

The Hidden History retold in Hay's Museums



Hay Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between our funding partners and school students by providing opportunities for positive, cooperative activities that encourage students to learn about and respond to, natural resource management and the importance of agricultural production.

wirraminna.org.au/petaurus/creative-catchment-kids/

Petaurus Education Group

Petaurus Education Group identifies, develops and delivers a range of learning and curriculum experiences, resources and initiatives for schools and community groups to connect with land, water, productive farming, sustainability and cultural issues at the local level. The group was established by Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre in late-2014 to support its operations and education activities.

petaurus.org.au

Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

envirostories.com.au

The Hidden History retold in Hay's Museums

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Welcome to Hay

Our little town of Hay in south-west NSW has all you need, from fantastic shops to riverside trails. As you come through Hay you can pick up a cup of coffee, have some lunch at one of our beautiful cafés and stay at our scenic caravan parks or comfortable accommodation venues. You can visit Hay's heart and enjoy the variety of different shops and attractions. If you are lucky you might even catch a local chasing an emu to impress his family! Our locals are very friendly and we love having visitors in our town.

So, you know about our town now and its fantastic stores. However, we also have five amazing museums for you to roam around and learn about our town's history. Our book contains information on our museums from friendly ghosts to army guards asking prisoners to hold their guns!

Our Hay Public School writing crew have been working diligently on our book for six months this year, 2020. It has been tough because of COVID-19 restrictions but we have worked around it by Zooming generous museum managers and amazing volunteers to get information for our book and visiting our museums through virtual tours. Finally, when restrictions eased a little, we were able to have an incredible field trip to all our museums.

We've put this spectacular book together to inform you all about our great little town's museums. We hope you come and visit us soon.





In 1829 Charles Sturt came down the Murrumbidgee on horses and drays. By 1839 all the river frontages were occupied by squatters. In the mid-1850s many pastoral runs in Western Riverina were well established. The area of Hay was initially known as Lang's Crossing, named after the three Lang brothers who had large runs there on the south side of the river. By October 1859 'Hay' had been chosen as the name for the township. It was named after John Hay, a wealthy squatter from the Upper Murray, a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly and Secretary of Lands and Works.



Hay was established as a town in 1859. It was in the centre of the Riverina and the townsfolk hoped that it might become the Riverina's capital. After a while, beautiful buildings were built in the town and it was connected to Sydney by rail.

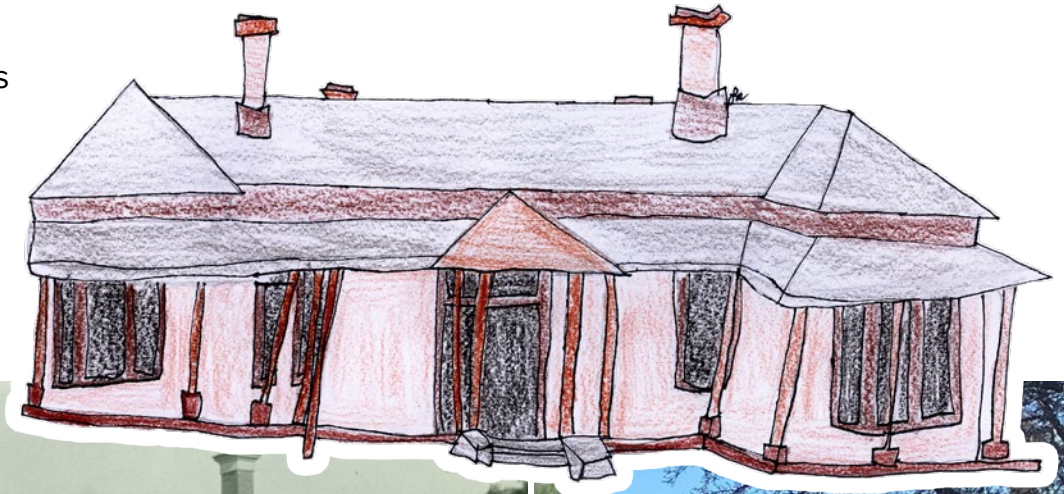


Museum I: Bishop's Lodge

Bishop's Lodge Historic House is a beautiful building that was the residence and office of three Anglican Bishops during their time in Hay. Today it is still very special. It is an iron house that was designed to cope with the extremes of the Hay climate, particularly the hot summers.

In 1888, Bishop Sydney Linton and architect John Sulman built Bishop's Lodge. It has a beautiful garden and very historic roses, some of which are unique to the area and over one hundred years old.

From 1935–1946 Bishop's Lodge was used as a boys' hostel. It is now a heritage listed museum.



On the 25th May 1882 a meeting at the courthouse supported Hay becoming the centre for the Riverina diocese. On the 17th November 1883 the position of Bishop of Riverina was offered to the Right Reverend Sydney Linton. He was made the Anglican Bishop of Riverina at St Paul's Church on the 18th March 1885.

Bishop Linton had travelled widely throughout the Riverina and had experienced the extreme temperatures of the Riverina climate, particularly the scorching summers. The plans for Bishop's Lodge were drawn up by John Sulman, taking on board Bishop Linton's ideas for climate control. Bishop Linton realised iron walls would cool down overnight and big verandahs would keep the house cooler during the day. Work commenced on the construction of Bishop's Lodge in 1888, and Bishop Linton and his family moved into the house in 1889.

A huge garden, vegetable patch and orchard were grown around Bishop's Lodge. The kitchen was separate from the main house in order to protect the main house from heat, smell and, of course, the danger of a fire. The kitchen had a wood stove to cook on, which is still preserved today and is sometimes still used. In November 1890, the garden was attacked by an enormous plague of locusts and the entire garden was stripped, even though Bishop Linton tried to protect it by lighting fires to fill the garden with smoke in an attempt to keep the locusts away. In October 1891, a flood covered half of the garden and many of the vegetables and some plants died.

Bishop Linton died in 1894. He and his wife had six children so the house would have been filled with laughter and many voices.



BISHOP LINTON



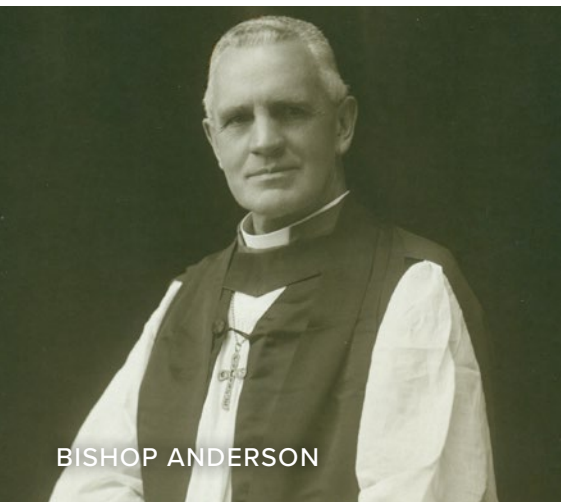
LINTON FAMILY c. 1883, ENGLAND



MRS LINTON AND MURIEL



BISHOP'S LODGE, 1889



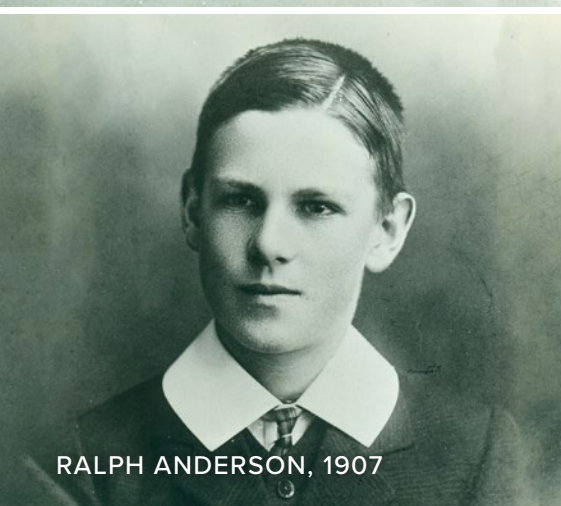
BISHOP ANDERSON



ANDERSON FAMILY c. 1903



BISHOP ANDERSON AND MARY



RALPH ANDERSON, 1907

Bishop Ernest Augustus Anderson became the new Bishop of Riverina in 1895. He, his wife and their six children lived at Bishop's Lodge for nearly thirty years. Four of the children arrived with Bishop Anderson, Joy and Mary were born after the family moved to Hay. Again the house and garden was full of children, tennis parties, dogs, cats and ponies.

Sadly their youngest son Ralph died in the battle of Messines on the 8th June 1917.

Bishop Anderson was very artistic and enjoyed gardening. He continued to establish the extensive rose garden. A Chinese gardener, Ah Mow, who had been employed by Bishop Linton continued to work in the garden with Bishop Anderson. He lived at the stables. Other staff included Mrs Bond, who was the cook, and Mr Bond, who worked in the garden, as well as a parlour maid who came in each day from Hay.

Bishop Anderson travelled extensively through his huge diocese. When he first started visiting his area, it was in a horse and dray. However later on he started travelling in a Dodge which would have sped up his time away from his family but wasn't his favourite way of travelling. He often wrote letters to his children when he was away and his daughter Mary (Matthews) has donated some of his letters and cartoon drawings to the museum. In the drawings he describes his car as the 'Devil's Dodge' as it was always getting nails in the tyres and breaking down.

Bishop Anderson retired in 1924. During his time the garden and lawns had been well kept and beautifully tended. Bishop Anderson loved his roses. He bought them from many places and labelled each one with a metal peg. All the rose bushes in the garden today known as the 'hidden garden' are believed to have been planted by Bishop Anderson. He built a summer house and also a little bush house where he propagated roses and housed pot plants.

Bishop Halse took up residence in 1925. He enjoyed the garden and it continued to be maintained. During his time a Canary Island date palm and pencil pines were planted. He refused to put curtains on the windows as he wanted to be able to look out at the garden.

In 1935, the Lodge was converted to the Linton House hostel for boys. At that time Hay War Memorial High School was the only high school west of Wagga that went all the way to matriculation (similar to the HSC). Completing your matriculation meant you could qualify for university. Many students from all over western NSW came to Hay. Some came from as far away as Broken Hill and only went home at Christmas.



BISHOP HALSE

There were five hostels in Hay at the time for children wanting to attend the high school; Cloughton House (Presbyterian), Butterworth (Methodist Girls), Anglican Riverina Girl's Hostel, the Government Hostel and of course Linton House hostel for Anglican boys. Many of the children came from surrounding rural areas as there were no buses in those days.

Bishop Halse left the Lodge in 1943. However, the Lodge continued to run as a boys' hostel under a matron. Bishop's Lodge was a very suitable place for a boys' hostel with large grounds, a huge house, a tennis court and not far from the river for swimming and fishing. Memories from boys who lived in the hostel include boys in sleep-outs on the verandah, walking over the bridge to town on a Saturday and hoeing the garden if anyone was in trouble! The hostel operated very successfully until 1946 when Bishop's Lodge was sold by the Diocese and was officially closed on the 13th December 1946.



LINTON HOUSE RESIDENTS, 1940



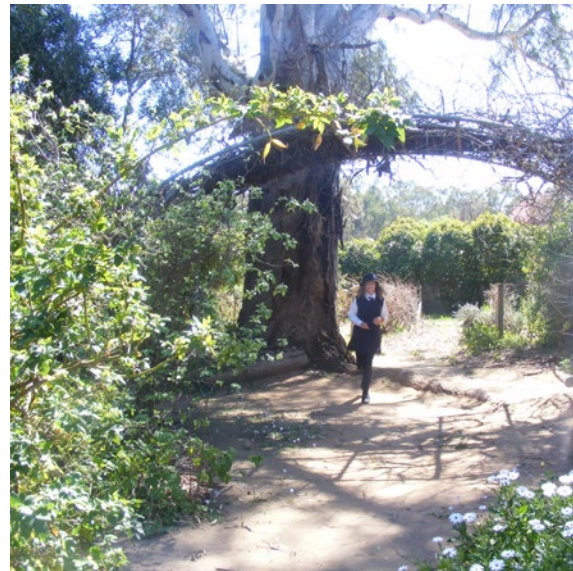
BOARDER'S SLEEPOUT

Bishop's Lodge was bought by two couples, the Panarettos and the Carides. Neither had any children so they lived together in the Lodge until first Mr Panaretto's death in 1964, then Mrs Carides' death in 1973. Mr Carides died in 1980 and Mrs Panaretto stayed in the house for a further five years until she sold the Lodge to the Hay Shire Council in 1985.

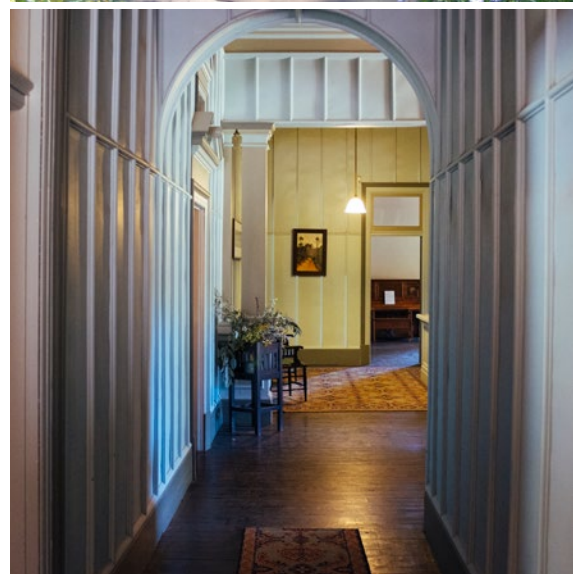
Since then Bishop's Lodge has been run as a community museum overseen by the Bishop's Lodge Management Committee. Conservation work in 1986-7 meant the Lodge was restumped, the verandahs renovated and much of the house was rewired. Much of the furniture was sold after the Bishops left, however the original altar was located in Griffith and brought back to the Lodge as well as the top of Bishop Anderson's desk.



The voluntary Bishop's Lodge Management Committee aims to preserve the special feeling of the garden and the house which has been loved for over a hundred years. Roses that were introduced to the garden by Bishop Anderson are grafted in South Australia and are available for purchase from the Lodge. The committee oversees gardening, particularly pruning, exhibitions, catering for functions and of course preserving the great history of the Lodge and its people.



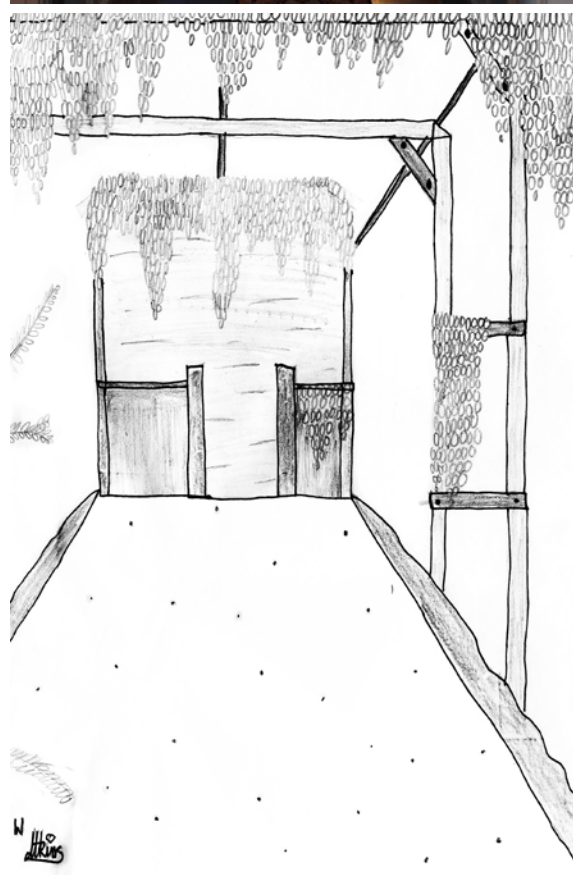
Bishop's Lodge is a clever, 'polite' building that has been built to suit its environment. Clever ideas such as wire screens to keep bugs away from windows were ahead of their time. The outside walls are corrugated iron and the inside walls are plain iron. Sawdust is in between the two walls as insulation. The iron walls are able to withstand the movement of the Riverina soil during such extremes in weather. The house also faces north, again considering the climate.



Bishop's Lodge has eighteen rooms, each with 14 foot stained board ceilings. Each room has a marble fireplace and there is a chapel. The kitchen block is connected to the main house by a covered walkway. There are 77 wooden verandah posts around the house.

Bishop Anderson's daughter Mary often talked of 'fairies in the garden'. Over the years there have been rumours of 'friendly' ghosts occupying the Lodge. Painters during 1980s swore they heard footsteps up and down the halls. Visitors talk of looking out the drawing room window and seeing a lady walking along the verandah as well as seeing a lady looking out from one of the front windows to the garden.

Bishop's Lodge was listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2nd April 1999.



Museum II: Hay War Memorial High School

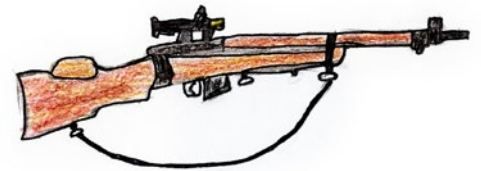
The Hay War Memorial High School Museum commemorates both Hay and district war service and the life of the school itself in a unique war memorial. It was officially opened in 1923 as the town's war memorial.

It is a museum within a school and it aims to connect young people today to young people from the past.

In 1914, Hay had an incredible response from young men enlisting to serve their country and King in World War I. Around 700 people enlisted from the Hay area, which was a small town of around 3000 people. As time went on, many of those who enlisted to fight were killed in duty overseas. It was a sad, terrible time for the town as all the residents and families of Hay and its surrounding area were touched in one way or another by these tragedies.

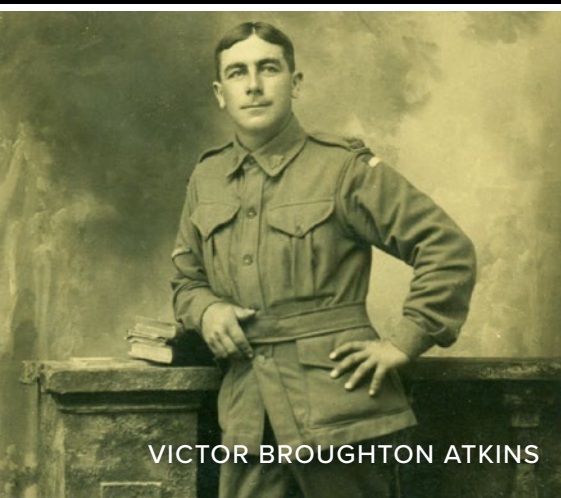
As the township of Hay had no separate high school, it was decided that a separate high school would be built and it would be a living memorial to the 133 soldiers that died.

Honour rolls hang in the school hall and stone tablets listing those who died in World War I are on either side of the entrance to the school. The museum's collection includes medals, photographs, uniforms, letters and diaries of local servicemen and women as well as the history of the school and its students.





BACK: W Bish, D Nolan, W Butler
FRONT: J McKinney, Vic Atkins,
T Ashley, D Thomash
19th AUGUST 1914



VICTOR BROUGHTON ATKINS



FREDERICK ALLAN ATKINS

The first seven soldiers who enlisted from Hay included Victor Broughton Atkins who signed up on the 17th August 1914 and had an early Service Number of 540. Another of the seven was Thomas J Ashley who also had an early Service Number of 558. The seven soldiers all survived the war.

Victor was a drover with good bush sense and was assigned as a driver with the Australian Army Supply Corps. Unfortunately in March 1915 he was hospitalised with pneumonia. After recovery Victor was promoted to Lance Corporal in July 1915 and relocated to France in 1916. He was a driver in France until the end of the war.

One of the documents featured in the museum exhibition is a postcard written by Victor to his sweetheart Ida Campbell. The postcard is written from Alexandria in Egypt in 1915.

Victor's brother Frederick Allan Atkins (Service No. 1235) enlisted on the 28th August 1914. Later, after enlisting, Frederick was promoted to Lance Sergeant. Unfortunately, in April 1915 he was hospitalised and dangerously ill with meningitis in Heliopolis and again in Cairo in June 1915. After recovering, Frederick re-joined his unit on the Gallipoli Peninsula but was killed in action on 8th August 1915. His grave is unmarked and his sacrifice is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial.

Victor and Frederick's younger brother Harry, was born in Hay but had been living in Geelong. One month after his 18th birthday, with his parent's consent in January 1915, Harry enlisted in the war. In 1916 his war service was cut short as he became very ill with dysentery and was discharged later in that year.

After the war Victor returned to Hay and married his childhood sweetheart Ida. They had four sons: Victor, Fred, (named after Victor's brother), Norrie and Tom. The oldest three served in the Second World War and Victor, known as Toby, died in New Guinea.



BERT McCORMACK AND OTHER WWI SOLDIERS

Thomas J Ashley was also one of the initial seven from Hay to enlist. He and his mates took a kangaroo as a mascot with them. They had it in camp in Sydney and took the kangaroo all the way to the Middle East to Palestine.

When James Albert (Bert) McCormack enlisted in 1916 he was only 21. He was a private in the 20th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion. He sailed to Europe in September 1916 where he was deployed to France during 1917 but spent several months hospitalised in England with both trench foot and trench fever. His eyesight became poor so in 1918 he was sent home.

Bert married Daisy Myers and had four children. Their daughter Doreen married Fred Atkins (Victor's son). Bert's son Jack served in World War II and his grandson John served in Vietnam. Bert died in 1992.



Ralph Anderson was the youngest son of the Bishop of Riverina and grew up at Bishop's Lodge in Hay. He became a jackaroo in Queensland and developed a love for horses. Ralph joined the Australian Light Horse in World War I. This picture on the right, taken by Ralph, shows some of the horses on-board the ATS Ayrshire. Ralph died in the battle of Messines on the 8th June 1917.

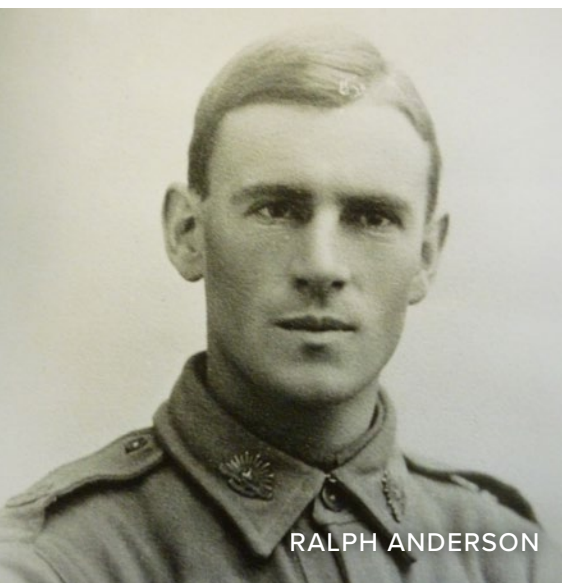


Ralph's brother, Ernest Sleeman Anderson, was a mining engineer who worked as a tunneller, similar to those depicted in the movie 'Beneath Hill 60'.

452 Trooper K. McG. Ronald joined the 6th Australian Light Horse and was killed at Gallipoli on the 12th July 1915. He was only 19 when he died. He was the beloved son of R.W. and V. Ronald.

George Matthews served in the Boer War from 1899–1902. He wrote letters to his little son Roy. His letters are archived at the HWMHS museum for posterity. Often many fragile and precious artefacts, such as letters, are protected and archived and therefore not on display. This is so they can be safe from dust and light.

Arthur Ledwidge (Service No. 1358) from Carrathool was the first Hay District soldier who sadly died on active service at Gallipoli in World War I on the 28th April 1915. Arthur was part of the 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry and was 21 years old when he enlisted.



RALPH ANDERSON



GEORGE MATTHEWS

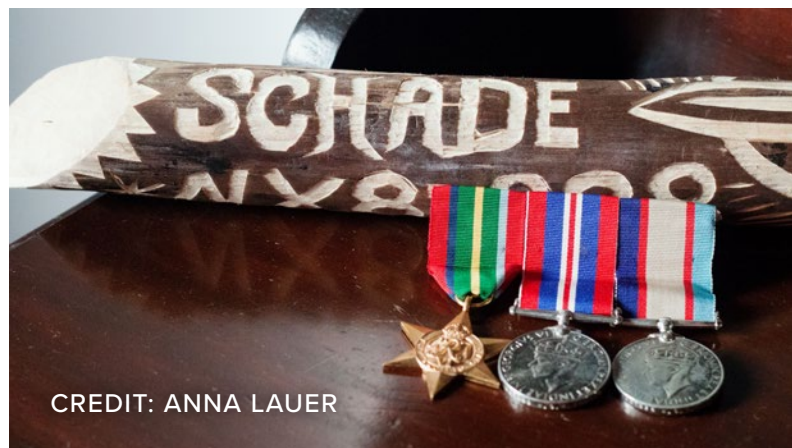
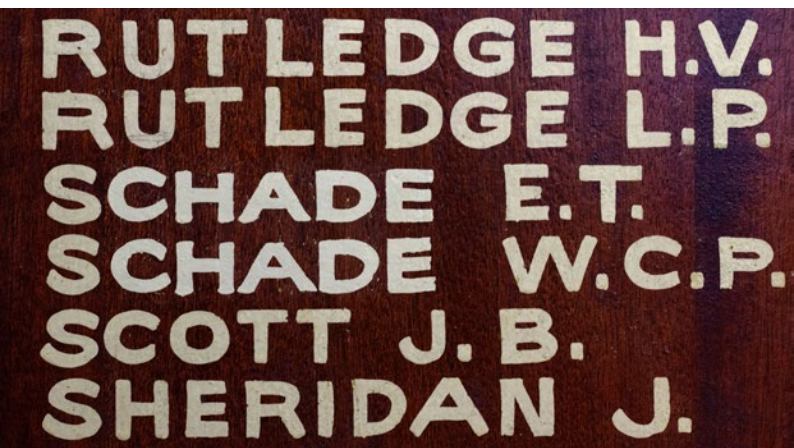
Norman Callaway was a talented young cricketer who was born in Hay. He was playing cricket with adults when he was in primary school. Norman's batting average was better than Sir Donald Bradman's. When World War I broke out, the talented cricket champion did not hesitate to serve his country. Tragically, he was killed during the war in France and is remembered on the Villers's Bretonneux Memorial.

Rupert Butterworth (Service No. 2126) was a school teacher at Hay Public School when he enlisted in the war. He died in 1917 at the battle for Polygon Wood. He is remembered by name on the Menin Gate as he has no known grave.

Lorna Whyte (Service No. NFX 180288) was a World War II nurse who enlisted in 1941. She was originally working in Rabul, Papua New Guinea when she was captured and sent to Tokyo, Japan as a Prisoner of War (POW). She was one of the few POWs who survived. She eventually married and lived a happy life in New Zealand with her husband.

Most towns in Australia gave their soldiers a medal or similar memento upon their return to their area. Booligal, Maude, Carrathool and Hay all had their own medals. This photo is of the Hay District Medal and was given to R W Shears on his return from the Great War.





About 1000 citizens from the Hay district enlisted for WWII. The museum also commemorates and acknowledges soldiers from the district who served in later conflicts like the Vietnam War and the Korean War. It also acknowledges the ex-students who have served as peacekeepers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Timor.



Edward Twemlow Schade (Service No. 443832) was in the Royal Australian Airforce as an NCO and William Charles Pritchard Schade (Service No. NX 87828) was in the AIF (Australian Imperial Forces).

In 2016, an enthusiastic group of Hay locals travelled to Europe and Gallipoli to visit the areas where the Hay Australian soldiers had fought. The group visited the soldiers' graves and remembered those who had so willingly given up their lives for their country.

We have just given a snapshot of some of our district's amazing volunteers who served their country. There are so many more stories in the museum.

Pro Tanto Quid Retribuemus
For so much, what shall we repay



School Song

Words written by Alex C. Welsh (Former Staff Member)

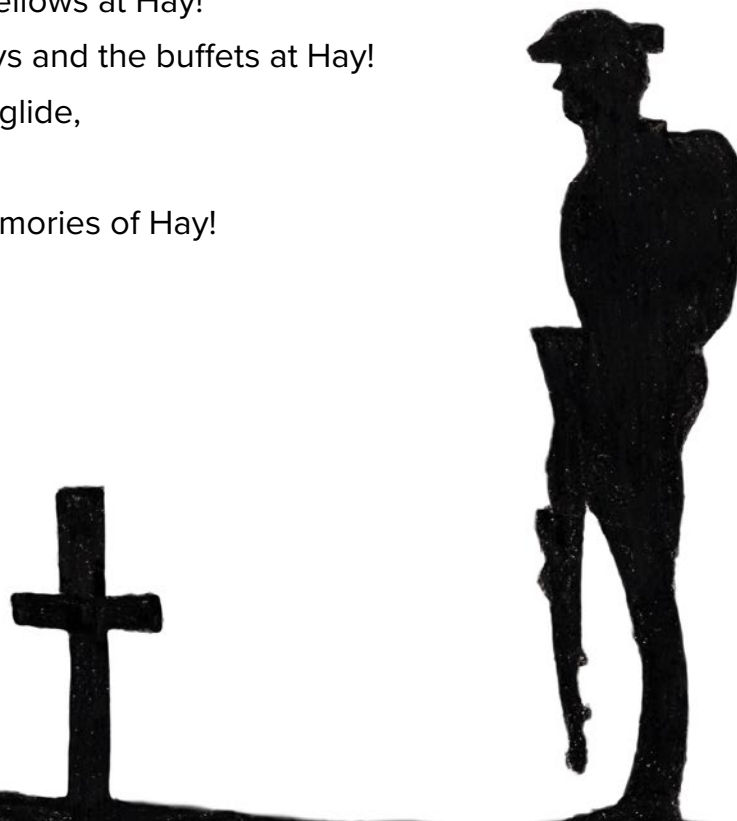
Sung to the tune of Welsh National Anthem

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau or Land Of Our Fathers

Composed by James James in 1856

They went forth to battle with bright dauntless eyes,
They left home and school and fair Riverine skies,
Though they fall in the race, every man ere he dies,
Has flung us his torch here at Hay
Hay! Hay! off like the wind with it, Hay!
Strain muscle and thew,
That torch must win through!
"For so much what shall we repay?"

The wounds of a friend and the blows that hit true,
The men that built better for us than we knew,
The foes that we fought, till they dear to us grew
We'll remember the fellows at Hay!
Hay! Hay! Oh! The joys and the buffets at Hay!
As the years onward glide,
Whatever betide,
We'll treasure the memories of Hay!



William Jackson V.C.

John William Alexander Jackson was born on 13 September 1897 on 'Glengower' Station at Gunbar. On 15 February 1915 William Jackson enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces in the first group of volunteers from Gunbar. On 20 August he was landed at Gallipoli and fought at Kaiakij Aghala (Hill 60). On April 10 1916 Jackson's Division took over a forward position in the eastern Armentieres section of the Western Front. On the night of 25 June 1916 the events took place which won the Victoria Cross for the young soldier from Gunbar.



"For Conspicuous Bravery"



He was returning from a successful raid, when several members of the party were seriously wounded by shell fire in No Man's Land. Private Jackson returned safely, handed over a prisoner, and immediately went back under the heaviest shell fire, and assisted in bringing in a wounded man. He went out again, and assisted a sergeant to bring in another wounded man. Then a shell blew off Jackson's arm, and rendered the sergeant unconscious. Private Jackson returned to the trenches, obtained assistance, and went out to look for two wounded comrades. His work was always marked by the greatest coolness and bravery. He set a splendid example of pluck and determination.

William Jackson remains the youngest Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross and his was the first VC to be won by an Australian on the Western Front.

Museum III: Hay Gaol

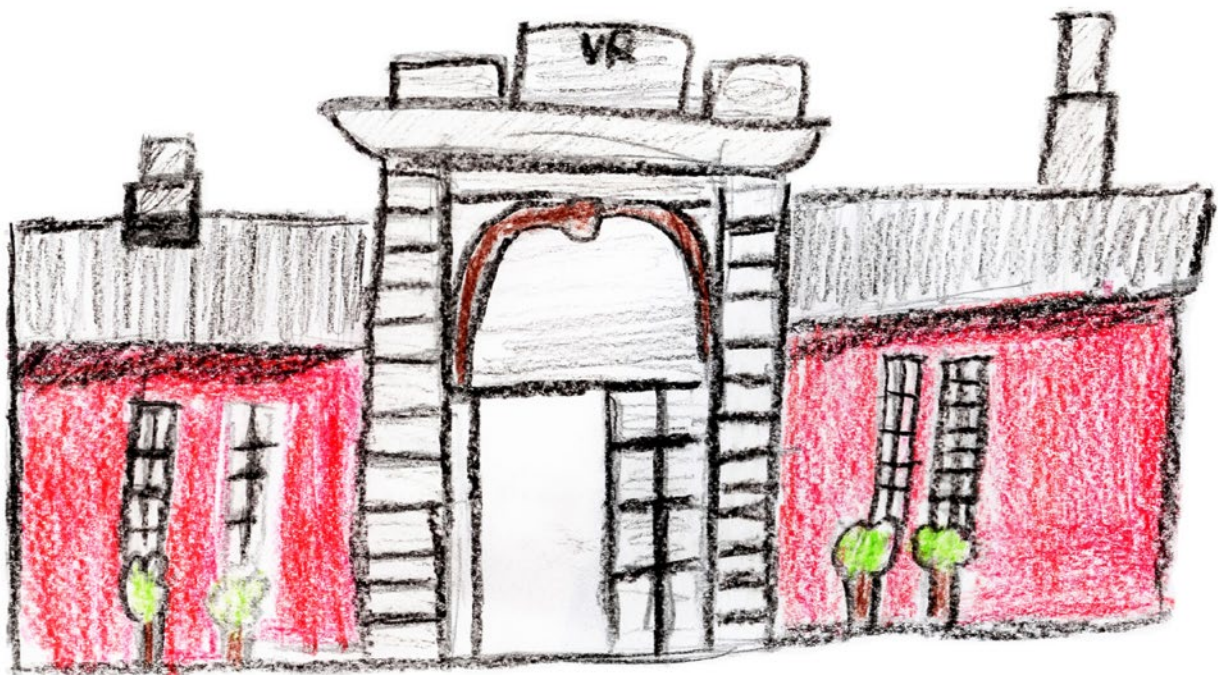


150 years ago, in 1870, where the Hay Post Office now stands today, there used to be a police lock-up with two cells. It was the first Hay Gaol.

During 1878, there was a large increase in the number of prisoners kept at Hay – 192 entries just for that year. This led to a new Gaol being built in Church Street by the local building firm, The Witcombe Brothers during 1879–80.

The Gaol was built from red bricks which were all made locally and had to be baked in the sun. They contained sand, lime and mortar. The perimeter of the Gaol is five metres high with two guard towers placed at diagonally opposite corners of the perimeter wall.

The main cell block contained 14 cells that included two for the women and young girls. Each cell was nine feet–nine inches by ten feet–two inches with cement floors. It was freezing in winter and boiling in summer! There was also a solitary confinement cell (pictured left), mess hall, kitchen, meeting room and officer's residence.



In the late 1880s the Gaol was opened for male offenders for short and long-term sentences from the surrounding districts. The work during these sentences would have included chopping wood and breaking-up cement.

In 1882, the first gaoler, Ghiblim Everett, was appointed and his wife was the matron of the Gaol. There were four wardens as well as a senior warden. Lights were installed in 1899.

Twice a week library books, school books and slates were issued to well-behaved prisoners.

The only prisoner to escape the Gaol yard was Robert Chapman (alias Murray) in 1891.

By 1902 the cost of running the Gaol had increased to 281 pounds a year. It was a very expensive Gaol to run; double the cost of some other Gaols. The staff and prisoners grew vegetables around the walls in order to try and cut costs.

Eventually in 1915, the number of prisoners had fallen to three and they were supervised by four staff. It was costing £698 per year. It was decided that the Hay Gaol was 'no longer useful' and was officially closed on 30th June 1915



GAOL WALL
CREDIT: ANNA LAUER



CREDIT: ANNA LAUER

Between the two wars the Hay Gaol was used to assist the Hay community with medical needs. It was able to isolate patients during a local outbreak of the 1919 worldwide Spanish Flu epidemic.

From 1921–1928 it was turned into a Red Cross maternity hospital. The two rooms at the front entrance became the wards and the old hospital area.

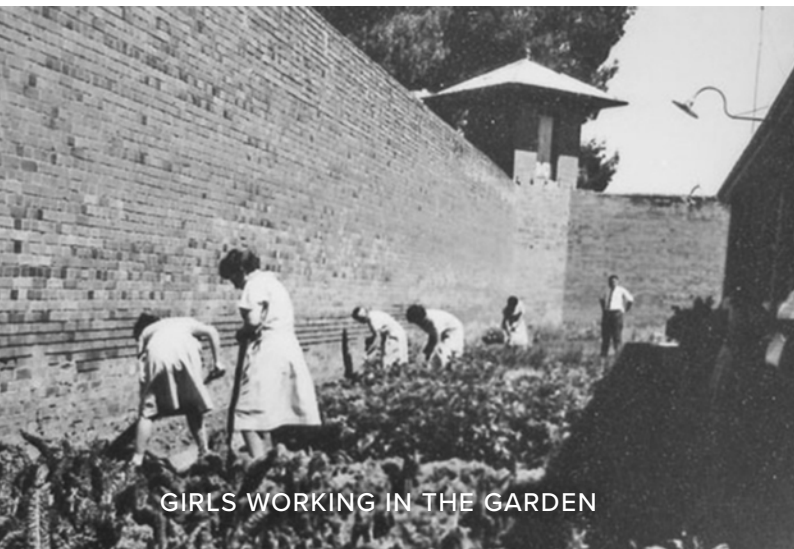
The first matron was Rose Ann Sweeney who arrived on the 11th November 1921. She remained in charge of the maternity hospital after it moved to a new location in Hay.



CREDIT: ANNA LAUER



MATRON ROSE SWEENEY (MIDDLE)



GIRLS WORKING IN THE GARDEN



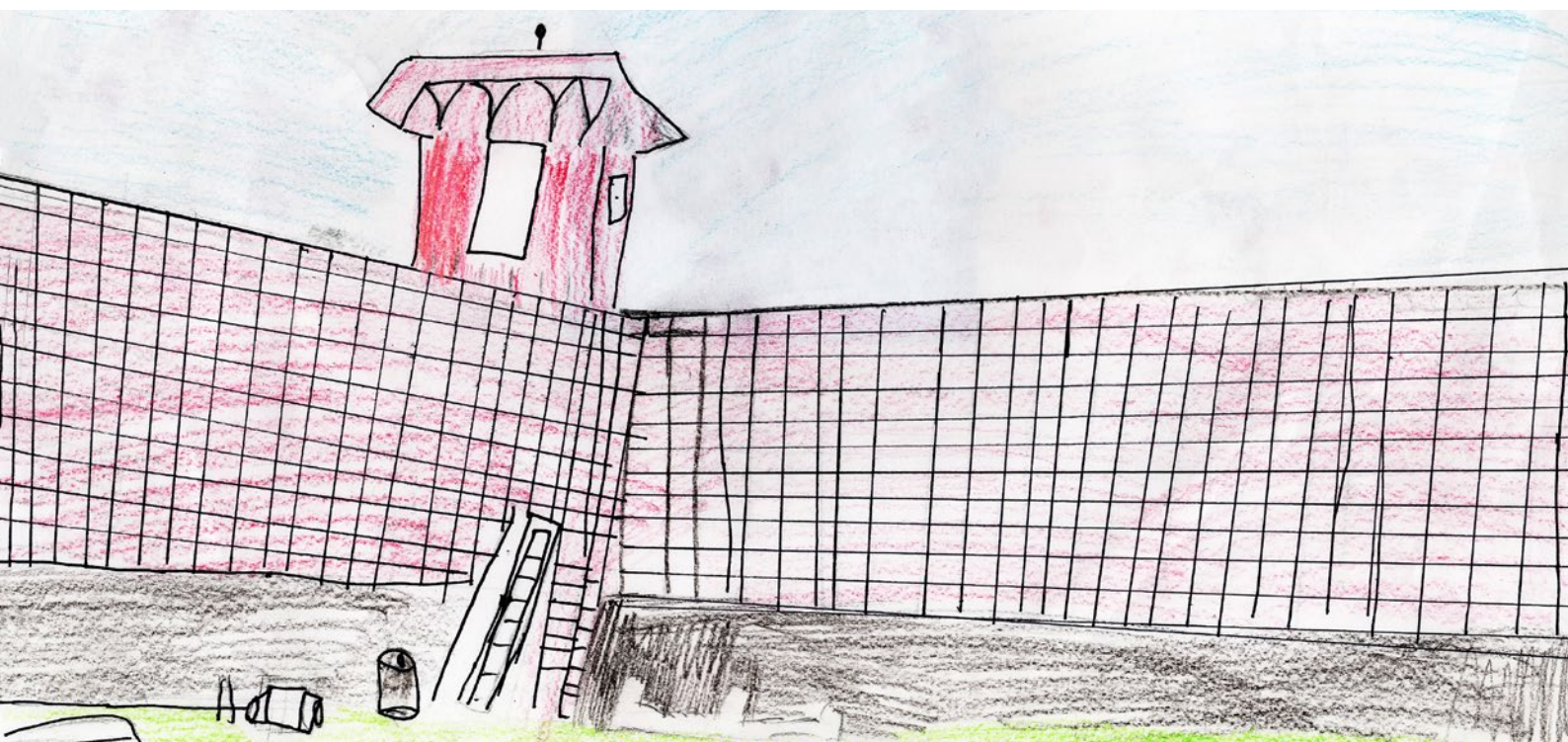
OFFICER'S RESIDENCE
CREDIT: ANNA LAUER

In 1930, the Hay Gaol became a Lock Hospital for the insane. The state's Gaols at the time were congested because of a new 'Consorting Act' which gave police more power to convict well-known prisoners.

During this time there was one escape. The prisoner's name was Reginald Arthur Dawson. He was a prisoner employed as a cook. He climbed the walls of the Gaol, using a rope made from towels and a poker. He was captured in a paddock five days later.

The Hay Gaol held these prisoners while the magistrate made a decision as to whether they needed committing to an insane asylum or could be released.

In September 1940, all the prisoners were moved so that it could be used by the army during the second World War.



During World War II, Hay was used as a Prisoner of War and Internment centre because of its isolation. Three high security camps were constructed in Hay — one near the present day hospital site, one near the present day gun club and a third camp near the present day loading ramps at the saleyards.

The Hay Gaol became part of this internment/POW centre and was used as a detention and hospitalisation facility. Any POW internees that were either sick or had misbehaved were brought from the three camps to the Gaol.

The internees that came to Hay consisted of refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria, Italian and Japanese civilians considered 'enemy aliens', Italian and Japanese POWs.

Sergeant Hajime Toyoshima (also known as Tadao Minami) was the first Japanese POW captured on Australian soil after the Darwin bombing. He was first imprisoned at the Hay Gaol.

In 1946 (a year after WWII ended) POWs from the camps around Hay were progressively released or transferred to other camps.

Today the Hay Gaol is one of only a few buildings remaining in Hay associated with the camps and is on the original site and in almost the same condition.

The Hay Gaol was shut down by the army on 31st October 1947.

The Gaol was used for emergency housing during the 1952 and 1956 floods and as accommodation for Italian workers in town to build the new sewerage system.



From 1961 to 1974 the Hay Gaol was managed by the NSW Child Welfare Department as a maximum security institute for girls between thirteen and eighteen years old. It was known as The Hay Institution for Girls. The girls came from The Parramatta Girls home in Sydney. In 1961 there had been rioting at the Parramatta Girls' home so they took the girls involved in the rioting to Hay for three month sentences.

The girls sent to Hay were drugged and removed from Parramatta at night. From Sydney they were transferred to Narrandera on the overnight train and moved to the back of a van for the final leg of the journey into Hay. The Hay Gaol Museum has this van in its collection still to this day.

Once they arrived at Hay they were subject to cruel routine and discipline. They had to have their eyes looking down all the time, they were only allowed ten minutes a day to talk between themselves. They worked hard, scrubbing, painting, cleaning, cooking, washing, laying concrete paths, tending vegetable plots and gardens and doing handicrafts.

The blocks were unprepared for the girls when they arrived in 1961 due to years of disuse. They had to scrub and paint the walls and floors of the cells, shabby from years of neglect.



Girls who misbehaved were confined to the isolation block in the Gaol courtyard for 24 hours periods, fed on nothing but bread and either water or milk.

In their cells at night the girls were made to sleep on their side, facing the door so that when they were checked by guards, every twenty minutes to half an hour, their faces could be seen.

In mid-1974, after public opinion and reports questioned the appropriateness of housing children in institutions, the Hay Gaol was closed. Locals around Hay had much concern about the Gaol and reported screams from within its wall. The ABC television show 'This Day Tonight' screened a program regarding concerns of abuse.

Many girls who were survivors of the Hay Gaol returned for a reunion of the Girls in 2007. Thirty eight former girl inmates returned.



On 6th June 1975, the Hay Gaol and its surrounding land and buildings were handed over to the people of Hay for development as a museum and cultural centre. It is now managed by a volunteer committee who work very hard to care for its heritage.

The entrance to the Gaol is an impressive and imposing gateway, with solid, double wooden doors and an inset of a smaller door. Within the Gaol, 14 cells still remain that have small barred windows and thick iron doors with peep holes.

There is a free-standing solitary confinement cell that stands in the centre of the compound. Additionally, a gaoler's residence and an officer's residence are located outside the Gaol at the front of the building.

The services block is an L-shaped structure with a verandah. It contains the kitchen, hospital, dispensary, bathroom, store and large workshop. Rainwater from the roofs was collected in a large underground tank.

The Gaol has been inspected for paranormal activity but no ghosts have been found. However, many who pass through the gates of the Gaol feel another presence, although no-one has ever been reported dying at the Gaol.

The Gaol contains many artefacts that have been donated by the public and companies. This includes a big, 30-foot windmill from Queensland, which is on display. Several dolls made by the girls in the institution are on display as well as handcuffs and clothing.



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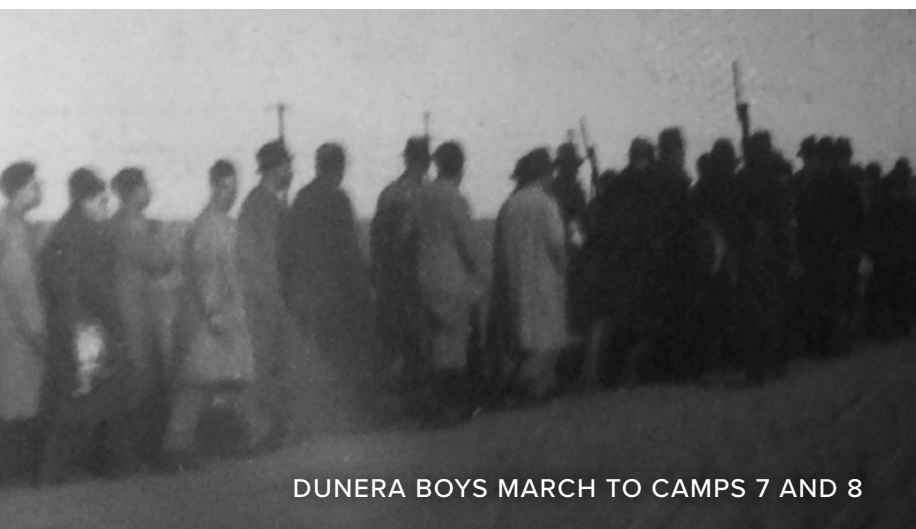
Museum IV: Dunera Prisoner of War Camp

The Hay Internment and Prisoner of War (POW) camps were established during World War II for seven different groups of civilians and enemy aliens. There were three camps of 1,000 men each. These POW camps were built in Hay mainly because of the regional isolation and transport access (railway station). Three high-security camps were constructed in 1940.



The first group of camps built in 1940 were for civilian refugees who had fled Nazi-Germany occupied Europe from 1933. Many had made their way from Germany, Austria and Italy to England. When World War II broke out, even though they were refugees, they were considered the enemy. There were between 80–90,000 refugees. To help with the sheer numbers, Britain asked Australia and Canada to set up concentration camps to house many of them. HMT Dunera, a British passenger ship, transported 1,984 men from England to Australia where they were sent to Camps 7 and 8 in Hay. These men are known as the 'Dunera Boys' and over 100 of them were 16 year old school boys.

Following the Italian Declaration of War on the British Empire in July 1940, Camp 6 was opened in November for the Italian—Australian citizens who were thought of as 'enemy aliens'.





The first ship that many of the internees were sent on from England, was the Arandora Star. It had nearly 2,000 internees and was torpedoed in the Irish Sea and 900 drowned.

Franz Stampfl was one of those refugees. He survived the torpedoing of the Arandora Star and was forced to tread water for nine hours before being rescued and taken to Liverpool. The following week he was put on the HMT (Hired Military Transport) Dunera and was returned to sea. The sea was crawling with German U-boats. Three torpedoes were fired at the HMT Dunera – one missed, one went parallel to the boat and one went underneath. It lifted the ship one metre high.

The internees were kept in conditions on board the HMT Dunera that were cruel and inhumane. After the war, the HMT Dunera story became quite infamous, leading the British government to court-martial five of the crew, including the captain, for their mistreatment of innocent civilian refugees.

The HMT Dunera was named after a town in India. The British Shipping Company usually named their ships after towns in the British Empire.

The HMT Dunera was overloaded with over 2,000 passengers. The Dunera Boys were placed in the hull and in hammocks. They thought they would be drowned in the hull of the boat. There were old English soldiers on the boat from WWI, and because the Jewish refugees had German passports, the English soldiers treated them like Nazis. They abused them, made them walk on broken glass and threw their personal belongings overboard. Unbelievably, and fortunately, there were no personal Jewish books aboard so none could be thrown overboard. The German captains of submarines saw the belongings floating in the wake of the ship and thought that German civilians were aboard the HMT Dunera (not Jewish Germans), so word went back to Berlin – Don't sink the Dunera!

On Friday 6th September 1940, the HMT Dunera arrived in Sydney, a year since Germany had declared war on Poland. The Dunera Boys got off at Pyrmont Wharf 21. This wharf was chosen as it was the only one that still had a railway line going right to it.

There were four steam trains, with twelve old corridor, suburban carriages from Sydney, waiting to take the Dunera Boys on a nineteen-hour non-stop trip to Hay. The 500 Nazi soldiers and Italian fascists who had survived the sinking of the Arandora Star were sent to Tatura. Many of the old Dunera Boys said that they didn't set foot on Australian soil until they arrived in Hay because they were taken from the wharf, which hung over the water, straight onto a train and didn't disembark until they reached Hay.

Many Dunera Boys said when they got on the train it was the first time in their lives they had been treated like human beings. They had been treated badly on the ship and only fed cheap fish (herring). Whereas when they got on the train, they were given a packet of sandwiches and even a fresh apple, which some of the younger boys had never before eaten.

The Australian guards on the train were very relaxed as they knew they were not Nazis. One story tells of old Australian guards, who had been World War I soldiers, asking the Dunera Boys to hold their guns while they rolled their cigarettes. After enduring Nazi mistreatment, this seemed incredible to the Dunera Boys.

The internees arrived at Hay on 7th September 1940 by four trains from Sydney. They were interned in Camps 7 and 8 (located near the Hay showground) under the guard of the 16th Garrison Battalion of the Australian Army.





POW CAMP 2 (Australian War Memorial Museum)



ITALIAN POWs (Australian War Memorial Museum)

The food at the Hay camps was pretty good. A 600 acre Hay Prison Farm was established by the Italian internees who had arrived at the camp in November 1940, many being farmers from North Queensland.

Over the next few months, 600 Japanese Caledonian civilian internees arrived from French New Caledonia where they had migrated in 1897. These were civilians who had grown up and worked there for 50 years. France was worried that they were Nazi sympathisers and ordered them to be sent away to the Australian POW camp at Hay. Any Japanese civilians were also sent. One man who was an internee at the camp, was of Japanese descent. He had moved to New Caledonia when he was young, married a French Pacific islander and they had eight children. As he was of Japanese descent, he was considered an enemy alien and was also sent to Hay where he tragically died of pleurisy in 1942.



POW MESS (Australian War Memorial Museum)



POW CAMP 8 (Australian War Memorial Museum)

Most of the Dunera Boys who went back to England and joined the British Army had to Anglicise their names, so if they were captured by the Nazis they wouldn't be executed as German traitors.

One such German Jew was Barney Barnett (born Horst Adolph Blumenthal in Berlin). He was sent back to Europe and fought in the D-Day landing and then in the Battle of the Bulge. He often dreamed about his 'holiday camp' back in Hay. Barney was captured at the Battle of the Bulge by the Germans and interrogated by a German Officer who was a good man and abided by the rules of war. He asked Barney "You're Jewish aren't you?" Barney thought he was going to be executed so close to the end of the war, however he replied, "Yes, I am Jewish-German. I was born in Berlin and fled to England". The German Officer said "Stay by my side and do not leave me and you will be safe." Barney became an interpreter after the war at the war crimes tribunals.



In November 1940, the other compound at Hay, Camp 6 (near the Hay Hospital), was occupied by Italian civilian internees. Camps 7 and 8 were emptied in May 1941 when the Dunera internees left Hay; some were sent to Orange (NSW), others to Tatura in Victoria. As the Dunera Boys were not Nazis but Jewish refugees escaping the persecution of the German Nazis, they were also allowed to join the Pioneer Corps of the Australian Army.

Upon their departure, 2,000 Italian soldiers who were POWs captured in North Africa arrived at Hay and were placed in Camps 7 and 8. They had been captured for fighting for Mussolini against the allies. Some Italian civilians who were living in Australia were also interned if they hadn't become naturalised to Australia. At night the residents closer to the camp in Murray Street could hear the Italian prisoners singing.

In December 1941, Japanese internees were taken from Thursday Island in Queensland and Broome in Western Australia, and placed in Hay's Camp 6. In April 1942, the River Farm began operating on the eastern edge of the town, allowing market-gardening and other farm activities to be carried out by the Italian internees and POWs.

Japanese airman Hajime Toyoshima, was the first ever foreign soldier to be captured on Australian soil. Shrapnel hit his plane's fuel tank and he crashed on the Tiwi Islands. He was captured by the local Aboriginal people and handed over to the Army. Toyoshima was sent to Melbourne for interrogation by the Australian Military, hoping they would find what the Japanese were planning in the Australian territories. He was sent to Hay as the first Japanese POW captured in the war and shortly afterwards, with four Japanese airman who had crash landed in the ocean, was sent from Hay to Cowra.

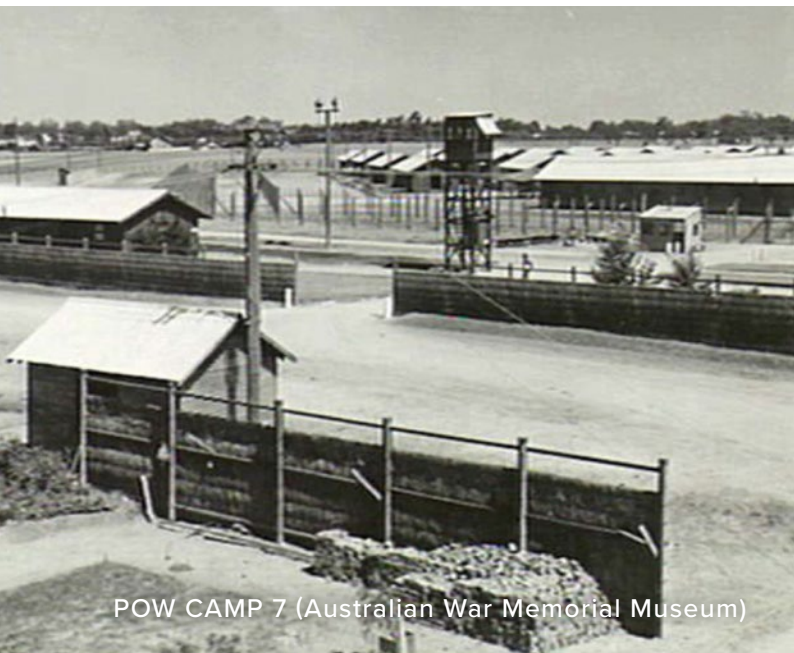
In August 1944, Japanese POWs at Cowra were told that they were to be transferred to Hay POW camps. This led to the infamous Japanese Cowra breakout, when 231 escaping Japanese POWs were killed or committed suicide and five Australian guards were killed. Toyoshima was the prisoner who blew the brass bugle to signal the breakout and was killed during this event. After the breakout, some 600 of the Japanese POWs from Cowra were sent to Hay. They arrived in caged utilities with guards carrying rifles. This was very daunting for the residents of Hay.



JAPANESE GRAVE (Australian War Memorial Museum)

In June 1945, there was a threatened breakout at Hay by the Japanese POWs but no-one was killed. It was very scary for the Hay community, especially after the Cowra breakout. Mr David Houston's father was a keen target shooter and waited on top of the roof of his house in Lachlan Street, anticipating he would have to 'pick 'em off' as the escaping Japanese POWs fled down the street. His agitated wife eventually made him come down, worried he might fall and break his neck. West Hay was evacuated to the safety of a church and town hall. It was the scariest night of many of the townsfolk's lives.

12 months later, on 1st March 1946, all of the Hay Japanese POWs departed Hay in five trains. They were transferred to Tatura POW camps in Victoria and some who were suspected as 'war criminals' were sent to strong detention centres.



POW CAMP 7 (Australian War Memorial Museum)



POW CAMP (Australian War Memorial Museum)

During the war, trenches were dug in the school grounds at Hay Public School, Hay War Memorial High School and St Mary's School. After the bombing of Darwin in Feb 1942, it was feared that the Hay camps would be bombed, freeing the Japanese POWs. Hay's Garrison members received a manual to identify Japanese planes. Fortunately, the trenches were never needed, in fact they became quite dangerous as some of the students fell in them and broke their collar bones.

At the end of the war, the Dunera Boys, Italian POWs and civilians, and the Japanese prisoners were sent back to their respective countries.

During 1946, the Italians who remained at Hay were progressively released or transferred to other camps. The Hay camps were dismantled with building materials and fittings sold off by June the following year.

HMT Dunera survived the war. She was converted into a passenger ship for students, before eventually being decommissioned in 1967.



The Dunera Boys and many of the other internees who stayed in Australia, had an enormous influence on Australian life in terms of economic, cultural and social ways.

In 1990, the Dunera Boys and the Hay Shire Council had the first Dunera Boys Hay Reunion for the 50th Anniversary of the camps and the boys arriving in Australia. The reunion was set on the railway station where the initial trains came into town. It was decided that this would be an excellent place for the museum, which would consist of two railway carriages (a third was added in 2002) that were refurbished to hold the history and artefacts of the Dunera Boys, the Italian civilians and POWs and the Japanese civilians from Australia and New Caledonia as well as the Japanese POWs from South East Asia and the Pacific.

Each year, the Dunera Day in Hay weekend is celebrated around the 7th September. The arrival by train is re-enacted on the station. Other important days are also commemorated during the year such as Toyoshima Day in March, Italia day in May, Breakout and Escape Day in June, 16th Garrison Battalion day in July, Oz Aliens Day in November (representing the German, Italian and Japanese civilian residents in Australia called 'enemy aliens' – they were not soldiers or POWs).

There are no descendants of the Dunera Boys in Hay, many of the 900 that stayed and settled in Australia went to Melbourne. One such man was Justice Struss a former Chief Judge in the Federal Court of Australia.

Some Italian POWs returned to Australia after the war and settled in Griffith and other popular Italian locations throughout Australia. Italian internees were released and most returned to their homes and families in Australia.



Museum V: Australian Shearers Hall of Fame

The Australian Shearers Hall of Fame honours shearers whose skill, character and contribution to the shearing industry has been exceptional. The beautiful building which is an interpretive museum was built nearly 20 years ago. In 1998, a group of enthusiastic Hay locals formed a committee to bring to life a museum that could acknowledge the shearers who kept the wool industry going in Australia.

For many years Australia has 'ridden on the sheep's back'. This means that much of Australia's wealth has come from the sale of wool overseas and the jobs that the industry brings to the country.

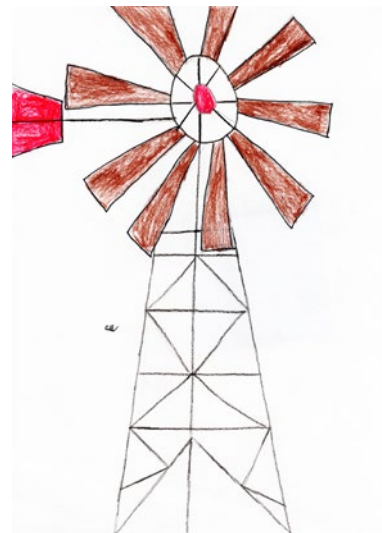




Shearing is very hard work. There is a team of people who work together in the shearing sheds all over the country to shear the sheep and bring the wool to market:

- The **farmers** (or graziers)
- The **stockmen** brings the sheep to the shed with the grazier
- The **shearers** shear the sheep
- The **rouseabouts** gather the wool after it has been shorn
- The **classer** sorts the wool into different categories so they can be sold to buyers who want that particular line of wool – e.g. fleece, crutchings, pieces, skirtings etc. to make more money
- The **presser** puts the wool into a big electric wool press and presses it into bales
- The **expert** keeps the engines and the gear running
- The **cooks** feed the shearing teams when they are 'camping out' on remote properties.





Shearing is a very tough, physical job. On average, shearers shear about 140—160 sheep a day. A 'gun' shearer can shear 200 sheep per day. Competition shearers can shear 300 per day, but this would be impossible to do every day.

There are many shearing competitions where records for the amount of sheep shorn are set. The records have to be strictly monitored and controlled and there are many different records set for different types of sheep and different types of wool shorn. There are also records set for the two different types of shearing – blade shearing and electric shearing.

Blade shearing is the old fashioned way of shearing before generators and electricity came to sheds. Blade shears (pictured below left) look like big scissors and the nickname for blade shearing is actually 'glorified scissors'.

Electric shearing is where the handpiece (pictured below right) is connected to an electric machine run by a generator or connected to the electricity. The handpiece has a comb and cutters which move through the wool. The wool is shorn close to the skin so that the most wool possible can be removed in one piece called the staple. The staples are connected together and make up the fleece of the sheep.



A day for a shearer begins very early. Often the shearer has to travel out to the shed which could easily be 50km or even 100km from home. Often shearers will camp out on remote properties with a team so that they don't have to travel so far. The team will need a cook so that they can have big meals to keep their bodies going for work.

A day in the life of a shearer

- They start work at 7.30am. They might stop for a five minute break at 8.30am and then shear again till 9.30am.
- At 9.30am they stop for morning smoko.
- At 10.00am they start again. At 11.00am they might stop for a five minute break then shear until 12 noon.
- At 12 noon they have lunch, sharpen their cutters and combs from their handpiece and stretch their backs out on the floor boards of the shearing shed.
- At 1.00pm they start again, stopping for a five minute break at 2.00pm and then shear until 3.00pm.
- At 3.00pm they have afternoon smoko.
- They start again at 3.30pm, stopping for about 5 minutes at 4.30pm and then shear until 5.30pm.
- They call 'time' at 5.30pm and get their combs, cutters and tools ready for the next day when the same hard work starts again.



Each shearer has their own stand where he shears. The stand consists of an area of the floor, a shearing machine and a chute where they push the sheep down when they are finished. The sheep are counted out at the bottom of the shed and careful tallies are kept to show how many sheep each shearer has shorn. These numbers are written in a shed book which the grazier and contractor (the person in charge of the shearing team) tally together at the end.

The sheep vary and some are easier to shear than others. There are meat sheep, whose wool is not as good quality but is easier to shear, such as Border Leicesters or White Suffolks. Then there are wool sheep, such as Merinos whose wool is much more valuable but a lot harder and trickier to shear. Often wool has burrs and prickles in it, which makes it really hard for the shearers to hold. Eventually their hands become very tough.

Each shearer is paid according to the amount of sheep he or she shears in a day. Rams are the biggest sheep and the cost per ram for shearing is double that of other sheep.

The wool can be sold to local and overseas markets to make jumpers, carpets, suits and many more things. The finer the wool staple micron, the more expensive the wool.

The equipment that a shearer uses is very important. They need to have sharp cutters and combs and use oil to lubricate their shearing handpiece and machine. They need a sling so they can support their back and they wear shearing dungarees that are comfortable but can also protect their legs from the prickles and burrs in the wool. They also need a pair of shearing moccasins to wear, that again are comfortable and keep their feet flat on the ground.



The Shearers Hall of Fame aims to promote and celebrate the shearing industry as well as hold schools to train beginning shearers. It also aims to educate tourists about the shearing industry.

The committee wanted to build a shearing shed where they could show tourists how a sheep was shorn as well as train new shearers entering the industry. In 1999, the committee were offered the Murray Downs Woolshed as the shed to be part of Shear Outback. The shed was carefully pulled down and packed onto a semitrailer and brought to Hay where it was in storage for two years while the site and the museum were established. It was then restored to its original design.

The museum now consists of an interpretive museum, a fully operational shearing shed, a sheep pen maze, a huge windmill and rainwater tanks, and also a café where visitors can purchase meals that are fit for a shearer. Shearers' meals always have to contain plenty of carbohydrates, protein and calcium.

The museum was designed by Paul Berkemeier and was based on the design for a shearing shed.





The Festival of the Blades is held every two years at Shear Outback. Each time, five shearers are inducted into the Shearers Hall of Fame. A committee consisting of people from the shearing industry, from each state in Australia, selects the inductees.

The Australian Shearers Hall of Fame records the stories of the shearers and honours the individuals who through their skill and commitment have returned more to shearing than they have taken.

Inductees are the subject of research and collection by Shear Outback, as part of its role in preserving and interpreting the history and culture of Australian shearing.



The first inductee to the Shearers Hall of Fame was Jack 'Jackie' Howe. Jack Howe is famous for his extraordinary shearing performances in the shearing sheds of central Queensland in 1892.

During October, at Alice Downs north of Blackall, Jack shored 1,437 Merino sheep over five days, and it is reported to be a feat which remains unbroken. He was just starting to warm up because in the following week he set a new record, shearing 321 Merino sheep in seven hours and forty minutes.

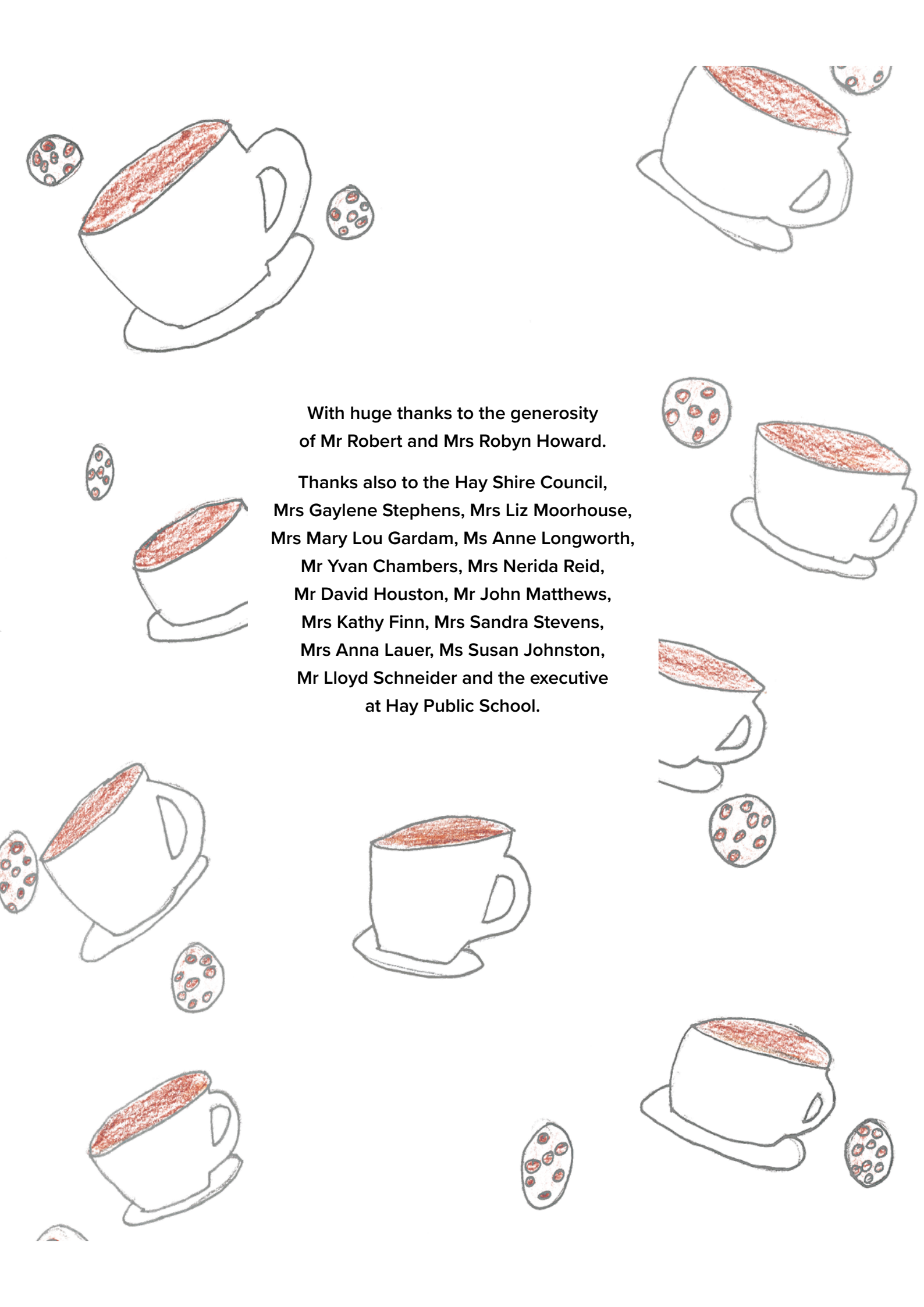
Before the invention of the shearing hand piece, Jack established those records using blade shears. His record of 321 sheep in a day remained intact until 1950.

With the introduction of shearing machines, Jack shored 326 Merino sheep in one day, establishing a new record when he was on the board at Barcaldine Downs, Barcaldine. The new technology was developed by Frederick Wolseley and Robert Savage.

The blue singlet that many shearers wear (and many Australians) is named after Jackie Howe. He ripped the sleeves off his shirt one day while he was shearing as he said it was much cooler and easier to shear in.

The hand piece presented to Jack Howe by the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company in January 1893 is held at Shear Outback's museum, along with many, many other artefacts from the shearing industry such as singlets, shearing belts, shearing ribbons and books.



The background of the page is decorated with several hand-drawn illustrations of white coffee cups with red foam and round cookies with red spots. The cups are scattered around the central text, and the cookies are placed near the cups and in the open spaces.

With huge thanks to the generosity
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