

The Patrick Plains Gazette

Newsletter of the Family History Society Singleton Inc

Volume 35- Number 2 August - 2019



35 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SINGLETON – NSW

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SINGLETON Inc

GENERAL MEETING: 3rd Saturday each month at 11.30am. Please confirm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 3rd Saturday in February at 3pm.

LIBRARY: Ground floor Mechanics Institute 74 George Street, Singleton 2330
Open Mondays 6 pm to 8 pm; Wednesdays 12 noon to 3 pm; Saturdays 1 pm to 4 pm.
Closed Public Holidays and for a period in December & January .
Use of Library facilities free to members Non members \$5-00 per visit

MEMBERSHIP: Dues commence 1st February each year \$30 Single \$35 per family.

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 422, Singleton NSW. 2330

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES: Non members \$20 per letter of enquiry plus costs. Out of town members up to 3 free enquiries per year.

EMAIL ADDRESS: famhissocsinginc@yahoo.com.au **WEB ADDRESS:** www.fhssi.com

**ALL RESEARCH ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY
AND SHOULD INCLUDE THE DUE FEE AND A4 STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.**

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Secretary: Pauline McLoughlin (02)65721933, **Treasurer:** John Tindale (02) 65731734

Committee: Miriam Knight, George Standen, Jim Papworth, Eden Flaks, Di Gee

Librarian: Lyn MacBain (02) 65722235

Research Co-ordinator: Dot Clayworth (02) 65722914

Computer Research: Lyn MacBain (02) 65722235

Publicity: Lyn MacBain (02) 65722235, **Public Officer:** John Tindale (02) 65731734

The Patrick Plains Gazette: Newsletter Committee: Contact Editor Di Sneddon 0456822453

----- PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE -----

Singleton District Pioneer Register \$30 including postage 128 pages, 1,000 individual entries with Index and contributors Index.

Volume 1. Broke, Bulga, Doyle's Creek, Glenridding, Howes Valley, Jerry's Plains, Mount Thorley, Putty, Warkworth, Wylie's Flat. \$20 each plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

Volume 2. Whittingham, Anglican 2nd edition. \$20 plus postage \$5.50 per copy.

Volume 3. Queen Street Catholic Cemetery including the Sisters of Mercy Cemetery, Catholic Columbarium and the Old Methodist Cemetery [now Uniting].
\$20 plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

Volume 4. Sedgfield Cemetery .Updated version. \$20 plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

Volume 5. Branxton and some graves without headstones for the Singleton & Branxton Districts.
\$20 plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

First Edition Cemetery Inscription Books are available on request.

Volumes 1, 3 and 4 covering Sedgfield, Old Methodist, St Clements Camberwell, Clifford Private, Sydenham Private, Gowrie Private, Carrowbrook Roll of Honour, Spottiswood, Mount Pleasant, Reedy Creek, Glendon Brook, Burdekin Park Cenotaph, Bungaraby (Howes Valley), Noisy Point (Howes Valley), Carrowbrook, Belford, Glendon, Busby Private (Belford), Goorangoola, Queens Street Catholic, All Saints Cremation Plaques Singleton, Dangar Mausoleum All Saints Church Singleton.
\$20 each plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

The Graveyard & Its Stories: Camberwell District NSW, St Clements Burial Ground. By Carol Garvie.
(Camberwell Cemetery Only) \$30.00, plus \$5.50 postage per copy.

The Caledonian Hotel Singleton; The first hundred odd years by Martin King.
\$35.00 plus \$5.50 postage per copy

Information used to produce articles for the Gazette may have been contributed by our members, correspondents and consolidated by the author's own research. We sincerely thank these contributors and regret that space does not permit us to include all their names. Where space allows sources will be published but may otherwise be available by contacting the Newsletter Committee.

WHILST ALL EFFORTS ARE MADE THE SOCIETY TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY OF ARTICLES PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

Front Cover Mechanics' Institute Singleton, Built 1866. Woodblock c1880.

Woodblock Donated to the 74 George Street Management Committee by the Robinson Family Collection

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anne Stewart, Julie Brosie and Rodney Taylor

We welcome you and wish you every success in your research endeavours.

VALE: PATRICK TREVOR QUINN 1937-1919

We would like to acknowledge the contribution to Singleton made by Patrick Quinn in keeping the story of Singleton's past alive. Our sincere condolences to his wife Ann, his family and friends. RIP Pat.

DUTY LIBRARIANS

Dot Clayworth, Di Gee, Lyn MacBain, Pauline McLoughlin, John Tindale, Alison Howlett, Angela Fuller, and Rodney Taylor. We can always use more assistance if you can help please contact Lyn on 65722235.

CORRECTING MISTAKES : PASS IT ON

This photo is Bourne Russell [1794-1880] also known as Captain Bourne Russell. This photo has been repeatedly circulated as Benjamin Singleton [1788-1853]. Bourne Russell's son Bourne married Ben's daughter Sarah and it seems someone mistakenly took a comment of 'grandfather' from the back of this photo as Ben. There is NO known photo of Benjamin Singleton.

Further John Howe's party arrived at the Hunter's River as it was then near what is present day Whittingham on the 15th of March, 1820 but it is consistently stated the 17th and the reason why John Howe named it St. Patrick's Plains. There is no known record to say John Howe personally named it thus; it is an assumption.



Bourn Russell 1794-1880
Not
Benjamin Singleton
1788-1853

FROM THE EDITOR

I am new to this, so this message really comes from someone only just discovering the journey of tracing family history. Understanding the stories of your family's past is just fascinating and anyone who has begun these investigations knows that with every new discovery another question is opened up. Where do I come from, how did it happen, what is the truth? There lies the big question, what is the truth? I have had stories related to me only to find within a few documents that all is not what I was told or thought. I can say Singleton Family History Society consists of a dedicated group of volunteers who are so much more than that. Their knowledge, qualifications and experience can help you discover your story. It will reveal the stories of your family's achievements, their downfalls, their challenges and may answer the questions that are held deep in your heart – who am I?

While most of those who receive this newsletter are members and already know the resources available at Singleton Family History, I would like to inform newbies like me that the resource library is extensive and accessible to the public on Mondays 6 to 8pm, Wednesdays from 12 to 3pm and Saturdays from 12 to 4pm. There are also volunteers able to set you on your way to start your own research, but I need to warn you, it is very addictive. The more you research, the more you will want to know about that great great grandfather on your mother's side. My great great grandfather came to Branxton, a local doctor who was so enthusiastic about golf that he designed the Branxton golf course. I feel a connection to him every time I drive past that course and his story is a very interesting one. It is discoveries like this that get you hooked. If you are thinking about learning more about your family's journey of the past, think about heading into Singleton Family History Society's library, or phone to get you started.

I was given the opportunity to review a new addition to our library, 'Searching for Margaret Murphy – From Tipperary to New South Wales – A Murphy Family History' by Lyn Stewart which tells the tale of a family history, which like most of us, crosses the globe. The author felt in her heart her connection to Ireland, music such as that of Riverdance triggered an emotion unlike any other. Lyn's family history intrigue may have begun when she discovered an assumption was so very wrong. Lyn believed her great great grandmother Margaret Murphy probably found her way to Australia to escape the tragedy of what is known as The Great Famine of the 1850s. However, Margaret Murphy's arrival in Australia was five years prior to this event. Why did Margaret and her sisters decide to make Australia home? All Lyn had to go on was a death certificate and with such a common name as Margaret Murphy the story wasn't easy to unfold.

Not only is this a fascinating story of the life of Margaret Murphy, but it unveils the turmoil of Ireland at the time and it also outlines the path Lyn took in uncovering this story.

No doubt the publication of this book brought great comfort to Lyn and her extended family, but it is also well worth a read for those interested in Australia's early days of colonisation and those wanting some understanding of how the journey of tracing family history can come about.

Di Sneddon

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of 'Searching for Margaret Murphy – From Tipperary to New South Wales – A Murphy Family History' by Lyn Stewart please contact by her email.

lynstewart@netspace.net.au

COMMEMORATION 1820-2020

In 2020, the Singleton District will commemorate the arrival of John Howe's Party to what was to become known firstly as St. Patrick's Plains. The party arrived at the banks of what was then Hunter's River formerly Coal River at present day Whittingham on March 15th, 1820. The party consisted of Leader John Howe, Benjamin Singleton, Daniel Philips, George Loder, Andrew Loder, Thomas Dargin, Philip Thorley, Jeremiah Butler, Charles Berry, Robert Bridle, Nicholas Connelly, James House, Samuel Marshall, Frederick Rhodes and two Aboriginal guides believed to be Myles and Mullaboy. No written journal or diary by John Howe of this trip has been found but there is one of his November 1819, attempt.

Many attributed the naming of St. Patricks Plains to John Howe however he does not mention any name in his letter to Gov. Macquarie on March 21st nor does his report to Gov. Macquarie on April 13th. A record of who actually named St Patrick's Plains has not been found, but certainly by September 1820, Gov. Macquarie refers to the name St. Patricks Plains on the September 18th when giving John Howe permission to *"send to and graze his Flocks and Herds on St Patricks Plains on Hunter's River"*. The earliest advertisement found on 'Trove' referencing the name is by Benjamin Singleton in December 1821.

The 1820 endeavour was at least the fifth known attempt by Colonists from the Hawkesbury District, and it is acknowledged that Benjamin Singleton's September 1817 attempt was the first; this was followed by William Parr in November 1817, another by Benjamin Singleton in April 1818 then John Howe in November 1819. There was another trek in December 1819 which receives little attention. This detail is found in John Howe's letter to the Governor dated December 27th 1819 which explains John Howe directed Myles an Aboriginal man who had accompanied Howe earlier accompanied by other Aboriginals "to find the old Aboriginal man who had previously offered to point the way and take him with them" on this venture. After seventeen days Myles returned explaining "it is a better road and shorter distance". At least four of the other attempts Aboriginals believed to be Darkinjung people accompanied the parties.

Much has been interpreted and assumed over the last 200 years and we may never know the whole story. The 1820 party followed the river downstream, expecting to reach Port Stephens but after several days came across some timber getters at Wallis Plains [Maitland] who put them straight that they were following the Hunter's River. One thing has always puzzled me is why anyone had not followed the Hunter River upstream, after all Coal River [Newcastle] had been utilised for coal since 1801 and as a penal settlement since 1804. There are recordings of how thick the bushland was in the lower Hunter Valley and perhaps that was enough of barrier but it just seems an odd occurrence that in the sixteen intervening years when discoveries of this kind were important to the colony nobody took up the challenge during that time.

Others would come later to find easier routes from the Hawkesbury and Lower Hunter Districts to our area but the determination of those who first attempted the barriers for whatever reason, opened up the rich fertile St Patrick's Plains to many of our ancestors. Singleton Council is organising a Back to Singleton event for the 13th, 14th and 15th of March 2020 but encouraging events for the whole of the year. Information can be found on Singleton Council's website <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au>. Whilst commemorating this event; something we should be sensitive to and never forget is how this impacted on the lives and history of the traditional custodians; the Wonnarua people and other Aboriginal people.

Lyn MacBain

Sources: Family History Society Singleton Library resources, Dot Clayworth, and personal resources.

JOHN BROWNE (1803-1881) AND THE RUSH TO THE HUNTER VALLEY.

Contributed by member Lyn Stewart

Please Note regarding the spelling of his name: John Browne sometimes wrote his own name as John Brown. After he moved to Patrick's Plains in the Hunter Valley his name is more frequently written (by him and by others) as John Browne. Perhaps he chose to do that as there was another man named John Brown at Patrick's Plains. In this text I have used Browne instead of Brown, even when the spelling is without the 'e' in the source records.

John Browne was a son of Elizabeth McNamara, an Irish woman from Nenagh in County Tipperary. She had been sentenced to seven years transportation at the spring assizes in Clonmel, Tipperary in 1801. In New South Wales she gave birth to her son John and he was named after his father whose first name is uncertain; he was either a naval Captain named John Browne, or a man named David Browne.



As, at that time in New South Wales, no records were kept of marriages performed by Catholic clergy, it is not known whether Elizabeth married John's father. However, she later partnered with a man who had arrived on the same ship, the *Atlas*. He was a fellow convict, Patrick Cullen. They married at St Philip's Anglican Church, Sydney, on 20th Sept 1811. The whole family lived in Sydney until Patrick Cullen died, after which they moved to a farm on the Hawkesbury River and lived at Pitt Town and possibly also Windsor.

Elizabeth's children are:

John Browne, born 1803 married Elizabeth Alcorn in 1825

Thomas Cullen, born 1806, married Mary Ann Alcorn in 1828

James Cullen, born 1809 married Elizabeth Dargin, shopkeeper Windsor

Richard Cullen, born 29 July 1811

Mary Cullen born 1813 (possibly married James Rudd in 1830)

Patrick Cullen born c.1821

Like others, John Browne had ambitions of finding an easier route to Bathurst rather than via the steep and difficult road completed by 1815. Grazing land for the Hawkesbury's increasing herds of cattle was becoming scarce. Before his marriage, John Browne and Thomas Gullidge headed west in an abortive attempt to crossing the mountains. Exploratory expeditions north-west eventually found a way, not to the other side of the mountains, but to the Hunter River Valley.

In 1825, John Browne, at age 22, married a local Windsor girl, Elizabeth Alcorn (1806-1876). She was living with her widowed mother, her father having died in 1812. Elizabeth Alcorn had two brothers, Richard and Edward. (Richard married Charlotte Gullidge at Windsor in 1825.) By 1828 Richard and Charlotte were at Falbrook at Patrick Plains and had two small children. By 1833 they had four children. Edward Alcorn married Sarah Smith at Windsor in 1828. Edward and Sarah lived and farmed at South Creek, had several children, and, around 1833, they moved to the Hunter River. John Browne was a witness at both Richard's marriage and at Edward's marriage.

John Browne appears to have moved to St. Patrick Plains with the earliest settlers. His land grant of 60 acres by Governor Macquarie is listed as Grant No.19a on 31st March 1821. There were twelve people on that first list including John Howe; John Dight, Snr., James Cob, Benjamin Singleton, Andrew Biggers, Thomas Biggers, Eber Bunker, Joseph Underwood, Phillip Thorley, Daniel Phillips, John Browne (the record shows

the spelling here as Brown); and David Brown. John Browne and the Biggers brothers received 60 acres each, the rationale being they were single men born in the Colony. The other grants varied in size, Joseph Underwood receiving 1500 acres, Benjamin Singleton 200 acres and John Howe 700 acres. A rush of eager settlers followed as the news of the good grazing land quickly spread. Twenty six grants are listed in 1822-3. Newly arrived men with capital, such as James Mudie, David Maziere, James Mitchell and Robert and Helenus Scott, were each given grants of around 2,000 acres. Forty-four grants were given in 1824 and around another 30 in 1825. The rush for Hunter Valley land had occurred quickly over just five years.

Governor Macquarie had given, or rather promised, those first grants in 1821 although it was not until the 1830s that the land was certified when people applied for the deeds. Macquarie left the Colony in February 1822, and his replacement, Thomas Brisbane, officially took charge in December 1821. Macquarie's decision to open the Hunter Valley for settlement was not changed and grants continued to fill the Hunter Valley despite the associated survey work always being in arrears. Henry Dangar was Assistant Surveyor and sent to carry out the work. Unfortunately for Benjamin Singleton, James Mudie decided he wanted the land that Singleton had already settled upon. Mudie was granted 2150 acres in August 1822 and Benjamin Singleton's received his grant on which the town of Singleton eventuated.

John Browne moved quickly to establish his farm at the Hunter. For a period of about two years, between 1823 and 1825, permits were required for people wanting to travel via the new land route from the Hawkesbury River to the Hunter River. Between September 1823 and March 1824 John Browne received four separate permits to pass from Windsor to his farm at Patricks Plains. In January 1824 James Cullen, John's half brother, was permitted to pass to John's farm at Patrick Plains. Two months later Thomas Weatherstone, named as a servant to Thomas Dargin was given a permit to pass to Browne's farm.

John Browne later called his initial Hunter Valley 60 acre grant 'Macquarie Place'. It happens to cover part of today's Singleton township. In August 1824 John wrote to Governor Brisbane asking for a further grant to add to the 60 acres. Stating what livestock his mother possessed (150 horned cattle and 500 sheep), he implied that he was looking after the stock on her behalf and on behalf of his siblings. He needed more land to care for the extra stock. In October 1826 he again applied for more land explaining that his initial 60 acres was under cultivation. He had 35 head of cattle, 200 sheep, 30 hogs and one horse. To do the work he had 'four working bullocks' and two assigned convicts to help him. He also stated he had a good logged house worth £50.

It is likely that within the following two years John Browne and others began taking cattle across the mountains to the Mooki and Peel Rivers where they established squatting runs. *Pullaming* was Browne's run, reportedly of over 100,000 acres. It was situated along the Mooki River just south of present-day Gunnedah.

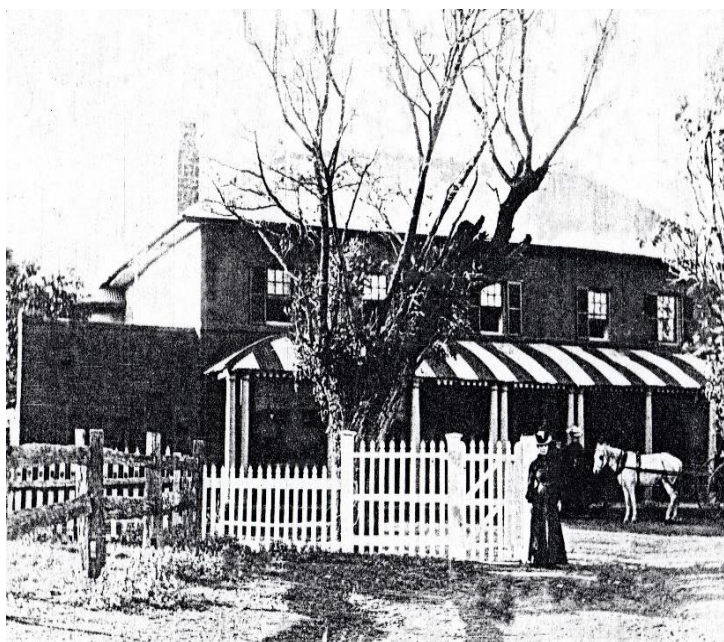
John acquired numerous holdings around Singleton. Once he had the deeds to the 60 acres comprising the Macquarie Place property in 1839, he then subdivided and sold some as town blocks. In 1836 he purchased *Maison Dieu*, the 1,070 acre 1824 grant to James Dodds. By the time Browne was writing his last will and testament in 1881 he had amassed a great deal of property. *Coppymurrumbilla* was a grazing run in NSW on the border with Q'ld and just south of Goodiwindi. During the 1840s he took up large tracts of land in New England and established the *Upper Tia* about 30 km east of Walcha. Other runs mentioned in John Browne's last will are *Boogabilli* and *Millfield Park* at Wollombi. His will also mentions property that was part of the Mein grant and property at Goorangoola Creek. In Sydney he had property in Liverpool and Charles Streets and a row of houses in Bridge Street known as Lady Young's Terrace.

A leading light amongst the Patrick Plains townfolk, John Browne was very supportive towards the Catholic Church and gave both property and money towards establishing church and school buildings in the town. John and Elizabeth Browne had a large family. Their 15 children are listed below. Four predeceased their father. They were John Cullen Browne (d.1861), the twins Edward (d.1876) and Richard (d.1872), and Isabella Rosalie (d.1862).

Elizabeth Browne born 16 May 1827 Patricks Plains
Frances Browne born 19 August 1828 Patricks Plains
John Cullen Browne born 20 Nov 1829 Windsor
Emma Browne born 21 May 1831
Edward Browne born 14 October 1832 Singleton
Richard Browne born 14 October 1832 Singleton
James Steadman Browne born 21 December 1834 Singleton
Thomas Harvey Browne born 22 February 1839
Ellen Sarah Browne born 25 February 1839 Singleton
Mary Jane Browne born 25 February 1840 Singleton
William Charles Browne born 1842
Andrew Smidmore Browne born 31 October 1844 Singleton
Isabella Rosalie Browne born 9 September 1846 Singleton
Henry Xavier Browne born 28 January 1850
Arthur David Browne born 1852 Singleton

Note: Due to lack of space references cannot be printed however full references are available on request.

Further information provided by Dot Clayworth.



John Browne's 'Macquarie Place' in Singleton This was situated near the present Singleton Council Administration area.



This photo of a now demolished building is strongly believed to be John Browne's at Maison Dieu.





'When I Was Young'

Angela Fuller nee Cox



"I was named Angela Maree
I was born at Singleton Hospital in 1966.



I am the daughter of Glyn Patrick Cox and Elaine Fay Gibson



My Parents Glyn & Elaine

I am the youngest of five children Kelvin (dec.), Paul, Colin, Glynis and myself.

I am the grandchild of Douglas Gordon Gibson and Lilith Gibson nee Leslie and Allan Crawford Cox and Eunice Evelyn Cox nee Morphet



My Grandparents Douglas & Lilith

I was the wife to Peter Fuller of Melbourne (now divorced)

I am Mother to Conrad and Florence.

As a child we lived on the corner of Queen and Raworth streets. The house was a slab hut when Dad purchased it and he clad it in timber and painted it green.



Colin, Paul, Mum, Dad, Glynis and me.
Mum and Dad's 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Our family circumstances. Dad had a motorbike that he loved which he sold to put towards their home. They married young and didn't have much money. Dad worked 2 to 3 jobs and Mum cared for her five children and sold Stanhome products and did vegetable picking amongst other things.

We attended All Saints Church of England (Anglican) in Singleton. We enjoyed Sunday School which had many out buildings to accommodate all of the children.



With Godmothers Daphne Latter & Fawney Bouke

When I was around 13, I took my Confirmation. Godmothers Daphne Latter & Fawney Bourke I taught one of the 3rd classes. I was involved in the Church's Girls Friendly Society and Di McCluand was my leader. She had a huge impact on my life and I'm forever grateful to her. My brothers were in CEBS Church of England Boys Society. We enjoyed camps, cooking, craft, sport, concerts and it was wonderful.

Transport We had a Ford Falcon station wagon with vinyl seats and no seat belts, so we enjoyed crashing into each other as we went around the corners. On long trips we would all sleep in the mattress in the back and wave at cars behind us.

Our Neighbours My best friend from birth and still now Leanne Edwards (Dimmock) grew up across the road and the Hudsons and Monkleys and the Suttons were our neighbours.

I attended Hunter Street until year 3 and in year 4 we were sent to King Street and then to the High School in year 7. I was lucky because I had my brothers and sister and many cousins at school.

My teachers- I remember Mrs Rountree, Mr Hills and I had Mr Gallagher.

My best friends were Leanne and my cousin Janene Cox.

The nearest shop would have been in the main street. Going to Molly's after netball and church was the most wonderful treat. I could buy two lollies for one cent. For ten cents I'd get a small white paper bag full.

My favourite treats were violet crumbles and lollies

My favourite pastime was competitive ballroom dancing. My whole family danced and we enjoyed going to the country dances especially Mount Olive with our friends the Brosi's.

The biggest event of the year was Christmas. It was such an exciting time and especially seeing Santa at Burdekin Park. We would see all of our friends and families there and it was so exciting. We looked forward to the lights turning on the Christmas tree.

Holidays We had a caravan and mum and dad would take it to the Entrance or Toukley for a few weeks each year. Mum towed the caravan and took 4 children to the snow when we were young. We also caught a plane to Adelaide to our cousin Christine Almond's wedding. That was so exciting.

My first job was as a dental assistant at Harvison's Dental Surgery in John Street. I worked as a dental assistant for around 6 years including working in Canberra, Sydney and London.

My outstanding memories are attending the Singleton Show each year. Singleton was primarily a farming town and the Show was a very important event. Dad was a bee keeper and he would enter moulded wax and honey every year and we would always get a new outfit. We would get new clothes, shoes, hat, gloves and bag. It was either boiling hot or raining. We had a boat and went water skiing with our family.

Comment on life. I was so lucky that Mum gave us the opportunity to do everything available to us. Growing up we were very close to our cousins. We played tennis in town and had tennis days with friends and family in rural areas. I was lucky to have family living on farms so spent holidays there helping to milk cows and playing with my cousins. Singleton was a wonderful place to grow up. I felt that I belonged here. I lived away for around 10 years and

returned to raise my family here. As an adult I try to give back to our community where I can. I helped to teach Sunday school, was the President of the School's P & C and was the Scout Groups Leader for over 11 years. I am on the Tidy Towns Committee and volunteer with Family History. You meet some wonderful people volunteering and gain skills as well. I believe you get so much more than you give.

In addition from the Newsletter Committee



In 2018 although having just retired from Scouting, Angela was given the honour of being included in accepting the Wambo Coal Hall of Fame Award for the Singleton Scout Group. The Singleton Scout Group was formed in 1917. The troop flag was originally donated by the Dangar Family. On 20th June 2017 the Singleton Scout Group celebrated 100 years since being officially registered. The Singleton Scout Group enjoys a long term lease in Edward Street, and has over 80 members aged between 6 and 18 years. Scouting fosters, the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of youth, through the "Scouting Method". The Singleton Scout Group has been involved in many community events including Clean up Australia Day activities, Broke Road Clean Up, National Tree Planting Day, assisting at the Singleton Show and Shine and the Milbrodale Classic.



Just like the Scouts, Angela also has deep roots in Singleton. Her family traces back to Singleton's early pioneers in the 1840s and 1850s, and she is custodian of the home that has been in her family since 1930. In addition to working as a preschool teacher, she is also a member of the Singleton Tidy Towns Committee. "It's given me so much, such as leadership skills, communication skills and definitely teamwork. There's no way one person could run a group on their own," she says. "The future is really bright for the future of Scouting: it's becoming more about child-led programming, so the children are leading the program where they want it to go." And with Singleton Scouts now on the Hall of Fame, a lot of work by a lot of people will be recognised for generations to come. "I'm really proud of what everyone has done over the last 100 years to keep the group going and to continue the commitment for children into the future." Adapted from 'Singleton Stories'; <https://www.facebook.com/SingletonCouncil>

An aside: General Sir Baker Creed Russell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G. was the son of Captain William Russell of 'Ravensworth' and who's military career took him from these shores. He was Sir Baden Powell's first commanding officer and is attributed to teaching Sir Baden Powell many of the bush skills learnt growing up at 'Ravensworth' which were incorporated into Scouting. Sir Baden Powell remained close to Baker and was present at his military funeral on December 7th 1911 in England. Sir Baden Powell wrote of Baker *"Personally I know that if he had ordered me to walk over a cliff or into a fire I would have done so without hesitation, and I believe that officers and men would have followed him anywhere. He had a magnetic attraction which would have led men to do anything that he commanded. He had a fierce exterior, but a warm and kindly heart beneath it, and I never knew a better friend."* The links of "Ravensworth" spread far and wide; it is an extremely historic property in the Singleton LGA and its value and influence is unique as are the people associated with it. LM.

BACK PAGE BITS

PAULINE'S PONDERINGS

Every now and again I get a hankering for the taste of Singleton Cheese. I remember so clearly the flavour that has never been replicated in my opinion; what a loss our dairy industry and the Dairy Co-Op were and still are.

I was wondering when Singleton Cheese started and found a little notice in the *Singleton Argus* but there must have been some doubters at the time as there are several articles concerning the viability of producing cheese and not just cream and supplying milk.

I can recall someone telling me about train drivers pulling up trains and having someone race over to pick up their ration of that golden creamy delight. Cheese and pickle sandwiches, on a Sao [they don't even taste the same anymore], melted on toast under the grill till the bubbles browned and burst.

Oh! how much our younger generations have missed.

LOCAL CHEESE MANUFACTURE
Operations in connection with the making of cheese at the Central Co-operative Dairy Company's factory began on Friday last, when two vats, of 750 gallons each, were filled with milk. Work is to be resumed again to-day (Tuesday), and the result of the first output will be awaited with very much interest. The milk, which is all of local supply, comes in twice a week, on the "block" days.

Singleton Argus (NSW : 1880 - 1954), Tuesday 30 September 1919, page 2



It is said the last batch of Singleton Cheese was made at the factory on the day of the Melbourne Cup in 1988; it just doesn't seem that long ago. Thank you Brian Andrews for the photo and all who commented on social media.

MIRIAM'S FIND

We don't think anyone would argue that from our population of less than five million at the time the greater debt was the estimated 62,000 lives lost and the 156,000 wounded, gassed or imprisoned Australians who fought in WW1.

AUSTRALIA'S WAR DEBT

Fifty Years to Redeem.

If no indemnity is received from Germany it will take from 50 to 56 years to redeem Australia's war debt, according to the estimate of the Commonwealth Treasury. Seven war loans have been raised in Australia to date, and from these a sum of £188,470,000 has been received. About £5,000,000 more has been received from the sale of War Savings Certificates, while moneys borrowed from the Imperial Government bring the total up to nearly £300,000,000. This figure, according to the official estimate, is the grand total of the war debt of Australia at the present time.

Portion of this amount is in the form of book debts, on which at present sinking fund is not accumulated. As to the balance, the Commonwealth Treasury pays into a war loan sinking fund an amount equivalent to 10/- on each £100 'a' year. If interest rates average five per cent, in the future, this sinking fund will suffice to redeem the war debt in 50 years. If interest rates are only 4 percent, 56 years will be required for redemption. This calculation, of course, takes no account of any money which may be received from Germany by way of indemnity. During the last financial year the aggregate amount paid into the sinking fund was approximately £1,200,000. This money is available for purchases on the market, and will undoubtedly be most useful in future years in maintaining a steady price for those investors who desire to sell their stocks. Transcribed from

Singleton Argus (NSW : 1880 - 1954), Tuesday 19 August 1919, page 3

BY GOSH! BY GEE! BY GEORGE!

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve believe it or not; it was an Apple but had limited memory.

After just one byte everything would crash.

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Next Issue: December 2019 Article by October 30th please.