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# RDHS Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

## Kandos-Rylstone Rail group looking down the track to a big 2018

The reinstatement of the rail link between Kandos and Rylstone hasn't necessarily guaranteed the return of a motorised train to this year's show, but 2018 will still be significant for the route.

Work on re-opening the rail line has been underway since late 2017, with little time wasted since the announcement of \$1.1 million in funding for the project back in October.

One of the goals for this year was to once again bring visitors from Lithgow to the Rylstone-Kandos Show in February on the 'Rylstone Rambler'.

While this may not come to fruition the Kandos - Rylstone Rail Heritage Precinct – a partnership between the Kandos Museum and Lithgow State Mine Railway - are looking further down the track.

They are hoping to make 2018 a "shakedown year", as they work towards their goal of making regular services out of the Capertee Valley journey and Kandos-Rylstone-Kandos rides.

The sleeper replacement is being done and the ballast for the line arrived last year. The signals are next on the agenda.

The work is scheduled for completion around June.

The group had also been hopeful of getting a motorised train to bring visitors from Lithgow through the Capertee Valley to the Rylstone-Kandos Show in February, where it will

also provide joyrides between Rylstone and Kandos, effectively as a show ride with tickets available at the event.

However, the previous train, which was nicknamed "Rylstone Rambler" for its time at the



**DOWN THE TRACK: Work on re-opening the rail line has been underway since late 2017**

show, has been relocated to Byron Bay.

Another has been sought by Lithgow State Mine Railway, however, the train needs work and they're currently trying to determine if it will be ready in time.

If a train does return for the show it will be for the first time since 2016 after it was mired in bureaucracy and cancelled last year.

Kandos Museum president, Buzz Sanderson, said the bigger goal for 2018 is making the train a regular service.

"The longer term prospect is

making it more than a once-a-year event," he said.

"By the end of 2018 I would like to see us having established; once-a-month Lithgow to Rylstone, as a product; as well as Rylstone-Kandos-Rylstone shuttle [weekends], for visitors that are already in Mudgee as part of their experience in the region. So this is going to be a bit of a shakedown year and a learning exercise in how to put those things together. And knock the rough corners off."

Work will also continue at the Kandos Station.

"The Museum has taken over occupancy of the Kandos Railway Station, we're doing a bit of a cleanup there, and going to turn that into a bit of an annex and put some display material down there," Mr Sanderson said.

(Source: Sam Potts, Lithgow Mercury, 'Kandos-Rylstone Rail group looking down the track to a big 2018', <http://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/story/5164303/kandos-rylstone-rail-group-looking-down-the-track-to-a-big-2018/>, accessed 13 January 2018)



**Work on the sleeper replacement at the Kandos level crossing**

# Interesting News

## Rylstone StreetFeast

RDHS had a very successful stall at StreetFeast. Many thanks for the members who manned the stall on the day.

## Trash & Treasure

Our Trash & Treasure day was a great success. The weather was kind to us until around 12.30 when we had rain but everyone still seemed to enjoy themselves. Trash & treasure day will be held again in the first quarter of 2018.

## New Kandos History website

Local Kandos historian, Colleen O'SULLIVAN, has announced the launch of a new website to promote the town of Kandos and provide a forum for its history.

The website, Kandos History, can be found at [kandoshistory.com](http://kandoshistory.com).



## 100 years ago....

### Riding Accident at Bylong.

As reported in the Rylstone News Page Mr. John Chapman, of Bylong met with a serious accident on Sunday afternoon. He was riding a horse, which bucked and threw him off. In the fall Mr. Chapman had his pelvis bone broken. He also received serious internal injuries. Dr. Allsop, who is acting as locum tenens for Dr. Hansard, was telegraphed for, and immediately went on to the scene of the accident, driven by Mr. McLachlan, in his motor car. On Monday morning Mr. Chapman was taken in, on an improved stretcher to Rylstone, and was admitted to the hospital there. At the hospital all possible attention was given to him. We hope soon to hear of Mr. Chapman's complete recovery.

Mudgee Guardian, 17 January 1918

## Dabee Female Servant Ledger (1863)

During my dissertation research in 2013-2014, an 1863 ledger for Rylstone pastoral property, Dabee, was located in the collection of the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Below is an extract of names of female servants hired by the FITZGERALD's to run the main house.

The ledger gives an interesting insight into the hierarchy in domestic service arrangements through salaries paid, yet there is much more that can be gleaned from this information than can be reported here.

If anyone has a connection to any of these names, please let me know and I can provide further information. I will add copies of the ledger pages to the RDHS files in the Cottage Museum for future researchers.

At the front of the ledger is inscribed the following:

*My dear Adelaide*

*I hand you this book to keep the accounts of the female servants in*

*whenever you settle with these good people always take their receipts as I have done today and where they draw any money to acct always let them put their initials opposite to the sums so drawn.*

*Your affectionate father*

*R. Fitzgerald*

*30 March 1863*

*Monday*

Female servants named in ledger:

CONNELLY, Theresa (Cook)

DUNCAN, Mrs (Cook)

GEOGHEGAN, Anne/Annie (House & Parlour Maid)

GORMAN, Maria (Cook)

HAND, Catherine (Laundress)

McGEE, Elizabeth Ann/Eliza (Needle Woman)

McMAHON, Ellen (Laundress)

MORAN (MORGAN), Eliza (Cook)

MURPHY, Margaret (Cook)

RYAN, Ellen (House & Parlour Maid)

SMITH, Mary (Cook)

SPENCER, Eliza (Laundress)

SULLIVAN, Margaret (House & Parlour Maid)

THORNE, Ann (Laundress)

WALSH, Catherine (Laundress)

Adelaide was born in 1839, the daughter of Robert FITZGERALD (1807-1865) and Hannah FITZGERALD. Adelaide's brother, Robert Marsden FITZGERALD, inherited Dabee on their father's death.

(Source: 'Ledger of accounts: female servants, ca. 1863-1869', Box 1, Fitzgerald and Evans family further papers, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, MLMSS 9328)

# Rylstone's Boer War Memorial Receives Restoration Works

Rylstone's Boer War Memorial has been returned to its former glory following restoration works by Council.

Council secured \$2,500 through the NSW Government's Community War Memorials Fund to complete cleaning and repairs of the marble obelisk.

The monument was erected in memory of Rylstone servicemen who were killed in action during the South African conflict. Council recognises the significance of the region's war memorials and regularly applies for grant funding to restore and maintain these historic monuments.

Council maintains a number of war memorials and monuments throughout the Mid-Western Region in Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos.

(Source: Mid-Western Regional Council on Facebook)



**Rylstone's Boer War Memorial**  
(Photo: Mid-Western Regional Council)



**Rylstone Boer War Soldiers**  
Thomas **BROWN** (seated), son of Archibald Arthur **BROWN**.  
(Photo: Shirley TUNNICLIFF)

## Stanley Gillick DRUMMOND (1884-1943)

Stanley Gillick DRUMMOND was a Methodist minister and founder of the Far West Children's Health Scheme. He was born on 22 May 1884 at Attunga, New South Wales, elder son of James DRUMMOND and his native-born wife Mary Jane, née RICHARDSON.

DRUMMOND suddenly decided to enter the Methodist ministry, studied at the Sydney Central Methodist Mission, and in late 1909 took charge of the Home Mission station at Bulahdelah. In his first year he was thrown from a sulky on to his hip and spent eighteen months in pain in an iron splint, moving with the aid of crutches. He eventually recovered but retained a slight limp. At Bowral on 13 November 1911, describing himself as an artist, he married 35-year-old Lucy DOUST, who had been a mission sister at the Central Methodist Mission.

Admitted to the ministry, DRUMMOND was in charge of the Rylstone circuit (1914-18), Canowindra (1919-22) and Yass (1923). In April next year he became superintendent of the Far West

Mission based at Cobar and travelled extensively with his wife in the heat and dust of the area. Recuperating on Manly Beach from the removal of his gall bladder, he had on 6 December what he described as an inspiration: 'to bring from the Far West to the seaside, children of the kind who would otherwise never see the sea



during their childhood'. The DRUMMONDs returned to Cobar, and in January 1925 brought to Sydney a party of 58 children and 6 mothers, whereupon DRUMMOND returned to organize a second group of 128. The speed and enthusiasm with which he acted were typical—details were left to

others with resulting financial troubles and chaotic arrangements. DRUMMOND also learned that many children needed not so much a seaside holiday as medical, surgical and dental attention, and the original idea was changed to become the Far West Children's Health Scheme.

DRUMMOND was an inspired man from that moment on Manly Beach in 1924 and he did not spare himself, his devoted wife or other supporters in pursuing the dream of helping far west children.

DRUMMOND's inspiration seemed to have had little of a directly religious nature in it—he rarely talked of religion and insisted that the scheme was non-sectarian. He was spurred by his own pain from the hip injury, his love of children combined with disappointment at having none of his own, and his acquaintance with difficulties of life in the outback.

(Source: Bruce Mitchell, "Drummond, Stanley Gillick (1884–1943)", Australian Dictionary of Biography, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/drummond-stanley-gillick-6020>, accessed 6 January 2018)



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Facebook: [@RylstoneCottageMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RylstoneCottageMuseum)

Twitter: [@RylstoneHistSoc](https://twitter.com/RylstoneHistSoc)

## 2017-2018 Committee

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Allan WILLS, Terrence KEEN and Hugh MALONE

**Public Officer:** Carolyn BARLOW

**Patron:** George McDONALD

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Newsletter contributions welcomed.

Contact: [newsletter@rylstonehistory.org.au](mailto:newsletter@rylstonehistory.org.au)



# History Week 2018

The History Council of NSW has announced the theme for History Week in 2018, which will run from 1-9 September 2018.

The History Council of NSW's flagship festival, History Week 2018: 'Life and Death', will explore life's defining moments and the impact of death on communities across time.

The theme of Life and Death includes stories about life's milestones and how different cultures come to terms with death. How do we commemorate people's lives and what do rituals and burial practices reveal about our relationship with and understanding of life and death? History Week will investigate how death has been feared, used as form of punishment and shattered

communities. But it will also show how communities have rebuilt after loss, shared stories across generations and inspired remembrance and creative expression.

For further information, visit the History of Council website at <https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week-2018-life-and-death/>



(Source: RDHS Collection)

# DAVIS family photos

Can you identify any of these DAVIS family members?



## Newsletter Publication

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- 28 February 2018
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