

Hardwoods

Friends of ours are restoring a Heritage cottage in Goulburn that was built in the 1800's, the verandah tongue and groove boards needed replacing and the search began for some suitable timber.

It's most likely that early settlers in Goulburn made use of what was nearby, transportation of heavy goods such as timber over long distances was difficult and local hardwoods were perfect for the job anyway, the verandah boards on this old house were most likely stringybark, possibly White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*) Thin Leafed Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenoides*) or Blue Leaf Stringybark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*) all of which could be found close to Goulburn.

The best tongue and grooved boards that one of the local suppliers could offer was a timber called "Merbau" or "Ipil" we'd never heard of this one before so did some searches on the internet, according to the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, Merbau's scientific name is *Intsia bijuga* and grows (or mostly used to grow) " in mangroves in Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean. It is a member of the tropical Caesalpiniaceae family. It grows to around 50 meters (160 feet) tall with a highly buttressed trunk. It is the official tree of the United States territory of Guam, due to extensive logging of the tree, it is endangered in many places in Southeast Asia, and almost extinct in some."

Thankfully one of the other retailers were offering Australian Hardwoods like Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*) and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) as well as some species of Stringybark from another location (not Goulburn) but any of these would make the verandah much more authentic than would have been using an Asian species. We would also have a bit more peace of mind given that logging is under much stricter controls in Australia than in Asia but we couldn't find any tongue and groove boards milled from local species.

I've grown all of the local stringybark species from seed and they perform very well when planted in the right soil and aspect, hardwood is so scarce and expensive now that farm forestry using millable species could be a wise investment.



A large White Stringybark

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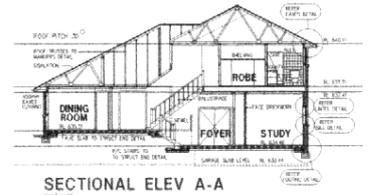
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A HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER STATION FOR WINDELLAMA

Of recent times murmurings have been made by politicians and others about the Welcome Reef Dam for Sydney's water supply as well as providing water for Goulburn.

The concept is not new. My mother said it was considered when she was going to school, she would be 96 if she was alive today and still no dam.

While looking for something else recently I found mention of the dam being considered in 1929 for hydro electric power generation. The prospect of providing hydro electric power from this site was first put forward in 1911.

The site of the present day proposal for a dam is not at the Welcome Reef but is upstream from Oallan Ford with the dam wall near Mogo.

On 18 April 1929 a party set out from Goulburn to inspect the site for the dam and power station. The party consisted of JM Tully MLA for Goulburn, Hon WT Dick, Hon John Travers, and Hon Robert Maloney all MLCs, Mr Nardin engineer with the Public Works Dept as well as the Mayor of Goulburn Mr AJ Wheatley and Alderman Goodhew and SA Steel president of the Goulburn Chamber of Commerce as well as other prominent Goulburn people.

It was a good day and cars set off from the Post Office to travel to Oallen Ford where they were to cross the Shoalhaven River but the flow in the river was too great (the bridge hadn't been built yet) so the party drove over the paddocks at *Fernbank* and walked to view the site on the river.

Some of the party declined to walk and remained with the cars and took in the panoramic views. With Mr WV Smith who had an intimate knowledge of the area as guide the party set out for the Shoalhaven River at a place called "Devil's Bridge". It was to be a "half mile walk" but turned out to be a lot

further after climbing up and down several steep hills. Devil's Bridge was said to be 15 mile up stream from Sewell's Point which would put it near Welcome Reef.

The scheme was estimated to cost about £2,500,000 (\$5,000,000). It would have involved harnessing the water in the river to generate 50,000 kilowatts of power. Had the scheme gone ahead Windellama would have had electricity about 25 years before it came in the late 1950s. It was expected that the scheme would provide power for towns from Wollongong to Wagga Wagga.

The two power stations were to be built between Devil's bridge and Sewell's Point, a distance of 15 miles and a fall in elevation of 790 feet. It was proposed that 240 mile of transmission lines would be built and included in the total cost of the scheme.

Possibly one reason why the scheme (and the present Welcome Reef dam) didn't proceed was the fact that the river, even in good seasons doesn't have a constant flow. Sometimes for three months there is a minimal flow. Then again in 1925 a record flood saw 260,000 cubic feet per second of water flow down the river.

While two power stations were planned, there was also plans for water storage areas and tunnels. There was also to be a fuel burning station so the generators could operate when the river flow was down. Like so many other things the scheme never went past the planning stage.

After the inspection of the river the party headed back to the cars. On reaching the cars it was found that two of the party, Ald Goodhew and Mr Morrison were missing. A search party was arranged but before they set out the missing men returned after having been "bushed" for a time. Being all accounted for they returned to Goulburn in time for tea.

Compiled from an article in the Goulburn Evening Penny Post 19 April 1929

© Tom Bryant 11 May 2008

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 Management Plan pages A81-A84 (PDF pg.572)

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Rating changes proposed in 2008/2009 Management Plan

Goulburn Mulwaree Council's 2008/2009 Draft Management Plan proposes to make the payment of rates more equitable across Goulburn Mulwaree. Overall Council's income from rates will increase by just the 3.2 per cent rate pegging limit allowed by the Minister for Local Government.

Council's Director of Corporate Services Dirk Holwerda said that previously rates had been unevenly distributed across the community due to how the rates system was structured following the amalgamation.

"Inequities in the rates process have existed because the amalgamation involved bringing two completely different rate structures together," Mr Holwerda said.

"Council has been removing the inequities in recent years and we are proposing to continue this process in 2008/2009.

"Overall Council's income from rates will only increase by the 3.2 per cent allowed by the Minister for Local Government. While the overall income from rates will remain within the rate pegging limit, how they are distributed within the community will change.

"Previously we had a system where some properties paid more, or less, rates depending on where they were located in the Council area rather than the rate generated by the value of their property.

The proposed rate structure involves a standard residential rate for properties currently rated as 'Marulan', 'Rural' and 'Village/Other'. This rate will be 45 per cent below the Goulburn residential rate.

A standard business rate will apply for properties currently listed as 'Marulan', 'Rural', 'Village/Other', 'Goulburn General City' and 'Mining'. A new category of 'Business – Extractive Industries' will also be charged this rate, which is 25 per cent above the Goulburn residential rate.

"What this means is that some ratepayers will pay proportionally less rates, while others will

pay more," Mr Holwerda said. "It is important to note that Council does not receive any more income from rates than the 3.2 per cent increased allowed by the Minister – it is only how the rates are divided within the community that changes.

"The biggest impact is that all businesses across Goulburn Mulwaree will pay a standard rate based on the value of their property - there will be no subsidy," he said.

"This will see the CBD rate reduce, while the rate for other Goulburn businesses and those located at Marulan and other villages will increase proportionally.

"The subsidy for rural and village residential rates will also be reduced, meaning these ratepayers will pay proportionally more. The flip side is that residential rates in Goulburn, Run-O-Waters and Marulan township will decrease proportionally.

"All rates will continue to be based on the individual valuations of properties."

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WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA THIS MONTH

to 14 July

The Light of Make Believe — exhibition of works by **Sonja Millis**, The Grevillea Gallery, Thu.–Mon., 9am–5pm. Ph: 0488 074 869

4 July

Goulburn Racing Club — Stallions 2008, Goulburn Racecourse. Ph: 4822 2222

4 July

'Obscure Poets' — Bush Traditions Session, Old Goulburn Brewery, 7.30pm–10.30pm. Ph: 4821 6071

4 & 5 July

Goulburn & District Art Society Winter Exhibition of Paintings, McDermott Centre, 10am–4pm. Ph: 4848 1293

4–6 July

'Pocket Full of Knives' — presented by the Lieder Theatre Company, Fri. & Sat., 7.30pm. Matinees Sat. & Sun., 2pm. Ph: 4821 5066

5 July

Lilac City Monthly Markets, Montague Street. Ph: 4821 1839

5 July

The Goulburn District Vignerons Association Mid-Winter Dinner, Kingsdale Winery, 7pm. Ph: 4822 4880

11 Jul.–15 Aug.

2008 Archibald Prize, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Tue.–Fri. 10am–5pm, Sat. & Sun. 1pm–4pm. Ph: 4823 4443

12 July

Ballroom Dancing Titles, Goulburn Soldiers Club, from 10am. Ph: 9631 7487

13 July

Historic Waterworks — open & steaming, Marsden Weir, 10am–4pm. Ph: 4823 4462

18 July

Goulburn Racing Club TAB Meet, Goulburn Racecourse. Ph: 4822 2222

18 July

'Luil' — Irish Pub-Style Session, Old Goulburn Brewery, 7.30pm. Ph: 4821 6071

18–27 July

The Ballad of Mary Ann Brownlow — the last woman hanged in Goulburn, presented by the Lieder Theatre Company, times TBC closer to date. Ph: 4821 5066

20 Jul.–31 Aug.

Digital Art — exhibition of works by **Brad Nichols**, The Grevillea Gallery, Thu.–Mon., 9am–5pm. Ph: 0488 074 869

20 July

Windellama Hall Monthly Markets, 10am–2pm. Ph: 4844 5087

20 July

Exhibition of Muffet Family Artefacts, Windellama Museum, 10am–2pm. Ph: 4844 5005

26 July

Goulburn Brewery Monthly Craft Markets, Bungonia Road, 10am–2pm. Ph: 4821 6071

27 July

Goulburn Poultry Fanciers' Society Auction, Goulburn Showground, from 9.30am. Ph: 4844 7133

27 July

'Eireann go Brach!' — Irish Music & Lunch, Old Goulburn Brewery, 1pm–4pm. Ph: 4821 6071

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now open for the 2008 NSW Volunteer of the Year Award and Member for Goulburn Pru Goward today urged all local not-for-profit organisations to nominate their most dedicated workers.

"We have many wonderful local volunteers who give so much of their free time to helping others through emergency services, social work, caring for the aged and for children with special needs and an assortment of other ways," Ms Goward said.

"This award goes a little way towards recognising their dedication and I encourage everyone to help celebrate and honour the contribution made by volunteers across NSW by nominating someone in the Goulburn electorate.

"It also helps to remind our communities how much our volunteers do for us all."

Ms Goward said the entries will be judged on a regional basis with the winners moving forward to the State judging and awards ceremony in December.

Details are available through The Centre for Volunteering website: www.volunteering.com.au or by ringing (02) 8267 6309.

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In Your Garden

From Irene Turner



Roses and fruit trees can be planted now. Deciduous flowering trees - such as prunes, flowering cherry, crab apple, flowering peach, lilac. Laburnum vossii (golden chain tree), pink and red Hawthorn. Liquidambar, box elder, golden elm, claret and golden ash and silver birch. Also weeping cherries and Japanese maples. All deciduous trees. roses and fruit trees can be pruned this month. I prefer to prune the first week in August.

Vegetables

Sow only broad beans, peas. Plant onions and seedlings. rhubarb, strawberries and asparagus crowns can also be planted now.

Flowers

Seedlings - Stocks, viola, primula, wallflower, russell lupins, delphiniums, foxgloves, poppies, sweet williams and calendula

Also a'yssum, snapdragons, verbena, dianthus. Sow seed s of Virginian stock direct where they are to grow.

LABURNUM(laburnam)

The Golden Chain Tree

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The Golden Chain Tree is a native of central Europe and parts of Asia Minor.

Laburnums are small deciduous trees of slim, graceful build and compound leaves, each consisting of three leaflets covered with silky hair on the reverse side.

The chains of golden pea flowers (very variable in their brightness) are followed by simple brown pea-type pods.

All species and varieties grow well in almost any position and in any type of soil, provided the winters are cold and the atmosphere moist.

They self-sow from seed, but named varieties are normally budded, just like roses.

All parts of the tree are poisonous, and this must be taken into account in country gardens, positioning them out of reach of stock.



Inquiry – Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program

Regional stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions to an Inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Regional Development, Transport and Local Government into the future role and structure of this new regional development program that will fund major investments in infrastructure and services for regional communities, with funding expected to begin in the 2009-2010 budget.

The Inquiry will define a new direction for regional development infrastructure and resources on a large scale – ports and roads, and on a smaller scale – quality of life within local communities, that will encourage economic development in regional communities ie attract investment and provide job opportunities. It will recommend ways to invest funding that will guide the way forward to a sustainable future that offers enhanced liveability in Australia's regions.

The Inquiry will consult with regional communities and stakeholders – regional organisations and Local governments, and look at past practices before developing the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program.

The closing date for submissions is 14 July 2008. For further information or advice on making submissions go to www.aph.gov.au/itrdlg

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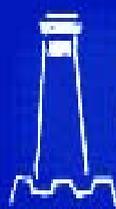
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