

BULLETIN

Newsletter & Journal of

CASINO & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ABN 18 083 789 097

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Location 31B Walker Street, Casino, NSW 2470

www.casinohistoricalmuseum.com

email: casinohistormuseum@outlook.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesday, Friday: 10am—2pm
or by appointment. Group bookings welcome.

Admission: Adults \$5, Children and students free.

Membership: Single \$15, Couples \$25, Junior \$5.

BULLETIN ISSUED: February, May, August, November.

GENERAL MEETINGS: 2nd Saturday – March, June, September, November 10am at Museum.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 1st Monday of month at 9.45am at Museum.



Disputed Plains Homestead

PRESIDENTS REPORT

My report for this Quarterly meeting is rather brief as we have experienced a somewhat quiet period. We have been fortunate enough to have a school visit which is always a challenge. There were about 30 children from Casino West End School. We received a \$50 donation from the teachers.

We had an open free day Saturday 7th October it went well..

Our last two barbeques at DIY Hardware went off well. Our really big money spinner for this quarter was our barbecue at Casino Truck Show. Lots of hard work by all the helpers on the day. Great takings so it was all worthwhile. We also catered for the Referendum on the 14th October and it went very well too.

I wish to thank all our members who contribute so much time and effort making these events run smoothly.

We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated members who help out all the time, whenever possible, to keep our Museum doors open, but we desperately need to find new members as we are extremely short of volunteers. We have Casino Primary Schoolchildren coming through on the 18th and 20th October.

Don't forget our Christmas Party below.

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Warren Armfield

President

PRESIDENT	WARREN ARMFIELD
VICE PRESIDENTS	BARRY DENNIS, GRAEME ROONEY
SECRETARY	GEOFF AUSTIN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	WAYNE HOLLIS
MINUTE SECRETARY	SUE GIBSON
PUBLIC OFFICER	NINA HANDFORD
TREASURER	ROBYN NESBITT
BULLETIN EDITOR	DOROTHY SULLIVAN
DIGITAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR	DOROTHY SULLIVAN
ARCHIVER	HEIDI SIMPSON
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	RITA PHILPOTT
	JOHN NEWMAN

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Casino & District Historical Society Inc.

**Annual Membership fees for the Society will increase from
1st January 2024**

Membership Single \$20.00 per year. Family \$30.00 per year.

Junior membership will remain at \$5.00 per year.

The first increase in membership fees in a number of years. Thank you for your support.

ARMSTRONGS OF DISPUTED PLAINS

Alexander Armstrong was born in 1823 at Park Hill, Parish of Magheraculmoney, Co Fermanagh Ireland. He married Margaret McDonough at Templemaghery Church on August 4th 1841. They had James, John, Alexander, Charles, William, Thomas, Katherine (Kate) Margaret and Rebecca.

Alexander and Margaret came to Australia on the 565 ton ship 'Wilson', departing from Greenwich on September 3rd 1841. After arriving in Australia he worked for a time as a farm labourer at Wauchope and Jamberoo. Later he became the licensee of the "Sportsmen Arms Hotel in Bong Bong St, Kiama.

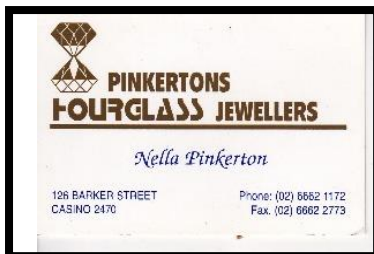
In 1866 the family came to the Richmond and selected 320 acres then known as Disputed Plains. A few years later members of the Armstrong family took up other blocks of land adjoining Bentley, Boorabee, and Back Creek.

Alexander died at 50 years of age and only 6 years after settling at Disputed Plains, He suffered a haemorrhage whilst travelling across from Grafton at the Casino to Lawrence crossroads. After his death his body was taken to the Flying Horse Inn. In those days there was no morgue and corpses were always taken to an inn or public house where a room always had to be available until the autopsy or funeral.

There was a race meeting on and the only room left was the morgue, when an elderly man who couldn't find accommodation at all came to the Flying Horse, the proprietor took pity on him and decided to put the corpse behind a big wardrobe in one corner of the room and the poor old traveller had a bed for the night. Being dog tired he slept late and on awakening, the Doctor was there conducting the post mortem on the corpse. When the traveller saw what was going on there were very nearly 2 corpses for the Doctor. It is not known whether the traveller paid full tariff for his accommodation.

Thomas became boss being the eldest. John had more education than the other brothers and business affairs were his responsibility. The other boys all had jobs. The Armstrong's were considered prosperous, having income from timber sales, horses and cattle and sheep, until fluke caused heavy losses at the plain. They were successful with race horses. Kate, Margaret and Rebecca were great with horses.

Kate died on November 4th 1922 and was buried at Casino. Her funeral was probably the only one like it ever seen in Australia. At her request all her favourite hacks and hunters (all magnificent animals) followed her to her grave, decorated with the numerous ribbons they had won. The chief equine mourner was one of her favourite's "Pretender" who walked sadly behind the hearse.



CASINO RSM CLUB
162 Canterbury St
Casino
Ph 66621666

RICHMOND DAIRIES
100 DYRAABA ST
Casino
Ph 66601111

ST MARK'S CHURCH.

(This information was taken from "A History of Casino Parish" by H Koolwijk in 1989)

The land for the first church and rectory was a grant from the Crown and was bordered by the school grounds and the Richmond River and had frontage to Barker Street and Walker Street. It was recorded that a meeting was held on 2nd April 1870 in the Court House Casino, and the following committee was chosen Alexander MacKellar, W C Bundock, T H Sherwood, George Sparke, Henry Barnes, J C Irving, C H Chauvel, John Barling, Charles Moore, F S Hayes and James Stocks. It was opened for Divine Service in or about 27th April 1871. The church lands were fenced in 1881, a bell erected near the vestry and a light at the gate in 1896.



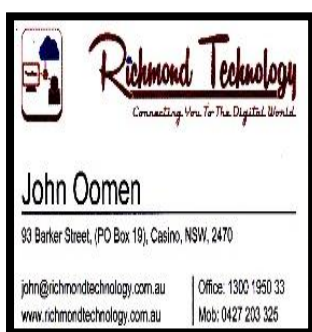
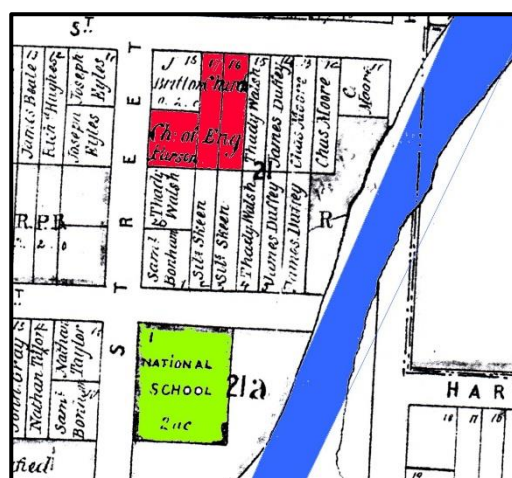
The first St Mark's Church and Vicarage in 1898.
In the foreground the Vicar, Rev. F Morrish & family

A meeting on the 29th May 1878 refers to an amount of twenty seven pound being borrowed from Mr Barnes for the painting of the church which Mr Barnes subsequently donated to the Stipend Fund. Lack of finance was always a problem in the running of the Church. The ladies of the church held a Fancy Fair and Flower Show on Thursday and Friday October 31st and November 1st 1895.

The present church has had two bells, a small one near the vestry and later a bell was given by Mr and Mrs Henry Barnes. The parochial council resolved in January 1935 that provided the 28 inch bell, reported on by Mr Sweeting, is a different tone from the bell at the Roman Catholic Church, Casino, the sub committee be empowered to purchase the bell at a cost of one hundred and six pound. The top of the belfry has been changed since the addition of the bell. The only reminders of the church being demolished in 1964 are the pulpit and the font which are in the present church.

The land on which the present St Mark's Rectory, cottages and parish halls are situated was donated by Mr and Mrs Henry Barnes Senior of Dyraaba, Although records are missing it is known that the church was completed in 1905 and was dedicated by Bishop Cooper on St James Day 25th July of that year. In 1926 the lighting was converted to electricity. On entering the church one cannot help being impressed by the magnificent stained glass windows.

NOTE: Research has shown that the land given to the church by grant didn't go to the river nor to the national school. The map shows that the church block did have frontage to both Walker and Barker Street and was behind the block where the Westpac Bank (then the NSW Bank) was built in 1904/5.



CASINO FOOD
CO-OP
John Seccombe
Chairman
PH 0427633127

MAJOR SUPPORTERS
GILL'S ENGINEERING
HIGGIN'S NEWSAGENCY
CASINO PEST CONTROL
RICHMOND RIVER HIRE &
HARDWARE.

RICHMOND VALLEY
COUNCIL
Cnr Walker St &
Graham Place

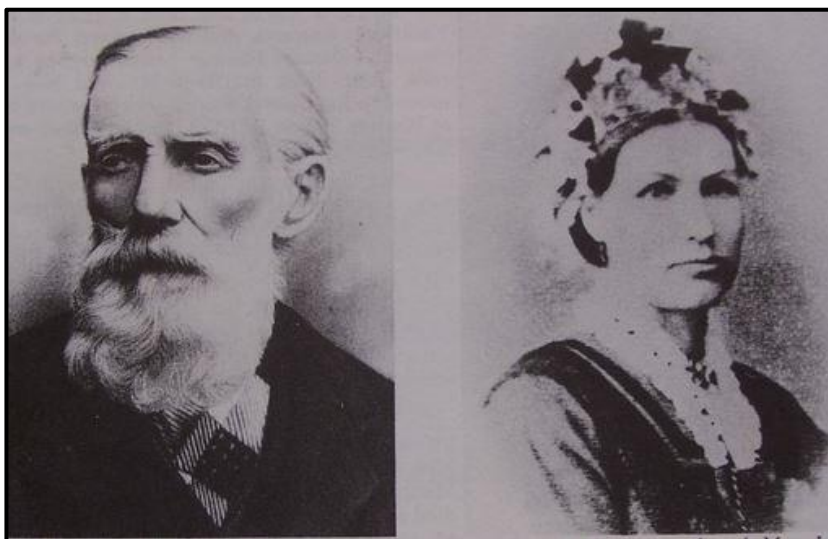
Ph 66600300

JOHN GRIMES

This information taken from The History of Spring Grove by Gwen A Gore.

Mr Grimes was born 1st January 1820 at Marsden, Yorkshire, England. He landed in Sydney, with the 99th Regiment under his cousin Captain Grime on 22 March 1842 and for some time his regiment was billeted where Wynyard Station now stands (1922). He saw much of the Penal System and for four years he supervised the Iron Gang and the female factory at Parramatta.

On 30th March 1846 Mr John Grime then twenty six years old married Miss Jane McLeod, who was fourteen years and ten months of age in Scots Church Sydney. Jane was born in Paisley Scotland in 1832 and migrated with her parents Mr and Mrs Joseph McLeod and two younger brothers in the vessel 'William Rodger' arriving in Australia in 1835.



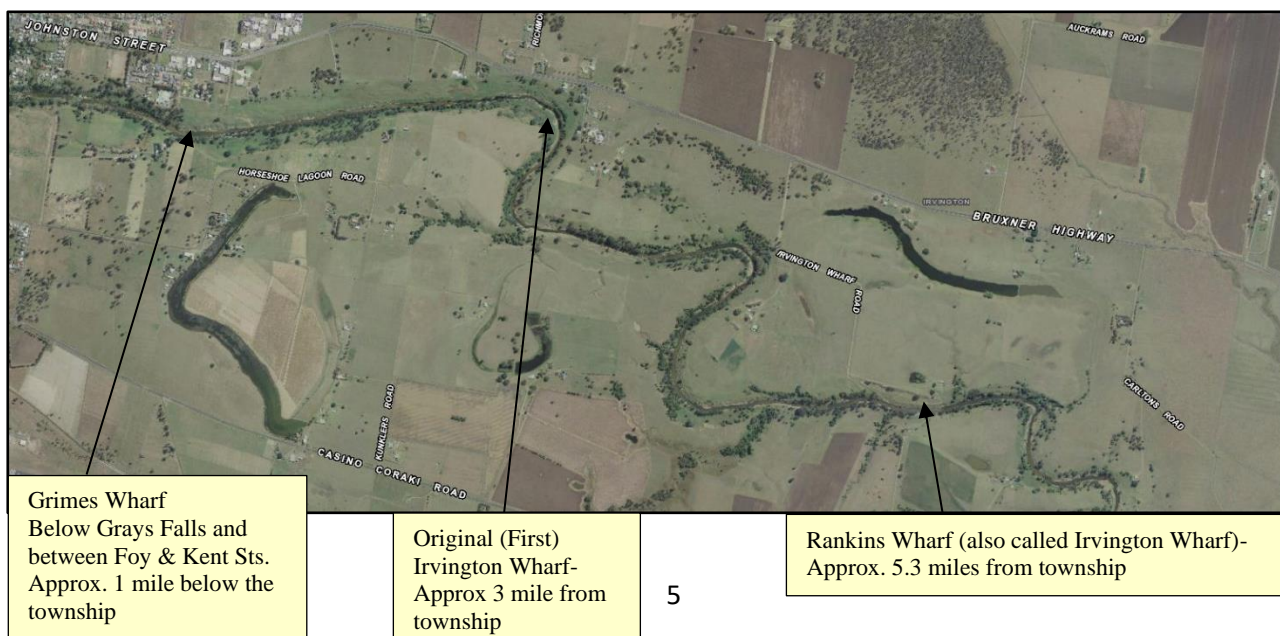
John & Jane Grime

Tiring of Military life Mr Grime bought his discharge and travelled about the country for some time ultimately coming to the Richmond River. It is thought he worked at Runnymede Station for a while and then moved to Casino. Two of their children were born at Runnymede and the other six in Casino. Mr Grime was one of the first settlers at Casino and took his full share of citizenship.

Mr Grime opened the first general store in Casino in a building he built situated between *Irving Bridge and the bowling green*. *There was a wharf immediately below the store which was known a Grimes Wharf.*

NOTE: Research has shown that Grimes Store was further up the river near where the Durham Ox Inn was situated (more towards West Street) and there was no wharf directly below his store as boats were not able to navigate above Grays Falls.

The map below shows where the three wharfs were situated on the Richmond River in the Casino Area.



Mr Grime was also a shoe maker when he was in Casino. He later moved to larger premises opposite the Court House in Walker St. He was appointed one of the first Territorial Magistrates in the District. In 1863 Messrs John and Joseph Grime received a grant of land consisting of 620 acres in the Parish of Tomki, and the county of Rous at Spring Grove on Pelican Creek. Mr Grime built a settlers hut on his land portion on a rise near a creek. Mr Grime's son Jeffery worked on this land. Mr Grimes commenced having some of the timber felled at Spring Grove in preparation for agriculture, but in a few years the tragic loss at sea of his wife and daughter Mary aged 10 years and two months, as they were returning home from Sydney, the ill fated schooner Hector sank and they and four others lost their lives. Mr Grimes was so distressed and shocked by the tragedy it was thought he would go out of his mind, he then relinquished his business at Casino and Spring Grove and returned to Sydney, where he purchased a home at Carlingford, the name of the home being Harebell Cottage.

Mr Grime died in 1896 at the age of seventy six years He is buried at St Pauls Carlingford in Sydney.

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

Casino's official victory celebrations began with a colorful parade headed by Casino Municipal Boy's Band and comprising members of the fighting forces, nurses from the Memorial Hospital, V.A.D'S. members of the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Junior Red Cross. The procession began at the "Express' corner and proceeded along Barker, Walker and Canterbury Streets to the Civic Hall where a civic commemoration was held. So great was the gathering that the hall was packed to capacity and those unable to gain admittance heard the proceedings through amplifiers set up outside. Speakers included the Mayor Ald A E Robinson, President of the RSL, Mr D J Byrne and the Deputy Mayor Ald G F Thomson.

The programme included national and patriotic songs and concluded with a national pageant in which the Allied nations were portrayed and the Army, Navy, and Airforce was represented by three men, each wearing the uniform of one of the services. They were preceded on to the stage by three small girls, each bearing a flag of one of the sections represented.

The majority of allied nations were represented by a girl carrying the flag of the nation announced while in others the girls were attired in the costume of the particular nation demonstrated and the National Anthem of that country was played by Mrs Bevan. The celebrations later continued at the Memorial Park which was thronged by a large crowd.

An effigy of Hitler and Togo was placed high up on a pile of wood, arranged in conical shape, and lit to provide a bonfire which burned for hours and illuminated the neighbourhood. A piano on the back of a truck supplied music for the community singing and dancing which was greatly enjoyed by all.



Our Christmas Raffle

7 prizes to be drawn on the 15th December

A big **Thank You** to the donors of the gifts. They are: Betta Casino, Pets Domain, Freedom Hairdressing, Walker St Café, Soul Pattinson Chemist, McDonalds Pharmacy, Kibbles, Southside Gourmet Butchery, The Ivy Room, DIY, Casino Surf Shop, Sensational Crafts, Repco, Cottage Collection, Pinkertons, and Casino Country Crumbs for their Bakery items.

Our Christmas Party will be held at Windara on the 2nd December, at 12pm. \$25 a head to be paid at museum by the 29th November. All welcome.



A busy day catering for the truck show in August.



Our quarterly meeting in September Mr Murgha Mack was our very interesting guest speaker.



We also catered for the referendum on the 14th October. It went very well and we sold a lot of raffle tickets. Thank you to all who supported the BBQ

**We are closing for our Christmas break on FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER-
Re- opening on WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024.**

(See you next year.)



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