

# GLENBROOK POINTS

**NEWSLETTER OF GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**



**POINTSMAN'S COTTAGE**

**OCT NOV '15**

Postal address P.O. Box 38 Glenbrook NSW 2773

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

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

## **"History Walks" 2016 Programme ALL on SATURDAYS**

**Walks led by Doug Knowles & Frank Bowman**

March 12th 9.00am "Eastern Zig Zag Railway 1867" and the first improvement: the Lapstone Tunnel route 1892.

26th 9.00am "The Descent to the West" Mt. York: Three short return walks on the three most historic roads to the West, Cox's Pass 1815, Lawsons Road 1822 and the newest: Berghofer's Pass 1909 Includes morning tea: Special Walk: \$12.00

April 9th 1.30pm "Bull 's Creek" Railway relics:-Stone dam and site.

23rd 1.30pm "Duck Hole--Glenbrook Creek." Old Roadway construction and pump site for railway water supply.

May 14th 1.30pm "The Mountains Murders. Captain Lee Weller's grave site and rock inscriptions

. June 4th 1.30pm "Lapstone Construction Railway" 1910--1913 and east portal of Lapstone tunnel 1892.

25th 1.30pm "Cox's Road." Walk along a section of this historic road following the ridge-top from Linden to Woodford Trig.

**ADULTS: 8.00 ea. Children under 16yrs. Free-but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. (No dogs please.) 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.**

# PAM'S PAGE

## **GLENBROOK PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN**

In 1945-6 Mrs Anne Potter, from Glenbrook general store & newsagency, and Mrs Knott commenced a pre-school kindergarten in the School of Arts building (now the Community Centre), Mrs Joyce Berry (now Price) & Mrs Melvie Ide were to join them in 1951, when the Potter's sold their newsagency and left the village. On 10<sup>th</sup> February 1954 a meeting of the Kindergarten Association was held in the home of treasurers Mr & Mrs Allen Llewellyn of Lucasville Rd.

The retiring President, Mrs Knott, said in her annual report "the Association has had a very successful year, their fundraising efforts had been assisted by the Springwood Players production of 'When we were married' which was a great success". Another popular event had been provided by the children themselves who had performed some entertaining items for their parents at their Christmas party. The meeting was told that an area of land on the SE corner of Hare & Moore St. has been made

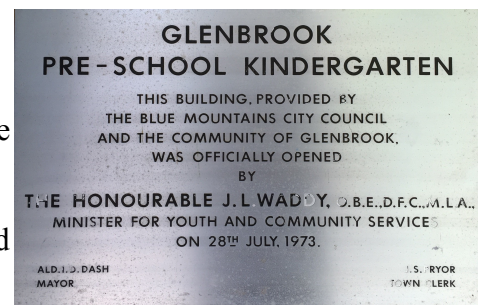


available for their use. Mrs Knott thanked all saying that the membership had increased, indicating to the community the importance of a pre-school Kindergarten.

The incoming President, Mrs Avonia Wright, thanked Mrs Knott for all her hard work and said the Association would continue to raise funds to erect & equip it's own building, there are many children of kindergarten age in Glenbrook and numbers are growing yearly. c1955, a disused army building was purchased. and placed on the site & after much hard work by members of the Association the building was ready for the children. On 16<sup>th</sup> January 1956, my husband, Alan, and the President laid the cement slab for the toilet block. I can well remember the date, as it was the day my son was born.

The number of children attending was increasing with the attendance of children from the RAAF married quarters. A RAAF bus would collect the children from the quarters and pick up & return others along the way.

A new site was aquired for the Pre-School Kindergarten and a beautiful new building and playground was built in Dean St Glenbrook & officially opened on 28/7/1973.



**EDITOR:** *In the last edition of newsletter under Pam's Page, I asked the question. "I cannot find any evidence of dressing sheds being erected, can any member assist on this topic?" "The following answer comes from our own member, Tim Miers:-"I can tell you exactly where the 'dressing sheds' were, they got washed away in the floods. They were on the west bank for many years. A bridge was put in, in 1930, funded by the Federal relief fund. It was also washed away. Many years later when I was in the Boy Scouts, we built another bridge. It met with the same demise.*

## From the Secretary's Desk

**Extract from General Meeting: 19th August, 2015 at Glenbrook Guide Hall,**

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** i) Need to procure a quote for a market stall with cover. We would need to decide before January, Aust. Day 2016. ii) Dennis and Barry recommend a DVD player to simplify showing presentations etc. from the big screen. The cost would be about \$70. Barry Fraser will take the tower and have Windows 10 downloaded. iii) Approval for new 2016 programme of History Walks. iv) letter from Jan O'Leary to Fairfax re amalgamation of Penrith Press and Blue Mts. Gazette. v) New membership applications accepted: Noel Cather, Steven Luker and Gay Hendriksen.



### Extract from A.G.M. 2015

**Joan Peard: re The Bus Shelter,** The artist, Jane Sheppard, started the work today and asked us not to take notice of the under-colour: it is bright orange. The contract is signed, and she said that she would donate to the Museum the work-sheet she had done for the Council. The hand-prints on the last bus shelter were what the children did in 1992, but with this OH & S business, Council will not allow that. But because she is the contractor and has got the insurance, they will allow her grandchildren to do it. The markings on it will be the same. She will work on it for about 3 days per week. (Denis has offered to take a video of it.)



**EDITOR:** *The work has now commenced, see photo above 1/10/15*

*ANNUAL XMAS DINNER will be held at Lapstone hotel Tuesday 1st December... keep this date free.*

## Glenbrook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

**1942-53 by Tim Miers (written 2003)**

Glenbrook V. Bush Fire Brigade (now known as Rural Fire Service) was formed in 1942 by George K Bunyan as Captain, and Stan Edwards as his Deputy. It consisted as a "lift on" tank unit which was stored in the rear yard of George Bunyan's home and butchers shop in Ross St. Stan Edwards' Oldsmobile truck was used to transport the water tank. As there was no town water in the early days, tanks, wells and dams were the only water supply. There were also very deep wells at Bland's, Woods' in Brook St (now Woodville Rd.) and Dunn's in Moore St. St. Peter's Anglican Church bell rang to warn people of a fire. After WWII ended, the air raid siren during the war, which was fixed to a light pole at Forrester's garage (now Caltex), was used as a fire siren until the new fire station was built by volunteer labour in Wascoe St and opened in October in 1951. This building is now used as the Lower Mountains S.E.S. Station.

**EDITOR.** *(This site was later purchased by The Anglican Church and changed to a "Mens Shed" before becoming part of the current rebuilt Anglican Church.)*

During the war years with most young men in the Services, only older men & boys were available, so it was 'one in all in' situation. That is when I first started fire fighting. In 1945 Council purchased an ex RAAF pumper trailer which was stored at Charlie Forrester's garage and towed by private vehicles. In 1950, Melton Knowles, an Engineer member, built a unit from a 1936 Dodge truck (ex Bonds Hosiery) purchased from Stan Edwards for 200 Pounds. A second hand fuel storage tank and the motor/pump unit from the trailer were used.

In later years an instrument for measuring bearings was set up in George Bunyan's front garden, which was on reasonably high land in Hare St. This was used for sighting of distant fires and was later used by Glenbrook/Lapston Rural Fire Service, on the tower next to the station in Hodgson Rd. As the old instrument (known as an 'Alidale') was replaced by a new version, this instrument was given to NSW Fire Brigade 301 Station Glenbrook for their local collection of fire items. The Dodge Fire Tanker was sold to Castlereagh VBFB (from memory for 100 pounds) where it gave more years of service

Our Fire Brigade had a very good safety record, having only one serious accident. Leo Langtry caught his hand in a radiator pump motor and sustained damage to a finger.

In 1953 the Board of Fire Commissioners took over the Wascoe St. Station. Those members of the old Brigade who lived and worked locally and were able to respond on a 24/7 basis were able to apply to join the Board's new team.

#### **Some funny incidents from the past:**

The local publican, Joseph Langtry, from the temporary bar of Lapsone Hotel near fire station, provided a free beer to members of returning crews. A local resident blackened his face, sat in the park and lined up each time. The barman recognised him after a few times and remarked



*Temporary Road Bar Lapstone Hotel c 1950*

“you have been to a few fires today, mate” and that put an end to his scheme.

During a fire at Emu Plains, where only wet potato sacks were being used, a lady resident, when the flames approached her house, became so worried that she slipped off her slacks, dipped them in the drum of water, and helped to beat out the flames.

On another occasion we were at a fire in Fletcher St., the crew were putting water on the outside toilet. I came along and yelled “let the toilet burn, save the house” An exited lady jumped out “let it burn be damned, I am in there”. Apparently she was seen entering the loo' but I had not seen her. During a fire in the

area which is now the Blaxland High School, we were told to go to the Copper Kettle Tea Rooms, on the Highway, for free tea & scones. It was a stinking hot day and the lady came out of the kitchen dressed only in a bra, panties & apron and said "don't mind me dressed like this, it is so bloody hot in the kitchen“, the crew replied “no worry love, just keep the tea & scones coming“

**EDITOR** *This is a shortened version of an article written by Tim Miers in 2003 when president of G&DHS. In 1953 the fire station became known as “NSW Fire Brigade 301 Station Glenbrook” and George K. Bunyan became the first Captain and retired in July 1969.*

## ***MEMORIES of GLENBROOK V. BUSHFIRE BRIGADE***

***By Doug Knowles c1945***

The members decided they needed a permanent building to house a fire tanker that they didn't yet have—Council provided the land (in Wascoe St) plus 75 pounds, a small fund to get started. Even then it was not enough to provide a fire station, so the members decided to "Do a Village Door Knock" for more funds. The door knock was voted a financial success. Still they didn't have enough funds

Conservative/cautious member, John McConville said "We can't start yet—Not enough funds to complete. Progressive members, Bill Watts, Melton Knowles and other progressive members realised they had enough to get started—"Our funds will cover the cash cost of cement, sand, gravel and steel mesh. Let's get started, THEN DO ANOTHER

"Door Knock." So they started—all labour voluntary, and completed the concrete footings. They did another village "Door Knock"—This



***GLENBROOK V. BUSH FIRE BRIGADE OCT. 1951***

yielded enough funds to complete the building. Melton Knowles said: "On the first doorknock we got ten bobs and quids. This time we got 10 quids and often lots more. **Thus, the building was completed, again with all voluntary labour.** Regarding the fitting-up of the 1938 Dodge truck with the tank etc: The tank was purchased (second hand,) from a dealer in Alexandria. All the fittings, brackets, mountings, adaptor pieces, valves and so on, were made at the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's extensive workshops at Pymont and designed and supervised by Melton Knowles. "Foreign Orders" of this size would have required several bottles of C.S.R. O.P Rum—top grade grog.

**L to R BACK** Ken Fitzgibbons, Neil Campbell, Alan Liness, Rodney Campbell, Jack McConville, Roy Harris, Les Harris, **FRONT** Lester Knott, Arthur Waugh, Ian Campbell, Melton Knowles, Sid Conville, Capt George K Bunyan, V.Capt Stan Edwards

**Adjacent photograph courtesy "Womens Weekly 23/1/'52,** from a two page article on Glenbrook V.B.Fire Brigade. The appliance is 1938 Dodge truck with water tanker on rear. The crew is from **L – R Back:** V Capt.Stan Edwards, Neil Campbell, Len Glossop, Capt G.K.Bunyan, Roy Harris. **Front:** Arthur Waugh, Alan Liness, Melton Knowles, Les Harris, Ken Fitzgibbons, Rod Campbell.



## CAN ANYONE ASSIST ????

**EDITOR Bill Peard** *Have you a story of historical interest to tell? Have you lived in the district for a long period? Have you any old photographs, family or scenery? If you can assist, I would like to hear from you. No need to write the story, just give me the basic details, no need to send photographs, just e-mail copies with captions if known. All stories, documents and photos will be acknowledged when published. The photograph below comes from my personal collection. It is a Kodachrome slide and dated July 1956. This slide depicts the*



*beginning of our first<sup>s</sup> house in 19 Moore St. looking South In the middle is the kindergarten which is mentioned in "Pams Page" Old photographs can reveal other interesting details viz in 1956 no oval, no bowling club and most streets are unsealed. Please send all Letters, Photos etc, as an attachment to e-mail address... jpe13704@gmail.com*

### GLENBROOK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc. OFFICE BEARERS 2015-2016

<b>President</b>	<b>Joan Peard</b>	<b>0414605482</b>
<b>Vice- Presidents</b>	<b>Kevin Frappell</b>	<b>4739 8718</b>
	<b>Grant Holmes</b>	<b>4739 4083</b>
<b>Secretary /Treasurer</b>	<b>Neil McGlashan</b>	<b>4739 9864</b>
<b>Chief Historian</b>	<b>Tim Miers</b>	<b>4739 2384</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Tim Miers</b>	<b>4739 2384</b>
	<b>Doug Knowles</b>	<b>4751 3275</b>
	<b>Pam Thompson</b>	<b>4739 1518</b>

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



