

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

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Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



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*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

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Location: 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

Lecture meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations

Business meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland

Membership fees : \$15 (single) and \$20 (double / family)

Patron: The Hon. Milton Morris AO

NSW Member for Maitland 1956-1980

NSW Minister for Transport 1965 - 1975

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Petite Properties – Clift’s Cottage

Maitland’s much admired architecture features imposing examples of Victoriana, however there are numerous small buildings that are also of significance. Petite properties ranging from private homes to commercial buildings are worth a closer look, such as the stone cottage built by Samuel Clift.

Clift’s Cottage

Samuel Clift, who was born in 1792, arrived in the colony in 1809 and came to the Hunter Valley about 1820. He was well ensconced at Wallis Plains by 1826.

The Crown grant of 44 acres beside Wallis Creek in Maitland was confirmed on 9th October, 1838. Houston Mitchell said in his letters that Clift bought this 44 acres from Thos. Boardman, and that the land had originally been a grant to Catherine Burr. Samuel built the tiny house in **1829** and in that year he was charged £25 in tolls for having the building materials for his stone house carried over the bridge at Wallis Creek.



The house is of two storeys, one room each. The ground floor room contains a simple cedar mantelpiece over the fireplace, opposite which is one large 12-paned window glazed with imported crown glass and having fine cedar glazing bars. The room has two 6-panelled cedar doors, and in the low ceiling is a trap door giving access to the sleeping compartment above.

Later, an ornate cast iron spiral staircase was installed to ascend to the second floor of this tiny doll’s house.

Source: Mitchell, Cecily Joan. Hunter’s River: a history of early families and the homes they built in the Lower Hunter Valley between 1830 and 1860. Newcastle, 1973. P. 108

The Clift Family Houses in & Around Maitland, N.S.W.

This small stone cottage dates from around **1826** when Samuel Clift (Senior) erected it as his first family home in Maitland. Initially occupying this dwelling with him were his wife, Ann, and their children at the time, Elizabeth and William. After suffering major neglect and deterioration in the mid to late twentieth century, his great-great granddaughter, Elaine Carty-Salmon, instigated the structure’s restoration in the early 1990s.

Situated at 1 High Street Maitland, the historic residence most probably holds the title of the earliest surviving building in that city. Originally referred to as “Toll House”, perhaps due to the toll bridge over Wallis Creek being nearby. More recently it has been renamed “Clift’s Cottage” and today features as part of the Wallis Group of heritage listed buildings.

The building is a very small rectangular building with a single room at ground level and an enclosed loft in its steeply pitched roof area. The bottom room would have functioned as the main living and dining area. An open stone fireplace provided a facility for cooking and heating of the building. No internal walls ever existed in the dwelling.

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In the early days the family retired to the loft area at night via a trapdoor in the low ceiling, drawing the ladder up behind them. Barred windows and stout doors showed the need for security in the Hunter Valley region in this pioneering era.

Source: A.G. (Tony) Clift. The Clift Family Houses in & Around Maitland, N.S.W. brochure, 2004.

Cottage restoration work dear to the heart

A Maitland woman has received a heritage award after restoring the cottage her great-great grandfather built in **1825**. Samuel Clift's Cottage, part of the Walli group near Wallis Creek, had been overgrown with vines when his great-great granddaughter Elaine Carty-Salmon bought the property, which included the cottage and Bridge House.

Clift built Bridge House adjacent to his original cottage some years later. He also built Walli, adjacent to the property that Mrs. Carty-Salmon bought.

Kim Randall did the restoration work on the building, which involved hunting through piles of stone laying around in heaps to find some of the missing pieces. There were also problems obtaining suitable timber to replace some of the old pieces.

The exterior work, including constructing new gardens, is being carried on by the residents of Bridge House, Mrs. Carty-Salmon and Diane Cormack. Mrs. Carty-Salmon successfully applied for government assistance to carry out the work. She praised the skills of the local people who have been involved in the restoration. To mark the restoration, Elaine and Diane plan to invite the descendants of Samuel Clift to a garden party at the property on March 15 next year, the 199th anniversary of Samuel and Anne's wedding.

Source: Maitland Mercury, 7 December 1992.

Clift's Cottage in focus

Maitland actress Ruth Cracknell was the guest speaker at a huge garden party yesterday, celebrating the restoration of Bridge House and Clift's Cottage.

Hundreds of guests attended the party held to mark the 199th anniversary of Samuel Clift's marriage to Ann Duff. Yesterday also marked nine years since owner, Elaine Carty-Salmon, bought Bridge House and the cottage, part of the Walli group near Wallis Creek.

Samuel Clift, Ms. Carty-Salmon's great-great grandfather, built the cottage in **1825**. He also built Bridge House some years later. During her official opening of Samuel Clift Cottage, Ruth Cracknell told an attentive audience she had lived in the Maitland area till the age of four. She said her great grandfather arrived in Morpeth in 1830.

Ms. Cracknell also congratulated Ms. Carty-Salmon and resident Diane Cormack on the restoration of the cottage.

Local historian Harry Boyle also told the audience how Bridge House boasted the area's most beautiful gardens 160 years ago.

Source: Maitland Mercury, 15 March 1993.

In Flander's Fields

Research by **PETER BOGAN** for the Maitland and District Historical Society

During World War 1, from a population of just under 5 million, 416,809 Australian men and boys volunteered for active service and of these 313,814 embarked for duty overseas. 65% of these were killed or wounded compared to 59% for New Zealand, 51% for Britain, 50% for Canada. Nearly 40% of all Australian males 18 - 44 voluntarily enlisted. One in five or 63,163 died on active service during the war.

Approximately 295,000 served on the Western Front. 53,000 died in France and Belgium, 18,000 have no known grave, 152,171 wounded. The total killed on the Western front in 1917 was 20,000

Between 27 March and 5th October 1918, the AIF made up less than 10 % of British forces but captured 23% of the prisoners, 23.5% of the enemy guns and 21.5% of the ground taken from the Germans.

Gallipoli Campaign- 9 Victoria Cross recipients.
Western Front Campaign- 52 Victoria Cross recipients.
Palestine Campaign - 1 Victoria Cross recipient.

From this year through to 2018 the Centenary of many WW1 battles will be observed. Of special significance to Maitland and the Hunter will be the centenary of the battle of Passchendaele on Thursday 12th October 2017.

On the 12th October 1917 Monash's 3rd Division was sent into this battle in conditions that would cause so many casualties that a commentator would state that "--- for evermore the name Passchendaele will be a synonym for the word slaughter". While Thorvald Kook of the 43rd Battalion would write "To live through Passchendaele was to come out the other side of hell." The ground over which the advance was to take place was marshy and heavy rain had turned it into a quagmire, continuously getting worse, and with every crater and shell hole filled with water.

Monash pleaded desperately with his superiors to have the start of the battle delayed but "The British High Command was now a bunch of the deaf and blind. They couldn't see what would happen". But Monash was so sure of the carnage that would follow he ordered the best possible medical backup and another 200 of his infantry to act as extra stretcher bearers.

The 3rd Division's 9th Brigade and its Battalions, all NSW, 33rd - New England's, 34th - Maitland's Own, and 35th and 36th - Newcastle's, were part of the attack and at 6pm on the 11th the 34th, who were to lead the attack, started to march off from east of Ypres to the jumping off point of the attack in the area allocated to the 9th Brigade. It was raining and mustard gas shells fell on them as they marched.

The starting point was reached at 2.45am and the troops pulled their waterproof sheets over their heads and waited for the 6am start.

The plan was for the Brigade to attack over a 900 yard front with the 34th to advance 1,000 yards to the Red line, then the 35th to follow up, pass through the Red line and advance 550 yards to the Blue

line, then the 36th to come through and advance a further 500 yards to the Green line. The 33rd was to be held in reserve.

Leading up to 6am heavy enemy shelling continued, most passing over the 34th and then hitting the 35th and 36th with disastrous results with the 35th suffering the worst. The diaries of the 9th Brigade and 34th Battalion both state the biggest obstacle to the advance was “ ---the assistance it was necessary to give men who had sunk into shell holes and could not extricate themselves without assistance.”

Because of the conditions the machine guns and trench mortars could not keep up with the advance while the enemy machine guns took a heavy toll as the troops went through thigh deep mud and bunched up to avoid the shell holes and becoming easy targets.

The 34th reached the Red line and started to dig in but were “greatly harassed by machine gun fire from the right flank” Captain Clarence Jefferies led a party to put the machine gun post out of action but was killed and awarded the VC for his actions, the only VC ever awarded for the Battalion. “The NCOs pushed forward the attack and captured two machine guns and forty prisoners”.

Due to heavy casualties, the 34th, 35th and 36th combined to advance and take the Blue line and started to dig in while under heavy machine gun fire and artillery barrage fire.

By 3pm it was decided that the position was hopeless and a withdrawal was ordered. During the attack, the 34th Battalion reached the Red line with only three officers, all others had been killed or wounded and those three were lost before the Blue line was reached and it was the NCOs who took charge and “did remarkably fine work”.

In his record of Passchendaele Charles Bean notes that Lieuts B. G. McKenzie, J. A. Longworth and J. C. Burges, all of East Maitland, were killed before the Red line was reached. AWM Roll of Honour gives Longworth’s place of association as Taree.

For 11/12/13 October 1917 the A.W.M. Roll of Honour lists deaths for:-

33rd – 38,
34th – 102,
35th – 112,
36th – 74.

A total of deaths for the 9th Brigade of 326.

The 3rd Division sent 5,000 troops into battle at Passchendaele, casualties were 3,200 killed and wounded. The 34th Battalion took over 50% casualties, the 35th had 508 men cross the start line but only 90 remained unwounded at the end.

1917 took a heavy toll upon the 3rd Division, and the 9th Brigade in particular. Reinforcements from Australia were dwindling and after suffering further losses when thrown into the line at Villers-Bretonneux on 4th/5th April 1918, where late on the afternoon of the 4th, in what was a desperate position for the Brigade, a bayonet charge by the 36th completely changed the situation, it was decided to disband one of the 9th Brigade’s battalions to reinforce the other three. The 36th was the battalion

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selected. In what one of the battalion's officers called an "unselfish act" the 36th disbanded on 30 April 1918.

Casualties on the Western Front given for the four Battalions of the 9th Brigade are:-

33rd 576 killed 2052 wounded.

34th 497 killed 1727 wounded.

35th 565 killed 1637 wounded.

36th 437 killed 1253 wounded

Total for the 9th Brigade 2,075 killed and 6,669 wounded.

(Numbers killed taken from A.W.M. R.O.H.)

As part of the 3rd Division the 9th Brigade marched onto the Western Front on 27th November 1916. So the losses incurred were over 24 months.



Western Front: Western Front (Belgium), Passchendaele Area, Zonnebeke

12 October 1917

Unknown Australian Official Photographer
Source: Australian War Memorial, E01200

Portrait of 476 Private Thomas William Kinneard, 34th Battalion.
c. 1916.

Private Kinneard was killed in the battle of Passchendaele on 1917-10-13. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium. This portrait is taken from a composite photograph presented to the Abermain RSL by the ladies of the Abermain Comforts Fund. The composite photograph comprises portraits of the twenty five servicemen from Abermain who lost their lives in the war of 1914-1918 (Australian War Memorial negative number P01920.001). (Donor, Abermain Sub-Branch Returned and Services League)

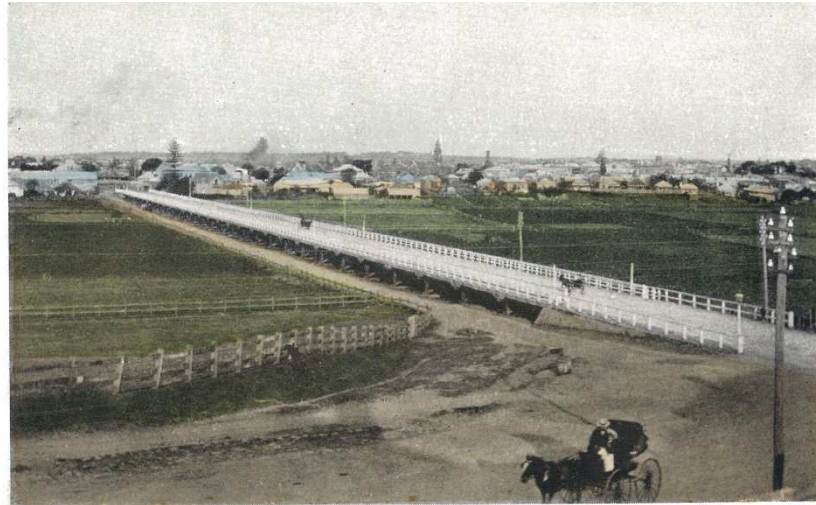
Source: Australian War Memorial, P01920.004



Panoramic view of the battlefield southeast of Passchendaele from Moorslede.

Source: Australian War Memorial, EZ0170A

Reminiscences of the old Long Bridge



LONG BRIDGE, WEST MAITLAND.

Compton & Pankhurst.

Long Bridge

c. 1900

Maitland Mercury, 28 May, 1894

A correspondent writes : — The old long bridge was built by convict labour under the superintendence of the late Mr. John Hawkins, who died at a ripe old age only a few years ago at his residence, corner of Regent-street and the Great Northern Road. The long bridge was commenced about the time or just after the great March flood (as it was then called) of 1832 (?) and the culvert referred to in your report of the opening of the new long bridge spanned what was a continuation of Hall and Balcot's Creek. The man Bourke either fell off or was thrown from his horse one night and fell against one of the posts of the railing and was killed. The accident happened about 100 yards from the east end of the bridge, and the post was nicked at the time, and the mark remained there for years. He resided at Lochinvar, and was a kind of sub-overseer, and was rather harsh to those under him. He was buried on his farm, Bourke's Land, near High-street, and his son, on attaining his majority in 1849-1850 caused the property to be subdivided and sold. Mr. E. W. Goodall was the surveyor, and the principal street was named after the owner, Bourke-street.

The Sandy Hollow named in your report was situated between what is now known as Hannan and Sempell streets, and was the site of the second bridge, known in the old days as the Short Bridge, and was the bridge to be built referred to in the letter of 1835 to the late Mr. G. B. White, and the huts for the men engaged in the erection were built on the ground now owned, I believe, by Mr. Jno Enright. The bridge, after many years' service, was carried away by the 1867 flood, I think, which also washed away the Courthouse in Sempell-street, nearly opposite the old pound, and the present substantial structure was erected in his stead.

The old Northumberland Hotel built for the late Mr. George Yeomans was erected in Sandy Hollow and although many prophesied that it would not stand. Yet it has weathered many a flood and gale and done some good service as the principal Hotel in the district under various proprietors. The first

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amateur theatricals took place in the long room for the benefit of the Maitland Benevolent Asylum which at time was situated in Hannan-street. The Institution is now called the Maitland Hospital. At the first performance an original song by Mr. Ben. Griffin called ' Billy Barlow in Australia' made a great hit. The Hotel was commenced as far as my memory serves me in 1841 or 1842 and had a license in 1843. Dinner was given to celebrate the return of the first Member, Major Wentworth, to service in the first Legislative Assembly of New South Wales composed of nominee and elected members. The number of electors in the Northumberland Boroughs, viz., Newcastle, East and West Maitland,— the total roll — was only about 350. West Maitland in its early days was called the Camp, and the plain Wallis Plains, and was used by teamsters carrying loading to the Green Hills, and who camped here because there was plenty of grass and water and from small beginning it has risen to its present position. The feeling between the East and West was as strongly marked then as now and many a wordy contest took place.

[Anomalies in the above text, such as Sempell Street rather than Sempill Street, have been noted by the editor but remain unchanged for the purposes of historic rustic charm! ☺]

Long Bridge, 2014



Maitland on the Hunter by Brian Walsh and Cameron Archer (Tocal, 2007) note that while the bridge over Wallis Creek solved the problem of travelling by road from Morpeth to Maitland, there remained the challenge of crossing the swamp at the base of Campbells Hill on the journey north west towards Patricks Plains (Singleton).

The first '**Long bridge**', a wooden structure at the base of Campbells Hill, was completed about 1838, replacing a short wooden bridge which opened in 1825. Its completion must have been a great relief for the teamsters and their bullocks which on occasions had been stuck there for weeks at a time. Over the decades, the bridge was replaced several times. A new deck was added to the wooden bridge during the depression of the 1930s but this proved to be a temporary measure. In 1938 a new concrete Long Bridge was opened and poplar trees were planted beside it on Arbor Day 1939.

W. Allan Wood's ***Dawn in the Valley*** (Wentworth Books, Sydney, 1972) prints a report from the Sydney Gazette of 7 November 1833:

A fine substantial bridge across Campbell's Hollow is nearly finished. This has been erected by road parties, and extends between 40 and 50 rods across the hollow. Drays have frequently been detained for a month during floods, which was most ruinous to townspeople and settlers.

The valuable service of the Long Bridge for Maitland remains as important in 2014 as it did in 1833.

From the Collection



Can anyone identify the location of this photograph or provide any further details or information?
It is an interesting scene but the place and people have not yet been identified.
Please email any ideas to maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

Where is it?



The first question for the new quiz series of 'Where is it?' Thanks to Val for creating this.

As usual there is a fantastic prize: you can feel superior in your knowledge of Maitland's history and have your name in the next Bulletin, probably in **bold** type and *italics*!

Email responses to maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

Municipality of West Maitland

LOOKING BACK

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Spirit of Opposition

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EARLY MAITLAND

It is not only in recent years that the spirit of opposition to forward moves has manifested itself in Maitland. Delving into early history we find that in 1859 there was strong opposition to the incorporation of the town into a municipality. However, despite this move, the change was made in 1863.

The meeting to protest against incorporation was addressed by several speakers, and it is interesting to recall the remarks of Mr. Jeremiah Ledsam on this occasion.

Mr. Ledsam said he wanted to know if the people required a mayor and aldermen and assessors; whether they should pay £1000 or £2000 a year in burdensome taxes; whether they should co-operate with those who wanted to create an aristocracy in Maitland, and whether they should bow down to a Lord Mayor and town councillors. The antagonism, however, did not affect the ultimate result, and in 1862 the petition presented in favour of the incorporation, had 450 signatures. The number of houses was estimated at 1066 and estimating absentees at 300 and female householders, who would not be expected to sign, at 66, this was said to constitute a majority and the incorporation carried the day. As a result of the petition, a proclamation appeared in the Government Gazette of November, 1863, establishing the town as a municipality.

The first council consisting of nine aldermen was elected on December 17, 1863, the polling for the 22 candidates being as follows:— William Wade 334, William T. Mitchell 327, William H. Mullen 301, James Wolstenholme 276, John Lee 249, Andrew Liddell 223, John Pender, sen., 217, Isaac Gorrick 209, William Henry Smith 206, T. Arkins 182, William Bussell 157, George Lobsey 121, Owen Evans 115, John Nott 80, John Falkiner 78, John Richardson 75, Richard Cracknell 68, Henry Sherwood 49, John Levlen 40, Henry Rourke 40, T. W. Tucker 39, W. Irwin 13.

The First Mayor

The new council first met in the West Maitland Courthouse on December 21, 1863, proceedings commencing at five o'clock. The aldermen having made their declaration, Mr. W. T. Mitchell was appointed chairman, and the election of Mayor commenced by ballot. The votes were equal for Aldermen Mullen and Liddell, four each, and the chairman gave his vote in favour of Alderman Mullen, who was then declared elected first Mayor of West Maitland. The first council clerk was Mr. Timothy Foley, who was followed by Mr. James Fullford, Mr. Thomas Hughes, who held office for 35 years. Mr. W. J. Saunders, Mr. C. T. Mc Lean and the present town clerk, Mr. E. W. Williams.

'First Citizens'

Aldermen who have occupied the Mayoral chair since the formation of the municipality have been as follows:

1863: W. H. Mullen.
1864: W. H. Mullen.
1865: W. H. Mullen.
1866: W. H. Mullen.
1867: W. H. Mullen and John Lee.
1868: John Lee.
1869: W. H. Mullen.
1870: W. H. Smith.
1871: W. H. Smith.
1872: W. H. Mullen.
1873: W. H. Mullen.
1874: W. H. Smith.
1875: W. H. Smith.
1876: H. S. Badgory.
1877: J. Wolstenholme.
1878: J. Lee.
1879: — James.
1880: J. Fullford.
1881: J. Fullford.
1882: J. J. Riley.
1883: James Pritchard.
1884: A. Wilkinson.
1885: Robert Hyndes.
1886: Robert Hyndes.
1887: Robert Hyndes and A. Wil-
kinson.

1888: Dr. R. J. Pierce.
1889: J. Gillies.
1890: J. Gillies.
1891: R. A. Young.
1892: R. A. Young.
1893: R. A. Young.
1894: Henry Crothers.
1895: Henry Crothers.
1896: Henry Crothers.
1897: Henry Crothers.
1898: Alexander Wilkinson.
1899: Alexander Wilkinson.
1900: T. J. Ribee.
1901: T. J. Ribee.
1902: Dr. Frank Liddell.
1903: Dr. Frank Liddell.
1904: Colonel Wilkinson.
1905: W. McLauchlin.
1906: W. J. Enright.
1907: Major Walter Cracknell.
1908: Major Walter Cracknell.
1909: Major Walter Cracknell.

Research by **Peter Bogan**. The Maitland Daily Mercury Tuesday 19 November 1935 Page 6

Wild, Wild West.....Maitland

Despite the status of being a municipality, back in 1893...

Butcher dodges bullet

LOCAL NEWS -Yesterday afternoon Mr. John Walsh, butcher, was standing in Hunter Street engaged in conversation with Mr. Harry Shoemith, when both gentlemen heard a sharp, peculiar noise, and then the " ping " of a bullet.

Investigation showed that a deal board in the fence at the side of the speakers had been perforated by a bullet which must have passed with considerable velocity within a few inches of Mr. Walsh's back, for that gentleman states he distinctly felt the air vibrate as the missile flew by.

It seems that some of Messrs. Capper and Sons' employees were testing a revolver by firing at an old and heavy door, and one of the shots missing this rough and ready target, took the direction indicated. Needless to say the shooter was much agitated when he learned the dire consequences which his bad marksmanship had nearly brought about, and the circumstance should be a warning to him and others.

The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser Tuesday 18th July 1893 Page 5.
Peter Bogan

In the news

From the Maitland Mercury report:

Dead Man's Penny a memorial to those who died during World War I

By *ELLE WATSON*. April 23, 2014



When Donald Cracknell died on the battlefields of France in 1916 a bronze medallion was delivered to his mother. The Dead Man's Penny, sent on behalf of King George V, did little to ease Susan Cracknell's heartache of losing her 23-year-old son.

"None of them spoke about him," the young soldier's niece Adele Cockburn said. "In my grandmother's lounge room there was a round table with a Bible and Uncle Donald's photo next to it.

"There would always be a bunch of flowers on the table."

Mr Cracknell was a 22-year-old lorry driver from the village of Kayuga outside of Muswellbrook when he enlisted in West Maitland on November 4, 1915.

Private Donald Cracknell of the 30th Battalion sailed from Sydney on the HMAT Anchises on March 14, 1916.

Five months later, on August 23, he died in a wagon en route to a field hospital after being wounded in the trenches.

Mr Cracknell was buried in the Saily Surléye Military Cemetery, east of the larger Estaires Military Cemetery.

Family friend, Sarah McIntyre, travelled to the French battlefields a year later, and returned with a photograph of the fresh grave marked with a single wooden cross.

"He didn't have to go, but he wanted to join his mates," Mrs Cockburn said.

The penny, one of more than 60,000 delivered to the families of fallen Anzacs, is on loan to the Maitland Historical Society.

The Dead Man's Penny was presented to the next of kin of the men and women who died in World War I.

The oversized penny depicts Lady Britannia alongside two dolphins and a lion at her feet.

The National Museum of Australia said the dolphins represented the Commonwealth's sea power and the lion represents Britain.

An eagle that lies beneath the lion represents Germany.

The soldier's rank was purposely left off the penny to show equality in their sacrifice.

Each penny is marked with the words: "He died for freedom and honour."

Full article available at: <http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/2236947/dead-mans-penny-a-memorial-to-those-who-died-during-world-war-i/>

Diary Dates 2014

August

Tue 5th Guest speaker evening 5.30 Gold Coin donation

Rooms open each Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 3pm

Tues 19th Monthly General Meeting 5.30 at the rooms

September

Tues 2nd Guest Speaker evening 5.30 Gold coin donation

Rooms open each Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 3pm

Sat 6th **Museums and Galleries Hunter Chapter Meeting at Allison House, Wyong.**
Workshop will be on disaster recovery. Since the Historic House destroyed by arson the group has successfully moved forward. The new building should be in place by Christmas.
If you are interested in attending please let Ruth know. 10am start

Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th **History Week** – Theme for 2014 - “The Great War”

Wed 10th Rooms open 10am to 3pm

Thur 11th **Maitland’s Great War** “Look who’s talking – Local History” This event will explore the impact of World War One at home, uncovering and examining some of the layers of remembrance, including an insight into “Maitland’s Own” 34th Battalion and extracts from the Maitland Mercury. 6pm to 7.30 Maitland Gaol Free admission

Tues 16th Monthly General Meeting 5.30 at the rooms



Victoria Bridge

Spanning Wallis Creek, Maitland

Linking East and West Maitland

(1852-1896)