

BOOLAROO

Bulletin

A Centenary Publication



1898 - 1998
“Past and Present”



PASMINCO

foreword

BOOLAROO is celebrating in 1998 a Centenary of Business - since TC Frith opened his doors for business in Boolaroo in 1898. This special edition of the Boolaroo Bulletin will feature history, stories from past and present, local characters & legends; and a vision for future economic growth from the Boolaroo/Speers Point Chamber of Commerce in the promotion and marketing of both towns.

*His Worship The Mayor
of Lake Macquarie,
Cr John Kilpatrick
OAM and
Mayoress
Ellen Kilpatrick, local
residents of Speers
Point for over 27 years.*



THIS year a number of communities around lake Macquarie have celebrated special milestones and the recognition of 100 years of business in Boolaroo is yet another special occasion.

Boolaroo has a proud history of achievement, with its links with the Sulphide, Hawkins Transport, the Council and the first shop in Boolaroo. Ellen and I have lived locally for many years, and indeed Ellen went to school at Boolaroo, and we have seen some of the times of hardship, as well as the good times. And in all the highs and lows that Boolaroo has experienced, there has always been very strong and loyal community support. The determination and the desire of the business people of Boolaroo to continue to meet the needs of the local community is to be commended and worthy of our on-going support.

I am delighted to commend this special Centenary edition of the Boolaroo Bulletin and Ellen and I extend best wishes to the Boolaroo Community. *Happy birthday and well done.*

BOOLAROO-WARNERS BAY MEDICAL GROUP

Local Doctors

DR. VIRGINIA PAWSEY

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(Aviation Medicine)

DR. ROBERT SIM

(Medical Acupuncturist)

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introduction

BOOLAROO and Speers Point are two separate entities. The township of Boolaroo is unique, there are the local personalities that brighten your day when they smile and greet you in the street; retailers are warm and friendly with many focusing on the needs of the customer and businesses that are proud of their own associations with Boolaroo proving business sustainability with decades of operation in the area. Boolaroo has also history with mining and industry and commercial developments on the town's outskirts. Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter recently celebrated 100 years of operation in 1997, and two major employers Pasmenco and Lake Macquarie City Council and Council's Depot utilising services and local contractors from the area. The Lake Cinema attracts people to Boolaroo from far and wide to take part in nostalgia from a bygone era with weekend bookings made well in advance. There are many other interesting landmarks with two historic hotels, the Commercial Hotel and Boolaroo Hotel (ex Shinnys). The Boolaroo Bowling Club has its own history established in 1927 and there are many sporting clubs and groups that utilise local sporting ovals from archery to rugby, soccer & more.

Revitalisation of Boolaroo will evolve from the Main Street Heritage Study recommendations with funding currently being sourced through Lake Macquarie City Council and the Department of State & Regional Development. Boolaroo offers many local services for the community and is fortunate to have a large supermarket, Festival, to offer shopping within walking distance to resident's homes. Boolaroo - atmosphere, character and that good ol' fashioned customer service - a must to visit!

Speers Point offers beautiful views of Lake Macquarie as the town is nestled along the Lake's shoreline and up on the hills overlooking the Lake. Together with the historic and very popular Speers Point Park, there is a new cycleway and walking path which offers tourists and local residents and visitors, Lake Macquarie City Councils theme "a quality lifestyle". Speers Point is the location of Lake Macquarie City Council Chambers and Administration Building. There are many sporting and cultural facilities and activities including a Sailing Club, Speers Point Library, Speers Point Swimming Pool, wonderful places to dine out, Pippy's Restaurant in the historic Speers Point Hotel and Five Islands Restaurant, at the Speers Point RSL which is located on another historic landmark; a Picture Theatre established in 1924. Speers Point Primary is the home of Puppets In Motion and Freewheels Theatre is located near the Council Chambers.

There are new businesses relocating to the Boolaroo/Speers Point areas and it is imperative that the local community retain services for the future development of both areas. Shopping locally on a daily or weekly basis assists retaining employment and encouraging growth in the business sector. As you browse through the following pages we can only reflect and admire the pioneers of yesteryear and have fresh hope as we head towards 2000 and the Bi-Centenary of Lake Macquarie.

Jennifer Anne Barrie - Publisher - September 1998.

• **Distribution:** 3500 homes delivered/ to Boolaroo, Speers Point & Argenton.

• **Cover Photos:** View of Boolaroo from Watkins Bridge.

Local resident and infant under Watkins Bridge.

1st Boolaroo Urban area committee 1921-22. D.C. MacCruer, Hon Sec. C.W. Mann, President 1922, B. F. Hardy, President 1921.

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BOOLAROO

"A MAN of vision, public spirit, and a belief in social justice" - 'A great humanitarian who himself worked hard but always believed in the dignity of labour', - 'The father of local government in Lake Macquarie' - these were just some of the epithets used to describe Thomas Charles Frith, the doyen of retailing in Lake Macquarie. Owner of Frith's stores at Boolaroo, Teralba, Toronto and Warners Bay, 'T C' (a term widely used with respect and affection), displayed benign paternalism towards his employees, thus generating loyalty and lengthy periods of service. A similar regard was also extended to his many customers with respect and loyalty.

The Beginning - When the Sulphide Corporation built a vast new plant at Cockle Creek, Boolaroo in 1897, Thomas could see the business potential and decided to establish a store nearby. Settlement of the district had commenced in 1896, and although only a 'rag and bag' camp at the time the workforce and their families required food and clothing. Thomas purchased a large block of land at Boolaroo on the corner of Main Road and First Street, the latter then being the main road to Cockle Creek which was crossed by a punt, prior to the building of Watkins Bridge in 1899. After clearing ti-tree scrub and bushland, the new Boolaroo store of T.C. Frith & Co. was erected. Apart from the newly constructed buildings of Sulphide Corporation, there was very little development in the district although this was soon to change. By 1899 there were over 400 employed at the Sulphide Corporation Works. A considerable financial outlay had been required to stock the new store with groceries, hardware and produce but soon TC was able to purchase an adjoining block for future extensions. As business improved, an additional two adjoining blocks were purchased.

Transport - In those days before motor vehicles there was a great demand for fodder, especially from the nearby coal mines at Teralba where pit ponies were used to haul coal to the shaft or tunnel. This was to play a major role in the business for many years. Tom Frith would arrange for supplies of fodder from western NSW to be consigned to Cockle Creek Station where it would be off loaded and collected by horse and dray. TC Frith spent many days travelling around the countryside on horseback or by horse and cart, contacting customers and new arrivals to the district. He sought business with a dogged tenacity and when rail gangs or fettlers established their 'tent cities' miles away from Boolaroo he called regularly to obtain their custom, usually offering them fortnightly credit. He advertised: "I do not offer anything at cut prices to attract your custom. We hope that by dependable goods and faithful service to retain the confidence and continued support of the people". The firm offered a free weekly service from the earliest days. This covered a vast area including Swansea, Nords Wharf and Cams Wharf, also to Catherine Hill Bay and two nearby mining settlements of Middle and Mine Camp. The firm's Order Man would leave Boolaroo on horseback on Monday morning, travelling to Catherine Hill Bay and other places en route. As well as obtaining orders for groceries and other goods, the Order Man would collect payment from customers who were given fortnightly credit. He would then ride to Swansea and stay overnight at the Hotel. On Tuesday morning he would collect orders and money from the Swansea district and in the afternoon would make his way to Boolaroo, through thick bush via Belmont and Warners Bay. Most of his return trip would be on lonely bush tracks and although carrying a considerable sum of money, not once was the Order Man robbed. It is said, that the Order Man received a bonus of 2/0d(20c) a day as 'bushranging'.

T.C. FRITH & CO.



money. Each order would be packed in brown paper bags, labelled and taken to the jetty, either at the end of Second Street or at Speers Point where they would be taken by launch and barge to Swansea, then the contract delivery man would complete the delivery. Other deliveries from the Boolaroo Store were made by horse and cart.

Economic Downturn - The bank failure of 1893 had ushered in some years of hardship and once again the period of 1904-6 saw a similar economic downturn resulting in extensive unemployment. Work was virtually non-existent and TC encouraged unemployed men to seek work wherever possible. He pledged to feed their families while there was food on the premises. Reassured, the unemployed travelled far afield seeking work, even to Canada and South Africa. Some returned years later and others sent for their families. Yet one and all made every effort to pay their debts and even after twenty five years or so, money was still being received by the firm from all over the world.

Expansion - Intent on expansion, Tom Frith decided to open another store at Teralba. As the business grew the shop was enlarged and in 1912 new premises were erected on the corner of York Street and Anzac Parade.

In 1915 Thomas and wife Maria decided to purchase 96 acres (39ha) of land in Boolaroo, extending from Seventh Street south to Speers Point Park. The land was sold over a period of time for residential subdivisions and recreation purposes.

TC Frith was elected to Lake Macquarie Shire Council and again for the 1920-22 term. Councillor TC Frith was elected unopposed as President on 16.2.1920. Coincidentally, these were the years of his activity in the formation of the Ambulance Service. Councillor Frith was not only involved with the formation of an Ambulance Service whilst on Council. He is given credit as the prime mover for connection of the electricity supply to Boolaroo and Speers Point. In the early years of the twentieth century lighting of premises was usually be kerosene lamp, candle or various types of gas, all inferior to electric lighting. In 1918 a meeting was held in the Sulphide Hall during which TC Frith advised that the Sulphide Corporation was willing to supply bulk electricity to the suburbs for street lighting and domestic purposes. Attempting to generate community support, Councillor Frith advised the meeting that the Corporation 'had made a very generous offer and the people of (the) district were very fortunate'. The Boolaroo Bowling Club, another of Thomas Frith's projects, was formed to provide recreation for the men of Boolaroo.

Acknowledgement Dulcie Hartley "Frith's" A Century of Service" published by Robert Hamilton Hill 1997

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COCKLE CREEK SMELTER

In 1897 Cockle Creek was a virgin piece of land but a site that was to become of major industrial significance to the Hunter Region. The land was selected by the then Sulphide Corporation for the construction of a smelter based on the ideas of a young electrical engineer named Edgar Ashcroft. The site had a good supply of fresh water and salt water, had rail access, was near port and harbour facilities, was near to coal deposits and in those days was a fairly isolated spot.

Ashcroft's design was for an electrolytic zinc smelter with zinc ores to be purchased from the Central Mine at Broken Hill. More than 800 men are reported to have worked on building the Hunter Region's first major heavy industry but only a few months after it's opening in March 1897 it was decided that Ashcroft's new concept was not economically viable and the smelter converted to an orthodox lead smelter.

In the early 1900s the first of five zinc distillation plants were installed to produce what is believed to be the first zinc produced in commercial quantities in the Southern Hemisphere. Zinc production continued until 1908 but the plant was closed due to distillation being less favourable than selling metal in concentrates.

State-of-the-art sintering machines were installed in 1912, a sulphuric acid and superphosphate plant was commissioned in 1913 followed by a Mond Gas producer plant to produce coal gas for fuel, fuel oil and tar. In 1917 a full scale lead refinery was constructed as was a works canteen, the first of its type on a NSW industrial plant.

During World War 1 the corporation was one of the largest industrial employers in NSW to record its highest lead production in 1915-16.

Post war years saw a change in fortunes and by 1922 the economic outlook for smelting companies was poor. The smelting section of the works was closed in May that year but this resulted in an expansion of sulphuric acid, superphosphate and mixed fertilizer plants.

During the 1920s zinc concentrates were roasted on the site and shipped to the Electrolytic Zinc Company in Hobart, cement production began and fertilizer sales were pooled with Australian Fertilizers in an operation that continued until the late 1960s to gain maximum profits.

The 1930s was a decade of trepidation because of the Great Depression but towards the end of the period demand for superphosphates began to grow and acid production saw the installation of new equipment. The Cockle Creek plant was declared a "protected industry" during the early 1940s to maintain its workforce and production and in 1947 the corporation gained permission to mine coal on its own land because of unrest in the valley's coal mines.

The now equivalent of \$6 million was invested in 1949 to double sulphuric acid production while planning was underway to return to zinc production.

The 1950s started with the Sulphide Corporation Ltd going into voluntary liquidation but Sulphide Corporation Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Zinc Corporation Ltd, took over

the site and introduced a raft of initiatives such as suggestion schemes, on-the-job training, discussion forums and worker incentives.

It was during this decade that environment concerns began to surface and a major tree planting exercise was undertaken on Munibung Hill. In 1957 a capital injection of \$16 million was announced to re-establish zinc smelting and expand the sulphuric and superphosphate plants.

The 1960s saw the plant enter a new era of industrial progress with the commissioning of a zinc-lead smelter to increase Australia's overall zinc-lead capacity by 40%. After 65 years of varied operations in the chemical and metallurgical industries the corporation had turned full circle to become an industrial showpiece.

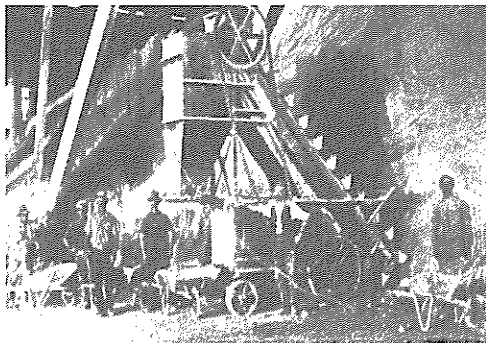
Much happened during the 1960s with the Clean Air Act being legislated, Conzinc Riotinto taking a 75% control, 50 years of acid and fertilizer production being celebrated and Greenleaf Fertilizers being established to take on the increasing demand for fertilizer. There was also a 24 hour canteen, centralised changerooms and medical centre, university scholarships, the building of a refinery for new products and in 1969 the sale after 56 years of superphosphate production the company's holding in Greenleaf Fertilizers was sold to Australian Fertilizers Ltd.

The 1970s saw an increasing social and environmental awareness and much capital was invested in the plant to enhance anti-pollution measures. The core was a \$250,000 stack and scrubber system to increase efficiency of gas cleaning and dust collection. Systematic noise reduction, regular monitoring of effluents and emissions took place as cost cutting measures were introduced in the later part of the decade following plummeting demand for zinc.

The 1980s started in similar fashion to the end of the previous decade and plans for a \$150 million electrolytic zinc smelter were withdrawn. In 1985 the company invested \$3 million on improved technology to increase zinc output, the procedure reinforcing the corporation's reputation as a leader in ISF technology.

In 1988 word came that North Broken Hill Holdings Ltd and CRA Ltd had agreed to merge lead and zinc assets which resulted in a \$50 million capital investment for the Sulphide works which were renamed Pasminco Metals-Sulphide Pty Ltd. Environmental control measures saw \$12 million being expended with most of the other funds earmarked for an upgrade of the plant.

In the early 1990s the management addressed environmental and community concern about soil and dust contamination in the community, and elevated children's blood lead levels. A buffer zone was established on the smelter's southern boundary, greater co-operation with the community on health and environment issues was implemented and an Environmental Impact Statement followed by a Commission of Inquiry resulted in a set of operating conditions among the most stringent in the world. Nine environmental management strategies have been introduced to complement increased capacity of 90,000 tonnes of zinc per annum as the site looks back on more than 100 years of operation and heads into the new millennium.



• Sulphide Corp. reclaiming superphosphate early 1900s.

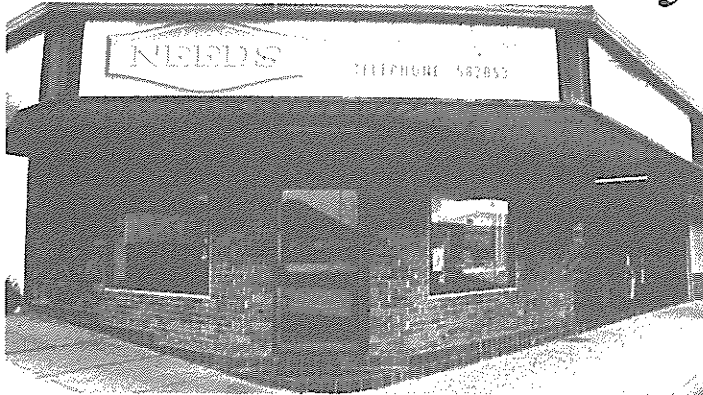
A Century of Production...

BOOLAROO - Snippets of History

Early Settlers: When Stockton Borehole Mine was opened in 1886 men came to work there and lived in tents and bag huts behind the present Police Station. The transport and construction firm of G. Hawkins & Sons was founded in 1896 by George Hawkins. It was managed by his son Albert Hawkins from 1914 until 1980. A sawmill owned by Mr Finlay was built about the turn of the century near Watkins Bridge. In 1896 Boolaroo consisted of bullock tracks and a few houses. All cartage was done by bullock teams and horses and carts. Land was granted to William Brooks in 1839 of 1280 acres. In 1886 Sir James Fairfax and two subdivisions occurred in 1890's and 1900. Thomas J. Thompson then purchased all the vacant land. "Boolaroo Estate" was declared in 1896 and the second "Township of Boolaroo" in 1899. (W. Dews Collection)

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64 YEARS of Service to the Community: The Needs Family butchery has been operating since 1934. The oldest butchery in the shire and is still trading after 64 years. Congratulations to the Needs family!

BOOLAROO Bakeries

THE first bakery in Boolaroo was established by Matthew Copeland in Second Street, nearly opposite the Sulphide Hotel, in approximately 1909. Thomas Hitchcock who previously operated a bakery in Teralba (site unknown) operated a bakery in Boolaroo from 1909 to late 1910. This bakery was built at the rear of 268 Main Road, Boolaroo (corner of Third Street). From 1920 until mid 1922 the bakery was controlled by Percy Thompson of the well-known Thompson bakery family of Wallsend. In 1922 the bakery was returned to T. Hitchcock who operated it until late 1923. From 1924 to 1925 it was operated by Clarence Watkins. In December 1925 Essex Hamonet bought the business and continued to operate until May 1949. The bakery building and adjoining shop and residence was purchased by G. Hawkins & Sons and demolished to make way for the mixed business currently occupying the site.

(*The Boolaroo Co-operative Society was established in 1912 and during 1920-21 built and operated a bakery in Third Street).

THE STORE

Growth and Expansion in the early years:

THE Store opened for business on 6 January 1913 with 44 members. At the end of the first year the membership had increased to 81 and members received a divvy. The war years showed a steady growth and at the end of 1917 members were 217. In 1920, 343 members. In 1922 when the Sulphide Corporation's smelting works ceased operations 100 of the Society's members left for employment purposes. In 1934 there were 627 members.

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BOOLAROO POST OFFICE



IN 1899 J.W. Findlay who owned a store at Boolaroo wrote to the Department requesting that a receiving office be established at Boolaroo, at his store as he was a licensed stamp vendor. It was declined, as there was an existing post office at the Cockle Creek Railway Station. As population expanded in Boolaroo, it was approved that an official post & telegraph office with full facilities should be opened. The building was completed in January 1901 and opened for business 1 March 1901. The first "postie" Frederick Hindley walked 11 miles a day until he was granted an allowance for a horse and feed. Banking: The Bank of N.S.W. was established in 1935 with an agency and later in 1937 it became a branch, and transferred to a new site on the corner of Fourth street, where the Boolaroo Medical Group have their surgery in 1955. Times have changed: for the past two years the focal point of all postal and banking needs are well serviced by Carol Springall, Postal Manager, who owns and operates Boolaroo Licensed Post Office in Main Road. Carol opens early and is dedicated to her business working long days, yet still finding time to be the Secretary of the Boolaroo/Speers Point Chamber of Commerce. Although there are automatic teller machines in town, they won't smile and find time to be friendly - like Carol!!

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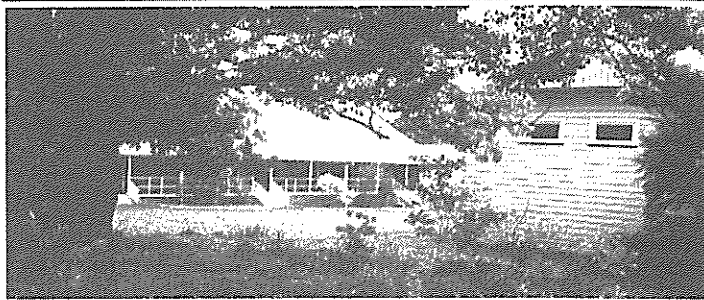


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BOOLAROO SCHOOL



IN 1896 an application was made for a provisional school at Argenton. The school opened the following year and Boolaroo children had to walk a mile and a half each day. In 1899 a school was approved for Boolaroo. In 1900 the school opened and by the end of that year had an enrolment of 102 pupils. *When this Centenary project commenced a young 19 year old, Harley Thomas enquired about work experience, here is his article:

What has become of the school system today with the disrespect and violence we see inherent in many of the students. Gone are the days when teachers were addressed as Sir or Maam and students considered it as a privilege, not a right to attend classes. Student population has increased and the country style class system has disappeared save for the few outback schools that still exist. How many teachers, students even, wish to return to that style of schooling and the respect and position in society that an education provided. A teacher was a respected member of any community and the students asserted themselves more to attain placements in Universities and higher levels of learning. Many looked upon schooling as a stepping stone to a further career rather than just an enforced system that has become more of a burden than a desire. Schools in the middle of the century were scarce and many students had to travel far to reach them from out of town. Modern transport systems, while available, were still difficult to reach and less frequent than today. But many schools were built to try and reach those students hard pressed to find a place to learn. One such school was Boolaroo, a pioneer in its area being the only school from Mt Hutton to Cardiff. Naturally being the only school in the area it accommodated many students. In fact in 1949 it took 10 double decker buses to transport the 640 students to and from the school each day. Not huge in modern standards but a fair size for its day. It was at this same time that saw the promotion of Denis McEneaney to the position of Headmaster of the Boolaroo School. With this promotion came the turning point of the school's history. For Denis McEneaney, with an impeccable record, was an upstanding citizen who changed not only much in the school system but also did much to improve Boolaroo as a community. A notable achievement for the school was his commencement of flute classes for the students. A shame that we have converted from this to the use of the recorder in music classes of today. Denis also began road safety classes to aid the students on their entrance to the school and to improve road awareness for their personal safety; previously not taught at the school. Also in connection with the school was the entertainment week, organised by Denis to celebrate the marking of the school's Golden Jubilee. Such events as these became traditional and helped to make the school more recognised in the community. Denis completed 20 years of teaching and authority at Boolaroo school. Much of which he had taught and promoted remains today. Maybe then there is one school of today that lingers on the memories of the old day system. Tradition has won through at Boolaroo and just maybe the practises and principles taught of old will remain for future students to benefit from. May there be more teachers and headmasters in Boolaroo that earn the respect and derive more from the education system like Denis McEneaney.

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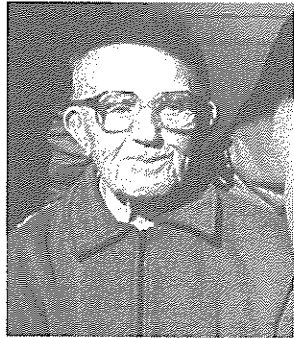
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A DAY WITH JACK EASTLAKES - (Aged 97)

A PROUD RESIDENT OF BOOLAROO - By Jennifer Barrie

THE secret to living to a good ol' age in Boolaroo is to have a hot bath every day, a little advice from Boolaroo resident Jack Eastlakes! One sunny, yet cool and windy morning, I had the absolute pleasure to meet Jack who was sitting quietly on his verandah enjoying the warmth of the sun. Spending time with Jack Eastlakes, his son John, daughter Shirley and son-in-law Les Mason, the stories, the people and the town's historical importance reminded me why I have become so fond of Boolaroo, the warmth and good nature of the many residents who have lived in the area for all or most of their lives and the spirit that lives within these folk. We talked of times past when Jack could remember a bustling town; the Lindstrom Bros., Friths and The Co-op stores and many highlights that spanned over nearly a century. As the interview began with Jack proud of his



97 years; he began to tell his story. Jack arrived in Australia in 1924 and worked as a Miner at the Stockton Borehole, he started as a miner in England at the age of 14 and worked hard in pits & mines until the age of 60. (It was brought to my attention recently that photos of men in the early days are all thin men, is this a reflection on today's trends and work duties?). In war times there were 10 hour shifts to produce coal for guns.

With the vast distance from Boolaroo to Northumberland, Jack met another "Geordie" a nice girl, Florence who caught his eye as she walked by one day, they met again at a dance at the Sulphide Welfare Hall and later married. Jack recalled an earth tremor in the Sulphide Hall when the walls shook in approx. 1924. I asked Jack why he liked the area? "Boolaroo is a nice place, I like the people, the kindness and friendliness that people have shown to me over the many years", Jack replied. As Jack finds it more difficult to move around there is always someone to help him daily, whether family or community aid eg Meals on Wheels. Jack remembers when Kingsford Smith's plane landed on the Boolaroo Racetrack. Jack was a member of the Co-op store, and of course in those days it was the "wife's department". Everything could be bought at The Store from bakery needs to hardware. Jack's son John Eastlakes worked for over 5 years in the bakery when the bread cart was horse drawn and there were stables for the horses. In the early days doctors made up their own medicine whilst you sat and waited for a "brown bottle". Jack never had much money to go anywhere so weekends and holidays were spent down at Speers Point Park, thousands came from all over to camp and frolic by the Lake. We talked about the "night soil carters", the blasts from the Quarry, the respect in the community for the Hawkins firm, the parades from the Commercial Hotel down to the Park which ended up as a community picnic with concerts and singers. The respect for the local Bank Manager and Postmaster, to whom everyone lifted their hat when acknowledging a friendly greeting. Jack's family were supportive of this interview and to the future "concern for safer airplanes" and a strong will, Jack intends and hopes to live to see 2020 and reach 120, if this small miracle can happen it may prove to others that Boolaroo is the place to live if you want to live a long, and fulfilling life, just like Jack who was frisky enough to give me a "peck on the cheek" to bid farewell.

Thank-you Jack!

LAKE CINEMA - AN ICON - A Tourist Attraction!



T. BURGIN, G Durie and TC Frith were partners in Boolaroo Pictures Pty Ltd. This firm built theatres at Boolaroo (Royal), Speers Point (Astor) and Teralba (Royal). These theatres operated with the one set of reels and members of the Frith family and (other employees) used to do 'the switch', whereby the reels were rotated around the three theatres. In the early days boys including Barry Frith and Tom Burgin rode push bikes between the theatres carrying the reel for the next session and collecting that already shown for delivery to another theatre. Later they graduated to motor bikes, thus speeding up the process.

At the time of publication restoration and renovations to the Cinema in Main Road, Boolaroo were underway with re-opening for enthusiastic theatre goers in October. Bob Mason, proprietor for the past 25 years is full of praise for Lake Macquarie City Council who has gone to considerable trouble to restore the Cinema. Work includes a new roof, ceiling repairs and painting. The current site was previously a Hall where in the 1940s Gala Balls were held, hundreds attended and many could not get in due to the popularity of the Balls.

The Lake Cinema was opened on 29 March 1974 with a 250 seating capacity, (over the years seating has improved); the Cinema was the first in Newcastle to have Dolby stereo sound system installed and is air-conditioned.

The re-opening will have an added extra attraction, a "Conn Theatre Organ"; a musician will entertain patrons prior to most evening sessions and some day sessions. Bob Mason employs 9 staff and you need to book seats well in advance, even one month ahead. Patrons get great value - 2 movies plus supper, tea and coffee, sandwiches & creme biscuits. In school holidays there are special movies for children and families.

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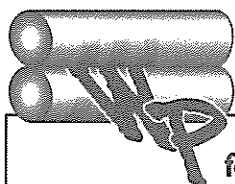
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SULPHIDE HALL HISTORY - Past & Present

THE Sulphide Hall at 17 Second Street (now the premises of Westlakes Printers) was built adjacent to the Sulphide Hotel, Boolaroo in 1896 by the Doughans. The hall was the township's social venue. It has also been the topic of much discussion which has been recently confirmed through research that the Sulphide Hall was famous for the staging of "fights". After the races at the Boolaroo Racetrack the bookmakers staged fights. Les Darcy has been reported to have staged an exhibition match prior to leaving for America in the early 1900's. In approx. 1911 a cinema was also operated in the Sulphide Hall.

WESTLAKES PRINTERS - Established 1960

IF YOU drive up second street in search of the remains of the Sulphide Hall you will find a very successful business - Westlakes Printers, which was started in the early days by Ken Fulton. Established in 1960, this family business has grown since Ken, a young apprentice purchased a machine and began to print cards from his bedroom home in Toronto in 1948, he expanded his small business out into his backyard and as the business grew moved to commercial premises in Toronto. In 1959 Ken, and Alan Reid who ran the Picture Theatre at Speers Point joined together and published the Westlakes Advertiser. The purchase of the Buffalo's Hall (formerly Sulphide Hall) in 1960, began the successful printing business that Ken's son, Tony Fulton is the Managing Director and employs 18 staff. Tony and his staff provide good ol' fashioned customer service and are well respected in Lake Macquarie and all over the Hunter Region. A thriving business after 38 years in Boolaroo.



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celebrating 50 years in business

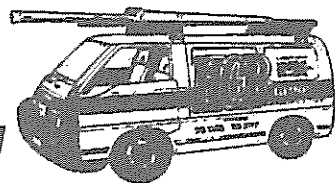
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G. HAWKINS & SONS

ALBERT G. HAWKINS 1896-1982

WHEN researching throughout mountains of information for this booklet, I felt that of all the stories, I could not do justice to the life of Albert G. Hawkins in a few short paragraphs. Albert Hawkins built a tiny fledgeling business that his father George was establishing in Boolaroo and worked extremely hard to build it up throughout his lifetime to a multi-million dollar enterprise, one of the largest privately owned companies of it's kind in the Southern Hemisphere, and the name Hawkins would become a household word for miles around. In 1896, the year Albert was born, George Hawkins established a carrying service at Boolaroo. The humble beginnings of a horse and dray service was one of the first businesses founded in Lake Macquarie, a pioneer in the transport industry outside Sydney & Newcastle. A year after trading began the Sulphide Corporation set up business in Cockle Creek. George's decision to locate to Boolaroo, paid off, his service was immediately engaged to move material to and from the site and to and from the railway. The firm's bullock teams were engaged in clearing and excavation work and heavy haulage. To keep up with the demand George purchased more equipment and animals, then expanded his premises. Due to the lack of roads, material was moved on water via the Lake and it's creeks via Miller Wharf, Salty Creek at Edgeworth. Goods were taken from rail trucks at Cockle Creek to the wharf by Hawkins drays and waggons. The Hawkins transport service grew and grew, a horse drawn ambulance stretcher was an important service and even football teams needed a horse and cart to get to their games. One day Albert transported a man who needed a taxi service to the swamps at Waratah to the side of a proposed big steel making plant (the site of BHP). The firm cut and carted timber, handled gravel from the quarry at Teralba, and also transported miners and their families further afield to Kurri Kurri and Cessnock to seek job opportunities. The shire was developing and the Hawkins company did much of the cartage for roadmaking and all the sanitation removals for Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens Shires and in later years Wyong Shire. Extensions to the water service, involvement with the clay trade,

gravel quarrying operations at Munibung Hill, the Hawkins business continued to expand. In 1915 the firm purchased it's first motor vehicle with a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour. In 1925 the office was moved from Lakeview Street to the cnr of Main Road and Fourth Street, Boolaroo. During the depression in the early 1930's with mass unemployment the Hawkins firm undertook a local home building project to help provide jobs and built approx. 50 houses around Boolaroo. World War 2 came and Albert was appointed Chairman of the War Transport Pool Board and the company worked for the Allied Works Council. Since the war years the firm of G. Hawkins & Sons Pty Ltd went from strength to strength, a fleet of 200 trucks and heavy earthmoving equipment, employing 250 employees, and undertook major haulage contracts, civil engineering, land and constructional work all over the Hunter region. In 1980 the company was sold to Howard Smith Ltd, with the Hawkins name being retained.

ALBERT:

Albert married Iris Tremain, a marriage producing 3 sons, Lance, Neville and John who played an important part in the management of the business. Albert worked from 6.00am to 6.00pm until his sixties before he could be swayed to work shorter hours. Albert and Iris were married for 60 years and never missed a Sunday at the Boolaroo Baptist Church and were generous with financial assistance. Albert's experiences and compassion for the care of the elderly gave rise to the Hawkins family's project the Hawkins Masonic Village at Edgeworth. In 1968 the Hawkins offered 45 acres of land free to the Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution of N.S.W. for the development of a village for the elderly retired citizens. This short story only touches the surface of the life and achievements of Albert, his father George, their family and long term employees of G. Hawkins & Sons. Albert Reserve on the Cnr of Main Road and Sixth Street is named after Albert G. Hawkins and finally the crown in the jewel - Albert was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in 1973. Boolaroo's name meaning is "place of many flies", yet there were certainly no flies on Albert. (Reference: Joyce Watt nee Tremain).

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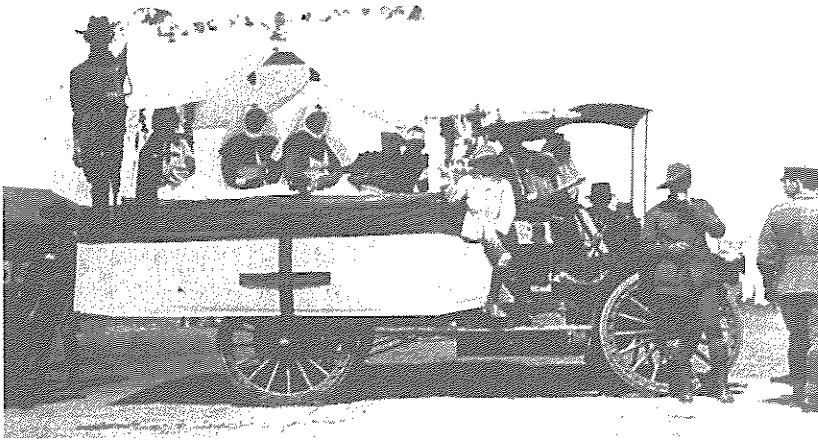
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"Gallery o



• Float decorated for a Boolaroo procession.



• A gathering at the local Barber Shop and Billiard Room.



• T.C. Frith's delivery truck decorated for procession

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• Early school photograph at Boolaroo School.

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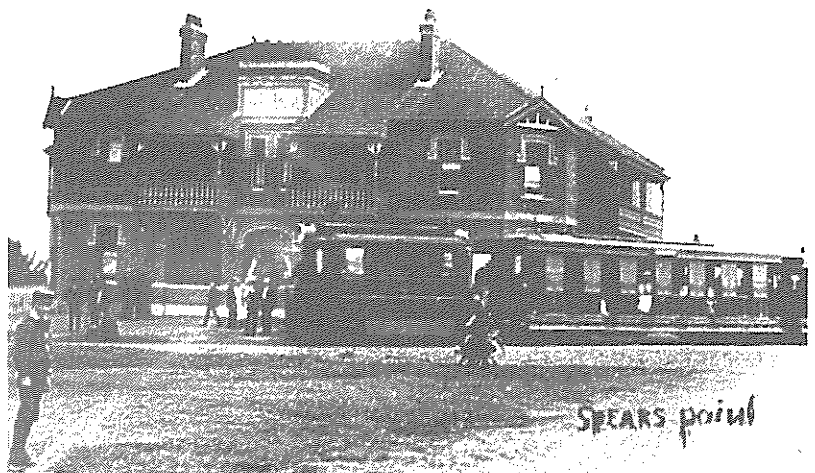
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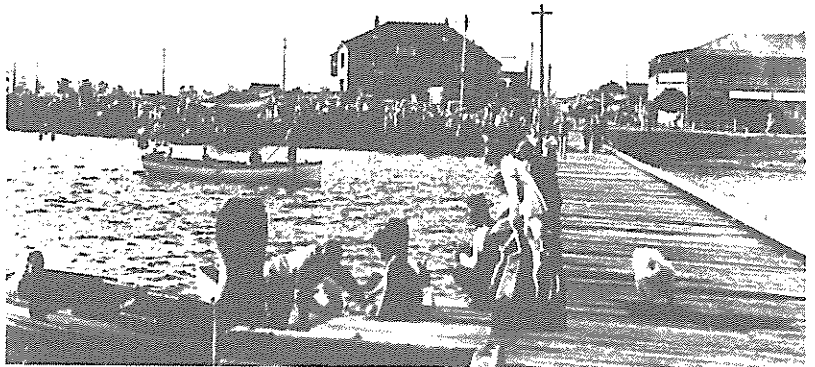
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Congratulations to Boolaroo on 100 years!

f the Past''



• Steam Train stops at Spears Point Hotel. Note: Different spelling of Spears Point. Hotel signage Speirs, photograph Spears

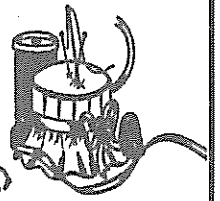


• Views of Spears Point from Jetty.



• Steam Train at First Street, Boolaroo May Day 1932.

Pins & Things



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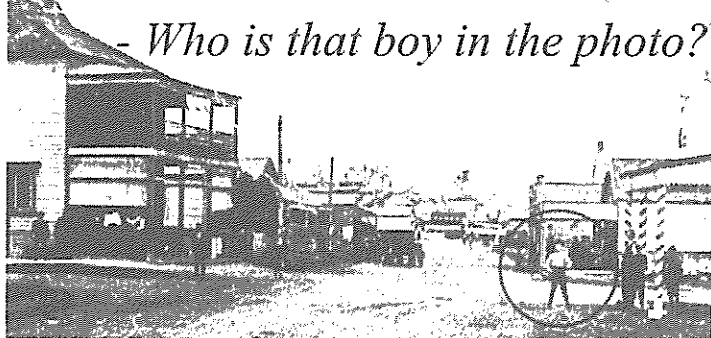
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MAIN ROAD- BOOLAROO

- Who is that boy in the photo?



NOT everyone is as famous as T.C. Frith & A.G. Hawkins, we must stop and remember the "small businessman" and employees who were hardworking and also helped to make Boolaroo the unique town it is today. In conditions a little less desirable than in today's society, men worked long hours, when there was little choice. For example if you drove a tram, you might have to stop and get off to push it up a hill, what about the men on the Sanitary Truck with no tyres, some worked in the larger stores or in later years might of been a bootmaker. As the years past Boolaroo became a thriving town with 4 butcher shops, a bank and you couldn't move in a grocery store even though most shops sold grocery lines and there were 3 department style outlets. To shop in Boolaroo, you only had to go as far as TC Friths in those days one did not have to leave town at all.

In 1998 you can still get a great haircut at one of the many hairdressers or for the men try Arty's Barber Shop. In years past there was a Barber Shop and Billiard Room, a meeting place for the men which James Murnain owned and operated from approx. 1909, his young son Eric was only 8 at the time and this is the little boy in the photo. Eric's daughter and husband still live in Boolaroo, but would like to stay out of the limelight.

Times change and focus of this publication has been from the difference of how this town evolved. There are now businesses who have been in Main Road for over 30 years, like Alan Craig Motorcycles, Shiral Electronics, 50 years, HCB Electric Pty Ltd, Lance Needs, 64 years and to all the more recent employers and employees - let us all work towards keeping Main Road, Boolaroo alive and work on initiatives to revitalise and turn it into the flourishing town it was in the past.

WARATAH GOLF CLUB

PRIOR to 1901 golfers played on the Waratah Reserve. In 1901 the affiliation occurred of Waratah Golf Club and in 1905 a clubhouse was built at Dangar Park. In 1910 flood mitigation was a constant concern when a further 80 acres of land was acquired and a second clubhouse built. In 1918 the expanding BHP offered 17,500 pounds for the Waratah property and the Cockle Creek site was chosen for its proximity to trains, trams and road. The new clubhouse was officially opened in 1921. Golf courses are always at the mercy of element of nature, and the strength and dedication of this club's members was an integral part of improvements throughout the club's history as they overcame damage to the course and clubhouse from disastrous floods, a fire to the clubhouse in 1957, continuous years of rain, more flooding, a severe drought in 1980 and structural damage from the 1989 earthquake just to list a few. In 1980 volunteers hand-watered the greens when there were water restrictions. Due to the drought, the installation of a watering system was undertaken by members working voluntarily. The Waratah Golf Club has always been conscious of giving opportunities to its young members. Peter Tutt, is the club's popular professional with a Pro Shop; and many Golf Charity Days have been staged helping the community in need through sport. Waratah Lady members have always been willing to serve on the District Committee to further the interests of ladies golf. The Waratah Golf Club is situated next door to the Sulphide Welfare Club in 456 Lake Road, Argenton.

Two Mates In BOOLAROO

Character & Friendship

ONE afternoon recently I was fortunate to spend time with Albert Wood and his mate Don Whiteman. Both of these gentleman are well known and loved by many, Don is a writer and promotes Boolaroo effortlessly and is recognised for miles around when he dresses up in his Towncrier outfit and performs, Don a man who is friendly to all he meets. Don's mate, Albert has his own story too. There are so many people that deserve a tribute - the spirit of Boolaroo is within these two mates:

ALBERT WOOD

ALBERT was born in West Maitland and moved to Boolaroo as a young boy attending Boolaroo School. Albert said, "When I was a young lad I started caddying at Waratah Golf Course when I was ten years old. I was a caddy in the W.E. Alexander open for Graeme Belle from Cessnock. I was also a caddy for Sidney Cowling when he was Golf Pro at Waratah Golf Club. When I moved to Islington I went over to Merewether to caddy for Graeme Belle in the Ten Thousand Golf Tournament - I learned to play golf, at Waratah Golf Club when I was 15 years old. I also caddy for Graeme Belle's father Freddy Belle at Waratah Golf Course. Waratah Golf Course is a beautiful Golf Course to play on." Albert played competitive golf and is a Life Member of the Sulphide Hotel's Social Golf Club. *Albert also joined Speers Point Scout Troup and was then asked by the Group Scout Master, Edgar Hamonet to join the 1st Speers Point Rover Crew an association lasting over 22 years.

Albert & Swimming: Albert was a Learn to Swim Instructor teaching children and adults, even babies to swim as young as 12 months old. Albert coached champion swimmers Allan Buckley and sister Jill. Albert worked as a gardener and has also been honored by Newcastle Police Citizens Youth Club with his prize possession, a blazer, for his contributions and years of service and was awarded with Life Membership. Albert is now 76 and resides in Fifth Street, shops daily in Boolaroo and supports all the raffles - one of Boolaroo's characters!



DON WHITEMAN

DON has had a full life. A shop assistant, factory worker, postman, rigger, labourer, forester, fruit picker, oyster farmer, journalist and shire clerk. Don loves children and animals and will always say "G Day" to anybody and everybody. Don played rugby union and rugby league to the age of 51. Don is very active in local issues, Senior Citizens Association, RSL and entertaining crowds at the Boolaroo Family Fair for the past 5 years and other festivities. Don gave over 5 years of his life to war service. Don has great faith in Boolaroo and many can learn from his supportive role in the community to others and the friendliness and warmth that gives a smile to those he connects with. Don writes regular letters to the papers and are published with respect. Boolaroo Towncrier!



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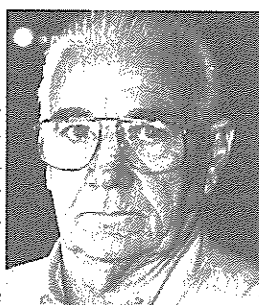
SULPHIDE WELFARE CLUB - History

THE Club is believed to have sprung from a challenge cricket match between fitters and electricians on the Sulphide Oval in January, 1929. After this famous cricket match a Works meeting convened by Mr B. Bordiss decided to form a Club. In the early 1930's Welfare activities centred around the cricket oval on which football was also played. The present "pavillion" was used as a club-house. The putting green was also a feature. In 1935 a Bowling Club was formed and a bowling green established. Throughout the war years social activity reached a high point. On Saturday nights before the war it was impossible to get on the dance floor. Arrangements regarding financial contributions underwent considerable change in 1950. Company employees were canvassed for membership and agreed to have membership subscription deductions made from pays. The organising and financing of the Annual Picnic was taken over by the Welfare Club. In 1957 Club premises were remodelled and a License was obtained. The Cricket Club flourished into 1962. In 1966 the decision to vacate the premises and establish a new club on the Cockle Creek site and in 1967 the construction of new premises commenced. The Club is situated on over 4 acres on the southern side of the Waratah Golf Club.

FAREWELL TO

TOM SHINFIELD

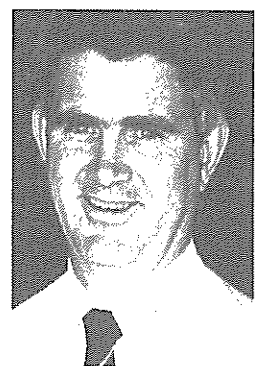
TOM Shinfield retired at the AGM held on 15 September 1998 after 14 years in the position of Secretary Manager. The Club and staff gave Tom a wonderful send-off with over 150 guests including Mayor John Kilpatrick, local member John Mills, family, friends and associates in the club industry. Tom was overwhelmed by the beautiful gifts he received and felt that the highlight of the evening was the performance of a song written especially for him. Tom also expressed that his role would of been the envy of other Secretary Managers due to the supportive and tremendous Board of Directors (past and present) who allowed Tom to manage the club without interference. "The 3 main ingredients for a successful club", Tom said, "is a good Board of Directors, good staff and good members - the Sulphide Welfare Club are blessed with all 3". Tom was also farewelled at a second function by Club members. Tom's family also played a part in the history of Boolaroo and the Sulphide Hotel and Tom's Tale and memories as a young lad can be found on this page.



BERNIE McCARTHY TAKES OVER THE REINS

FORMER Assistant Secretary to Tom Shinfield for over 5 years, Bernard McCarthy has taken over as Secretary Manager.

ANNUAL EVENT - In November each year the Steel City Music Club stage a Festival. In 1998 it will be held on 13-15 November at the Sulphide Welfare Club, there is a Talent Quest, Songwriters Quest and this year Mel Sommers, Event Co-ordinator is proposing to stage a Buskers Competition in Main Road, Boolaroo on Saturday, 14 November from 10.00am to 2.30pm with plans to combine with the Annual Boolaroo Family Fair and the Country Music Festival in 1999 as a major tourist attraction for the local area.

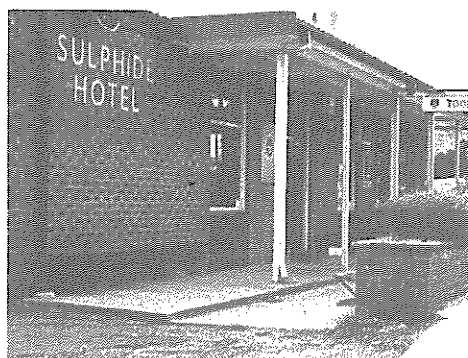


SHINNY'S/SHINNIES PUB - Past & Present

SHINNY'S/SHINNIES PUB was famous as the drinking hole of the Hawkins men, the miners in the district and the Sulphide workers in the early days. In 1960's to mid 70s the hotel was the home of the Lake Macquarie Soccer Club. The Shinnys Pub only sold "black beer" (Tooheys Old) and the other Boolaroo Hotel, the Commercial sold (Tooheys) - customers had the choice, and either went to one or the other!!

TOM SHINFIELD/SHINNY'S PUB

BORN in 1933 at New Lambton in the General Roberts Hotel, the Shinfield family moved to the Sulphide Hotel, Cnr Lakeview and Second Street in 1937. The Hotel was also a boarding house and adjoining it was the Sulphide Hall. Tom's memories are vivid, as a young boy every morning he would watch a continuous stream of people entering the Sulphide Corporation as there were no fences around the plant and the main entrance was in Lakeview Street. The Hawkins family had draft horses and drays and at 6.45am they would head off from huge stables to transport everything, all heavy haulage on the plant was moved by horse and dray. The Hotel was handed on to the Shinfield family, Cecil & Peg, Tom's parents. Tom lived there for approx. 30 years and managed the hotel to 1967. Tom went into the Fruit & Vegetable business at Swansea then moved back to Speers Point where he still resides today. Tom and wife, Lorraine have been married 45 years and they managed the Edgeworth Tavern for 2 years. In 1977 Tom was appointed as Assistant Secretary Manager at the Sulphide Welfare Club for two years then returned in 1981 as Poker Machine Manager, then in 1984 appointed as Secretary Manager until 15 September 1998, he retired with a record 14 years of service.



Congratulations to Boolaroo 100 years of Business

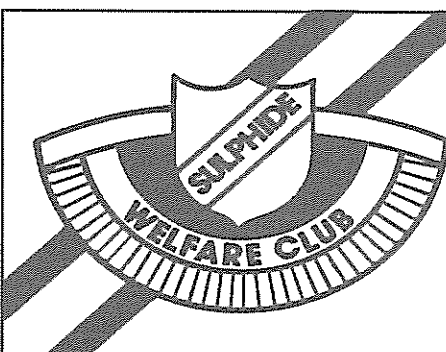
ALL WELCOME AT THE BOOLAROO HOTEL SHINNY'S

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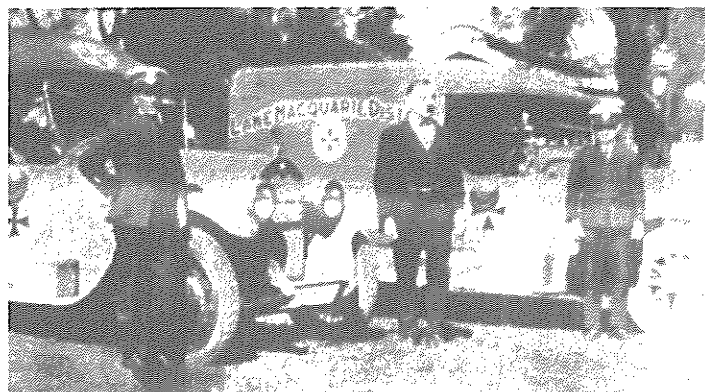
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INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS

LAKE MACQUARIE DISTRICT AMBULANCE

ONCE again the community can pay homage to TC Frith, for in 1917 whilst attending the Stockton Borehole Colliery seeking an order for chaff from the manager, he witnessed the transportation of a young lad who had been killed. Several weeks later he called a public meeting to see if the means of transport could be improved for the boy's body was placed in a blanket and placed in a horse drawn dray. Five people attended and formed an Ambulance Committee - the Boolaroo-Teralba Ambulance Brigade. The Sulphide Corporation donated the work's ambulance, a light, canvas-hooded, four wheeled horse-drawn waggon, with the condition that the ambulance had to attend to any of the employees of the Sulphide Works that became sick or were injured. George Hawkins offered his horses, when an ambulance was needed a call was sent to T.C. Frith's shop in Boolaroo, where someone would go to the Sulphide Works or Hawkin's stables, hitch the horse to the Ambulance Waggon and then trot off for the patient. In 1919 there was an urgent necessity for comfortable transport due to the influenza epidemic. Another public meeting was held a branch of the Ambulance Transport Brigade was formed together with a Ladies Auxiliary who raised money by the sale of cakes, raffles and holding dances. The committee decided to purchase a motor ambulance to replace the horsedrawn one. Mr Cyril Hitchens was appointed as a Permanent Bearer with the distinction of being the first ambulance bearer in the Hunter Region. In 1921 another name change to Lake Macquarie District Ambulance Service. The wages and expenses depleted the bank balance, so a scheme was implemented where all the workers at the Sulphide, coal mines timber mills, railway and business houses had 1d taken out of their wages each week. This was the first industrial subscriber contribution to an ambulance service in the state and became the forerunner of the present system used throughout New South Wales. President, Mr T.C. Frith received a letter from the Sulphide Manager in 1921 stating that the Corporation was agreeable to granting a piece of land from its estate in Main Road, Boolaroo. The Ambulance Station was officially opened in 1922. (Reference J. Macfarlane-Ambulance Officer).

*There is a lovely lady who provided photos for this booklet, Mrs Doris Walters, together with her late husband Joe they built a home in 4th Street, Boolaroo where Doris still lives after 60 years as a resident. Joe & Doris built their home, for Joe was in the Ambulance Service for 27 years and wanted to live close to the creek as he loved to fish and close to the station. Joe Walters was also a Captain of the Boolaroo Fire Brigade for 20 years. Doris was in the



Boolaroo Ladies Auxiliary in the 1950s, these wonderful women raised a great deal of money from Wednesday night Housie. The Ladies Auxiliary were of great service to the community for the money raised enable over the years 16 cars to be purchased for the use of ambulances. It is pleasing to see the community spirit lives on in Doris's grandson, Mark Walters who is planning a project to put the township of Boolaroo onto the Internet with its own Website which will then project Boolaroo out of Lake Macquarie and into the world's eye.

BOOLAROO BOWLING CLUB



"THE ideal of bowls is great. In donating the land for a Bowling Club, every man that joins will become a shareholder and it will bring workers and bosses back to what they should be - EQUAL". T.C. FRITH. In 1927 T.C. Frith donated land in Eighth Street, after conceiving the idea of a bowling club for the district. A meeting was held in the Speers Point Picture Theatre and the first committee was formed. G. Hawkins & Sons were contracted for clearing and levelling work and the first clubhouse was donated by the Sulphide Corporation. Together volunteers and with T.C. as the driving force the Boolaroo Bowling Club began. The first green was opened in 1929 and in 1936 a new pavilion was added to the original building. Two further greens were constructed, it is interesting to note that the land has remained property of the parent club. The clubhouse has changed to it's present day comfortable facilities and after discussions with Terry Murphy, Secretary Manager, the financing for extensions were from the members tenancy to source finance in difficult times to bring the standard up to modern times to the high class facility today. Permission to form the Boolaroo Womens Bowling Club was granted in 1957.

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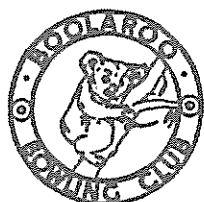
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SPEERS POINT - History

SPEERS POINT/SPEERS POINT PARK

IN 1839 William Brooks received a grant of acres at Reid's Mistake. Some years later this property was purchased by William Spiers from Sydney who built a holiday home. Near the home were several orange trees, and the remains of what was once a fine orchard. The estate was managed by a Mr Ryan who was the only permanent resident in the area at that time. In 1887 the Government, after representations by Mr Abell of Wallsend, set an area of nine acres for recreation at Spiers Point. The park became Lake Macquarie Park approx. 20 acres of foreshore land, which he described as "this beautiful site with a magnificent view". Trees were planted and in 1887 to 1911 the Park was controlled by a Trust. A ferry service from Cockle Creek to Toronto commenced. The area was quickly developed and many trees including exotic ones were introduced giving shade, protection and "old world charm". In the early part of 1900's the Park was the most popular location for miles around. Camping was permitted, as roads improved horse drawn buses and drays came for the Sailing and Sculling Regattas held on 26 January each year.

The first subdivision of Speers Point was in 1902 and land sold for 90 pounds per half acre. In 1904 an additional 8 acres was sought to enlarge the Park to accommodate the 10,000 people who attended the 1904 regatta.

The population of the area was now increasing and the State Government in 1906 appointed a temporary council, an election was held and a Council instituted. In 1910 the Trustees transferred the Park over to Lake Macquarie Shire Council. A large ceremony was held in the Park in 1911. The tram line opened operating to Newcastle, the journey was slow and with competition from bus services in 1930/31 the tram service was discontinued.

The Boolaroo & District Sulphide Brass Band played regularly in the Park on Sunday afternoons. During the war soldiers camped in the Park. The Park has provided much enjoyment over the last 100 years it is time for the community, the Council and Government to initiate many strategies to protect the Lake and Park into the next Century.



SPEERS POINT RSL



MANY changes to the Speers Point RSL have been made. In early days the RSL was in the building of the old Speers Point RSL Youth Club which is no longer in use. The existing building was originally used as a picture theatre. The renovated building was officially opened in 1965 and thereafter further extensions and renovations were completed over 2 years ago, which resulted in the RSL Club's membership climbing from 1200 to currently 2300 members. The club caters for all everyone with entertainment, dance classes and competitions; members cash draws are popular in conjunctions with the raffles. Alan Jacobs, has held the position of Secretary Manager for over 8 years. Five Islands Restaurant is very popular at the RSL and named after a well-known landmark on Lake Macquarie.

LAKE MACQUARIE AREA COMMAND is in Main Road Boolaroo, records date back to 1909 when Constables operated out of Boolaroo Police Station. The community may not be aware that the nearest Police Station is at Charlestown. Boolaroo is an area command/operations centre. As the population increases rapidly in Lake Macquarie, possibly it is time to see a push on our politicians to increase numbers in the Police Force to service local areas and lift police profile. As crime occurs in any town the distance Police need to travel can increase the temptation. Do businesses need to employ security guards for protection, is poor lighting an open invitation? We can't always blame unemployment - or can we?

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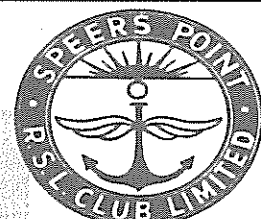
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SPEERS POINT - History

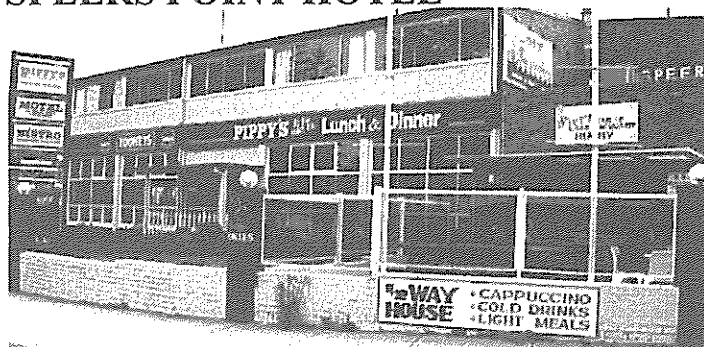
COUNCILS

Early Formation



THE Shire of Lake Macquarie was created in 1905 and a temporary council was appointed for the purpose of preparing rolls for the first elected Council. The first meeting was held in the Court House in Teralba in 1906. In 1906 an election was held to elect six councillors and Mr Sydney Croudace was elected at the first meeting as President. Towards the end of 1906, Council resolved that its headquarters be transferred to Cardiff. This office was inadequate, so the decision was made to erect new offices at the corner of Main Road and First Street, Speers Point. These offices were used until 1955 when the new administrative office and Council chambers were officially opened in 1955.

SPEERS POINT HOTEL



IN THE late 1800's the Hotel was built by Tom Williams, a builder who built many hotels in the area including the Lake Macquarie Hotel in Teralba in 1888. The building has changed structurally over the years and also owners, yet the location's beautiful outlook over Lake Macquarie and Speers Point Park will never change. The hotel has been sold recently, so we say farewell to popular Jeff Byrnes, after 11 years. Jeff would like to thank all his loyal customers, he enjoyed their company and the many diners who patronised Pippy's Restaurant over this time. New owners are Pauline and John Stirling and Lyn & Colin McCrohon, who also own The Kent and Beaumont Exchange Hotels, both at Hamilton. Speaking briefly with Pauline Stirling, there will be no major changes initially, Pauline is very fond of the area and feels Speers Point and surrounding areas have plenty of potential for future development.

FAREWELL TO KEN & VENETA CORNFORD

- 26 Years of Serving the Community

KEN & Veneta Cornford commenced trading in 1972 when they purchased and renovated the existing premises in 111 Main Road, Speers Point. Ken was born in Council Street in 1934 and Veneta in Fifth Street, Boolaroo in 1936, both were delivered by Nurse Hawkins, a local midwife who had a private practise in the area. (Naturally in those early days most babies were born at home.) Ken and Veneta lived in the area most of their lives and decided to open a small business, Veneta has always been self-employed, commencing her career with her father in small business at Teralba. Ken as a young man, always had an aspiration to work in his own business. Ken and Veneta have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren with another due in October. The Cornford's have decided to retire at the end of 1998 and commented that over the 26 years many changes to the townships of Boolaroo and Speers Point have occurred, both good and bad; and agreed that the rewards of self-employment although challenging at times is worth the effort.



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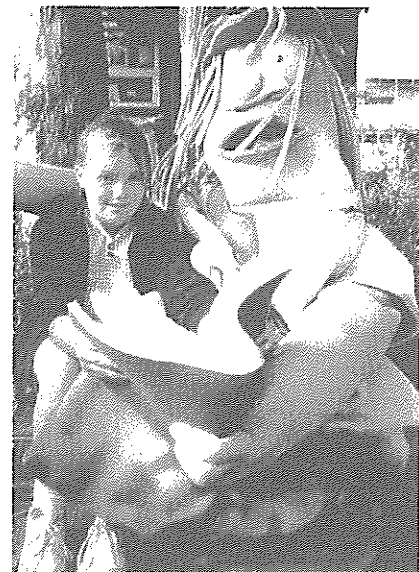
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SPEERS POINT SCHOOL

*- Home of Puppets
In Motion*

ON 3 March 1954 approval was given for the establishment of a school at Speers Point. The school opened in 1957.

Steve Beazley, a teacher at Speers Point Public School, a well known artist, started making puppets from ideas he obtained from his students. Puppets In Motion is a performance team with life-size



wearable puppets and other costumes consisting of puppeteers from primary and secondary schools. Based at Speers Point Public School, this group is voluntary and funds raised go towards running costs and functions. Puppets In Motion perform regularly at Festivals throughout Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, the Hunter and Sydney. Earlier in 1998 the group toured America, on a three week performance tour from New York, Virginia, Washington, Tennessee and Florida, an exiting tour where they were very well recieved. Puppets In Motion will be featured in the 1998 Grand Parade at the Boolaroo Centenary Family Fair on Sunday, 8th November and will perform at 1.00pm and 2.00pm on stage in Main Road. Congratulations to these talented young children who have their own unique standard of excellence in their own community and further afield. We can only hope that Steve Beazley, dedicated parents and others who become involved keep this wonderful concept alive for another 100 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

THE Environmental Health Centre is located at 3 Main Road, Boolaroo and provides a number of free services aimed at reducing blood lead levels.

These services include routine blood testing; information and education programs to parents, schools and community groups; case management for families where children have elevated blood lead levels; high efficiency particle (HEPA) vacuum cleaner loan service and remediation activities aimed at reducing the exposure to lead within the community.

One of the most noticable strategies being used over the next few years toward 2000 is Zonal Remediation. This will involve removing ceiling dust, remediating soils and removing lead dust from carpets in up to 600 houses in the North Lake Macquarie area. It provides a fair and equitable outcome for all residents, it delivers a sustainable benefit to all residents, and maximises the environmental health benefits to residents well past the year 2000.

The Project Manager, Steve Muggleton says the work is on track to commence in October 1998. Expressions of Interest from contractors were called in August and 350 people have so far responded positively.



SPEERS POINT SAILING CLUB

WHEN speaking to Bob Mephram recently on the phone, he recalled his past memories of how as a young boy he played on the water-

front and enjoyed swimming in the Lake, in baths that although were very muddy on the bottom, the enclosure kept swimmers safe from the "sharks". For over 50 years Bob has been a long time member with the Sailing Club. Bob stated that over those 50 years he only saw one shark in the Lake swimming in Cockle Creek Bay which was then bold enough to swim through the Sailing Fleet! Bob also spoke of the prominent business men in the pre War days, like Jack Haggerston who were involved with the club and sailed on the Lake and stored their boats in the original location in the early 1930s when the building was located in the bay off Alley Street. Due to the shallow water and strong winds it was decided to move to the current site. The building was lifted and reconstructed by many members including Jim Fussell. Today many sailors enjoy the Lake thanks to the early history of the Speers Point club.

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BAPTIST	32 Sixth Street, Boolaroo	49583797
FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA		49584096
LAKE MACQUARIE CHRISTIAN MISSION	35 Council Street, Speers Point	
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH	Lakeview Street, Boolaroo	49461116
UNITING CHURCH	Main Road, Boolaroo	49581761

Meals On Wheels	-Enquiries	49582397
	- Kitchen	49582560
CATHOLIC CHURCH	84 Main Road, Boolaroo	49582031

THEATRES & CINEMAS:

Freewheels Theatre in Education		49585244
Lake Cinema,	62 Main Road, Boolaroo	49585810

CLUBS/SPORTING & SOCIAL:

Boolaroo Bowmen		49583033
Macq. Shores Little Athletics, Speers Pt		49587488
Lake Macquarie BMX		49753618
Boolaroo Bowling Club		49581058
Waratah Golf Club		49581847
Boolaroo Rugby		49585133
Boolaroo/Speers Pt Senior Citiz. Assoc.		49582837
Pasminco Roosters Soccer Club, Speers Pt		49584668
Bool. Speers Pt RSL Sub Branch & Club		49581344
Sulphide Welfare Club		49587033
Speers Point Amateur Sailing Club		49583510
Newcastle District Vintage Car Club		49615062

LOCAL CHURCHES

THE townships of Boolaroo and Speers Point are most fortunate to have so many churches. Each one has history, the Uniting Church will be celebrating 100 years in 1999 and the Seventh Day Adventist Church are presently celebrating their 75th anniversary. In 1901, the Morses started to conduct Baptist meetings in the Sulphide Hall. The Parish of Cardiff was formed in 1922 and Boolaroo became part of that parish "All Saints" Church of England. Churches in the area and their history dates from way back to 1899 when Mrs A. Thomas's mother started a Methodist Sunday School first in their Fifth Street home's kitchen then later when classes became larger, under a big tree together with Church Services; to the many churches who today are so involved in helping local people and community at large, churches are the strength of towns "togetherness" as we all search for peace and understanding.

BOOLAROO-SPEERS POINT SENIOR CITIZEN

ASSOCIATION - AN ACTIVE GROUP - *Written by Don Whiteman.*

OVER the years the Senior Citizens Association has supported local projects and joined in festivities and celebrations. The Association took the lead in blocking a proposal by Lake Macquarie City Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority to close two Main Road footcrossings, one at the Supermarket and the other at the Commercial Hotel. The Supermarket crossing provides safety for people doing their shopping while the Hotel crossing acts as a deterrent to speeding. The Association collected 1500 signatures against the proposal (aimed at facilitating passing traffic flow), and members made complaining visits to the Council offices. Local weekly, the Lake Macquarie News helped considerably with publicity for the campaign against the closure of the crossings. Another Association petition secured upgrading and improvements to Cockle Creek Railway Station, the State Government spent \$350,000 on construction and safety. Upgrading and remediation work by Pasminco to control smelter emissions and improve the quality of air in the area has drawn Association support. Members will be proud to march in the November 8 Boolaroo Fair Street Procession to celebrate Boolaroo's 100 years of development by people standing together, displaying wisdom, understanding, appreciation and tolerance.

THE BOOLAROO/SPEERS POINT SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

THE branch of the Combined Pensioners Association began in the early 1920's firstly as a fortnightly meeting at the local Post Office on Pension day and since the Associations inception and where they meet today at the Senior Citizens Hall in Sixth Street, Boolaroo. At various times the halls were known as Garden Grove, Macquarie Grove, Central Hall, and Lake Cinema. Both the front hall (now the Lake Cinema) and the old picture show (Danny Harrington Hall) fell into a state of disrepair when the pictures stopped in 1938. Later in the late 1960's it was recorded that "the hall was a rusty old tin shed with pigeons roosting in the ceiling and the ladies used to sit with umbrellas up to play Housie". In 1993 a new member of the Branch, Danny Harrington, with great energy gathered a team of members who converted the run down old tin sheds into a facility that the members now enjoy. Danny Harrington's opinions about the contributions and value of the community's senior citizens sum it all up "They are not second class citizens but the pioneers of the country and the salt of the earth".

CONCERT GROUP: in the early 1970's a group of ladies met at Stella Bunters place for a sing song around the piano. This was the beginning of the concert party which is a major activity for members. The Concert Party has raised thousands of dollars for charities since its inception.

The Branch offers the opportunity for social contact and a wide variety of activities for its members together with playing an active role in the local community.



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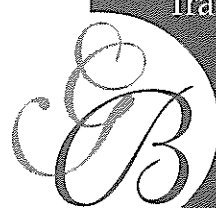
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FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS & MORE FESTIVALS

OVER the past century parades and festivals have been staged in small and gigantic proportions in Speers Point Park and down Main Road Boolaroo to the Park. Whether celebrating the Golden Jubilee at Boolaroo Primary or celebrating the end of either World War, in every heart there is always a reason to enjoy the fresh air, sunshine, fun and excitement of a Festival.

In January each year Lake Macquarie's Australia Day Festival is an exciting New Year event, attracting thousands to Speers Point Park. Throughout the year in the Park many expos and community festivals are staged by committees, corporate sponsors and Lake Macquarie City Council. This year the Lake Macquarie Childrens Festival in April raised \$1600 for beneficiaries John Hunter Childrens Hospital and the Tingira Centre, and don't forget the annual Carols by Candlelight held in December. Over the past five years the Boolaroo Fair in Main Road is held in November and on Sunday, 8 November 1998 it is on again. Commencing from 10.00am the Uniting Church will hold a Church service inside at 10.00am and from 11.00am call in for a free cupppa and view their floral display. The Centenary Parade will commence at 11.30am and special guest artists Miss Kim and NBN's Big Dog will perform on stage at 12.30pm. There will be clowns, Ship o' Fools, JD's World of Magic and the City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band will perform at 1.30pm. Puppets In Motion will be in the parade and performing at 1.00p.m. & 2.00pm and many more entertainers from Lake Macquarie including the Lake Macquarie Youth Club Pipe and Drum Band leading the Parade! Stallholders, BBQ's and retailers out in force, face-painting, a roving Jazz Band and much more for a fun day out. This event is staged by the Boolaroo, Speers Point Chamber of Commerce, together with major sponsor, Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter, and other sponsors Lake Macquarie City Council, Lake Macquarie News and the Sulphide Welfare Club. In 1998 the local schools will be invited to enter the Boolaroo Best Dressed Bicycle Competition with a \$100 donation for the Best Dressed Bicycle to the winning school and prizes for the 1st three children who are selected. Children can then ride their bikes in the Parade. Any enquiries regarding the Boolaroo Family Fair can be directed to Jennifer Barrie on 0411-222429.

LONG-AIRDOX

LONG-AIRDOX Australia was founded in 1946 as A.B. Rea at Mayfield in Newcastle. Due to business expansion the company was relocated to its present site at Argenton in 1955. During these early years of operation the company was involved in metal fabrication for all forms of industry in the Newcastle region but paid particular attention to the local coal mining industry. During the 1960's and 70's the company grew gradually and in 1979 we became a wholly owned subsidiary of a Scottish company called Anderson PLC. This company gave A.B. Rea the opportunity to expand its product range in the area of underground coal production equipment while at the same time continuing to let it work on major mine infrastructure projects such as mine storage bins, drift haulage systems and train loading systems.

In 1989 the Company's name was changed from A.B. Rea to Anderson Rea Pty Limited. This change also represented the start of a significant period of growth for the company with sales rising some 360%, employees increasing from 114 to 200 and two new facilities being opened one in Mt Thorley in the upper Hunter Valley and the other in Mackay in Queensland.

In October 1995 Anderson Rea became part of an American company called the Marmon Group. It then became part of one of the worlds largest mining equipment suppliers Long-Airdox who is also owned by Marmon. Gateway Engineering also came under the control of Argenton's Long-Airdox facility. In total today Long-Airdox Australia employs approximately 300 people Australia wide at four sites on the East Coast of Australia.

Long-Airdox is proud of its heritage in the Argenton and lake communities. Without this regions committed people we would certainly not have achieved all that we have to date and are planning to achieve in the future.



THE Boolaroo/Speers Point Chamber of Commerce would like to sincerely congratulate the local community on reaching its 100th Birthday. Over this period Boolaroo has experienced many changes, but one focal point is the enthusiasm of the local people where many of their families have enjoyed living in this area for generations. With the location of Boolaroo being on the shores of beautiful Lake Macquarie, together with the plans the Chamber and Lake Macquarie City Council have for this area, will ensure that Boolaroo will thrive and prosper well into the next Century.

Congratulations Boolaroo!

Kerry Freer - President Boolaroo/Speers Point Chamber of Commerce

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

for your creative talent & patience
 ~ Karen Morris Karmic Graffix
 ~ Keith Powell ~ Helen Croker
 ~ Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter
 ~ Boolaroo/Speers Point Chamber of Commerce
 ~ Residents of Boolaroo/Speers Point
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For all my family and friends your assistance
 & encouragement I could not be without.

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BOOLAROO CENTENARY FAMILY FAIR

Sunday, 8th November, 1998 from 10.00a.m.

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Grand Parade
 11.30 a.m.

Miss Kim & Big Dog
 12.30pm

Puppets in Motion

Nelly Bligh
 10.30-12pm

Kicks Danceforce

JD's World of Magic
 10.30am

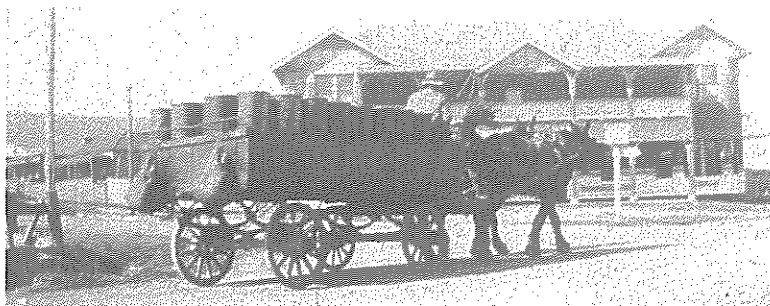


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• *Speers Point Park*



• *Boolaroo
Bowling
Club*

“BODY IN THE BAG”

Legend goes: on a Sunday morning many years ago a group of local men who loved to drink, would carry and drag a 10 gallon keg up the hill in a bag to a spot known as the ‘Pot & Pan’ to the naked eye it would seem the men were carrying a body. The men would then proceed to drink the entire contents of the keg. *This apparently was the forerunner to the ‘Buffalo Lodge’ which was formed in approximately 1950, lodge members met in the Sulphide Hall.



• *Waratah Golf Club*

• *Bicycle Race, Speers Point*

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