

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7.30pm-10pm

Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Ted Books

Office Bearers 2017/2018:

President: Ian Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill Jnr Vice President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Secretary: Neville Dehn Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Public Officer: Neville Dehn Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: [Vacant]

Bookshop Manager: Sharon Lamb

Hon Auditor: [Vacant]

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Dick Gillard, Ellen Jordan

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Director – Kath von Witt, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

Publications Committee: Jan Barkley-Jack, Rebecca Turnbull and Jan Readford

MEETINGS

Meetings start at 7.30pm

25 October 2018 AGM

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM
Baker Street, Windsor

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Annual General Meeting of the Hawkesbury Historical Society

Thursday, 25 October 2018 – 7:30pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum,
Baker Street, Windsor

Everyone welcome

Guest speaker - Member, historian and author:

Jan Barkley-Jack

On the subject: "**How Hawkesbury Solved
Governor King's Dilemma**"

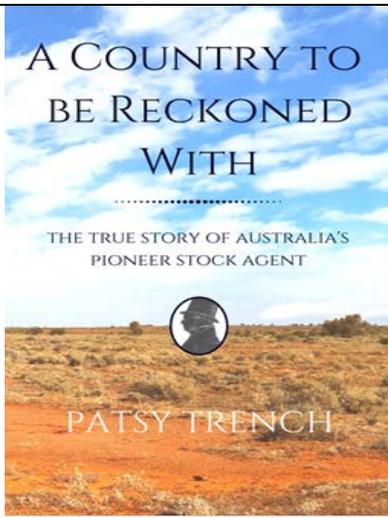


Dates for the Calendar

Saturday, 24 November 2018

Book Launch
'A Country to be Reckoned With'
By Patsy Trench
See flyer – inside cover

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY
OF ARTICLES OR ANY STATEMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS
NEWSLETTER



Hawkesbury Historical
Society Inc.
Book Launch
Saturday 24th November
2018

A Country To Be Reckoned
With
by Patsy Trench

The remarkable story of the
transformation of a country.



Patsy Trench is travelling from London to launch her new book "A Country to be Reckoned With" at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 8 Baker St., Windsor NSW on Saturday 24th November 2018 commencing at 1.30 pm for 2.00pm start.

"A Country to be Reckoned With" is the second book in the series on the Pitt Family and focusses on the life of George Matcham Pitt who went from humble farmer to eventually establishing one of Australia's first and best-known stock and station agents, Pitt, Son & Badgery.

Patsy has worked in the theatre all her life, as an actress, scriptwriter, script editor, play scout, and now a teacher of theatre and organiser of theatre tours for overseas visitors to London.

Patsy lived in Australia for a while in her youth where she worked as an actress on stage and television. She appeared in series such as Phoenix Five, Delta, Homicide and Skippy, and the highlight of her Australian acting career was working alongside the legendary Chips Rafferty.

Patsy's first book "The Worst Country in the World" is available at the Hawkesbury Museum.

It's free to attend the book launch but bookings are essential. Please contact the Secretary by email secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com or telephone (02) 4578 2443 or by mail to PO Box 293 Windsor NSW 2756.

A Country To Be Reckoned With was assisted by funds allocated to the Royal Australian History Society through the Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.



The team at the Visitor Information Centre has been working hard to produce a new information booklet called 'Hawkesbury River Towns Heritage Highlights'. This new resource joins two other booklets titled 'Windsor Heritage Highlights' and 'Richmond Heritage Highlights'. The new edition has the same look as those currently available.

The three booklets complement each other, and they are wonderful sources of information for locals and visitors alike. They are very popular and they are FREE.

The new Hawkesbury River Towns booklet includes historical information about Wilberforce, Wisemans Ferry, Ebenezer and Pitt Town. It provides a good account of why the Hawkesbury played such an important role in Sydney's history. It also contains information about a few notable historical characters.

The booklets are available for free in a paper copy from the Museum, Visitor Information Centre and Deerubbin Centre. They are also online at the Visitor Information Centre's website – you can find them at the following link:

<http://www.discoverthehawkesbury.com.au/heritage/heritage-trails>

So very young...Herbert Howard Jones of Sackville was tragically killed in action in France on the 7 August 1916 aged 20 years.

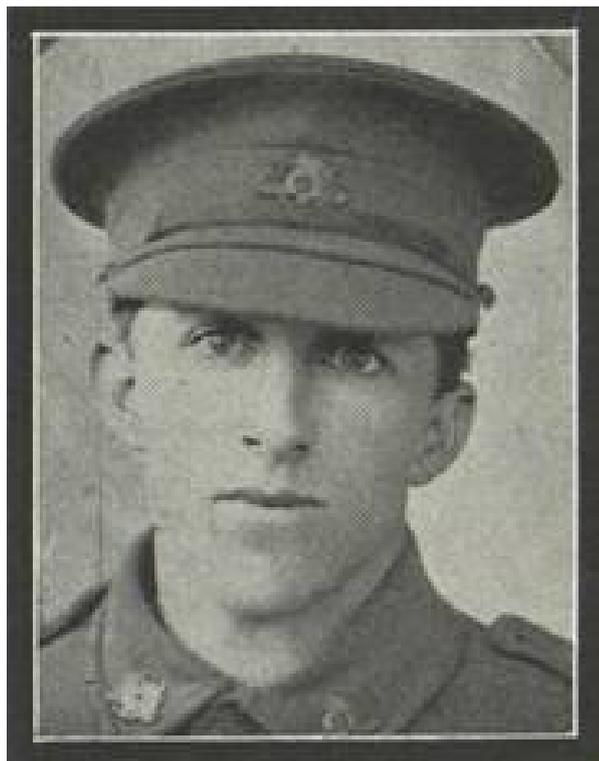


Image courtesy of Parramatta Heritage Centre.

Herbert Howard Jones of Sackville

Cathy McHardy, October 2018.
cathy@nisch.org

In 1920, the Cumberland Argus Limited published a book entitled *Parramatta District soldiers in the Great War, 1914-1919, who served with the Australian forces in Gallipoli, Egypt, France* which commemorated the service and sacrifice of almost two thousand servicemen and women including soldiers, nurses, doctors, Red Cross workers and community volunteers from the Greater Parramatta District.

Several Hawkesbury 'boys' may be found amongst the volunteers as they, or their families had some association with the district of Parramatta at that time. This is the story of Herbert Howard Jones of Sackville.

In September 1916, John and Christina Jones of 'River View', Sackville, New South Wales received the tragic news that their son Herbert Howard had been killed in action in France on the 7 August 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jones, of Sackville North, received last week the sad news that their son, Private H. H. (Bert) Jones has been killed in France. We extend our sympathy to the parents and family. Another of their sons has joined the colors.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85881351>
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 22 September 1916, p. 4.

Herbert Howard, usually known as Bert, and born in 1896, was one of the eleven children (seven boys and four girls) of John Thomas Jones, boat builder, riverboat captain and river trader and Christina Coppins who had married in 1879 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Sackville Reach.

On the 30 August 1915, Bert Jones had enlisted with the permission of his father at Holsworthy Camp, New South Wales in the Australian Imperial Force with the service number 3819 and was assigned the rank of Private with the 13 Battalion, 12 Reinforcement. With his unit, he embarked in Sydney aboard HMAT 'Suevic' just a few days before Christmas 1915 bound for Egypt.

As Jones was part of the reinforcements for his battalion, he spent some time in Egypt, training and waiting to be called upon to replenish the ranks of his unit which had been depleted by death, injury or illness. Infectious diseases were rife amongst the recruits who had no immunity from common infections. Accordingly, Jones was admitted to Egyptian hospitals on several occasions suffering from influenza or typhoid fever.

In March 1916, he was 'taken on strength' at Tell-el-Kebir, Egypt and by June he had joined the British Expeditionary Force in Alexandria. He then sailed for France disembarking at Marseilles and proceeded to the 4 Australian Division Base Depot, Etaples. His unit was sent into battle in July 1916 and after only a few weeks of combat he was killed on the 7 August 1916.

In September 1916 his parents placed this poignant notice in the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* in remembrance of the sacrifice of their son.

ROLL OF HONOR.

JONES.—A tribute of love to the memory of our darling son and brother, Private H. H. Jones (Bert), killed in action in France, August 7th.

Sadly we are grieving
For our soldier son so brave,
Who fell for the cause of freedom
And rests in an unknown grave.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers, J. T. Jones and family,
"River View," Sackville.

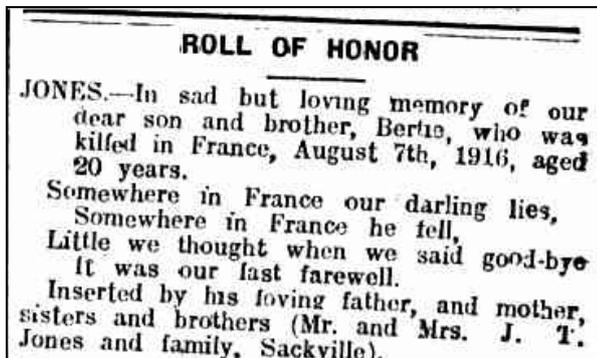
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85879050>
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 29 September 1916, p. 4.

Tragically, in common with many thousands of others on both sides of the conflict, the final resting place of Bert Jones is unknown. His name is remembered with honour on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France.

It was not until June 1917 that Jones's meagre personal effects were returned to his parents including his identity disc, letters from home and a Testament.

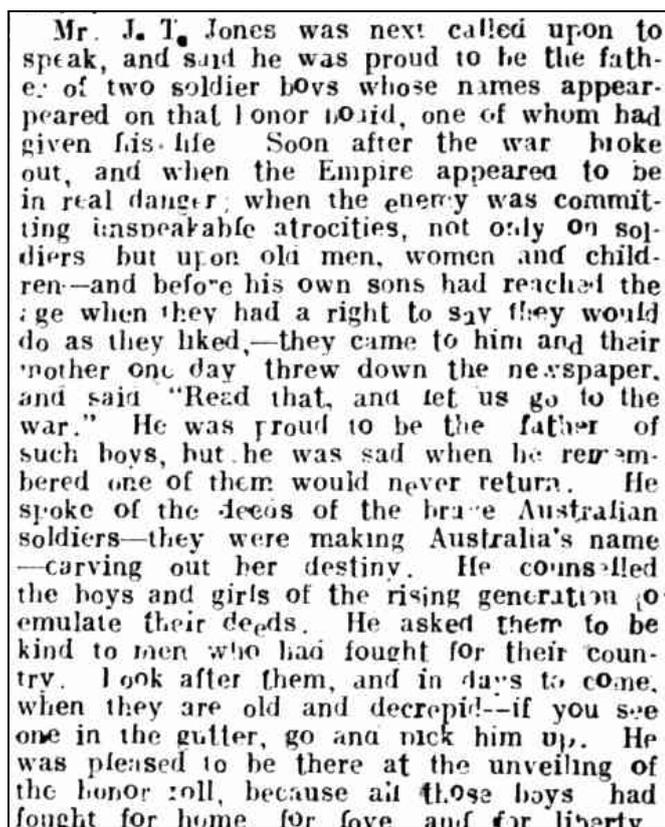
In September 1918, the Roll of Honour was unveiled at Sackville School of Arts by the State Member for Hawkesbury, Robert Bruce Walker. The honour board included the names of soldiers from the Sackville District who had served overseas during the conflict.

Jones's father John Thomas was called upon to speak during the ceremony. He spoke of the tragic loss of their family but was thankful for the safe return of one son, Claude Stanley. He expressed a new patriotism for Australia - for home and country, "the deeds of the brave Australian soldiers - they were making Australia's name - carving out her destiny."



<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/85882199>
Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 10 August 1917, p. 4.

John Jones had a keen sense of the psychological and physical scars of war on those soldiers who did return home asking that the next generation "be kind to men who had fought for their country. Look after them, and in days to come, when they are old and decrepit - if you see one in the gutter, go and pick him up...those boys fought for home, for love and for liberty."



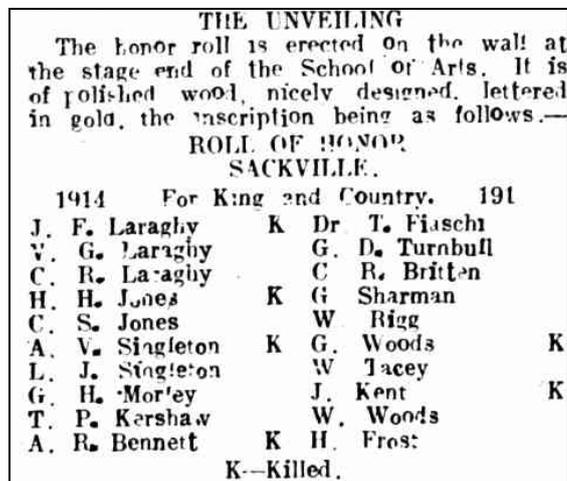
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86150957>

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 27 September 1918, p. 2.

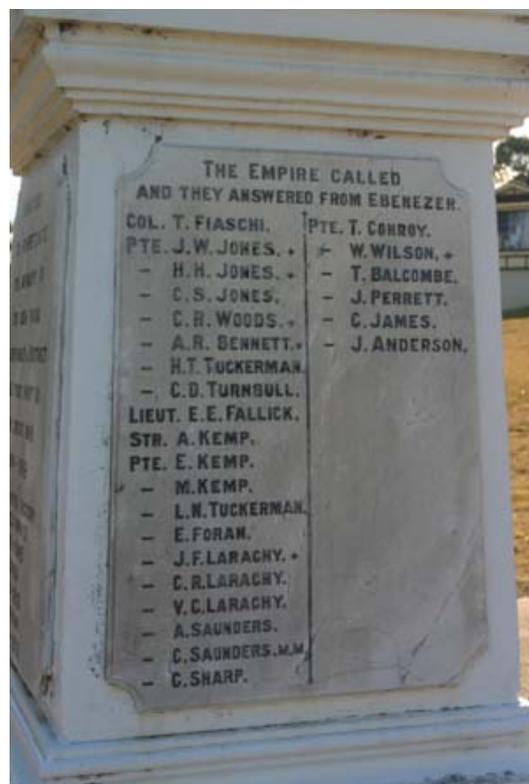
Private Claude S. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jones, of Sackville North, returned from the war on Monday night. He was 3½ years on active service. A brother, Herbert, a brave soldier and a fine boy, gave his life on the battlefield.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86152761>

Windsor and Richmond Gazette, 17 October 1919, p. 4.



Bert's brother Claude Stanley enlisted on the 22 May 1916 in Kiama, New South Wales and returned home in October 1919 after three and a half years of active service. Their names are recorded on the War Memorial in Wilberforce Park.



http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/memorial/wilberforce_memorial/wvpm236.html

In October 1919, John Thomas Jones and his wife Christina celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary with a party held in the family's home, 'River View' on the banks of Hawkesbury River at Sackville. The courage of Australian soldiers in the recent war was remembered by the gathering who 'stood with bowed heads for a moment' as a tribute to the memory of their son, Herbert.

Shortly after the celebration, the couple moved to Clyde Street, Silverwater on the Parramatta River, thus establishing the family connection with that district. A Memorial Scroll and the King's Message were received by Bert's parents in December 1921 and the Memorial Plaque in June 1923. Herbert Howard Jones was also posthumously awarded the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal for his service. ■

The Hawkesbury Herald.

WINDSOR, FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1903.

Christmas.

In the dear old land far across the sea "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" will ring out from palace and cottage, and from the crowded street as well as the overcrowded slums; away in the Land of Heather it will be called over fields of snow, amid the ringing frosts; but in no place will the greetings be more hearty and sincere than in our own land, and amid our own people.

The message from pulpit and press during the coming week will be one breathing peace and goodwill to all men—a time when hatchets will be buried and strifes ended, and men will seek to meet on amiable terms, when old feuds and differences shall be forgotten.

And it is but right that at the opening of the New Year, with its retrospect over years gone by, when promises and resolutions have been made—and, alas! many have been broken—that we should have on view, not only the time past, but the time to come.

The year just closing has been one eventful in many respects for New South Wales; and not the least of the causes for thankfulness has been the end of the long-continued and disastrous drought. And yet our sympathy goes out to settler and station-holder who face a time when there is abundance of fodder and water, with little or nothing of the bleating flocks and lowing herds,

but heaps of bleaching bones along the lone bush track.

Each homestead on the Hawkesbury will have its own tale of sorrows and joys. Memories will come filled with sorrow for some. There will be the vacant seat. The missed face will be like a skeleton at the feast, and will speak without a voice of the sterner battle for the coming year, with one pair of hands less to do it. Others will be filled with a pleasureable anticipation, buoyed with a great hope for the success of the coming time.

To those to whom memory means a tear, and no less to those for whom the future is filled with a rosy hope, we wish the good old wish of "Peace and good Will!"

The Sydney Morning Herald

Thursday, 25 December 1862

WINDSOR

VIOLENT STORM.—A violent storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by some smart showers, occurred on Sunday last, which continued the whole evening. The peals of thunder were very loud, and the flashes of lightning terrific. The back of a house on the Pitt Town road, the residence of Mr. John McDonald, was completely unroofed. The lightning first struck a chimney at the end of the house, and then ran along the roof, which consists of galvanized iron. A large tree in front of a house in Pitt Town was also split by the lightning, which, after striking the tree, ran round the house, making a complete furrow in the ground. A girl of about seven years of age, who was standing at the door at the time, was also struck by the electric fluid, and remained insensible for a considerable time. It is reported that some cattle were killed, and that many trees were split in pieces.

ELECTORAL ROLLS.—The following persons have been appointed by the Bench of Magistrates collectors of the rolls for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Smith and Rawthorne for the district of the Hawkesbury; Mr. W. Granger, the town of Windsor; and Mr. D. Croft, Richmond.

Christmas is again near, but it makes very little difference to the people of Windsor. There are no sports in contemplation to celebrate the festive season, unless it be that a cricket match is expected to come off on Boxing Day between eleven of Sydney and a similar number of Windsor, which is looked forward to by some with considerable interest.

HAWKESBURY BENEVOLENT SOCIETY: 200 YEARS

Compiled by Michelle Nichols



Windsor Hospital courtesy Royal Australian Historical Society

Following European settlement in 1794, there was little thought of the consequence of becoming old or sick in such an isolated settlement. Ailments were usually treated with traditional remedies at home, except in emergencies. For a short time patients were housed in a building that was a combined convict hospital and barracks at Windsor. This situation proved to be unsuitable, so new hospital quarters were sought. Governor Macquarie had constructed the Military Barracks plus *a brick built Barracks...for the residence and accommodation of 100 male convicts*¹ situated in Macquarie Street. Three years later the convict barracks was converted to a Colonial Hospital.

In 1813 the NSW Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Benevolence was established. Although the founding members were keen to promote religious instruction as part of their objectives, they were soon persuaded by Governor Macquarie and Reverend Samuel Marsden to concentrate their endeavours on benevolent deeds. Their purpose was to support and assist the needy and destitute in the colony.²

A similar group was set up and known as the Windsor Charitable Institution operating until about 1817³ and the Benevolent Society of NSW started in 1818.

¹ Ibid., pp.76-7

² Ibid., p. 76

³ Dickey, Brian (1980, 1987) No charity there. pp. 13-4; Bowd (1982) op. cit., p. 96

VESTRY ROOM, WINDSOR, 7th Oct. 1817.

THE MAGISTRATES and COMMITTEES of the WINDSOR CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, request that the BENEFACTORS to such Charity, who have not as yet paid their SUBSCRIPTIONS, will have the goodness to pay the same as early as possible; those resident in Sydney into the Bank, or into the hands of Mr. Charles Tompson, or Mr. Samuel Terry, at Sydney; and those resident in the Windsor Districts, into the hands of the Treasurer; in order that the Names of the whole of such Benefactors may be immediately inserted in the Sydney Gazette.

(By Order of the Magistrates and Committees),
ROBERT FITZ, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sydney Gazette 11 October 1817 p. 4 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page493533>

At a meeting on the 31 December 1818, the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society was established with *the sole object of which shall be the support and relief by voluntary contributions of all real objects of charity within the districts of Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Portland Head and Pitt Town*. On the 11 January 1819 the first committee were elected consisting of William Cox, Reverend Robert Cartwright, James Mileham, John Brabyn, Archibald Bell, John Jones, Henry Baldwin, Thomas Pitt and George Hall. Formal rules and regulations were drawn up. *Feeling the necessity of forming some permanent relief in aid of the poor, aged & infirm* the committee resolved an annual subscription plus a voluntary subscription of horned cattle commence. The Society hoped to assist families distressed from floods and poor persons identified from the district.⁵

Governor Macquarie promised 1000 acres of land to the Society, *in any part of the Colony where Crown Lands remain still unappropriated* for cattle pasturage.⁶ Further land was granted including 500 acres at Currency Creek and ten acres each at Wilberforce and Windsor. The Society obtained funds from raising and selling cattle, plus fines taken in the district were donated to the Society. The Bench of Magistrates at Windsor in 1825 added £18/7/9 to the Society's coffers from fines for drunkenness etc.⁷ Donations of food supplies from the local inhabitants were used to feed the needy.

In 1828, Governor Darling complained of the deterioration of the Hospital at Windsor. He believed the Government should not be responsible for the hospital. *The discontinuance of this Hospital would inconvenience the Settlers but the Settlers should be taught to think for themselves and not look to the Government to be supplied with whatever they require*.⁸ Fortunately for the Hawkesbury inhabitants the Hospital continued in the area.

With development and expansion, the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society entered a period of stabilisation. A new two-storey brick building was built, replacing a log cabin on the Blacktown Road property which had been used to house the poor from 1832. The new building was erected in 1836 on a one acre site in Windsor's Brabyn Street. The building was to be used as an asylum to house the district's paupers and invalids. The Society produced their first printed Annual Report in 1837. An Act was passed by the Legislative Council in 1840,⁹ basically providing instructions about trustees, committee members, properties, elections and meetings, and the Society was run according to these rules and regulations.

After a number of years of discussion, the abolition of transportation of convicts to NSW was approved¹⁰ and the government had to consider the closure of convict barracks and hospitals, which still existed at Windsor, Bathurst and Goulburn in the 1840s. It was mentioned that at Windsor *a great facility is offered for some arrangement such as that alluded to by the existence of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society*.¹¹ Twelve months later, instructions were given *to give over the Hospital and Stores at Windsor to the inhabitants*.¹²

The Hawkesbury Benevolent Society maintained a minimum of annual subscribers and was successful with the income raised from various ventures. The Society also resumed their system of sending a cart around the district to collect

⁴ Bonwick's Transcripts 17, Bigge Appendix Vol.127, pp.2356-2362 (ML CY 1557)

⁶ Memo to Cox from Macquarie 20 Aug 1819. HBS Papers. Vol. 1, 1819-1850 ML A624 (CY ML 762)

⁷ Sydney Gazette 15 Jan 1827 p.3

⁸ HRA, Series I Vol. 18: Gov. Darling. p.204

⁹ NSW Act, 4 Victoria No. 3 (21 July 1840)

¹⁰ HRA, Series I vol. 20: Order-in-Council by W. L. Bathurst. p. 701-3

¹¹ Col. Sec. Deas Thomson to Bench of Magistrates, Windsor 14 Jun 1841. HBS Papers Vol. 1 [1819-50] ML A624 (CY 762)

¹² Ibid., Thompson to Gamack, 27 Jun 1842

donations of food, clothing, cattle and provisions. Inhabitants were mainly farmers and cash-strapped so not able to pay the £1 subscription each year. As the cart travelled around, settlers could donate what they could spare.

Most of their income was from their cattle herd. Tenders were called for the first time in 1833 to depasture the stock at the Society's property at Liverpool Plains. Edward Nowland's offer of £69 was accepted and he took up the position of Superintendent. Several years later Nowland selected another run called "Mooki" which was confirmed in 1835. There were numerous problems with the property including claims by others and it was finally sold to help with refurbishing Windsor Hospital in 1911.

The land was registered to the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society in 1844, however the Crown Grant was not officially granted until 1872.¹³ Special conditions contained in the registration stated the property was 'in trust' as a hospital site. The land was granted to Bowman, Walker, Dick, Ridge and Fitzgerald and their heirs, not the Society. When the hospital was given to the Society it was decided to house the asylum inmates and the hospital patients in the one building, providing charity to the poor and sick on the one site, saving on running costs. The inmates were moved to the hospital and the old building was rented out. At one stage it was used as a school and later a hotel.¹⁴



Richard Fitzgerald, Trustee, bequeathed the Society the sum of £50 per annum which his son Robert paid from 1840 until his death in 1860. Grandson Robert Marsden Fitzgerald was keen to finalise a payment and a sum of money in lieu of the annual payment was decided. In 1875 Fitzgerald's Enabling Bill was passed and £1250 was to be invested by the Society.¹⁵ This bequest increased the Society's funds by about £6,500 over the 100 years it was invested.

During the 1890s the Government commenced regulating health services. In 1899, the Royal Commission on Public Charities and Hospitals of the Colony investigated hospital services in NSW. The report from Windsor concluded that all of the buildings were in poor condition. There was no operating theatre and no separate accommodation for the nurse and the wards man who had to sleep in the wards. The report states *it has throughout, the old peculiar poor-house smell and in its present condition [the building is] inherently neither unfit for hospital purposes...nor creditable to the society.*¹⁶

Richard Fitzgerald, c. 1838 by Edmund Edgar.
Courtesy National Portrait Gallery

The hospital was transformed and modernised and officially opened by the Governor of NSW, Lord Chelmsford in 1911. The emergence of the new century saw the Society enter a phase of development, growth and construction, still fulfilling their objective of providing *relief of such poor persons as through age, accident or infirmity are unable to support themselves.*

The Society continued to operate the Hawkesbury Hospital until the 1980s, when the Western Area Health Scheme took over. The Hospital moved to new premises in Day Street in 1996 and is now operated by St John of God Health Care. The old building was taken over by Hawkesbury Council. It was renovated and now forms part of the Deerubbin precinct which houses the Library, Gallery and coffee shop.

In 1914, the Home for the Infirm was erected in Brabyn Street Windsor and opened by Mr Flowers, the first Minister of Public Health. It was renamed the Fitzgerald Memorial Hostel in honour of Richard Fitzgerald in 1959. Thirty years later it

¹³ Crown Grant, Volume 144, Folio 187, Lands Titles Office, Sydney

¹⁴ Steele, James (1916) *Early Days of Windsor*. p. 154

¹⁵ Fitzgerald's Enabling Bill. 39□ Victoriae, 1875.

¹⁶ Report of the Royal Commission on Public Charities and Hospitals, 1899: Hawkesbury Hospital Windsor. pp. cix-cx.

was sold after 1989 and the money raised was put towards the present building, now called Fitzgerald Aged Care opened in 1995. At the end of this year, it will be 200 years since the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society was established, a remarkable organisation which assisted our community.

Michelle Nichols

E: michelle_nichols@hotmail.com

REFERENCES besides the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society Annual Reports

1. Bawd (1982) Macquarie Country p.96
2. Sydney Gazette, 11 May 1806 p.1 col.a
3. Ibid., pp.76-7
4. Ibid., p. 76
5. Dickey, Brian (1980, 1987) No charity there. pp. 13-4; Bowd (1982) op. cit., p. 96
6. Bonwick's Transcripts 17, Bigge Appendix Vol.127, pp.2356-2362 (ML CY 1557)
7. Memo to Cox from Macquarie 20 Aug 1819. HBS Papers. Vol. 1, 1819-1850 ML A624 (CY ML 762)
8. Sydney Gazette 15 Jan 1827 p.3
9. HRA, Series I Vol. 18: Gov. Darling. p.204
10. NSW Act, 4 Victoria No. 3 21 July 1840
11. HRA, Series I vol. 20: Order-in-Council by W. L. Bathurst. p. 701-3
12. Col. Sec. Deas Thomson to Bench of Magistrates, Windsor 14 Jun 1841. HBS Papers Vol. 1 [1819-50] ML A624 (CY 762)
13. Ibid., Thompson to Gamack, 27 Jun 1842
14. Annual Report of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society for the year 1843.
15. Crown Grant, Volume 144, Folio 187, Lands Titles Office, Sydney
16. Steele, James (1916) Early Days of Windsor. p. 154
17. Fitzgerald's Enabling Bill. 39 Victoriae, 1875.
18. Report of the Royal Commission on Public Charities and Hospitals, 1899: Hawkesbury Hospital Windsor. pp. cix-cx.
19. Australian : Windsor & Richmond Advertiser 30 May 1881

CHURCH TO CELEBRATE 175 INCREDIBLE YEARS

FEBRUARY 5 2016 - HAWKESBURY GAZETTE



St Peter's Anglican Church in Richmond has been the setting for the main life events of thousands of Hawkesbury residents in three different centuries. It looks like a scene from a Jane Austen novel. When you leave Richmond heading for North Richmond, look right just after Chapel Street and you'll see St Peter's Anglican Church set amongst green fields and hedges. It's been an integral part of Richmond life for one and three-quarter centuries, and its parishioners will celebrate that fact on Sunday, July 24, 2016. Youth minister Josh Wilson said the day will kick off at 10am with family activities, then a free barbecue lunch, a celebratory service, more family activities and historical tours of the church and cemetery.

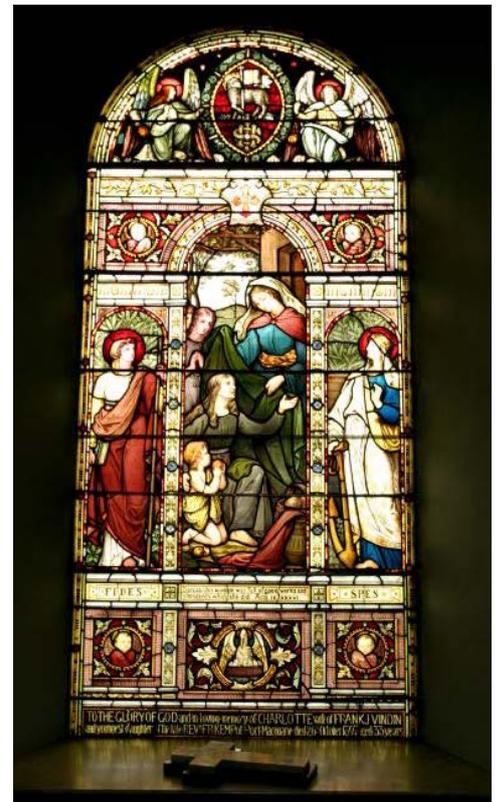
The Gazette will help celebrate the milestone with a series of stories on the extraordinary history of the church and its very old burial ground in the lead up to the celebrations, beginning this week with a quick timeline of significant events in its past. The church's story begins in 1810 with the burial ground located across the road from the church in Windsor Street, just before the descent to Pughs Lagoon.

It took its first burial in March of that year – that of Roger Twyfield – and has been in continuous use ever since. The parish's first marriage, though not in the current church building, was a month later when Austen Forrest married Jemima Pitt. All this was before the town had even been formally named 'Richmond' by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. That didn't happen until December that year. In January 1811 Macquarie visited the site to set the wheels in motion for a church, though it was not begun until 1837. Until then a building on Francis Street and then the current site's schoolhouse were the temporary worship places.

When the church was finally finished, it was consecrated on July 15, 1841 by Bishop Broughton. The only entrance then faced the mountains, with the current entrance on Windsor Street added in 1850. The church was constructed by local builder James Atkinson in the Colonial Georgian style at a cost of 1697 pounds. Lit originally only by candlelight at night, kerosene lamps were added to brighten things in 1866, and its beauty increased further with the addition of blue and red glass panes to the previously plain windows in 1874.

In 1891 the eastern-facing stained glass windows were donated by Joseph Onus Jr to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary.

Electric light didn't come until a week after WWI ended. In 1956 disaster struck when a small cyclone demolished the steeple and took off the roof of the Sunday school across the road, but they were lovingly replaced. On Christmas Day in 1971 the steeple was again severely damaged. The subsequent repair is now failing and there are fears the steeple will have to be rebuilt in the near future. ■



A KICK IN THE ARTS: a tribute to Brian Jones: floral designer, artist, art curator and historian

– Part 4

(Parts 1, 2 & 3 appeared in HHS newsletters: No. 122, February 2017; No 124, June 2017; No 127, February 2018.)

Carol Roberts



Brian Jones c2008, photo Greg Hansell

Really, it is to do something for the community, for the people of the Hawkesbury...I really hope I can contribute something to the area. Brian Jones, 1999.

In the previous three parts of this tribute to Brian Jones I have tried to reflect on the life of a man who worked tirelessly to create an awareness of art and heritage in the Hawkesbury. He also possessed a superior knowledge of Georgian and antique glass, silver, porcelain, ceramics and furniture and over many years amassed an outstanding collection, most of which was sold at auction after he died. With his creative flair and talent for floral design, combined with his exceptional knowledge of art and artists, music, and the history, landscape and environs of his beloved Hawkesbury, Brian was indeed an asset to the cultural life of the district.

Brian's artwork took on a new dimension through the 2000s, and he started raising the horizon to open up or expand the picture plane and filling the canvas with landscape in softer colours. His *Golden pastures*, *Afternoon on the Hawkesbury*, *Rainy day*, and *Late Autumn light* all reflect a movement in his style which contrasts markedly with his dramatic Bushfire series (outlined in Part 3). Monet was still an influence though and a visit to the exhibition,

Monet and the Impressionists, at the Art Gallery of NSW with friends was a highlight in 2008.



With Carol and Geoff Roberts AGNSW 2008 Monet exhibition

On 7 November 2008, a group of friends gathered at the home of the late John Paine and his wife Christine Paine, OAM, to present Brian Jones with a modern-day illuminated address to thank him for his 'undoubtedly good qualities as a gentleman and the untiring zeal and energy you have displayed as a Champion of the Arts in the Hawkesbury'. The idea for the work was the brain-child of Geoff Roberts and artist Greg Hansell, who completed the decorative border showing scenes from Brian's house, garden and surrounding area.



Presentation of Address Geoff Roberts Christine Paine OAM Brian Jones Greg Hansell 7 Nov 2008, photo Carol Roberts

Another high point for Brian was when he officially opened the *Greg Hansell: A Survey* exhibition at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery in 2009. The HRG newsletter, November 2009, contained this tribute to Brian:

Brian Jones, who officially opened Greg Hansell: Survey is not only a gallery member but also a long-time friend of the artist. They met soon after Greg came to the Hawkesbury, early on in his career, when Brian ran a commercial gallery in Windsor. Brian recognised Greg's talent at once, and the two became firm friends. Together they have

achieved great things for the community, having been instrumental in the development of both the gallery and the Hawkesbury Artists Trail, which is based largely on Brian's extensive knowledge of the Hawkesbury and the many artists who have painted it. Brian is also a talented painter in his own right, and renowned for his floral artistry. Generous to a fault, Brian has given much to the gallery, including helping with all manner of tasks, and with the donation of his extensive personal reference library.

A long-held ambition of Brian Jones was to put together and curate an exhibition of the works of artist and publisher, Sydney Ure Smith. This ambition was achieved with the very successful *Sydney Ure Smith in the Hawkesbury* exhibition held at Hawkesbury Regional Gallery from December 2010 to February 2011, curated by Brian Jones.



Ure Smith exhibition Feb 2011, photo Carol Roberts

Still there was something missing. Although Brian's paintings had been displayed in many exhibitions over the years and his works are included in the Rex Stubbs and Hawkesbury City Collections, as well as in private ownership, his work had never been featured in a single showing. In early 2011 a group of his friends decided that a retrospective survey of Brian's body of work would be a fitting tribute to mark his 75th year. Brian himself came up with the brilliant title:

A Kick in the Arts: Brian Jones retrospective.

A highlight of the exhibition was his Bushfire series. These paintings express Brian's experiences during the bushfires in the Hawkesbury over the Christmas period in 2001. It was the first time the five works had been hung together since 2002. A special guest at the exhibition was the late Oliver Streeton, of Melbourne, a good friend of Brian's

and grandson of the famous artist, Sir Arthur Streeton.



Brian Jones surveying *Kick in the Arts* exhibition 2011, Photo Carol Roberts

The Director of the Art Gallery and Museum, Kathleen von Witt, wrote a congratulatory letter to Brian for the opening of *A Kick in the Arts*:

*Dear Brian - I would like to thank you for your many years of support for the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, and visual arts in the Hawkesbury. I find it difficult to quantify your generous contributions to the gallery. From the first exhibition, *Agri-culture: Re-creating the Living Landscape*, where you brought an artist's eye and collector's knowledge to the curatorium, to the inspired inclusion of a whole uprooted orange tree into the space. That inclusion to the very first exhibition gave me great insight into the breadth and strength of your vision for the gallery. Not only that, in the first few years of the gallery's development we were fortunate to have your curatorial input into exhibitions to compliment the main exhibition program. Your local knowledge and connections have been instrumental in building a supportive community around the gallery.*

Your personal connections and knowledge of the artistic community in the Hawkesbury and the wider context of the Sydney art scene have helped build connections with gallerists, artists and collectors. I think specifically of Stella Downer, Joseph Lebovich and Randi Linnegar, Greg Hansell and of course Alan Cleary. I know that Ingrid Hoffman, the inaugural Gallery Director, was delighted to have your participation in all aspects of the gallery and I completely concur. To have an advisor with ideas and enthusiasm is a gift for a Gallery Director.

I greatly appreciate your donations of art books for our library and your work on the reference library, your collection management

and research work on the collections, including the Clint and Cleary collections, your curatorial work – especially the Sydney Ure Smith in the Hawkesbury exhibition, your support of our public programs and artists talks and exhibition openings, attending and participating, and of course, it would be highly remiss of me not to mention your fabulous floral arrangements and decorating for gallery openings and events. Images spring to mind of you and Greg carting trailer-loads of branches, foliage and flowers into the gallery foyer scavenged from your respective gardens and other spurious sources.

Brian, it is your personal dedication to the arts, and your enthusiastic and varied interests that make you such a valued gallery member, volunteer, collected artist, curator and scholar. It is with great pleasure that I thank you for your wholehearted support on behalf of the gallery staff, volunteers, members and our audience.

The Mayor, City of Hawkesbury, Councillor Bart Bassett, also sent his congratulations and best wishes for the 2011 exhibition:

Dear Mr Jones – On behalf of the Hawkesbury community, I am extremely proud to congratulate you on your Jubilee Year Retrospective Exhibition to open in June 2011. To have provided the community with your long and continued presence as a prominent artist is a fantastic achievement and the Hawkesbury is fortunate to have an artist of your calibre in its midst.

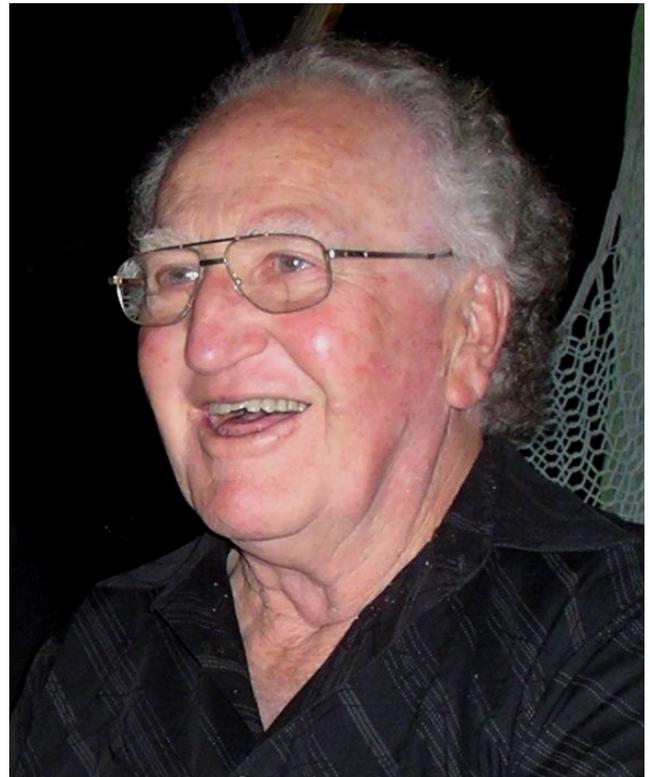
Council has been very pleased in the past to recognise your dedication and hard work with the presentation of the Community Arts Award on Australia Day in 1999 and with the purchase of several of your artworks currently within the Hawkesbury Art Collection. This will ensure that your artwork is enjoyed by many generations in the years ahead.

Subsequently, all proceeds from the exhibition and the Gala Charity function on Saturday, 18 June 2011, were donated to the Windsor Rotary Youth Foundation Trust to assist emerging artists in the Hawkesbury area with an annual grant in the name of Brian Jones.

The President of The Friends of the Hawkesbury art community & Regional Gallery Inc, the late Michael Ginnings, also sent his congratulations to Brian:

Dear Brian – When Council established the ‘Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection’ you were the first to sign up as a member, and immediately served on the inaugural committee, some twenty years ago [1991]. For many years you also served as Treasurer, and on the sub-committee which selected and purchased most of what has become our own Collection, now in the care of the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

With Greg Hansell, you developed the Hawkesbury Artists Trail...in the Steps of the Masters which continues to draw visitors to the district. This will remain a permanent reminder of your contribution to Art in the Hawkesbury. When you retired from committee life, you agreed to join Dr Rex Stubbs OAM, our long-serving President as co-patron, and – since his passing last year – have been our sole patron. You still – however – contribute to the ongoing work of this organisation as a consultant, as your wide knowledge of the region’s art development is without parallel. Long may you be able to continue to do so!



Brian 73 21 Feb 2009, photo Carol Roberts

One of the more recent exhibitions curated by Brian Jones was *The Painter, The Pastelist, The Printmaker: Artists in the Garden*, an exhibition by Brian Jones, Greg Hansell and Lucy Child featuring local Hawkesbury gardens curated to accompany the major Hawkesbury Regional Gallery exhibition, *The Verdant Heart*, from December 2011 to

February 2012. In Brian's own words, which indicate his generosity and professionalism:

This smaller exhibition brings together works on a theme of gardens by three Hawkesbury artists, each working in a different medium but all have in common an underlying love and affection for gardens and the natural environment. This has become an unending inspiration for their art, so evident in the coherence of the body of work that forms the exhibition. The works have been sourced from the three artists and private collectors. The generosity of lenders is so greatly appreciated as is the contribution of Carol Roberts in the preparation of her interesting treatise – Exploring Gardens in the Hawkesbury. The Curator wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Joan Opbroek and to thank Management, 'behind the scenes workers' and volunteers for their encouragement and unstinting co-operation in bringing this exhibition to fruition. Brian Jones

Brian was greatly affected by the deaths of his friends Gary Robinson in 2010, Councillor (Dr) Rex Stubbs, OAM, in 2010, Kay Stubbs and Oliver Streeton in 2013, Michael Ginnings in 2014, his

sister Verna Fotheringham in 2014 and John Dick Paine in 2016.



Brian at Greg Hansell's, photo Greg Hansell c2008

However, over the next few years he continued to support functions and exhibitions at the Gallery and encourage the Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Community & Regional Gallery whenever his health allowed. Brian Ernest Jones died on Monday, 21 November 2016, at the Opal Endeavour Nursing Home at Springwood, aged 80. He gave his life to art and culture and was an inspiration to many. Brian truly achieved *A Kick in the Arts* and as the two-year anniversary of his death approaches, I can think of no better tribute than the words in this poem written for Brian by Ross Miller in about 2000:



Greg Hansell, Oliver Streeton, Brian Jones, Geoff Roberts 2011 - Kick in the Arts, photo Carol Roberts

It seems just like just the other day – we
planted trees and shrubs at your place,
barrowed loads of mushroom compost, sat on
logs, drank tea your mother made,
talked botanical words to each other – as we
mud-mapped your botanical artwork,
with spade and careful hands of gardeners
and eyes of artist.

My memory holds favoured hours – Lynette
and I often spoke of your invitation to take
high tea on the new lawn,
view the Greek columns of a ruined temple,
the side of your dam we fed your Koi – we
talked,
all on a beautiful Spring day.

Many Saturday afternoons on my back
verandah we talked of plants,
paintings and politics (and how ticks and
pollies suck blood).
We ate cheese and drained a flagon or two
(Lynette made lots of black coffee).
We were men in conversation talking cultured
– or talkin' rough of life –
the way it is, or was, or how it should, or
could be.
Now life goes so fast – so little time for
conversation.

I admire you Jonesy – you have done more
than most for your immortality.
For part of you, and your soul, hangs in more
than 100 rooms.

You have painted the pain of bushfire,
captured the gaiety of Summer in Crepe
Myrtle's hair,
with the eye of the artist seen manure heaps
that steam Cypress
boundary plants of Blacktown Road as
crumbling pyramids of green.
In the absence of friends who have gone on
before – and there are many –
I would ask all here – that know and love you
– to drink a toast to a man of visual creativity

–
BJ (Brian Jones).

To Brian



Brian Jones 76th birthday photo Carol Roberts

References:

- Carol Roberts, oral history with Brian Jones, 1 July 2009.
- Brian Jones, photobook compiled by Carol Roberts, Windsor, June 2011, updated 2012.
- Ryerson Index, <http://ryersonindex.org/search.php>, accessed 12 October 2018.
- Ross Miller, poem for Brian Jones, c 2000.

It's Grand

By A B (Banjo) Paterson

From the book:

Rio Grande's Last Race and Other Verses

It's grand to be a squatter
And sit upon a post,
And watch your little ewes and lambs
A-giving up the ghost.

It's grand to be a 'cockie'
With wife and kids to keep,
And find an all-wise Providence
Has mustered all your sheep.

It's grand to be a Western man,
With shovel in your hand,
To dig your little homestead out
From underneath the sand.

It's grand to be a shearer,
Along the Darling side,
And pluck the wool from stinking sheep
That some days since have died.

FRIDAY, 16 MAY 1924 - P 10

It's grand to be a Minister
And travel like a swell,
And tell the Central District folk
To go to — Inverell.

It's grand to be a Socialist
And lead the bold array
That marches to prosperity
At seven bob a day.

It's grand to be an unemployed
And lie in the Domain,
And wake up every second day
And go to sleep again.

It's grand to borrow English tin
To pay for wharves and Rocks,
And then to find it isn't in
The little money-box.

It's grand to be a democrat
And toady to the mob,
For fear that if you told the truth
They'd hunt you from your job.

It's grand to be a lot of things
In this fair Southern land,
But if the Lord would send us rain,
That would, indeed, be grand!

SOME OF WINDSOR'S IDENTITIES

A correspondent writes:—"The fact that I had the pleasure of attending the Hawkesbury Show held recently and of renewing the acquaintance of so many old friends of days long ago, reminded me of my possession of an original drawing by Mr. Tom Abbott, once proprietor of a wheelwrighting establishment at Windsor, and an artist of marked ability. Mr. Abbott is still in the flesh and in business in Pitt-street, Sydney. His drawing was made up of a number of "heads of people" of the Hawkesbury District and it is of much interest in view of the circumstance that during the passage of the 30 years since it was drawn many of the owners of those heads have "set up their everlasting rest and shaken the yoke of inauspicious stars from their world-wearyed flesh." Those who were chosen by Mr. Abbott for his treatment were Messrs Peter Fraser, J. J. Paine, F. H. M. Norton, William Beard, Johnny Gough, Charlie Davies, J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Sergeant Boyd, James T. Rowthorn, John Michael McQuade, R. W. Coberoff, William Moses, George Dickson, George Greenwell, Norbert Napoleon Pendergast, James McNeilly, Frederick J. Mortley, Sergeant J. J. Fitzpatrick, C. S. Guest, Bernard Conlon, Tom Abbott himself, William Gosper John Lamond, senr., Brinsley Hall, —, Turnbull and Rev. S. G. Fielding. Of those only five survive—Rev. S. G. Fielding, Messrs Paine, J. Lamond, B. Hall, and J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

The individual sketches were set on cardboard and reproduced by photography on a single sheet which formed the artistic supplement to an issue of a Christmas number of the "Windsor and Richmond Gazette," some 35 years ago. A glance at it recalls the special characteristics of those who constituted this interesting group and who in their day and generation did much to make their names known to the people of the whole district. Many an interesting story might be told in turn of each, and those who knew them best have kindly recollections of their good qualities of head and of heart. Windsor itself does not alter very much as the years roll on—it becomes a trifle duller than it was in those lusty times, perhaps—except in the sense that each visit to the quaint old place reveals the disappearance since the previous call of one or more of the old identities and one or more of the old landmarks of its narrow streets.

HISTORY AND THE
HAWKESBURY

with Jean Purtell



Messrs W. and R. Turnbull, well-known Hawkesbury identities, are twins, and 84 years of age. Mr Wm. Turnbull (on the left) always used an enormous cup (inset) at afternoon tea at the H.D.A. Council meetings. He has retired now, and the cup, after being ornamented, was presented as a prize at the Jubilee Show last week to the most successful exhibitor in the draught horse section — J. Powell.
Photo: 1930 Gazette

National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article85901000>

We Will Remember

Over recent years the newsletter has included a number of commemorations to our fallen soldiers. On the anniversary of the Armistice, may we remember all those soldiers from the Hawkesbury who have fallen.



JJ Paine



TJ Christie on right



W Bennett



SJ Hoskisson



T Sowden



Anzac Cove, Gallipoli 1915



London, England. 1918. Australian Servicemen outside the YMCA Aldwych Theatre

The seeds of the Flanders poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) had lain dormant on the front lines of France until 1915 when they were disturbed by the soldiers fighting in World War I. Coincidentally, the weather offered perfect conditions for them to germinate. For the next four years, the poppies grew and their flowers lay like a red blanket across the fields on which the soldiers fought.

The Flanders poppy is now a poignant reminder of the fallen soldiers on both Armistice Day on 11 November (after the Second World War, Armistice Day became Remembrance Day) and on Anzac Day on 25 April in Australia. They are worn with pride, used in wreaths and sold to raise funds for charities that support returned soldiers.



Poppies growing wild in Flanders