

R D H S

Local & Family History Newsletter

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AN OVERCROWDED TRANSPORT (1902)

A Disgraceful Blunder

Five Lives Sacrificed

A Rylstone Man Among The Victims

The South African War has concluded, but apparently the loss of life in connection therewith has not yet come to an end. From telegrams from Adelaide and Melbourne it appears that the transport "The Drayton Range," which is due in Sydney tomorrow, is crowded with 2000 troops, whereas there is no accommodation on board for

more than 1500. As a result of this disgraceful blunder many of the men have been unable to obtain sleeping quarters, but have had to tramp the deck night after night, and as may have been expected under such conditions, disease broke out among the troops.

The Albany authorities, so it is reported, refused to allow the sick passengers to land at that port, and the poor fellows had to come on in the boat, no less than five of them dying before Melbourne was reached, in addition to which there are 90

men ill suffering from enteric fever, measles, and pneumonia, consequent to measles.

Among those who died and were buried at sea, was Farrier Thomas Harland, of Olinda, Rylstone.

The shocking disregard for human life shown in connection with this matter is nothing short of criminal, and we are pleased to learn that Sir William Lyne, is causing a full enquiry into the matter to be made (Rylstone Express, 8 August 1902 p. 9).

ANOTHER DESTRUCTIVE PEST Iguanas attacking Sheep at Rylstone (1898)

For some time past sheep owners in the Rylstone district have suffered heavy losses amongst their lambs, and have been puzzled to know what fresh destroying angel had entered their runs. The puzzle is now solved, Mr George Hardy, of Genowlan, discovered that the iguana, hitherto supposed to be perfectly harmless, excepting

in the poultry yards, was the slaughterer of the lambs. Since Mr Hardy's discovery, other sheep owners have caught the iguana in the act, so there can be no doubt that this reptile must now be classed amongst the enemies of the pastoralists. The scarcity of opossums, since so many men have been compelled to depend upon their guns for a

living, has no doubt driven the iguana to attack the lambs for food, his natural prey being too hard to get hold of. Pastoralists who, since the discovery, have watched their lands closely, say that even very small iguanas will attack a lamb, and further state that any lamb so bit will not recover (Singleton Argus, 6 December 1898, p. 4)

GOLD MINING AROUND CUDGEGONG 1873

The main Mudgee Road, far as I travelled it to Cudgegong, is really an excellent one, well metalled and kept in fair repairs; a marked improvement on its state not many months back, when a journey along it was a terror to travellers. Cudgegong is a neat little village, the first coach stage, distant from Mudgee about 18 miles, situated close to the river in the heart of what appears to be at this time of the season a most picturesque country. For the accommodation of travellers there are two good hotels close to the wayside; and of stores a similar number. On the hills above the road stands a pretty little building used as a Public school at present, originally intended for the church. Back of the village about a mile, at the eastern side of the river, a few reefs have lately been prospected, and a crushing plant is in course of erection.

This mill, ordered by Messrs Mott and Harvey (two thoroughly practical men) from Messrs Russell and Co, is considered by practical judges to be one of the most complete little plants to be found in the colony. By the suggestions and from the plans of its owners, several improvements have been made – principally in the battery, the tabling being on the usual principle of drop wells and copper strikes. The boxes are regularly oval, gradually rounded at base under the fall. By this means the stuff is kept closer, the battery is more easily cleaned, and the space for the grating is enlarged – ensuring a more regular discharge. The cans are also on

a new principal, sturdier in lift, and smoother in action. The engine is a horizontal, of 10 horse power, to drive 8 heads of 6 cwt stamps in two batteries, and 1 head independent for prospecting purposes. As the machinery was only unpacked at the time of my visit, I had not an opportunity of properly examining its action. After trial, Mr Harvey has kindly promised to furnish particulars of improvements and their action to publication in the Sydney Mail. The reefs are situated east of the machine on the sides of the ranges, and a good climb has to be undertaken by the visitor to reach the workings.

The spurs being steep afford a good opportunity for the working parties to tunnel, of which (in most cases) they have availed themselves; and onto lines – the Old Reef and the Peeping Tom – several claims have opened up ground displaying very fair bodies of rubble stone. From the latter line a lot of over 6 tons, tried in Sydney, went over 2 ounces to the ton, from No 1 south of the line, went at the rate of 3 ounces to the ton. Dozens of leases held by parties, and, in consequence

of some not been created, are idle – an opportunity being given for parties to hold and take advantage of others' labour. To Messrs Mott and Harvey, the spirited proprietors of the new machine, such a state of affairs is unsatisfactory; for, instead of hundreds of tons of stone being in readiness for the plant to start upon, at present the show in the paddocks is miserably small.

From Cudgegong I had a ride of about 20 miles along the river to Rylstone, passing on my way the once famous cinnabar mine, which is situated on the River 5 miles east of the village of Cudgegong. This property two years ago made quite a stir, and a fine plant was erected, retorts &c. The mine is now deluged and the plant idle – a position that they have been in some time. That cinnabar does exist in the locality has been indisputably proved, as several detached masses have been found, some of them large, but few and far between. The question as to “whether the money for it would pay or not?” As yet has not been satisfactorily settled (Sydney Morning Herald, 22 December 1873, p. 7).

The People's Tailor

Having started a TAILORING Business in Rylstone, I respectfully solicit a fair share of public patronage from the residents of this district.

Nothing but first-class materials on hand. All garments HAND MADE and well cut, whilst I also guarantee first-class fit.

TWEED SAC SUITS made to order from £3,

TROUSERS to order from £1 1s.

NAVY BLUE SERGE SUITS all handmade, from £4.

A really nice lot of patterns to select from, available for the coming season.

G NIXON, TAILOR, Lue st, Rylstone.

N B – Ladies tailor-made coats and skirts, and ladies riding habits made to order (Rylstone Express 26 April 1901, p 15).

SHIRE OF RYLSTONE

Minutes of meeting of the Rylstone Shire Council held in the Council Chambers
on January 13, 1927 at 4:20 PM

PRESENT – Councillors
Underwood, Crewdson,
Simpkins, Jennings, Jamison
and MacPherson.

WORKS COMMITTEES

REPORTS –

The Chairman reported on
behalf of the Committee

1. That Cr. Jamison's offer to
continue the supervision of St
John's Wort eradication be
accepted and that Cr Jamison
be thanked for his services in
that respect.

2. That the Standard Portland
Cement Co Ltd, Charbon town
should be approved, and plans
sealed, subject to the matters
set out in the Engineer's report
being satisfactorily carried out.

3. That subdivision of Lot 1
section 10 Rodgers Street
Kandos be approved.

4. That the minimum size of allotment
of land on which a dwelling may be
erected to those parts of the Shire to
which the Building Ordinance applies
be fixed at 8700 square feet.

5. That Miss Ferguson and Mrs
Babidge be given seven days to
make firebreak on their land in Louee
Street, Rylstone and in default the
Council carry out the work and
charge the cost to them.

6. That Barbers shop licence
applications be granted to H E
Clifford, D Charles, Dempster &
Robinson and R E O'Brien.

7. That Building applications be
granted in satisfaction of applications
for permits, number, 1926 – 128
Gaudry, 129 Birch, 130 Simpson,
1927 – 1 Hollingsworth, 2 Hayes, 3
Couper, 4 Somerfield.

8. That Electricity consumers
agreements be altered, excess

services to commence from 35
feet inside the building line in
lieu of 20 feet at present. That
the alteration be retrospective
to the commencement of the
undertakings. That access
services be charged a rate of
9d per yard run.

9. That the agreement with the
Main Roads Board for Red Hill
work be signed and sealed with
the Council's common seal.

10. That application be made
for 1926 Main Roads Board
contribution of £ for £, also the
1927 £ for £ contribution.

11. That all maintenance men
be instructed that they must
keep rabbits dug out on the
roads.

12. The application of A
Truewell to erect a bowser be
granted subject to payment of
fee.

Narrango Turf Club

Monday Jan 27 1902

OFFICIALS

President, J C L Fitzpatrick,
Esq.; Vice-presidents, Messrs.
D M Jones and M Sheridan;
Committee, Messrs W Eames,
M Downey, A Jones, C
Caldwell, John Bonner, W
Cafe, P Halloran, James
Bonner, G Mills, A Sheridan;
Clerk of Scales, Mr P Halloran;
Clerk of Course, Mr J Nash;
Starter, Mr W R Jones; Judge,
Mr A H Nevell

PROGRAMME

First Race to start at 12:30 pm

OPENING HANDICAP, £4 10s,
second horse to receive 10s from
prize, distance six furlongs.

Second Race to start at 2 o'clock

HACK RACE, or £3 10s, second
horse to receive 10s from
prize, for all horses that have not
won a prize exceeding 30s at the
time of running; distance six
furlongs.

The third race to start at 3
o'clock.

NARRANGO AMATEUR TURF CLUB CUP.

Handicap with 5 sovs added
money, second horse to receive 1
sov from prize, winner of Opening

Handicap to carry 7 lbs penalty;
distance 1 mile.

Fourth Race to start at four
o'clock.

LADY'S BRACELET. A trophy
valued at £3; horses to be
nominated by ladies; whereof
Opening Cup to carry 7 lbs
penalty, such penalties to be
cumulative; distance 7 furlongs.

Fifth Race to start at 5 o'clock.

BEATEN STAKES, of – sovs,
entrance on the course; weights
after the Lady's Bracelet;
distance 6 furlongs (Rylstone
Express, 3 January 1902, p. 5).

Killed In Action

Lue Boy's Death

Word has been received that Pte. James Edward Wythes has been killed in action. The deceased was 20 years of age and was a native of Lue. He was adopted by Mrs Doggett of Lue, his parents having died when he was an infant. He belonged to the 1st Battalion, 1st Expeditionary Force and was one of the three soldiers who climbed to the highest point in the Pyramids in Egypt. We express to his relatives our deepest sympathy (Mudgee Guardian, 25 October 1915).

GRASSHOPPER PEST

Capertee Valley invaded (1935)

LITHGOW. Wednesday, – Grasshoppers have invaded the Capertee district. They have been thick about Running Stream, Ilford, Palmer's Oakey, and Upper Turon Creek, and already have done a considerable amount of damage to crops and pastures. In a few hours good crops, especially potatoes, completely disappear. At Ilford the pests are thinning out, and the cold weather has had an adverse effect on them (Sydney Morning Herald, 10 January 1935, p. 9).

Behaviour in Public

1902

In olden times the rules for "greetings in the market" and elsewhere were laid down with great precision, and the conduct of the members of the two sexes when out walking together was regulated with the greatest nicety. Most of these formal rules have gone out with the masks.

As regards the present etiquette of public recognitions between acquaintances, the rules are simple, and may be summarised as follows: – If a man meets a lady of his acquaintance in the street he waits for her to bow before raising his hat. If she stops, he does the same, and accepts her hand if offered, but does not usually take the initiative. If a conversation is begun, it is better manners for him to turn and walk on the direction in which she is going than to keep her standing in the street.

It becomes a little more complicated when a man and woman walking together meet a man with whom one of them is acquainted. Nevertheless, here, too, we easily elicit a plain guide for all occasions. If, in the case of two people, whom we will call for a

convenience Mr A and Miss Z, the approaching third is acquainted with Mr A, he, seeing him accompanied by a lady, raises his hat, to which Mr A responds by raising his, the lady, meantime, not being acquainted with her escort's friend, makes no movement. If, on the other hand, Miss X meets an acquaintance, she bows to him, and the two men, although unacquainted, both raise their hats. Again, if two men meet two ladies, and one of the men is acquainted with one of the ladies, both men raise their hats in response to the lady's bow, her companion, however, making no movement; while in the case of two women friends meeting, each accompanied by a man, their escorts both raise their hats, although personally unacquainted with any of the rest (Etiquette in Australia 1902, p. 56 -57).

Free Fight After Cricket (1881)

On Monday last, says the "Mudgee Independent," the Lue and Havilah cricket clubs met at Dungaree, the result being a victory for the former by 108 runs. The defeated team scored 86 in their two innings, none of them making double figures. On the winning side Willie Harford scored 25, Cox 21, Raynor 16 and J Waters 15. On both sides the fielding was good.

On the Lue side H Rope took 15 wickets and W Harford 5. When the Havilah team was beaten they sought satisfaction in a free fight, in which they figured even worse, most of them returning home with some sore heads and swollen nostrils (Evening News, 14 December 1881, p. 6).