



THE JOURNAL OF  
PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

MUSEUM NEWS



LIFE MEMBERS – BILL AND MABS KEPPIE  
PLANTING A YOUNG ROSEWOOD TREE IN MUSEUM GROUNDS IN 1993

Photograph: Bill Anderson

Background – Maurice Dunlop, Val Anderson, and June Mayne

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

VOLUME 15 # 1

ISSN 1321 4438

FEBRUARY, 2008

Royal Australian Historical Society

*Affiliated with:*

Museums Australia – Hunter Chapter

RURAL MUSEUMS

are a reflection of their community's identity

**PATERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. EXECUTIVE 2007**

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

**PRESIDENT:** Cameron Archer

**SECRETARY:** Pauline Clements

**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.

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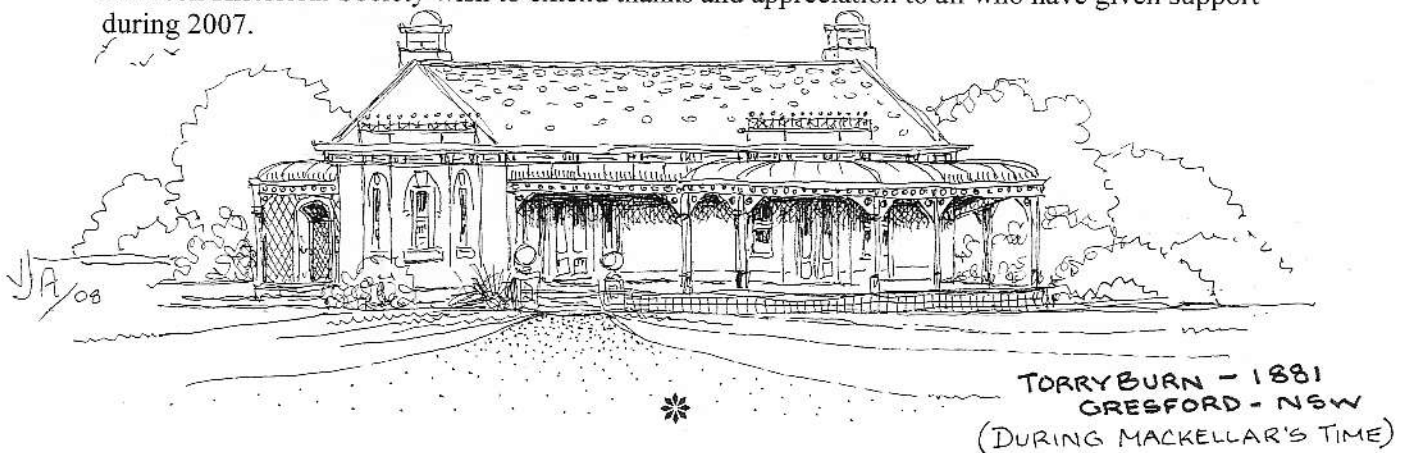
Mr J Thompson

**MEETINGS:** 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.



- The Dorothea Mackellar exhibit at the Museum has been featured in the October/November edition of the popular R.M. Williams, "Outback" magazine.
- Security screens will be placed internally on the Court House windows. We greatly appreciate the thoroughness of security officer Ian Weir.
- Over seventy Veteran Car enthusiasts visited the Museum during October. Also in October members of Dungog Shire Council headed by Terry Wilson (Design and Assets/Development Engineer), the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, female and male councillors enjoyed our hospitality at the Museum.
- In November, Keith Wade, carpenter and joiner (Paterson Village Maintenance Person) from Dungog Shire Council repaired the southern end door assembly entrance to the back verandah of the Museum.
- At the recent RAHS Conference held in Canberra, our secretary, Pauline Clements was awarded the prestigious Achievement Award for her 30 years service and dedication to local history.
- A Jacaranda tree, grown by Pauline Clements has been planted in the Museum grounds — the Paterson River Orange tree, also in the grounds, has been fed and mulched and with the recent rains looks marvellous.
- Curator Val attended an excellent workshop relative to archival conservation at Brough House, Maitland in September presented by the Australian Society of Archivists Inc – chaired by Dr Sigrid Mecausland
- Paterson Historical Society wish to extend thanks and appreciation to all who have given support during 2007.



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**RANSLEY, Edwin Horace (1869-1900)** Shirley Thelfo

Extract from Ellen Julia Gould: a civilian nurse and founder of the military nursing tradition in Australia (1860-1941) by Ruth Rae (Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Volume 92 Part 2, December 2006.)

“During the early stages of the Boer War Nellie Gould was serving at a Stationary Hospital (SH) in Sterkstroom near Stromberg and it was:

Here we met our first Australian soldier who passed on. He was only with us five days and during that time only noticed some roses brought by a kindly clergyman from Queenstown. With one of those in his hand he remarked that similar ones grew at his home in St Marys near Parramatta. Under his pillow we found a little prayer book which later, I had the pleasure of returning to the donor, his special friend at home. Thirty one graves make our short stay of three months.

The soldier was most likely Edwin Horace Ransley who died of enteric (typhoid) fever on 27 April 1900 at Sterkstroom.”

Edwin Horace Ransley is the great uncle of our member Mabs Keppie (née Ransley) and the following is taken from Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record 1842-1899 Volume 3 contributed by Mabs' nephew John Ransley.

**RANSLEY, Edwin Horace (1869-1900)**, trooper, of St Marys NSW: b 11 Nov 1869 Jordan Hill NSW... Edwin embarked for the South African War on 17 Jan 1900 with the Second Contingent. He was part of a draft attached to A Squadron, described in the official records as ‘a picked body of especially smart men; good shots and daring riders, excellently mounted’...

On 13 Jan, the Saturday evening before his departure, Edwin received a send-off by the citizens of St Marys. There were a number of speeches, and the Mayor, Alderman J. Sainsbury, presented Edwin with a silver match-box holder on behalf of the citizens of St Marys, and a silver mounted pipe on behalf of the Druids Lodge.

During the campaigns, Edwin's comrade, Trooper Harold Thorndike, went down with enteric fever, and Edwin asked permission to remain with Thorndike, which was granted. Following Thorndike's recovery, both were sent on guard duty at De Aar, which was away from the firing line. Whilst there, Edwin also contracted the fever and was sent to Sterkstroom, where he died on 27 April 1900. A commemoration tablet erected by public subscription at the Mechanics Institute St Marys, described Edwin as a ‘one time Secretary of this Institute who died in the Empire's cause.’



**GREATFORD.**—An endeavour is being made to form a town at Greatford. One owner of considerable property at the place is having it cut up in allotments and selling as business sites. The sale is to be this month.

**ORANGES.**—We notice that this crop is coming into the market again. One consignment (a waggon load) sent per the Daisy, and forwarded to Bourke and Wilcannia, made a good price, clearing we believe over £50. In Maitland recently oranges have sold at 1d a dozen. The growers here should profit by comparing the two markets.

TOWN AND COUNTRY JOURNAL 4 July 1885 — LESLEY GENT

THE Tocal MURDER - 1874. Val Anderson

In November 1874 a headless body was found in a waterhole on Webbers Creek. Intensive investigation failed to reveal the victim's identity or the perpetrators, as a result the crime remains unsolved. During research into the proceedings of the inquest held at the Paterson Court House, State Archives generously made available copies of those proceedings, one of which is printed below.

1875  
12.1.1875

Police Station Paterson  
12<sup>th</sup> January 1875.

Copy  
455  
20 Jan 1875

Re: Local Murder

of his deposition  
Reg: v. James Culbert,  
and Nicholas Culbert,  
(Murder of a man unknown)  
(Inquest No. 1018, of 1874)  
1874

Sluicer (constable Wells, reports for the information of his Superintendent that in obedience to his orders he procured the services of three smart Blackfellows and commenced to search Webbers Creek for the clothing &c. of the murdered man. This search was continued with the assistance of the Trackers for near a month during which time several other creeks in the neighbourhood of Tocal were carefully searched, namely Mousybung Blaney and Dunevall. The surrounding Aborigines were also searched and Brushes. The water holes on Webbers Creek where most suspicion rested were partly emptied by means of drains and search made under the logs and stones, but up to the present time nothing in addition to what was previously found, has been discovered, with the exception of two small pieces of a shirt and one piece of the

THREE SMART BLACKFELLOWS

SOME WATERHOLES ON WEBBERS CREEK PARTLY EMPTIED

Further reading: "Crimes of Passion on the Tocal Run" by David Brouwer, "All About Tocal" No. 11.

lining of the sleeve of a coat. The Black fellows were paid up and discharged by Ser. Coustonable on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant.

D. V. Morisset Esq.

Superintendent of Police East Maitland

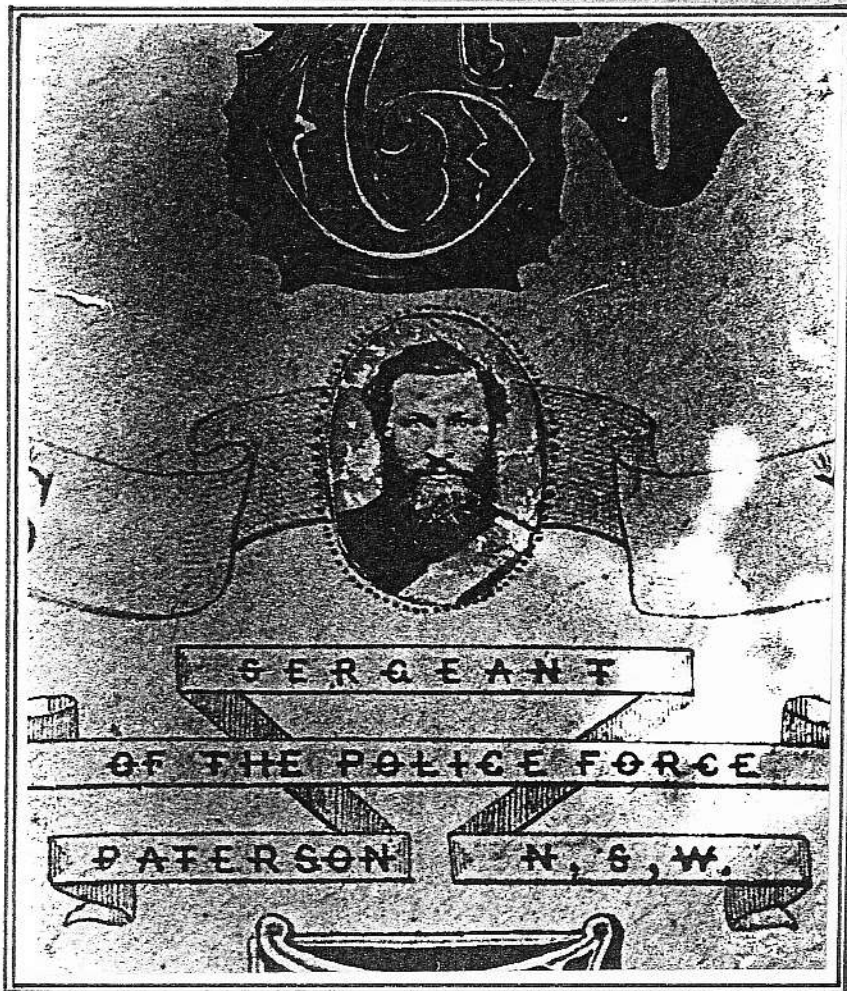
Signed/ James Wells, Ser Coustonable  
No. 1463.

In forwarding this Report to the Inspector General of Police, I cannot but express my regret at S. C. Wells want of success. No one could have been more persevering or worked harder. An Account will be submitted for the payment of the Salaries of the Black Trainers.

The Inspector General  
of Police

Signed/ D. V. Morisset  
Esq.

15. 1. 75  
(15. 1. 1875)



JAMES WELLS CITATION - PATERSON COURT HOUSE MUSEUM - 1876

JAMES WELLS - 1844 - 1884  
NSW POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICE - 1864 - 1877

THE ONLY KNOWN PHOTO OF JAMES WELLS TAKEN FROM A CITATION IN APPRECIATION OF HIS EFFORTS DURING THE TOLCAL MURDER INVESTIGATION AND THE 1875 FLOOD ON COMMERCIAL ROAD, PATERSON.

**PATERSON DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND  
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

Paterson, New South Wales

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**Bankers:**

COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY, LTD.

**Hon. Auditors:**

MR. R. RAW, MR. K. KEARNEY.

**Hon. Solicitor:**

MR. C. FRY.

**Hon. Veterinary Stewards:**

W. K. MARSHALL, B.V.Sc., and A. B. McTACKETT, B.V.Sc.

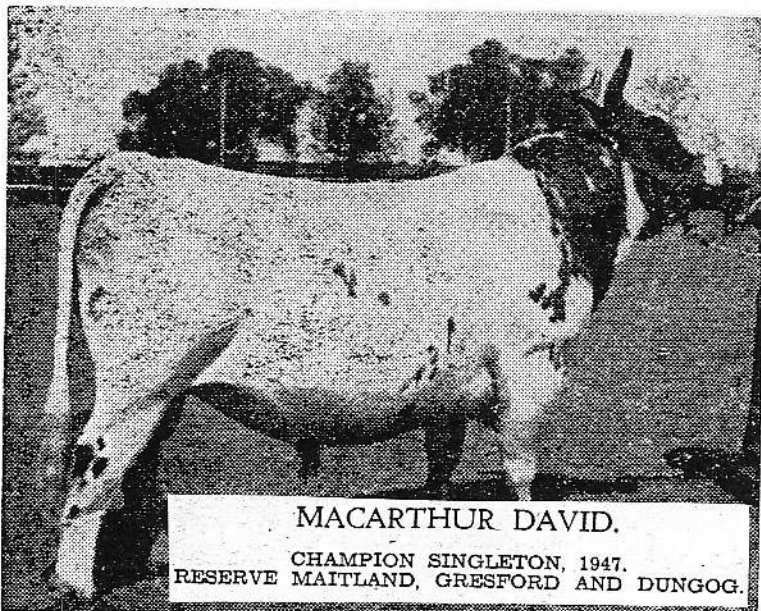
**MEMBERS, 1948-49**

(as to 1st September, 1948)

Abrahams, A.	Keppie, W.
Alford, R. J.	Kennedy, W.
Atkinson, T.	Lang, O. B.
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Clarke, J.	Merchant, A.
Clements, L. G.	Merchant, D.
Clements, A.	McGill, W.
Clements, P.	McGill, K.
Clifton W.	McGill, R.
Corner, K.	McInnes, T.
Cox, H.	McInnes, J.
Crouch, H. H.	Monkley, L. F.
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Dennis, A.	McRae, C.
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Dixon, P.	Murphy, J.
Davies, W.	Mutton, T.
Dooley, P. A.	Meehan, T.
Drew, W.	Ninness, L.
Drew, F.	Ninness, P.
Dunning, H.	Osland, R.
Duck, H.	O'Neill, N.
Ebbeck, R. A.	Parish, S.
Edwards, P. R.	Priestley, E. J.
Edwards, R.	Priestley, S. P.
Fairhall, C.	Priestley, S.
Fry, H. A.	Pryke, H.
Fry, S.	Raw.
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Gilhome, J.	Reynolds, E. J.
Graham, R. R.	Reynolds, P. A.
Graham, J.	Reynolds, S. M.
Graham, K.	Sellars, O.
Graham, M.	Shearman, L.
Harris, W.	Sternbeck, J.
Hanlon, J.	Smith, A. J. C.
Hemson, W.	Smith, C.
Herd, J.	Smith, H.
Horn, J. B.	Tierney, F. B.
Hodson, C. H.	Tucker, J. B.
Howarth, A. (M.L.A.)	Vitnell, N.
Horn, A.	Wansey, A.
Howard, J.	Watts, R.
Ingram, E.	West, L.
Jordan, J.	Williamson, G.
Jordan, K.	Wilkinson, R.
Jordan, T.	Young, H.
Kearney, K.	
Kearney, N.	
Kealy, P. A.	
Keppie, A.	

**LADY MEMBERS**

Mrs. F. Kemp.  
Mrs. A. E. Hoffman.  
Mrs. G. Williamson.



MACARTHUR DAVID.

CHAMPION SINGLETON, 1947.  
RESERVE MAITLAND, GRESFORD AND DUNGOG.

**TILLIMBY  
AYRSHIRE STUD**

OUR COWS LOOK WELL AND  
MILK WELL!

YOUNG BULLS AVAILABLE.

Inquiries Welcomed - Inspection Cordially Invited.

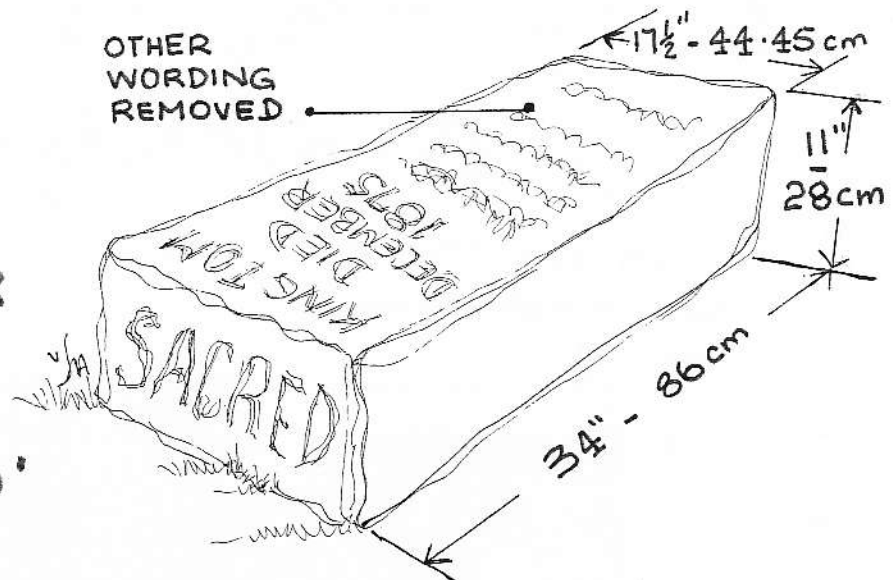
**S. P. PRIESTLEY & SON**  
Tillimby, Paterson

PHONE 41

**INDIGENOUS INTEREST  
BURIAL STONE – BOLWARRA**

A permit was given by Hunter Water Corporation in June 2000 for Val and Bill Anderson and Jack Sullivan to enter, photograph and record an Indigenous Burial Stone on Corporation grounds at Bolwarra Road, Bolwarra.

**KING TOM  
DIED  
DECEMBER  
1875  
-  
'SACRED'**

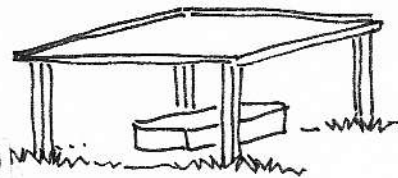


The following details were taken 21 June 2000.

It seems possible that there may have been another inscription on the stone.

The weather cover/shelter was scattered about on the ground possibly caused by cattle housed in the paddock.

(The stone has been removed from the site. 2007)



VJA/08

**MUSEUM DUTY**

**- 2008 -**

- C ARCHER
- P CLEMENTS
- S THRELFO
- M.B KEPPIE
- M.M DUNLOP
- V DANIELS
- V PATFIELD
- M ELLICOTT
- J DUNN
- K LYALL
- V.B ANDERSON

MANY MANY  
- THANKS -



**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**- 2008 -**

**MARCH - 6**

BRIAN WALSH  
CONVICT RESEARCH

**APRIL - 3**

**HERITAGE ADDRESS**

LESLEY GENT  
GEORGE PRIESTLEY  
"GOSTWYCK"

**MAY - 1**

DAVID BROUWER  
THE LOCAL MURDER  
1874

At the recent RAHS Conference held in Canberra, our secretary, Pauline Clements was awarded the prestigious Achievement Award for her 30 years service and dedication to local history.

PHONE 75 W.M.  
(DAY OR NIGHT)

395 HIGH STREET, WEST MAITLAND

PRIVATE ADDRESS: BOURKE STREET

Also at  
PATERSON, Phone 1  
and  
DUNGOB, Phone 172

West Maitland,

Sept 15 1941

M<sup>r</sup> James Wilson

D<sup>r</sup> to Fry Bros.,

Our properly appointed Funeral  
Parlours available when required.

Funeral Directors

TIPPED, PRINTER, MAITLAND

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> supplying polished cedar  
casket Silver mounted &  
upholstered with side sheet  
& engraved name plate for  
the (late) Theresa Ann Wilson &  
conveying remains to Residence  
Woodville.

Conducting funeral to St Pauls  
Church Pateron for owing thence  
to General Cemetery Pateron  
purchase of 2 Caskets Cemetery  
opening ground  
Rev Stephenson officiating  
Director

23-10-0  
2  
2  
76  
4-0

3 wreaths Joan & Callen }  
Joan & Fred Jean } e 7/6  
no flowers from & Nelson }  
Sep 15 1941  
with thanks

126  
29-4-0

PHS-05-F-96

FUNERAL  
RECEIPT

15 SEPTEMBER 1941

FRY BROS  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
WEST MAITLAND

7 # 29.4.0

WILSON FAMILY  
BROOKER EST.

VACY  
PHS-05-F-96