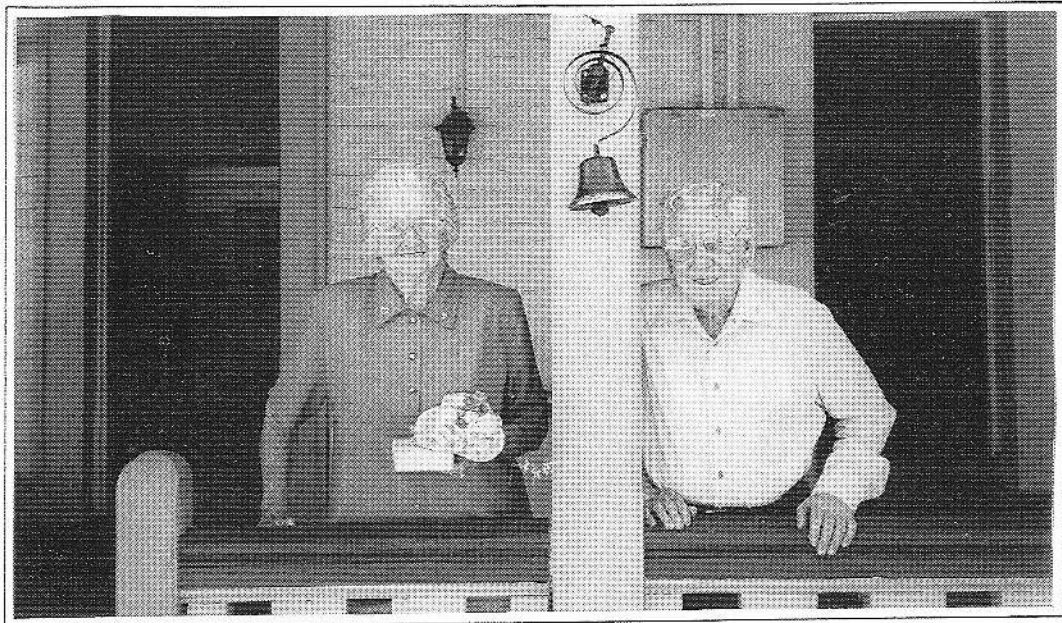




St Columba Catholic Church - 1884 Photo: Kay Ingle



THE JOURNAL OF
 PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM NEWS
 INCORPORATED



ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK - 2006 Photo: Bill Anderson
 (JOAN & BERT CLODE)

In 1881 Fr Peter Meagher of West Maitland was in charge of the Paterson Valley Catholics. He began a collection for the building of a church at Paterson, obtaining £100. He selected a site on the land at the junction of Prince and Church Streets for a Catholic Church and Presbytery, dedicated in August 1877, as shown in the Government Gazette August 15 1877, although the site shows on the 1833 map of Paterson. He then arranged for a building.

Fr P.V. Dwyer called the Paterson district Catholics together in 1883 to expedite the work, and another £40 was promised. The building contract was let in August 1884 in two parts, to Messrs Edward Coleman for woodwork and Isaac Morris of West Maitland for the brickwork. Final approval of the building was made in early December 1884, total cost being £400.

Bishop Murray donated £20 and confirmed he would bless and open the new church on Sunday 21 1884 with Mass at 11 a.m., the choir of St John's Cathedral assisting with the music and singing Massini's Mass.

"Valley Echoes" - History of the Gresford Catholic Parish - K.P. Kay Ingle. BA. MA

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

VOLUME 13 # 2 ISSN 1321 4438 APRIL, 2006.
 Affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society Museums Australia - Hunter Chapter
 RURAL MUSEUMS
 are a reflection of their community's identity

PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2006

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

PRESIDENT: Cameron Archer

SECRETARY: Pauline Clements

ASS. SECRETARY: Pam Sivyer

TREASURER: Shirley Threlfo

VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Lyall

JOURNAL: Pauline Clements, Val Anderson & Shirley Threlfo

MUSEUM CURATORS: Val Anderson & Bill Keppie

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Bill Anderson

RECORDER: Mabs Keppie and Shirley Threlfo

PUBLIC OFFICER: Cameron Archer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: P Clements, S Threlfo, M & B Keppie, J Sullivan, C Archer, V Anderson, R. Stevenson.

PATRONS

Mr. M Morris OA

Mr. R Baldwin MP

Mr. J Price MP

Mr. S Lowe AM

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. \$5 single. \$10 family.



- **Due to demand**, member Kathy Lyall and John Milburn, Principal of Paterson school are developing a Schools Visitation Program to the museum.
- **A donation of £500** has been received from the Scouts Association of Australia – NSW Branch. This is in appreciation for the programs offered to over 500 scouts and leaders who visited the museum during their recent Corroboree held in Paterson Showground.
- **The society** has accepted the offer of an orange grader from Pam and Peter Sivyer.
- **Dungog Shire Council**, in association with NSW Railways has replaced the timber museum railway boundary fence with an attractive cream colourbond white-ant proof substitute.
- **Museum Sunday Roster**
Society members C Archer, V & B Anderson, P Clements, V Daniels, M & M Dunlop, J Dunn, M Ellicott, M & B Keppie, K Lyall, S Threlfo and new members G Harvey and V Patfield are working once again as a team to successfully open the museum every Sunday, as they have done for the past 31 years.
- **SOCIETY GUEST SPEAKERS** – Updating 2006 Program
 - 1 June - Peter Johnson – History of Tahlee and/or Early Paterson Maps
 - 3 August - Cameron Archer – Recent trip to India
 - 7 September - Ed Tonks – War memorials (Ed Tonks is an outstanding researcher)
 - 5 October - Wayne Patfield – Researcher of Patfield Family – early Paterson residents
 - 2 November - Sue and Boris Sokoloff – Archeology Dig trip to Malta.
- **An agreement** has been made with Peter Swain, our Post Master, to have available for sale during Post Office trading hours a nominated publication from the society's literature program which will be featured each month in our local newspaper "PSST".
(Secretary Pauline will liaise with Peter relative to this project)
- **Members Sue and Boris Sokoloff** represented our society at the inaugural meeting of the Heritage Hunter Working Party at the Newcastle Regional Museum on 27 April last.
- **Congratulations** to Rotary Club of Paterson on the recent wonderful refurbishment work done on the Paterson War Memorial. Society Vice President Kathy Lyall took part in the opening ceremony which coincided with this year's Anzac Day.

ASHES THAT CARRY A WARNING ABOUT FIGHTING OTHER PEOPLE’S WARS

Jonathan King, – contributed by member Dr Barry Chapman from article published in the SMH 14 November 2005.

Australians could learn from the fate of Keith Mackellar, brother of the poet Dorothea Mackellar. His remains were reburied in Sydney 100 years ago today after they were brought back from the Boer War.

The Sydney military historian Craig Wilcox said Keith Mackellar, later immortalised in a stained glass window in St James’s Church in King Street featuring the image of St George with Keith’s face, was mesmerised by Australia’s chronic “red-coat dreaming”.

Dr Wilcox, who is writing a book of that name, believes Australians have always had a propensity to be impressed by great fighting nations like Britain and to be part of successes like Wellington’s victory at Waterloo in 1815.

“Lieutenant Mackellar carried this red-coat dreaming right through rushing off to Britain’s South African war, without questioning the cause,” he said.

Mackellar, Wilcox said, described himself as “a bit of a duffer at everything except soldiering”. He was shot through the head in 1900, shortly before his 21st birthday, while fighting near Pretoria, and was buried in the same cemetery as “Breaker’ Morant.

Mackellar’s distraught parents paid £1000 to have his remains shipped to Sydney in a container labelled “Curios” to minimise problems with customs officers and superstitious sailors.

They reburied the remains at Waverley Cemetery, commissioned the stained glass window and donated £1000 to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

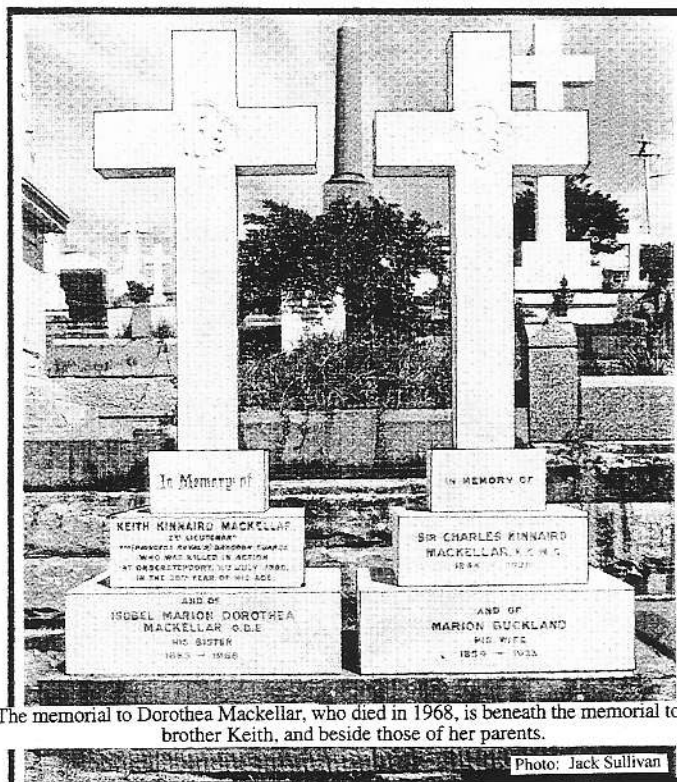
Dr Wilcox, who will lead a Boer War tour next year, said Mackellar’s body was the only one brought back from that war. Apart from the body of General Bridges brought back from Gallipoli, he believes Mackellar’s was the only body returned to Australia until the Vietnam War, when the practice became more common.

Despite Mackellar’s modesty, his sergeant, Harris Woods, described him as “one of the whitest and nicest men I have ever known, charming and always courteous and polite in dealing with his men”. The *Herald* eulogised at the time “Lieutenant Mackellar was tall with a fine physique and was a good amateur boxer, horse rider and fencer.”

When she died in 1968 his younger sister, Dorothea, had her ashes added to Keith’s grave, Dr Wilcox said. Famous for her 1908 poem *My Country*, she remained single after hearing her English suitor had married another woman in England after years of waiting for Dorothea’s father’s approval – not realising this approval had been lost in the mail.



(Courtesy of Mitchell Library)



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

Photo: Jack Sullivan

Heritage Consultants Visit District

Our society hosted a meeting of the Hunter Heritage Network Group at the Paterson Court House Museum on Friday morning the 28th April.

Comprising heritage architects and consultants, members had travelled from Sydney, Newcastle and the Hunter Region to visit the Paterson, Clarencetown and Dungog districts. Dungog Mayor, Mr Steven Low welcomed the guests following a well informed address by P H S President, Cameron Archer on the history and development of the area.

Following morning tea, the group then moved on to the Clarencetown district.

New members Robin Stevenson, Val Patfield and Genevieve Harvey rendered good support, Robin in "catering," Val as registrar for the group and Genevieve in a social role.



Scouting Visit

Extract from Museum Visitors Book 19-21 January, 2006

Over these three days 480 scouts and their leaders from across the Hunter and Coastal Region visited this museum as part of the Region Corroboree being held at the Paterson Showground. This visit formed part of the HERITAGE DISCOVERY TOUR ACTIVITY and was enjoyed by all participants.

We would like to thank the Paterson Historical society for the opportunity to include this in the activity schedule for this camp. Your staff helped the youth to get the most out of your towns interesting history.

Thanks – Chris Holden
District Scout Leader
Lower Hunter District

(Editor's note – What a credit these young people were to the Scouting Movement. In extremely hot conditions, the scouts, ranging in age from 11 to 15 years were attentive at all times, asking mature help with their questionnaire and displaying great interest in Paterson's history.

Postscript – word soon got around that there was tea/coffee for helpers and leaders on arrival at the Museum. Pam and our new electric jug worked overtime!)

(Special thanks also to Maurice, Kathy, Michelle and Bill (A) who as well helped in near 40° temperatures)



Photo: Bill Anderson



From Jack Sullivan's Files.

1903 research by Jack has revealed that a cricket bat in the possession of Mr Harry Corner, president of the local cricket club was made for him out of a piece of Paterson river willow tree by an amateur in Sydney. Also in 1903, a new building for the weekly Union Sales was erected on the site of the old Paterson Market building which was in a "dilapidated and disreputable" condition. (There is no mention of the actual site.) J.S.

SIR CHARLES MAC-KELLAR.

M/M
15.7.1926 DEATH IN SYDNEY.

Sir Charles Kinnaird Mackellar, ex-M.L.C., died on Wednesday, aged 82 years.

Sir Charles began active life as a squatter, then became a doctor, and eventually chairman of directors of the Bank of New South Wales, as well as being associated with other aspects of the financial and commercial life of the community. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1885, and sat there until 1903, when he was elected to the Commonwealth Senate for a month or two. At the end of that time he was reappointed to the Legislative Council. He sat in the Jennings Cabinet 1886-87, as Vice-President of the Executive Council, and was subsequently Minister for Mines. He was born in Sydney. His father was Dr. Frederick Mackellar, who came to Sydney in the late thirties, and was for many years one of the leaders of his profession. Sir Charles was educated at Sydney Grammar School. He had a special interest in infant life, and was instrumental in passing some of the most humanitarian and effective measures for the protection of the interests of child life in New South Wales.

He married a daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Buckland.

SMH - 1 APRIL 1939
THE WILLOW TREE.

Australia has a link with Napoleon in our weeping willow trees. These beautiful trees can be seen adorning the banks of many a river. Early voyagers to this continent at times visited St. Helena to secure fresh supplies of water for their vessels. Whilst staying at the island most of the passengers took the opportunity to visit the grave of the French Emperor. The grave was surrounded by lovely weeping willows, and cuttings were obtained and kept alive by inserting them in potatoes. The sprigs were transplanted upon arrival here and quickly took root.

SMH - 8 April 1939
FIRST WEEPING WILLOWS.

To E.B.'s interesting contribution to the subject of "The Willow Tree" ("S.M.H.", 1/4/39), might be added the name of Captain Raine, of "Rainham," Bathurst, who, according to a record in the Mitchell Library, was the first person to bring slips of the decorative weeping willow, *Salix babylonica*, from Napoleon's grave at St. Helena. These cuttings, kept alive in the manner described by E.B., the captain later had planted at Winburndale, and at Queen Charlotte's Vale, near Bathurst.

Thus, to Bathurst, whose famous Willow Walk and whose sweeps of proud willows which have called for such well-merited admiration, belongs the honour of being the cradle of weeping willows.

—ALISON HAY.

Jack Sullivan

- A family history research program has been introduced by Shirley Threlfo by colour coding and rearrangement of the society's library. This is proving very helpful to satisfy the demands of the ever-increasing family researchers who visit the Museum.
- The new coloured Heritage Town Walk Sheets produced in association with The Rotary Club of Paterson and sponsored by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development have been well received by townspeople, business houses and visitors. Maitland Tourism featured our new Town Walk as part of publicity during the recent Maitland Steamfest celebrations.

- **Annual Heritage address**

The 2006 Annual Heritage address was given by society treasurer, Shirley Threlfo on the evening of the 6th April at the museum. Shirley lived at nearby Martins Creek for over 40 years before recently moving to East Maitland. Well known in the bowling fraternity, a keen researcher and author of several local history publications, Shirley tabled her findings to date on the all important early history of the Commercial Road area.

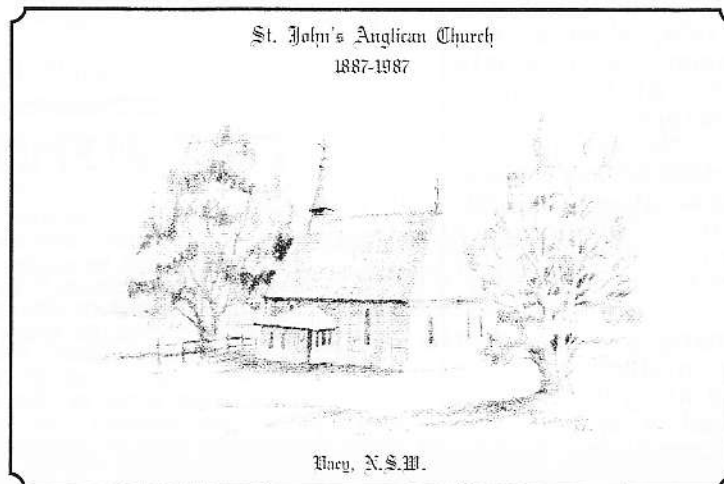


ANNUAL HERITAGE WALK – 2006

The ever popular Heritage Walk was once again well attended. (As treasurer Shirley asks each year – where do they all come from?)

This year's highlight was the ringing of the original 1884 St Columba Catholic Church Bell by well-known Paterson resident, Joan Clode. The bell was given to Joan in 1984 when alterations were made to the church for the centenary celebrations. Joan donated the bell to the society in 2005; it was mounted and rung for the first time in over 20 years at the commencement of this year's walk.

Also on display was a fine collection of century-old Paterson bibles and hymn books and a ship's ladder which was used as a fire escape from Brooklyn House (from the Keppie Room). (Special thanks to Allan Nash, Dungog and Tocal stalwart who came early, unannounced to give a welcome helping hand.)



- **Museum Library donation** – “St Johns Church, Vacy” – a beautifully illustrated history of the church and surrounding hamlet of historic Vacy by Rev Rod Gallagher. Donated by member Kathy Lyall this is a collector's item and a much appreciated addition to the society's library.
- **“TILLIMBY” PHOTO SEARCH: CAN YOU HELP?**
For some time the society has been trying to obtain photos or information about the original “TILLIMBY” Homestead. “TILLIMBY” is situated on the Vacy road just out of Paterson. The homestead was built in the 1820s and demolished in 1946. There are several photos of the servant's quarters and the sundial is still in situ but to date there are no substantial records of the homestead. Phone contacts Val Anderson 49385082 (Sat/Sun) or Shirley Threlfo 49341005.
- **Have you seen in our museum**
An outstanding mounted collection of the late Stanley Priestley's Cattle Judging Medals from 1951 to 1990 donated by his widow, Joan. In February 1991 Paterson lost one of its most active and respected community members when Stan Priestley died suddenly. Stan, of “Tillimby”, Paterson was a prominent cattle breeder and judged from 1951 at the Sydney Royal shows, Brisbane exhibitions, Melbourne Show, Gresford and many country shows throughout NSW. Stan also spent two years as President of the NSW Ayreshire Cattle Society. The late Sid Reynolds described Stan as a true gentleman, a great man for Paterson and the purebred cattle industry Australia wide.