



Bathurst District Historical Society Inc.

MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

No 101 January – March 2015

BICENTENARY YEAR EDITION

Price \$3.00

Free to Members of the Society

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the first issue of our Member's newsletter for Bathurst's 200th Anniversary Year. 2015 marks the beginning of Bathurst's rich and dynamic history from a Government and convict settlement to where we are today.

I trust everyone had a most pleasant Christmas with family and friends and I would like to take the opportunity to extend my best wishes for a bright, prosperous and healthy 2015.

There are well over 100 events that I have on a list so there will be many others. The main commemorative project commissioned for 2015 is the construction of a flag staff on an innovative viewing platform and multi-purpose facility on the site of the original one erected on the orders of Governor Macquarie in 1815. This will be the highlight of Proclamation Day on Thursday 7th May this year.



Above - Work progressing on the Flag Staff site at Bicentennial Park.

Major H.C. Antill who was Governor Macquarie's Aide-de-Camp noted in his diary on 5th May, 1815, - "The spot which was chosen for the Governor's large tent was upon a little rising ground about three hundred yards from the men's huts, a small tent was placed on each side with a clear space in front upon which a small flag staff was erected. This was a delightful spot for a town, commanding a view of the surrounding country to a considerable extent...."

As part of the activities on both Thursday 7th and Saturday 9th May there will be a Colonial Fair, though the one on the Saturday will be larger and more involved. Plans are in hand for demonstrations

of trades from our colonial past such as blacksmith, whip maker, horse shoeing, wheelwright, blade shearer, brick maker, bush wood turner, potter and rope maker. There will also be the Redcoats and their lifestyle tents, a surgeon's tent, spinning and weaving, old handicrafts, pastimes and games along with maypole dancing and a slab hut all set up as it would have been.



Above – the Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden recently being constructed.

The 'Pillars of Bathurst' is a cultural heritage garden which Bathurst Regional Council are currently constructing at Bicentennial Park almost opposite Old Government Cottage in Stanley Street and adjacent to the Ohkuma Gardens. The pathway and arches are completed and staff are working on the garden walls. The restored cast iron verandah posts were formerly at the rear of the Royal Hotel in William Street and they have been put to good use as the 'Pillars of Bathurst'.

The idea of the 'Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden' is to commemorate those past Bathurstians who have added something special to the history of the Bathurst region, ideally offering inspiration to living and future Bathurstians.

Initially Bathurst Regional Council have nominated the first series of names to be attached to the pillars. Many have been chosen to bring forth those people who are less known today and who deserve to be better known. Those who have been selected as a "Pillar", or who may be selected in the future, will undoubtedly provoke discussion as to why those names were included and others not.

The garden will be officially launched on Sunday 29

A lot of time was spent stepping back to admire the new display and there was a bit of confusion putting the captions out, but finally it was finished and the door closed on a good weekend's work. Make sure to take some time to have a look and see what you think!

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DO YOU OWN ANY SPECIAL SILVER?

The Bathurst District Historical Society is very pleased to welcome the Silver Society of Australia to Bathurst in March. There is a packed program of events planned, including a visit to the Museum to inspect the BDHS's collection of silver objects on Saturday 21st March.



Photo – a silver jug from a shipwreck



During that visit to the Museum, the Silver Society is happy to invite Historical Society members to bring in **one** silver object for appraisal (but not a valuation), with a gold coin donation. In order to get

some idea of how many members might be attending this appraisal session, please put your name down in the Trip Book at the Front Desk at the Museum.

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SOCIETY MONTHLY MUSTERS & ACTIVITIES - 2015

Monthly Musters are held at the Museum with a 7.30pm start. Musters are free and open to the public. There is a tradition of having supper afterwards and people are requested to bring a plate of goodies for supper. For information please contact Chris Stewart, Monthly Muster Master on 0408084450.

1st February 2015 (Sunday) Twilight Picnic from 5pm at “Lachlan Inn”, 57 – 59 Lambert Street, Bathurst. Our host will be Vianne Tourle. Hear about this early inn and some of the tales that surround it since it was constructed to cater for passing traffic. See how this single storey hostellery and stone cellar is being restored. Members please bring your family and friends, your picnic tea, drinks and rugs/chairs etc **for picnic in Centennial Park across road first.**



19th February (Thursday) – Muster - Show and Tell Evening – bring along one or two of your treasured items and talk for a minute on each item. With Bathurst marking 200 years next year I know that there are a number of rarely seen items sitting in member's cupboards.



**1st March – (Sunday) - History Mystery Tour -
100pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.**

**7th March – (Saturday) - Havannah Street
Walking Tour 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn
Colours booklet.**

8th March – (Sunday) - Bathurst Cemetery
Wander 9.00am to 12 noon – see Autumn Colours
booklet.

12th March – (Thursday) 2pm - The Magic and Mystery of Machattie Park with Spencer Harvey. Discover the magic, mystery and myths of Machattie

Park. On this tour the true stories will be revealed, together with details of how the park was designed, named and developed. Hear also the stories behind the many memorials and magnificent trees, some of which are over 100 years old. Marvel at the skills and foresight of these early gardeners. Sensible walking shoes and hats are recommended. Call Bathurst Visitor Information Centre on 1800 68 1000 to secure a place in the tour. Meet at Machattie Park at 1.50pm on the corner of Russell & George Streets.

14th March – (Saturday) 2pm - The Magic and Mystery of Machattie Park with Spencer Harvey. Discover the magic, mystery and myths of Machattie Park. On this tour the true stories will be revealed, together with details of how the park was designed, named and developed. Hear also the stories behind the many memorials and magnificent trees, some of which are over 100 years old. Marvel at the skills and foresight of these early gardeners. Sensible walking shoes and hats are recommended. Call Bathurst Visitor Information Centre on 1800 68 1000 to secure a place in the tour. Meet at Machattie Park at 1.50pm on the corner of Russell & George Streets.

14th – 15th March (Saturday and Sunday) “Rebellion on the Turon” on Saturday and Sunday at Sofala. Why not join with the residents of the Turon Gold Fields and the N.S.W. Corp of Marines in a weekend of colonial re-enactments and colonial displays. Saturday starts at 10am and goes to 4 pm and on Sunday 10am to 3pm. Note - both days start and finish with firing of the 1820s canon (cannonade). The re-enactment of the “Rebellion on the Turon” with the Turon Diggers uprising against the gold licensing fee and march on the Police Barracks will occur on Sunday at 1pm. Cost: Free if you can avoid the lady bushranger who is after your gold (coin donation) and the Redcoats who will pester you to take out a gold license. For more information contact Carlo on 63377587.

14th & 15th March (Saturday and Sunday) – Evan’s Arts Council Annual Flower Show.

15th March (Sunday) – Long Swamp Cemetery 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

19th March (Thursday) – Muster - Martin King - English Antique Furniture ca 1815 – Late Georgian – Regency furniture of the type that came to early Bathurst including the famous Windsor chair.

21st & 22nd March – Saturday & Sunday – visit by Silver Society of Australia.

22nd March (Sunday) – My Block 10am to 12 noon and then Kelso Village Walking Tour 1.00pm to 4.00pm – see Autumn Colours booklet.

26th March (Thursday) 10am - 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.

27th March, (Friday) 2pm - 3pm. “GETTING LAID: BATHURST TOWN SQUARE FOUNDATION STONES” walking tour - Foundation Stones offer interesting insights on the people and times when now historic buildings were built. In this free walking tour, we will visit five Foundation Stones, hear their stories and meet a general, a colonial minister, a prime minister and a widow or two. Easy access short walk. **Limit of 25 people; please book at BVIC; FREE. Meet at the Museum.**

28th March (Saturday) MUSEUM OPEN DAY -



The Bathurst District Historical Society is committed to promoting Bathurst’s rich history and heritage to the community and as part of our Society’s Mission Statement, we hope to enrich people’s lives through the promotion of knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of that important history and heritage. As such the Society is holding a special free entry Museum Day on Saturday 28th March next year. This is a great opportunity for volunteers to bring their friends to look at the revamped display. Please spread this information on the Open Day with family, friends and acquaintances. Remember the permanent display at the Museum has been recently changed to reflect the past 200 years of Bathurst from Macquarie to the present. There will be lucky door prizes.

As part of Open Day 2015 we plan to launch the new displays and to provide guided tours of certain aspects of the displays. There will be continuous DVDs and PowerPoint photo shows running in the Reading Room and photo scanning like last year.

See the new changes in the Bushranger Room.

28th March (Saturday) 10:30 - 11:30am "BEHIND THE SIGNS". Join a free preview walk along "A Delightful Spot Heritage Trail" the day before its official opening with one of the trail's creators. Hear the stories behind the interpretation signs and visit sites without signage – including the piggery, police cottage and soldiers' dunny. Easy access short walk. **Limit of 25 people; please book at the BVIC; FREE. Meet at the Bathurst City Community Club, William Street.**

29th March (Sunday) - Old Government Cottage Bicentennial Heritage Garden Official Opening, Official Opening of "The Pillars of Bathurst Cultural Garden" (below) and 'A Delightful Spot'- Early Government Settlement Area Heritage Trail, the three events 'opened' at the one time at 11pm on 29th March, 2015. We will now be having a meeting with the OGC volunteers and the Bathurst Garden Club to work out the finer points to be done on the day. Note that this function takes place the day after our Museum Open Day.



Whilst on the subject of Old Government Cottage Bicentennial Heritage Garden the responsibility for maintenance of the Garden will pass back to the Historical Society from this day - 29 March (Official Opening). I would ask for any members who have an interest and expertise in gardening to put their names forward so that a roster can be organised.

4th April (Saturday) – Havannah Street Walking Tour – see Autumn Colours booklet.



5th April (Sunday) – History Mystery Tour – see Autumn Colours booklet.

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

16th April (Thursday) – Muster - Tim Sargeant Hear about Bathurst's Victoria Cross winner – Blair Walk

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 Colonial Fair. From 5pm see the Illuminations in Russell Street at night. 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; damper stall; food and drink stalls and

9th May – Bathurst 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; tours of the new Flag Staff complex; food and drink stalls and much more.

9th May (Saturday evening) 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.



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.

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.

WATER TROUGHS

Most people today would never think about water troughs being needed around Bathurst in the early days unless they were used to livestock on the land. Everyone used horses for transport and whilst large numbers of horses were found in Bathurst itself, there was a need to water the animals.

The Bathurst Municipal Council by the mid 1860s were getting requests for public water troughs to be placed strategically around Bathurst.

Initially water troughs were made from timber, logs hollowed out and used. Seems they were reasonably successful as long as they were kept with water in them and not dry out. This worked on the same principal as a wooden wine barrel.



Above – Plain cover top water trough in the Bathurst District Historical Society collection.

Later troughs were cast in iron, though mostly these were imported, however the Bathurst Municipal Council did place an order for two iron ‘two hole’ water troughs from Ashfield Plumbing Works in Ashfield, Sydney. They would have duly arrived on the steam train and been picked up by the Council with a suitable wagon and several horses.

We know that Mr. Alfred Vaughan of Ashfield Plumbing Works was situated in Milton Street in Ashfield. He placed advertisements in local newspapers such as on 14th September, 1901, -

“WANTED smart BOY to learn plumbing, gas fitting, sanitary engineering. Apply A VAUGHAN, Ashfield Plumbing Works, Milton Street Ashfield.”

The cast iron water troughs would be ordered by councils and other bodies with their name on the top cover plate as seen by the one in Lithgow marked within three rings, see below. The date ‘1898’ appears in the centre, then ‘LITHGOW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL’ and around that ‘ALFRED VAUGHAN – ASHFIELD PLUMBING WORKS’. Otherwise the top cover plate would be plain.



Lithgow 1898 cast iron water trough.

Besides the trough owned by the Society, there is at least one other existing in Bathurst that had been originally installed to provide relief for working horses in the first half of the twentieth century.

The troughs were known to freeze over at times during winter. Ironically, the old cast iron bathtubs were used for drinking water, however today most livestock water troughs are made from cement.

Probably the best known example was Queen Victoria's Golden Anniversary water trough with its ornate gas lamp and stand which was once located in front of the Bathurst Court House. It is seen at right in next column and on the next page. The introduction of the motor car finally saw its demise so it was later relocated into Machattie Park. The trough supplied drinking water for the many horses around town that would require water. The horse here has either just had its fill or is about to.

In the first photo in the next column the Bathurst

Post Office is seen on the right while the two storey brick building further down Russell Street is the National Advocate newspaper office. The first issue of Bathurst's "National Advocate" appeared on the streets of Bathurst on Saturday 28th September, 1889, so our photo was taken after that time. The first Board of Directors of the newspaper consisted of Alderman F. Halliday, Jacob Knight and P.V. Ryan along with Messrs. James Rutherford, F.V. Suttor, William Muggeridge and James Kelleher.

Early Bathurstians were aware of their monarch as official functions would toast the King. King George IV died in 1830 and the Duke of Clarence succeeded him as King William IV. Then at dawn on the morning of 20th June, 1837, a small, 18 year old girl in a dressing gown and slippers was told she was now the Queen of England. Born at Kensington Palace in London on 24th May, 1819, she, the daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent and Princess Victoria, became Queen Victoria.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent wished to name their daughter "Victoria" but the Prince Regent, the future George IV insisted that she be named Alexandrina after her godfather, Tsar Alexander I of Russia, and she was therefore christened Alexandrina Victoria.

Princess Victoria had reached the age of eighteen in May 1837, twenty seven days before King William IV died on 20th June, a little over four years after the streets of Bathurst had been surveyed and the first town blocks sold.

Usually Bathurst took the opportunity each year to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday. For example on 24th May, 1845, "a bonfire was lit in Bathurst with young and old amusing themselves by letting off fireworks, which was kept up until a late hour." Read's Inn (later known as the Royal Hotel) did not do anything special for the occasion with only four out of the eight Bathurst drinking establishments making any effort this year.

The wedding took place between Queen Victoria and her handsome cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg in London in February, 1840, when both the bride

and bridegroom were twenty. He was her greatest love and was to have the strongest influence over Victoria. The marriage was very happy and they had nine children.

A number of years later more hotels used the occasion for special events and festivities. Typically there were celebrations at the Royal Hotel after the races at the racecourse at Queen Charlotte's Vale on Queen Victoria's birthday on 24th May, 1857. By now there were 44 licensed public houses in Bathurst, which is one for every 65 men, women and children. By now most hotels held celebrations in honour of Queen Victoria as she was a popular monarch.

However, in December 1861 Prince Albert, at the age of forty-two, died from typhoid fever. The Queen withdrew into complete seclusion, being called the "Widow of Windsor." She dressed in black which she continued to wear until her death.

With the fiftieth Anniversary of Queen Victoria's Accession in 1887 coming up a meeting of local Bathurst ladies was held in the dining room at the Royal Hotel in William Street on 27th May, 1887. It had been suggested that Bathurst should instigate some sort of memorial to commemorate the Jubilee of the Queen. The ladies decided to have a fancy water fountain to be constructed in central Bathurst to allow for the watering of horses. A committee was formed who had one ordered and shipped out from England at a cost of between £130 to £140.



The committee organised a bazaar to help raise the money to coincide with the occasion of the national celebration both in England, Australia and other British Colonies. The Royal Hotel in Bathurst had special celebrations and functions, as did other hotels around town. There were public ceremonies and new English coin designs. Mr Charles Byass Turner had the lease on the Royal Hotel at the time with the hotel specially illuminated for the event and a "Queen Victoria Dinner" was held with local citizens attending.

The cast fountain was shipped to Sydney and arrived

in Bathurst on the train. The Committee had written to the Bathurst Municipal Council who had granted permission for the Ladies Committee to erect their fountain in the middle of Russell Street in front of the Court House between the Post Office and Telegraph Office on 25th October, 1888.

By 30th November the fountain was in place and on this day Mrs. Machattie, on behalf of the Ladies Committee, handed over Queen Victoria's memorial to Bathurst Council.



By this time the first British silver double florins, a new denomination sanctioned in 1887 for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, had arrived in Bathurst to circulate along with crowns, florins, (above), and all other denominations including farthings.

Initially the large silver double florins proved popular but they were discontinued after just four years, it being nicknamed the "Barmaid's Ruin" as it was a similar size to the crown and with the poor light in all hotels and inns, including in Bathurst, it was easily confused.

Though it was not legal, a popular pastime was to have silver coins of the realm taken to a local jeweller or silversmith and turned into a piece of jewellery which could be given to a friend, fiancée, wife or even for a special occasion such as a birthday, christening or, in some cases, even to mark the death of a relative or for a funeral.



The 1887 Queen Victoria florin (two shillings - above) brooch is typical of a piece of coin jewellery worn by ladies in the late 1800s. Shillings were also a popular denomination to make into jewellery.



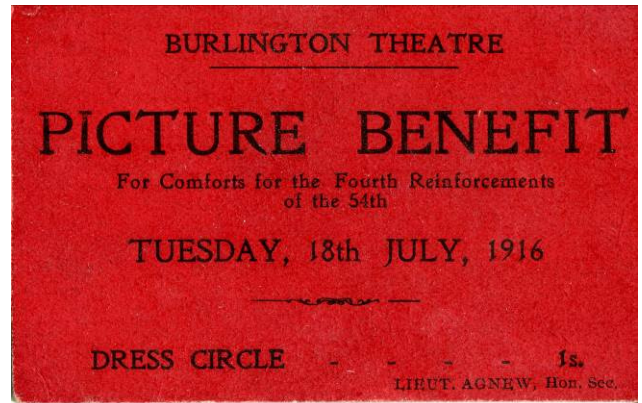
Above – Queen Victoria’s Jubilee portrait on her 1887 Jubilee medallion.

Having appeared as a teenager on her coinage for 50 years, this new portrait was used for all gold and silver coins, showing Queen Victoria wearing a small diamond coronet. The coins were designed by medallist Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm whose efforts were much criticised. This design continued till 1891 when the ‘old head’ design appeared.



Queen Victoria basically became the symbol of the British Empire during the last fifteen years of her reign when she was revered and almost worshipped by the public at this time. Many a home would have the Queen’s portrait, such as this above, prominently displayed in their home. She reigned longer than any other English sovereign and there were scenes of enthusiasm and joy in Bathurst during her Diamond Jubilee on 20th June, 1897. She died on 22nd January, 1901, after reigning over 63 years - the longest in British history.

BATHURST REGULARLY RAISED MONEY FOR COMFORTS FUNDS IN THE GREAT WAR



The ticket above was sold to the public to raise money to provide comforts for the 4th Reinforcements of the 54th Battalion. The idea was that they were sold and the Burlington Picture Company paid a percentage back to the organisation. This Burlington Picture Benefit card was printed up especially for this event. The Great War saw an advance in both technology and proliferation of films during World War One and afterwards.

Lieut Agnew was the honorary secretary of the organisation with the evening to take place on Tuesday 18th July, 1916. Tickets cost one shilling each and were for use in the dress circle. The lieutenant let prospective patrons know that there would be a full orchestra as well as a Band and that tickets were at the usual price. The programme for the evening was “The Coward”, 4700 feet reel, and “Crooked in the End”. There was a full house on the night.

Originally the Burlington Picture Theatre had been located on the corner of William and Durham Streets where it operated outdoors in summer and inside in the coldest months. Bathurst has had a long history of picture theatres and due to the lack of enough suitable buildings some open air theatres were in operation for up to a decade in the city.

By the time of this Burlington Picture Benefit in mid 1916 the business had been relocated further up William Street as seen in the photo on next page. After the milling machinery was removed from Tremain’s Britannia Flour Mill to Boggabri early in 1910 the old mill was demolished not long after. The land was put up for sale and Burlington Pictures Limited purchased the land. From 1912 construction began with their new theatre constructed on the site basically opposite St. Mary’s School.

The 54th Battalion was a militia battalion and recruited mainly from the Bathurst region. There would be few in Bathurst at the time that didn’t know someone serving or at least their family. Already Alan S.D. Barton, a Major, was serving in the Royal Australian Army Service Corps, Private Eric Harford Ward had enlisted on 8th October,



Then there were two brothers from Bathurst, Pte. Herbert Clemdon Blyton, usually called Herb, who was part of the 2nd Reinforcements for the 54th Battalion, had celebrated his twenty first birthday. He enlisted on 8th January, 1916, and with little training embarked from Sydney aboard H.M.A.T. Ceramic on 14th April, 1916. He was killed in action the following year on 15th May, 1917, in Bullecourt in France. His brother, Bertrude Leopold Blyton, who was also of the 54th Battalion, was also killed in action during the Battle of Bullecourt. He died on 15th May, 1917, the same day as his brother.



“Grand Benefit” movie programme on the previous night, on the 17th July. They featured “The Dancer and the King” along with a newsreel of “Australian Soldiers Embarking for the Front”. Other shorts included comedies, dramas and others. Paton’s Popular Orchestra were to play a number of popular tunes. There would have been people who attended both benefits just because of the cause.

By mid-1916 there were lists of killed, wounded and returned to unit lists for the central west in the Bathurst newspaper almost daily. One man was 'Returned to Service' on this particular day and this was Bugler L. Hamilton from Bathurst.

Life for those at home seemed to revolve around the Great War and raising money for the war effort and the soldiers who were fighting overseas. ‘Kelso Button Day’ was held in aid of the War Chest Comfort Fund committee to purchase comforts for Kelso soldiers.

When one reads the various newspapers over time there are continuous advertisements and frequent references to tobacco and pipes. In fact there are frequent mentions of tobacco being stolen. Both men and women smoked, though it was certainly a pastime for gentlemen. Many smoked pipes whilst the poorer people rolled their own. One type of pipe at that time carried a certain amount of prestige were meerschaum pipes which have a great history which I will cover a bit further on.



One report on a hold-up in the Illustrated Sydney News of 16th June, 1864, reported that the driver's meerschaum pipe was stolen. It reports: - *"The efforts of the police to put a stop to bushranging appear to be as unavailing as ever:-Ben Hall and his*

gang still continue their depredations in the western districts. Mounted on thorough-bred horses, they laugh at the efforts of their would-be captors. On Saturday evening, the 29th, ult., they stuck up Roberts' coach, on the road from Young to Yass. They bailed up the passengers, taking £2 from Mr. Cohen, exchanged ponchos with another passenger, and took the driver's meerschaum pipe. They stated that it was their intention to rob the Binalong mail. The Binalong mail was, fortunately, escorted by two troopers, who seeing a fire in the bush, went towards it. The bushrangers challenged, and the police were fired at by the bushrangers. The fire was returned, the police pursued them for some distance, and then returned and escorted the mail towards Bowning, and it arrived safely in Yass. The police having found Ben Hall's horse, saddle and bridle, with his double-barrelled gun and hat with Lowry's likeness in it, it was thought he had been shot, but it afterwards transpired that he had merely been unhorsed, and seeing the police approaching, he got up into a tree, from whence he watched their movements, and as soon as the coast was clear, he provided himself with a steed at the expense of a neighbouring settler. The report that Gilbert had rejoined the gang, proves unfounded; the person who was mistaken for Gilbert, is said to be a lad named Ryan."



Meerschaum smoking pipes are now collectable items and members will be able to see a display at **BATHEX 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition - Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History** which will be taking place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September, this year, at the Bathurst Showground.

The word 'meerschaum' means 'sea foam' in German. Strangely enough a fair number of people know a meerschaum pipe if they see one however a fair number think they are made at Meerschaum (if there is such a place) however the name relates to the material it's made of. Meerschaum is a mineral that is white to creamy grey in colour and easy to carve. You will notice some old carved pipes have distinctly orangeish, reddish and amber-yellow colorations but this is invariably due to the patina

from use and handling along with the tobacco used as the tar can affect colouring. In fact this mineral is quite soft as you can scratch it with your finger nail though it can be hardened if heated up.

The mineral is mined around the world where it is relatively scarce, however the main area is confined to one place in Turkey. It has come about from fossils under the ocean and dates around 50 myo. When the small creatures inside their shells died they accumulated on the seafloor to be covered in silt. They were compressed and brought to the surface, or near to the surface, where it is found today.



Meerschaum has been used to make pipes since the early 1700s. The meerschaum was exported to specialised centres such as Vienna which established elaborately carved meerschaum pipes and cigarette holders until the 1970s. The meerschaum pipe-makers enjoyed nearly a century of no competition before the cheaper made briar pipes came on the market around the 1820s and 1830s. The head is made separately and a stem fitted later. The early stems were of carved amber. The heads are finely polished and waxed before being sold. More elaborate heads were protected with a specially fitted velvet-lined case which had to be made for every individual pipe as each was different.

The humble tobacco pipe bowl has been made from many things however the most popular four materials are clay, corncobs, briar and of course meerschaum. Many claimed that it was the perfect material to give a good smoke as it cools down the actual smoke itself and any moisture is absorbed by the meerschaum.

Though it took centuries, the Turks finally banned the export of meerschaum and planned to set up their own meerschaum pipe-making industry in the last forty years. The most admired feature of the meerschaum pipe is its carved beauty. The craftsmen could spend days and weeks carving special pipe designs.

Captain Edward Montague Battye, Commander of the Western Mounted Police and Gold Escort, smoked a meerschaum pipe, the bowl of which was designed with a man's arm holding a pistol. Unfortunately he lost it in early 1861.

Tobacco seemed to be part of convicts and other men's rations so the product would have found its way to Bathurst after Governor Macquarie's visit in 1815. We know that in 1845 Mr. J. Gordon sold tobacco in his George Street store along with drapery. Ironically, after Mr. Gordon advertised that he was retiring from business in October 1853 Edmund Webb took over his premises.

Adolph Austin was a true ‘tobacconist’ who established himself in William Street in the early 1850s. He sold a number of brands of tobacco, cigars, snuff and a ‘large display of fancy pipes’. At Christmas time in 1853 he announced that he planned to sell his stock and leave Bathurst though this plan maybe fell through as he was still operating his business twelve months later.

One early advertisement that catches ones eye is one where the businessman claims that his motto is “Small Profits and Quick Returns”. Mr. L. Ollendorff was also a tobacconist amongst other things establishing his cigar and tobacco business up in George Street. To supplement his tobacco business he also sold toys and fancy goods. He opened on 26th October, 1860, beside the Club House Hotel which was operated by Mr. William Chapman at the time.

CARRIER'S ARMS INN



The Carrier's Arms Inn later called the Newmarket Hotel was demolished in the early 1890s.

The Carrier's Arms Inn in William Street was built around 1837 making it one of the earliest in Bathurst. Blocks of land were only first sold in the township after 1833 as the surveyors had not done the survey of the town till then. The first licensee was Robert Blackman who operated the single storey brick building with its single roof. Then Mr. James Arthur was licensee from 1840 till 1851, followed by Mr. Henry Butler and Mrs. Jane Sadler (also spelt Saddler) with James McEwen in 1862. The Magistrates did not issue a licence from 1863 until Mr. Charles B. Turner was granted a licence in 1865 under the sign "Black Swan Inn".

The hotel's central location added to its popularity though one of its licensees was caught watering down the grog though that wasn't uncommon in those days. In 1872 the name was changed to the

Newmarket Hotel by licensee George Saville. John Peers was the final licensee in 1889 when the building was sold to the City Bank of Sydney who demolished it to build their new bank on the site. The photo, below, left) was taken on the first day of its demolition. The new bank opened for business in April 1895.

For anyone wondering where this early hotel was once located the site is now occupied by the Westpac Banking Corporation at 86 William Street, Bathurst.

BATHURST'S 'ON THIS DAY' ON 2BS/B-ROCK

I am supplying interesting historical information for "On this Day" for the whole year for each day on Stereo 2BS. It covers a date-line from 1815 almost till the present and it airs three times a day so be sure to listen in from 6am - 9am and after 5pm till 6pm on either 2BS or B-Rock. Thanks Bathurst Broadcasters.

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

Both the Society's Newsletter Folder and Magazines Folder which normally sit on the front desk are missing. The Magazines Folder went missing last September. Does anyone know something about them or may have had a lend to read something. The Society pays a reasonable amount of money in subscriptions to receive these magazines for volunteers and members to read so it would be good to get them both back please.

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