

the
Memory Bank

Quarterly Newsletter of the Millthorpe & District Historical Society

The President Writes

Millthorpe may not be known for gold from the ground however, gold played an important part in its early development. The town, first known as the “Cross Roads” grew around where the road from Blackmans Swamp (Orange) to Carcoar crossed the road from Bathurst to Flyers Creek.

Surrounding communities grew including Carcoar, which from the early 1850s developed into an administrative town with the headquarters for the Police, government and churches as well as a centre for trading gold.

Other communities developed with many of them sending their gold to Millthorpe. Flyers Creek was a major producer of gold with several mines in the area. As Millthorpe continued to grow new banks and even village name changes occurred.

In the Australian Town & Country Journal of Wednesday 27 November 1909 it was reported that Jarvis Bros brought into Millthorpe, under escort 590 oz. of gold from their mine at Flyers Creek. In today’s value that would be \$737,500. The Gold was probably weighed on the Bank of New South Wales scales in the museum and housed in the bank’s safe. Not only was Millthorpe important in securing the valuable mineral it had a critical role in feeding the miners, it supplied them with meat, potatoes and butter from the Millthorpe Butter Factory with after 1884 flour from the new Flour Mill, one of the largest flour mills in New South Wales.

Peter Whiley



New Members

Over the past 6 months our Membership has risen to 180. We welcome new members Ann Harrison, Pat & Val Tilston, Kerrie Mills, Ellaine Masters, Gretel Purser, Garry Graham, Molly Lynch, Bill & Liz Burdett, David Baird and junior members Sam & Nicholas Tree and Kenya Lacey. It is pleasing to have interested and creative people join up. We now have extra people doing duty, oral history, helping with administration and adding new products to the craft cottage merchandise.



THE SAMPLER

The Sampler includes snippets about items in the museum's collection and in the wider community.

The following excerpt from 'The Bathurst Daily Press and Mining Journal' of October 9 1897, was discovered by member Rosemarie Amos who is also the Secretary/ Treasurer of the School of Arts. It tells of the opening of our School of Arts in 1897.



OPENING THE SCHOOL OF ARTS.

By Our Special Reporter

The tight little town of Millthorpe yesterday made another step in advance and put on holiday attire in celebration of the event — the completion and opening of a School of Arts. The building stands in an elevated position in the centre of this town. The foundation is of bluestone, the wall of red brick, relieved with cream colour dressings, the front is executed to a unique design, the combination of colours of the various materials forming a very pleasing effect. The accommodation consists of reading-room, library, committee-room, and office— all spacious and well lighted and ventilated and finished off in a very tasty manner. Mr. J. J. Copeman, of Bathurst, was the architect and Mr. Gain, of Orange, the builder.

The opening ceremony was performed by Hon. S. Smith, Minister for Mines and Agriculture, who had undertaken the duty for his colleague, the Minister for Public Instruction, official work having prevented that gentleman from attending. Mr. Smith reached Millthorpe by train at 4 p.m., and was received on the station by the Executive Committee, headed by the President of the newly established institution, and a number of prominent townsmen.....the visitors were driven direct to the School of Arts, where about 100 people had assembled to witness the opening ceremony.

After inspecting the library — which contains over 500 volumes— and reading room, the company were posed by the local photographer and ' taken ' in a group as they stood on the steps of the entrance hall. The School of Arts ... reflects credit upon the progressive spirit of the people of Millthorpe.

A few years ago they did not think of having such an institution in their midst but the project having been mooted, Messrs. Richards and Groundwater generously donated the ground, a bazaar was held to raise money, designs for a building had been obtained, and the building in which they were assembled was the result. Nearly £200 had been raised locally, and with the addition of the Government subsidy they had been enabled to erect the structure and stock furnish it, and thus it stood to-day practically free from debt. There were nearly 900 volumes on the shelves, and the reading room was being stocked with papers and periodicals, so the residents and visitors would be able to spend many pleasant hours in the place.



that in the in future



1903



1981



2014

Then and Now

Rosebank ~ the former Bank of New South Wales

Rosebank, formerly known as the Bank of New South Wales, was a prominent structure reflecting the importance of Millthorpe at the turn of the 20th century. At the time of the bank's construction in 1903 it replaced an earlier bank further down Victoria Street.

The bank, built at considerable cost, meant in its imposing way to instill confidence in all those who walked through it's doors. Built in the Late Victorian Free Classical style the building was built with an attached verandah and residence for the Bank Manager, an eminently important man in Millthorpe.

Both the bank and residence include high ceilings, marble fireplaces and copious amounts

of iron lace work.

The bank served the community for nearly eighty years until sold in 1981 and the branch moved to Blayney.

Fortunately for Millthorpe, this prominent building that makes such an important contribution to the 19th century streetscape, has been cared for by a series of owners who have restored and beautified the building with uses as diverse as restaurant, guesthouse, gallery and family home.

The present owners, Richard and Jenny Beach, are nurturing "Rosebank" into its new role whilst caring for its history.



The Trevor Pascoe Pavilion

Progress continues on fund raising for The Trevor Pascoe Pavilion with building quotes now arriving. A most generous donation of \$10,000 was received from the Pascoe family. Shown here at the BBQ fundraiser is Tiffany Tree handing over the cheque to President Peter Whiley with William, Sophie and Judy Pascoe all looking on.

To date we have received over \$22,720 with another \$26,000 pledged.

THE SAMPLER

The Bookie's Bag

An unusual item in our museum is the Bookmakers Bag. It was used at local racecourses by Jim



Richmond from 1935 till 1945. The Richmond family of 6 owned a smallgoods shop in lower Pym Street, Millthorpe.

Pictured is a photo of the young Jim Richmond, Bookmaker looking very dapper.



Shine a light on a member

An occasional feature about our many members and their passion for history and the Millthorpe community.

Lyndall Harrison

Lyndall Harrison is one of the Historical Societies newer members having joined only several years ago.

As a retired educator and resident in the district for the past 15 years, Lyndall joined because she now has time and with her interest in education can see great potential for the museum in schools. In addition to manning the doors Lyndall has put a great deal of effort into the Education Committee.

Lyndall believes the biggest challenge to the museum is to maintain the collection whilst making it relevant to potential visitors. Lyndall believes that there is a need to strengthen ownership of the museum by encouraging the writing and preservation of stories from those who live in the Millthorpe community now. "Perhaps", said Lyndall "we could involve students by looking at their homes and the stories they tell. After all the past is only the present through the lens of time".

Lyndall's favourite piece in the museum is the egg cleaner used to clean surplus eggs, an item in our Rural Technology Museum.

