



Landcare Update



President: Mick Ryan Ph:4844 5012

Sec: Shirley Cornish Ph 4844 5101 Fax 4844 5364

Pinus Radiata trees:

These are in short supply this year.

We have managed to order 50 boxes (120 trees per box). 12 boxes have already been taken and I have been informed that once the 50 boxes are 'taken up' we will have no extension.

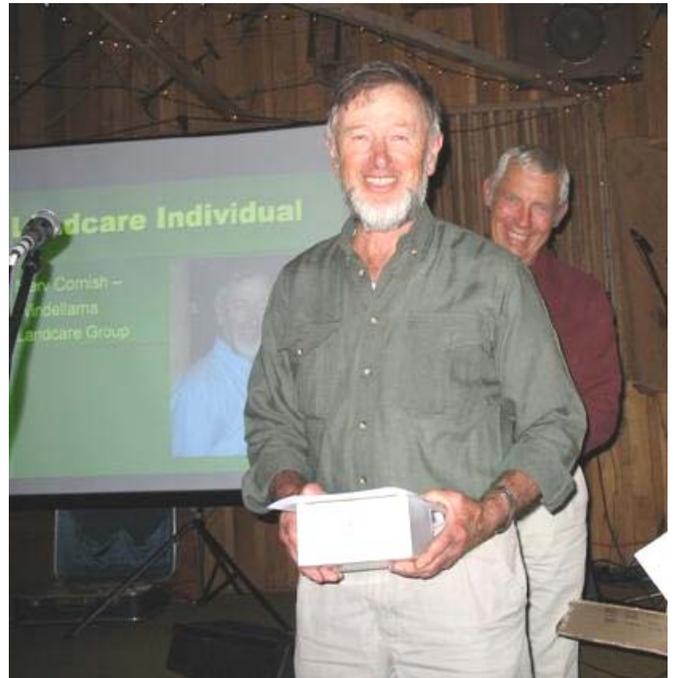
The trees will once again be picked up at the end of July and we have also been informed that there will be an increase in price of at least 10%.

A bus full of Members are attending the Awards Night at Braidwood on 24th March and a full report will be in next Month's paper.

Take care, and Members will be informed when our next work day is to take place.

Thanks to Greg & Frances Knights for compiling the Final Report for the Project at Oallen Ford Crossing.

Best Wishes - Sec. Shirl.



Awards Night

Thirty members loaded onto the bus at Windellama Hall and headed to the Landcare Awards night held at Braidwood.

After interesting and informative guest speakers the meal was served. Then came time for the awards to be presented.

Our Merv Cornish received the Landcare Individual award and Windellama Landcare won the group award.

Kevin Cooper from Inverary Landcare was awarded the Carina Clarke Perpetual Plaque.

Nerriga Landcare received an award as well.

Unfortunately the bus arrived to take us home as the music started. A great night had by all.

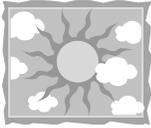
Cathy Meehan



Photos courtesy of Cathy Meehan

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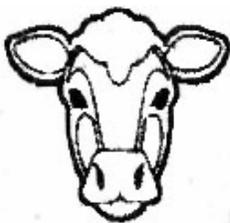
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WINDELLAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.



By Rex Hockey

Historically, the teachers at Windellama boarded at Pleasant Hill (my Great, Great Grandparent's and Great Grand Parents property) and then at Roseview (my Grandparents' property). This was the case with Mr. John Swain and my family living in close proximity – about 200 metres away – meant that I had a good working relationship with the teacher. The age to start school was 6 years old and at the end of 1951 (I being five in about 2 months time asked Mr. Swain when could I start school, and he being a tallish chap got me to stand along side him and said, "When you reach my belt," which was about 3 inches above my head. When he returned for the start of the new school year I had shot up to the height of his belt, he wriggled out of the tricky situation by saying that I was tall enough but not old enough.

When I finally started school in 1953, a week late as I said last issue, the school consisted of one building, the present Library, one teacher, Mr. Swain who drove a Ford Consul (pale blue I think) this followed his green Ford Prefect and yellow and white Ford Anglia and preceded his black Riley (his pride and joy). The only sporting facility was a make-shift cricket pitch between the class-room and the road and a flattish area behind the present school buildings and there were two toilets, a 'boys' and a 'girls' (the teacher used the 'boys', there was no discrimination in those days) which consisted of a tin shed around a wooden seat situated over a large pit and the strong smell of phenol, these were more or less each side of the present canteen.

For logistical purposes I stayed at "Roseview" with my Grandparents and of course was proudly delivered to school by the teacher in his new Consul! This created an unforeseen problem in so much as the other kids were of the opinion that I would have had to be the teacher's 'pet', and this being the popularly held belief, the teacher was at pains to prove that this wasn't the case. During the Christmas holidays prior to me starting school in 1953, the classroom had been broken into and the movie projector and the teacher's whistle (used for assembly) had been stolen. As a result Mr. Swain used to whistle by mouth for assembly. Some of the 'older' and 'bigger' kids (no names will be mentioned because they are still older and in most cases still bigger) would tell me that Mr. Swain had asked for me to whistle for assembly – I could whistle quite well because Mr. Swain had taught me – and for some time I wore a daily bruise on my posterior from the teachers foot (slightly exaggerated, he was able to kick just soft enough to prevent bruising). For all my school life, except for one year, I have always been the youngest in the class and I can assure you that that is the best way to put a 'wise head' on 'young shoulders', perhaps smart might be a better word than wise on reflection.

The paddock across the road, which is now the school oval, wasn't visited very much (not officially) and the remains of the 'dog-leg' fence from the second school building was still in existence, there were maybe three or four panels still standing.

Often, in class, you would look out the window to the north, north/west and see big black clouds and then a flash of lightning followed by thunder. We would all count out loud the seconds between the flash of lightning and the thunder sounding as every five seconds meant that that was how far away in miles the lightning was, then the rain would start to fall and then the sound of a vehicle would be heard (which we were all hoping for) and the school buses were arriving early to get us home before the creeks rose too high and left us stranded. The two main problem crossings on the Jacqua Run were the stone causeway crossings at 'Budjong' and Sandy Point. Many are the times the clutch got water into it and my father would have to get out (and of course let the running water flow in through the door) and wind the vehicle through with the crank-handle. For those of you who don't know what a crank-handle is it is what was used to start vehicles with a flat battery before jumper leads and power packs were thought of.

The long association my family has had with the teachers at Windellama has led to some close ties. My Great Grandfather's sister married William Calthorpe (buried at St. Bartholomew's cemetery); my Great Grandmother's sister married Charles Green; My Grandfather's sister married Francis Laidley; Mr. Justiellius (Mr. Jus to us) remained a life-long family friend and visited us at least yearly; George Saunders (who married Maud McGaw) remained in contact with us and I visited he and his wife on more than one occasion when I lived in Sydney; and 'Pop' Meakin (who was the builder who built the present library building) remained a close family friend.

The Museum is open on market days – the third Sunday each month. Come and see the new machinery shed at the Museum which houses various items of farming equipment including an old wool press.

At the Museum we also have a selection of Tom Bryant's books about the history of the area, as well as bookmarks and postcards with images of early Windellama – all reasonably priced.

Our next meeting will be held at the Museum on Friday 1 June 2007 at 2 pm. New members are welcome.

If you would like more information, please phone one of the following members:

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Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network



FARM FORESTRY - WHAT TO PLANT

Most landholders who wish to plant a farm forestry plantation do not know what to plant where, or why. This is understandable, because there are a wide range of native and exotic trees that can be used for farm forestry, producing a variety of potential timber products. Some of these farm forestry species have significant potential value, but finding markets for them can be difficult.

Of all the exotic trees, *Pinus radiata* is the most widely planted. This pine is a native of the west coast of the USA and Mexico, and is widely used as a plantation tree in Australia, New Zealand and Chile. It is a remarkably hardy and drought tolerant tree, and grows on a wide range of soil types and aspects. It has considerable value as a shade tree, and the dense canopy make it a useful species for shading out weed species such as serrated tussock. There are established markets for *Pinus radiata*, and the wood products have a wide range of end uses. However, although fast growing and hardy, prices paid for *Pinus radiata* logs tend to be at the low end of the value scale.

Not all potential farm foresters like the idea of planting exotics, and want to try their hand at growing native species plantations. Plantations of native species can be quite hard to establish, as they tend to be very site specific with regards to soil type, aspect and slope. One way of seeing what might be successful is to see what native species occur naturally in the area.

Around Windellama, some potentially successful native species could include red stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*), red ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and red box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*). All of these species, although slow growing, grow on drier well drained sites. The timber of all four of these Eucalypts is highly sought after, and would command a premium price. All except red stringybark produce highly durable and strong timber.

There are some wattles that should grow well around Windellama, including silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), green wattle (*Acacia decurrens*) and black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*). All of these species produce attractive timber highly sought after for furniture manufacture and other internal uses such as kitchen cupboards. The big disadvantage of plantations of wattles is that they are very prone to attack by borers.

On better soils, with better moisture, species such as river she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), or even exotics such as poplars (*Populus* species) could grow well. Other exotics worth considering, depending on the site, could be some of the oaks (*Quercus* species) or a species like *Cupressus macrocarpa*.

As with all primary production enterprises, it is best to seek advice. The Southern Tablelands Farm Forestry Network is a not for profit Private Forestry Development Committee funded by the Australian Government and the NSW State Government to provide this advice. Visit our website at www.stffn.org.au

A Burglar Trap

Shoots the wrong man

Strange Gun Accident

Excerpt from Goulburn Post 6/9/1921

There is one man in Goulburn who no longer believes in setting ingenious traps for burglars and that is Mr. WS Wright of near Towrang, who early on Sunday morning was shot in the legs by his own gun and who is now a patient in St. John's Hospital, wounded, but fortunately not seriously.

Mr. Wright, who lives in a small house in the bush not far from the old stockade, had for some time feared that his house might sooner or later be raided by burglars. Accordingly he fixed up a burglar trap which consisted of a shotgun fixed to an upright in the front room, a string and pulley being arranged in such a way as to fire the gun at the door when it was opened. The string was tied to the door-knob, and as this precluded any use of the door by any but unauthorized or unwelcome visitors, Mr. Wright used the back door.

Saturday night he spent at a dance and after the festivities occupied some hours in conversation with neighbours, so that it was not until daylight that he reached his home. Forgetting all about the trap he partly opened the front door, when the trap at once acted, the gun exploding and sending a charge of shot through the lower panel. Many of the pellets remained in the wood, but others passed through and lodged in Mr. Wright's legs, inflicting several nasty wounds. He was able to attract the attention of some passers-by and was brought into Goulburn and admitted to St. John's Hospital, where his injuries were attended to.

He is now reported to be recovering, and is regarded as extremely fortunate, as had the door not stopped the charge to a great extent he would probably have been fatally injured.

Supplied by Maree Elliott



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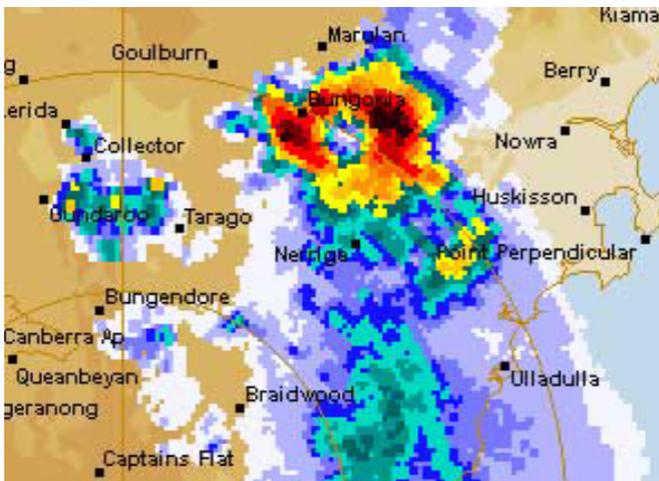
www.wild.windellama.com

By Paul Alessi

palessi@tpgi.com.au

Wild Storms

The big dry came to an end for us with a number of intense storms, two of these came with large hail stones and torrential rain, yet only a few kilometres away at Windellama Hall it remained dry. Maybe it's our location close to the Shoalhaven River that gives us these gully washers. Anyway, we are grateful for the full tanks and dams, but cleaning out the thick layer of silt in one of our sheds that was flooded is still to be completed.



The most dramatic of these storms was on the 27th of February with the storm coming in from the South then heading northwards through Bungonia. This storm front joined with another becoming a cyclonic type of storm with an eye in the middle as can be seen from the radar image. It brought the largest hail and heaviest rain we have ever seen here before.

Special thanks to Dave Edworthy for the radar image.

Windmill Grass (*Chloris truncata*)

The late summer rain has brought on a profusion of seed heads on many native grasses including Windmill Grass. Like most native grasses we walk right over the top of them without realizing they are there. It's often not until they set seed that we notice them, although there is usually a bit of Windmill Grass about each Autumn. It looks like being a great season for this species that is more common than the experts would have us believe.

Windmill Grass is regarded as an Australian native grass yet also occurs in Europe and America as well. It is closely related to the much taller African species *Chloris guyana* (Rhodes Grass) that you see along the freeway from about Mittagong northwards. Windmill Grass prefers colder climates and is common from about Marulan through to Albury at least that I have seen, it is also a reasonable feed grass for stock.



The windmill tops eventually break off when they are ripe and blow in the wind spreading their very light seeds to new places. Windmill grass has been trialed successfully as a lawn for dry conditions.



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At Your Goulburn Library

Museum In A Box



Southern Tablelands Regional Library is proud to be hosting a fascinating regional touring exhibition: 'Museum In A Box', from the Police & Justice Museum in Sydney. The box contains a range of enthralling materials, revealing the everyday life and times of police and criminals of the 1920s prohibition era in NSW. Alongside the required tools for the policeman: police batons, badges, mug shot booklets and handcuffs, can be seen some of the essential items of the criminal's toolkit: cut-throat razor, counterfeit coin, concealable gambling wheel, turnkey and several knuckledusters. The infamous 'Squizzy' Taylor is also featured.

Due to the remarkably compact size of the display, all libraries in the Southern Tablelands region will be able to share in this unusual touring exhibition, making it freely available to all library members. Beginning with Gunning library in mid-March, the 'Museum' will continue on to Braidwood in mid-April. From mid-May, the exhibition will be in Goulburn, and will coincide with Lindsay, a guest speaker from State Records NSW, who will present "Brush With The Law" on 5 June. The tour will then continue on to Yass and Murrumbateman Libraries where it will reside until the end of August. The tour will then move to Crookwell Library before returning to Sydney at the end of September.

To view this impressive museum exhibition and its fascinating items, which are rarely seen outside of Sydney, visit your local library during the regional tour. The STRL is particularly appreciative of the generous support and assistance that has been provided by the Police & Justice Museum and the Historic Houses Trust in making the exhibition available to this area for such an extended period of time.

For further details, contact Lynn Bonomini at Goulburn Library by email at strl@goulburn.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 4823-4435. Alternatively, you can visit or call your own local branch library. This exciting exhibition is not to be missed.

STRL Launches Story Box Program

A new active reading program has been launched by the Southern Tablelands Regional Library to get isolated rural children into reading.

The new Southern Tablelands Active Reading, or S.T.A.R program, provides all playgroups and preschools in the rural areas of Goulburn Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Shire operating outside towns where there is a library branch with the loan of story boxes.

These boxes contain big books for group reading, lots of books for home lending, activity items for group activities like puppets, puzzles, and games, activity books for used to run craft and activity sessions, and certificates for best reader – it is a full resource kit for each group.

The boxes are developed along broad themes like animals, families, doing new things, and occupations, and each group borrows the box from the library for a school term, then brings it back and swaps for another theme box following term.

Regional Library Manager Janet Smith said she hoped the boxes would help foster a love of books and reading among rural children who don't normally have access to a library branch.

"The aim of the program is to encourage the development of literacy and a love of reading amongst pre-school aged children in the Southern Tablelands and also to start them early as regular borrowers of library material," "By providing the resources to those children and parents who don't have easy access to the collections and activities at a library branch because they live in a rural area, we also hope to provide our services more equitably throughout the region," Ms Smith said.

Southern Tablelands Regional Library has received \$10,300 from the Mulwaree Trust to fund its S.T.A.R project, which will run over the next five years. If the program proves successful, a new batch of boxes could be in the works.

"We have already got Collector Playgroup, Tarago Pre-school, Marulan Playgroup and the Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre who organise playgroups at Bigga, Binda, Laggan and Tuena involved," Ms Smith said.



Mulwaree Trustee's Paul Stephenson and John Reynolds with children from the Collector playgroup inspect the new Story Boxes available from the Southern Tablelands Regional Library.

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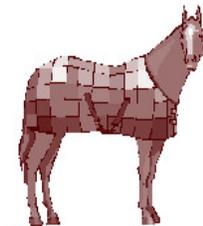
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