

## Additional Notes



## Table of Contents

Acknowledgement.....	4
Chapter 1 .....	4
EARLY YEARS .....	4
GERRINGONG – BRIEF EUROPEAN HISTORY .....	4
BUSH BANK STEAM FLOUR MILL .....	6
ROAD TO GERRINGONG .....	6
MOUNT PLEASANT .....	6
OMEGA RETREAT.....	6
OMEGA RETREAT SCHOOLS and POST OFFICE.....	7
RENFREW PARK.....	7
ROSE VALLEY .....	7
OMEGA RAILWAY STATION.....	8
SECOND RAILWAY CROSSING .....	8
MILLER’S FLATS and THE LAGOON RESERVE.....	8
SANDY WHA HOMESTEAD.....	9
Chapter 2 .....	9
GERRINGONG’S RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT .....	9
GERRINGONG CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.....	9
GERRINGONG RIFLE CLUB .....	9
GERRINGONG METHODIST CHURCH .....	10
WILLOW BANK’ (James and Mary Wilson).....	10
‘WILLOW BANK’ ( Thomas and Hannah Noble).....	10
‘WILLOW BANK’ RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT .....	10
‘BEN LOBAN’ FARM (40 Acres).....	11
‘WILDARA ESTATE’ .....	11
‘OCEAN VIEW’ CARRIAGE SERVICE, 85 FERN STREET GERRINGONG.....	11
OLD GERRINGONG POLICE STATION, 89 Fern St. Gerringong.....	11
‘OCEAN VIEW INN’.....	12
GERRINGONG POST OFFICE .....	12
GERRINGONG TOWN HALL .....	12
GERRINGONG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.....	12
‘COL CHITTICK’ MEMORIAL STATION.....	12
GERRINGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL .....	13
Chapter 3 .....	13
ST GEORGE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH.....	13
‘THE COTTAGE’ .....	13
ES&A BANK - A.N.Z. BANK.....	14
WALKER’S ‘SEAVIEW’ STORE .....	14
GERRINGONG BANKS .....	14
GERRINGONG COUNCIL CHAMBERS & FREE LIBRARY.....	15
GERRINGONG POST OFFICE .....	15
SOLDIERS’ MEMORIAL HALL .....	15
BOAT HARBOUR STORE.....	16
ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH .....	16
GERRINGONG GOLF COURSE .....	16
Chapter 4 .....	17
BOAT HARBOUR.....	17

BOAT HARBOUR JETTY.....	17
HARBOUR AND JETTY MASTER.....	18
BOATHARBOUR OCEAN BATHS - LADIES BATHS .....	18
MEN'S BATHS.....	19
'VICTORIA COTTAGE' and 'BILLOW VIEW' GUESTHOUSE.....	19
Chapter 5.....	19
GERRINGONG RAILWAY STATION .....	19
GERRINGONG CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY SOCIETY LTD.....	20
GERRINGONG RECREATION GROUND.....	20
GERRINGONG SCHOOL OF ARTS.....	21
ELAMBRA ESTATE .....	21

# Acknowledgement

We acknowledge, pay respect to and thank the traditional, historical and current custodians of the land which these photographs portray.

## Chapter 1

### EARLY YEARS

- Since time immemorial, many groups of Aboriginal peoples, including the Wodi-Wodi, have used the natural resources of the locality now known as Gerringong. They continue to use the resources today.
- Being nomadic, the groups regularly travelled along well-known trails, between La Perouse in the north and Wreck Bay in the south.
- They spoke the Dharawal language and associated intimately with neighbouring groups.
- Their trail from Wadbilliga (lower escarpment of the Great Divide) down the South Coast, came through the local area near what is now known as Sims Rd and went down to the beach.
- This area provided a bountiful supply of native flora and fauna for bush foods and medicine.
- The nearby creeks and ocean provided a steady supply of water- birds, fish, pippies, oysters, lobsters as well as shells.
- Clean water was available in the creeks and rivers nearby.
- Ochre, for ceremonial purposes, was found in many places.
- Stone tools were made at Boat Harbour.
- King Mickey came to the Illawarra in 1860 from Port Stephens. He was highly respected by the local Europeans and considered to be the leader of the Illawarra people. He was also known as a talented athlete. He died in 1906 aged 72 and is buried in the Kiama Cemetery.

### GERRINGONG – BRIEF EUROPEAN HISTORY

- In 1810, the locality now know as Gerringong was part of the ‘District of Five Islands’ or ‘Illawarra.’
- The original name for the area was ‘Jaron Gong’ – [‘Gong’ meaning swamp.]
- It is one of the oldest European settled areas south of Sydney.
- 1810 saw the first recorded cut of Cedar along the mountainous slopes and ridges of the nearby rainforest cedar brushes known as the ‘Long Brush’.
- Jaron Gong’s first European settlers were ‘William Smith, a man named Googley and a cobbler named Staypleton.’
- Clearing of the area’s dense lower forest and coastal brush for the growing of ‘cash crops’, began in 1825.
- The early 1830s saw commencement of the flourishing dairy industry we have today.

- The district's first Land Grant of '600 acres more or less' was located by William Smith in 1821. When it was promised to him on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1825, he immediately took possession and began clearing the land which became known as Smith's Swamp.
- When the Grant was taken up by Smith on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1833, he sold it to Charles John Campbell, a clerk to Alexander Berry, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1834, for £196 British Sterling.
- The next grant, also promised in 1825, was to Lieut. Thomas Campbell. His grant, comprising 1280 acres, bordered Smith's grant in the south and Mt. Pleasant in the north.
- It was taken up in 1834 and transferred to his brother-in-law, James Mackey Gray, who was granted it on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1840. James named it 'Omega Retreat'.
- Michael Hindmarsh was the first permanent settler in Gerringong.
- He was promised his 'clearing-lease' grant of 640 acres on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1827.
- Michael was authorized to take possession on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1827 and was finally granted it on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1840.
- Located west of Smith's grant, he called it 'Alne Bank'.
- Michael was heavily involved in the timber (Cedar) trade, wheat growing and a variety of agricultural ventures.
- Ships used the tall Fig tree on the ridge south of his house as a navigational aid when approaching Boat Harbour.
- Michael died in 1867 and is buried in the Family Cemetery at 'Alne Bank'.
- After the 1824 land survey by Surveyor James McBrien, 600 acres of Government land was reserved for a Township – yet to be named - in 1826.
- The Town Name and Postal locality of 'Geringong' was Gazetted on 1 June, 1829.
- A Town Plan for the 'Village of Geringong' was drawn up in 1853. It was submitted and approved by Governor Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1854.
- The site for the 'Village of Geringong' was fixed on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1854.
- The 'Village of Geringong' was officially proclaimed on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1854.
- Geringong's first Town lots were sold on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1854.
- The Title Deeds to the land sold that day were granted by Governor Sir William Thomas Denison on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1855.
- The Town's First shops were built in 1856 – John Sharwood's wheelwright & blacksmith, T. Dixon's slaughter house, C.J Ransome's butchery, Beal's cooperage and Ritchie's General Store.
- In 1856, the Village population was 68 –[36 Males, 32 Females].
- William Lang secured a License for the 'Jerringong Arms' Hotel in 1857.
- It was renovated and renamed the Lanterrick Hotel in 1861.
- When the Municipality of Kiama was proclaimed and Gazetted on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1859, 'Geringong' was one of its three Wards.
- Following eleven years of petitions by its residents, the Gerringong Ward was finally granted separation from Kiama. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1871, the 'Municipal District of Gerringong' was proclaimed.
- In July 1872, a bushfire, which started in Willow Vale, destroyed much of the town – shops, houses, the C.of E. Church and School as well as the Lanterrick Hotel.

- The Government sold Gerringong's first Suburban Lot in 1844.
- A 12 acre Public Recreation Reserve was Gazetted in July, 1855.
- The District's first School was opened at Mt. Pleasant in 1856.
- The Railway came in 1893.
- The Telephone came in 1913.
- Town Electricity came in 1928.
- Sydney Water was connected in August, 1971.
- In 2002, Gerringong was connected to Sewage by Sydney Water.

#### BUSH BANK STEAM FLOUR MILL

- Throughout the 1840s, wheat was a lucrative crop in the local area.
- In 1854, part of William Manning's property, Bonaira, was purchased by John Sharpe.
- In July, 1856, Sharpe built a steam mill to grind the local wheat crops.
- The mill was located beside a creek on the 'Old Track', which made its way from Kiama Heights to Mt Pleasant.
- The mill was abandoned in 1864 when wheat rust hit the area.

#### ROAD TO GERRINGONG

- According to Surveyor Jacques in 1831, it was no more than 'a track, not exceeding 10 feet wide,' which made its way from Kiama, across the creeks to Mt. Pleasant, then down along the beach and over the headlands to Black Head where it terminated.
- In 1849, a Parish Road west of 'The Track', was constructed and paid for by a rate levy to local users.
- The main Coastal Road between Sydney and Melbourne was named the 'Princes Highway' on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1920.
- The Highway was bitumen surfaced in 1933.
- The four-lane section of the Princes Highway from Kiama to Mt. Pleasant was opened on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1984.
- Construction of the Gerringong to Nowra By-pass commenced in 2012.

#### MOUNT PLEASANT

- The original track from Kiama went straight down Mt. Pleasant to the mouth of the Lagoon before continuing south along the beach.
- As ships travelling south approached Bare Bluff, a flagstaff on Mt. Pleasant notified local farms of their impending arrival into Gerringong's Boat Harbour.
- The Lookout opened in 1935.
- The Water Tower is the approx. site of the District's first School.

#### OMEGA RETREAT

- The area was named 'Omega Retreat' by James Mackey Gray.

- The name 'Omega', the final letter of the Greek alphabet, was chosen by Gray because he considered the general location to be a kind of "final outpost" of habitation south of Sydney.
- Omega Retreat had its own Schools, Post Office and Shops.
- The Omega Retreat Homestead was burnt down in 1895.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1901, the Estate, comprising some 1750 acres was subdivided into 14 farms and sold.
- James died in July, 1877 and is buried in the Gerringong Cemetery.

## OMEGA RETREAT SCHOOLS and POST OFFICE

- The first school in the District was the Omega Retreat's Mt. Pleasant School. Located in a hut at the top of Mt. Pleasant, it was opened by Mr. Reid in 1856. Eliza Davies took over in 1858.
- Referred to by Eliza as 'Hurricane Hill', it had 40 pupils.
- Omega Retreat National School opened in November, 1860.
- In 1866, it became the Omega Public School.
- By 1875, it had just on 100 pupils.
- A Post Office operated at the School from 1891 - 1939. Mail from nearby farms was posted and taken home by the pupils.
- The school closed in March, 1941 and is now a private residence.

## RENFREW PARK

- Robert Miller arrived in Sydney March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1834, from Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland with his wife and 6 children.
- After two years in Sydney and one year in Jamberoo, he purchased William Smith's original land grant from Charles John Campbell on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1837 for £650 British Sterling.
- The family initially lived in a small timber house on the 'Sandy Wha' property (Site now: the Mercure Hotel).
- The swamp land was drained, cultivated and quality (prize winning) potatoes as well as wheat, were grown before dairying was introduced.
- In 1840, the family moved to the rise further north and lived in a simple timber-slab house until the Renfrew Park Homestead, built of local stone, was finished in 1860.
- Robert died in 1869 and is buried in the Gerringong Cemetery.

## ROSE VALLEY

- Rose Valley had a small School in the 1860s.
- In December, 1869, a newly upgraded Public School catering for 60 pupils and a Teacher's Residence for a Mr. King, were opened by Sir Henry Parkes.
- Located on the Johnston Rose Valley farm, at its peak in the 1880s and 1890s, the school had up to 100 pupils enrolled.
- In 1901, fire destroyed the school.
- After 2 closures and re-openings, it finally closed in 1904.
- Rose Valley also had its own Post Office from 1890 - 1931.

- The familiar dairy breed, the Holstein Friesians, were introduced to the area in 1921.

#### OMEGA RAILWAY STATION

- The railway line from Nth. Kiama (Site now: Bombo) to Bomaderry (Nowra) was commenced in August, 1890.
- With up to 1,800 men working on its construction, the completed line was opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1893.
- The stations were: Kiama, Rose Valley, Gerringong, Toolejooa (Note the 'e'), Berry, Jaspers Brush and Nowra.
- In May 1893, the Gerringong Council requested that the name 'Rose Valley' be either changed to 'Omega' or 'Renfrew Park'.
- In July 1893, 'Omega' was chosen, despite protests at the time.
- The Station had a 198-ft. platform plus a small waiting shed and store combined. There were also a gatehouse on the south side, for the gate-keeper, a siding and a cattle holding yard.
- Omega Station was used by the residents of Werri Beach as well as tourists who came to the area by special trains.
- Diesel Engines replaced the Steam Engines in May, 1965.
- Omega Station closed on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1984

#### SECOND RAILWAY CROSSING

- Before construction of the Princes Highway along the western side of the railway line, a second Railway Crossing allowed residents of Nelsons Road (Sims Rd.) such as Alne Bank, access to their properties from Gerringong.
- The gate-controlled Crossing was located at the far northern end of Rowland's Road ( Rowlins Road), near Sharpe Place.
- Construction of the Princes Highway commenced in 1937. The camp site for the construction workers was located approximately 200mtrs. north of Sims Rd. and was called White City as the tents glowed a ghostly colour at night.
- This section of the Princes Highway was completed in 1938.

#### MILLER'S FLATS and THE LAGOON RESERVE

- Gerringong's ( Denison Club) first recorded Cricket Match was played against Kiama on paddocks at Miller's Swamp in 1861. Gerringong: 1st Innings 13, 2nd Innings 28, lost by 8 wickets..
- In the 1890's Fishing and boating were popular at the north Ooaree Creek (Site now: Werri Lagoon) area.
- People arrived by special trains, walked across Miller's Flats and accessed the Lagoon Reserve via a wooden bridge.
- In 1914, the Gerringong Surf Club operated at the North end. A clubhouse was erected where the amenities block now stands.
- In 1926, the first residential blocks at Werri Beach were sold.

## SANDY WHA HOMESTEAD

- The Sandy Wha Homestead in Fern St. was situated on part of Campbell's land purchased by Robert Miller in 1837.
- Robert's family initially lived here in a small timber house.
- In 1840, the family moved to the rise further north – Renfrew Park.
- For over 100 years, Sandy Wha was owned by the Millers.
- In 1980, the house was sold to artist John Downton and his wife Gail, who named it the Hilltop Gallery.
- In the early 1990s, they sold the property and the Sea View Resort Motel was built. Today – Mecure Hotel.

## Chapter 2

### GERRINGONG'S RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- To cater for its rapidly growing population, Gerringong saw many Residential Lots being developed in the 1980s.
- 1983: Sandy Wha Road and Fern St. – 10 Lots
- 1989: Sandy Wha Estate – Stage 1A Located South of 'Sandy Wha' Homestead (Now Bellachara) on the west side of Fern St. – 32 Lots Low - \$42.000 High - \$66.000

### GERRINGONG CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- First Presbyterian Service was held at 'Alne Bank' in 1837.
- In 1852, Michael Hindmarsh gave land to build a Church in Gerringong.
- In 1854, a timber Free Presbyterian Church along with a Manse (donated by Alexander & David Berry) were constructed by Thomas Day.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1861, a Meeting of Parishioners voted to join the Congregational Church.
- In 1882 a Committee was set up to build a stone Church.
- The Foundation Stone was laid 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1883.
- The Church was opened on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1884.
- Its Jubilee was celebrated in 1921.
- When electricity came to Gerringong in March, 1928, the Church was the first building to be connected.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1977 it became the Uniting Church.

### GERRINGONG RIFLE CLUB

- The Club was formed in 1892.
- The pits and targets were located approx. where the amenities block at South Werri is now located.
- The short distance shoot was across the beach from near the corner of the present Pacific Ave and Bridges Road.
- The long distance shoot was from a mound at the rear of the Congregational Church Manse.
- James Sharpe was the Clubs first Captain . He was presented with an Illuminated Address in 1920 to mark 28 yrs as Captain.

In the late 1940s, the Club was relocated to Walkers Beach.

## GERRINGONG METHODIST CHURCH

- The first Wesleyan Methodist service was held in 1843 at the home of Thomas & Charlotte Black.
- The first small timber Church was built 1850.
- The Foundation Stone for a new Church was laid on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1869 by Rev. William Taylor of California.
- This Stone Church with a shingle roof was designed by Col. Thomas Rowe. Built by James Dinning of Kiama at a cost of 400 pounds, it was opened on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1870.
- The two Norfolk Pine trees out the front were planted by George Hunt and John Black on the day it was opened.
- The Wesleyan Church became the Methodist on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 1902.
- The Church is now the Chittick Lodge Chapel – 2009.

## WILLOW BANK' (James and Mary Wilson)

- James and Mary Wilson came from Ireland in 1841.
- In 1859, James, Mary and their four children moved from Riversdale (Jamberoo Rd.) to Gerringong and immediately started to purchase parcels of land suitable for dairy farming.
- Their first farm house 'Willow Bank' was built in 1860.
- After James died in 1870 and Mary in 1873 the farm was left to the four children.
- In 1876 two children, James and John, were accidentally drowned.
- In 1877, Robert Wilson, who had set up his own dairy farm in Foxground, sold his share of 'Willow Bank' to sister Hannah.
- Hannah married Thomas Andrew Noble in Sept. 1877.

## 'WILLOW BANK' ( Thomas and Hannah Noble)

- John and Ann Noble came from Ireland in 1841.
- Their son, Thomas Andrew Noble (T.A.) was born in 1848.
- In 1874, T.A. moved from Kangaloon to Gerringong.
- In 1877, he married Hannah Wilson and moved to the 'Willow Bank' farm ( Bridges Rd.)
- Over many years, T.A. and son John (J.P.J.) continued to purchase small holdings throughout Gerringong.
- In the 1960s dairy-farming was replaced by beef-farming.
- Thomas Andrew Noble and his descendants have played a prominent role in the Gerringong Community for over 100 years.

## 'WILLOW BANK' RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- In the 1980s, the farming land around 'Willow Bank' was divided up into various Residential Estates.
- 1984 'Ocean Vale Estate' Bridges Rd.- Northwest of Chittick Lodge to Rowlins Rd. 38 Lots – Low \$23.000 to High \$33.000

- 1989 21<sup>st</sup> January. Kiama Council Development 'Ocean View Estate' Stage 1 Southwest of Bridges Rd - Fern St. 34 Lots – Low \$49,000 to High \$62,000
- 1989 13<sup>th</sup> May. Kiama Council Development 'Ocean View Estate' Stage 2 Southwest of Bridges Rd – Fern St. 33 Lots - Low \$46,000 to High \$60,000
- 1989 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Kiama Council Development 'Ocean View Estate' South of Stage 1.

#### 'BEN LOBAN' FARM (40 Acres)

- Neil & Agnes Sharpe purchased and farmed the original John Charruthers Land Grant.
- Neil was as a renowned livestock dealer.
- When Neil was killed by a horse fall in 1874, Agnes continued working the farm until ill health forced her to give it up.
- In the early 1890s the farm was purchased by T. A. Noble who in turn leased it to John & Catherine Chittick from Bendeela
- The Chitticks worked Ben Loban farm for 48 years.
- When John Chittick died in 1939, the lease was relinquished back to the Noble family and the Chittick dairy herd dispersed.

#### 'WILDARA ESTATE'

- In February, 1970, 32 acres of the 'Ben Loban' farmland east of Fern St. was sold by Athol and Val Noble to Wildara Investments of Sydney.
- The land was expected to create 145 residential allotments.
- March, 1971 - Construction of 'Wildara Estate' - Armstrong Ave., Osborne St. commenced.
- Houses started to be built in 1972.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1982 – 14 Allotments 'Beachside Estate' along Geering St. went on sale.

#### 'OCEAN VIEW' CARRIAGE SERVICE, 85 FERN STREET GERRINGONG

- Former home of James Donnelly.
- James operated a horse-drawn Carriage Service from 'Ocean View' until 1928.
- Passengers, along with the papers and mail, were picked up and taken around Gerringong from Gerringong Railway Station.

#### OLD GERRINGONG POLICE STATION, 89 Fern St. Gerringong

- Designed by Government Architect, James Barnett-opened 1882
- Earliest recorded Policeman-in-Charge was Constable Alfred Reid in 1896 also mounted Police Cooper and Sid Armstrong.
- Police paddocks were located at Werri Beach.
- Building damaged by a storm on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1926.
- Closed 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1933.
- Old goal cells are still located behind present building.
- Old Station now a private residence.

### 'OCEAN VIEW INN'

- In 1857 William Lang was granted the licence for the Gerringong Arms Hotel
- The name was changed from the Arms Hotel to the Lanterrick Hotel in 1861.
- In 1872, the Lanterrick was destroyed by fire, along with many shops, houses and the C.of E. Church.
- In 1874, Frederick Phillips from Charcoal (Unanderra), built in its place, the Ocean View Inn together with a Library.
- A Liquor licence granted to Phillips in 1875.
- The Kiama to Nowra Stage Coaches changed horses here six times a day, prior to 1893.
- 1893 – The Inn closed when the Railway came to Gerringong
- The Noble family purchased the Ocean View in 1894 and ran it as an accommodation house.
- In the 1930s, was run as Tea Room by Rene Chittick. Kingsford Smith dined here before his epic flight to New Zealand.

### GERRINGONG POST OFFICE

- Located east side of Fern St immediately north of Town Hall
- Built in 1966, it was owned by the Postal Department.
- Closed 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1997.
- After its closure, a Postal Agency opened in the Newsagency.

### GERRINGONG TOWN HALL

- Two foundation stones were laid in 1947.
- Town Hall was built 1947-48 by L G Price at a cost of £16,000.
- Officially opened in 1948.
- Gerringong Council held its Meetings here until Gerringong was amalgamated into the Kiama Municipality in 1954.

### GERRINGONG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Gerringong Municipal Council was proclaimed on 24 April, 1871.
- First Council Meeting was held at the Lanterrick Hotel on 5th June, 1871.
- The Lanterrick Hotel destroyed by the town fire of 1872.
- From 1872 to 1877 Council Meetings were held in the office of the Gerringong Steam Navigation Company at the Boat Harbour Store.
- In 1877 Council Chambers, along with a free lending library, were established in part of Mrs Scott's house in Fern St
- Meetings held at Mrs Scott's until 1921.
- When the Soldiers' Memorial Hall was built in 1921, Council Meetings were held there until 1948.
- Gerringong Town Hall opened in 1948 and Council held its Meetings there until Gerringong was amalgamated into the Kiama Municipality on 2 June, 1954.

### 'COL CHITTICK' MEMORIAL STATION

- The Gerringong Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1948.

- Its 'Fire Shed' was located underneath the RSL Hall.
- Val Noble was its 1<sup>st</sup> Captain.
- In 1954 the Station was relocated to the old Gerringong Council machinery shed behind the Town Hall.
- The Station was named after Col Chittick, a founding member.
- In 1997, the Bush Fire Brigade became the Rural Fire Brigade through an Act of Parliament.
- In March 2006, the Station was relocated to Blackwood St.

### GERRINGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL

- In the 1800's Gerringong had two Church Schools.
- Catholic School closed in 1871 – Anglican School burnt down in Town fire of 1872.
- Local citizens held Meeting in 1873 to establish a Public School.
- Council drew up plans 1874.
- The School and attached residence were constructed in 1875 by John Elliott Bros. at a cost of 650 Pound.
- Opened on Fern St in March 1876.
- In 1924, the school was remodelled with the residence completely separate from the school.
- When new housing estates opened in the late 1980's, the Fern St. site was unable to cater for the increase in student numbers.
- Fern St site closed 1993.
- Archibald Rd site opened 1994.

## Chapter 3

### ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

- The foundation stone for the Church was laid on 23 April, 1873 by Rev Dr J Zillman.
- It was designed free of charge by Edmund Blackett.
- Built by Peter Walker & Sons of Kiama at a cost of £470 inclusive of fittings.
- Opened by Sydney's Bishop Frederick Barker - 9 August, 1874
- It replaced the timber slab church of 1856, which was gutted along with the Sabbath School in the Town Fire of 1872.
- The Chancel and Vestry were added in 1884.
- The Church Hall was built in 1966.
- St. George's Rectory was built in 1982.

### 'THE COTTAGE'

- In 1930, St George's Church purchased this building in Yalwal, NSW and commissioned Mr. D. Bean to dismantle it and then re-erect it in Gerringong.
- In order to finance the work in 1932, the Church sold an 83ft. parcel of land south of 'The Cottage', fronting Fern St., to Hope Neely.

- Initially called the 'Church House' it was renamed 'The Cottage' by Rev. Leigh Roberts in 1990.

#### ES&A BANK - A.N.Z. BANK

- In 1932, Hope Neely purchased the block of land where the A.N.Z. Bank now stands, from the Church of England.
- In 1932, Neely erected a brick building on the land and leased it to the ES&A Bank on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1933.
- The Bank's first Manager was Mr. H.N. Mitchell.
- During World War 2, the roof of the Bank was used as a 'Plane Spotter' Observation Deck manned by the Gerringong Observer Corps.
- In 1950, the ES&A Bank purchased the building and built a Manager's residence at the back.
- The ES&A Bank became the A.N.Z. Bank effective 1/10/1970.
- The Gerringong A.N.Z. Bank was modernized in 1983.
- In 1990 the freehold was sold on a long term lease-back.

#### WALKER'S 'SEAVIEW' STORE

- Walker's 'Seaview Store' (Drapery & Grocery) was located on the west side of Fern St., immediate south of the A.N.Z. bank where the Chemist and Newsagency (2009) now stand.
- In 1885, James Walker leased the 'Seaview' Store from Frederick Phillips, who also owned the 'Ocean View Inn'.
- James' sister had a Dressmaker's Shop attached to the Store.
- The Australian Joint Stock Bank opened a Branch north of the Store in July of 1888.
- In 1905, Walker purchased the 'Seaview Store' from Phillips for £320. Walker sold it in early 1928 to Messrs Reid and Davidson.
- Unfortunately, on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1928, a fire which started in Mrs. Williamson's Boarding House (south-side of 'Seaview'), completely destroyed both buildings along with the E.S.&A. Bank. The Walker's residence behind the Store was saved.

#### GERRINGONG BANKS

- In 1874, the Post Office Store run by George Davis was granted facilities for a Money Order and Government Savings Bank.
- In Oct., 1887 the ES&A Chartered Bank opened in Fern St.
- Business was conducted from the front room of the Hall family residence with Mr. Alexander Nicholson as Agent.
- In 1893 it became a part-time Agency of the Kiama ES&A.
- The Australian Joint Stock Bank opened in Fern St. in 1888 in part of the "Seaview Store". It closed in 1894.
- The Commonwealth Bank had a Branch where Jock's Bakery is now located, from 1986 to 1998.

## GERRINGONG COUNCIL CHAMBERS & FREE LIBRARY

- In 1877, Gerringong Council leased and spent £160 renovating rooms in the residence of Mrs. Scotts' Grocery Store in Fern St., (next to Nelson's Store), for its Chambers and a Free Library.
- The building stood on land owned by A. Nelson.
- Council Meetings were held here from 1877 – 1921.
- The Library held some 400 books with Mrs. Scott as Librarian.
- The Council Chambers, Library and Mrs Scott's apartments narrowly escaped accidentally being burnt down in April 1890.
- In 1891 Council terminated Mrs. Scott's position as Librarian.

## GERRINGONG POST OFFICE

- For over 30 years the Post Office Dept. appointed the owners of various Stores throughout Gerringong to conduct Post Office duties as part of their normal business.
- In the early 1880s, petitions were submitted by Council and residents, requesting that a stand- alone Post Office be set up.
- In 1887, the Post Office Dept. rented a house near the present Town Hall for its 1<sup>st</sup> Official Post Office and appointed Frederick O'Brien from Edgecliff in Sydney, as Postmaster.
- When Frederick died in 1890, his widow Mrs. Keziah O'Brien was appointed Postmistress.
- In the early 1900s, the Department leased larger premises from the Nelsons on the N/W corner of Belinda and Fern Strs.
- These premises, built in 1895 for the Australian Joint Stock Bank, remained the Official Post Office till 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1966 when it moved to a new building, on the north side of the Town Hall, which was fully owned by the PMG Department.
- In 1961, £1500 was spent on renovations to the old building.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Public Telephone was installed on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1913.
- The Gerringong manual Telephone Exchange came in 1915.
- Automatic equipment became operational on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1965.

## SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL

- On 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1920 Mayor J.G. Miller chaired a Meeting that decided to construct a Hall in way of perpetuating the memory of those who fought in the Great War.
- A subscription list was launched and £405 was pledged.
- T.A. Noble donated the block of land.
- Varney Parkes (Sir Henry's son), designed the Hall free of charge.
- Mr. Hopper submitted the successful tender to build for £1084.
- Four Foundation Stones were laid on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1921.
- The Hall was officially opened by Brigadier-General ("Fighting Charlie") Cox on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1921.
- Gerringong Council being the nominal owner of the Hall, initially held its Meetings inside the Hall from 1921-1933 and then in the purpose-built outdoor annex from 1933-1948.

- On 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1938, the Gerringong RSL sub-branch was formed with Mr. H. Mitchell as President.
- In 1945, Council accepted the RSL offer of £250 for the Hall.
- In 1953 the RSL built a tennis court on the western side.

### BOAT HARBOUR STORE

- Town Lot land [No. 8 Section 5] purchased by A. Armstrong 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1854.
- In 1856, T McIntyre purchased the land from Armstrong and erected a building on it.
- In 1858, McIntyre then leased the building to George L. Fuller who opened up a Post Office Store. Georges's sister Anne Fuller was appointed Postmistress.
- The store rapidly became a hive of activity. Deliveries arriving by boat for the town's residents, were brought up from the harbour and stored in the loft or in the large cellar whilst waiting collection.
- In 1859, Thomas Day sold his farm and in 1860 purchased the Lease and Goodwill of the Post Office Stores from G.L. Fuller.
- T. Day operated the Post Office until he resigned in 1863.
- With Thomas Day's resignation, the Post Office moved to the Lanterrick Hotel in 1864. The store continued operating as the Boat Harbour Store.
- James Wilson ran the Boat Harbour Store from 1867 – 76.
- When the Town Fire of 1872 destroyed the Lanterrick Hotel, Council Meetings were held in the Store from 1872-77.
- The Boat Harbour Store remained the hub of the Gerringong Community until the Shipping Industry was totally replaced by the Railway which came through Gerringong in 1893.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

- In 1864, a small Catholic School was built on the Church property, bounded by Jupiter and Fern Streets.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1866, the School began to be used as a Chapel as well.
- At a Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1880, it was proposed that a Church be built.
- The Church was opened on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1882 by Archbishop R.W. Vaughan, Archbishop of Sydney.
- In order to cater for the increase in Gerringong's Catholic population in the early 1990s, it became necessary to extend the existing Church.
- The extension to the Church was carried out and completed in 1996.

### GERRINGONG GOLF COURSE

- The present Gerringong Golf Course is situated on part of the 34.7 hectares 'Beachlands Estate' which was owned and worked as a dairy farm from 1911 by the Walker family.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1978, the Estate was sold to Kiama Council which subdivided it in May, 1985. (a) The house with 2 hectares and (b) the remaining 32.7 hectares.
- The Beach foreshore was dedicated to Public Reserve with a narrow public reserve along the boundary with the Weir's property to allow access to Walker's Beach.

- In June, 1981, about 90 people attended a meeting to express interest in developing an 18-hole Golf Course on the Estate.
- In September, 1981, Council called tenders for a 12month lease and the new Gerringong Golf Club got underway.
- In 1985, the Club purchased the land and over the years groups of very dedicated volunteers have diligently worked the landscape and shaped the magnificent course we have today.

## Chapter 4

### BOAT HARBOUR

- The Aboriginal people have used the natural resources of Boat Harbour for over 40,000 years - the stone tools, the shells, the seafood, the flora and fauna.
- When Thomas Hyndes and his cedar-cutters arrived in the area in 1823, Boat Harbour was vital to its development. Initially, Cedar was the area's main industry. The cedar-flinches were brought to the harbour by horse & sled to be transported to Sydney in small boats.
- Once the cedar was fully extracted, dairying and the growing of produce became the dominant industries.
- In the 1840s, 50s and 60s, small sailing ships, depending on local weather conditions, called into Boat Harbour on an irregular basis.
- Mooring chains held the ships in the open waters of the Harbour
- Laid in 1863, 79 and 81, these chains stretched across Nth/Sth.
- Without a Jetty, lumpers had to wade through water up to their waists or else row the timber and produce out to the vessels in whaleboats.
- In order to guarantee regular transport for their produce, local farmers formed the Gerringong Steam Navigation Co. in 1868.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1868, the AGENORIA was the first ship to pick up on a regular basis.
- From 1876, the Co-Ops.Steamer of 82 tons, 'Dairymaid' called on Mondays & Thursdays to awaiting crowds.

### BOAT HARBOUR JETTY

- During the 1850s, 60s and 70s many meetings and deputations took place regarding the construction of a much needed Jetty at Boat Harbour.
- In 1880, Gerringong Council received a £300 Government Grant to construct a 200 foot Jetty and called for tenders.
- Mr J. B. Taylor's tender was successful. Plans were drawn up by R. Longmore of Mittagong.
- In 1881 Taylor completed the Jetty, along with its trolly, track fittings and storage shed.
- In 1882, Council requested a further grant to extend the Jetty another 200 feet as the larger ships were still unable to berth.
- After a lengthy delay, Council received a £600 grant.

- When Longmore did the survey for the extension however, it was realized the Jetty would have to go out an extra 100 feet to cater for the larger ships, thus making the total length, 500 feet.
- Council instructed J.B.Taylor to carry out the work while it agitated Government for the extra money to pay for it all.
- The extended Jetty was completed along with a crane in 1884.
- The first ship to draw alongside was the Steamer 'Dairymaid' on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1884. Loading time was halved. Other ships, including the 'Peterborough' (1886), followed.
- Shipping was severely curtailed in 1891 when a storm extensively damaged the end section of the Jetty and its crane.
- When the Railway came to Gerringong in 1893, the shipping industry gradually declined.
- The Jetty was totally destroyed by storms in 1901 and 1903.
- In August 1901, Council requested Government permission for removal of the Jetty's planking to repair bridges and culverts in the Municipality.

#### HARBOUR AND JETTY MASTER

- In order to facilitate the smooth operation of the Harbour and Jetty, various Harbour Masters either volunteered or were appointed.
- James Perkins, a volunteer, was the first. The last, Johnson 'Dot' Morrow was appointed by Council. He was also required to care for the Cemetery, dig the graves and maintain Jupiter St.
- Whenever a vessel arrived at the Harbor, a series of flagstaffs, including one on the Cemetery hill, were used to notify pass the township and outlying farms.
- 'Dot' and his family lived in a rented (2/6 a week) house adjacent to the Jetty. Morrow St. off Jupiter St. bears his name.
- As cargo was unloaded, it was taken to a store at the Jetty's end. After being sorted, items for the town's residents were transported to the 'Boat Harbour Store' and held in storage whilst waiting collection.

#### BOATHARBOUR OCEAN BATHS - LADIES BATHS

- In February 1894, Council considered a letter requesting the construction of a Ladies Baths at Boat Harbour.
- A pool was built around the shore end of the old Jetty but heavy seas destroyed it in early 1896.
- In July 1896, Council requested a grant of £50 for a section of the rock platform to be walled-in to form a Ladies Pool (in its current position), on the Public Reserve.
- After many delays, Hugh Carson of Kiama finally finished the Pool's construction on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1898 at a cost of £51.
- In 1900, dressing sheds (site: present stands) were added.
- Improvements were also carried out in 1915, 1935 and 1951.
- The Pool is still in use today and maintained by Kiama Council.

## MEN'S BATHS

- In early 1909 sought advice for the construction of a shark-proof enclosure for Boat Harbour.
- In January, 1910, Council inspected the south side of Boat Harbour for a suitable site for a 'small but very nice' Men's Baths.
- It was Council's expectation that the Community would raise the £30 cost of the pool and provide the construction labour.
- Council received a £50 and the Baths were completed in 1911.
- Over the years, the Baths were always troubled with seaweed and rocks being washed in by heavy seas.
- By the 1940s, they were hardly fit to swim in.
- Remnants of the Baths are still visible.

## 'VICTORIA COTTAGE' and 'BILLOW VIEW' GUESTHOUSE

- William R. and Jane Cooke came to Gerringong in 1878 and purchased an established Butchery (Shop, smoking works and curing sheds), on the corner of Belinda and Coal Streets.
- Raising his own pigs on 45 acres of nearby Wilson's leased land, Cooke quickly had a thriving ham and bacon business operating. His pigs were raised on skim milk supplied from the nearby farms.
- Four of Cooke's pigs were sold at Alexander Campbell's inaugural Gerringong Auction sale of 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1883.
- The piggery closed in the late 1890s when skim milk was no longer available. Whole milk was now refrigerated and carried by rail.
- The family lived in 'Victoria Cottage' (attached to the shop).
- William and Jane had 8 children between 1881 and 1897.
- Before the turn of the Century, they built 'Billow View' partly to house some of the family and partly as Jane's 'Guest House'.
- It was the first Guesthouse to be established in Gerringong.
- In about 1900, William and Jane were the instigators behind the planting of the famous Belinda Street Norfolk Pines.
- 'Billow View' was purchased from the Cooke family in 1959 for a Catholic Retreat and Conference Centre.

## Chapter 5

### GERRINGONG RAILWAY STATION

- The railway line from Kiama to Bomaderry (Nowra) was opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1893 by Governor Sir Robert Duff.
- The stations were: Rose Valley (changed to Omega in July, 1893), Gerringong, Toolejooa, (note 'e' changed to 'i' in 1897) Jaspers Brush, Berry and Bomaderry.
- The original Gerringong Station's platform was 264ft. long. The building was wooden with an iron roof.

- There was also a loop siding for a public goods and cattle yard along with a platform and goods shed.
- A five roomed weatherboard cottage was provided for the Station Master's residence. At the time of opening F.F. Soage was the Porter-in-Charge and Elizabeth McKay the Gatekeeper for the Belinda St. gate.
- A dead-end siding was opened for the Gerringong Dairy Co-Operative Factory on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1908. It closed in the 1990s.
- In 1941, the original wooden Station was struck by lightning and burnt down. It was replaced with a brick structure of modern design.
- The new station in turn was burnt down in the early 1970s to be replaced by the existing Station.

#### GERRINGONG CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY SOCIETY LTD.

- On 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1887, a meeting of interested farmers was convened in Gerringong to discuss establishing a dairy factory.
- Two sites were considered with the Campbell's site (where 'Mayflower' is now located) being accepted as the most central.
- In February, 1888, shares were sold and tenders called to build.
- The BUTTER FACTORY was officially opened on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1888.
- Kegs of Butter were transported by ship from Gerringong Jetty or by rail from Kiama Station and later from Gerringong Station.
- From about 1896 raw milk was sent to Sydney for the first time.
- In 1909, the Butter factory was re-located near to the Station.
- When the Railways sold the Factory land to the Co.Op. for £672 in 1926, tenders were called to build a new Butter Factory.
- The new Butter Factory was opened by Mrs. James Sharpe on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1927 at a cost of £2,000.
- The new factory also produced and sold ice which was very popular for locals and tourists alike.
- 'Alne Bank' delivered the 1<sup>st</sup> bulk delivery of milk in Jan., 1963
- The Co-Ops. Milk Factory closed in September 2000.
- The Hardware Store closed the end of June 2007.

#### GERRINGONG RECREATION GROUND

- 'The Recreation Ground', an area of nine acres, was Gazetted by Government in 1854 and proclaimed as a Park on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1886.
- In 1887, Gerringong's 'Our Boys' Rugby Union Football Club was founded by J.B. Taylor.
- Gerringong's 'Our Boys' Rugby League Club was founded in 1914 and replaced the Rugby Union Club.
- The Gerringong Lawn Tennis Courts built by Fred. Watkins were opened in November, 1900.

- Gerringong Cricket Club formed 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1860 - initially played on Miller's Flats.
- Gerringong Bowling Club was formed in 1925 but no greens were laid due to lack of water at the 'Recreation Ground'.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1936, the name 'Recreation Ground' was changed to 'Jubilee Park' and the Sports Pavilion opened.
- The Hockey Club was formed on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1947.
- The Oval at Jubilee Park was named the 'Michael Cronin Oval' in 1983.

## GERRINGONG SCHOOL OF ARTS

- In August 1882, a Meeting was held at the 'Ocean View Inn' to consider the building of a School of Arts in Blackwood St.
- J.B.Taylor was the designer and Henry Stokes, the builder.
- The Foundation Stone was laid in March 1883.
- When Henry Stokes suddenly died half way through construction, J.B. Taylor took over.
- The building was opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1883.
- It soon became the Cultural and Social Centre for the District.
- In 1939, the Trustees of the School of Arts transferred it to the Gerringong Council.
- When the Gerringong Town Hall was built in 1948, the School of Arts became redundant and was sold for future demolition.
- In 1951, the Scouting Movement had free use of the building.
- In 1954, the building was officially leased and opened as the Scouts and Girl Guides Hall until local Troops closed in 2004.
- In 2008, plans were submitted for the renovation and conversion of the building to house the Gerringong Library.

## ELAMBRA ESTATE

- Kiama Council purchased 21.56 Hectares of the Campbell's 'Elambra' Farm on 3rd February, 2000.
- It intended to subdivide the land to create 214 residential allotments which would be released in Eight Stages.
- The 1st 'Elambra' Subdivision Release Certificate was issued on 21st August, 2003.
- 17th September, 2004 saw the first house occupied.
- Further Stages were released in 2003 (2nd), 2004 (3rd), 2005 (4th), 2007 (5th), and 2009 (6th).