

Alison Homestead

NEWSLETTER

UNEARTH WYONG

EDWARD BRAITHWAITE



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OPENING HOURS
SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 10AM—2PM

COVER STORY

EDWARD BRAITHWAITE

Edward Braithwaite was born 25th December 1804 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom. He was the oldest of eleven children born to Henry Braithwaite and Ann Kenion.

Edward and two friends, Butterworth and Moss on 29/3/1823 fell foul with the law. Three newspaper reports reveal that Edward and his two friends had apparently been drinking alcohol on the afternoon of March 29th and had been spoken to by the deputy constable of Leeds about 4 o'clock in the afternoon who said to them "you will be in some mischief before the night is over" it transpires that Braithwaite and Butterworth with Moss as lookout broke into the house of Mabgate owned by Wm. Keighley, a dealer in calicoes etc. between seven and eight o'clock they broke in through a window, lit a candle and broke open locked drawers containing materials. At this stage Mr. Keighley's housekeeper returned, caught them in the act and shouted robbery, robbery. A neighbour came in and caught hold of a bag that Braithwaite was trying to drag through the window. The housekeeper said that she distinctly recognized Butterworth and Braithwaite. No robbery material was actually removed from the premises. Calico, Knaresborough linen, a coat, a waistcoat and a hat, to the value of four pound eight shillings had been removed from locked drawers for the purpose of being carried away.

The three were arrested and Braithwaite and Butterworth were charged with highway robbery and tried at the 1823 York Lent Assizes. On this charge they were acquitted, returned to Leeds released and immediately re-arrested, charged with burglary and sent back to York. They were tried again at the 1823 York Summer Assizes where Butterworth and Moss pleaded guilty and Braithwaite not guilty. The jury acquitted Braithwaite of burglary but found him guilty of stealing in a dwelling house, which was also a capital offence. Judgement was respited until the next assizes, 20/3/1824. Edward Braithwaite having been found guilty at the last assizes of feloniously stealing goods to the value of forty shillings, in a dwelling house and judgement having been respited. Judgement of death now entered on record. Reprieved. Edward was sent to Sydney on the convict transport "Minerva 5" which left England on 8/7/1824 and arrived in Sydney on 19/11/1824. On arrival Edward was allocated to Mr. John Blaxland at Newington and then to the Male Orphan School.

Edward married Mary Crowley on 23 October 1835 at St Luke's Church of England, Liverpool NSW. Mary was born 9/1/1811 in County Cork, Ireland. Her parents are Daniel Crowley and Elizabeth Phair. Mary immigrated to Sydney Cove, Australia on 2/2/1835 aboard the "Roal Saxon" she came as a free person. Mary was assigned to the Male Orphans School on Cowpasture Road, Cabramatta NSW, where she met Edward Braithwaite. Edward and Mary had nine children. Edward and Mary had a shop in Macquarie Street, Liverpool NSW, Mary and her daughter ran the shop after Edwards death.

Edward died on 26th September, 1873 'Ruth Vale', South Creek, New South Wales.

Mary died on 26/7/1894 at her residence, Macquarie Street, Liverpool, New South Wales.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi everyone, I hope that this finds you all fine and well. As I write this it is only 4 weeks to Christmas can you believe how time flies.

Karen and I have been very busy in the last few months as I am the District Governor for Lions Clubs for 2024/25. We have visited Clubs from Woy Woy in the south to Bulahdelah in the north and out to Mudgee and Dunedoo in the west 54 Clubs in all. It has been a great experience.

The new committee for 24/25 had its first meeting in November and many items were discussed. The following actions were approved and reported on.

It was decided to print new Homestead Historic Information brochures that are given out to homestead visitors.

The Inside Bathroom floor required painting (this has been done)

A new protective wall along the western side of Barkers Barn to be erected and will help to stop leaves and weather blowing through the Barn. The new crushed floor in the barn has been completed.

The septic tanks serving the public toilets are to be pumped out.

It was also decided to charge a nominal fee of \$20 for historical information that requires research by volunteers. This is a normal practice in other organizations.

A new sign has been erected at the Nursery/Community Garden now known as Pearce's Nursery and a new Blower has been bought to help keep it clean.

It was also decided to look into the installation of suitable permanent fans in the function area.

Approval was also given for the making of appropriate Decals to complete the Fire Engine restoration. The Petrol Pump to be closer to the Fire Engine.

I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for the wonderful work they all do. The effort they put in is truly amazing and has helped make Alison Homestead one of the Gems of the Central Coast.

Don't forget our Christmas get together on Tuesday 10th December at 11.30 am please let the office know if you are attending. Please note the Homestead will be closing from Friday 20 December reopening on Monday 6 January 2025.

Karen and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Pres Phil

ITEMS ON DISPLAY



SHEARER'S BIKE

The Shearer's Bike was produced from 1898 to the mid 1920's. By 1905 the push bike had replaced the horse as the means of transport for shearers in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. It is identifiable by the unique seat and the rear "tyre". The rear tyres punctured and split very quickly, so many shearers wrapped rope around the wheel and poured tar over the rope. The tar then picked up rocks that then provided the traction. This particular bike is 100% original.



GREENS SILENS MESSOR 10 INCH MOWER

This Greens Silens Messor 10 inch Mower was made around 1928 in London. The original design was introduced in 1859 for narrow paths and small lawns. Silens Messor is Latin for "silent operation". The design was so successful it was produced in a range of widths until the mid 1930's. The age of this particular example is identified by the straight handles and scraper plate. Earlier models were made with "S" handles.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY



CHAFF CUTTER

A Chaff cutter is a device for cutting straw or hay into small pieces before being mixed together with other forage and fed to horses and cattle. This aids the animal's digestion and prevents animals from rejecting any part of their food. Chaff and hay played a vital role in most agricultural production as it was used for feeding horses. Horses were extensively used in farming operations until they were replaced by tractors in the 1940's. Chaff cutters have evolved from the basic machines into commercial standard machines that can be driven at various speeds and can achieve various lengths of cuts of chaff with respect to animal preference type.

MACK FIRE TRUCK

The Mack Fire Truck now has the N.S.W. FIRE BRIGADE insignia on both doors and body, this completes the Project. Joe Brett started the restoration but sadly passed away. Then David Tynan took over the task and has done an outstanding spray painting job with the help from Richard Ashby. What a fantastic job they have done.

Congratulations Guys.



HISTORICAL NOTES

JAMES SUTTON LEES

James Sutton Lees was tried and convicted in Warwickshire on 31/3/1821 with Samuel Owen for stealing in the dwelling house of G. Perrin of Birmingham. The death sentence was passed on both prisoners but commuted to transportation. The case was reported in the Warwick Advertiser on 21/4/1821. James Sutton Lees was described as a Waggoner, 21 years old, 5'6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall with hazel eyes, brown hair and a pale complexion. His native place was said to be Manchester. He arrived in Sydney on 5/7/1822 on board the "Guildford" as a Lifer. He was assigned on the 24/7/1822 to Wm Winden of Sydney.

Permission to marry Mary Ann Lees was granted on 8/7/1828. Mary was the daughter of Thomas Lees who arrived on the "Canada" in 1802 and her mother Amy Emma Staples arrived on the "Glatton" in 1802. They were both convicts. On 4/8/1828 he married Mary Ann aged 17 by Rev W. Cowper at St Phillips Church, Sydney. He was now said to be 26. At the time of the 1828 census they were living in Kent Street, Sydney. They had 11 children (3 boys and 8 girls), one of whom, Hannah married Robert Goldie and went to live at Golden Point, Tuggerah. One of James and Mary's sons, Joseph Sutton Lees, married Robert's sister, Helen Gibson Goldie. James Sutton Lees died on 5/9/1887 at Gerringong.

Joseph Sutton Lees was born to James Sutton Lees and Mary Ann (nee Lees) on 13/9/1833 in Gerringong, NSW. He was one of 11 children, 3 boys and 8 girls James and Mary Ann had moved to Gerringong, where their first home was made by the aborigines from mud and bark. As there was not enough coming in from the farm to keep them all. Joseph at the age of 17 and the eldest of the three boys saddled his horse, rolled his pack and made for the Bathurst/Hill End district to look for gold. 5 or 6 years later, having what he thought would be enough gold to help his father and family on the farm decided to ride back home. Somehow, not having a compass, he followed the range and came the wrong way. On seeing some timber getters at Kangy, he asked how far it was to Kiama as he was going home with his fortune. They told him he was at Blue Gum Flat, and persuaded him to buy land at Kangy and settle down, which he did in 1856. In 1857 Joseph married Helen Gibson Goldie and they also, had 11 children. Joseph worked as a timber cutter and bullock driver and is said to have started the first butcher shop on the Central Coast at Tuggerah on the the Maitland Road, Kangy. He delivered meat by horse and cart to the Sydney-Newcastle railway gangs over the early years and also as far as Dora Creek, before there was a station at Wyong. When he felt he was too old for the butchery business he gave it to his son, William Broom Lees, on the condition that he received one pound a month for life. When William died on Christmas Day in 1920 the butchery went to his wife and became known as M. E. Lees and Sons. The one pound a month continued to be paid until Joseph died in 1928.

Joseph had been the recipient of several land grants in Tuggerah and Chittaway. Chittaway Point was earlier known as Lees' Point and there is a reserve on the banks of the Ourimbah Creek near the bridge on Wyong Road, both of which have been named in his honour.



MATTHEW PEARSON THOMPSON

Born
Slingsby, Yorkshire, England
12 Jan 1780
Arrived Sydney
07 Feb 1814
Died
09 May 1849
Buried
St Albans
12 May 1849

In 1813 Matthew was a merchant's clerk, employed by Sir Robert Burnett, Charles and John Burnett. The Burnetts were probably grain merchants and owners of a distillery near Vauxhall Bridge, London. On Wednesday 31st March, 1813 Matthew was convicted a Surrey Assizes, Kingston on Thames, for embezzlement over a period of three years (22 counts). He was sentenced to 14 year's transportation and sailed from Woolwich on 28th July, 1813 aboard the ship General Hewitt and arrived in Sydney on 7th February, 1814. Following Matthew's conviction, Ann his wife and their son William were given passage to NSW along with wives and children of other prisoners aboard the ship Broxbornebury, arriving in Sydney on the 28th July, 1814. Frances (Fanny), Matthew's three year old daughter, remained in England.

Upon arriving in the Colony he was appointed as the schoolteacher at Pitt Town, complete with residence and salary. As soon as he was awarded his Ticket of Leave in 1822, Thompson left this job and moved with his growing family to farming land high on the Macdonald (Gununday) River. In 1825 he was re-employed as a school teacher on the 7th January in Wilberforce, NSW. He owned a free grant of 200 acres at Boree swamp promised by Sir Ralph Darling on the 7th January as remuneration for services capturing bushrangers, possibly Jack Donohue and his gang on the 23rd November, 1830 in the Macdonald River, NSW. He lived in Wollombi, NSW in 1841 (Re 1841 Census). He was employed as a Councilor for Wollombi and MacDonald Council on 14th October, 1843 in Wollombi, NSW. He was buried on 12th May, 1849 in St. Albans, NSW.

He was commemorated by

Thompson Creek in the Macdonald Valley, a tributary of the higher Macdonald (Gununday) River. Also Thompsons run which is a road that began as an unfenced cattle run in the tributary valley that runs alongside Thompson Creek.

GARDENS

PEARCE NURSERY

1919 – 1970s: The Pearces – Flower Farm.

The Pearce Brothers, Alfred and Charles who had a successful nursery at Randwick and a florist shop in Sydney, acquired the property in 1919. They established a successful nursery on this property known as "Gorston". Alfred's son Arthur and his wife Gladys continued the business. Gladys' family the Wilsons, had a successful florist in Newcastle.



We have named the new nursery and communal garden area "Pearce Nursery" from 1919—1970s the Pearce brothers, Alfred and Charles who had a successful nursery at Randwick and a florist shop in Sydney, acquired the property in 1919. They established a successful nursery on this property known as "Gorston".

Alfred's son Arthur and his wife Gladys continued the business. Gladys' family the Wilsons, also had a successful florist in Newcastle.



TODAY IN HISTORY

- December 1st, 1838** The first Annual Royal Hobart Regatta is held. The Royal Hobart Regatta is a series of aquatic competitions and displays held annually and is Tasmania's oldest sporting event.
- December 2nd, 1823** John Oxley becomes the first European to navigate the Brisbane River. John was an English explorer and surveyor of Australia in the early period of British colonization. He served as Surveyor General of NSW and is best known for his two expeditions into the interior.
- December 3rd, 1797** George Bass sets out from Sydney in a whale boat with six oarsmen to explore South along the coast.
- December 4th, 1851** Charles La Trobe forwards a Victorian Legislative Council motion opposing further Transportation, it is passed unanimously.
- December 5^h, 1958** Construction of Stage 1 of the Sydney Opera house begins.
- December 6th, 1882** A rare Transit of Venus across the disc of the Sun is visible from Australia, and many scientific parties arrive from around the world to observe and record the event.
- December 7th, 1813** The Macquarie River is discovered by George Evans, George was a surveyor and early explorer in the Colony of NSW. Evans was born in Warwick, England, migrating to Australia in October 1802.
- December 8th, 1910** Geelong, in Victoria is declared a city.
- December 9th, 1983** The Australian dollar is floated.
- December 10th, 1817** Bushranger Michael Howe is caught, but escapes after killing his captors. Michael was a British convict who became a notorious bushranger and gang leader in Van Diemen's Land.
- December 11th, 1823** Richmond Bridge was opened, it is the oldest bridge in Australia still in use. It is a heritage listed arch bridge located on the B31 ("Convict Trail") in Richmond 25klm north of Hobart in Tasmania.
- December 12th, 1815** Captain James Kelly sets out on circumnavigation of Tasmania, during which important observations are made on the resources of the west coast.
- December 13th, 1962** The last telegram transmitted within NSW using morse code was sent from Sydney to Bombala.
- December 14th, 1982** The Tasmanian Wilderness Society, led by Bob Brown, stages a blockade of the Franklin Dam site in Tasmania which continues into 1983.
- December 15th, 1900** Upon his arrival in Australia, the first Governor General, Lord Hopetoun commits the so called Hopetoun Blunder a political event immediately prior to the Federation of the British colonies in Australia. Federation was scheduled to occur on January 1st, 1901, but since the General election for the first Parliament of Australia was not to be held until March, it was not possible to follow the conventions of the Westminster System and appoint the leader of the majority in the House of Representatives as Prime Minister. Instead, an interim Government would be appointed, holding office from January 1st until the result of the election.

TODAY IN HISTORY CONTINUED

- December 16th, 1948** HMAS Sydney, the first aircraft carrier of the Royal Australian Navy is commissioned.
- December 17th, 1967** Prime Minister Harold Holt goes swimming at Cheviot Beach on Point Nepean, Victoria and is never seen again. Harold Edward Holt was an Australian politician and lawyer who served as the 17th Prime Minister of Australia from 1966 until his disappearance and presumed death in 1967. He held office as leader of the Liberal Party of Australia.
- December 18th, 1894** South Australia is the first colony to give women equal franchise with men. This gave women the right to vote in elections.
- December 19th, 1930** For the first time Perth is linked by telephone to the rest of Australia.
- December 20th, 1915** Completion of ANZAC evacuation from Gallipoli before dawn.
- December 21st, 1817** Lachlan Macquarie recommends the adoption of the name Australia for the continent instead of New Holland.
- December 22nd, 1817** The King expedition of 1817, to explore and make a rough survey of the northern and North West Coasts of Australia, departs Sydney.
- December 23rd, 1901** The immigration Restriction Act 1901 comes into force, instituting the White Australia policy. The legislation was specifically designed to limit non-British migration to Australia.
- December 24th, 1822** Reverend Archibald Macarthur, the first Presbyterian minister in Australia arrives in Hobart.
- December 25th, 1788** The first Christmas celebrations in Australia have their roots in late 1788 and were introduced by convicts of the first fleet, who arrived in Sydney Harbour earlier in the same year.
- December 26th, 1998** Astronaut Andy Thomas becomes the first Australian to walk in space. Andy is an Australian and American aerospace engineer and former NASA astronaut. He has dual nationality, he became a U.S citizen in December 1986 hoping to gain entry to NASA's astronaut program.
- December 27th, 1803** Convict William Buckley escapes from Sullivan Bay, Victoria. He lives with the Wathaurong Aboriginal people for 32 years. Also known as the "wild white man", was an English bricklayer and served in the military until 1802, when he was convicted of theft. He was then transported to Australia, where he helped construct buildings for the fledgling penal settlement at Port Phillip Bay in what is now Victoria. He escaped the settlement in 1803 and was given up for dead while he lived among the indigenous Wallaranga tribe of the Wathaurong nation. In 1835 he was pardoned and became an Indigenous culture recorder. From 1837 to 1850 he was a public servant in Tasmania.
- December 28th, 1836** South Australia and Adelaide are founded.
- December 29th, 1696** Dutch Captain Willem de Vlamingh arrives at, and names Rottneest Island. He saw numerous Quokkas (a native marsupial), and thinking they were large rats he named it "t Eylandt 't Rottenest ("Rats' Nest Island")
- December 30th, 1938** Daisy Bates book The Passing of the Aborigines is first published. Daisy was an Irish-Australian journalist welfare worker and self taught anthropologist who conducted fieldwork amongst several indigenous nations in western and southern Australia.
- December 31st, 1935** The cane toad is introduced into Queensland to control the cane beetle.



CHRISTMAS CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 375 g sultanas
- 250 g raisins chopped
- 250 g currants
- 125 g mixed peel
- 125 g glace cherries halved
- 60 g glace pineapple chopped
- 250 g butter
- 1 cup brown sugar firmly packed
- ½ cup brandy
- ½ cup water
- 2 tsp orange rind grated
- 1 tsp lemon rind grated
- 1 tbs treacle
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 ¾ cups plain flour
- 1/3 cup self raising flour
- 1 ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

METHOD

1. Line a deep 23 cm or 20 cm square cake tin with three thicknesses of greaseproof paper, bringing paper 5 cm above the edge of tin.
2. Combine fruit, butter, sugar, brandy and water in a pan, stir over heat until butter is melted and sugar is dissolved.
3. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer covered for 10 minutes.
4. Remove from heat, cool to room temperature.
5. Stir in orange and lemon rind, treacle and eggs.
6. Stir in sifted dry ingredients, spread mixture evenly into tin.
7. Bake at 140C for 2 – 2 1/2 hours. Cover hot cake with foil, cool in tin.

