

# GLENBROOK POINTS

Newsletter of Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc.



POINTSMAN'S COTTAGE

**OCT-NOV '16**

Postal address P.O. Box 38 Glenbrook NSW 2773

Contacts: President Joan Peard 0414 605 482 or Secretary Neil McGlashan 4739 9864

E-mail:- gdhs@gmail.com Facebook:- Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc

Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly at 1.30 pm (except Dec-Jan) Glenbrook Guides Hall  
cnr Hare & Moore Sts Glenbrook

**"History Walks" 2017 Programme ALL on SATURDAYS led by Doug Knowles & team**

March	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<u>Glenbrook Lagoon Precinct:</u> the first water supply for the 1867 railway, and later developments.	<b>\$10.00</b>
	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<u>Descent to the West:</u> Mt. York: Short return walks on three of the most historic roads to the west. Cox's Pass 1815. Lawsons Road 1822, and the newest: Berghofer's Pass, 1909 Includes tea/coffee, biscuits.	<b>\$15.00</b>
April	8 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	<u>"The Duckhole" Glenbrook Creek.</u> Original roadway built for access to pump site for railway water supply 1882.	<b>\$10.00</b>
May	6 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	<u>"Bull's Creek Dam"</u> Railway water supply. Stone dam, pump, pipeline relics.	<b>\$10.00</b>
June	10 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	<u>The Mountains Murders,</u> Captain Lee Weller's murder site and first grave	<b>\$10.00</b>
July	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<u>Zig Zag 'A' Special Walk: The Eastern Zig Zag '1867.</u> This walk is focussed on the Knapsack Gully stone viaduct offering good photographic opportunities. This walk includes Gatehouse No1. 1867. (Tea/coffee biscuits.)	<b>\$15.00</b>
	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<u>Zig Zag 'B' Special walk: 'Eastern Zig Zag'</u> this walk on the 1867 Zig Zag Railway, also extends to the first improvement, the lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892. East Portal only, and the 'washaway' section (1906). (Tea/coffee, biscuits)	<b>\$15.00</b>
	29 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	<u>Lapstone Construction (temporary,) Railway 1910-1913.</u> Explore the supply to enable construction of the present-day Glenbrook Gorge double track railway. Also see East Portal of the 1892 Lapstone Hill Tunnel.	<b>\$10.00</b>
Aug.	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<u>Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill and incline railway.</u> See boiler, engine parts and other relics. 1914 –1925. <b>(Steep terrain, Allow 3 ½ hours.)</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
Sept.	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<u>Lennox Bridge, Brookside Creek and old quarry, Dunn's Mill relics/earth dam.</u>	<b>\$10.00</b>
Oct.	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<u>Glenbrook Discovery: Heritage Walk.</u> Historic sites, houses and 1892 railway route to Lapstone Tunnel, West Portal.	<b>\$10.00</b>

*Children under 16yrs. Free-but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

**BOOKINGS are ESSENTIAL: Phone Doug. on 4751 3275 for details re meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water.**

**BAD WEATHER ON DAY: excessive wind & rain could cause cancellation due to hazardous.. conditions. (No dogs please.)**

# PAM'S PAGE

## GLENBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL

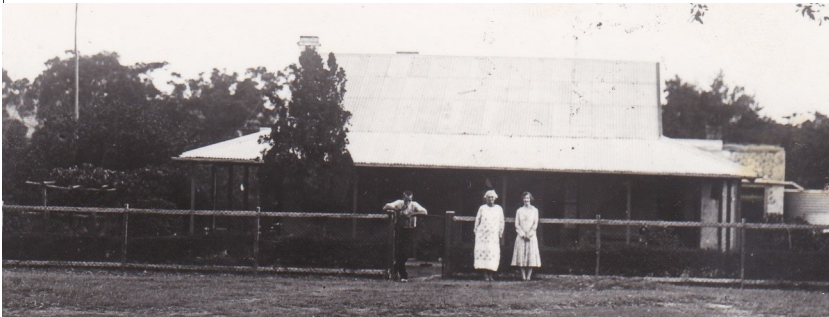
The original public school was a small weatherboard building situated in the corner of Glenbrook Park facing Green St. It opened in 1892, (*Editor.. refer to previous article in Apr/May newsletter 2015 "Schooldays of Glenbrook 1881-92"*). In 1893 the old building was moved across the park to what is today the corner of Ross & Wascoe Sts., this building, in it's new position, continued to be the only schoolroom in Glenbrook for another eight years.

Thus in 1911 a new building was erected, it consisted of 2 classrooms, built of brick and faced Ross St. By 1912-13 with an influx of children, because of the new railway deviation, some classes had to be held in the School of Arts building, and the old wooden school was finally demolished in 1937 after serving the village for 45 years.



**SCHOOL ALTERATIONS 1936**

Over the years new buildings were built on the site. In 1955 a double classroom was added soon to be joined by another 3 small weatherboard rooms. But it was realised that more rooms were needed as the population of Glenbrook was growing rapidly. From 1954 new sites were being investigated for a new and larger school. A parcel of land was purchased, in what was then Brook St., from the Wood family. It was one of the oldest homes in Glenbrook situated near the corner of Peel & Brook Sts, now Woodville Rd.. and originally the land was an orchard. Unfortunately the building was demolished to make way for the new school.



**WOOD FAMILY HOME BROOK ST.**

By 1960 the Dept. of Education had accepted a tender of 20,308 Pounds (\$40,616) to build the new school, which was planned to be ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> term 1961. On May 5<sup>th</sup> Primary classes started with a grand opening, followed by the Annual Fete on 12<sup>th</sup> May which combined with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Public Schools in Glenbrook. Infants department remained at the Ross St site, finally in 2013 these children were moved to join the Primary school and so another chapter in Glenbrook's Public Schools began.

The Glenbrook & District Historical Society now operates a very interesting museum from one of the small weatherboard rooms and is open on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 9a.m. to 1.30 p.m. This coincides with the Rotary market days. Come and visit us, there are many interesting displays and we welcome new members... entrance is free. Two members of the Society are in "Glenbrook class of '38", Joan Peard & Tim Miers. Teacher is Miss Pearce.



**GLENBROOK CLASS of '38**



# ***BLAXLAND FARM***

*by Davina Curnow*

Many residents of Blaxland would be unaware that there was once a large Produce Farm in Blaxland on Old Bathurst Road, where Blaxland East Public School, East Blaxland shops, and the new housing development on Mitchell Pass are sited. The farm produced vegetables, chickens, eggs and milk which were sold locally and to the Sydney Markets. There was a



**CHOOK FARM OLD BATHURST RD.**

windmill and two dams, one of which is still visible on private land on The High Road, then part of the Farm. The large parcel of land, part of the original Barnett Levey grant, was purchased by George Thomas Senior (a Sydney Architect) in 1918 and later developed during the Depression in 1929 with his



**THE STONE HOUSE HIGH RD. c1930**

two sons, George and David. They lived with relatives, the Skarrats at 'Mountside' Glenbrook until they built a home on the farm. Now a private home, 'The Stone House' was originally known as 'Vallevatu'. It has since been renovated, retaining many original features. It was let out to residents over the years after they built another home on the farm. This house also remains on the original site privately owned.

The Thomas family employed a farm hand to assist with building the farm yards and big sheds and grew peanuts, fruit, lucerne and corn for feeding chickens and the cow, which with other produce was sent down to Mitchell Pass on a flying Fox using their generator, before electricity was available.

George and David continued the farm for some years with paid assistance while George lived in the main farm house. David built a small cottage in Old Bathurst Road, which remains on site today. Then they subdivided and sold land and developed The High Road and Normic Ave, which were original tracks through the farm.

Later they donated land for the Kindergarten and the Park in Boorea Street, after developing and selling land known as 'Blaxland Gardens Estate'. George and David built their own new homes in Wilson Way where David remained in residence until selling the last remains of his land 2003.



**GEORGE K.BUNYAN  
1984**

**FROM THE EDITOR:-** In these memoirs written by George K.Bunyan of Glenbrook (1904-1990), he makes mention of George Thomas Snr. Below is a transcript of this memoir, which was hand written and believed to have been for an address to a St.Andrews Church meeting- c1960.

*"I remember when Glenbrook had 104 houses with a population of around 400 and I found the best wife any man could have in that 400. I remember when the railway line, as it is today, was opened, also when they first took the railway line around the loop at Blaxland. I had one of the first rides around it with my family, we wondered where we were going as we went up the old line to Lithgow and around the loop on our return in about 7 days.*

*My memory takes me back to the old buggy-type of car driven by an engine. Mr Tremaire of Emu Plains owned it. I have seen the introduction of wireless, the crystal set then the valve set. In the 1930's we owned one of the first valve sets in Glenbrook and we used to have all the cricket*

*fans come down to the house at the butchers shop to hear the test cricket broadcast from England. I also remember as a boy, at Emu Plains before the wireless, we used to go over to the railway line call out "paper" to the passengers in the train, to get the latest newspapers.*

*Also, the man that was shot under the first rail subway at Valley Heights and brought back and pushed under a log in Rusden Rd. in those days this road had 2 poultry farms in it and George Thomas had a house in what is now known as High Rd. He used to let a large billy can run down a wire from the top down to the road, now Mitchells Pass, and I would put his meat order in it and he would pull it back up.*



**1920 "FODEN" STEAM TRACTOR/LORRY**

*I remember Harry Webb used to drive a "Foden" steam tractor/lorry to repair the roads. The Council used a quarry in Mitchells Pass to get stone for the roads, they used to crack it up with small hammers. I remember the walks into the bush & gullies, the flowers, the ferns and the "Red Hand" cave.*

*Catching cray fish in the creek running into the Blue Pool.*

*I remember the bush fires over a period of 60yrs in Glenbrook and as a boy, the fires in area what was then known as the "black ridge" (editor:- this is the Eastern escarpment which*

*was thought to have a large iron stone content). I remember the area along the Great Western Highway Glenbrook, running from the oval, the bowling club & Whitton park, was just full of tea tree scrub. I remember when water & electricity came to Glenbrook... 1920-30, the building of our church and the fight to stop the Manse going to Blaxland.*

## From the Secretarys Desk

**1. Plastic Plaque for rock-face at Mitchell's Pass:** Nothing to update at this time. **2. Glenbrook Park: Plan of Management and Masterplan:** Joan – spoken to Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow and it is in abeyance until the new council is appointed in September. **3. Glenbrook Gateway Monument:** - Awaiting result of Community Grant applied for. **4. Bill's Horse Trough:** - Awaiting result of Community Grant applied for. **5.**

**Brochure display:** Joan Update – paid the \$121 to the Visitor Information Centre. Can go on their

Facebook page which Denis will follow up. We can put events brochures in a special area as long as there are dates which our "History Walks" programme has.

**6. Mushroom Tunnel:** Update – we had a meeting with DPI-Lands on-site Wednesday 27th July 2016 – D. Knowles, E. Saxton and N. McGlashan attended on behalf of GDHS, to show the impressive clean up outside the Western portal. Any further work is subject to funding. **7. Spring Fair display:** Australian Plants Society Blue Mountains Group 10th and 11th September. Neil to put a section of historical photos on display. Will have Nell's book to sell with

my copy for viewing. Plenty of flyers of 2017 "History Walks".



**: PRES. JOAN**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 21/9/2016

I have felt very privileged to be your president for past year. I think we have had a smooth ride, thanks to the help from Neil as secretary/ treasurer, he has been very professional and dedicated to the position. To the rest of the executive members, thank you for being so agreeable with all the work we were able to achieve, we all worked well together. To Maureen & Pam for catering, we can always rely on them. To Doug for his dedication for the History Walks program and keeping the museum operating with the assistance of David, Tim, Denis and all others that helped. To Mary for all the behind scenes with computer work throughout the year and thanks to those stand-ins who attended functions for which I could not.



We have had various guest speakers...Allan Walsh from Blue Mountains Education & Research Trust, promoting their books, which we agreed to sell through the museum, recently candidates for Federal and Council elections.

At last our Blinky Bill bus shelter is now underway and Jayne is hoping to finish shortly. The new plaque to replace that stolen at Lennox bridge, dedicated to opening of Mitchells Pass Rd in 1834, is now ready... thanks to Pam & Doug. Thanks to Elizabeth, we now have Cox's Rd brochures to hand out or sell. Doug, Elizabeth & John D. attended all meeting re future of Glenbrook Tunnel. There has been outings to historical venues. Pam & I attended the Anzac Day ceremony and placed a wreath for remembrance.

We are still in negotiation with Council re Gateway Wall change of date, also in regard to horse trough. Hope to have something concrete by next meeting. In regard to above work in progress, we have applied for a State Government grant to cover these items.

Our recent social & historical event was our visit to 3 historical homes in Glenbrook. I am sure all who attended enjoyed the afternoon immensely and to top it all off, a lovely afternoon tea. Thanks go to John & Sue Dikeman, David Payne & Coleen, Teena & Martin Bell, and all the helpers.

Last but not least to Bill, for dedication for producing and editing our bi-monthly newsletter "Glenbrook Points" and to Pam for her input "Pam's Page" which is always interesting, and to others who have had an input to the Newsletter, thank you. We received a book, donated by Trish Murnane, on "History & Celebration of St. Finbars 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary", written by Trish. Sadly her mother who is one of our oldest members, Shirley Konza, has been ill and with great agony the children have had to place her in a retirement village at Rooty Hill.

At this point I would say thank you to our Mayor, Mark Greenhill, for his donation of \$1000 to use as we wish. We have recently established membership with Glenbrook Information Centre which allows us to place our brochures in both Glenbrook & Katoomba outlets. We also have access to their facebook and internet sites. Thanks to Denis for offering to look after that area. They have agreed to sell our History book. Thanks to Denis and Neil for choosing our new computer with internet connection. We also have a new P.A. system purchased recently. On writing this report I feel we have together achieved quite a lot this year, as we have in the past, so on this note thank so much for allowing me to be your President for the past year

## **Election of Office Bearers: for the period** **Sept.2016 to Sept.2017.**

**President:** Joan Peard ..**Vice Presidents:** 1. Doug Knowles 2 .Kevin Frappell  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Neil McGlashen..**Committee:** Pam Thompson, Denis Bainbridge & Ian Dingwell. **Publicity Officer:** Anne Peters. **Catering:** Pam Thompson & Maureen Halford. **Research:** Ron Talyor. **Social/Activities:** Pam Pascoe.  
**Libraian:** Jennifer McGlashin. **Historian:** Tim Miers. **Museum Activities:** Doug Knowles **New membership/Publications:** Mary Knowles

## **GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.**

### **OFFICE BEARERS 2016-2017**

<b>President</b>	<b>Joan Peard</b>	<b>0414605482</b>
<b>Vice- Presidents</b>	<b>Kevin Frappell</b>	<b>Doug Knowles</b>
<b>Secretary /Treasurer</b>	<b>Neil McGlashan</b>	<b>Chief Historian Tim Miers</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Pam Thompson</b>	<b>Denis Bainbridge Ian Dingwell</b>

**Glenbrook & D.H. Society Museum is situated within Old Glenbrook Infants School, Ross St. Entrance via Park or Ross Sts Museum is open 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
9 am to 1.30 pm. Entrance FREE**



