

Alison Homestead NEWSLETTER



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COVER STORY

Cape Road...What's Behind The Name.

Alison Homestead is situated along **Cape Road** in a very picturesque part of the Wyong district.

'**Cape**' as in Cape Road does not confirm to dictionary definitions. It has nothing to do with sleeveless cloaks, animal pelts used in hunting trophies or geological landforms.

As is often the case with road and street names Cape Road was named in honour of a prominent pioneering family.

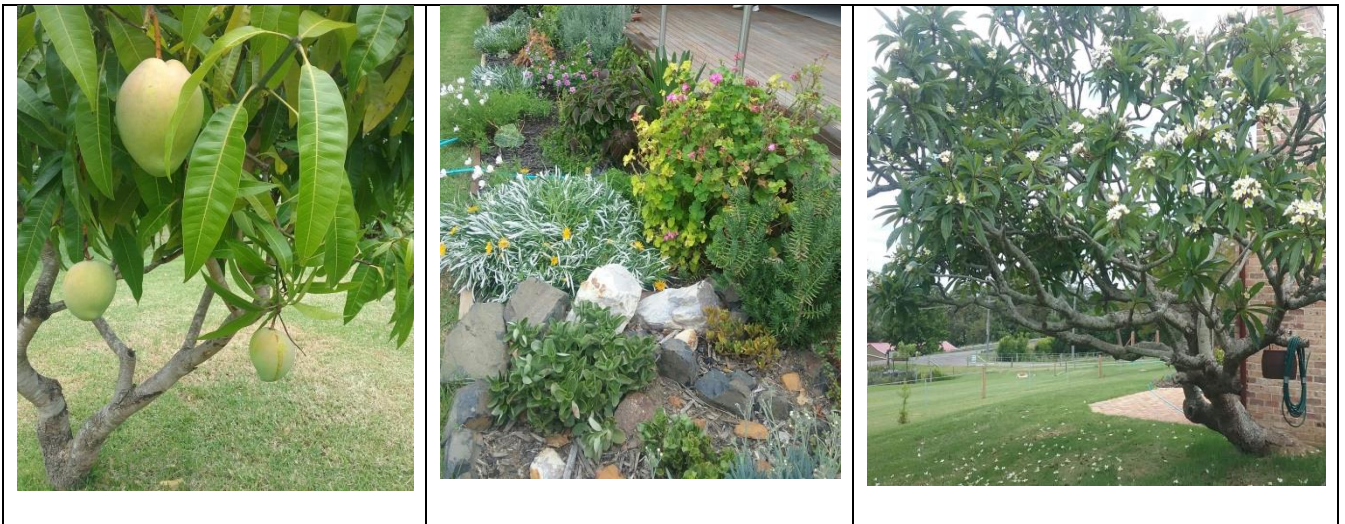
William Cape and his eldest son...also called William...were prominent landholders in the area. William (senior) was born in England in 1773 and after many years as a bank manager migrated to Australia with his family. He headed to Hobart where he planned to settle but returned to Sydney to contest a law suit and accepted a position as headmaster of a new school in Castlereagh Street in what is now part of the CBD. After his son took over as headmaster Governor Brisbane allocated him 2000 acres of land in the Wyong district and Alison Homestead sits on part of this land grant. It was there, for almost fifteen years, that he created weekly weather tables that were published in prominent newspapers and which subsequently provided valuable reference material for meteorologists.

His son **William Timothy Cape**. He was for many years involved in educational work in both state and private schools and was acknowledged widely for his wonderful teaching skills, devotion to the cause and his ability to motivate his students to aspire to great career paths. He too was granted land (500 acres) in the Wyong area but he spent little time there preferring to continue his teaching work in Sydney. After retiring from teaching he became the elected member for **Wollombi** in the legislative assembly. His achievements were many and varied but sadly his skills were lost to Australia when disillusionment saw he return to England where he died of smallpox at the relatively young age of 56.

EDITORIAL

A warm welcome to happenings at Alison Homestead and best wishes for 2017. May it be a wonderful year for everyone.

If you haven't been to the museum for a while expect to be in for a pleasant surprise. The displays continue to be expanded by hard-working and enthusiastic volunteer staff thanks to some amazing donations of memorabilia. The walls are literally coming alive with treasures from bygone days.



The gardens continue to be a delight to behold and areas that were bare or newly planted at the time of the last newsletter are fast becoming blooming wonders. The way they are shaping up means there will be colour in the gardens throughout the year.

Some of the delights in the garden at this time include the *frangipani tree* which is akin to a massive bouquet so lush is the flowering. This is the tree believed to be about eighty years old and which was so badly burned in the fire that few if any thought it could come back from the brink of destruction. Another delight is the *mango tree* which was uprooted and relocated in the grounds. As you can see from the photo the mangoes are of enviable size and will be a temptation for mango lovers when they ripen.

The other sight to behold is the *front garden* which borders the museum's front verandah. It has grown from nothing about six months ago

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Donations of historical interest continue to enhance the Museum's collection.

1. We have been given an original wind-up *Edison record player* in excellent condition along with fifteen *Edison 'Diamond Disc' records*... *some of which are in original jackets including tax stamps*. These moulded records are a quarter-inch thick and would be at least 88 years old as the Edison record company halted production in 1929. *Alan Marsh* who donated the record player says it was acquired by his father-in-law as part payment for a job he carried out as a cabinet maker more than 50 years ago. Alan and his wife had it restored and polished and it works perfectly...except for the volume control of which there is none.

The titles of several of the records are sure to put a smile on faces so come visit and have a listen.

Another donation from Alan will feature in the next newsletter.

2. Keeping alive the gardens and trees during the hot summer months has needed a huge effort by *Dirk* and the other garden gnomes. The rest of us are amazed at how they can soldier on outdoors when conditions are sweltering.

3. *Barkers Barn* is getting a facelift. The walls are being dismantled and the insides are being spray-painted white to better highlight the tools and implements.

4. Retirement villages, sporting, car and services clubs have all been emailed about Alison Homestead and possible visits, tours and functions.

5. *Wal Billington* and the Mens' Shed chaps have framed and placed the old church windows (referred to earlier) in the new building end of the museum. The windows will be dedicated at some time in the not too distant future ...so watch this space.

5. The Council has so far NOT given us DA approval for the extensions to the Mens' Shed and the replacement of the rather dilapidated 'caravan' office. Grants were acquired for these projects but the funds will be forfeited if not applied as they were intended by the end of March this year...so let the Council know your feelings!

Cheers till next time.

Greg Denning

President: Wyong District Museum & Historical Society

ITEM OF INTEREST:

It's wonderful to see local history unfold through generous donations to the museum from people who appreciate the Historical Society's commitment to the cause.

During the past month we received two magnificent sets of *lead-light, stained-glass windows* (one set of two and one set of three) which are now on permanent display.

The windows were part of the former All Saints Anglican Church in Anzac Road at Tuggerah near where MacDonald's restaurant stands today. Construction of the Church began in 1930 and it served the Anglican community until the final church service in 1979. Following its subsequent sale in the mid-nineties the church was used as a museum and workshop until it was dismantled in 2000.

The foresight of *Bruce Murray* saw the windows preserved for posterity. Aware that the church was to be removed from the site and concerned they would be lost to this district for ever, Bruce obtained the windows and has lovingly cared for them since.

Bruce had a personal reason for wanting the windows. The centre window in the set of three is dedicated to his grandmother *Blanche Chaseling*. The Chaselings settled in Tuggerah after moving from Grafton and were regular church-goers. Blanche married *Percy Hunter Murray* (Bruce's Grandfather). The windows on the outsides of the three were dedicated to Blanche's mother and father *William Henry Chaseling* and *Elizabeth Harriet Ferguson*.



History Notes

George Palmer

George Palmer arrived in the colony as a convict in 1836. He brought the name Palmer to the Valley in 1877 and it has been borne with pride by several generations of Palmers.

This was when at the age of 67 he was appointed Teacher at the Yarramalong Public School and remained Teacher until ill health forced his retirement in 1884. He had previously been at Mangrove Creek School. He provided seven years of stability which laid the foundation for the school's progress. During his time at Yarramalong, the building was of slab and shingle and still named Wyong Creek. The primitive structure remained until the present stone schoolroom opened in 1891. It was renamed Yarramalong School in 1888.

In 1862 he had married Sarah Gould from Upper Mangrove. The family name of Palmer was to be important in the Valley for the next several generations. They provided transport services for people, goods and mail into and through the Valley. George and Sarah's son, George Andrew Palmer Jnr (1865---1955), was a bus proprietor, mail contractor and a Councillor of Erina Shire. Two of George Andrew's sons Cosby 'Reice' Palmer (1894---1981) and Eric 'King' Palmer (1915---2010) carried on the family's transport tradition through to Cosby 'Reice's' son, Ashley Reice Palmer. Ashley sold the transport business to Busways in 2008.



A PROFILE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS:



Michele O'Sheades

Michelle has been a volunteer at the Homestead since 2014 and now fills the all-important role of treasurer and events co-ordinator.

A country gal at heart she was born in Muswellbrook in 1953. She moved to Sydney in 1956 and did her schooling at Annandale Public and Leichhardt Girls High School.

Her life has been a rich and varied one. After leaving school she worked at Woolworths till she married at the age of eighteen and moved to Berkeley Vale.

She has been a dance teacher, owned and run a modelling agency and acting school in Sydney. Her creative skills have seen her been involved...and a performer...in many different aspects of the ARTS.

Her working life has also seen her spend nine years as office manager for promotions company where she organised events like Santa Clauses, Easter Bunnies and shopping centre entertainment.

Later, she worked in accounts for a boating company.

Her adventurist spirit has taken her to places far and wide... U.K. Hong Kong, Singapore, Italy, U.S., New Zealand. Sometimes her adventures took unexpected and heart-stopping turns like the time she was in Kenya on safari when she and the party she was with, was attacked by the Masi at their campsite beside the Mara River. She survived even though she 'was belted with a machete'.

She enjoys coming to the Homestead particularly given her love of old things.

FILM STAR ROLE:

The old school house in the Homestead grounds has been more than an attraction this past month. It's had a starring role in a film in the making. It's titled *Mr Spenalzo* and the producer/director Christopher Halling has filmed the opening sequences in the school house. He has paid the Historical Society a fee to use the facility. You may be familiar with a previous film of his....the thriller "Jenny Dixon Beach".



L.to R.

David Liam (actor),

Robert Farmer (actor)

Christopher Halling (Cameraman).

VISITORS:

Alison Homestead continues to receive a seal of approval from our visitors from far and wide. The visitors' book indicates we have international visitors from *England, New Zealand, Spain, Canada and Japan* as well as many interstate. It's rewarding for all here to see comments in the visitors' book like this small sample: 'exceptional', 'fantastic', 'fabulous', 'a lovely look at the past' and 'so pleased our history being preserved'.

RECIPE:

In selecting a recipe for this newsletter I wanted to pay tribute to two significant aspects of the history of the local district....the *citrus growing industry* and the *CWA* (Country Womens' Association).

This lemon curd tart recipe comes from the highly regarded CWA cookbook.

There is a local connection to the sharing of the recipe. In May this year the CWA in NSW will be holding its 95th annual conference on the Central Coast... and the Art House in Wyong is one of the venues to be used.

LEMON CURD TART:

Pastry:

2 1/4 cups of plain flour 1/3 cup caster sugar

175g unsalted butter...chilled then chopped

2 egg yolks 2 tbsp. chilled water

Blend flour, sugar and butter till like breadcrumbs, then add egg yolks and cold water. Blend until the ingredients just come together.

Knead on a lightly floured board till smooth. Shape into disc resembling a pizza base...and refrigerate.

Lemon Curd:

3 lemons 2 egg yolks 1 cup caster sugar

175g unsalted butter chopped

Finely grate one lemon and juice all lemons. Whisk eggs and sugar in a heatproof bowl till well combined. Add rind and 2/3 cup lemon juice, whisking constantly till well combined. Place bowl over saucepan of simmering water (Don't let bowl touch water). Cook, stirring with a wooden spoon for 20-25 mins or till thick like custard. Remove from heat and whisk in butter.

Pre-heat oven to 180 C.

Bring pastry to room temperature. Lightly grease 22cm tart dish. Roll out pastry and press into dish.

Cook blind for 15 mins. ...then...remove weights and put back in oven till dry and crisp (about 10 mins.)

When cooled completely pour lemon curd into tart case. Cover and refrigerate o'night. Dust with icing sugar just before serving.

Bon Appetit!

Seniors' Week Event 2017

Wednesday 8th March

To co-incide with 2017 Seniors' Week the Homestead is hosting its first ever breakfast event on the above date. It has generated a great deal of interest and has been fully booked. Given the response it is likely we will hold similar events from time to time.

PLANTS FOR SALE:

While some of our nursery plants are enjoying summer hiatus others are at their best. On sale this month for between \$4/\$10 are Jacarandas (15-50 cm), Bromeliads (there are always some in bloom), Butterfly bush, Frangipani (grown from cuttings from the old tree in the grounds) and cyclamens.

Given the generosity of folk who donate items of interest ...this month I thought I would leave you with words of wisdom from Ben Carson...a neurologist who received America's highest civilian honour.

'Happiness doesn't result from what we get ...but from what we give.'

Until next time my best wishes once again.

Patricia (Pat) Perrett

(Newsletter Editor)