NEWSLETTER No. 185

APRIL 2014

PATRON: Claude Harris

COMMITTEE

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View expressed either editorially or by contribution are not necessarily those of
The Tongarra Heritage Society Inc.

Thursday 17th APRIL 2014 at 2 p.m.

Venue: TONGARRA MUSEUM

Topic: “A Get Together Afternoon”

General Meetings monthly 2 p.m. 3rd Thursdays (except December)
Tongarra Museum – Russell Street ALBION PARK Phone 4256 6698
Museum opening hours Mondays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (except public holidays)
SOCIETY NEWS

Last month, guest speaker, Lorraine Neate spoke on her topic “50 lashes for flatulence-tales from the Wollongong Bench Books” along with a power point presentation of original documents. Lorraine has researched the indexes 1832-1845 of the bench books, correspondence and papers and letters transcribed. These reports of importance, contained location of properties where convicts worked in the Illawarra. Punishment was given for insolence, impertinence, disobedience idleness and absence without leave to name a few. President John O’Dwyer presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the society, and members and visitors responded by acclamation.

Meeting dates:
17th April 2014 Committee Meeting 1 p.m. Tongarra Museum followed by the General Meeting 2 p.m. Tongarra Museum.

15th May 2014 General Meeting 2 p.m. Tongarra Museum

19th June 2014 General Meeting 2 p.m. Tongarra Museum

17th July 2014 Committee Meeting 1 p.m. Tongarra Museum followed by 2 p.m. General and Annual General Meeting.

Notes from the General Meeting 20 April:
“The Pioneer” Official newsletter of the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc. March 2014, Special Feature, From South Coast to the Big Scrub. This extensive article features Pioneers on the move North and includes many of our familiar Pioneers names ‘on the move’ from our area, the Illawarra and South Coast. The newsletter will be added to our archive collections. Many thanks from Editor Ina le Bas for “The Pioneer”.

Ian Kirkland will be launching his book “Go North Young Man - From the South Coast of the Big Scrub” at the Kiama History Fair Expo. Describing the reasons for the migration to the Richmond River district in northern NSW and background history of the pioneers.

A donation of Frank Condon’s booklet “Dunmore 1939-1960 recollections of Dunmore from Minnamurra River Bridge to Shellharbour” will be added to our archive collection, also The Royal Australian Historical Society HISTORY Magazine March 2014 and Autumn Events Calendar.

The RAHS Annual State History Conference to be held at Mittagong 25th to 26 October 2014.

John Street was the winner First Prize in the Shellharbour City Council 2014 Seniors Week Photo Competition. Congratulations John.

Museum Report:
Sandra Pires producer of a DVD WW11, personal stories, interviewed Garnet Johnston, Claude Harris and Alex Green for their stories. A Lake Times article was tabled at our meeting.

ANZAC DAY 6 a.m. Caroline Chisholm Park Memorial Friday 25th April 2014.
Check papers for other announcement locations.
UNVEILING THE GUN
Extracts from The Kiama Reporter and Illawarra Journal 23 March 1921

‘At 2 o’clock on Wednesday afternoon last Ald. Armstrong unveiled the war trophy presented to Shellharbour Municipality. This modern weapon of warfare, is a machine gun capable of firing 120 shots a minute, and was captured by the 53rd Battalion of the A.I.F. at Peronne in September 1917, in an advance in which, by a singular co-incidence, Gunner F. Timbs, son of the Town Clerk, participated, and in which he was badly wounded. He overcame difficulties that presented themselves in the mounting of the gun.

A concrete block had been put by the side of the verandah of the Council Chambers to support it and on Tuesday it was veiled by the Conquering Flag.

School children, their voices sweetly heard in “Rule Britannia” and the “National Anthem” under the supervision of Mr. Healey marched to the Council Chambers for the ceremony and there was also a good muster of district people present.’

Photo Council Chambers Albion Park before re-modelling in 1953.

Ed. Un fortunately this photo does not show the machine gun trophy.

SHELLHARBOUR HONOUR ROLL
Extracts from The Kiama Reporter and Illawarra Journal Wednesday 28 June 1922

‘On Monday morning a greatly number of people gathered together at the Shellharbour Park, to witness the unveiling of a captured german trench mortar and Honour Roll, bearing the names of the local lads, who served in the great war. The Mayor of Shellharbour Municipality (Ald. O’Keefe) performed the unveiling ceremony, accompanied by an appropriate speech and apologising for the absence of Col. Fuller and Mr. F. Chopin. The Rev. A. Gallop (late Chaplain A.I.F.) followed with a telling speech dwelling on the bravery and endurance not only of those who had gone to the front, but of these who must needs stay at home, working and sacrificing all the time, for God, King & Country.

The gun stands in the corner of the little Park in Shellharbour facing seawards, and has been placed on a solid block of concrete, about 4 feet high, on the side of which an inlet marble tablet sets forth the names of 33 men, and the Shellharbour Repatriation Committee might be congratulated on the happy thought which led them to combine the Municipal Council who erected the gun and place their Honour Roll on the pedestal of the gun. At the close of the unveiling, a wreath of the 18th Battalion colours was placed upon the tablet by a sister of one of the fallen boys.’ – Contributed.

Ed. The Samuel Charles Atchison, and the Honour Roll Memorials were moved from the now known Little Park Shellharbour Harbour, to Caroline Chisholm Park Addison Street Shellharbour Village. The above extracts etc. were compiled by Dorothy Gillis.

Photos courtesy Shellharbour City Council libraries – Shellharbour Images.
The National Trust of Australia (NSW) Illawarra Shoalhaven Region Bulletin-Functions Diary.

The new date for The Vintage Bazaar Saturday 29 March 2014 to be held at the Old Court House, Wollongong. 10 a.m. to 3 pm.

An Open Day at the Old Court House will be held Sunday 13 April 2014 ‘Five Lives’ 156 Years 10am – 3 pm Morning and afternoon teas and light luncheons available.

31st May 2014 Traditional Crafts Medieval combat, stone masonry, wood working, fletching etc.

26th October 2014 Visit to ‘Montrose’ Sutton Forest. Details to be finalised.

Contact details (02) 4227 4614.

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Illawarra Remembers 1914-1918 The project initiated by Wollongong City Council and Library and supported by Shellharbour City Libraries and Kiama Library for collection of WW1 memorabilia and photos for the commemorations of the 100 year Anniversary of WW1. Find entries up-dates on Tongarra Museum link www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au go to Illawarra Remembers 1914-1918 Blog.

Australian War Memorial web site www.awm.gov.au for details ANZAC Connections. This project was established to mark the 2015 Centenary of the landing at Gallipoli.

Shellharbour City Council Website for Tongarra Museum.

www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

Link to Your Museum and access- go to Libraries and Museum – Your Museum and find:-