

The logo consists of two overlapping circles. The top circle is orange and contains the word 'PENRITH' in white. The bottom circle is a lighter shade of orange and contains the word 'LIBRARY' in white.

PENRITH

LIBRARY



TREASURES OF PENRITH'S PAST EXHIBITION

CELEBRATING THE
BICENTENARY OF PENRITH
1815 - 2015

PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF PENRITH CITY'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Council values the unique status of Aboriginal people as the original owners and custodians of lands and waters, including the land and waters of Penrith City.

Council values the unique status of Torres Strait Islander people as the original owners and custodians of the Torres Strait Islands and surrounding waters.

We work together for a united Australia and City that respects this land of ours, that values the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and provides justice and equity for all.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Penrith City Library would like to thank the following people and organisations for the loan of items for this exhibition:

Neil Cram

Laura Player

Margarite Scott

Nepean District Historical Society

Nepean Family History Society

Nepean District Historical Archaeology Group

The photographs and postcards displayed are part of the Penrith City Library Photographic Collection. A small sample of the collection can be viewed on Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture> or the Penrith in Pictures website: <http://photosau.com/penrith>

The Penrith City Library Local Studies collections include many other wonderful treasures from Penrith's past and we invite you to visit the Library catalogue <http://opac.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au> or the Local Studies webpage <http://penrithhistory.com> and discover them for yourself.

Cover image: *On the Nepean near Penrith, 1858,*
Watercolour by Henry Grant Lloyd, Penrith City Library Art Collection

TREASURES OF PENRITH'S PAST EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

On exhibition in Penrith City Library
March to September 2015

WARNING: This publication may contain words, descriptions and images which may sadden and distress some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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William Henry Webb

Land Surveyor

July 17th 1861

5

The Rose Inn



6.00

9

W 4 S
2.00



S 4 E

N 4 W

5.00

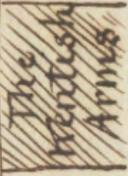
20

from Sydney & Parramatta.

"THE GREAT WESTERN ROAD."

To the Point of Bathurst

To Repentville.



The Wentish Arms

The Police Office

22

E 4 N

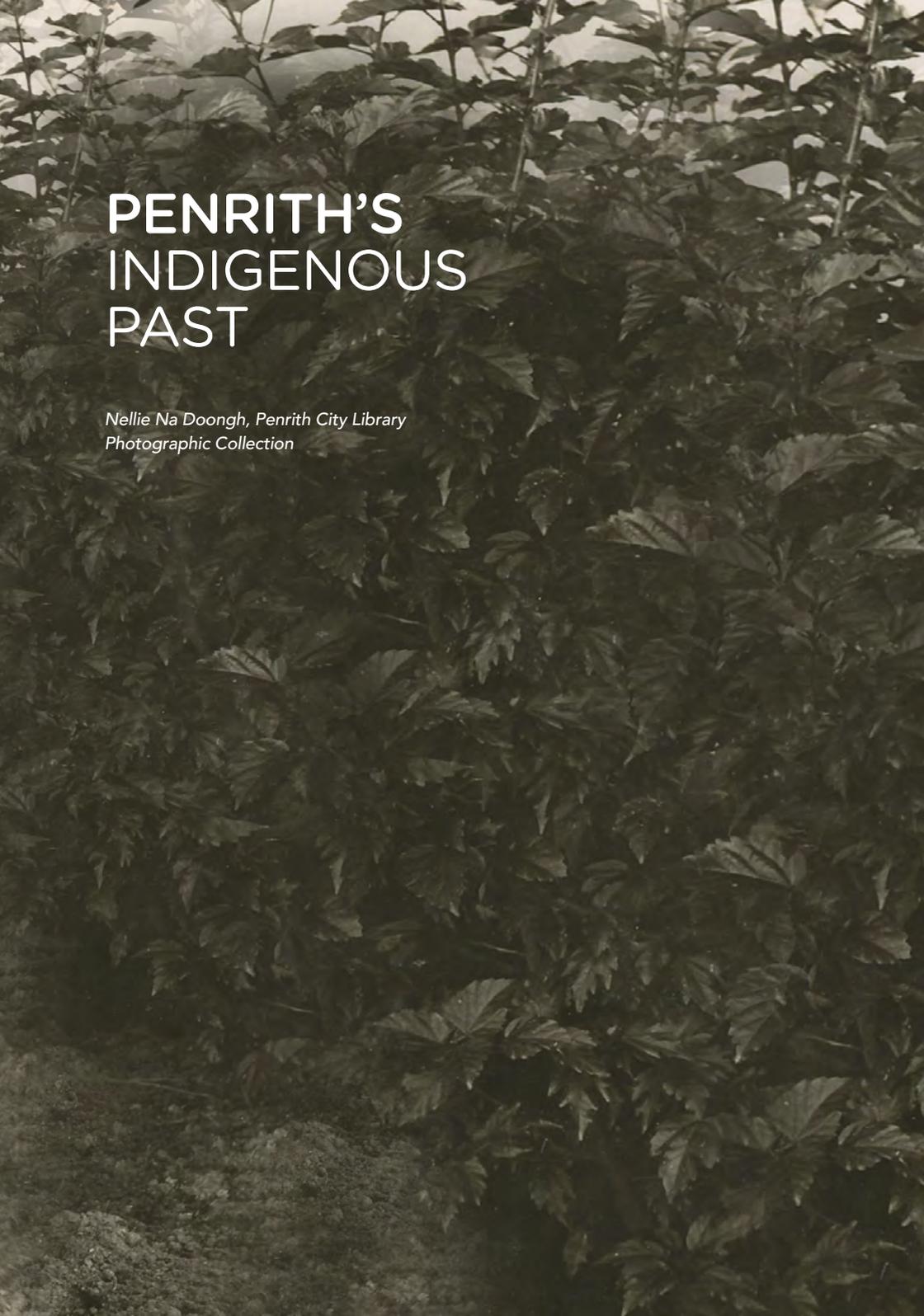
INTRODUCTION

Settlement in the Penrith LGA began at Castlereagh along the Nepean River in 1803. In 1815 the Great Western Road was completed and a government guard house and depot was constructed on the road, near the river and was named - Penrith. The township of Penrith emerged that would become the City of Penrith in 1959.

This year, in 2015, we recognise the 200 years of growth and development that began from that small government building.

This catalogue describes some of the treasures that have been created over Penrith's 200 year history – treasures representing various stages of Penrith's past from pre-history through to the new millennium and commemorating the achievements of the people who have lived in and around Penrith.





PENRITH'S INDIGENOUS PAST

*Nellie Na Doongh, Penrith City Library
Photographic Collection*

ABORIGINAL TOOLS

These smooth stones can trace their history back to gravel sediments deposited by the Nepean River 40,000 to 50,000 years ago. A great many more artefacts made by Indigenous people have been found in the Castlereagh/Emu Plains districts.

Aboriginal groups lived in the Penrith City region which was rich in resources, especially the river and creeks. The gravel beds at Castlereagh were an important source of pebbles for grinding, making hatchets and axes, and firestones (used to make fire).

The firestone implement was found during quarrying at Castlereagh and was rescued by site manager Warren Pinfold. He donated it to Penrith City Library for its continued care and preservation – for all to see, admire and appreciate.

These artefacts are a wonderful local treasure from our ancient past.



Aboriginal stone utensil, Emu Plains

One stone, 10.5 cm x 6.5 cm

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Norman Hunter collection, item no. 114



Aboriginal stone utensil, Emu Plains

One stone, 11 cm x 7 cm

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Norman Hunter collection, item no. 115



Aboriginal firestone, Castlereagh

One stone, 10.5 cm x 7 cm

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Warren Pinfold collection, item no. 26





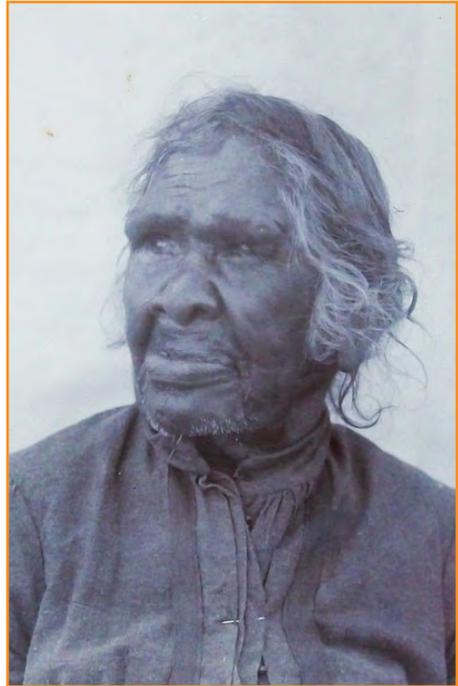
"Nellie, the last of her tribe"

One black and white photograph mounted on board, 23 cm x 31 cm

Penrith City Library, Photographic Collection LCPH 1683

NELLIE NAH DOONGH

The reminiscences of Nellie Nah Doongh (variously known as Queen Nellie, Black Nellie, Nellie Clay and Nellie Budbery) recorded by Sara Shand, the wife of the local doctor, provide us with a glimpse of the distress of first contact in the Penrith district. As an old woman in 1888, Nellie recalled 'all my folks are dead, Mudder, Fadder, everybody dead, all but myself, all this place bush long ago, dis place Penrith, blacks call Mooror Moorak, plenty of wallaby, kangaroo, plenty to eat, plenty of blacks, not many whites'.



At the time of her birth there were few Europeans in the area. Her people were very frightened when the settlers arrived, 'black gins cry, black men shout... I frightened' (Sara Shand, 'Black Nellie', *Nepean Times*, 18 July 1914, p. 3).

Nellie identified herself as belonging to the Booroororang sub-tribe of the Karingai nation. On 25 July 1885 the death of 'King' Charlie, the last male of his tribe, was noted in the *Nepean Times*, 'poor old Nellie, his gin, is now the only black left'. Nellie appeared in the local newspaper from time to time, always with the annotation – 'the last of her tribe'.

This photograph is one of a number of photographs possibly taken by Arthur Judges for his book of Views of Penrith.



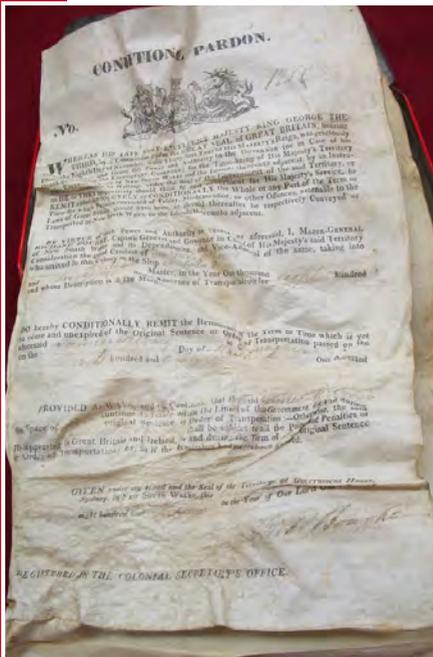
PENRITH'S CONVICT PAST

*Emu Hall, the home of James "Toby" Ryan at Emu Plains,
1866, by Joseph Fowles. (State Library of NSW)*



THE AMAZING STORY OF MCCOOEY'S PARDON

James McCooley, a native of County Armagh, arrived on the *Isabella* in 1822 with a life sentence. He was a 32 year old ploughman who was married with three children. He had been convicted of an assault in which he had his jaw broken. On arrival in New South Wales in 1822, McCooley was assigned to Robert Lowe at Bringelly. In 1823, he applied for his wife, Sarah, and children to be sent to New South Wales at the government's expense. In 1825, he unsuccessfully applied for a Conditional Pardon. In April 1826 his wife and children arrived on the *Thames* along with many other convict wives and children. McCooley received £21 per annum from the government as Inspector of Working Oxen at the Rooty Hill establishment.



▲▲ Conditional Pardon, James McCooley, No. 124

1 folded manuscript on parchment, 33 cm x 41 cm, dated 12 September 1832, in a red metal confectionery tin.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Personal Records, PR-138

In December 1828, at the closure of Rooty Hill station, McCooley and his family were to be moved to Emu Plains. He was transferred to Mulgoa Forest and appointed overseer of the Mulgoa stock station under the control of Superintendent James Kinghorne at Emu Plains. Two weeks after the closure of the Emu Plains convict farm, McCooley received his Conditional Pardon, dated 12 September 1832.

He remained working at the Mulgoa Station until 1834. McCooley and his family continued to live in the Mulgoa Forest district after it was opened up for settlement. Sarah died there in 1854, and James in 1865 aged 75 years. They are both buried at Greendale Roman Catholic cemetery.

At some point, McCooley's Conditional Pardon found its way to Western Australia. Around 1932, Andrew Barbour, a Scottish immigrant who had arrived in Western Australia in 1928, found the document discarded on a rubbish tip and decided to rescue it. He kept it in a small tin, and when he died in 1980, it passed to his daughter. When his granddaughter Dale (Gibson) Lynch settled in NSW, the Pardon (in its tin) was given to her in the hope of finding descendants and a home.

Through a series of co-incidences the pardon did pass to a descendant (Penrith Library volunteer, Pat Curry) who then passed it on to Penrith City Library for its continued care and preservation – for all to see, admire and appreciate.

This document is a wonderfully rare treasure from our colonial past.



▲▲ Pat Curry and a fellow McCooley descendant

TREASURES FROM EMU HALL

Member of Parliament and local identity, James Tobias 'Toby' Ryan built Emu Hall around 1852. Ryan, grandson of First Fleet convicts, Anthony and Elizabeth Rope, was born in 1818 at Castlereagh. As a young man he spent time in the country as a timber getter and horse breaker, and overlanding cattle to Port Phillip, before settling in the Nepean district in 1838.

In 1840 he became a butcher in Penrith and later an auctioneer and valuer. Ryan was a well-known sportsman, a good boxer, crack pigeon shot and successful racehorse owner and breeder. He represented the Nepean district in the Legislative Assembly from 1860 to 1872, but was financially ruined after the destruction of the first two bridges over the Nepean River, which he helped finance.

Ryan, a larger than life character, published his rambling *Reminiscences of Australia* in 1894. His bankruptcy in 1871 had forced the disposal of most of his property at Emu Plains and Penrith by 1880. When Ryan died in 1899, his obituary recorded Reverend Fryer's words at the graveside at Emu Plains, 'he would be long remembered [and] cherished'.

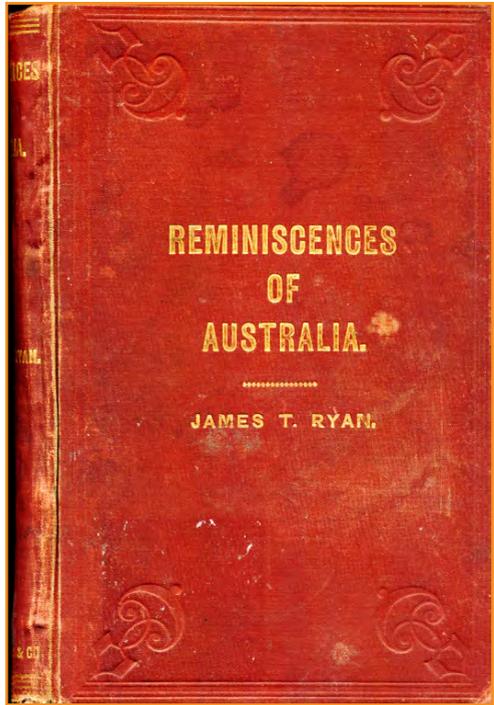
These little treasures tell the story of Toby Ryan, his life as the grandson of First Fleeter convicts, Anthony and Elizabeth Rope, and his eminence in the Penrith district as an entrepreneur, local politician and property owner.



**Reminiscences of Australia:
Containing 70 years of his
own knowledge, and 35
years of his ancestors**

James T. Ryan, published
by George Robertson and
Company in 1894

*Penrith City Library,
Special Collections*



**Convict brick, Emu Hall,
Emu Plains circa 1840s-1850s**

One clay brick with individual
convict mark.
22.5 cm x 11cm x 6.5cm

*Nepean District Historical
Archaeology Group, Brick collection*





PENRITH'S COLONIAL PAST

*Fernhill, believed to have been
painted by C. Cox in the late 1830s.
(National Library of Australia)*



NEPEAN RIVER THE NILE OF BOTANY BAY

Transcript from the newspaper:

Mr. Barron Field

The much talked of publication of Mr. Field has, at length, reached this Colony. The original matter it contains is really unworthy of notice. We imagine that Mr. Barron Field must be a Cockney, and a Cockney too who had not had the benefit of a Sea Voyage from Billingsgate to Margate, in a Margate Hoy. He entertains his readers with such minute particulars of the wonderful things he saw at sea, the adventures of which he was the hero at sea, from the time he embarked at Gravesend, on the 28th of August, 1816, to the time of his re-landing at Portsmouth, on the 18th June, 1824, that they cannot fail of being wonderfully enlightened by a perusal of his "little volume." The wonder of living "367 days in one year" is not forgotten, and that the ship in which he sailed passed two ships in the Chops of the English Channel, is a



***The Australian,*
8 December 1825 p.2, in,
bound volume of
*The Australian***

13 January 1825-8
December 1825

*Penrith City Library, Special
Collections, donated by Moya
Turner OAM. Newspaper
collection originally held by
Patrick O'Connor (1840-1914).*



Nepean River looking south across towards Emu Plains and the Blue Mountains.

One black and white photograph mounted on board, 23 cm x 31 cm

Penrith City Library, Photographic Collection, LCPH 1666



fact among others, related with great historical accuracy. The classical elegance of his language is not the least of his merits, and he talks most correctly of perambulating streets on horseback, "of ships converging outward and homeward," and many other prettinesses "too numerous" to mention. The Author's voyage out and voyage home - his voyage across the Blue Mountains, and his voyage to Shoal Haven, together with some pretty pictures, botanical— and some pretty poetry, with which our readers are tolerably well acquainted from the entire of the matter exclusively his own...

At Emu Plains (says he) or Island (for it is sometimes insulated by the washings of the mountains, when the Nepean is flooded) there is a government agricultural establishment of 350 men and a few women, with a good brick house for the superintendent, and wooden huts for the convict labourers. Here are grown for the benefit of the crown, wheat, maize, and tobacco; but experience everywhere proves the loss at which government raises its own supplies. These plains are not naturally cleared; but they will very soon be free from stumps by the labour of these prisoners, and will then leave a rich tract of arable land for favoured grantees. It is this river, whether **we call it Hawkesbury or Nepean, that is the Nile of Botany Bay;** for the land on its banks owes its fertility to the floods which come down from the Blue Mountains, and which have been known to swell the waters nearly a hundred feet above their usual level; and as these floods are uncertain and often destructive of the growing crops, I once thought that government (if it is to farm at all) had better have kept the whole of this precarious garden in its own hands; since it is only public foresight that would provide against the loss of a harvest, and only public wealth that could support it. After the flood of 1817, the government ration was reduced from eleven to three pounds of wheat per week; but since that period so much wheat has been grown in the fine districts of Appin and Airds, and in the island of Van Diemen's Land, that the colony is now almost independent of these flood farmers; and they are yearly going out of fashion, for the benefit of the state...



In the early 1840s newly arrived settler, Louisa Meredith and her husband, passed through Penrith on their way to Bathurst. Trusting in her knowledge of geography, Louisa recalled that the Nepean River was 'the first river I had seen in the colony, and the only one I did see there'.

The main geographical feature in the Penrith region is undoubtedly the Nepean River, which runs along the base of the Blue Mountains. The Hawkesbury-Nepean River system stretches for 470 kilometres, beginning its life as a mere stream near Goulburn, flowing north to eventually empty into the sea at Broken Bay, north of Sydney.

The river began its life millions of years ago cutting through a line of folds in a northerly direction into shale beds, running virtually parallel to the coast. The Great Divide started to rise only two million years ago on the west side of the Nepean causing its meandering to be permanently entrenched. Near Wallacia, the river leaves the soft Wianamatta shale and sharply turns west and enters the giant warp of the Blue Mountains, known as the Glenbrook Monocline. The Nepean cuts a gorge through Hawkesbury sandstone for 13 kilometres past Penrith and through



**A pristine Nepean River,
near Long's at Lambridge,
Castlereagh in the 1890s.**

On the left is Emu Plains. One
black and white photograph
mounted on board, 23 cm x 31 cm

*Penrith City Library, Photograph
Collection, LCPH 1652*



On the Nepean near Penrith, 1858

Watercolour by Henry Grant Lloyd
20.5 cm x 31.5 cm

Penrith City Library, Art collection



**Convict clay brick,
Hunter property, Emu Plains,
circa 1820s**

One clay brick with individual convict
mark 24 cm x 10.5 cm x 6.5 cm

*Penrith City Library, Special Collections,
Norman Hunter Collection, Item no. 116*



low alluvial landforms. Along this course, at the confluence of the Grose River near Richmond, the river changes its name from the Nepean to the Hawkesbury.

Throughout its life the river has dumped its load of sand, silt and gravel dating back as far as 30 million years along the lowlands especially at Castlereagh and Agnes Banks. The Nepean drains 22,000 square kilometres of catchment area with over 60% being bushland. Sydney relies on the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment area and the Warragamba Dam for nearly all of its water supply.

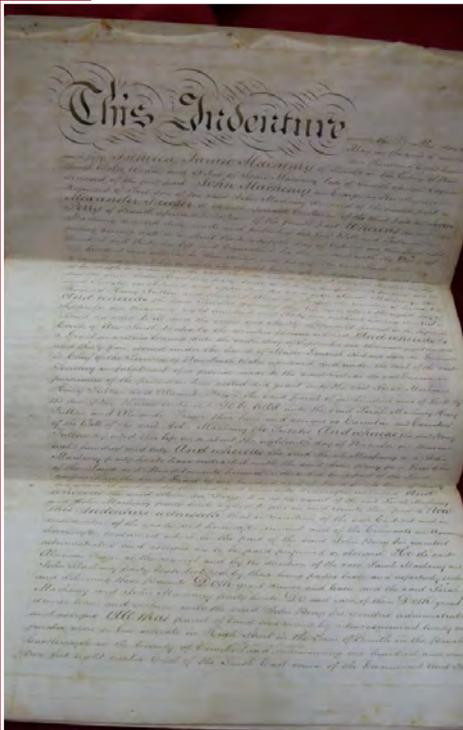
Warragamba is one of the world's largest domestic water supply reservoirs holding almost four times the capacity of Sydney Harbour.

LEASE OF PROPERTY ON HIGH STREET

Indenture between Sarah MacHenry (McHenry), John MacHenry (son), Alexander Fraser (lessors and owners), and John Perry (innkeeper) on a property located near east of Government Court House Reserve, on High Street Penrith, Parish of Castlereagh, solicitor James Norton and Sons.

Description and location of the land (29 perches) - original land grant (fulfilment of a promise) to John MacHenry on 6 September 1834 - MacHenry died 8 September 1832 - executors being Sarah MacHenry, Rev. Henry Fulton and Alexander Fraser. Perry's lease commenced 3 April 1850 for 21 years.

This large lease document, still with its original seals, is a who's who of Penrith's early settlement.



Sarah MacHenry Wife/widow of free settler and businessman John MacHenry. Sarah was also the daughter of Reverend Henry Fulton.

John MacHenry Naval officer and the son of John and Sarah MacHenry

Alexander Fraser Penrith's first postmaster and son-in-law of Reverend Henry Fulton

John Perry Publican and businessman in Penrith

This document is a wonderful treasure from our colonial past.



Lease of premises on High Street, Penrith, 10 May 1850

4 page manuscript on parchment, with 4 seals, 44 cm x 60 cm

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Land Records, LR-001



Silver teapot

Engraved DJW (Daniel James Woodriff) and believed to have been brought to Australia by Daniel and Jane Woodriff in 1851.

*Nepean District
Historical Society*

THE WOODRIFF ESTATE

Of all the families who settled in Penrith, the Woodriff family rank as one of the most influential in its development.

Captain Daniel Woodriff. C.B.R.N had asked for a land grant to compensate for the loss of lands in America by his wife's family, following the American War of Independence. In 1804, as a reward for his service during the Vinegar Hill uprising, he was granted 1,000 acres in the Evan district on the banks of the Nepean. He named it Rodley Farm.

George Evans surveyed the district for the new Western Road in 1813. The road neatly cut through Woodriff's existing Rodley Farm (Penrith) and between Mary O'Connell's two land grants, Frogmore

and Coallee (South Creek), and in doing so defined the district and its future.

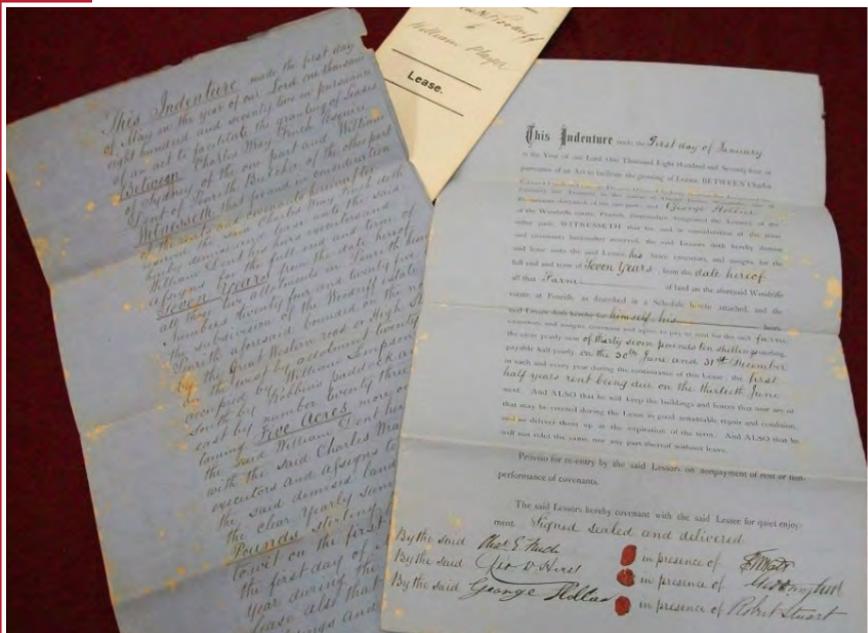
When Woodriff's grandson, Daniel James, arrived in Sydney in 1851 with his wife Jane and daughter Agnes, they settled at Parramatta. A daughter, Florence was born there in 1852 and later two sons, Frederick Daniel in 1856 and Francis Henry in 1858. Daniel, a surveyor, acted as agent and attorney for his father, managing Rodley Farm until his father (also Daniel) died in 1860. Daniel died in 1865 leaving Jane and family friend, Captain Charles Wray Finch, as trustees for the estate, until her sons could inherit Rodley Farm. Real estate agent Robert Stuart managed the Woodriff affairs

at Penrith. When Frederick and Francis turned twenty-one they were entitled to inherit their great grandfather's land grant at Penrith.

A partition deed (held in Penrith City Library Special Collections) drawn up and signed on 21 June 1881, divided the estate: 497 acres south of the Western Road went to Frederick and 503 acres north of the Western Road to Francis. With these arrangements in hand the two brothers moved to Penrith.

The Rough Plan of the Woodriff Estate was drawn up in the early 1860s. It has been amended with the names of lessees on each property. The estate, 1000 acres in total, is divided through the centre by High Street (Great Western Road). Station Street has been added and the railway line and station is drawn in, indicating its future location.

These records document the history of the Woodriff estate and are treasured items in the collections. The lease documents were donated to Penrith City Library by the Woodriff family. The Library holds over 70 original documents dating from the 1860s pertaining to the use and management of the Woodriff estate.





A Rough Plan of the Woodriff Estate

Hand-drawn water colour map on linen
49.5 cm x 38.5 cm

Private Collection



Woodriff lease agreements

Blue paper, printed form, hand written

- Land Records, LR-080 – Lease for Seven years, 1 May 1872 to William Dent
- Land Records, LR-177 – Lease for Thirty years, 30 June 1862 to Richard Brooks
- Land Records, LR-231 – Lease for Seven years, 1 January 1874 to George Hollier
- Land Records, LR-105 – Lease for Three years, 24 September 1900 to William Player

Penrith City Library, Special Collections

The Nepean Times.

PENRITH, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1882.

Price, Threep

an Times,
INDEPENDENT

Doyle's Wheelwright's Arms,
HIGH-STREET, PENRITH.

H. W. BURGIN,
Practical Watchmaker,
OPPOSITE THE COURT HOUSE,

W. KERRIDG
Buggy Manufa
267 Castlereagh-stre

READING THE NEWS

Until the establishment of a locally produced newspaper, Sydney and Parramatta newspapers such as the *Evening News*, *Cumberland Mercury* and *Sydney Morning Herald* circulated in the local area and carried local news reports. At each Council meeting a table and chair were provided for a reporter although the relationship with the press was not always a congenial one. At the 1 February 1872 meeting, Mayor Riley denounced an *Evening News* report on Council as a 'tissue of falsehood', advising the newspaper reporter to in future 'be careful to report strictly the truth alone'.



It was not until the *Penrith Argus* and the *Nepean Times* were circulated that the local community were serviced with news of their district from Rooty Hill to Springwood, Castlereagh to Bringelly. The *Cumberland Times* and *Penrith Advertiser* provided some local content and was possibly only published in the 1870s. Although circulated in Penrith and St Marys, most of its content was Parramatta based. Penrith Council meetings were recorded and Alfred Colless had a substantial advertising space for his general store on the corner of High and Station Streets.



Nepean Times, folded, 18 July 1957

As it would have been when delivered
*Penrith City Library, Norman Hunter
Collection, Item no. 55*



Nepean Times printing blocks and associated photographs below

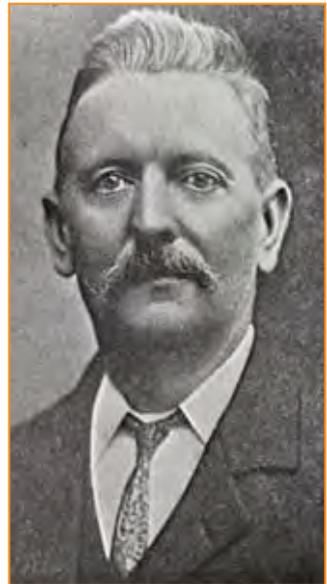
Penrith City Library,
Special Collections and
Photographic Collection



The first newspaper published in Penrith was the short-lived *Penrith Argus* which commenced in 1881. Newspaper proprietor, William Webb, who was born in the district, had by the 1880s established a number of country papers. He set up his apprentice, the young William Shannon Walker as editor, and William Rhodes as printer.



The *Nepean Times* published by Alfred Colless was the second known newspaper to be published in Penrith. After the *Nepean Times* appeared on 3 March 1882, the *Argus* lasted a few months, subsumed by October into the *Nepean Times*. By this time Webb was working in Penrith as auctioneer and commission agent. He was given a column in the *Nepean Times*, maybe as part payment for the *Argus*. As stated by Colless, the *Nepean Times* was 'an independent organ of public opinion'.



Colless established himself as an auctioneer, with a store and stationery business on the northwest corner of High and Station streets where he first published his newspaper. A few months later, the business transferred to the new Besley building further east along High Street. Thirty-year old Colless was Mayor of Penrith when he commenced the *Nepean Times*. He had been elected to Council in 1876 and remained until 1883. He served as Mayor from 1880 to 1882.



Alfred Colless

On 28 May 1891, amidst much fanfare, George Nichols published St Marys' first local newspaper, the *St Marys Gazette*. Nichols was the grandson of the colony's first postmaster, ex-convict Isaac Nichols. Colless purchased the *St Marys Gazette* in 1895. Nichols retired to his store at Llandilo, and in November 1896 took over the post office.

The *Nepean Times*, with permission from the Colless family, was brought into the 21st century when Penrith City Library funded its digitisation onto the National Library of Australia's Trove site: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/350>.

The *Nepean Times* newspaper is one of Penrith's treasures which can be appreciated by everyone near and far.



On Wednesday 17 December 1947, the first edition of the *Penrith Press* was distributed to every home in Penrith, Castlereagh, Kingswood, Werrington, Londonderry, St Marys, Luddenham, Wallacia, Mulgoa, Emu Plains and neighbouring areas. The newspaper, with a circulation of 4,000, was initially eight pages. By 1955 it was distributing 10,000 copies and the extent of the paper had more than doubled.

The editor stated that for some years, businessmen in the district had pressed to get their advertising into every home, shop and office in the Nepean district. Furthermore, development in the district and the influx of new residents increased the need for a free newspaper advertising local businesses. The 'lusty infant newspaper', distributed the day before the *Nepean Times*, gradually emerged to rival the long standing newspaper.

PENRITH A RAILWAY TOWN

The railway arrived in Penrith in 1863, which grew to be the third largest depot in NSW. The railway precinct comprised many locomotive and maintenance sheds, loading yards, turntables and a coal elevator. Staff included supervisors, engineers, drivers and maintenance men. As part of the railway line duplication over the Blue Mountains, a new locomotive and coal loading depot at Valley Heights was constructed in 1913. It replaced the Penrith depot housing and cleaning the engines used in assisting trains between Valley Heights and Katoomba. Property owners and businesses were seriously affected by the removal of the locomotive depot from Penrith.

The local newspaper reflected the shock and consternation of the community by stating in December 1916 that it was 'a very drastic and ruthless blow at the status and progress of Penrith, both as a railway works depot, as the home town of many railway employees and their families, and in regard to effect upon the general industrial and business energies of the town and district'. Wages of railway workers brought £60,000 per year into the local economy; the importance of the town as a railway centre would never be regained. The

newspaper went on to state that at least 150 railwaymen and their families would be relocated, and at least 1,000 people would leave Penrith. This trend continued and in 1937 shunting at Penrith ceased with the introduction of 'through running' trains.



John 'Jock' Heron's Fob watch

Engraved on back J Heron Ellis Davis,
645 Haymarket Street, Sydney

Private collection



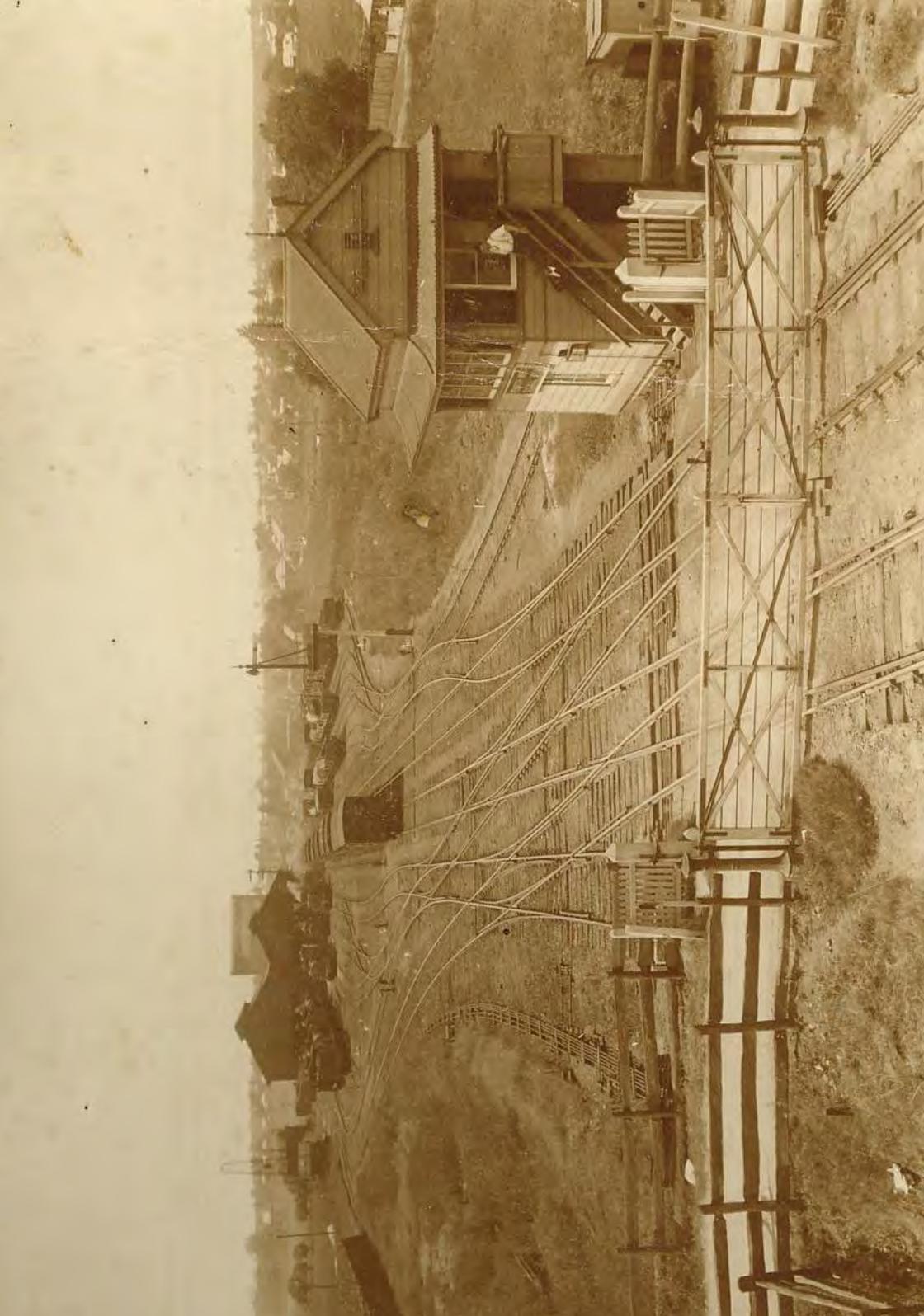
▲▲ **Left to right**

In this photograph from the Library's Roley Jordan collection:

Back row: George Howell, Frank J Allen, Morris Cunningham, George Waldron, Reg Shaw, George Andrews, Unknown, Fred Clissold, Mr Perritt, Mayes Flak, Cecil Jenkins, Roy Payne.

Middle row: Tommy Morris, John Rawson, Claude Colless, George White, Monty Napier, Charlie Maloney, Mr Gibson, Mr Stevenson, Unknown, Unknown.

Front row: Rex Rawson, Unknown, Reg White.



John ‘Jock’ and David Heron came from Dumfries in Scotland. Jock joined the Railways soon after arriving in NSW in 1860.

In February 1863 David arrived in NSW on the ship *Lobelia*. In 1868, when the Western line opened from Sydney to Mt Victoria, Jock was allocated to drive No. 15 engine which had newly arrived in NSW.

Jock became known as ‘The Big Fish’ and over time the train he drove became known as ‘The Fish’. He drove the same train until he retired in 1898. He was presented with the engine plates of No. 15 when he retired. Jock had driven No. 1 engine (built by Stephenson’s in England in 1855) on the occasion of the Railway Jubilee and had driven each of the first four engines that were made. He married Lavinia Kidd in Penrith in 1881. They had no children. He died at his home in North Sydney in September 1906.

David joined the Railways soon after arriving and was stationed at Parramatta. He married Elizabeth Jarvis in Parramatta in 1865. David was transferred to Windsor for five years before transferring to Penrith as an engine cleaner in December 1874. David was killed in a spectacular railway accident at Bell in March 1890. His family remained in Penrith. In 1895, Elizabeth purchased a boarding house in Station Street which she named Cambridgeshire. She died in 1914 and left this home to her son John. Her other home was left to son David. Her daughter Elizabeth May married Charles Parker in 1916. Both sons also worked for NSW Railways.



West signal box, Proctor’s Lane, Penrith.

One sepia photograph,
mounted on board 21.5 x 16.5 cm, 1930s

Penrith City Library Photographic Collection, LCPH 3311

The west signal box is situated where the western railway crosses Proctor’s Lane. The gates were closed manually by the signalman. Proctor’s Lane is also known as Castlereagh Road. The locomotive sheds and railway depot can be seen in the background.



PENRITH'S MILITARY PAST

*Robert Carrington Forland, died at
Fromelles in 1916 (Forland Family)*

LEFT: *Constance Neale (Neale Family)*



PENRITH CORPS OF VOLUNTEER RIFLES

In 1851, as part of the shift towards responsible government, the British Government sanctioned the formation of local volunteer corps for the defence of the colony. The Penrith Corps of Volunteer Rifles which formed in June 1860 was one of the first in New South Wales. James John Riley was appointed captain and Robert Jamison his lieutenant.

Their first drill was held in a paddock owned by Robert Jamison on Lemongrove Hill near Hornseywood House, the home of Robert Jamison. The presentation of a silver bugle to the company on Saturday 29 June 1861 on its first anniversary caused a great deal of excitement in the town.



Robert Lethbridge arranged for the purchase of the bugle from Distin of London for forty guineas. Mrs Lethbridge then presented the bugle, on behalf of thirty-three ladies of Penrith, as a token of their appreciation and esteem. After the ceremony a night of revelry ensued. Fire crackers and egg throwing were all put down to the 'wildness and impetuosity of uncontrolled youth'. William Stephen later recalled that he and his friends pulled strings and slept in the Penrith lockup as there were no beds left in the town.

The Volunteer Rifles' first official march down High Street was on 2 March 1862. The company, with muffled drums, marched to divine service at St Stephens, each man wearing crepe on his left arm as a mark of respect for the Queen in her bereavement for Prince Albert.

By 1880 the numbers had decreased and the corps was disbanded. It reformed just before the Sudan campaign. In November 1885 the silver bugle was re-presented to Penrith C Company by John King Lethbridge, its guardian. He hoped they would 'protect their bugle' and that it would lead them on to victory. After the dissolution of the Corps in 1912, the bugle was kept with the Price family until its presentation to the Nepean District Historical Society in 2001.

An echo of Penrith's Second World War life on the home front, this headlight cover was fitted to vehicles to deflect light beams downwards to the ground. This cover was used by the Hunter family.



Vehicle headlight cover

Metal

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Norman Hunter Collection, Item no. 113.



Silver bugle, Penrith Volunteer Rifles, 1861

Silver bugle in case,
Distin of London

Nepean District Historical Society





Brown travel trunk, circa 1915

Stencilled on top:
Staff Nurse C. M. Neale,
Reinforcements, Hospitals,
Egypt 85 cm x 48 cm x 31 cm

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies Collection*



ON DISPLAY IN THE RESEARCH ROOM **STAFF NURSE CONSTANCE** **NEALE'S TRUNK**

Constance Margaret Neale was born on 6 January 1885 the daughter of Henry James Fulton Neale and Jane Graham (nee Robbins). After leaving school, Constance completed her nursing training and at the outbreak of war, was employed at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Once war had been declared, Constance volunteered to serve on the Hospital Ship *Grantala*, along with two other Penrith nurses: Rachel Clouston and Stella Colless. The *Grantala* served with the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force in the former German possessions of New Guinea and Rabaul between September and December 1914.

After returning from Rabaul, the nurses were discharged from their duties. The first two Australian General Hospitals had sailed for Egypt and the nurses were told that it was improbable that any more nurses would be sent as the war would soon be over. Constance enlisted as a Staff Nurse with the Australian Army Nursing Service on 31 July 1915 and was allocated to No 1 Australian General Hospital Reinforcements. The trunk remained with Constance all of her life and carried with it a lifetime of stories. It is believed that Constance embarked on the *Orontes* which left Australia on 15 July 1915.

By May 1916 Constance was attached to No 3 Australian General Hospital, Abyssia Egypt. On 3 June she reported for duty at No 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Southall England. In September 1917, Constance was attached to the Queen Mary's Military Hospital at Whalley, Lancashire. On 14 January 1917, she was attached for duty on the hospital ship *Kanowna* which was returning to Australia. Her military appointment was terminated on 25 March 1917 'due to marriage'.

Constance Neale married Henry Alston Stanley Holliday, son of Reverend Henry Thomas Holliday on 3 April 1917 at Penrith. Holliday had served with 56th Battalion. Constance Margaret Neale died on 17 May 1972.



Replica 1940's St Marys Munitions factory uniform

With associated original items of the period. Glass framed cabinet

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies Collection*

VAL

The Encore Historical Sewing Group handed over the mannequin with associated original items to Penrith City Library in 2014. A great amount of time and effort went into the reproduction of a female munitions worker at the St Marys Munitions Filling Factory in the 1940s. Her clothes have been researched thoroughly, including her shoes and underwear.

At the commencement of the Second World War, the government needed to increase production of ammunitions. Between 1941 and 1943, some 4,500 acres north of the railway line, once owned by the King family, were compulsorily acquired for the site of the second largest munitions filling factory in Australia.

The munitions factory produced for the war effort: 51,779 flame floats, 118,083 hand grenades, 42,765 (twenty-five pounder) shells and cannon ammunition and shells for the Royal Navy. Hundreds of

thousands of fuses, shells and grenades for Australian, American and British forces were made, and about 23 million rounds of ammunition were 'tropic packed' for American forces fighting in New Guinea.

Labour for the factory came from St Marys and surrounding districts, but was in competition with other local industries also working for the war effort. Balgay Cannery was producing foodstuffs for the forces and advertised for men and women workers. Initially the male labour force at the munitions factory was limited but rose as other munitions plants closed. Although short in experience, the female staff quickly improved with their hard work and eagerness to learn.

The factory began shutting down by the end of the war. The area was re-organised by the new Chifley Government for commercial use and the Dunheved Industrial Estate was established under the management of the Commonwealth Department of National Development.



A man went forth from his home

Tribute to George Henry Mitchell who returned from World War I. Wooden frame. 66 cm x 56 cm

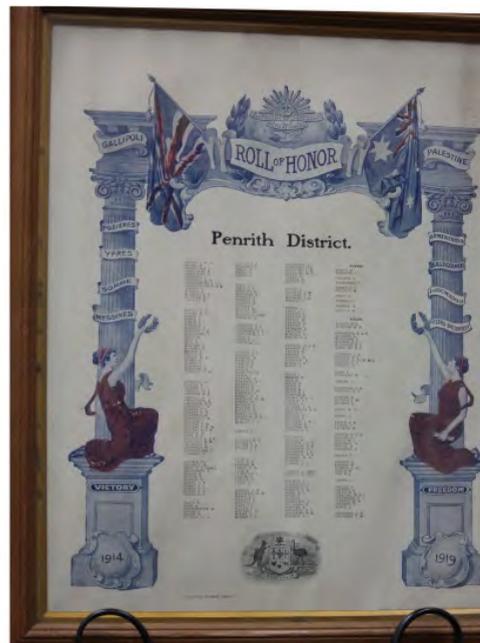
Nepean District Historical Society



Penrith District Roll of Honor 1914 -1918

Originally owned by William and Mary Starling. Their son William James Joseph Starling was killed in Pozières, France in 1916. 68 cm x 78 cm. Wooden frame.

Nepean District Historical Society





▲▲
**Castlereagh Honor Roll
1939 - 1945**

Wooden board carrying the names of local men who served. 47 cm x 60 cm

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies Collection*

▶▶
**Spurs worn by
Trooper R Symons**

Mounted on wooden board. 60 cm x 17 cm

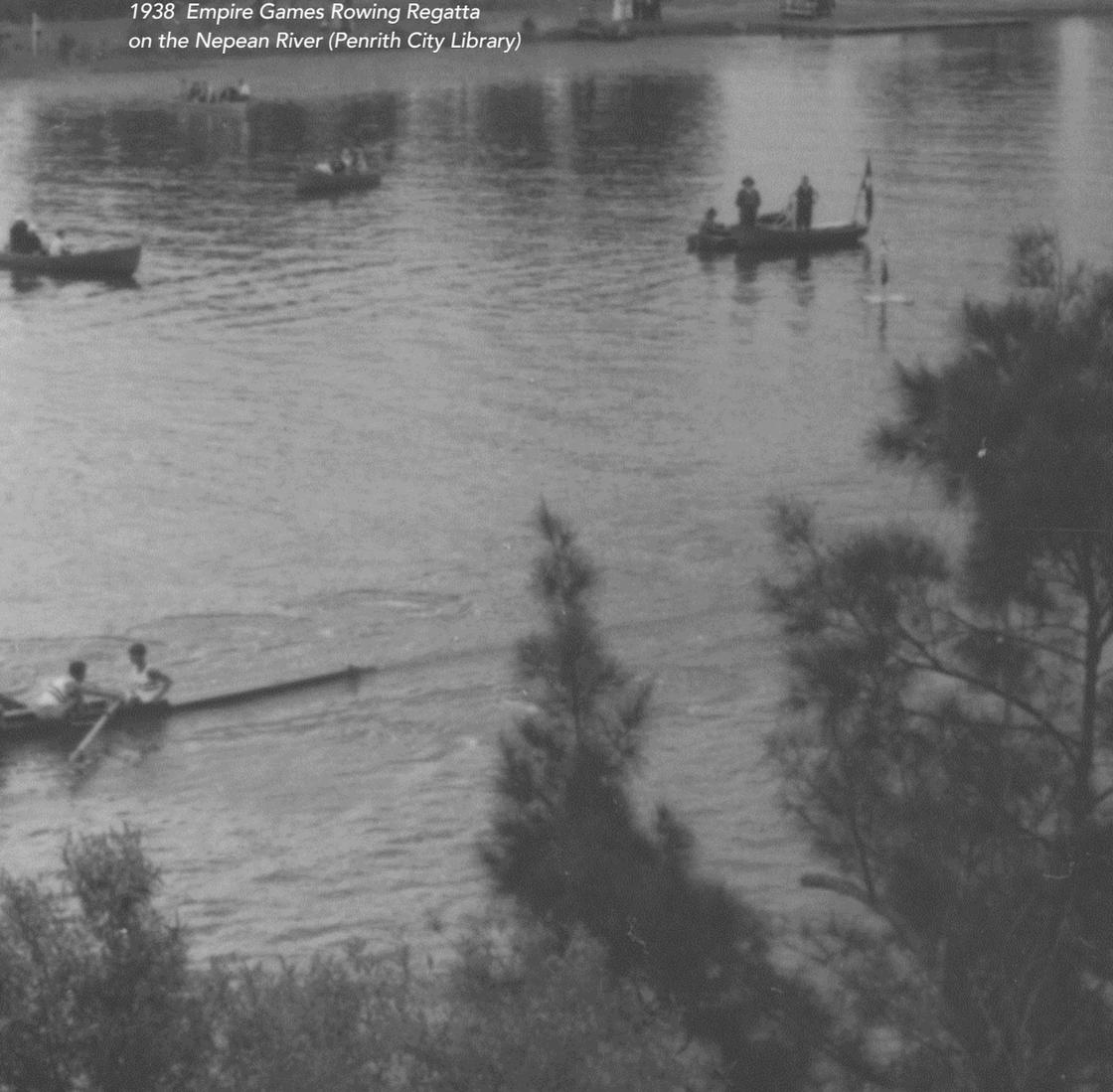
*Nepean District Historical
Society*





PENRITH'S SPORTING PAST

*1938 Empire Games Rowing Regatta
on the Nepean River (Penrith City Library)*



IT'S NOT JUST CRICKET

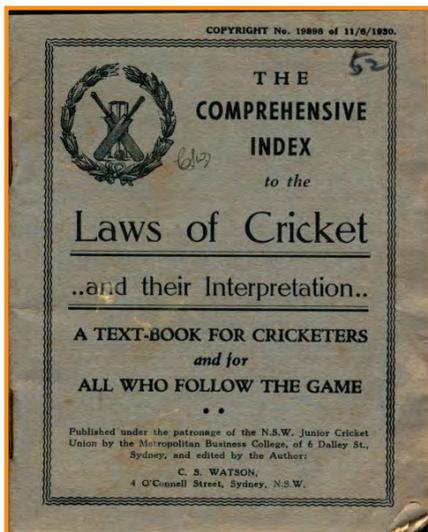
Penrith was always a keen sports town; rowing and boating, tennis, cycling, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and golf were an integral part of any social scene in Penrith, let alone a sporting scene. A number of billiards saloons, often attached to hotels, kept men amused indoors with billiards, snooker and card competitions.

In the 1880s rowing for pleasure stood shoulder to shoulder with cricket for Australians and no where more so than in Penrith. Both sports thrived in the district, with local Emu Plains man Edwin Evans becoming an Australian cricketer. He played in six tests between 1881 and 1886 and was known as an off spinner with an ability to consistently land the ball wherever he wanted. Remarkably, some of his New South Wales records were only broken in the 1990s. At one time the Emu Plains teams were only made up of the Evans and Colless families, all relatives.

His relative, Castlereagh farmer William Peter Howell, also played for Australia in the 1890s and early 1900s. After the First World War, competitions became more formalised and professional. Clive Bendall from Emu Plains recalled that sport played a big part in his social life in the 1920s. He joined the Emu Plains Cricket Club and played for thirty years. He was also a member of local church and social groups which would organise special occasions like picnics near the river. In 1921 the Evans Memorial Shield commenced the local first grade cricket competition to perpetuate the memory of Ted Evans, the district's first representative cricketer.

William (Bill) Peter Howell, born in 1869, represented the Nepean district on 16–17 February 1892 in a match against Lord Sheffield's touring English cricket team, led by Dr W G Grace. The match was organised by T R Smith on a cricket field especially created for the occasion in front of Thornton Hall. Nepean cricketers included Bill Howell, W Mosely, A Wood, William and Thomas Player, A Devlin, Francis and Frederick Woodriff, Dr Scott, T Thompson, M and J Cleeve, A Cooper, C Creswick, H Dunshea, G Edwards, A and G Evans, L Aveyard, W Wilbow, W Mitchell, J Jude and A Whitworth.

Locally, in one match Howell took ten wickets for ten runs and in another hit seven sixes from a seven ball over. After his retirement from international cricket Bill Howell returned to farming at Castlereagh. In 1899 Bill married Neva, the daughter of James and Sara Hunter of Emu Plains. In 1957 Howell Oval in Penrith was dedicated to the cricketing achievements of William Peter Howell.



◀◀
The Comprehensive Index to the Laws of Cricket and their Interpretation

Published under the patronage of NSW Junior Cricket Union by Metropolitan Business College, Sydney, 1930, 78 page booklet

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Norman Hunter Collection, Item no. 52



◀◀
Cricket cap, ball and trophy

Emu Cricket Club, Nepean District Cricket Club, Premiers, 1931-1932 season

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, Norman Hunter Collection, Item no. 68, 73



◀◀
Cricket bat

Make: Cobbett. ID number:17735

Originally owned by William Player. Currently under the custodianship of his descendants.

Private collection

On 16 and 17 February 1892, this cricket bat played its part in the cricket match between Lord Sheffield's English Club v Nepean Districts Cricket Club on Thornton Hall's land, then known as Belmore Park. The area is now known as Smith's Paddock in one of Penrith City's more recent suburbs - Thornton.

Thornton Hall, home of Penrith publican Thomas Smith and his son, the Honourable Sydney Smith, was the scene of many sporting events and feats over its history. Known as Belmore Park from the 1870s, the area in front of Thornton Hall played host to social occasions, cricket matches, balloon exhibitions like Signor Fernandez (The Hero of 300 successful Balloon Ascents), the Penrith rifle range, horse racing, lawn tennis, croquet, frisquette (ladies cricket), rugby union, aeroplane flights and in 1923, the Penrith speedway.

The Western Suburbs Motor Cycle Club approached Sydney Smith for a loan of Belmore Park. The Council loaned its road grader, a flat dirt circuit was made and Penrith Speedway was born. In 1925, Smith and his family floated Penrith Speedway as a public company, with Smith the chairman of directors. Six thousand people attended its first meet. In March 1925 the club improved the track and Penrith Speedway was at this time declared 'the world's largest dirt track'. In 1928 it was also declared one of the fastest dirt tracks where drivers could 'go flat out', getting up to ninety miles per hour.

NORMAN HUNTER

In 1910 Norman Hunter purchased Yodalla, a property located between the Sheppard and Cattell properties along the river at Emu Plains. There he planted an extensive citrus orchard and successfully farmed land at Emu Plains and Castlereagh along with his sons, Norman and Mervyn. Hunter had been born at the former Arms of Australia Inn at Emu Plains in 1879. His father James had been a Cobb and Co. driver. In 1921, Hunter became the Managing Director of the Aerated Bread Company, a Sydney business on the verge of insolvency. Over the following twenty-five years he turned the company around, evolving it into Miss Bishop's Catering, the largest catering company in Australia. It was the caterer for events such as the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and for the Sydney Cricket Ground and Randwick and Rosehill racecourses.

Norman Hunter's family kindly donated over 100 personal items to the Library. They are a unique collection that tells, among other things, the story of Penrith's sporting heritage.



▲▲ Left to right

Hospital v School of Arts cricket teams, Penrith Showground

One black and white photograph

The cricket match was between the directors of the Nepean District Hospital and members of the School of Arts. It was held on 17 March 1934 to raise funds for the hospital.

Back row: L Taylor, F Jenkins, Don Hay, Allan Hodgson, Harry Morris, C J Welch, A Gimbert, S Martin, Keith Soames and R Hingston.

Centre row: David Fitch, A Rickwood, S G Phillips, Frederick Higgins, C Meyers, G Jessup, Isaac Manly Barrow, Lisle Spence, Lancelot O'Meagher, W A Kennelly and Ernie Orth.

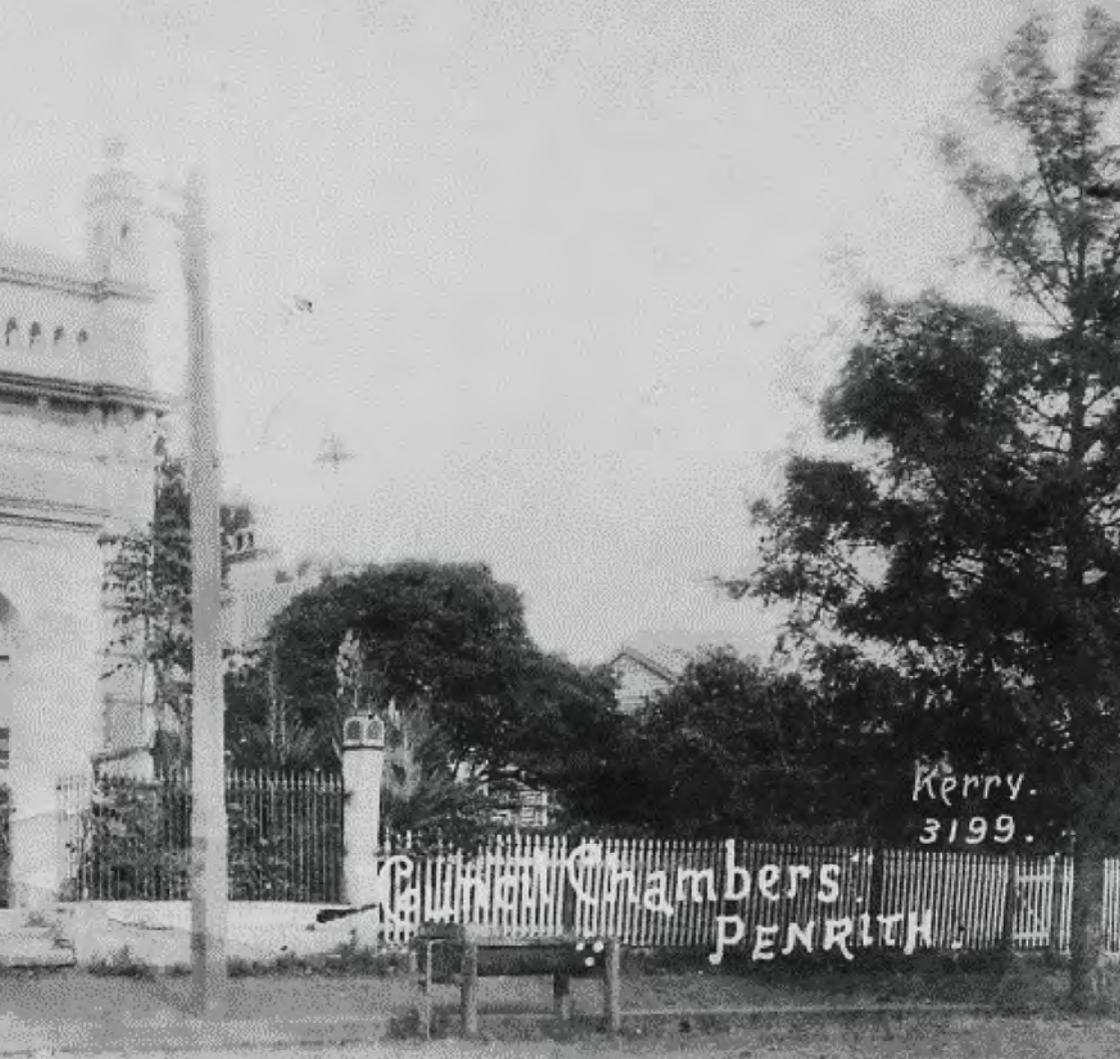
Front row: S Colless, G Jessup and Don Hattersley.

Penrith City Library Photograph Collection, LCPH 5368



PENRITH'S MUNICIPAL PAST

Penrith Council Chambers, 1890
(Penrith City Library)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

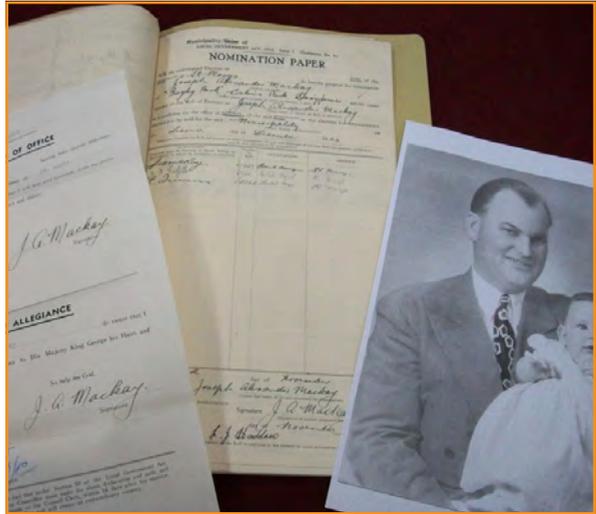
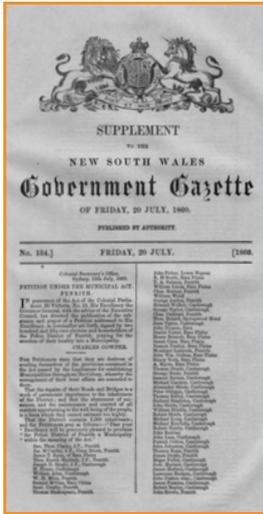
The Municipalities Act of 1858, introduced by Henry Parkes, provided for a voluntary system of local incorporation, a third tier of government. These local governments would replace the unwieldy and inefficient district councils which had been effectively abolished in 1850. Upon receipt of a petition from at least fifty people who owned land in a district, the Governor was empowered to proclaim the area a municipality.

Penrith became the first town in the district to attempt incorporation. In **July 1860** a petition to the Governor, signed by 252 electors, householders and landowners requested that the police district of Penrith be proclaimed a municipality. This district covered a huge area from the Blue Mountains to Eastern Creek. The petitioners stated that repair of their roads and bridges was of paramount importance as well as control of 'local nuisances'. The municipal district proposed was probably too vast a district to appeal to the majority of landowners. A counter-petition signed by 375 signatures won the first round.

Another petition was presented in **February 1862** with 123 signatures, for a portion of the Penrith police district to be incorporated. This new proposed district was bounded by Regentville, the Northern Road, Upper Castlereagh and the Nepean River. By excluding the Blue Mountains, Emu Plains, Bringelly, Greendale and St Marys, it effectively removed the opposition of large landholders.

A successful counter-petition followed in **April 1862** signed by 194 householders. These petitions to incorporate expressed a desire for a voice at a local level, in a time of considerable colonial government investment in the district. However, failure to find a compromise stalled municipal incorporation for another ten years.

By the end of the 1860s, conditions were ripe for change. One hundred and seventy-six signatures were affixed to the six petitions presented to the Governor in **August 1870** for the district of Penrith to be incorporated. This time, the move for incorporation was headed by leading men like James Riley, Joseph Single, Edward Cox, Edwin Wilshire, William York, John Heron and William Dent and supported by landowners, householders and leaseholders of the Penrith district.



▲▲

New South Wales Government Gazette, 20 July 1860

One bound volume, NSW Government Gazette, Volume 2 1860
Nepean Family History Society, Government Gazette collection

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One distinguishing feature of these petitions was the inclusion of women as signatories. Women who were landowners or householders were entitled to be on the lists, but not to vote, in municipal elections.

Although the counter-petitions had more signatures, the government's decision was made and the proclamation for incorporation was published on **13 May 1871**.

▲▲

Nomination paper for Alderman in the Municipality of St Marys

Joseph Alexander Mackay, Bayley Park, Erskine Park, dairy farmer, 11 November 1944. Nominated by H McKay, E Griffiths, T E Quinn. Nominations were for the election on 2 December 1944. Foolscape printed form.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, St Marys Municipal Council Box

Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance by Joseph Alexander Mackay

Alderman of the Municipality of St Marys, declared Sydney, 2 January 1945. Foolscape printed form.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections, St Marys Municipal Council Box

LIGHTING THE TOWN

The high importance placed on improving public health and safety in Penrith led to the establishment of electric street, home and business lighting, a reliable and healthy water supply and the founding of a fire brigade. In 1882 incandescent lamps were brought to Sydney from New York by H H Kingsbury, who had been following the progress of Edison's new power station in Manhattan. There was great enthusiasm for the potential of electricity and lectures as early as 1883 were popular in the local area. At its 23 August 1883 meeting, Penrith Council received a quote from the Australian Electric Company for lighting the town. Although nothing happened then, the movement in favour of the use of electricity was growing apace.

T R Smith, a great enthusiast for electric lighting, remonstrated on its advantages for seven years before the Council would finally vote in favour of the idea in 1889. The Council decided on an electric light system in preference to the high cost of gas lighting. On 25 November the tender of H H Kingsbury and Co. at £6,500 was accepted. An offer from Alderman Thomas Smith of a piece of land adjoining the railway in



Ceremonial silver trowel

Engraved: 'This trowel was used by Mrs T. R. Smith (Mayoress) to lay the foundation stone of the ELECTRIC LIGHTING STATION, PENRITH April 30th 1890'. On verso: Silver mark: Flavelle & Roberts. 28cm x 8cm. Diamond shaped silver trowel bordered by wriggle work and a band of foliage. Black wooden handle.

Currently under the custodianship of descendants. Private collection.

Belmore Street was accepted for a term of ten years, free of rent, and at the end of that time to be available for purchase.

The 30 April 1890 was considered one of the biggest days in Penrith's history. On that day two ceremonies took place – the laying of the foundation stone for the electric lighting station and the turning of the first sod for the water reservoir near Parker Street. After a 'little growl' about the way Mayor Smith went about organising these events himself and the fact that he used Sydney printers for the stationery, the *Nepean Times* went into great detail describing the day: the crowd of 1,500 people, the arrival of guests, the guard of honour by the Penrith Volunteers, the processions, the speeches, the trowels, the magnums of Heidsieck champagne consumed and the concert.

The Mayoress of Penrith, Kezia Smith, laid the foundation stone for the Electric Light Station in Belmore Street and later turned the first sod for the reservoir.

On Friday 3 October 1890 the Council organised one of the largest and most meaningful public holidays in the town's history: on that day electric light was switched on in the town to sixty consumers.

A formal reception was held at the railway station to welcome the Mayor of Sydney and members of Parliament. They then proceeded to the electric lighting station. At 6.30 pm the Mayoress of Sydney, Mrs Sydney Burdekin,

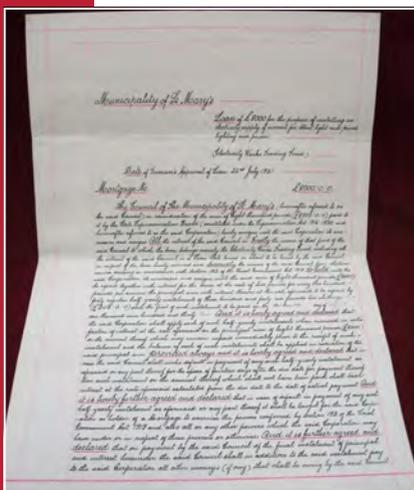
switched on the incandescent lights in the streets and adjoining buildings. Penrith not only supplied electricity for street lighting, it also provided lighting to homes and businesses.

Shopkeepers with electric light, such as Noble's Railway House, Judges Pharmacy, Neale's and George Nash's stores and Fulton's Cumberland House, were kept busy under 'the bright and cheerful light of electricity'.

Evidence of the pride of the town came with the statement in the *Nepean Times* on 4 October 1890 that, 'Some gentlemen who have travelled nearly all over the world declare that Penrith is the best lit town of its size in the world'. The pride of the occasion was tempered when within a week vandals had used catapults to break two electric street lamps.

Penrith was the third town in New South Wales to make use of electricity, following Tamworth and Young, and the first in the Sydney region.

The plant consisted of two 50-horse-power steam engines, two 34-amps, 100-volt, single phase, 125-cycle generators driven by the engines, enabling the use of up to 1300 lights. Electricity did not run during the day and the engines were turned on in the late afternoon and homes and businesses had to wait for the engines to power up the electricity. Overhead wires and poles now filled the visual streetscape of Penrith.



Loan document

Loan of £8000 for the purpose of installing an electricity supply of current for street light and private lighting and power, by St Marys Municipal Council, using the NSW State Government's Electricity Works Trading Fund. 22 July 1931. 43 cm x 30 cm.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections,
St Marys Municipal Council Box

On Friday evening 19 December 1931 St Marys Mayor Duncan Hope switched on electricity outside Beacroft's butchery on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Queen Street. The crowd then moved to the Protestant Hall for a banquet.

Although installed during the height of the economic depression, electricity was viewed as essential for the improvement of the town and surrounding districts. The Mayor stated that St Marys had been the only district in the Sydney metropolitan area without electricity and he hoped this great step would help move the town forward.

Federal and state members for the district, Minister for Defence Ben Chifley and the Mayor of Sydney Joseph Jackson, were there to congratulate the town. Chifley praised the Council for its efforts to modernise St Marys and, in doing so, putting it in a prime position for industrial development.

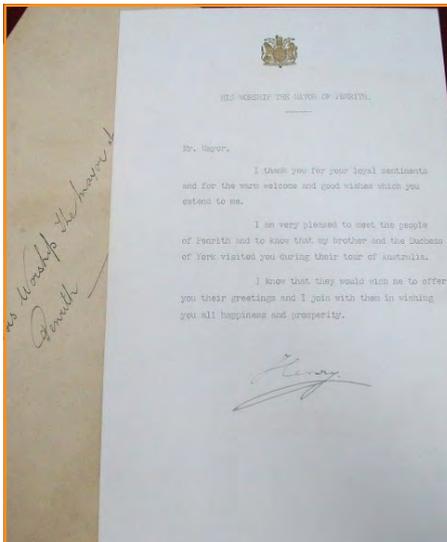
The municipality had no water supply, no sewerage and drainage system and no lighting or heating system. Costing £10,000, the installation of electricity in homes and businesses was undertaken by St Marys Council through a loan from the government. When St Marys received electricity a quarter of its fifty-nine square miles would be covered. The supply would reticulate to 400 of its 500 households clustered along the Great Western Highway and railway stations at St Marys, Werrington and Kingswood. Considering the country was in the grip of an economic depression, it was not an easy project, with little prospect for new consumers.



REGAL VISITORS

The country's first royal visitor was Queen Victoria's son Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, in January 1868. He was treated to a train trip in February 1868 on an excursion to the Blue Mountains. The Prince arrived in Penrith for a boat tour of the Nepean before continuing on to the Blue Mountains.

The *Nepean Times* reported that 'Thursday, 31st March 1927, will be regarded as a day of outstanding importance in the history of Penrith' – the day the Duke and



Visit by Duke and Duchess of York, 31 March 1927

One black and white photograph
*Penrith City Library Photograph
Collection, LCPH RC 255*



Royal address, Henry, Duke of Gloucester

Foolscap paper, Buckingham Palace
embossed crest and signature
of Henry, Duke of Gloucester, 27
November 1934

*Penrith City Library, Special Collections,
Penrith Municipal Council Box*

Duchess of York briefly visited. There were 2,500 local people on hand to witness the ten minute ceremony. The railway department decorated the station in the Duke's colours, red and gold, and constructed a dais with crimson material laid from the platform to the dais. Shops closed and school children were allowed to leave their classes. The Duke and Duchess were presented with an illuminated address, a book of photographs of the Penrith district, and a basket of fruit. The Duke (later King George VI) and Duchess were in Australia to open Federal Parliament on 9 May.

On Tuesday 27 November 1934 the Duke of Gloucester made a brief visit to Penrith. His address to the Mayor David Fitch was short but enthusiastically received by a large local crowd. The Mayor delivered a very loyal and affectionate welcome. Afterwards about 100 ex-servicemen were paraded for inspection by the Duke who was impressed by the decorations of the men from the Sudan War to the Great War. The visitation lasted all of ten minutes! As the Royal train departed the local crowd gave the prince an affectionate goodbye. The Duke was later Governor General of Australia from 1945-1947.





**Address by Sir Harry Rawson,
Governor of NSW to the Mayor
of Penrith, 11 November 1908**

Foolscap address, with attached
seal and blue ribbon, with
Vice-Regal Coat of Arms

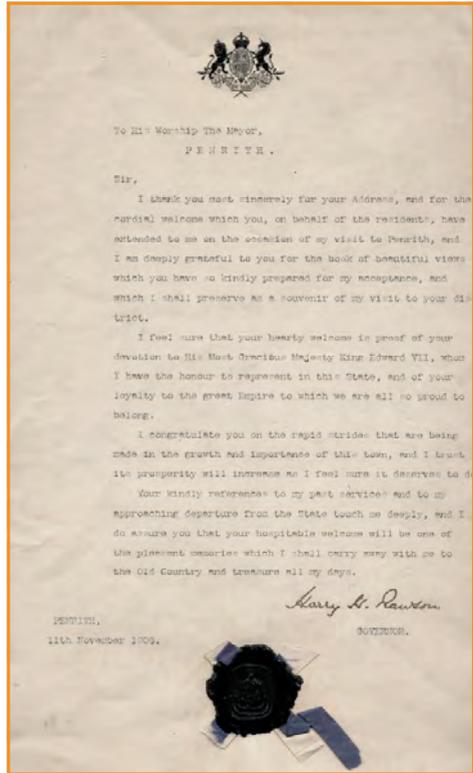
Penrith City Library, Special Collections



**Visit by Duke of Gloucester, 27
November 1934**

One black and white photograph

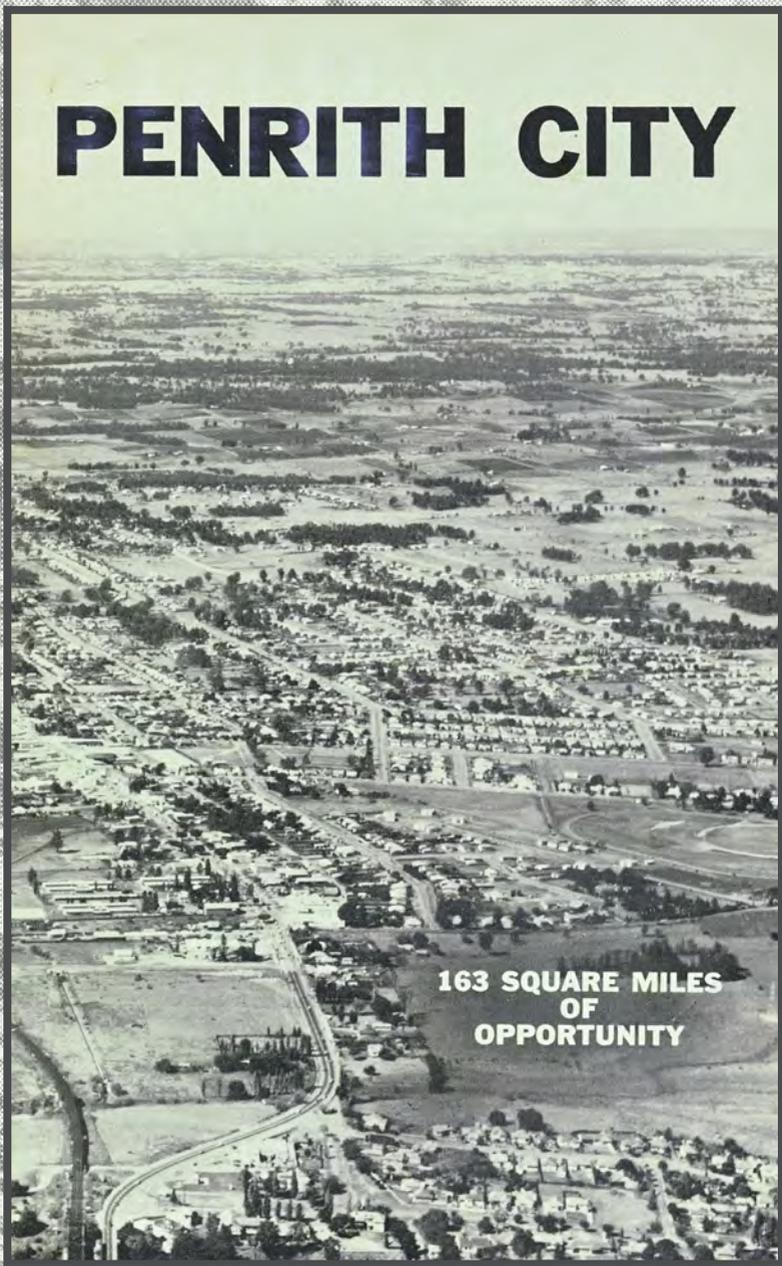
*Penrith City Library Photograph
Collection, LCPH RC 254*



Sir Henry Rawson, Governor of NSW visited Penrith on a farewell visit as he would shortly leave for England upon retirement. This was the first visit of a Governor to Penrith for about eighteen years, since Lord Jersey formally opened the water supply. According to the Nepean Times of 14 November 1908, 'the town presented in very gay appearance, rows of flags of bright colors and various designs stretching across the streets in numerous convenient positions' for Sir Harry's visit.

The documents and accompanying records are a delightful window into Penrith past and its loyalty to the Crown and Royal family.

PENRITH CITY



**163 SQUARE MILES
OF
OPPORTUNITY**



**PENRITH'S
RECENT
PAST**

SURVEYING THE CITY

Theodolites have been used to measure horizontal and vertical angles by surveyors since the 1500s. They allow a surveyor to fix a position on the surface of the earth, marking latitude, longitude, and height above sea level, and then map out roads, towns, and plots of land.

Transit theodolites first appeared in the 1840s. The term transit indicates that the telescope can be rotated about the horizontal axis pivoting through 180 degrees, allowing the viewer to easily see both forwards and backwards through the instrument. By 1868 they had become a "favourite instrument" of surveyors, and in the 21st century they are still used in a modern form. The manual method of reading the theodolite has been superseded by automatic reading, and the body of the instrument has become more compact and lighter.



TROUGHTON & SIMMS

In 1782 John Troughton purchased Benjamin Cole's shop in Fleet Street, London enabling him to sell his own signed products. His instrument making business supported several dynasties of Troughtons before becoming Troughton and Simms and later still Cooke Troughton & Simms. This firm was one of the most respected firms of instrument makers of the 1800s.

The workshop produced a broad range of instruments from large telescopes and theodolites through to smaller mathematical instruments. One of Edward Troughton's (son of John) apprentices William Simms was taken into partnership in 1826. After Edward died in 1835 Simms became the manager of the establishment and the company became Troughton & Simms. Under Simms the company continued to expand and produced instruments for Britain and her colonies as well as for markets in Europe and America.

In 1922 the business was bought out by their rival T Cooke & Sons becoming Cooke, Troughton & Simms.



Theodolite c1850

Troughton & Simms 3 piece, 4 screw brass vernier theodolite, purchased in Sydney. Dates to c 1850 and was owned by Frederick Leonard Stapleton.

Penrith City Library, Stapleton Collection



Measuring Tape & Gunter's Chain

Penrith City Library, Stapleton Collection



Plumb-bobs

Penrith City Library, Stapleton Collection



Throughout recorded history surveyors have used many devices for measuring distances. These devices have included rope, poles, grape vines, pacing, steel tapes, electronic devices and "chains". The basic "Gunter's" chain was the primary tool of surveyors to measure distance in North America from the 1600s to the end of the 1800s. The basic idea of a chain is to be 66' long with 100 links making up the chain.

A plumb-bob, or plummet, is a weight, usually with a pointed tip on the bottom, which is suspended from a string and used as a vertical reference line, or plumb-line. They are used with a variety of instruments (including levels, theodolites, and steel tapes) to set the instrument exactly over a fixed survey marker, or to transcribe positions onto the ground for placing a marker.

STAPLETON COLLECTION

There are further items from the Stapleton Collection in the display cabinets in the Research Room. These include calculators (dating back to the 1940s), slide rules, protractors, measuring tapes and Troughton & Simms theodolites and level. All of these items were kind donations from Len and Eugenie Stapleton. Len had been an active surveyor in the St Marys district since the 1940s.

WERRINGTON AND ESTATES

GRAND CLEARANCE SALE.

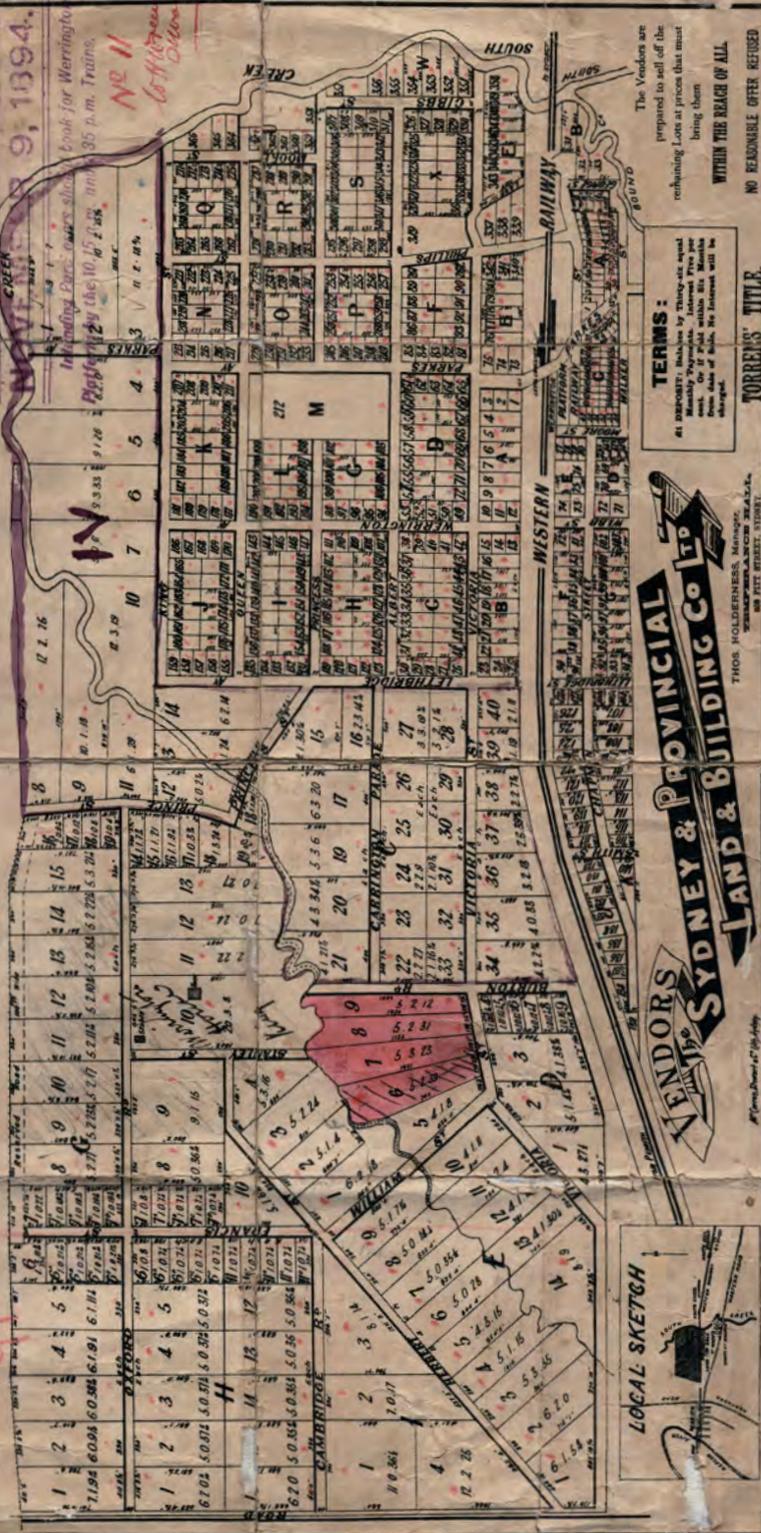
WERRINGTON Platform on the GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, 4 Miles SYDNEY side of PENRITH.

PARKESVILLE

GREEN RIVER 9, 1394.

Book for Werrington at the 10.15 p.m. Train, 35 p.m. Trains.

11/26
11/27
11/28
11/29
11/30
12/1
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12/31



VENDORS
JAMES SYDNEY & PROVINCIAL
LAND & BUILDING CO. LTD.

THOS. HOLLIBURN, Manager.
100, MARKET STREET, SYDNEY.

TERMS:
61 DEPOSIT. Balance by three six equal Monthly Payments. Interest Five per cent from date of Sale. No Interest will be allowed.

TORRENS' TITLE.

The Vendors are prepared to sell off the recharging Lots at prices that must bring them WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL NO RESPONSIBLE OFFER REFUSED

NO 11
6th Floor
Office



Werrington and Parkesville estates subdivision plan, 1894

Map, printed on paper on linen cloth, stamped Clearance sale, November 9, 1894, 26.5 cm x 37.5 cm

*Penrith City Library,
Map Collection*

SUBDIVIDE & THRIVE

Adjacent to King's Wood was the subdivision of the Lethbridge family's Werrington properties, which were the subject of several land subdivisions from the 1880s. The Werrington Estate was first subdivided and sold in March 1883 into 203 allotments and sold as a Model Township.

The farcical events on sale day were reported in the *Cumberland Mercury*. A large number of people attended the auction, a mix of local and Sydney residents, but as the reporter commented the 'most important part of the business was destroyed at the outset, for the people rushed the provision tent and overturned the tables, broke the crockery and beer, and spilt the tea, after which no one could get anything. It was well said by Mr. Watkin "that the rush to buy the allotments was not half so furious as the rush to the luncheon" '.

Only £1,500 was offered for Werrington House with a curtilage of twenty acres - an exceedingly poor result according to the reporter. The day's sales were slow and the Model Township fizzled out.

Auctioneers T R Smith, Chapman and Smith, sold the Parkesville subdivision in 1884. North of the railway line sold as Werrington Township and south of the line as Parkes Township.

The most famous resident in Werrington House was Sir Henry Parkes and his family who rented the property from 1860 to 1871. Parkes Platform, opened as a private platform for Henry Parkes in 1868, was opened for public use in 1878. When the town of Parkes was connected to rail, Parkes Platform was renamed Werrington in 1893.

Penrith Library's Map and Special Collections are a treasure trove of maps, plans, architectural drawings and posters drawn across our City's history.

EVERINGHAM V THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PENRITH APPEAL BOOK

One of the most significant and controversial pieces of land in Penrith was Katie Woodriff's property, located on the south-western corner of Woodriff and High Streets. This piece of land would within a few years represent Penrith's patriotism and gratitude to its fallen soldiers.

This land had been originally leased from Frederick Woodriff by blacksmith Philpott Robbins from the 1850s, and later George Besley. It had been the centre of a dispute for many years between Woodriff and the Municipal Council. Thirty-three feet of land, which the Council considered to be part of Woodriff Street, a public road, ran between the Woodriff and Tindale estates. After Minnie Everingham had purchased the land she continued the argument that the disputed strip of land was not a public thoroughfare, but her land.

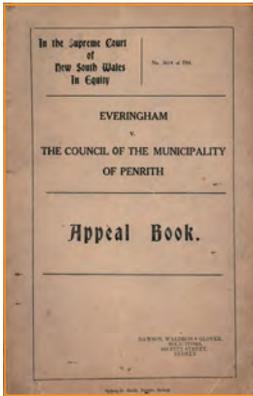
Minnie filed a statement of claim against the Council in October 1914 in the Supreme Court, asserting the Council was threatening to enter her land. She won the case, but the Council appealed to the Full Bench of the Supreme Court.

This document is the appeal book prepared by Penrith Council's solicitors, Dawson, Waldron & Glover. It is a transcription of the witnesses for the plaintiff (9 for Minnie Everingham) and the defendant (16 for the Council). The witnesses include: wheelwright George Besley, Enoch and Minnie Everingham, Katie Woodriff, farmer Frederick Mortimer Vine, butcher George Dent and surveyors John Harrison and Augustus James Ryan.

In April 1916 the Full Bench found in favour of the Council and that the disputed thirty-three feet was a right of way and not part of Minnie's property. Minnie appealed to the newly established High Court, but soon afterwards withdrew her appeal. Minnie Everingham cleared her property and erected a furniture shop.

MEMORY PARK

The genesis for a war memorial in Penrith emerged in August 1915 at a memorial service. A collection was taken up and handed to the Mayor 'to form the nucleus of a fund to provide a town memorial



Appeal book, No. 5614 of 1914 in the Supreme Court of NSW

Paper bound volume, 345 pages,
33 cm x 21 cm, dated 1914

*Penrith City Library, Special Collections,
Land Records, LR-229*

of a permanent character to the men who fall in the war'. After the war the Penrith Progress Association called a public meeting for 22 January 1919 to discuss a public honor roll. The Progress Association suggested it should be erected in a conspicuous place in the main street. A strip of public land adjoining Woodriff Street was suggested as a suitable place. By the end of 1919 a design for the memorial had been recommended, on the thirty three feet of land on the corner of Woodriff and High Streets. The committee had also applied to the Defence Department for a gun trophy.

In July 1920 the preferred site was discussed in view of extending it, and by September revised plans had been submitted to the War Memorials Advisory Board. The Board suggested acquiring more land considering the number of people who would gather at ceremonies.

Katie Woodriff had sold the adjoining block to Minnie Everingham in 1913, and in August 1920 the committee had begun negotiations with them both. The seven trachyte memorial tablets, paid

for by the Girl's Comfort Club from their remaining funds at the end of the war, were constructed after the Memorial Committee had determined the names. The names were finalised in February 1922: any returned or deceased soldier who had resided within the Municipality of Penrith at the time of enlistment was memorialised.

Finally, in July 1922, nearly three and a half years after war's end, Memory Park became a reality. Governor Sir Walter Davidson officially opened Memory Park and unveiled the seven honour roll tablets on Saturday 8 July 1922.

Memory Park was transferred to the Council on 24 October 1923 in trust 'as a public park in memory and honor of those persons who enlisted from the Municipality of Penrith ... and to be known as Memory Park'.

This treasured legal document, unknowingly at the time, captured the reminiscences of 25 local people dating back to the 1860s. An exhibit item from that court case is also housed in this exhibition – the Woodriff map on page 21.

PENRITH POSTCARDS

Penrith City Library, Joyce Cole Collection

In 2007 Joyce Cole's collection of 170 postcards was donated to Penrith City Library. These postcards cover the time period from the late 1800s to the present day and include many produced in what became known as the Golden Age of Postcards.

Joyce Cole started collecting when her father sent her cards during his bicycling trips around the UK. When Joyce and her husband moved to Australia they decided to bring a miniature art collection with them. Joyce collected most of her postcards when she was living in Parramatta and Emu Plains and according to family members her collection became so large, it threatened to take over the bedroom. Joyce combined her passion for history, particularly of Parramatta and Penrith, with her love of postcards.

In 2007, Joyce asked her son to pass on her amazing collection of Penrith postcards to Penrith City Library.

Since this initial donation, the Library staff have added more than 200 postcards to the Joyce Cole postcard collection. Just a few are on display here and many are on Penrith in Pictures - <http://photosau.com/penrith/>



JC0001 The earliest postcard in Joyce Cole's collection - a black and white, undivided back, printed photograph, published by a George Hammon, showing a section of the Nepean River, looking towards Emu Plains and probably Huntington Hall.



JC0017 This postcard depicts one of William Rowe's pleasure boats moored on the river, possibly alongside his boat shed which was located on the riverbank below the Log Cabin at Penrith. Postcard bears a 1 penny NSW postage stamp. Published by A. Judges, Penrith. Postmarked 1907.



JC0018 This postcard depicts the junction of High Street and Lawson Street, looking west towards the Blue Mountains. Lawson Street can be seen on the right, with the Australian Arms Hotel on the north east corner and Railway House on the north west corner. Railway House was a general drapery and millinery store owned by R. Mills. The pillars on the left mark the entrance to St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church, with the Commercial Bank next door. Postcard bears a half penny NSW postage stamp. Published by A. Judges, Penrith. Postcard with divided back. Postmarked 1907.



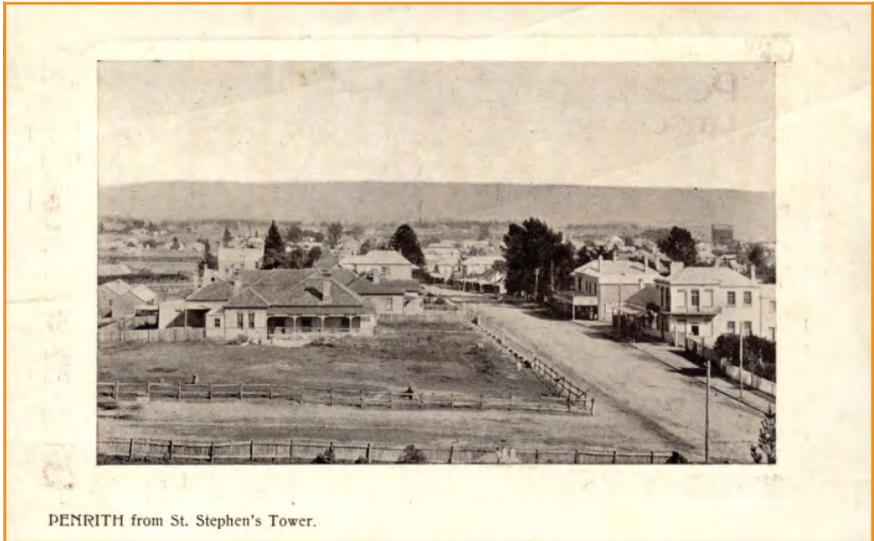
JC0034 This postcard is from the Art Series, published by the NSW Bookstall Company. It was also produced in blue tones and sepia and examples are held within this collection.



JC0026, 36, 52, 58, 59, 60 A series of postcards sent from Elva Field of Castlereagh to her friend Elsie Plaxton in Tasmania. Elva wrote on several of the postcards as a continuous message, some finishing almost in mid-sentence.

JC0036 In September 1914 Elva wrote: 'This is the main street of Penrith. The war is terrible, I think, but the Germans are getting beaten now. I do hope our Australian boys will not be right at the front. Several have gone from Penrith, my cousin being one of them. But I do hope that peace may soon be restored now. I will say au revoir with fondest love, hoping that you are well as this leaves us here, and remain your loving friend Elva. Castlereagh Upper.' Postmarked 14 September 1914.

Postcard **JC0057** (pre 1906, pictured opposite top) shows the junction of High and Evan Streets, looking west towards the Blue Mountains. The new Methodist manse can be seen on the south side of High Street with the Commercial Hotel opposite. The open ground on the south-western corner of High and Evan Streets would later become the site of the Penrith Fire Station. This postcard was published by A. Judges.



Postcard **JC00260** (post 1906, pictured above) shows the junction of High and Evan Streets, looking west towards the Blue Mountains. The south-western corner of High and Evan Streets features the newly built Penrith Fire Station. This postcard was published by A. Judges.



Postcard, Penrith School of Arts

Postmarked 9 December 1910

Penrith City Library Photograph Collection, LCPH 3095

A postcard of the School of Arts building was sent by Pearl Clissold (Thomas's daughter) in December 1910 to her relatives in Stroud, England. This postcard remained in England until 2005, when local postcard collector and Stroud District Council Councillor, Tony Shortt donated the postcard to Penrith Library.

PENRITH CITY LIBRARY NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1948-1964

*Compiled mostly by Margaret Trask,
Penrith City Library, Special Collections*

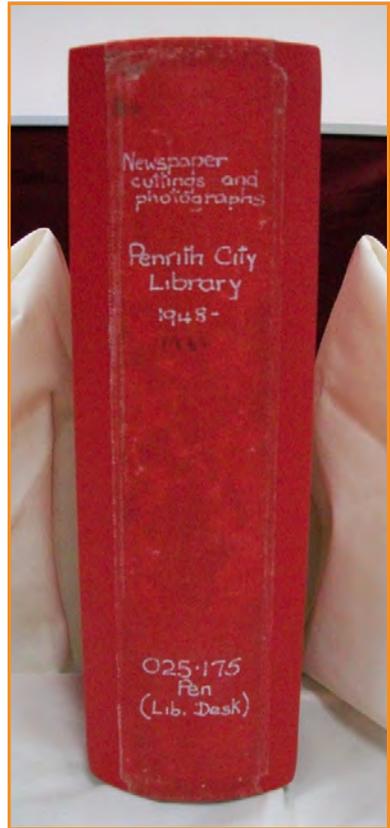
Penrith Municipal Council opened a free public library in High Street on 5 January 1885. In 1889 it was moved to the Council Chambers in Henry Street. In 1898, this library amalgamated with the School of Arts and operated in rented premises on the corner of High and Castlereagh streets. In 1910 the School of Arts opened in its own premises built by Thomas Clissold.

In August 1945 Penrith Council met with the School of Arts committee to discuss the establishment of a free public library, under the new 1944 Library Act, in their building in Castlereagh Street. In October 1947 following a visit to Mosman Library, Mayor Frank Allen and the town clerk reported to Council on their positive impressions of the library and its services to all age groups, especially children. Mayor Allen recommended in his Mayoral Minute on

11 November 1947 that the Council take steps to establish a free public library, especially for children, 'so as to inculcate into them the habit of reading'. His minute was adopted and a Library Committee was established.

With the help of the Public Library of New South Wales (later the State Library), the Council purchased books for the Library as well as shelving. The position of Librarian was advertised and Margaret Kinsella was appointed. Margaret had grown up in Penrith attending local schools and later university where she attained her degree in librarianship. She first worked at the Public Library of New South Wales before her appointment as Librarian at Penrith.

During the Centenary of Education celebrations, Penrith Municipal Library was officially opened on 22 April 1948 by Minister for Local Government Joseph Cahill.



Penrith Times, April 21st
Penrith Municipal Library

Penrith Municipal Library housed in the School of Arts will be officially opened on 29th inst. the ceremony being part of the Penrith celebration of the Centenary of Education in N.S.W.

A ratepayer, resident, or employee of the municipality can borrow books from the library upon obtaining a borrower's card. To obtain this one must fill in an application form and furnish satisfactory identification.

Borrowers are issued with two cards, one for fiction and one for non-fiction. Books of both sections are limited free of charge.

Library Hours.

Hours are: Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday additional, 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.; Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

A number of periodicals for the reading room have been ordered, including "Life", "Illustrated London News", "Flight", "Popular Science", "Famous Mechanics", "Camera", "Reader's Digest", "Australian Post", "Home and Garden", "National Geographic Magazine", "Radio and Hobbies in Australia", "Science Digest", and "Time".

To begin with there will be no lending of books, but after about a year the library may start to lend out back numbers of periodicals.

The library will comprise one-third open, one-third non-fiction (adults), and one-third children's books. Miss M. Ettridge is the lady in charge. She asks that borrowers take care of the books, since they are not new; they are out of circulation.

PENRITH MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
For Those Who Live Outside Penrith Municipality

The Library has had numerous requests from persons residing outside the Municipality of Penrith, to make provision for such persons to borrow from the Library.

If you are a ratepayer, a resident, or an employee in the municipality, or if you attend school in the municipality, you may borrow books absolutely free of charge.

The Library Committee has now approved of a subscription rate of £1 per year for persons who wish to borrow books, and live outside the Penrith Municipality.

So if you are a resident of Castlereagh, Emu Plains, St. Marys, or any other district, and you have been eagerly awaiting the opening of the Library, but found, because you lived outside the Penrith Municipality, you were not privileged to borrow, you now have the opportunity of paying a subscription of £1 per year.

You may enrol and pay your subscription on or after the opening date, which is Thursday, 29th.

Free Press, April, 1948

Penrith Municipal Library
The Minister for Public Works and Local Government, the Hon. J. J. CAHILL, will officially open the
PENRITH MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

at 2.30 p.m. on
THURSDAY, APRIL 22
at SCHOOL OF ARTS, CASTLEREAGH ST.
An invitation is extended to all to attend the ceremony and inspect the Library.

165

Free Press, April 21st, 1948

Penrith Municipal Library: Official Opening Tomorrow

Just a reminder that to-morrow is the opening date of the Penrith Municipal Library. The Hon. J. J. Cahill, Minister for Public Works and Local Government will officially open the library at 2.30 p.m. in the School of Arts, Castlereagh Street.

After the opening ceremony, the library will be open for inspection, and at 4 o'clock or after, all those who wish to enrol may do so.

The library will be closed at 2 p.m. but will reopen at 7.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. The library will then be open according to the scheduled hours which are:

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays—10 a.m.—12 noon and 2 p.m.—5 p.m.

Thursdays (additional)—7.30 p.m.—8.30 p.m.

Tuesdays—2 p.m.—5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.—8.30 p.m.

Saturdays—9 a.m.—1 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m.

The library is closed on Wednesdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Children, 12 years of age and under, may use the library between the hours specified above, except Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights.

A special invitation is extended to all to attend the opening ceremony and inspect the library.

Come to the School of Arts, Penrith, to-morrow (Thursday) at 2.30 p.m., and inspect the Municipal Library. The Hon. J. J. Cahill will perform the official opening.

Penrith Municipal Library needs curtains, pictures, mats and vases for flowers.

Will any generous donors come forward? The Library offers free service to residents of the Municipality and is deserving of public assistance.

A small branch library service was also opened on 29 November 1949 in the former St Marys Council electricity office building in Queen Street. People from outer lying areas were served by small 'deposit stations' at Regentville, Cranebrook, Mulgoa and Wallacia. In his 1959 report to Council, Mayor Leo Spies reported that despite the impact of television, Library membership and book borrowings had increased.

In 1960, the Library moved to the old Council Chambers in Henry Street until its adjacent new building was completed and opened on 6 March 1964. In 1970 the Library was extended. In 1985 the Library moved into the computer age with the introduction of its first computerised library management system. By this time the Library had outgrown its 1964 building. On 8 January 1994, the Library opened in the Council's new Civic Centre in High Street to much fanfare, during one of Sydney's blackest days in bushfire history.

This little booklet of newspaper clippings is a treasure and a personal favourite of the Library staff!



**Penrith, the town
and its surrounding
district, in picture
and story**

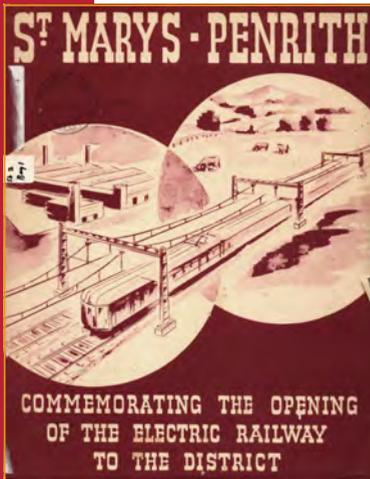
Sydney, Ziegler,
1948,
29 pages

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies
Collection*

In 1947 editor and publisher Oswald Ziegler approached Penrith Council with a proposal to produce a pictorial booklet on Penrith. In order to show his credentials Ziegler presented the Council with three of his latest publications as a donation to the Library – *This is Australia*; *Newcastle, 150 Years* and *By your Deeds*. He had been working on a similar booklet for Goulburn (1946) and successfully encouraged Penrith Council to publish 5,000 booklets entitled *Penrith, the Town and its Surrounding District, in Picture and Story* in 1948.

Many businesses and industries were showcased, from St Marys to Emu Plains, Wallacia to Castlereagh, indicating a district's identity with Penrith as the centre. This publication, marketed to the overseas and Australian tourist, was the first promotional booklet for the town and was one of the first by Ziegler.

His photographer was the well-renowned Max Dupain, whose photographs form a core collection of images of postwar Penrith. Although Dupain was none too pleased with Ziegler's approach to the cutting and collaging of photographs by Ziegler's graphic artist Gert Sellheim, the booklet showcased the district as it had never been seen before. The prize winning Sellheim, interned for three months because of his German citizenship in 1943, designed the famous flying kangaroo symbol for Qantas in 1947. Eve Keane, author of a number of historical works in the 1950s, wrote the text.



**St Marys - Penrith:
Commemorating the
opening of the Electric
Railway to the district.**

Penrith Municipal Council,
Penrith 1955, 96 pages

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies Collection*

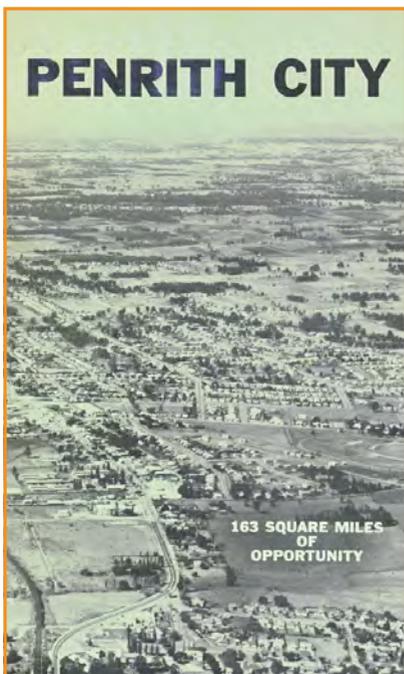
Although electrification of the railway line had been completed between Sydney and Parramatta by 1929, it was not until October 1955 that it reached St Marys and Penrith. In September 1935 a detailed report to the Railways Department estimated that it would cost over £2,000,000 to electrify the rail line from Sydney to Lithgow.

In December 1936 a report to the Penrith Electrification Sub Committee compared the running times between steam and electric trains. Steam trains took 53 minutes to travel from Parramatta to Penrith while an electric train would take 43 minutes.

After the disruption of the war years, electrification to Blacktown was complete by February 1955 when trains began to run on a limited basis alongside steam trains. In 1955, while New South Wales celebrated its centenary of rail, the first electric train pulled into Penrith on 26 September at 10.33am.

On 8 October 1955, the line was officially opened to electric trains by Premier Cahill. The event was commemorated with district celebrations. In the booklet, *St Marys-Penrith: Commemorating the Opening of the Electric Railway to the District*, published for the occasion, it stated 'October 8, 1955 will be a day well long remembered as a milestone in the progress of this Municipality'. It further stated that Penrith Council had been planning with 'an eye to the future' and was well prepared for the inevitable development that would follow.

To accommodate electrification and the provision of eight-car trains, all platforms had to be lengthened and heightened. In 1956 the electrified railway line was extended to Emu Plains and then Lithgow in 1957.



Penrith City: 163 square miles of opportunity, fastest growing city in the country

Penrith City Council, 1964,
10 pages

*Penrith City Library,
Local Studies Collection*

By the end of 1963 the Penrith LGA was touted as '163 square miles of opportunity'. In 1965, Penrith Council's logo was 'A modern, thriving city, with a progressive City Council'. The big word – progress – was pushed by aldermen and Mayors like Bill Chapman whose philosophy was 'You can't stop progress'.

The aldermen and Council officers believed in their decision making and the merits of their forward planning, and by this planning process, the community would gain the maximum possible benefit for their rates. In 1965, the Council looked back on its first two three-year programs. Achievements in construction were listed – swimming pools, halls, libraries, parking areas, sewerage and water supply schemes.

The continuing development of the area was measured by the Council as a mark of confidence in the Council and the future prospects of the city. The population was increasing by 4,000 a year with over 2,000 homes built in the previous three years.

Although the Council resolved to automate its rates notices in September 1964, it would not be until 1967 that rates were prepared on a computer for the first time. The major work was the punching of 40,000 cards. These cards were fed into the computer which calculated the rates and printed the notices.

COUNCIL REPORTS

A snapshot of life in Penrith in the 1960s is offered by the Council's *Reporting to You* leaflets distributed to all households. In 1966 street numbers were allocated to all houses in the urban areas. The Council encouraged residents to display the numbers of their houses, care for trees planted on footpaths, connect their houses to the sewer, enrol their children at the library, to beautify their premises, use the public rubbish tip in Gipps Street St Marys, immunise their children and register their dogs.



Mayoral Reports 1960 - 1980 & Reporting to You leaflets 1960-1986

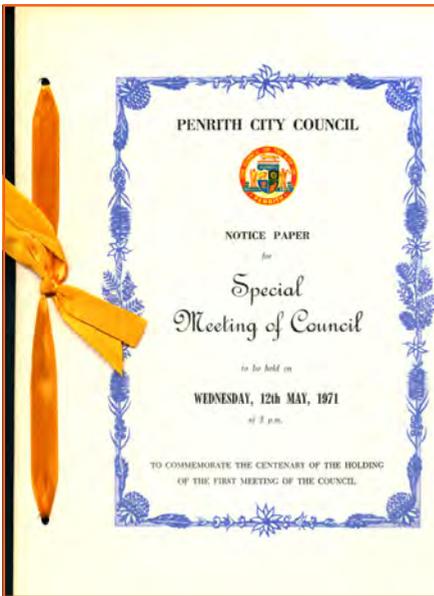
Penrith City Council, 1960-1986

Penrith City Library, Local Studies Collection

PENRITH CENTENARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the time of the centenary of local government celebrations in 1971, Penrith was described as 'strong and confident, but engaged in a major assessment of its future development pattern... The former country towns of Penrith and St Marys rapidly became suburban in style and pace' during the 1960s.

From Friday evening on 30 April, until Wednesday 26 May 1971, the city celebrated the 100th anniversary of local government in Penrith with month-long community events. These celebrations were probably the most elaborate ever organised in the district.



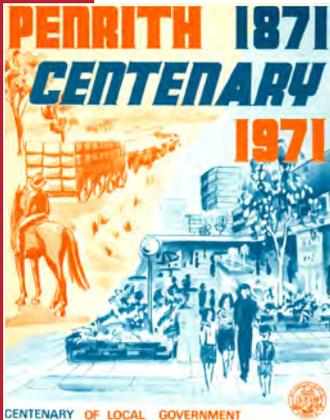
►► Above right

Notice paper for Special Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday, 12 May, 1971 at 3pm

5 page booklet, tied with ribbon

Penrith City Library, Local Studies Collection

This document was an open invitation on letterhead from Town Clerk Harold Corr regarding the Council meeting to be held on 12 May 1971 to consider and to pass resolutions of thanksgiving, loyalty, and appreciation for the first 100 years of local government in the City of Penrith, dated 7 May 1971. It includes the Proclamation of the Municipality of Penrith in the Supplement to the New South Wales Government Gazette no. 114, 13 May 1871, Agenda for the meeting, The first Council, The present Council, senior staff in 1971 and the crest of the City of Penrith.



**Penrith Centenary 1871-1971;
Centenary of Government**

Penrith City Council,
1971, 56 pages

Penrith City Library, Local Studies Collection

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL



**CIVIC CENTRE & CENTRAL LIBRARY
OFFICIAL OPENING
COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET**



**Civic Centre and Central Library,
official opening commemorative booklet**

Penrith City Council, May 1994

Penrith City Library, Local Studies Collection

Penrith City Library May 2015

In 1963 Penrith Council had purchased over forty hectares in Cranebrook and in March 1982 it was released as a new residential development known as the Mt Pleasant Estate. This estate was sold in stages and the proceeds went into Council's funds for the proposed new Civic Centre. By 1965 Council's civic centre was already overcrowded and during the Centenary of Local Government in 1971 aldermen voted on whether to investigate building a new civic centre.

The planning and construction of the Civic Centre was the largest civic project ever undertaken by the Council. In 1988, Council decided to go ahead and build a new Civic Centre. On 7 November 1989 Council selected noted architect Feiko Bouman from 22 tendered designs and according to the *Weekend Australian* in 1994 'won the approval of the westerners who wanted something to put them on the architectural map'.

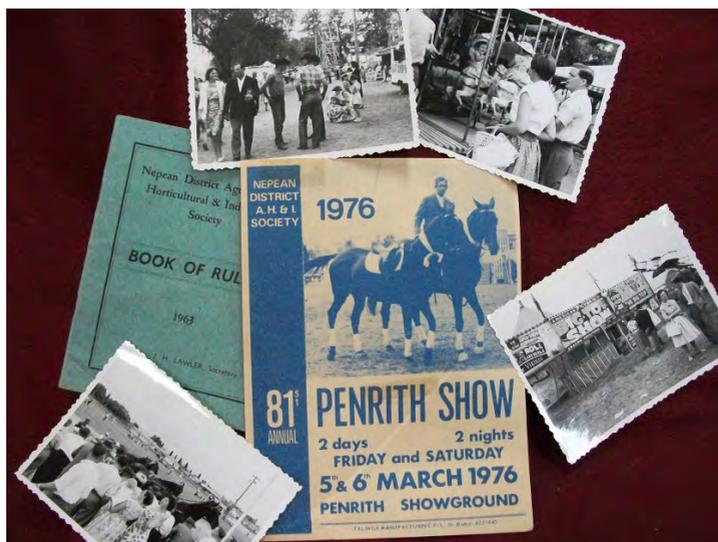
The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, which opened as a bicentennial project in March 1990, has played a significant regional role in enhancing the cultural lives of people living in outer Western Sydney. It was stage one of Penrith Council's Civic Centre project.

In November 1991 John Holland Constructions commenced construction. At 4 pm on 4 December 1993, the several offices of Penrith City Council closed their doors and two days later on 6 December, the Council announced that it was 'Open for Business' in one place in its new \$32 million Penrith Civic Centre and Library. Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair commented in his official opening speech on 28 May 1994 that the completion of a new civic centre

'always establishes a milestone in the history of a district and this is especially so when it happens to occur in a place which, is in itself part of our nation's early history and heritage, and such a city is surely Penrith'.

While Council was open for business on 6 December 1993, the Library was closed for another month, opening on 8 January 1994 on one of the most devastating bushfire days in New South Wales history.

Although the Civic Centre has taken on many nicknames – 'starship enterprise', 'prison fortress', 'Taj Mahal', for all of that, it makes a powerful statement about Penrith and its future and is a unique and distinctive landmark.



PENRITH SHOW

The first agricultural shows in the district were held on Tindale's Hornseywood estate, behind the Rose Inn, in the 1840s. The Agricultural Society of New South Wales, headed by Sir John Jamison, began in 1823 with the aim of encouraging innovation and improvements in agriculture. Although other aspects of the show have developed, including competitions like wood chopping events and entertainment, the display of produce and livestock remains its central purpose. In order to encourage the participation of 'the ladies', competitions of home crafts were arranged. These competitions have traditionally included cooking the best scones, fruitcake and preserves. Home furnishing crafts were displayed in needlework, crocheting and knitting, with competitions for the Best Fancy Needlework, Best Buttonhole Work and Best White Shirt, washed and ironed. Numerous pavilions displayed and sold goods, offered advice, demonstrated new technologies or methods and entertained the crowds.

Luddenham, St Marys and Penrith had regular agricultural shows before they formed their respective agricultural societies in the 1890s. Previously, agricultural societies had been formed, like the Penrith Agricultural Society, but they folded.

Regular agricultural days were organised, like the annual ploughing match and the show of livestock and agricultural produce, including local wines, wheat, barley, oats and cheese. In January 1891, the Luddenham Agricultural Society was formed and its first annual show



Photographs SS212, 224, 227, 228

A selection of Penrith Show photographs from the Library's Sue Sewter collection. Photographs taken in 1961 by Sue Sewter. 8.5 cm x 10 cm

Penrith City Library, Photograph collection

81st Annual Penrith Show programme, 1976

Penrith City Library, Special Collections

Book of Rules, Nepean District A H & I Society, 1963

16 page booklet.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections



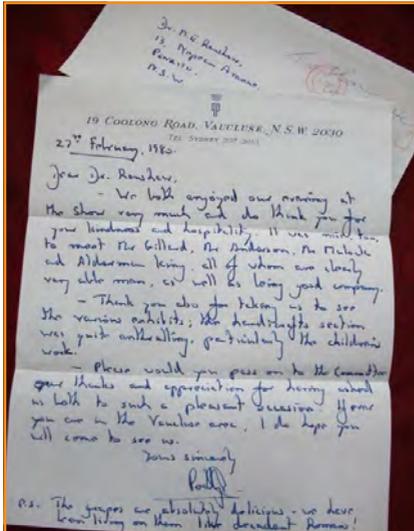
2 Imperial Half Pint glass bottles, Devondale Cream Pty Ltd, St Marys.

Penrith City Library, Special Collections



Prize certificates, photographs from the Hunter family

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Letter of thanks from Earl of Portarlington

To Dr Renshaw, President of the Nepean District A H & I Society, 27 February 1980. Blue paper, hand written with envelope. The Earl opened the show in 1980

Penrith City Library, Special Collections

was held two months later on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 April.

On 5 April 1892, the rules and regulations of the Nepean District Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society were agreed upon. The Society rented 35 acres from Frederick Woodruff, purchasing it in 1909 from his wife, Katie. The first show

on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 March 1893 offered 600 first prizes. It was announced as an 'unqualified success'. Events included trotting, horse trials, high jumps and buckjumping.

Penrith and Luddenham shows have been held every year since, except for during the war years.



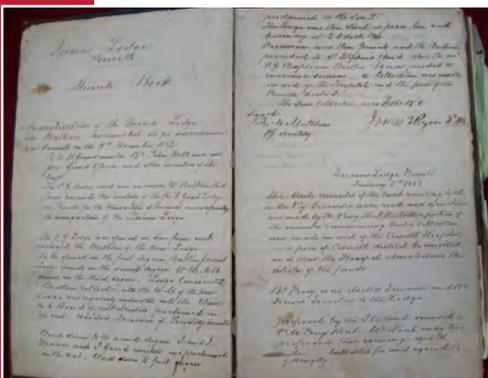
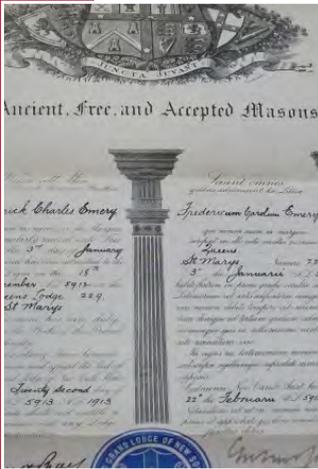
UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NSW, QUEENS LODGE, NO. 229

Friendly societies have been part of our local community since first settlement in Australia. They grew from a common interest among men to formally associate with common ideals and beliefs. In Penrith there were the Royal Foresters, Sons of Temperance, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Druids, Manchester Unity, etc.

In 1883, the *Nepean Times* reported that over 800 men were members of three main friendly societies – Foresters (established about 1864), Sons of Temperance (established about 1871), and the Odd Fellows (established 1881). These societies were particularly concerned with the welfare of their members.

This Imperial Family Bible has been used by the local Queens Lodge in Penrith, St Marys and Orchard Hills since 1862. The Queens Lodge minute book records James Tobias 'Toby' Ryan as the Worshipful Master.

The Masonic Club from Orchard Hills kindly donated to the Library their minute books, presence books, Bible and associated documents for their ongoing care and preservation.



◀ Top to bottom

Imperial Family Bible, 1847

Installation of Brother Frederick Charles Emery, 31 January 1912

Queens Lodge Minute Book, 1862

Penrith City Library, Special Collections,
Queens Lodge Collection

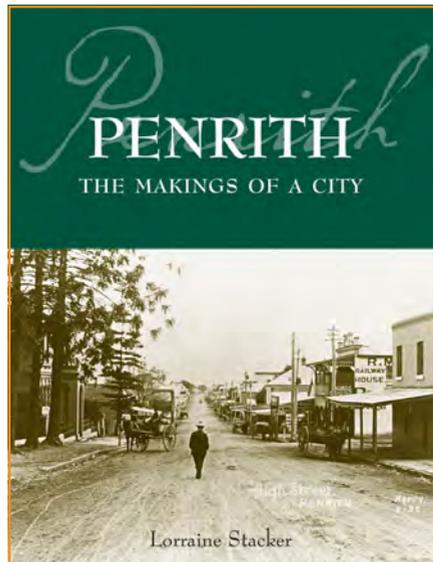
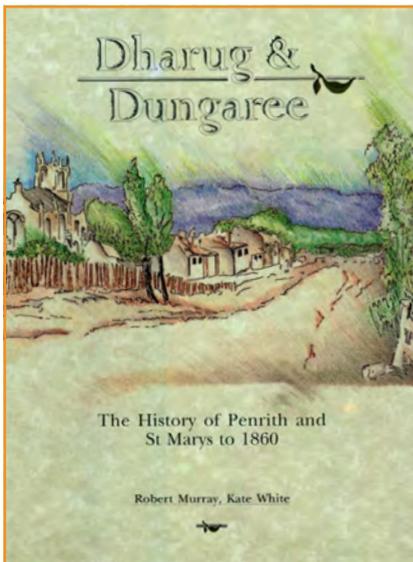
FROM DHARUG AND DUNGAREE TO THE MAKINGS OF A CITY

The first volume of the History of Penrith, *Dharug and Dungaree: The History of Penrith and St Marys to 1860*, was funded and published by Penrith City Council in 1988. Written by Robert Murray and Kate White this volume was the first authoritative account of our district's history.

Lorraine Stacker, our Information Librarian and keen historian, has brought years of painstaking research to *Penrith: The Makings of a City*, the second volume of the history of Penrith, also funded by Council. Lorraine's research brings the history of the City of Penrith into the 21st Century.

Both books are a celebration of Penrith's history and the people who have made our City what it is today. Lorraine was lucky to be able to access a vast store of historical resources from within our City, from our Library's Local Studies collections, local historical societies and NSW State Records during the writing of her book.

Both works provide a point of reference for people who are interested in the history of this area. They record the highs and lows of our region's history – the impact of white settlement, the coming of the railway, the installation of electric light, the years of depression, the impact of two world wars, the post-war boom and the arrival of the Olympic spirit.



PENRITH CITY LIBRARY

601 High St

Phone: 4732 7891

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Friday 9am - 8pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm | Sunday 10am - 5pm

Research Room

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