

The Pillars of



Bathurst

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Initial print	2015
Reprinted	2016, 2017, 2018,2019



# Introduction

The Pillars of Bathurst is a cultural heritage garden located at Macquarie Park, Stanley Street Bathurst on the bank of the Macquarie River adjacent to the Ohkuma Gardens.

The Pillars commemorate past Bathurstians who have added something special to the story of the Bathurst region, ideally offering inspiration to living and future Bathurstians.

Some of those commemorated may already be well known to us. Many have been chosen to bring forth those people that are less known today and who deserve to be better known. Those that have been selected as a "Pillar", or that may be selected into the future, will undoubtedly provoke discussion as to why those names were included and others not. Such result is considered a positive one and shows that we have a history that is alive and lively.

The restored cast iron verandah posts used in the garden have an historic relationship with the Royal Hotel in William Street.

The Royal Hotel was one of the earliest inns in Bathurst. Known as the Good Woman Inn when it opened in 1843, it was originally a single storey building. Over the following 50 years, the hotel was significantly altered to its final form as a three storey building. Renamed the Royal Hotel in 1851, the hotel traded until 1965 when it closed and the building slowly became derelict.

Prior to restoration in the early 1990s, some of the fabric and building elements of the Hotel were lost to the site, including the cast iron verandah posts from the rear of the building. The former Bathurst City Council was later given the opportunity to purchase the posts, which were then stored in Council's depot for use in a future project.

A conversation between CSU historian, Dr Robin McLachlan, and council staff many years later sparked the idea of the need to remember people, once important members of our community, for whom there were no memorials to tell of their contributions and achievements. The cast iron verandah posts, representing these Pillars of Bathurst, aim to provide a new focus to bring forth their stories.

Council has nominated the initial "Pillars" but there is space for many more. Council will engage with the community to nominate new "Pillars" each year until the eighty plaques available have been filled.

Council could not have completed this project without the research undertaken by Dr McLachlan in drawing together the biographies presented below.

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William Astley

1855 - 1911

FEDERATION  
ACTIVIST

William  
Treman

1871 - 1899

TREMAN MEMORIAL

Walter  
H. ...

...

...

...



# Bathurst Commandant

## John Fennell (c.1790-1826)

Lt John Fennell arrived in New South Wales in 1821 with Governor Brisbane, serving as his aide-de-camp until January 1825. In that month, in the space of a fortnight, he married Mary Ann Bell, daughter of a well-established colonial family, and took up the appointment of Commandant of the Bathurst Government Settlement. He initiated several major developments in the settlement, including building Bathurst's first gaol and establishing its first processing industry, a successful tannery. Fennell also helped establish the community's first social institutions, the Hunt Club and the Literary Society. His military experience enabled him to deal swiftly and effectively in defusing a major convict uprising. Fennell's enterprise in Bathurst promised a career that could in time have placed him among the colony's most able administrators. However, this was not to be. He died on 3 July 1826, very suddenly after a short illness, survived by his wife and infant daughter, Maria Isabella. John Fennell's grave, marked by a tombstone, is the earliest identified burial in the Holy Trinity Cemetery in Kelso.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Federation Activist



## William Astley (1855-1911)

Born in England, William Astley came to Australia with his family in 1859. By the age of 21, he had embarked on a life-long career as a journalist. Prior to his employment by the Bathurst Free Press in the mid-1890s, Astley had worked for many newspapers and journals, including the Bulletin. An ardent supporter of Federation and well known to key politicians of the day, Astley, as its secretary, was the key organiser of the successful People's Federation Convention held in Bathurst in November 1896. It was at the Convention the proposal for a popularly elected Senate was first raised. Following Federation, Astley worked tirelessly as an advocate for Bathurst as the site for the new nation's capital. In addition to his work as a political journalist and Federation activist, Astley is remembered, under the pseudonym of Price Warung, for his evocative stories of convict Australia. His personal story, however, was not a happy one. Troubled by poverty and recurrences of mental illness, William Astley died at Rookwood Benevolent Asylum.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Heroine of Rockley



## Caroline Keightley (1840-1898)

On her death in December 1898, newspapers across Australia remembered Caroline Keightley, the “Heroine of Rockley”, and the dramatic story of her dash on the night of 24 October 1863 to ransom her husband from bushrangers holding him on their Dunn’s Plains property. While the facts of the story vary with the telling, all agree that the Ben Hall gang threatened a revenge killing of Henry Keightley for his shooting of one of their fellow bushrangers. Caroline pleaded for his life and a bargain was struck that Henry would be spared for a £500 ransom. With a noon deadline to meet, she raced to Blackdown near Kelso to seek the help of her father, Henry Rotton. The ransom was duly raised with a 4 am visit to Bathurst’s Commercial Bank and Henry’s life was spared. For Caroline, life was never again quite the same. Rolf Boldrewood wrote her into his classic, *Robbery Under Arms*, and for a time Caroline took to the stage starring in a drama, *Bail Up*, re-enacting her midnight race to save her husband.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Champion Motorcyclist



## Bluey Wilkinson (1911–1940)

Arthur George Wilkinson, nicknamed “Bluey” for his red hair, called Bathurst his hometown. Motorbike speedway racing was his world. He was working as a butcher boy when he first saw speedway racing at the Bathurst Sports Ground. Bluey was hooked and all his savings went towards a battered second-hand Rudge motorbike. Within a year of winning his first race in Bathurst in 1928, he was competing in events in England, but returning annually for the Australian races. Steadily rising through the ranks of fierce competition, he won the first of his three Australian Championships in 1935 and set record times on British tracks. In 1938, he raced to be World Champion in London’s Wembley Stadium. He rode that winning race with his arm and shoulder in plaster, nursing a broken collarbone. Speedway injuries were commonplace for “the red-haired miracle”, who was known for his daring riding. Bluey Wilkinson died while riding his motorbike, not on the speedway but in a traffic accident with a lorry in Sydney, a month before his 29th birthday.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Flour Miller

## William Tremain (1831–1898)

William Tremain and his young family came to Bathurst in the late 1850s from Cornwall. A flour miller by trade, he spent his first years here grinding quartz for gold rather than wheat for flour. In 1863, he took the opportunity to put his meagre life savings into the lease on a flourmill in South Bathurst. The failure of this venture in 1868 would have deterred most men, but not William. He had soon rehabilitated an abandoned small mill in nearby Queen Charlotte Vale and was once again in the milling business. In 1874, William relocated his operation to a larger new mill, the Victoria in Keppel Street, an ideal location to take advantage of the railway (arriving in 1876). Under William's direction and with his perseverance, Tremain's Victoria Mill, always at the forefront in milling technology, became a successful family business. By 1957, the Victoria was the last flourmill still operating in Bathurst, closing only in 1980.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Surveyor

## James Byrn Richards (1802–1881)

When you travel along the wide streets of Bathurst, you are benefiting from the surveying skills of James Byrn Richards. Cornish-born, J.B. Richards arrived in Sydney in 1824 to take up the position of “4th Assistant Surveyor ” under the colony’s Surveyor General. In 1826, Richards was transferred to Bathurst, where he undertook the first land surveys on the western side of the Macquarie River. His property surveys were achieved with arduous labour and few resources – even lacking paper for map making. In 1833, he was directed by Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell to survey the streets and allotments for the proposed town of Bathurst. The lasting accuracy of Richards’ surveying is testament to his surveying skills. Richards remained in the Bathurst area, leasing or owning several pastoral properties and serving as a Crown Land Commissioner until just before his death. He was a Church Warden at Holy Trinity Church in Kelso and lies buried in its graveyard alongside his wife, Jane.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



# Feminist Sisters

## Annie McKenzie Golding (1855-1934), Catherine (Kate) Winifred Dwyer (nee Golding) (1861-1949) & Isabella (Bella) Theresa Golding (1864-1940)

The Golding sisters, born into a Tambaroora goldmining family, were raised to be independent women with a strong sense of social justice. All three became teachers, initially in local schools. They went on to campaign in direct and practical ways for the rights of women and children. In the 1890s, as members of the Womanhood Suffrage League, they offered a robust workingwoman's perspective that challenged the largely middle class campaign for the vote for women – with the result their branch was expelled from the League. Katherine (Kate), who had to quit teaching on marriage, went on to focus on improving the lot of women in the workforce, especially those trapped by poverty in sweatshops. Annie, who remained unmarried and a teacher until retirement in 1915, was active in the Teachers' Association of NSW and other bodies seeking public education reforms. As president of the Women's Progressive Association, she lobbied persistently for women's equality in employment, education and before the law. Isabella (Belle) lent practical support to her sisters' campaigns as a pioneer female inspector of factories and shops.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



## Blair Anderson Wark VC (1894-1941)

Blair Anderson Wark, born in Bathurst, was a citizen soldier. Two years in Senior Cadets was followed from 1913 with fulltime service as a lieutenant in the Citizen Military Forces. He enlisted in the AIF in World War I, where his courage and steadfastness under fire at Fromelles and Ypres was recognised in 1917 with promotion to major and the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). In September 1918, Major Wark was given command of the 32nd Battalion in the advance on the Hindenburg Line at Bellicourt. Over a three-day period, Wark “displayed the greatest courage, skilful leading and devotion to duty” that earned him the Victoria Cross. Often well in advance of his men, he led them forward under relentless enemy fire, personally leading the rushes to capture an artillery battery and to silence machine guns causing heavy casualties. Wark resumed his civilian career as a quantity surveyor after the war, but re-enlisted in World War II. He suffered a fatal heart attack while on a training exercise. Blair Anderson Wark’s Victoria Cross is held by the Queensland Museum.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Bookmaker & Racing Identity

## Humphrey Oxenham (1854-1923)

Humphrey Oxenham was known as the “King of Australian Bookmakers”. Where he was born is a toss up between Sofala and Wattle Flat. As a young man, Humphrey got his start in the gaming business by accepting a wager from a Bathurst publican of £100 to his shilling. The bet was whether Humphrey could in a set time carry a pumpkin on his head from Kelso to Bathurst without touching it. Humphrey won and his winnings gave him his start as a bookmaker, first at local country races and from 1875 in Sydney. His business interests included a chain of betting shops and a postal sweepstakes rivalling Tattersall’s. Humphrey was also among Australia’s foremost racehorse owners with his stable winning many of the premier races of his time, capped off with the Melbourne Cup in 1904. His obituary described him as “a very popular sportsman with all classes of the community who was noted for his open-handedness in the cause of benevolence”.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Bush Musician



## Joe Yates (1895–1987)

Joseph Henry Yates was a living link to the popular music of 19th century Australia. Born into a musical family in Sofala, Joe Yates began playing the fiddle and flute as a child. From his Yorkshire grandfather, a digger of the 1850s, he learnt the tunes of the gold rush era, while his father and siblings provided him with the music of later times. Joe gave the old music new life with regular appearances at local dances, attracting the attention of folk music collectors, notably John Meredith. In Meredith's words, "Old Joe' Yates is regarded as one of Australia's richest sources of rare colonial dance music and songs". Over 150 separate tunes and songs, popular between 1850 and 1950, were known and played by Joe, music we know today as bush music. In all ways, Joe Yates was a genuine bushman. He earned his living on the land, wrote poems and told stories in celebration of the bush. As a talented bush musician he helped preserve an important part of our musical heritage.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Community Leader



## Kath Knowles (1970–2010)

Kathryn Knowles was a vibrant young woman who served our community with inspiration, balance and wisdom. Born in Wellington, Kath spent much of her adult life in Bathurst, where she was active at all political levels. Kath cared passionately about making a difference, offering a steadfast commitment to issues of social equality and the needs of regional communities combined with a practical understanding of politics. It was through local government where Kath made her greatest contribution. Kath served as a local councillor for six years, including as the last mayor of Bathurst City Council. In 2004, she was appointed by the state government to the pivotal role of administrator, tasked with managing the controversial amalgamation of Bathurst and Evans councils. It is a testament to her leadership in successfully overseeing the merger that her fellow citizens resoundingly elected her to the inaugural Bathurst Regional Council, in 2005. An eventual career in parliamentary politics was widely anticipated, but this was not to happen. Kath Knowles died after a brief illness, shortly before her 40th birthday.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Fathers of Hill End

Thomas Wythes (c.1805-1876)

Joseph Wythes (1829-1875)

Thomas Wythes and his young family arrived from England in 1839, settling for a time on a small farm near Byng. When gold was discovered in 1851, the Wythes traded the life of farming for the luck of the goldfields. Thomas and his four sons, Joseph among them, were among the first on the Tambaroora field. The family followed the rush on to nearby Hill End (then Bald Hills). As shopkeepers and publicans, the Wythes were at the heart of Hill End and played key roles in its shaping. In 1854, Joseph was the first investor in reef gold mining at Hill End. This opened the way to Hill End becoming a major reef-mining field, among the first in Australia. Underground mining drew capital and people. Hill End prospered. Thomas, a popular and respected man, campaigned successfully for municipal government for his town and in 1873 was elected Hill End's first mayor. For his civic achievements, Thomas was called the "The Father of Hill End". It is an honour Joseph might share given his fathering of Hill End's reef mining.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Anthropologist

## Percy Gresser (1892-1969)

On days when the sheep were too wet for shearing, Percival John Gresser might be found walking the paddocks looking for stone tools. In a lifelong career as a shearer in NSW and Queensland, Percy Gresser collected and carefully recorded some 6000 Aboriginal stone axes, spearheads and other tools, as well as identifying numerous camp and tool making sites. Percy's scholarship earned the respect of academic anthropologists. His artefact collections, along with his meticulous research notes, are now in major national institutions. His research in the Bathurst region, where he was born and lived his life, encompassed a broad spectrum, from collecting folk music of early Duramana to co-authoring the first published history of the 1824 war between settlers and the Wiradjuri. A measure of his scholarship is that Windradyne of the Wiradjuri is still regarded as a key study of the conflict. Less well known are his personal journals, now in the Mitchell Library. They offer an insightful account of his life and that of the people of the Bathurst region over many decades.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Wiradjuri Leader & Warrior

## Windradyne (c.1800-1829)

Windradyne was a Wiradjuri man of the upper Wambool (Macquarie) River. His life coincided with a time of unprecedented challenge for the Wiradjuri as settlers and livestock contested their traditional lands and law. Windradyne emerged as a leader in their armed resistance. In early 1824, he was held in irons for a month, arrested for taking part in clashes with stockmen. Not long after, some of his own kin were killed over the taking of potatoes from a field. In May 1824, Windradyne led the Wiradjuri in open warfare against the settlers, displaying a mastering of guerrilla tactics with such success that Martial Law was declared. Yet, Windradyne acknowledged even in war there could be friendship, as shown in the story of his peaceful encounter with William Suttor. Coming to realise that the colonists could not be forcibly driven out, Windradyne provided leadership in securing a peaceful end to the bloody conflict in December 1824. In his short life Windradyne proved himself to be a defender of his land and people, a true patriot.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



# Historian



## Theo Barker (1919–2003)

Theo Barker was not simply an historian; he was Bathurst’s historian. Sydney born, Theo arrived in 1956 as a lecturer at Bathurst Teachers’ College. It was then he began his work of almost fifty years to find and tell the many stories of Bathurst. His wide-ranging History of Bathurst has become the accepted reference on our history, while his other local history writings explore a myriad of topics ranging from the city’s hospital to its higher education institutions. For Theo being an historian was equally a vocation that called for active community involvement. Theo helped to establish the local National Trust branch and campaigned to save the Royal Hotel. Through the Bathurst District Historical Society he helped organise the 1965 Sesquicentenary Celebrations, secured the future of Old Government Cottage, rescued irreplaceable records from the tip – and much more. For many, Theo will be best remembered for his entertaining talks that brought history to life for listeners. In his radio talks, he was introduced as “Mr History”, and so he was to his Bathurst.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# ANZAC Legend



## C.E.W. Bean (1879-1968)

Bathurst born Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean, journalist and historian, helped shape Australian national identity in the 20th century. Given that his writings promoted the qualities of resourceful rural Australians, Bean's Bathurst childhood, though brief, was perhaps a formative time. In September 1914, Bean was selected as the official war correspondent to accompany Australian forces embarking for the Great War. He landed with the Anzacs at Gallipoli and was with them in France to observe every engagement from 1916-1918. Before the war's end, C.E.W. Bean determined to write its history from the experience of the Australians. It would be, he wrote, "the bare and uncoloured story of their part in the war". In 1919, he successfully proposed both an official history and a national war memorial. This became his life's work. The first volumes of The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 appeared in 1923, the last in 1943. The Australian War Memorial opened in 1941. Both helped Australians discover their national character. It was at Gallipoli, wrote Bean, that "the consciousness of Australian nationhood was born".

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Merchant & Philanthropist



## John Meagher (1836-1920)

Irish born, John Meagher came to Bathurst in 1864 where he worked in Webb's Emporium. In 1867, Meagher opened his own store and went on to establish stores through the inland, from Hill End to West Wyalong, rivalling the mercantile empire of his former employer. Meagher was equally active in political affairs, providing a leadership that crossed the sectarian rift that often divided the community. A keen supporter of Federation, Meagher was central to the success of Bathurst's People's Federation Convention in 1896, and was later a stalwart advocate for Bathurst as federal capital. Locally, his support was given to all good causes, from securing hospital funding to establishing sporting clubs. As a loyal Irishman and devout Catholic, Meagher was unwavering in supporting Irish Home Rule and his church, as for example in purchasing Logan Brae for the Sisters of Mercy. His generous philanthropy, however, was extended to all, regardless of creed or politics. He was long remembered by Bathurst children for treating 3000 of them in 1888 to a centennial celebration sports day and picnic.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



## James Rutherford (1827-1911)

Drawn by the goldfields, James Rutherford arrived in Australia in 1853. Unlucky as a digger, he found work in 1857 as the manager of a struggling coach service, Cobb & Co., founded by fellow Americans. In 1861, Rutherford in partnership bought the company. Under Rutherford's direction, which would continue until his death, Cobb & Co. was re-organised, setting the foundation for what became an enduring national icon. In 1862, Rutherford shifted its headquarters to Bathurst, personally driving the leading coach of a great cavalcade into town. Cobb & Co. became a major Bathurst employer, with its coach factory a trendsetter in progressive workplace conditions. Rutherford embraced Bathurst as his hometown, serving as mayor in the 1860s and on virtually all public committees formed for the betterment of the town. His leadership in local associations included thirty years as show society treasurer and nearly forty as president of the school of arts. Rutherford was equally at home in political affairs. Not a man of token gestures, in 1889 he established the National Advocate to support his advocacy of tariff protection.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Newspaperman

## Benjamin Isaacs (1796-1881)

An East End Londoner by birth, Benjamin Isaacs in 1847 brought the first printing press over the Blue Mountains and with it published in February 1848 Bathurst's first newspaper, the Bathurst Advocate. Isaacs was a man of an unsettled, volatile character. At times he embraced his Jewish heritage, at other times he professed Protestant Christianity. He never shirked from offering his opinions, which often targeted the colony's Establishment. In 1838, having previously lived briefly in Australia, Isaacs returned to settle permanently, accompanied by his second wife and children from both marriages. He embarked on an eventful, if rarely successful, career as a printer and newspaper publisher. Prior to Bathurst, Isaacs' failed ventures included a New Zealand newspaper and Australia's first suburban newspaper, Parramatta's Courier. Initially, the Bathurst Advocate proved successful, with the newspaper's liberal views well received. But, by 1849, Isaacs had earned the wrath of the local judiciary, notably Police Magistrate Morisset, who pressed criminal libel charges. The affair saw Isaacs' imprisonment and his newspaper's collapse. Although success eluded Benjamin Isaacs, he can claim to be Bathurst's founding newspaperman.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Wiradjuri Community Elder & Leader

## Wirrari John Bugg (1939–2000)

Born in Cowra and raised on the Erambie Aboriginal Mission, Wirrari John Bugg was a Wiradjuri Community Elder and Leader. Under Wiradjuri custom, John inherited his traditional name from his ancestor, Wirrari, son of Windradyne, the great Wiradjuri warrior. A lifelong champion of the Aboriginal cause, John Bugg was vocal about issues that impacted on his people, and was always ready to challenge injustice and provoke public debate, without fear of retribution. He was equally an advocate for the recognition of Aboriginal culture and heritage. This included campaigning for official recognition of Windradyne's grave at Brucedale. John never hesitated in pressing the wider community to face the reality of Australia's historical treatment of Aboriginal people. He was widely appreciated by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people for his knowledge of Wiradjuri cultural heritage and for his generosity in sharing that knowledge. Among John's many achievements were his invaluable contributions within the NSW Education Department developing teaching resources, including Wiradjuri language tapes. Wirrari John Bugg is remembered as a much-respected member of the Wiradjuri and Bathurst community.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Innkeepers

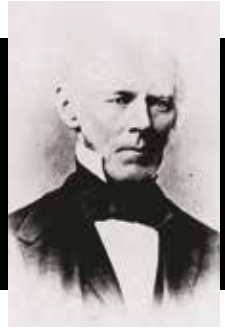
Dominique Popilarie (c.1774-1860)

Susannah Popilarie (c.1810-1893)

Dominique and Susannah Popilarie were popular local innkeepers, beginning in 1842 with the Woolpack in Kelso. Originally from Calabria in Italy, Dominique arrived in 1810 as a convict under life sentence as a deserter from an Italian regiment raised by the British in the Napoleonic War. Dominique never ceased protesting that he had not enlisted, but his fate would be to never again see his wife and children. Dominique soon earned trust and respect, even working as a gardener for Governor Macquarie, but he was never granted permission to return home. In 1836, he married Susannah White, possibly as a bigamist. In 1842, the couple came to Bathurst, where, between them over the years, they ran more than a dozen hotels in Bathurst, Kelso and Rockley. One is the Elephant and Castle (licenced 1849) in Keppel Street. On Dominique's death, Susannah carried on as an innkeeper – with a reputation as a feisty landlady. The family grave in Bathurst Cemetery offers three different spellings of Popilarie, with colonial records providing even more variations. Dominique may well have been convicted on mistaken identity.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# The First Bathurstians



## George Busby (1797-1870) Agnes Busby (1810-1906)

Agnes Thomson and George Busby, both born in Scotland, were married at *Kelloshiel* on 11 January 1833, ten days before Bathurst Township was opened for settlement. Agnes had arrived in 1832, in company with her clergyman brother. George came in 1828 as the government medical officer in charge of the convict hospital. In 1842 this hospital became Bathurst's first public hospital and would be under George's dedicated supervision until his death in 1870. He was as well Bathurst's first resident doctor. George Busby was also central to the establishment of important community institutions, including Bathurst's first bank and the Bathurst School of Arts, together with its hall. Late in life, Agnes Busby wrote *Bathurst in the Thirties*, an invaluable account of the last days of the old Government Settlement and the beginnings of Bathurst town. The Busbys were among the first purchasers of town allotments and in 1838 built Bathurst's first brick private residence. Located on Howick Street, this would be the family home for the rest of their lives, George and Agnes Busby, our first Bathurstians.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



# Community Carer



## Charlie Kohlhoff (1912–2007)

Christian Charles William (Charlie) Kohlhoff had a passion for improving the health and well being of the people of Bathurst. Charlie Kohlhoff came to Bathurst in 1952 as CEO of Bathurst Hospital and Macquarie Homes, a position he held until his retirement in 1977. Charlie was instrumental in the development of a range of community services. In 1964, he was the driving force in the establishment of Meals on Wheels in Bathurst and served as its president for the next 35 years. He also started the Bathurst Rehabilitation Centre and Day Hospital in 1967 and was instrumental in building the Chifley Retirement Village in 1970. After his retirement, Charlie went on to start the Senior Citizens Centre in 1977 and the Bathurst Day Care Centre in 1980. He was Bathurst Citizen of the year in 1994, the same year he was awarded the OAM for services to the community, particularly in providing facilities for aged people and people with disabilities. Charlie Kohlhoff's legacy lies with the people who lives he made better and with those who were inspired by his ceaseless dedication to making Bathurst a more caring community. He was a man who cared about others.

Nominated by Ms Libby Loneragan

# War Photographer & Cameraman



## Damien Parer (1912–1944)

Damien Peter Parer is acknowledged as one of Australia's most famous war photographers and cameramen. His passion for photography began as a student in Bathurst at St Stanislaus' College from 1923-1928, where he was a member of the school's camera club. After leaving Stannies, Damien went on to work with some of Australia's leading photographers and film directors, including Max Dupain and Charles Chauvel. Following the outbreak of war in 1939, Damien was appointed an official photographer (still and movie) with the AIF. With the Australian forces, he filmed in Tobruk, the Western Desert, Greece, Syria, and from 1942 in New Guinea and the Pacific. His work was regularly seen in Cinesound newsreels, establishing his reputation as a fearless and gifted front line cameraman. Some of his most famous footage was taken along the Kokoda Track, which featured in the Oscar winning newsreel, Kokoda Front Line. On 17 September 1944, Damien Parer was killed in action while filming the American invasion of Peleliu Island in the Pacific. Damien Parer is remembered at St Stanislaus' College with the Damien Parer Gallery, opened in 2000, where a collection of his photographic work is on display.

Nominated by St Stanislaus' College

# Police Trooper



## Robert Codrington (1830–1857)

Robert Dowker Codrington was born in India, the son of an East India Company army officer. In 1854, Robert enlisted in the NSW Gold Escort police. Trooper Codrington, with wife Louisa and infant son, was stationed at Cheshire Creek Barracks, near Wyagden Hill. On 22 December 1857, Trooper Codrington rode out to Wyagden Hill to meet the Gold Escort on its way to Bathurst. As he approached the usual stopping place for putting on the drags before the steep descent, a barrage of fire from hidden gunmen killed him. Codrington's murder was likely intended to precede the robbery of the Gold Escort, which was foiled when the escort passed by while the villains disposed of his body in a nearby gully.

The calculated killing of a respected police officer caused outrage, heightened when Louisa lost their second son due to the shock of her husband's murder. The government and the local community both offered substantial rewards. Yet despite decades of investigation and strong suspicions as to the murderers' identities, no one was ever convicted of the crime. The long neglected grave of Trooper Robert Codrington, killed in the line of duty, is in Sofala Cemetery.

Nominated by Mr Neil Codrington

# Historical Geographer

## Ida Lee (1865–1943)

Born on Wallaroi property near Kelso, Ida Louisa Lee achieved public recognition in her lifetime for her pioneering scholarship in historical geography. Until 1939, Ida Lee was the only Australian born woman publishing scholarly work on Australian history and exploration. On her marriage in 1891 to Charles Marriott, Ida made her home in England. Her passionate interest in Australian exploration history led to research in British libraries, including at the Admiralty, delving into long-neglected ship's logs and explorer's journals. Her investigations saw the discovery of long lost letters and maritime charts. In 1906, under the name of Ida Lee, she published her first book, *The Coming of the British to Australia, 1788-1829*. Five further books on maritime and inland Australian exploration would follow, all based on her original research, with the last published in 1927. Ida also wrote numerous journal articles on a range of subjects and frequently penned letters 'to the Editor', always signing herself *Southerner*. Ida Lee was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1913 in recognition of her scholarship. In 1919, she was elected an Honourary Fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society, for "her outstanding contribution to Australian History".

Nominated by Mrs Marcia Seymour

# Community & Workplace Leader



## Ray Bant (1932–2007)

Raymond John (Ray) Bant strove to make Bathurst, the city of his birth, a better place to live. From the early 1950s until 1987, Ray was employed in the Bathurst Railway Workshop, where he was an active union member. In the 1960s, when the State government sought to close down the Bathurst workshop, he played a leadership role in the union's fight against that decision. The union not only won the battle, but also achieved the building of a modern Bathurst workshop with more jobs for Bathurst. Ray served as a dedicated Bathurst City Council alderman from 1974 to 1995. As chairman of the Mount Panorama Racing Committee, he was especially proud of his part in the growing stature of his beloved "Mount". His contribution is remembered with Ray Bant Drive on Mount Panorama. After his time on council, Ray served as chairman of the Bathurst Health Watch Committee, which was instrumental in getting Bathurst a new hospital and ensuring it was properly staffed and funded.

Ill health troubled Ray Bant's final years. When the end neared, while in Orange Hospital, he asked that he be allowed to return to his beloved Bathurst to pass away.

Nominated by Mr David & Mrs Thelma Bant

# Scientist



## Fr Joseph Slattery (1866–1931)

Irish born, Father Joseph Patrick Slattery, a Vincentian priest and university qualified physicist, taught at Bathurst's St Stanislaus' College from 1888 until 1911. It was there that Father Slattery undertook his pioneering scientific research, often using equipment of his own design and manufacture. In 1896, Fr Slattery designed and built from scratch an experimental X-Ray machine. In July of that year, he used this device to create a photographic image of 12-year-old Eric Thompson's hand, which had been injured in a shotgun blast. The X-Ray enabled the surgeon to successfully treat the wound, sparing Eric from amputation. This was just five months after the German scientist Wilhelm Rontgen had announced his discovery of X-Rays. Fr Slattery's X-Ray image was one of the first medical X-Rays made in Australia. The X-Ray photograph is on display at the Bathurst District Historical Society Museum. Fr Slattery then became involved in experimental wireless radio transmission. In February 1904, broadcasting from the college, he made one of the first overland radio transmissions in Australia. The Slattery Museum at St Stanislaus' College holds an invaluable collection of the scientific equipment Fr Joseph Slattery built and used in his pioneering experiments.

Nominated by St Stanislaus' College

# Musician



## Hector Lupp (1908–1989)

Hector Joseph Lupp was born into a family of Bathurst musicians. His Cantonese grandfather had been Bathurst's Salvation Army bandmaster, while his father was a skilled clarinettist and bandmaster. Hector's passion for music led to a life devoted to music in our community. Hector's earliest public performance was possibly as a drummer on Armistice Night in 1918, aged nine. It was not long before he was a full-fledged musician in his father's City Model Band. As a trained piano tuner, Hector for decades ensured the perfect performance of Bathurst's pianos, whether used for the Bathurst Eisteddfod or a school concert. Hector would have known many performers as their piano teacher. For good reason, Hector Lupp was known as "The Piano Man". In the 1930s, he became involved in music broadcasting as "Uncle Hec" on 2BS Radio's The Children's Session. After the war, Hector presented The Digger's Hour, broadcast from Bathurst's RSL Club. In 1937 Bathurst City Council appointed Hector as the first official carillonist for the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon. By the time he retired from the position in 1945 he had given over 500 recitals. Bathurst's rich music scene today owes much to the legacy of Hector Lupp.

Nominated by Ms Heather Moore

# Hospital Matron

## Marie Herzog (1848–1934)

Swiss born Marie Herzog brought modern nursing practices to Bathurst's hospital. Before coming to Australia, Marie was trained in nursing under Florence Nightingale at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Marie received the highest standard of nursing education then available. Marie arrived in Australia in the early 1880s. In 1887, she was appointed Superintendent of Nursing, or Matron, at the Bathurst District Hospital. She managed her nurses and, in effect, the hospital along the lines of St Thomas' with efficiency and care of patients uppermost. When her disciplined regime led to mass resignation of nurses, she replaced them with a younger staff, who she personally trained to be proficient nurses. Although her managerial style could be stormy, Matron Herzog earned great respect for the improvements she made. During her term, Bathurst's hospital was regarded as the next best to Sydney's Prince Alfred Hospital. On her marriage to James Simmons in 1897 Marie was required to resign as Matron. In 1927, following her husband's death, Marie returned to Switzerland to live with family. When news of her death reached Bathurst's newspapers, Matron Marie Herzog was remembered with gratitude for her pioneering work in nursing, almost a half century earlier.

Nominated by Mr John Williams



# Political Cartoonist

## Hal Eyre (1875–1946)

Born in Sofala, Henry Leo Eyre became one of Australia's leading newspaper political cartoonists. He made his public debut as a cartoonist as a Bathurst schoolboy - with a comic caricature of his schoolmaster. At age 16, Eyre went to Sydney to study art under Julian Ashton, who encouraged him to submit his work to the Bulletin. For a time, Eyre followed a freelance career, sometimes in partnership with Lionel Lindsay, selling sketches and cartoons to Australian newspapers and magazines. He worked under several aliases before settling on "Hal Eyre". In 1908, as Hal Eyre, he became the Sydney Daily Telegraph's regular political cartoonist, where his cartoons proved to be a popular and enduring feature. Eyre skilfully distilled complex situations into simple visual statements, invariably humorous and often satirical. This was especially true with the cartoons he drew for the Daily Telegraph through World War I. Wartime leaders on both sides were unflatteringly caricatured, particularly Prime Minister Billy Hughes, and animals served as metaphors for nations, with an emu or a kangaroo representing Australia. The NSW State Library holds an extensive collection of Eyre's original wartime cartoon drawings.

Nominated by Bathurst Arts Council

# Political Activist

## Selina Anderson (1878–1964)

Vigorously independent and a skilful public speaker, Selina (“Senie”) Sarah Elizabeth Anderson earned a significant place in Australian political history. Born near Hill End and educated at Tambaroora Public School, by the early 1900s Selina Anderson was working in Sydney. It was there she became actively involved in labour politics and union organizing. In the 1903 federal election, Anderson was the first woman in Australia to stand for a seat in the House of Representatives, if unsuccessfully so. Over the next few years, she was in the forefront of the struggle to improve working conditions for women. In 1906 she was the only woman on the NSW Labor Council’s executive and one of a handful on the Australian Labor Party’s state executive. After a decade in New Zealand and South Australia (where she stood unsuccessfully as an independent for state parliament), she returned to live in the Central West. In 1922, under her married name of Selina Siggins, she sought, but failed, to win Calare as a Country Party candidate. This marked the end of her active political career, which over time had shifted in political affiliations but always remained faithful to community needs.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Copper King

## Lewis Lloyd (1842–1902)

Originally from a Welsh copper mining area, Lewis Lloyd, unable to speak English and with only pennies in his pocket, arrived in 1862 to work as a copper-smelter at Cadia. His expert knowledge and business acumen soon led to great success as a mining entrepreneur. Lloyd initiated a number of copper mining and smelting operations in New South Wales, notably Lloyd's Copper Mine at Burruga and the Lithgow Smelting Works. He employed hundreds of workers and made a significant contribution to the development of the colony's mineral resources. His claim that he exported more copper from the colony than any other individual or company was indisputable, as was his unofficial title of "Copper King". His remarkable rise began in the Bathurst region, particularly with the copper mines at Cow Flat. He quickly went from employee to taking on the mining operation under a tribute (leasing) arrangement, supplying the ore mined to his own company's smelter. Financial success at Cow Flat opened the way for even greater achievements at Burruga and elsewhere. For many years, Lewis Lloyd made Bathurst his home and was the district's parliamentary representative from 1884-87.

Nominated by Margaret Wilson

# Bathurst Builder



## William Boyd (1862–1943)

William James Boyd, born and educated in Bathurst, lived here all his life. He began his working life as a carpenter, an ideal foundation for a successful career as a builder supplying homes for a growing community. Family lore claims he built some ninety homes in just 15 years, both for sale and for rent. A versatile businessman, other enterprises included a livery stable on Keppel Street, with the same premises doubling as his real estate office. With horse drawn hearse at hand, Boyd was also one of Bathurst's undertakers from 1903-1918. Granddaughter Elaine recounts how he kept an onion on a string up his sleeve so as to draw compassionate tears at the appropriate moment. Boyd served as a Bathurst City Council alderman for eighteen years, where, on the council's finance committee, his business acumen was reputed to have often saved the city unnecessary expenses. He was equally active in community affairs, serving on many committees, notably as treasurer of Manchester Unity, a friendly society. William Boyd's life was dedicated to building Bathurst into the major regional city it has become. His obituary described him as one of Bathurst's "most colourful characters".

Nominated by Elaine Croftsil

# Temporal and Moral Educator & Chronicler of the Times



## John Charles White (1813-1904) Charles White (1845-1922)

John Charles White came to Bathurst in 1842. A baker by trade and self-educated in scholarly learning, his true calling was as a public educator, not only in church and school, but also through newspapers. A skilful orator and writer, his concern was invariably for the welfare of others. On Sundays, John White served at the Methodist (now Uniting) Church on William Street as Sunday school superintendent and lay preacher, becoming in time the world's oldest such lay preacher. In the 1840s and 50s, he was, in turn, schoolmaster for Bathurst's Church of England and Presbyterian schools. In 1859, John White took up journalism on purchasing Bathurst's newspaper, the Free Press. Under White, the paper was at the forefront in informing and guiding the community on "temporal and moral" issues. In 1884, his eldest son, Bathurst-born Charles White, became editor, but his greater claim for being remembered is as a chronicler. Charles White used his position to research painstakingly, often through interviews, the recent history of eastern Australia, covering subjects as diverse as convicts, Aborigines and bushrangers. His writings were published on the newspaper's presses. White's History of Australian Bushranging (1900-03) remains a standard reference work.

Nominated by Eleanor Mowbray on behalf of Bathurst Uniting Church

## Beatrice Grimshaw (1870–1953)

Irish-born Beatrice Ethel Grimshaw arrived in Kelso in 1936 to live her retirement years, following an independent and adventurous life as a writer and traveller in the South Pacific for over thirty years. A skilful observer of both nature and society, her often-unique experiences provided material for more than forty popular travel books and romantic novels, two film scripts, together with numerous short stories, magazine and newspaper articles, as well as authoritative reports on Papua commissioned by the Australian government. While living in Kelso and, later, in Oberon with her brother, Grimshaw continued writing novels and short stories, including for the Australian Women's Weekly (accessible via Trove). Grimshaw once described herself merely as a "spinner of yarns", but her "yarns" made distant exotic places and people accessible to her many readers. Although her writings have fallen out of favour, they continue to provide useful insights into the colonial era of the South Pacific. In 2016, the Bathurst Family History Group provided a headstone for her unmarked grave in the Bathurst Cemetery. The headstone's plaque offers a summary of a remarkable life: "travel writer, publicist, author, businesswoman & plantation manager in Papua".

Nominated by Bathurst Family History Group

# Principal, Bathurst Technical College & Chairman, CSIRO

## William Clunies Ross (1850-1914) Sir Ian Clunies Ross (1899-1959)

In 1885, shortly after migrating from England, William John Clunies Ross, university science graduate, was appointed by the government as Bathurst's first resident science master and was further tasked with establishing a branch technical school. An enthusiastic lecturer and skilful administrator, he oversaw the evolution of the small technical school in borrowed premises into the Bathurst Technical College, housed from 1898 in an impressive purpose-built building (the "old TAFE"). With its offerings of technical and applied science courses, the college, under Principal Clunies Ross, marks Bathurst's rise as a significant education centre. His son, William Ian, born in Bathurst, also followed a science career, initially in veterinarian science. Innovative research in parasitology led to his appointment in 1926 to the newly established Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Over the following two decades, Clunies Ross established an international reputation in animal health research and as an advocate on science issues. In 1949, following the council's reorganisation into the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), he was appointed the organisation's chairman, a position he held until his death. Knighted in 1954, Sir Ian Clunies Ross oversaw CSIRO's development into an institution of international importance.

Nominated by Bathurst District Historical Society

# Child of Bathurst Region

## Elizabeth Sophia Pleffer (25 Feb 1866)

Elizabeth Sophia Pleffer lived for only fifteen minutes. Her brief life story is inscribed on her family's gravestone in the White Rock Cemetery. While Elizabeth's story is especially tragic, it is part of a wider history of the high incidence of child mortality in the settlement period. Elizabeth's parents, Henry and Mary, had previously lost day-old Emma in 1857 and would return in 1877 to bury their daughter Caroline, aged 3 months. A visit to the region's early cemeteries will offer similar stories of loss. We rarely learn from gravestone inscriptions the causes of death, but it would often have been from diseases now readily prevented or treated, or in consequence of absent medical treatments now taken for granted. For those Wiradjuri children who died in the same period even less remains to tell us of their brief lives. Some would have succumbed to new diseases introduced by settlement, others as victims of the violence and dislocation that had come to their lands. Elizabeth's plaque is intended to represent all Bathurst Region children from the settlement era who did not live to adulthood and were denied the opportunity of making their contributions to our community.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council



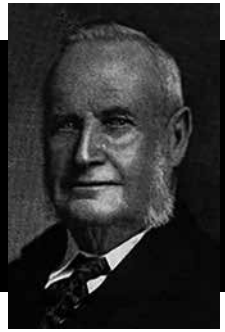
# First Female Public Servant

## Mary Black (c.1804–1853)

Teenage Mary Dillon arrived in 1820 on the female convict ship *Morley*. She came as a free person, apparently unaccompanied but possibly the daughter of Eliza Dillon, a life sentence convict transported on the *Morley*. Mary Dillon soon found her way in the colony, with employment as a housekeeper, marriage in 1829 to Walter Black, a free settler, and a mother of two by 1831. In 1833, Mary Black was appointed as the first matron of the newly established Bathurst Female Factory. In taking up this position, she became the first female public servant in inland Australia. To have received this appointment suggests she had led an exemplary life in the colony, attracting favourable recommendations from colonial officials. Her earlier life, however, may have allowed her a special understanding of her charges. By all accounts, she acquitted the role of matron with sympathy and efficiency. In 1838, now a widow with three children, she resigned as matron and entered a new career, with equal success, as a local hotelkeeper. Mary Black's last hotel, which she renamed the Royal Hotel, still stands on William Street. The cast iron pillars forming the Bathurst Pillars are from that hotel.

Nominated by Times Past Productions

# Racehorse Breeder & Melbourne Cup Winners



## George Lee (1834-1912) The Barb & Merriwee

George Lee was born at Claremont, a property near Kelso. Like his father, William Lee, and his father-in-law, Thomas Kite, two of Governor Macquarie's 1818 settlers, Lee was involved in breeding prime stock, including bloodstock for the racing industry. Beginning with the bloodline of Sappho, his father's brood mare, over some fifty years on his property Leeholme, Lee bred many famous racehorses. They included The Barb, winner of the 1866 Melbourne Cup and the 1868 and 1869 Sydney Cups, and Merriwee, 1899 Melbourne Cup winner. Although Lee leased or sold most of his horses, he occasionally raced his own with some success, but he is reputed never to have gambled – or to have used bad language. It was as a horse breeder Lee gained his greatest recognition, an acknowledgement that led to serving on the Australian Jockey Club Committee and being prominent in the development of Randwick Racecourse. Lee was equally active in local affairs, including serving as treasurer, president and later patron of the Bathurst Show. Mementos of George Lee's horse breeding career, including Sappho's hoof and Merriwee's pedigree, are on display in his granddaughter's home, Miss Traill's House, a National Trust property.

Nominated by Miss Traill's House & Garden Management Committee

# Modern Art Pioneer & Teacher



## Jean Bellette (c.1908–1991)

Tasmanian-born, Jean Mary Bellette was integral to the foundation of the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), which opened in 1959, and to the Hill End Artists in Residence Program, initiated in 1995. Already well-established as an Australian modernist artist by the late 1940s, from 1948 Bellette conducted weekly art classes in Bathurst for a group of local artists who went on to instigate the Carillon City Festival Art Prize in 1955. Her painting *Still Life* won the inaugural prize and provided the foundation artwork in what would become BRAG's Permanent Collection. Jean Bellette and her husband Paul Haefliger (1914-1984) lived in the thriving artist's community in Hill End in the 1950s. Upon her death in Majorca in 1991 she bequeathed their Hill End home, Haefligers Cottage, to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Together with Donald Friend's home, Murrays Cottage, acquired in 2003, Haefligers Cottage is part of the internationally acclaimed Hill End Artists in Residence Program. The Jean Bellette Gallery in the Hill End Visitor Information Centre highlights the village's continuing importance as an Australian cultural site.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) & BRAG's Volunteer Gallery Guides

# Test Cricketers

George Bonnor (1855-1912)

Charles Terror Turner (1862-1944)

Tom McKibbin (1870-1939)

George John Bonnor, nicknamed The Colonial Hercules, is renowned as one of the most spectacular hitters in Australian cricket history. Born in Bathurst, Bonnor played 17 Tests for Australia between 1880 and 1888, with his most spectacular innings the talk for decades after. At Sydney in 1884-85, he hit 128 in 115 minutes against England, having already struck 124 out of 156 at Lord's in 1884. Bonnor was a keen admirer of his own abilities and asserted that he had such quick reflexes he could catch a swallow in mid-flight under the Denison Bridge.

Born in Bathurst, Charles Thomas Biass Turner is the greatest medium-paced bowler Australia has produced. He took 17 of the 20 wickets in a match between Bathurst and the touring English team in 1881-82. Five years later, he opened his Test career against England at Sydney by taking six English wickets for 15. In 1887-88, he became the first and only bowler to take 100 wickets in an Australian season. His nickname of Terror dramatises the effect he had on opposing batsmen. Turner reached 100 Test wickets in his seventeenth and last Test in 1894-95 and is still the second-quickest bowler in Test history to reach that target.

Thomas Robert McKibbin, born in Raglan, bowled so well at the 1894 Country Week that he was drafted straight into the NSW side where he soon earned a place in the final Test of the series against the touring English team. McKibbin, who bowled off-breaks which turned prodigiously at a sharp pace, was a member of the 1896 Australian team to England where he topped the tour bowling aggregates. McKibbin played two more Tests in Australia in 1897-98, finishing with 17 wickets from his five Tests.

Nominated by Warwick Franks

# Miner & Market Gardener



## Mew Chip (1846-1937)

Mew Chip, also known as New Chip, was a well-known Chinese resident of the Hill End area. He is thought to have been the last surviving member of the area's gold rush-era Chinese community. Born in Canton in 1846, Mew Chip arrived in NSW in 1865. He lived in Tambaroora, Pyramul and Hill End for 72 years, and was over those years a goldminer, bootmaker, pork-butcher, market gardener and caretaker of the Chinese joss house at Tambaroora. Mew Chip is best-remembered as a market gardener who, over many decades, kept the Hill End community well supplied with fresh vegetables from his remarkable garden at Tambaroora. Mew Chip is one of the many Chinese market gardeners of Bathurst Region who helped lay the foundations for commercial vegetable growing, opening the way to a significant agricultural industry for the region. In March 1937, Mew Chip, then in his 90th year, was admitted to the Lidcombe State Home and Hospital, a refuge for aged and infirm men, where he died in June that year. Mew Chip is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave in Rookwood Cemetery.

Nominated by the Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group

# Botanist - Naturalist



## Keith Ingram (1912-2002)

Born in Kempsey, Cyril Keith Ingram OAM began a lifelong association with Bathurst from his time as an instructor at the Limekilns Army Camp in World War Two. His professional career with the Education Department saw him return to Bathurst as the Western Area Secondary Inspector from 1958-1963. For over four decades, Ingram undertook frequent field trips to study and collect the plants growing here, adding greatly to our understanding of the Natural History of our region. He is considered to be the first European to systematically research and catalogue the botany of the greater Bathurst area. His unique collection of 39,000 specimens, including over a thousand from Bathurst Region and surrounding country, is now part of the Herbarium Collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Keith Ingram's enthusiasm for our botanical heritage inspired others, leading to the establishment in the 1950s of the Bathurst Naturalist Society, of which he was a patron. He was a key motivator in the creation in 1967 of the region's first gazetted nature reserve, Winburndale Nature Reserve, thus saving this visually stunning escarpment from being bulldozed for pine plantations. Throughout his teaching career, Keith Ingram was a staunch advocate of environmental education.

Nominated by Greening Bathurst

# Heritage Warrior



## Margaret Glen (1944-2017)

Margaret Maxwell Glen and her family came from Scotland in 1979 to live in Bathurst. As a passionate member, and Chair, of the National Trust's Bathurst Branch, Margaret had a major impact on changing attitudes about our community's built, natural and cultural heritage fabric. Through the network of committees and individuals she led and mentored over many years, Margaret worked tirelessly to preserve Bathurst's heritage streetscapes and widen the understanding of the value of heritage in the CBD. For her exemplary heritage advocacy, she was awarded the National Trust Voluntary Service Silver Medal in 2005. Widely respected as a vigorous advocate of good causes and appreciated for her warmth, wit and integrity, Margaret was a founding member of both Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group and Bathurst Town Square Group, as well as a proactive member of Bathurst War Memorial Carillon Working Party. Her significant contributions to the development of these organisations' vision and projects are greatly valued. Indeed, she tabled future actions regarding the Carillon whilst attending her last Town Square meeting in December 2016. It was Margaret Glen who urged saving the Royal Hotel's cast iron pillars for a future heritage project, now the Pillars of Bathurst – a true legacy.

Nominated by Bathurst Town Square Group, Bathurst Branch of the National Trust, Bathurst Carillon Group, and Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group



# Tireless Community Worker



## Zylpha Taylor (1915-1993)

Zylpha Florence Taylor, born in Wales, migrated to Australia with her family in 1950, coming to live in Bathurst in 1970. Zylpha, then in her mid-fifties, brought to her new hometown a life-long dedication to the service of others, reflected in having driven ambulances during the war. She was instrumental in the formation, and early leadership, of the Bathurst Branch of Riding for the Disabled, Solo House Emergency Centre, and what is now known as the Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre. She also helped organize and run Senior Citizens' Week in Bathurst for many years, as well as the twice-yearly Barbecue for Senior Citizens and "Shut-ins". This is far from the full list of the many Bathurst community groups where Zylpha's guiding hand and enthusiastic support would have been found in the 1970s and 80s. Her concern for others extended beyond organisations and included making regular personal visits to the elderly housebound. In 1986, on the nomination of Bathurst City Council, Zylpha Taylor was named NSW Senior Citizen of the Year for her long-standing community service. On being presented with her award, Zylpha summed up her life philosophy, simply, that she "loves helping people".

Nominated by Jackie Davis

# Heart of Gold



## Toni Daymond (1948-2014)

Bathurst born, Toni Daymond was someone who lived her life to make others smile. Countless children, now grown up, especially remember Toni for her entertaining puppet shows and story times at the Bathurst City Library, where Toni worked from 1964 until 2001. Extending her enthusiasm for books to others led to her long running Benjamin Bookworm newspaper column and accompanied her library van runs to remote corners of Bathurst Region. Toni inspired many a Bathurst youngster to love reading books. Toni also generously gave her time to Bathurst's elderly, notably as an activity organiser at the Seymour Centre for over a decade, sometimes appearing in comical costume. Her visits to nursing homes, always with a laugh and smile, brightened the day for many elderly residents. Toni's many community activities ranged widely, including a decade's volunteering in the Life Education Van, organizing the Bathurst Highland Society's annual ball and, for almost 30 years, preparing young people for Bathurst and Oberon's annual Debutante Balls with instruction in etiquette and ballroom dancing. In 1997, Toni Daymond was made Bathurst's Citizen of the Year for her outstanding community service.

Nominated by Jessica Daymond and Josephine Konemann.

# Life of Community Service



## Bill Dow (1912-1971)

William (Bill) Leslie Dow MBE, born in Lithgow, was a journalist whose career brought him to Bathurst in the 1930s, becoming in 1963 the editor of the then newly merged Western Advocate. In keeping with his newspaper's masthead, Bill Dow drew on his position to serve as his community's tireless advocate whenever the need to promote Bathurst's causes arose. A long-standing supporter of decentralisation, he played a key role in the late 1960s in securing a tertiary education institution for Bathurst, Mitchell College of Advanced Education (MCAE). Established in 1970, this was the first CAE in regional New South Wales and forerunner of Charles Sturt University. Shortly before his death, Bill was appointed to the College Council. Bill Dow's lobbying also helped acquire Bathurst Base Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit, one of the few outside the metropolitan areas. His influential support was lent to many community's needs, ranging from improved water filtration to providing homes for the aged to establishing Glenray School. His professional skills as publicity officer ensured Bathurst's Sesquicentenary celebrations in 1965 were a memorable success. It was said, "you name it, Bill Dow was there supporting it". Bill Dow was awarded the MBE in 1969 for community service.

Nominated by Lou Shehade

# Locksley Pioneer



## Edward Locke (1838-1903)

Born in New South Wales or possibly Tasmania, Edward Locke was an early settler in what was then known as Dirty Swamp, a location near O'Connell on the eastern side of Bathurst Region. By 1860, rising from humble beginnings, he had purchased land and began establishing what would become a varied business enterprise encompassing grazing and mining interests, as well as commercial ventures. In 1865, he took over the licence of the local hotel, The Crispin Arms. With the arrival of railway construction in 1868, Locke opened a butcher shop and bakery to meet the needs of the many railway workers and their families living in temporary camps. To provide for the education of the locality's children, Locke as a community leader was instrumental in securing a public school at Dirty Swamp. In 1872, his role in the community was honoured with the settlement's railway station being named Locke's Platform. In 1879, both the station and Dirty Swamp itself were renamed Locksley, again in his honour. Edward Locke together with his family provide an example of the pioneers who, with little more than determination and hard work, built the foundations of the rural localities of Bathurst Region.

Nominated by Susan Morris

## Charles St John Mulholland (1903–1984)

Born in Bathurst in 1903, Charles St. John Mulholland was educated at St Stanislaus College, where he became forever known as ‘Tim’ to friends and family. In 1925, following study at the University of Sydney (B.Sc. 1924), Tim Mulholland joined the NSW Department of Mines as a geologist with the Geological Survey. He would remain with the department until his retirement in 1963, establishing a highly regarded reputation as a hands-on geologist. Early in his career, he successfully undertook the search for groundwater sources throughout the state. During the Great Depression, with unemployed men encouraged to try gold prospecting, Mulholland returned to the Bathurst Region to offer practical assistance. In the late 1930s, his survey of Snowy Mountains geology helped lay the groundwork for the Snowy Mountains Scheme. In 1947, he was appointed the NSW State Geologist, with subsequent promotion to Assistant Under-Secretary for Mines (1954-57), and then Under-Secretary (1957-63). From these positions, Mulholland oversaw a number of significant departmental projects, including work for the Snowy Mountains Scheme, pioneering airborne radiometric surveying and detailed geological mapping of the State. Away from work, Tim Mulholland was known to occasionally indulge in Charlie Chaplin impersonations.

Nominated by the Friends of the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum

# Champion Wheat Farmer



## Donald McMillan (1856–1938)

Born at Evans Plains in 1856, Donald McMillan's life was dedicated to farming. He achieved recognition as one of Australia's champion wheat farmers through the crops grown on Meadow Glenn, his farm on the Orange Road. McMillan took up the farm in 1885, persevering through many challenges before establishing a reputation in the first decades of the 20th century as a consistent prize-taker for his wheat in agricultural shows, including the Sydney Royal Show. His prize-winning expertise extended as well into other farming areas, not only with other crops such as oats and maize but notably with his dairy cattle. Donald McMillan was also an early proponent of what today is known as organic farming, as in his ingenious employment of "small black spiders" to keep his fruit trees free of insect pests. His successful use of fowls in his orchard in place of insecticide sprays drew the appreciative attention of the experts at the Bathurst Experiment Farm. Whether through his long-standing membership on the Bathurst Show Committee or by way of personal contact, Donald McMillan generously shared his practical farming wisdom and so contributed to the Bathurst Region's agricultural development.

Nominated by Marion Pearce

# Bathurst Settlement's First Mother

## Mary Ann Roberts (1792-1868)

Mary Ann Roberts was the first colonial wife and mother to live in the Bathurst Settlement. With her three small children, she arrived in late 1816 on the completion of the family's house, the first built in the Settlement. She was at the time the only woman living among the men employed building the settlement. Mary Ann's partner and father of her children was Richard Lewis, the Settlement's Superintendent. (They married in 1825.) In February 1817, Mary Ann Roberts gave birth to Louisa, the first colonial child born in inland Australia. The basic details of her life after arrival in Bathurst are not difficult to track. Widowed, she remarried in 1829, was the mother of six children born in the Bathurst area and became a woman of property. However, an enduring question remains – who was Mary Ann Roberts? Colonial records indicate she was born in the colony in 1792, but there is no record of her parentage. There are claimants offered by family historians linking her to their own convict ancestry, together with a theory her mother was Aboriginal and another that she was Jane Roberts, a convict on the transport Mary Ann. But, all lack credible evidence.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Tambaroora Businesswoman & Miners' Friend



## Harriett Beard (1818-1906)

Irish born children's nurse, Harriett Beard (nee Corner) arrived in Australia in 1838 as an assisted immigrant. In 1853, by then married and with a child, Harriett and her family travelled to the Tambaroora goldfield, where they set up in business. Harriett ran a general store adjacent to her husband's hotel, becoming the licensee on his death in 1863. Harriett Beard proved to be an astute businesswoman. A significant landowner, she was also owner of the Excelsior stamper battery and held substantial interests in successful Hawkin's Hill mining companies. Harriett Beard continued running her businesses until 1872 when she sold up and retired. But there was more to her than entrepreneurial success. Harriett Beard was a good friend to the miners. On leaving, she distributed stock from her stores to the needy and destroyed her account books, thus wiping out any debts owing. In farewell, the Sydney Morning Herald's correspondent wrote, "By her countenance, her active charity, her firm faith in the future of Tambaroora, and by supplying ... miners in the face of every disappointment and almost without hope of return, has she enabled us to wrest treasures from the bowels of our hills. Mrs Beard is a remarkable woman."

Nominated by the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group



# “An honest, upright life”

## John Eviston (1844-1925)

Born in Tipperary Ireland, John Eviston immigrated to Australia in 1864, first to Victoria. In 1869, he came to Bathurst, where he settled for life. Not long after arriving he married Elizabeth Connelly and co-established a successful men's wear business, 'Kelaher & Eviston'. Renowned for his business integrity, John Eviston was equally renowned for his community service. A devout Catholic, he gave valuable service to his church in many ways, not least in his dedicated work as parish treasurer overseeing important building projects. He was a founding member of Bathurst's St Vincent de Paul Society and the Australian Holy Catholic Guild, two charitable organisations. A “true Irishman”, Eviston was always at the forefront of the Irish cause locally. John Eviston's hand extended across the sectarian division that then separated Bathurst along religious and ethnic lines. Eviston served the wider community for thirty years as an energetic Bathurst District Hospital Committee member, as well fourteen years as Deputy Coroner. He was one of the founders of the 'National Advocate', a voice for community concerns. On his death, John Eviston was remembered by the Bathurst community as a “valuable citizen”, a man who had led “an honest, upright life”.

Nominated by Tony Eviston

# In the Service of Humanity



## Annie Bertha Parry (1886-1959)

Born in Hill End, Annie Bertha Parry qualified as a nurse in 1910. By 1920, Bertha, her given name of choice, had acquired an impressive range of nursing experience, including hospital, private and school nursing, as well as military nursing with the Australian Army Nursing Service (Egypt 1915). In 1918 Bertha Parry travelled to California for further training, a journey which led to unanticipated professional opportunities, including caring for Alaskan Inuit influenza victims and joining a nursing journal's editorial staff. Purposeful application of her expertise came with her appointment in 1921 as the first full-time secretary of the St John Ambulance Association NSW, a position held until 1939. The Association benefited from Sister Parry's enthusiasm and guidance. Parry organized first-aid courses statewide and wrote essential training manuals. She initiated useful relationships with other organisations, ranging from sporting bodies to the CWA. Parry's publicity campaigns brought public awareness for the Association, while her fund-raising auxiliary gained generous Sydney 'Society' financial support. From 1939 until retirement in 1945, she was wartime NSW's women's training supervisor for National Emergency Services. Bertha Parry was awarded the MBE in 1954.

Nominated by Bishop Richard Hurford OAM KStJ (NSW State Chaplain)  
on behalf of St John Ambulance

# Agriculturalist & Carillon Visionary

## Robert William Peacock (1869-1946)

Bob Peacock, born at White Rock, grew up on the family farm at Georges Plains. A career in agricultural research brought him back to Bathurst in 1901 as manager of the Bathurst Experiment Farm. Under Peacock, the Farm developed and consolidated its research and educational activities. Courses were placed on a more formal footing, regular demonstrations were provided to assist farmers, and systematic agricultural experimentation was encouraged. Following retirement in 1918, Peacock continued to lead in local agriculture as an exemplar orchardist and grazier together with membership in key organisations, including as President of the Bathurst Fruitgrowers' Association. He was equally at the forefront of civic issues. As a young man he was a delegate to the People's Federal Convention in 1896. He led the campaign from 1926 to build the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon. It was through Peacock's determination and organizational skills that people were inspired to raise the necessary funds during a time of Depression. His vision was for the Memorial to be "... a citizens' affair and to get everyone to contribute something". Whenever building ceased owing to funding, he urged people on to further efforts. It was Robert Peacock's privilege to lay the final brick in 1933.

Nominated by Jan Page

# Dared to be Different

## Wolla Meranda (1863-1951)

Wolla Meranda was the name chosen late in life by Isabella Gertrude (Gert) Ada Poyitt. Gert Poyitt was born at Sunny Corner, leaving at age eighteen to begin a teaching career. By the early 1890s, living again in Sunny Corner, Gert's life seemed assured a happy trajectory as schoolteacher, wife and mother. But a succession of personal tragedies transformed Gert into a different persona, that of Wolla Meranda, whose introspections as a poet, columnist and novelist provided insights into Australian society, notably the challenges offered women. Her literary mentor was a French poet, Julien de Sanary (1859-1929), who in 1920 came to live with her in Sunny Corner. It is likely through him that her first novel was published in France in 1922 before its 1930 English version, *Poppies of the Night*. Wolla Meranda achieved some literary recognition in her time, although her writings are unknown today. She was also an artist (1922 Archibald finalist) and a pioneer environmentalist, a keen opponent of pine plantations. Wolla Meranda challenged societal conventions through her writings and lifestyle. Her gravestone, in French and English, is shared with de Sanary, with her son Roy (1893-94) buried alongside. Wolla Meranda dared to be different.

Nominated by Bathurst Regional Council

# Carillon Tower Builder



## James Howe Newton (1890-1967)

Born in Bathurst, James Howe Newton was a Bathurst builder. He lived his entire life in Bathurst and along with his father and son, both builders, built many commercial and residential premises, which still stand today. His most significant achievement as a builder was with his important role in the building of the 100-foot (30.5m) high brick tower for the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon, a lasting legacy to his community. James Newton served as the project's Clerk of Works from early 1932 until the tower's completion in November 1933. Under Newton's supervision, the building site became a hive of activity with the laying of a reputed 285,000 bricks. He became known in the newspapers as "the man who built the Bathurst War Memorial Carillon". From 1934 to 1937 Newton served as an Alderman on the Bathurst City Council. During this time he was part of the Council's successful effort to obtain Government Depression Funding to plan and oversee the construction of the Bald Hill Scenic Drive, which became today's Mt Panorama Motor Race Circuit.

Nominated by Robert Newton

# Bathurst's Photographers



## Charles James Beavis (1852-1932) Horace Colin Dean Beavis (1860-1917) Albert Edward Gregory (1857-1940)

Collectively, Charles and Horace Beavis, South Australian born brothers, together with English born Albert Gregory recorded through their photographs the unfolding story of Bathurst for over fifty years. Arriving in the mid-1880s, the Beavis brothers soon established themselves as professional photographers, initially in partnership and later separately. Gregory's studio operated from 1895 until 1937. The three brought both modern technology as well as innovative ideas to their work, ensuring that images of Bathurst's private and public lives were skilfully and imaginatively recorded for posterity. Gregory's studio portraits often included people in their work clothes with tools at hand or sometimes in fancy costume ready for an evening of fun. Soon after arriving, "Messrs. Beavis Brothers" had a buggy fitted up for outdoor photography used not only for public events but also for the unexpected, such as the 1889 Macquarie Flood. Fortunately, a significant portion of this photographic record is preserved in the Bathurst District Historical Society's collection. The Gregory Collection, with over 4,500 original glass plate negatives from 'The Premier Studios', is deemed to be of national significance. Bathurst's photographers, Charles Beavis, Horace Beavis and Albert Gregory have given us a fascinating insight into our community's history.

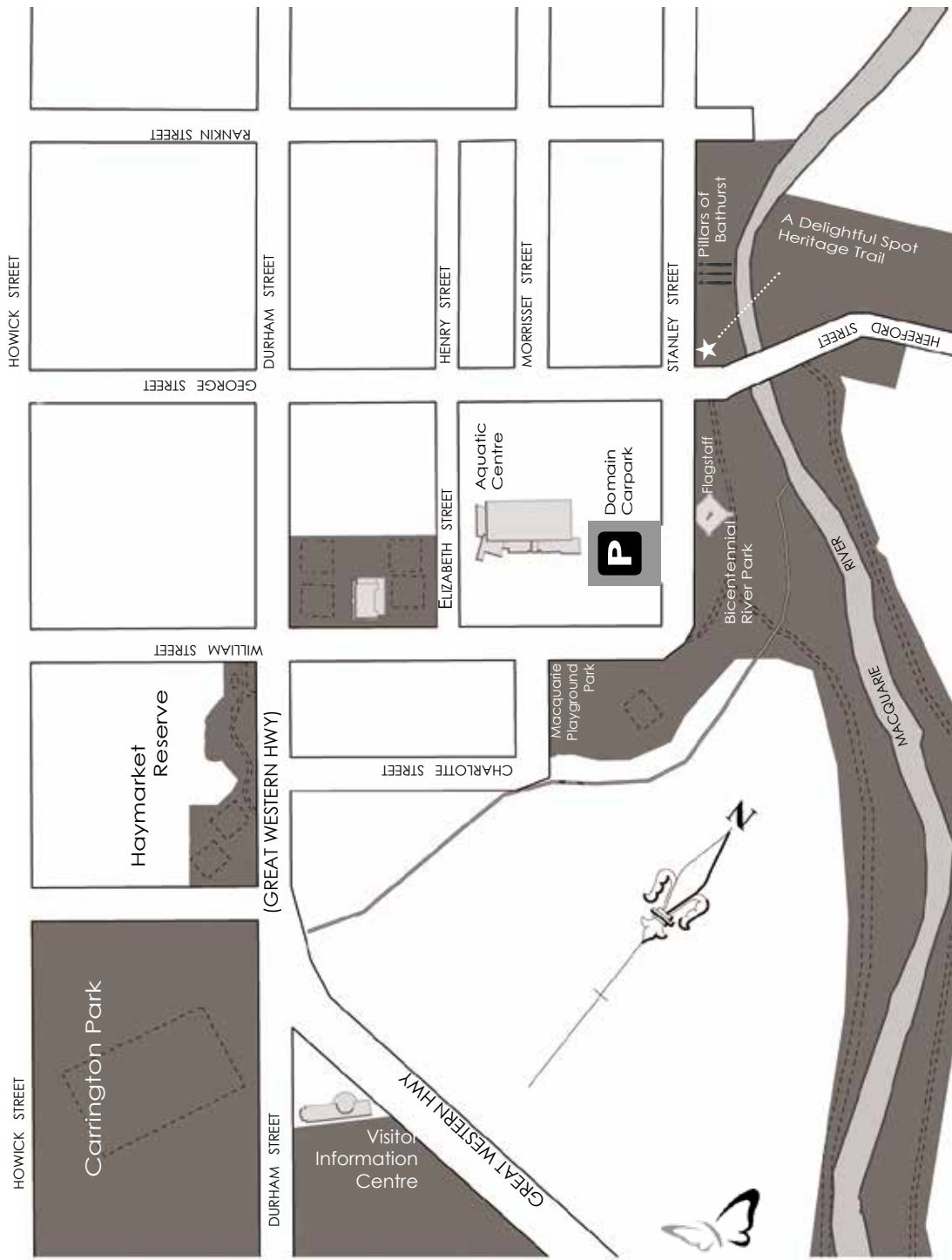
Nominated by Bathurst District Historical Society

# Established Denison Foundry

## Thomas Denny (1835-1895)

Thomas Denny, born in Deptford, England, worked as a wharf labourer as a teenager. Like many, Denny sought a better life on the Australian goldfields, initially in Victoria and later in Bathurst. In 1866 Thomas Denny became the licensee of the riverside Denison Bridge Hotel and shortly after the co-founder of nearby Denison Foundry, in production by mid-1867. The first years of the foundry coincided with construction of the iron truss Denison Bridge, with some components made at the foundry. Over the next twelve years, the enterprise became one of the inland's largest and best equipped foundries. At its height, up to eighty men were employed manufacturing parts and equipment for multiple industries, mainly mining and agriculture but as diverse as flour milling and building construction. Although lacking formal training, Denny was passionate about solving engineering problems and devised numerous innovative mechanical processes and machines, which he patented and manufactured. In 1879, Denny left 'Denison Foundry and Engineering Works', and not long after Bathurst, to focus on his gold mining interests, including on the South African goldfields, where he died age sixty. Thomas Denny, self-taught engineer, demonstrated through Denison Foundry that Bathurst could achieve a high standard of self-sufficiency in industrial manufacturing.

Nominated by Christopher Green



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