

# R D H S

## Local & Family History Newsletter

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### Rylstone News (1909)

(By our Special)

The long looked for break in the dry spell came last week with dramatic force, and will leave its mark for a long while in portions of the district. The full range from an inch to six inches. The heaviest rain fell at Bylong on Thursday, 22nd instant, and it easily stands as a record. Early in the day forebodings of the storm were evidenced on every hand, and about three o'clock, accompanied by vivid lightning and deafening peals of thunder, it broke at the top of the Gulf, near Mr Freeman's farm, and thence across to the Wheelbarrow Mountain. It was almost a waterspout, and in a few minutes everything was in flood, and large logs, etc., commenced to float from the top of the Gulf and Wheelbarrow Mountain, where two separate gullies three or four miles in length run parallel, both converging at the foot of the Gulf, at which place Mr C Davis has established his home and only a short time ago completed building a new

stone house and other improvements. Here the stormwaters from six inches of rain met from the mountain sides, and it was thought that the house and surroundings would be swept bodily away by the large boulders, logs and debris, but fortunately Mr Davis, with assistance, saved his fine house, though his orchard and fences were completely washed out. After the storm had passed this spot large rocks and immense logs weighing several tons in weight were left on Mr Davis' property and all over his land has been strewn limbs of all descriptions. Undoubtedly the strongest force was met at this spot, but after getting past here the stormwaters rushed with maddening speed towards Tryallion in an immense volume, carrying gates, wire netting fences and everything in front of them, and for a distance of six miles timber is strewn in all directions over the cleared flats. The damage done is hard to estimate, but £300 would not replace what has

been carried away. The Gulf Road from top to bottom has been torn asunder, and it is difficult for traffic to pass in places. Mr Barnes estimates that it will take £100 to repair the roadway. Bylong was not alone as the storm centre, for Glen Alice had a terrific fall, over four inches being registered in half an hour. In the vicinity of Mr Moss' "Warrengue Terrace," and from there down to Mrs Jamieson's "Warrengue" station, the water took fence, logs and everything else in its way. Mr Brown ("Glencoe") and Mr Turner ("Mount View") had several dams washed away. That visitations like these storms are welcome is a mixed question. Certainly those who have been washed out will not think so. Many parts of the district have had nice soaking rain and 140 points, but nothing less than six inches spread over a week, will be of any use in breaking this drought (Mudgee Guardian and North Western Representative, 28 January 1909).

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### Stealing from the Person (1910)

Coonamble. - Stolen, on the 16th instant, from the person of J R Fletcher, of Rylstone, whilst on the Coonamble

Racecourse, - A leather purse containing a return half of first class railway ticket, Coonamble to Rylstone, and

the sum of £32 10s. Purse and railway ticket identifiable (Police Gazette 29 June 1910, p. 26).

## Local Weather (1900)

We have had a day or two of quite wintry weather at last, but so far the winter of 1900 is a record one of mildness (Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, 29 June 1900, p. 10).

Ten Days Later . . .

The fall was general throughout the Mudgee district, although it varied in severity. At Cherry Tree Hill it measured three feet, and Mr. Sims, who was coming to Mudgee, had to draw his buggy with draught horses through three feet of snow until the metalled road was reached. The Capertee mail coach had to be abandoned, and the bags were brought on on Sunday afternoon in a sulky. Paddocks are under water, creeks are crushing, which for months and months have only trickled, and old hands shake their heads and reckon that the seasons are completely changing (Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, 9 July 1900, p. 2).

## Fitz-Gerald Bros.' Circus (1901)

At Rylstone on Thursday Next

It is a little over three years since the Messrs Fitz Gerald paid their last visit to this town, and since that time "Brother Tom" has made a tour of the world, collecting novelties and sensations of every conceivable description for the delectation of the Australian patrons. That his selection was judicious goes without saying, the new company having to work the whole of the principal cities of the States and New Zealand, and meeting with a series of successes, in whatever town they have appeared in, and the united press are in accord in stating that the present is the greatest array of talent yet brought to the colonies. The brothers did not confine themselves to engaging male and female stars, but also purchased at considerable expense a string of black Hungarian stallions, and with their gorgeous trappings "all on" they present a splendid appearance, and perform some marvellously clever evolutions. "A Tiger riding on horseback" will be another startling item, and "Lizzie" the elephant and her confreres the pony "Oscar" and the lion

"Prince" will also be in evidence. The newcomers include: The Dunbar's, from Barman's great show, Madam Adelina Antonio, Mdlle. Rhodesia, Kate Montgomery, the Russian Jandashevskis family, Schraeder, the Demon Cyclist, Mdlle. Margaretta, the Brothers Karl, etc. The combination which comprises 78 people, 14 cages of wild animals, and 18 horses and ponies, will arrive by their own special trains, opening the same night, Thursday, September 12. The agents are in town making the necessary arrangements. We are assured by Mr Frank Jones, the principal representative, that the whole of this great show will positively appear in Rylstone, and the same performance given as that presented in the leading cities of the Commonwealth. Doubtless the concluding item of the show will prove to be one of the most interesting items of the night, viz., the high jumping contest between their prize horses, "Newhaven," "Cadet," "Bramble" and "Stockman," who will jump 6 feet and upwards in the arena (Rylstone Express, 6 September 1901, p. 7).

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## GOANNA V SNAKE 1948

The latest snake story. A Lithgow apiarist who was attending to his bees at Bylong last week witnessed a savage scrap between an eight foot brown snake and a goanna measuring a couple of yards long. The goanna moved with the speed of lightning and not once did the snake strike it. It feinted, charged and at each rush nipped a piece from the snake's body, until eventually it broke its opponent spine behind the head. At each rush the goanna would pick up the snake, shake it viscosly "like a dog shaking a rag doll" and hurl it several feet (The Picton Post, 30 December 1948, p. 3).

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# RYLSTONE DISTRICT BUTTER (1901)

Winning prizes appears to be the favourite past time of Mr S P Paddison, manager of the Oakey Creek Dairy Co., his latest acquisition being the winning of the gold medal, at the Cootamundra Show, for champion export butter. This butter is put to a very severe test, having to be sealed and lodged in the hands of the Secretary of the show 30 days prior to judging. The Oakey Creek Co., it will be remembered won the same prize last year. Considering that at the Cootamundra Show some of the largest and best equipped factories on the South Coast compete, the Oakey Creek Co. have every reason to be proud of their manager's success (Rylstone Express, 6 September 1901, p. 8).

## Snakes 1923

To have shot at one snake and killed two, and added a couple of their intending victims to his bag, was the experience of Mr. R. Oldfield of Cudgegong. When told by his grandchild that a snake had entered a tree stump, an examination revealed two snakes, a black and a brown and also two dead mice, all killed by the same shot (Maryborough Chronicle, 21 December 1923, p. 8).

# RYLSTONE DISTRICT (1899)

This district is principally devoted to grazing, and is situated on the central table-land. It embraces the counties of Cook, Hunter, Phillip, and Roxburgh. THE SUBDIVISIONS ARE: Capertee, Ilford, and Rylstone. AREAS ALIENATED and CUTLIVATED: - In this district in 1899 there were 244,182 acres alienated, and 260,264 acres of Crown Lands occupied. The number of holdings of over one acre was 422, and the total area cultivated 5,223 acres. The area cultivated was as follows: - For grain – Wheat, 2,374 acres; Oats, 34 acres; Barley, 19 acres; Maize, 1,295 acres. For fodder – Wheaten hay, 150 acres; Oaten

hay, 553 acres; Barley, 1 acre; Lucerne, 293 acres. Potatoes, 178 acres; Grape Vines, 3 acres; Oranges, 1 acre; Orchards, 94 acres; and 219 acres of other crops. Live Stock – In this district in 1899 there were 156,966 Sheep, 13,967 Cattle, 2,999 Horses, 1,502 Milch Cows, and 728 Pigs. Rylstone is 158 miles from Sydney, on the Mudgee branch of the Great Western railway line, and is 1,893 feet above sea level. The place of Petty Sessions is Rylstone (Yewen's Directory of the Landholders of New South Wales 1899, p. 460)

## Death of a Bylong Resident (1907)

The sad news reaches us of the death of Mr John Davis, son of Mr J Davis, of Ginghi, near Bylong. About three weeks ago the late Mr Davis, who was extremely popular in the district, began to feel indisposed. Being, however, of an optimistic disposition, and having always enjoyed good health, he thought little of the matter, and continued at his usual occupation. Daily he grew worse, and when, unhappily, it was too late to stay the ravages of a deadly fever, he decided to become an inmate of the Merriwa Hospital. On admission it was found that he was suffering from typhoid in an advanced stage. It was then too late to effect a change for the better and he grew rapidly worse

and died on Thursday night last. The deceased was a son-in-law of Mrs James Wilton, of Church Street, Mudgee, and leaves a sorrowing widow and two young children to mourn their irreparable loss. Mr Chas. Wilton journeyed to Merriwa on Thursday night last and was present at the bedside when the Grim Reaper carried off a most estimable young man and a model husband. Widespread sympathy is felt for the bereaved widow and orphans (Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, 9 December 1907).

## Tarwyn Park, a Famous Stud.

1939

One of the most famous thoroughbred studs in Australia is that owned by Mr H S Thompson, of "Tarwyn Park," in the Bylong Valley, New South Wales.

A fine chain of wells provides a good water supply, and the standard of the Lucerne in its paddocks is exceptionally high. Every conceivable modern improvement has been installed and the accommodation for the stock is on the most up-to-date lines.

With other members of the family, Mr Thompson bought "Valais" in 1924 for 14,000 guineas, which is the highest price ever paid for any tried sire in Australia. "Valais" son, "Heroic," has sired winners for an amount exceeding £240,000 since he has been in this stud. "Heroic's" place has in turn been taken by his son, "Hall Mark," a Melbourne Cup winner, who two years ago retired to "Tarwyn." Among the many other famous ex-racehorses to be seen is the beautiful "Veilmond" (The Muswellbrook Chronicle, 6 April 1939, p. 3).

## History Hunters

2014

On Wednesday 12th of November, seven intrepid souls, in four cars, travelled to the Upper Bylong Valley, to take photographs, commissioned by Stuart Andrews, proprietor of "Tarwyn Park".

The photographs taken will form part of a pictorial history of the Valley. We were well armed with prior knowledge of the history of this great property. Stewart, his wife, Megan, and mother, Anne kindly gave us a really interesting talk as well. The stories of top-class bloodstock which raced and stood this season, is very impressive.

The old long stables, a round exercise yard, and the piece de resistance was the very high tank stand, still in operation, providing good pressure because it is so high. Elaborately built (and added to) it would have had to weather all conditions and hold, when tanks were full, at least 5500 gallons. Most of us would take our water for

granted, but this stand and tanks, provided a graphic example of how reliant country folk were (and are) on a good supply of water!

Over lunch we were able to discuss what we had seen and learned in comfy surroundings (in a cottage provided for the occasion).

A great day! There are many such places which abound in history in our area, and it is just a matter of organising trips, seeing to the legal aspect, and making the effort to follow through.

Come join the "History Hunters", first Wednesday of each month, at the BVI, beginning 4 February 2015. We have an archivist in attendance who assists anyone and everyone to set up their computer for their family history. *Muriel.*

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## Rylstone 1901

Another dangerous snake-bite was inflicted on Mr George Brown at Spring Gap recently. Mr Brown, who lives at Mount Brace, while getting a drink of water was bitten on the arm. His brother heroically scarified the bite and sucked it well, after applying a ligature above the puncture made by the fangs of the reptile. Then the journey was made into Rylstone, and Dr Clinton injected strychnine into the arm, and after some further treatments the patient overcame

the narcotic influence of the poison, and slowly came around. The reptile was one of the most deadly class of black snakes – red-bellied, with rings. People cannot be too cautious, especially in picking a bunch of grapes off their vines on a hot day or in the evening. Vines in this quarter seem a great retreat for them (Maitland Daily Mercury, 4 February 1901, p. 6).