled designers and collectors for their involvement and generosity.

2nd May (Saturday) – Havannah Street Walking Tour – see Autumn Colours booklet.

3rd May (Sunday) - History Mystery Tour – see Autumn Colours booklet.

7th May – PROCLAMATION DAY – (Thursday) – official opening of the flag staff and Bathurst Bicentennial Colonial Fair. Some of the activities for the Colonial Fair after the Official Ceremony to mark the day and the Official Opening of the flag staff are Marine Corps re-enactment; settler’s slab hut; Colonial dress, Surgeon’s tent; lost trades such as wheelwright, whip maker, blacksmith, stocks and demonstrations of their use; blade shearing, damper stall; food and drink stalls and more.

9th May – Bathurst Bicentennial Colonial Fair (Saturday) – 10am – full on Colonial Fair at
Bicentennial Park by the Macquarie River then from 5pm Illuminations in Russell Street. Some of the activities in addition to Thursdays Colonial Fair are General Colonial displays; extra lost trades such as rope maker, blade shearing; horse shoeing; goldfields display; pipes, drums and brass bands; convict barrack; spinners, weavers, embroidery and tapestry displays; Colonial children’s games; maypole dancing by school children; jumping castles; merry-go-round; a farm animals display; the Flying Pieman organ; vintage vehicle display; ancient internal combustion and steam displays; steam traction engines; Army display; vintage aircraft flyby; train rides, tours of the new Flag Staff complex; food and drink stalls and much more.

9th May (Saturday evening) – Illumination from 5pm for people to gather in the CBD, which includes the Town Square, and experience the Bicentenary story telling with great food, entertainment and activities.

10th May (Sunday) – Bathurst Cemetery Wander – see Autumn Colours booklet.

11th to 17th May (Monday to Sunday) “Snapshots in Time” incorporating the “Wall of Valour” (the latter honouring 100 servicemen of Bathurst) will take place in the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC). It will tell some of the many stories in pictures of the evolution of Bathurst including those of our city’s servicemen and women.

There will also be moving pictures with local videographer Bruce Ryan developing a show reel of Bathurst and its celebrations through the ages so be sure to visit the Snapshots In Time Facebook page and like the page – it’s a simple way to keep in touch with this event as it happens. Another feature of the Snapshots in Time photo exhibition will be a display of artefacts along with their associated photograph, some of which go back to the 1860s.

Local artist, Dean Mobbs, has contributed one of his original paintings of Bathurst’s historical locations which will be raffled and drawn at the exhibition so be sure to purchase a ticket. Remember tickets are already available at the Bathurst District Historical Society Museum.

12th May (Tuesday) 2pm - Mapping and Surveying NSW for 200 years – Then and Now – at the Land and Property Information, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst. Part of the Autumn Colours 2015 Tours. In December 1813 George Evans was the first European to reach the site of present day Bathurst. He was an explorer, but also a surveyor of the office of the N.S.W. Surveyor General. The N.S.W. surveying and mapping functions are continued today by the Land and Property Information office, which has been located in Bathurst for almost 40 years. This is a unique opportunity to appreciate the work of Evans and others in the early 1800s as well as the benefits of technology of the 2000s. Cost is free but bookings are essential so book early at the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre 1800 68 1000

17th May (Sunday) – Long Swamp Cemetery 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

21st May (Thursday) – Muster – “Statues can remember…” with Chris Stewart, so if you have missed out on the popular History Mystery Tour this year why not come along and experience an armchair version and find out if “Statues can remember….”

24th May (Sunday) – My Block Tour 10am to 12 noon and the Kelso Village Walking Tour 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

18th June (Thursday) – Muster - “Where the Vale meets the Macquarie…” with David Bullock. David has a wealth of knowledge about Bathurst’s Vale Creek that once wound its way through Bathurst. Why and when was it diverted and how it came about.

14th August (Friday) – ‘The Bathurst 200 Theo Barker Memorial Lecture’ - Associate Professor Grace Karskens, University of New South Wales, Sydney, will be the guest speaker with the title of her talk – ‘Life on Australia’s first frontier’. The lecture is to be held on the Bathurst campus of the University commencing at 6pm.

So what was it like to make a life in the early farming districts of Australia's first frontier? How did people learn about the new country, how did they make new families and communities, how did they remake old cultures? And what happened to them? In this talk Associate Professor Grace Karskens will present some of the findings from her current research on the people and environments of Castlereagh and the Nepean River in the early colonial period.

Grace is the author of a number of histories on early colonial NSW, especially dealing with early Sydney and The Rocks.

17th September (Thursday) – Muster – Alex Bedwell – “HMAS Bathurst and other World War Two Corvettes.” Hear about the ship named after Bathurst and Alex’s wartime experiences aboard his Corvette.

26th – 27th September (Saturday and Sunday) BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History. This two day event will amass hundreds of feet of historical displays as well as numerous sellers of a great variety of material be held at the Bathurst Showgrounds and the three pavilions.

15th October (Thursday) Muster – David Goldney
**Cox’s Road Dreaming - a natural history of Cox’s 1815 Road.**

31st October - 1st November (Saturday & Sunday) - 9.30am to 5pm - Bathurst Spring Garden Spectacular Open Gardens Weekend and includes Old Government Cottage Bicentennial Heritage Garden. As it is the bicentenary year, only heritage Houses and Gardens will be on display. Gardens will be open from 9.30 to 5pm. There is a superb selection of gardens. The Western Advocate will feature at least one of the gardens each month with a selection of photos.

19th November (Thursday) Muster - Mark Gordon will speak on Teapot Swamp – Moorilda. Mark has considerable interest and knowledge of land grants in and around Bathurst. He is descended from David Gordon of Poor Man’s Hollow and his side of the family went to White Rock. Mark recently edited the book – ‘Moorilda: The story of Teapot Swamp - the village that vanished.’

**CONCERT FOR MRS MACQUARIE’S CELLO**

A cello believed to have belonged to Mrs Macquarie will be heard in Bathurst for the first time in more than 100 years. When Mrs Macquarie left Australia in 1822 she gave the cello to Mrs Piper, writing this letter:

*Sydney Febry. 9th. 1822*

*Dear Mrs. Piper*

*My state of health prevents my being able to call on my acquaintances in this Colony to take my leave, I therefore take only the means in my power of assuring you of my good wishes for a long continuance of health, and prosperity to you, Captain Piper and all your family.*

*I have to request your & Captain Pipers acceptance of a Violoncello, which I hope will be found to sound well in your house at Point Piper.–*

*I am Dear Mrs. Piper*

*with much regard*

*Yours sincerely*  

*E.H. Macquarie*

Renowned cellist David Pereira will play the 1814 instrument at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 29th April. The concert, titled ‘Remembering Mrs Macquarie, Bringing Her Cello Home’, will feature the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra playing works by Corelli, Vivaldi and Peter Sculthorpe. The Sculthorpe piece was written in 2010 especially for the cello and is scored for cello and didgeridoo, which will be played by internationally acclaimed didgeridoo player, William Barton.

The cello will be taken out to Westbourne, the original Piper house at Eglinton, where a sea chest belonging to Captain Piper still lives. Other Piper artefacts will be featured on stage during this exciting concert.

Tickets for the concert are being kept very low to enable as many people as possible to attend the concert. Tickets will be available after Easter and can be purchased at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre in William Street - $10.00 and $5.00 concession.

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**BEN HALL’S LAST WORDS**

The following is from Deidre Robertson: - “My mother was Gwendolyn M. Fulton, born in 1913 at “Fulton Vale”, Triangle Flat, near Rockley, N.S.W. She was the eldest of 5 children to Norman & Mabel Fulton. When the first 2 or 3 children became of school age they moved to Chislehurst in Rockley so the children could go to the Rockley Public School, where Gwendolyn then went into Bathurst High school, and this is where she began her writing, and this poem is from her first year at high school, 1A as stated on the school book I discovered.”

**BEN HALL’S LAST WORDS**

Poem by Gwendolyn Millicent Fulton

Written aged 12 when at Bathurst High School class 1B about 1925
Ben Hall was the leader of a notorious gang
A gang he made up and got
His mind was made up to leave the country
When the last of his men were shot
He went to a man named Mick
To ask him to bring his cash
But instead of going to the bank
To the police he made a dash
The police they hastened to the place
A nigger then they got
As stealthy as a cat he crept
Then aimed at Ben and shot
Ben struggled up and tried to stand
But his legs him backward flung
He clasped a pine around the butt
And there he tightly clung
The police when they saw him hanging
Volley after volley they shot
But he still clung to the pine tree dead
When up to him they got
Thirty two shots had entered his body
But he himself was dead
Now the man who betrayed him
Knew his deed was done
But soon after Ben Halls death
Was born to him a son
On his body were 32 black dots
As he was punished in the end
That was as many times Ben was shot
For he proved a traitor when thought a friend.

WIRADJURI SAW ANCIENT MEGAFANA
- THE DIPROTODONS

The Wiradjuri people would have likely hunted the diprotodon that inhabited parts of Australia. With a history that could go back as far as 50,000 or 60,000 years, or maybe even longer. These large beasts, thought to have evolved some 25 million years ago, would not have been easy to hunt and kill and in the end may have seen its extinction happen faster as some remains have been carbon dated to as recent as 6,000 years.

The first Diprotodon remains to be found and recorded were quite near to Bathurst, in fact the next Government settlement, which was at Wellington. There they were located in a cave on the Bathurst side of Wellington in the 1830s. Surveyor and explorer Major Thomas Mitchell had them shipped to Sir Richard Owen in England in the hope he would study them.

These now extinct Diprotodon were the largest marsupial known to have existed in Australia and is known as Diprotodon Optatum. With its size and appearance somewhat similar to an African rhinoceros, with a stunted hanging tail, this grass eating marsupial had a bulky head that boasted two lower immense chisel-like incisors at the front. These beast’s name comes from these teeth as ‘diprotodon’ means “two forward teeth”. They have at least two upper incisors as well as four large molars in each jaw.

POLICE MAGISTRATES

During Governor Darling’s time the Colonial Office in Britain advised the Governor to set up the administration of the British system for local magistrates. By the 1830s a number of Police Districts had been established with paid Police Magistrates. In 1840 Governor Gipps devised new Police District boundaries with the concept that unpaid Justices of the Peace should become the new ‘unpaid’ magistrates, a proposal brought forward by the N.S.W. Legislative Council. Most felt that this would be a considerable saving for the Colonial treasury. As a result Police Magistrate numbers began to wane. In 1856, when New South Wales gained responsible Government, the numbers of Police Magistrates increased again.

Their four stumpy legs with in-turned feet, similar to the wombat (it is also related to the koala), allowed them to graze low to the ground making these herbivorous mammals efficient eaters. They also boasted strong claws but these were only on their front feet. These would have helped them did for food such as plant roots and tubers.

In 1838 Professor Richard Owen, an English biologist and palaeontologist, was the first authority to attempt to describe the Diprotodon from some of
the Wellington bone fragments and as it turned out was the first fossilised mammal named from Australia.

He spent much of his life describing and cataloguing fossils so when it came to the Wellington fossils he made a remarkably accurate picture of these massive mammals despite not having enough bones to make anywhere near a comprehensive skeleton. He had died by the time complete skeletons turned up in South Australia in 1892. These new finds proved the late Professor’s hypothesis to be quite accurate.

Owen was somewhat controversial throughout his life but had an outstanding drive with whatever he did and was the man responsible for coming up with the word Dinosauria which means “Fearfully Great Reptile” or “Terrible Reptile”. He decided to retire aged 79 but still kept working on various projects.

There are more than 20 different species known with the largest, when fully grown, being more than three metres in length, often weighing between one and two tonnes. It was the largest of Australia’s megafauna that one roamed our lands primarily grazing in the lush grasses that were surrounding the low lying swamps which were scattered around in ancient times or inland in drier areas and grasslands, depending on the type of Diprotodon in the region.

Some palaeontologists believe that the diprotodon lived in small family groups and further bone finds enhance this thought.

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**THE FERNERY**

The designer of Machattie Park, Mr. James Hine, had another location set down for his fernery in Bathurst’s most popular park. In his original design he had it placed in the north-east section near the corner of Russell and George Street. Despite where it may have been it is the most popular structure, with its fountain, within Machattie Park

The fernery, the largest in the colony it was claimed at the time, contained a choice selection of native and intercolonial ferns. From its opening it attracted s steady flow of Bathurstians and tourists keen to see the assortment of plants. The fernery was decorated with a small fountain within the building, the latter being supplied by Lassetter and Company in Sydney at a cost of £30. The Bathurst Progress Association assisted in purchasing the fountain. The Head Gardiner, Mr. Patterson, saw to it that the pool at the base of the fountain was well stocked with golden carp which he kept fed.

The three statues did not appear till after 1901 when the Trustees of the National Art Gallery in Sydney offered to loan them to the Bathurst Progress Association with Bathurst City Council signing the loan agreement.

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**SCRIMSHAW**

One pastime that existed during Ben Hall’s time, though mainly amongst early sailors, especially whalers, and still fascinates many, is the art of scrimshaw. These early sailors recorded the scenes of their sailing and whaling experiences onto items such as bone, whales and other teeth, walrus tusks, horn, sometimes antler or in some cases even onto large shark’s teeth. Early settlers and shepherds used sheep and cattle and other bits of bone but these are rare. Scrimshaw is also known as scrimshoning or scrimshander, the latter name also for one who does scrimshaw.

Scrimshaw dates back to at least the 17th century but was more common during the 18th century. These engravers painstakingly carved their designs or pictures to record history as they whiled away the long hours completing just one piece usually of nautical, ship, whaling or rural scenes. Little work was done in the evening and these hardy men used this time well.

Often a sharp knife point was used though others had special tools made by the blacksmith when in port. The design was scratched in before a mixture of whale fat and powdered charcoal was rubbed into the design.

The whale’s teeth were also carved into items such as chess pieces, small boxes, walking sticks, walking stick handles, miniature models of ships, needle containers, thimbles, crochet needles and jewellery to name a few.
ONE OF BATHURST'S VCs

Bathurst’s most well known and most famous Victoria Cross recipient is Blair Wark but Bathurst has at least two other recipients that at one time or another lived in Bathurst. One of them was a distinguished Scotsman, John Paton, who commenced working as a Gaol Warder after arriving in the colony of New South Wales. He was also an early Victoria Cross recipient and is seen below wearing his VC and other medals proudly on his chest.

John Paton did relief work at the Bathurst Gaol and visited our local institution as photos exist of him in front of the penal institution. He would have logically travelled to Bathurst on the steam train. Many of the early warders employed in the colonial prison service and gaol system, especially those in country areas, usually had a background in the military. Many of these military men had fought in the Crimea, India and later in the Maori Wars in New Zealand prior to being employed in the prison system.

John Paton commenced with the colony of New South Wales Prison Service in May 1861 after emigrating from Scotland, obviously keen to start a less dangerous career. By September 1865 he had become the Chief Warder at the Port Macquarie Gaol, a position he was to hold for ten years. John Paton married his first wife, Mary Miller in 1866 but unfortunately she died in 1869 but not before the couple had twin girls.

He was then transferred to Deniliquin Gaol where he held the same position from 1875 until he was promoted to Governor. A promotion to Governor at Berrima Gaol in November 1888, at the age of around 55 saw him some five years off retirement. His stay at Berrima proved to be relatively short and less than two years later he took over from Mr P. Herbert at the larger Goulburn Gaol becoming Governor in July 1890.

John Paton was born in Stirling in Scotland on the 23rd December, 1833. His father, Matthew Paton, had been a soldier so it was probably understandable that John would join the British Army. Against his mother Isabella’s wishes John decided to join the Black Watch however when the Crimean War broke out young Paton decided to sign up with Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders where he would later become a Sergeant in the 93rd Regiment. Receiving his regimental number 970 this young soldier saw his first active service during the Battle of the Alma in the Crimea within a fortnight of arriving as part of the Highland Brigade. It was September of 1854 and he went on to fight at Balaclava and he was there for the storming of Sebastopol.

Army life was really hard. Injured soldiers often died of their wounds due to the lack of knowledge about treating wounds. He was part of the Highland Brigade that were confronted at Balaclava by large numbers of Russian Cavalry and held out, an action that is remembered in Britain’s military history.

It was in India that John Paton was to receive the Victoria Cross medal, a gallantry award given by the British Government to their own forces as well as those of the Commonwealth. Paton’s regiment arrived on 15th November, 1857, at Lucknow in India and were ordered out that very day to fight the Sepoys. It was the following day that he took part in the action during the Siege of Lucknow that would see the awarding of the Victoria Cross just two years after his twenty first birthday. The action was hard and the men were constantly fighting off the enemy native forces as Paton’s regiment stormed each objective.

The award was gazetted in London on Christmas Eve the following year with the citation noting the details of his actions of “distinguished personal gallantry at Lucknow, on the 16th of November, 1857”. Sergeant Paton, proceeding alone and under extremely heavy-fire, around the Shah Nujjiff where he discovered a breach on the opposite side. He then went back to his regiment and brought his regiment back to the breach. His action allowed this important objective to be taken during the relief of Lucknow.
HOLLOWAY’S OINTMENT AND THE BEN HALL GANG

So what does the Ben Hall gang have to do with Holloway’s ointment? The bushrangers had raided Bathurst on Saturday 3rd October, 1863, and afterwards left town for the bush. After lying low on Sunday and Monday Ben Hall decided they would make another visit to Bathurst. So on Tuesday evening they set off to visit some ‘prospective sites’ on the Vale Road. They were about a mile out of town from the police barracks.

They first selected Mr. Mutton’s store but found it locked and secured so they decided to visit Mutton’s mother nearby. She allowed the men in after which they demanded a key to the store. She stood up to them and wouldn’t hand it over so the bandits began to search her home by candlelight. As it happened one of the candles they were carrying ignited a fire which the men attempted to douse. In the melee one burnt his hand. Mrs. Mutton handed over a small pot of Holloway’s ointment to apply to his hand. After a good scolding by Mrs. Mutton the bandits departed.

The ointment was manufactured and sold by a Professor Thomas Holloway who made many outrageous medical claims. He sold both ointments and pills here in the Central West of New South Wales, in fact world-wide.

Holloway was born in 1800 in England. Not a keen scholar, he later worked in his parents shop prior to leaving for London, aged 28. Later, after returning from France, he came across an Italian man named Albinolo who made an ‘ointment’ which Holloway decided to sell. He called it “Albinolo's Ointment” but others thought it useless though Thomas had had good results himself. Regardless, he simply substituted his own name and adopted the title “Professor”.

By 1842 his office was at 244 The Strand, near Temple Bar, in London. Professor Holloway was on the lookout for agents, including Australia. His earlier pots were plain thus did not feature the later design of the woman and the child (above) – they sold for one shilling and a penny halfpenny. He claimed his ointments could cure ulcers, sore breasts, sore heads, bad legs as well as all wounds, sores, piles, fistulas, burns, scalds, shin eruptions, and all affections of the throat, chest and lungs. Directions for the guidance of patients with any disorder were affixed to each pot or box.

By October 1846 Holloway appointed a Sydney agent, Mr. J.K. Heydon, 76 King Street East, Sydney. Then within six weeks of receiving initial supplies, Haydon appointed three sub-agents in Sydney and Mr. Joshua Parker in Bathurst.

The Bathurst Free Press in May, 1857, carries an advertisement for “Birch, Flower & Company in William Street was now selling Holloway’s Pills and Ointments.” Haydon sent Holloway's medicines packed in paper in a canvas bag on the mail coaches from Sydney to Bathurst.

Mrs Mutton could have bought her Holloway’s ointment at several places by 1863 including Mr. J. Stanger’s store located in the School of Arts building on the corner of William and George Street.

Holloway was always on the lookout for ways to promote his business and had penny and halfpenny copper tokens struck at the Birmingham Mint in England by Ralph Heaton and Sons. They were also an incentive for merchants, druggists and chemists to buy his pills, ointments and his tokens. The obverse featured the head of the Professor with the legend reading ‘Professor Holloway, London.’ The reverse (above) shows Holloway's famous seated woman with the legend reading 'Holloway's Pills and Ointments' and the date of issue which was 1857 or 1858 and used extensively.

Any tokens were unofficial coinage; but as the Government of the day could not provide the required coins they turned a blind eye to the practice. By 1863 tokens were declared illegal in Victoria with other colonies and New Zealand following. Bathurst chemist, Joshua Parker, received a shipment of tokens early in 1858 and Ben Hall and his boys probably would have seen and handled these tokens.

By 1860 Mr. J. Stanger in William Street had been appointed as the “Western District Agent” and he had large stocks of ointment and tablets always on hand at Sydney prices. One must remember that all supplies came to Bathurst on bullock drawn waggons.
The photo above shows Archdeacon George Spencer Oakes, the eighth rector of Holy Trinity Church at Kelso, seen holding the reigns and whip. The sulky originally cost the church £38/6/0. The photo was taken in 1908 at All Saints College which was then located up near where the Bathurst High School is today. Archdeacon Oakes often visited the college for special religious and other occasions and to assist in religious instruction. He was made Archdeacon in 1903. He was also Chaplain at the Bathurst Gaol on the Orange road.

George Oakes was born at Crookwell in New South Wales on 10th December, 1855. As with most children in those days he learnt to ride at an early age and quickly became an accomplished horseman. He did a short course at Teachers College and when aged 20 he came to Bathurst as a pupil teacher. Oakes studied for Holy Orders under Canon Smith at Bathurst Anglican Cathedral. He was later ordained as a Deacon in All Saints’ Cathedral at Bathurst in 1878 by Bishop Marsden. Afterwards he rode to Coonamble to take up his appointment there. The following year he rode back to Bathurst for his ordination as priest. He travelled to Prahran in Victoria in 1885 to marry Helen Nina Colquhoun (Nina) then took her home to the Rectory in Brewarrina by Cobb and Co coach.

For sixteen years he served in the West ranging over a wide area, all on horseback, including the parishes of Coonamble, Brewarrina, Wilcannia and Warren, before becoming rector of Kelso on 5th April, 1894. With the death of the popular monarch Queen Victoria Reverend Oakes conducted a special memorial service in Holy Trinity Church on 4th February, 1901. Large numbers of lady parishioners attended the service dressed in black whilst many of the men wore black armbands as a mark of respect. Queen Victoria had reigned over them almost, if not all, of their lives. The following Sunday he gave a special sermon at Kelso informing the congregation of the memorable events of her reign.

In 1902 Reverend Oakes was granted leave of absence from Holy Trinity Church to take up the “Office of Chaplain of the New South Wales portion of the Commonwealth Troops about to proceed to the war in South Africa.”

By now an Archdeacon, George Oakes again travelled overseas in 1907 and as he always did kept up correspondence with his family and circle of friends with numerous pictorial postcards. In May 1911 he was appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Bathurst just prior to the death of Bishop Camidge. In 1915 he obtained leave of absence, “as from June 1 next” and intended going to Norfolk Island on a health trip. Each time the Archdeacon took leave someone was appointed to attend to the church, thus Reverend Plenty took over the parish in 1916 as Locum Tenens from mid-July to later in November. Then again in 1918, from mid-April to late November, Reverend Winter was Locum Tenens.

Bathurst and church life was severely disrupted when deadly influenza broke out in January 1919. It
was most likely brought back by returned servicemen from the Middle East. Due to low attendance numbers at churches, for example on one Sunday only one person arrived at Holy Trinity, church services were cancelled for a short time. He was a prolific writer and had many articles and letters published in the local Bathurst newspaper as well as his main work “The Kelso Church and the Pioneers of the West”.

In 1929 Archdeacon Oakes took exception to the christening of an aeroplane where the wife of the President of the Western Aero Company broke a bottle of champagne over the plane and “christened” it “The Macquarie”. On reading this he penned off a letter to the Editor of the Western Times newspaper. He wrote – “to christen means to administer the sacrament of baptism, and to make a christening. It is somewhat paradoxical that the first act of this so-called Christian aeroplane was to rob the Kelso people of their Sabbath calm and worship. At the Patronal Festival of Holy Trinity Church, Sunday afternoon, there were no choir boys present, and we were told they had gone to see the aeroplane.”

In a published letter from the President of the Western Aero Company there was an apology pointing out that they did not realise there was an afternoon service at Holy Trinity Church that day and if any church wished to send a note to the company stating the hour of services it would be seriously considered even if it meant material sacrifice on the part of the company.

The Oakes had three children, Arthur Wellesley Oakes who was a Trooper in the 1st Light Horse Regiment A.I.F. He was killed in action on 7th August, 1915. By this time the local Bathurst Times regularly had lists of killed and wounded and Archdeacon Oakes would often say special prayers in church for the deceased and wounded serviceman. His other two children were Edith Mary Camidge Oakes who never married and Alice Marian Oakes who married William Fox Northcott.

SNIPPET FROM THE PAST

Ref: 19th July 1916

There was great anticipation for the arrival of the Anzac Band on Wednesday 19th July, 1916. They were to arrive on the 4.30 afternoon train at Bathurst Railway Station. It was expected that a large number of returned heroes in the welcome parade with a large crowd expected to watch on. Dr Machattie was lending his motor car for the occasion to transport the more severely injured men wanting to take part in the parade before travelling up Keppel Street. The parade for the visiting Anzacs would then go to King’s Parade followed by a Civic Reception by the Mayor of Bathurst, Alderman W.J. McPhillamy.

Here the Council expected some several thousand to be on hand, including a large body of children. The Mayor had already stated that the community were certainly appreciative of the men who had done it for the country and the Empire. The Anzac Band comprised of 23 men, the majority having been on active service. It had been formed some three months before coming to Bathurst.

Mr. C.L. Kendall was to be on hand to say a few remarks to the gathering. Mr. J. Bartlett and Mr. W.A. McLean, both of Russell Street and both Builder’s with their own businesses, were constructing the dais that would be used in King’s Parade on the day. Most Bathurst citizens were proud of the way the men had gone forth and fought for Australia with such glory and honour.

The local Camp Band would be part of the undertaking and had had several practices leading up to the visit. “God Save the King” would be played. Colonel Owen had changed his arrangements so that he could be there on the day.

The Civic Reception was to be held in the Town Hall opposite King’s Parade. The local ladies of the Red Cross Society were to prepare food for the occasion providing sandwiches and cakes. They would be entertaining the men after the official proceedings in King’s Parade. The Bandmaster Mr. C. May had already been in touch with the ladies by telephone.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Museum and Archives:
East Wing, Bathurst Court House, Russell Street.
P.O. Box 237, Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone: (02) 63308455 (Museum Open Hours)
Email: info@bathursthistory.org.au

Annual Membership Subscription (due July 1st)
$20 single and $32 family
Corporate on request
Once only joining fee of $25

Museum Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10am – 4pm. Sunday 11am-2pm

Archives Hours:
Tuesday 10.30am-12.30pm; 1.30-3.30pm
Subject to volunteers availability.

Old Government Cottage Hours:
Open each Sunday 12 noon to 4pm.

Information on the Society, as well as membership application forms, are available at the front desk during opening hours.

Alan McRae FAIHA Newsletter Editor