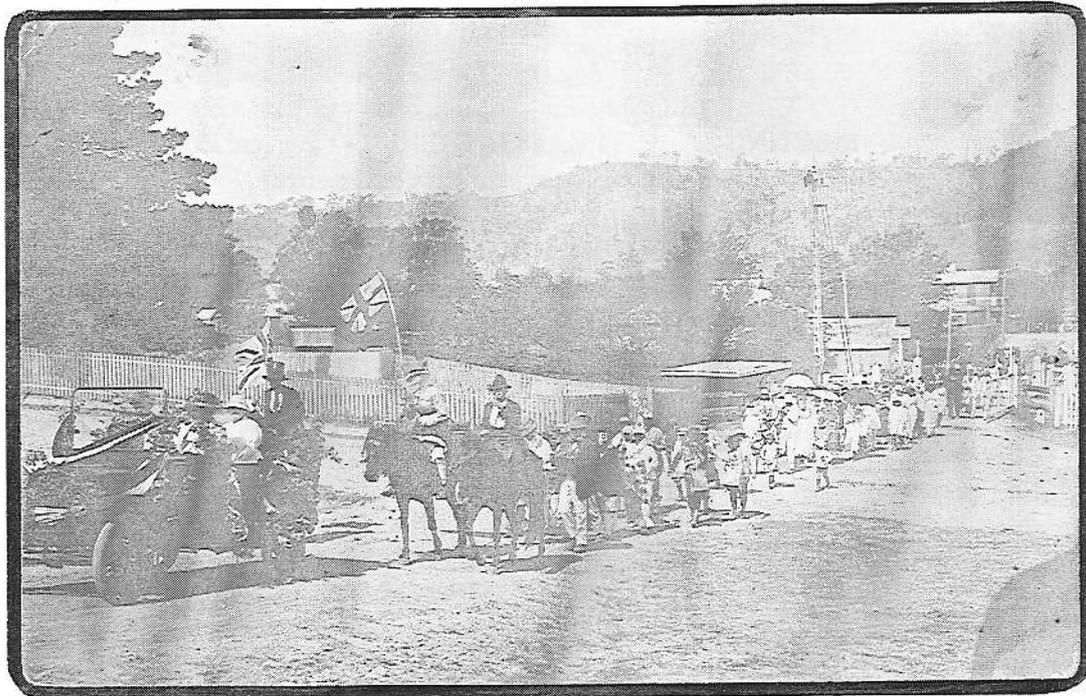




THE JOURNAL OF
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



Paterson Procession - 1918

A rare photo/postcard of the railway gates at the former Prince Street rail crossing. In the right background is St Paul's Anglican Rectory and to the left Paterson school fence and grounds. The procession was a sports day celebration at the end of WWI. The gates and crossing have been closed for many years.

Photo: Society photographic collection.

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

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2002

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

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

ASS. SECRETARY: Pam Sivyer

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE: P. Clements, S. Threlfo, M. & B. Keppie

B. Brown, H. Boyle OAM, J. Sullivan, C. Archer, V. Anderson.

PATRONS

Mr. M. Morris OA

Mr. R. Baldwin MP

Mr. J. Price MP

Mr. S. Lowe

Mr. G. Semken

Mr. A. Fairhall.

MEETINGS PHSI meets the first Thursday of each month - 7.30 pm. - at the Paterson Court House Museum (Recess December/January)

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Annual subscriptions due February each year.
Family \$5. Single \$3. Student \$1.

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER.

SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING - Dr John Fryer - Indigenous Relics
OCTOBER 3 MEETING - Graeme Martin - Snowy River Scheme
5 OFFICE WORKING BEE - All welcome
NOVEMBER 7 MEETING - CHRISTMAS GATHERING - Sue and Boris Sokolof - Slide evening.
Refreshments. (Mary, Kathy and Pam to organize)



COURT ROOM CEILING

Pauline Clements hosted a tour at the Museum recently and was given information regarding 1950s restoration work carried out at the courthouse. In the early 1950s Contractor Ross Mathieson replaced the court room ceiling with masonite and was assisted by local lad Terry Hallinan. The timber slats with plaster covering were in a very poor and dangerous condition hence the ceiling was removed and replaced. (another query solved!)



PATERSON DISTRICT NEWS - *Maitland Mercury* 9 April 1892 - Harry Boyle OAM

A meeting was held in the C. E. schoolroom last Thursday for the purpose of making arrangements for the disposal of the allotment of land on which the schoolroom is built. We believe that the commercial Banking Company of Sydney contemplate purchasing this property on which to erect commodious premises for their branch in Paterson. This site commands a most central position in the town, and is directly opposite the Post and telegraph Office, so will therefore prove a most advantageous situation for the Commercial Bank.



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 1845 AND CHURCHYARD, PATERSON.

Churchyards and cemeteries provide a direct record of communities and in the case of older cemeteries provides an historical record of importance to the nation. Society executive members, Pauline Clements and Shirley Threlfo are initiating efforts to obtain funds to assist with the conservation of the ageing and fragile monumens at St Paul's where burials commenced in 1839.

BIG FROSTS OF PATERSON - Bill Keppie

During July 2002 the Paterson district experienced several heavy frosts when temperatures dropped to -4°C on a few mornings. Pipes and taps froze, garden plants, plants on verandahs and under bushy trees and shrubs were touched. Many brush trees along our creek on "Glenlossie" suffered as well - sandpaper fig, brush cherries, native hibiscus, cheese tree and Morton Bay figs were badly frost bitten.

The two Morton Bay figs at the Museum, planted well over a century ago were affected causing a heavy leaf drop.

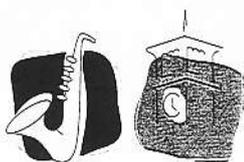
1970 was very severe. It was a dry winter with sudden cold snaps. On one occasion temperatures dropped to 19° and 20°F (-12°C) every morning for a week - pipes and taps froze and were forced out of shape so, naturally, when they thawed, they then leaked. Some car radiators were damaged, nearly all bush trees were affected and the Museum Morton Bay figs had the outer 10 feet of their limbs die back. (1972 was similar). In 1965 snow fell on the Mt Royal Range and Mt Tryaman, north west of Paterson, off Summerhill Road and east of "the Gap" on the Gresford/Singleton Road where snow was up to 9 inches deep around the trig station.



MT TRYAMAN TRIG STATION - 1965



Keppie and Threlfo families at Mt Tryaman - 1965 Photos - Bill Keppie



Hunter **River** Country



BOER WAR LEFT ITS MARK ON GRESFORD - Val Anderson -

as printed in *Maitland Mercury* 1 July 1999.

On October 11, 1899 Australia's involvement in the South African Boer War began and continued until the signing of the peace treaty at Pretoria on May 31 1902. A total of 16,175 volunteers were accepted when Australia's population was a little over 3,500,000.

On October 28 the first troops marched through the streets of Sydney from Victoria Barracks.

The young men had responded to the call of their governments to volunteer for service and were drawn from the Australian colonies and the First New Zealand Contingent.

By the middle of November troopships were beginning to assemble in Albany Harbour, Western Australia to take the first group of troops, mainly untrained, to a place on the honour roll of Australian military history. (This reputation was some years later to be repeated on Gallipoli and in France. Many Australians who served in the Boer War also served in the 1914-1918 war.)

As mounted troops they were seldom called upon to make frontal attacks on strongly held positions as were the British infantry in the early months of the war.

Casualties were not high. Of the Australians, 1400 were wounded, 251 died of their wounds and 267 died of disease. One such casualty was Keith Kinnaird Mackellar, son of Dr (later Sir) Charles Kinnaird Mackellar and sister of the poet, Dorothea Mackellar (*My Country*).

A *Maitland Mercury* report of July 19 1900 announced the untimely death and the sadness felt through the Gresford district. The report went on to say that Dr. Mackellar, the owner of "Torryburn", an extensive estate on the Allyn River at Gresford, and his son Keith were frequent visitors to the area and would be sadly missed.

Dr Mackellar first leased "Torryburn" in an endeavour to have his children in the country as much as possible away from the city smog and the frequent epidemics that occurred in Sydney. He bought "Torryburn" in September 1898.

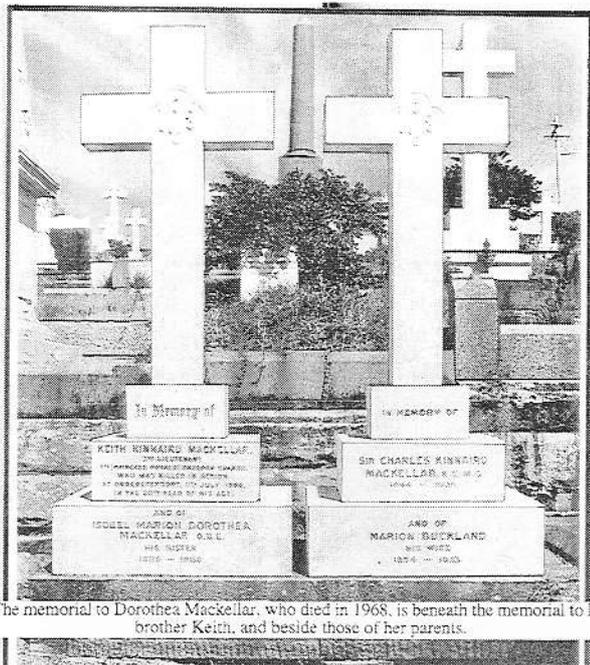
Dr Mackellar was the grandson of John and Euphemia Mackellar who emigrated to Australia from Dundee, Scotland in 1839. He married Marion Isobel Buckland in 1877. There were four children of this marriage; Keith (1880-1900), Eric (1882-1950), Isobel Marion Dorothea (1885-1968) and Malcolm (1889-1943).

Keith Mackellar died at the age of 20 in South Africa on July 11 1900, during the Boer War. He was Second Lieutenant in the Australian Volunteer Horse Squadron. Keith's death was an unprecedented shock to Dr Mackellar who had amassed great wealth and political standing. He had looked to Keith, a fine-looking and highly intelligent young man, to carry on the family dynasty. (Sr Adrienne Howley of Lom, biographer and nurse-companion to Dorothea Mackellar during the last decade of her life, said Keith was a 'hero' to Dorothea who was always saddened at the mention of his name).

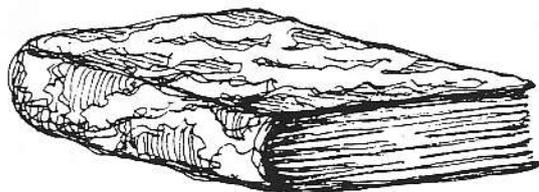
A ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and a beautiful stained glass memorial window in St James' Church, in Queen's Square, Sydney are dedicated to Keith Mackellar.

The period of Mackellar's ownership of "Torryburn" from 1898-1901 corresponded with one of the district's driest times. The previous equally severe drought was in the 1840s when the Paterson and Allyn Rivers stopped flowing and the Aborigines of Camyr Allyn moved to the Barrington Tops in search of water. Possibly because of the influences of Keith's death and the drought, "Torryburn" was sold in July 1901 to RJ Coghill of Braidwood, NSW.

In 1905 Dr Mackellar had his son's body exhumed and re-interred in a family plot he had purchased at Waverley Cemetery NSW beneath the white marble cross that had been on Keith's South African grave. In due course, Keith's war medals were returned to his family.



The memorial to Dorothea Mackellar, who died in 1968, is beneath the memorial to her brother Keith, and beside those of her parents.



COMMONPLACE BOOK
PERSONAL JOURNAL
TORRYBURN 1899

In the Mackellar Family Papers at the Mitchell Library is Dorothea Mackellar's 'Commonplace Book', a personal journal that includes entries made during her time spent at Torryburn. It was there in 1899 that she recorded seeing birds, fish, animals and reptiles.

The photo of the Mackellar Family Grave at Waverly Cemetery was taken by Jack Sullivan, Hunter Valley historian and frequent researcher at the cemetery.



HUNTER VALLEY HISTORIC HOMES FOR SALE - "TORRYBURN" and "GOWEN-BRAE".

The magnificent Gresford estate, "Torryburn" has been placed on the real estate market. Our Society has been closely associated with the historic "Torryburn", Dorothea Mackellar, "My Country" connection and have appreciated the support and co-operation of the Ferguson family and their staff since 1989. The 1880s portion of "Torryburn" homestead was designed by renowned Maitland Architect, JW Pender. "Torryburn" is offered at \$5.5 million.

"Gowan Brae", a gracious Gothic-influenced, Robert Scobie designed Victorian 1893-built home set in spacious grounds at Bolwarra. Beautifully renovated complete with original details it is offered at \$1.35 million.



PHOTO - BILL ANDERSON

ACQUISITION - LES DARCY PHOTO

An outstanding photo of Maitland's boxing idol, Les Darcy has been generously donated to the society's Les Darcy collection. It was delivered to the Museum by Mary Kealy and received by Jennifer Dunn on the 30th June, 2002. It was donated by Barry Bird of Port Macquarie on his behalf and on that of Colleen and Margaret Bird "Reynella" Allynbrook (East Gresford).

References on the back of the photo read -

Purchased by P. Bird - Allynbrook - NSW
From Cameron's Ltd - High St - West Maitland -
1 - 5 - 1918
Renovated for W. Bird by
Green Leaves Studios - Newcastle
1 - 11 - 11977 - \$100

(This has been covered by clear mylar to make easy viewing possible and for protection)



Pam Sivyer beside the Darcy display at Tocal's "Peek into the Past" Day, Webbers Cottage July 2002
Photo: Bill Anderson



"Would you sit these three together at the same table?"

Shirley Threlfo, Barb Brown and Jack Sullivan, Tocal Family History Fair (seated Olga Marquet)
Photo: Val Anderson.