

WWDHS NEWSLETTER No. 438 August-Sept. 2019

ISSN 2207-1016

MEETINGS Aug-Sept 2019

Monday 19 August 2019

Committee Meeting 1.30 pm
General Meeting, 2.30 pm Historic
Council Chambers (HCC), see below

Monday 16 Sept 2019: HCC

Committee: 1.30 pm
Annual General Meeting: **2.30 pm**
General Meeting: following AGM
Guest Speaker: Luke Grealy
See over (page 2) for details

OTHER MEETINGS August-September 2019

16 August (Friday): Wagga Antiques Society

Talk by Robert Haywood (also a member of Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society) on Historical Anecdotes of Europe, ARCC, 131 Tarcutta Street, 8 pm

21 August (Wednesday): Wagga Wagga and District Family History Society

Talk by Luke Grealy on the Museum of the Riverina's Re-development, held at 24 Tarakan Street (at the corner of Bardia Street) at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: The time of the monthly meeting on Monday 19 August 2019 has been changed from the evening to earlier in the day (to avoid coming out on a cold dark evening). Committee Meeting: 1.30 p.m. and General Meeting: 2.30 p.m. It will still be held at Historic Council Chambers at the corner of Baylis Street and Morrow Street. The Café opposite the Glass/Art Gallery will be open so members can grab a cuppa if they wish. The Guest Speaker will be Michelle Maddison from the Museum of the Riverina.

WWDHS Patron: Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and the Federal Member for Riverina,

WAGGA WAGGA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
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Committee meetings: 3rd Monday of the month

General meetings: 3rd Monday of the month

Annual Subscriptions: Single: \$20, Couple: \$30.
Corporate: \$50. Due by 1st July each year.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 16 September 2019

Please Note the change in the TIMES for the Meetings

The Society's AGM will be held on Monday 16 Sept 2019 at the Museum of the Riverina, Historic Council Chambers site, at the corner of Baylis Street and Morrow Street:

Committee meeting at 1:30pm

Annual General Meeting at 2:30pm

General meeting to follow AGM, where Luke Grealy will be our guest speaker.

All committee positions will be declared vacant. A nomination form to nominate President, Secretary, Treasurer or Committee member has been included in the mail out of the newsletter.

WG HUTHWAITE AND CO, STAFF IN 1956



Back row: Tom McDonnell, Ian Gilbert, Charlie Shaw, Allan Davey, Bill Nash, Max Murley, unknown, Pat Couzner, Alf Booth, Alva Hopkins, Percy Witt, unknown, Ernie White

Second back row: Steve Barron, George Bain, Fred O'Keefe, Sonny Bourne, Charlie Blackburn, Tom Silver, Joe Sheather, Micky Turner, Michael Fitzpatrick (Mick), Fred Hoffman, Alf Robinson

Third back row: Jenny Cowley (later McNamara??), unknown, unknown, unknown, Dorothy 'Dossie' Parr (later Howell), Mrs Price, Olive Passlow, unknown, unknown, Joy Andrews, unknown

Fourth back row: Helen Lucas (Mohr), Yvonne Rynehart, Marie Verdon (Blackburn), unknown, Isabel McMullen (Wooden), Barbara Dunlop, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Mrs Ryan, Mr Peattie

Fifth back row: Scotty Ledwidge, Gordon Wright, George Brown, Roger Pederby, Barney Greenway, Bill Tipping, Arthur Dalla, Ralph Heinrich, Bill Thompson

Front row: Lorraine Mantell (Whyte), unknown, unknown, Millis Henman (Macklan), Jenny McNamara, unknown, Hazel ?, Margaret Grogan (McGlynn), unknown.

IF ANYONE KNOWS THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE 'UNKNOWN'S' OR COULD CORRECT ANY OTHER NAMES IF INCORRECT PLEASE EMAIL

sherryjmorris@me.com **THANK YOU!**

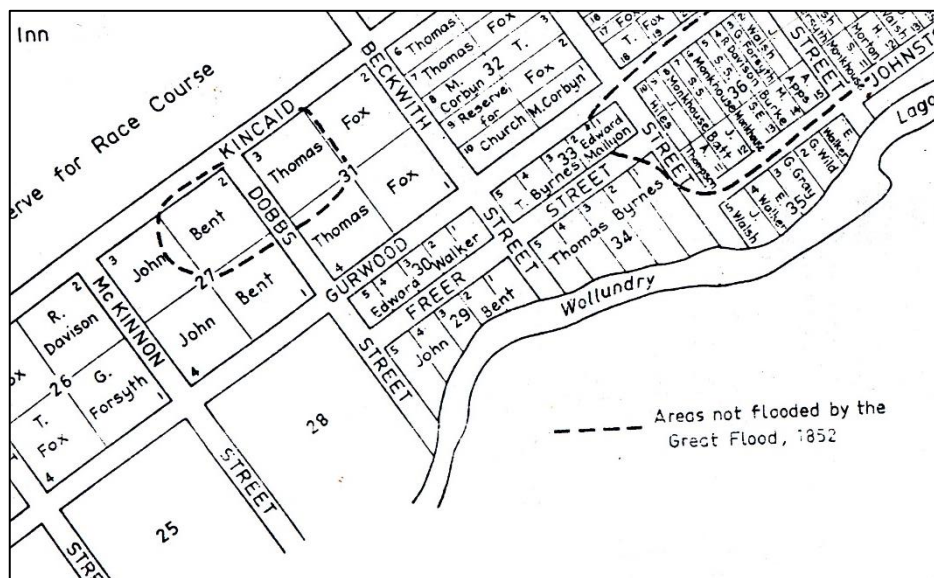
‘GOONIGAL’ AND ITS RESIDENTS, 1855-1958

FROM HOMESTEAD TO RSL CLUB

By Sherry Morris

‘Goonigul’ (an Aboriginal word meaning ‘plain’) was a fine, stately, old-fashioned roomy house, standing on a well-appointed garden with vines and fruit trees at the corner of Kincaid Street and Dobbs Street, Wagga Wagga.

It had once formed part of a four-hectare site (originally four suburban lots about a hectare each, part of Section 27) purchased by John Bent at an auction held in Wagga Wagga on 21 September 1855. Bent was the 34-year-old brother of Mary Peter of Gumly Gumly and had been managing a property at North Yanco for his brother-in-law, well-known local magistrate John Peter. Later Bent worked as the Wagga Wagga to Balranald mail contractor.



Section 27, Wagga Wagga, 1857, four suburban blocks owned by John Bent

The four-hectare site was later purchased by Henry Baylis, the first police magistrate in Wagga Wagga. Born in Edinburgh Scotland, Baylis had only been five years of age when he had arrived in Sydney with his father, Lieutenant Thomas Henry Baylis (a former lieutenant in the 17th regiment) on the *Edinburgh Castle* on 21 June 1831. After attending Kings' School at Parramatta, he had tried a variety of occupations. For four years, he had trained in the legal office of the Fitzhardinge family in Sydney. Then he had become a pastoralist with his father at 'Capertee' in the Mudgee district and had overlanded horses to Adelaide in 1849. He had even tried his luck on the goldfields.

Eventually, he decided to settle down, entering the public service as a clerk of petty sessions at Hartley on 8 August 1852. On 29 January 1857 he married twenty-four-year old, Sybella Murray, a daughter of James Murray and Wilhelmina Reid, born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland.



Above: Sybella (left) and Henry Baylis (right)

On 1 January 1858 Henry was appointed Wagga Wagga's first police magistrate. He arrived in Wagga Wagga alone after travelling cross country riding one horse and leading another. After settling in, he brought his young wife Sybella and his baby son James in a spring cart to live with him in a crude slab building.

As the senior government official in the town, Baylis had a variety of tasks to perform. As well as the clerk of petty sessions, he was the local land agent, the road superintendent and the coroner. Although some locals may have considered him arrogant, forthright and overbearing, he felt he was a natural leader of most of the movements in town. He was secretary of the National School Board in Wagga Wagga, a vice-president of the hospital committee, a founder of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club and one of the first trustees of the racecourse. He was also a director of the private company, the Wagga Wagga Bridge Company, which financed the first bridge over the Murrumbidgee River at Wagga Wagga; and he was a prominent member of Saint John's Church of England and of the Mechanics Institute. Sybella strongly supported the Presbyterian Church in Wagga Wagga; and laid the foundation stone of St Andrew's Manse in 1889. Henry and Sybella had nine children, eight boys, James John, Harold Murray, Frederick, Robert D., Henry George, A.C.L., Alfred Stephen and a daughter, Wilhelmina.

As he was such an important person in the community and he had a large family, Baylis soon decided he needed a more impressive home. He therefore acquired the site in the 1870s. He built 'Goonigal' on Lot 2 facing Dobbs Street on a small sandhill well above flood height.

Sybella died in Armidale at the residence of her niece, Mrs Watt, in March 1891. Henry lived at Goonigal until his retirement in 1896 at the age of seventy. He then moved to Sydney the following year to live his latter years with his daughter, Wilhemina (Minnie) Garland of Summer Hill, Ashfield. He died in July 1905. He was returning from his duties as a member of the Old Age Pensioner Board at Parramatta when he was killed by a passing train at Homebush.¹



'Goonigal', the Baylis homestead and surroundings, early 20th century



The Baylis family, Christmas 1890, probably at 'Goonigal'. Henry Baylis is in the centre with Sybella on his left. James, their oldest son is on the extreme right in the back row.

Charles Hawthorne Croaker

The unassuming and unostentatious C. H. Croaker and his family then took up residence at 'Goonigul'. A stock and station agent at the corner of Gurwood and Fitzmaurice Street (then the business centre of Wagga Wagga), Croaker was one of the most popular men in the Riverina, well known as a stalwart, genial gentlemen with a cheery voice and a hearty laugh.

Charles was a member of a well-known and highly respected family. His grandfather, also named Charles, had emigrated from England as early as 1834. His father, Charles George, had taken up land at 'Cundle' on the Manning River and had married Mary Ann Hawthorne on 24 May 1848. Charles, their eldest child, was born at Port Macquarie on 3 September the following year. His siblings were born every second year after that: Frederick James (1850). Henry (1852), Emma (1854), Annette Harriet (1856) and Mary Louisa (1858).

After his mother died in 1859, when Charles was only ten years old, his father moved the family to the Hunter River district. On the death of his father in 1868, Charles entered the Bank of NSW. His keen business instincts and methodical commercial habits led to his rapid promotion. He spent several years in Gympie, Queensland, and here met his wife, Isabella, the daughter of Inspector Lloyd, a well-known and popular police officer in Queensland. They were married at St Peter's Church, Gympie, on 1 June 1875.

By the mid-1870s he was appointed manager of the Adelong branch and then the Tumut branch and on 20 January 1878 he was transferred as Manager to the Wagga Wagga branch. On 4 May four years later he retired from the banking business after fifteen years' experience, more than half of them as manager. He then established his business as a stock, station and commission agent but later became partners with J. D. Edmondson and J. S. Lupton in the firm of Edmondson and Co. When Edmondson retired he continued with Lupton under the old title.

For several years the family lived in Edward Street in what was known as Darlow's Paddock, one of only two residences between the Best Street Railway Gates and Albury Road (the Darlows lived in the other residence).

The enthusiastic Charles entered into all movements and enterprises and had an enormous influence on the Wagga Wagga district. As Secretary of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association from 1888 until 1892 he performed perhaps his greatest work in the interest of Wagga Wagga and district. He was an indefatigable worker. He popularised the Association by reducing its membership fees from £2/2/- to £1 and added the word 'Agricultural' to its title. He extended its sphere of influence and eventually raised it from a comparatively lowly position to one where it vied for prominence with the leading pastoral and agricultural institutions of the colony.

He was elected an Alderman of the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council on 3 February 1885 and remained in office for six years. He was elected Mayor on 6 February 1890 and was still Mayor when Lord and Lady Carrington attended the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Show on 6 September that year. In addition, he took an active part in political matters in the district and was a tower of strength to any cause he espoused. With George Coleman he conducted strenuous campaigns on behalf of George Dibbs in the years he represented the Murrumbidgee district (1887-1891); and he was an ardent Federalist. He was also a member of the District School Board, Vice President of the Hospital Committee and Secretary of the Riverine Club.

An active sportsman, Charles was especially interested in the turf. He owned a few racehorses, his best horse being 'Ready Money', son of 'Guinea' and 'Morceau' whom he bred. He won the Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC) Sires Produce Stakes, the Narrandera Nursery Handicap, the Cootamundra Cup and the Town Plate. He was joint Secretary of the MTC with J. A. Bellair for many years and worked might and main for it with marked success. He was a Vice President of the Coursing Club in the 1890s.

In his earlier days he also played cricket. Not long after his arrival in Wagga Wagga he was chosen in the Murrumbidgee District 22 which played the Australian XI in March 1878. Like his teammates, he was extremely nervous at facing up to the 'crack bowlers of the century' and made only one run in the first innings and six in the second (the third highest score)! Later he was concerned more with the administration of cricket in the district, a Wagga Cricket Club committeeman in the 1880s and then President of the Wagga Cricket Association from 1891. He did play in one important match in 1890 when he represented the 'best in youthful days' team against 'the best in Wagga now' team and top scored with twenty-seven runs!

Charles also tried the new game of golf in the 1890s. When a golf club was formed in 1895 and a few holes put down on the MTC Racecourse, he was elected the first President and re-elected in May 1896. He was also Vice President of the first Rugby Football Club and Vice President of the Wagga Football Association.

He died on 17 June 1898 from influenza with complications at the comparatively early age of forty-nine. His death, according to the *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 'cast a gloom over the town and district'. The funeral procession left 'Goonigal' with over two hundred fully occupied vehicles and ninety horsemen who came from all parts of the district. Along the route many groups of people had gathered to watch the passage of the cortege and at the cemetery a large crowd had already assembled. It was estimated that about 2000 people were present. He was buried in the Anglican Section of the Wagga Cemetery after a service conducted by the Reverend G.A. Carver.

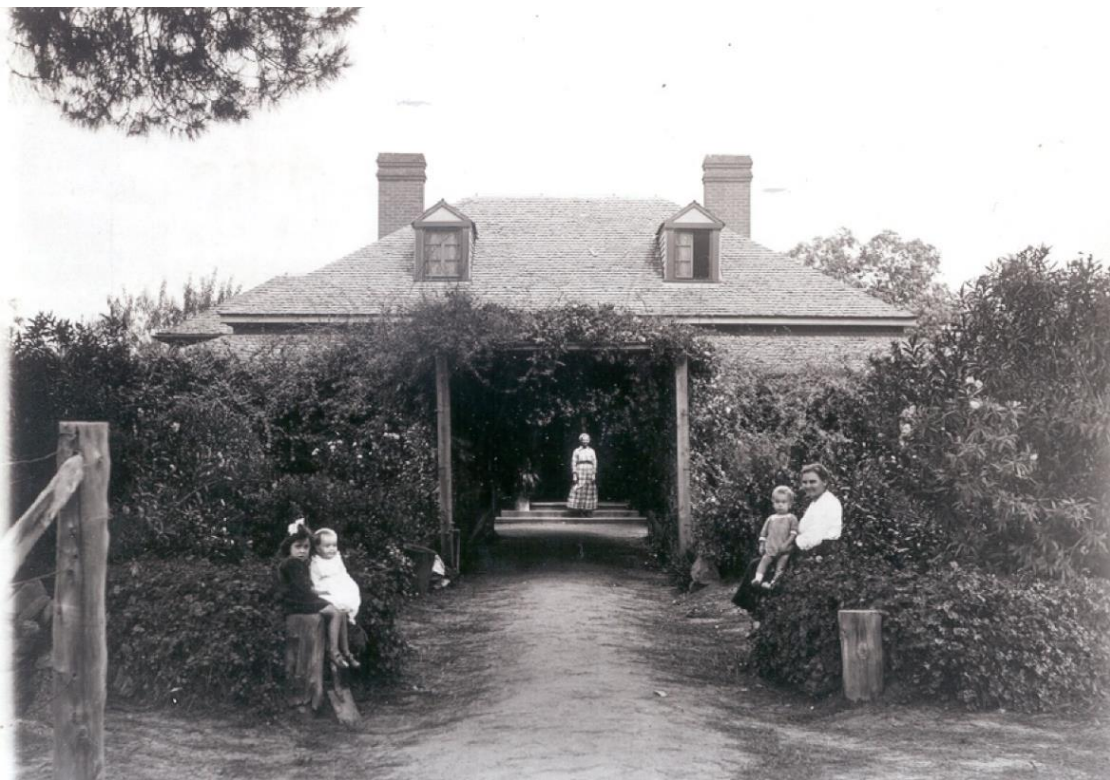


Above: Charles and Isabella Croaker

On 24 June 1898, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall to decide on a memorial to perpetuate his memory. The Fund closed at £400 in July 1899, but it was felt it would have been more except for the depressed economic circumstances at the time. Charles was survived by his widow and eight children. His eldest son, John (aged twenty) was already with his grandfather Lloyd in Queensland. His son, Samuel, left Wagga soon after his death and was associated with several stations in northern New South Wales and Queensland until his death in July 1919. Richard moved to Sydney and Robert to Ourimbah. All three daughters married and moved to Queensland and so did his widow. Only his second son, Frederick Henry, remained in Wagga.

When general improvements were made at the Showground after the Second World War it was decided to rename the Catholic United Services Auxiliary (CUSA) hut (which had been built for the use of the soldiers at Kapooka) after Charles Hawthorne Croaker and his son, Frederick Henry. Croaker Street in Turvey Park also perpetuates their memory.

Just two months after his death, all his furniture and effects from 'Goonigal' were sold at auction as well as a mulch cow and a bay pony. According to the *Daily Advertiser*, he had chosen his furniture with great care and judgment and at considerable expense from the drawing, dining and bed rooms and the library to the kitchen and stable.²

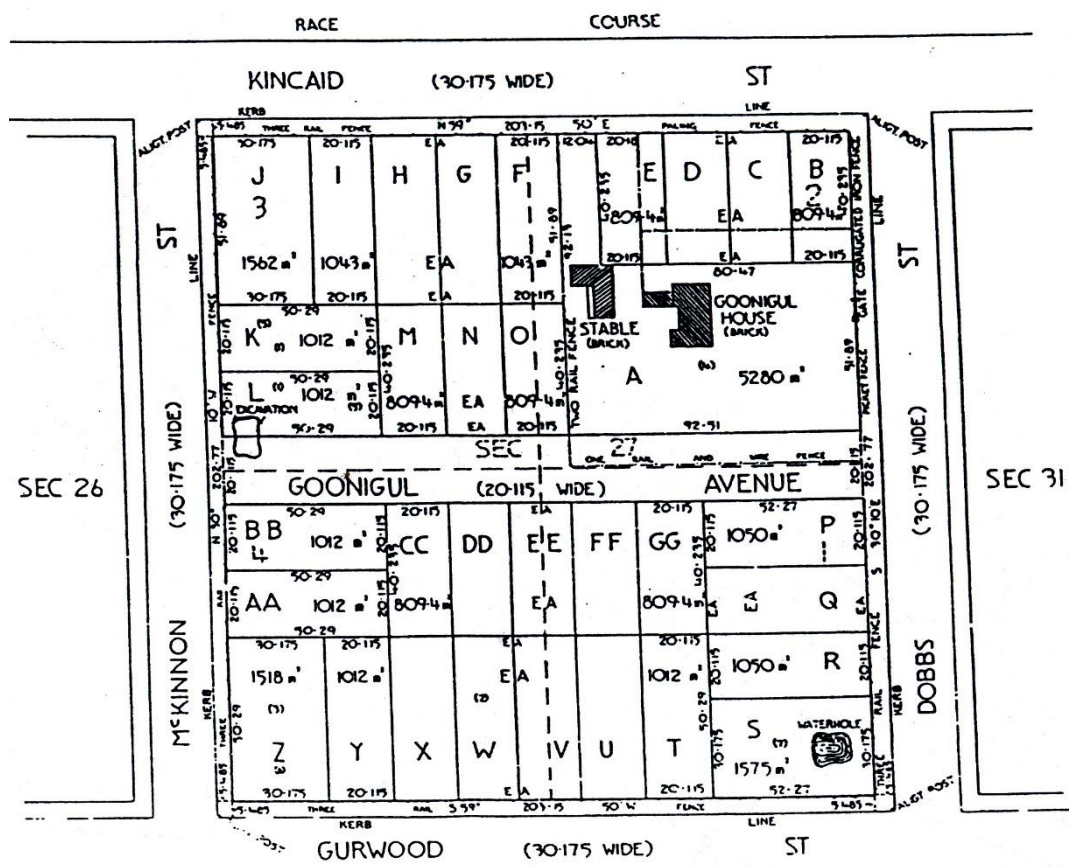


Above: 'Goonigal' in the early 20th Century

Henry Weir Graeme

After Charles Croaker died, 'Goonigal' became the residence of H. W. Graeme, a Surveyor with the Department of Lands. Born in Beechworth, Victoria, on 31 May 1859, he was the son of Henry Graeme and Susan Mary Grimes. Graeme had commenced working for the department in head office on in February 1883 as a 'Licensed Surveyor on temporary salary'. By 1885 he was a second-class surveyor. He was transferred to the Maitland Land District, where he married Alice Tyrell, the daughter of Archdeacon Tyrell of Newcastle, on 16 January 1886. The family moved from Maitland to Wagga Wagga in September 1898. Graeme remained at Goonigal until October 1905. He was appointed District Surveyor at Hay in 1911 and later filled the same position at Armidale (1919-1923). He died in the Lister Private Hospital in Sydney in October 1925, leaving a widow, two sons (Harry and Roy) and two daughters (Alice Mary and Emma Monica) as well as a younger brother.³

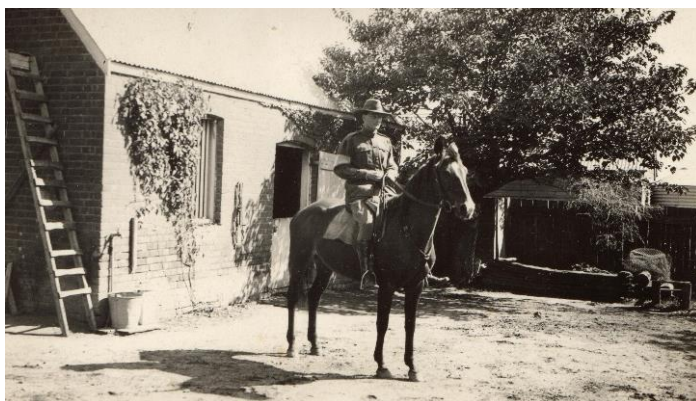
In November 1905, Goonigal (four hectares with a large brick dwelling, stable, coachhouse and outbuildings) was auctioned by Meurant and Blake at the Pastoral Hotel under the instruction of the executors of the estate of the late Henry Baylis. It was passed in for subdivision and a new street, Goonigal Avenue, was made through the block. It was again passed in, July 1906.⁴



Above: Plan of Subdivision of Section 27, Town of South Wagga Wagga, Parish of South Wagga Wagga, County of Wynyard, 1905-1906, when a new street was made through the block

James John Baylis

Eventually 'Goonigal' was purchased in November 1906 by James J. Baylis, eldest son of the late Henry Baylis. James had attended the first National School in Wagga Wagga from the age of four and by the age of twenty had passed his Licensed Surveyors' Exam. He had assisted his father with his well-known stud at 'Goonigul' and later moved to Narrandera (Goonabra Stud Farm) where he followed pastoral pursuits and in particular the breeding of shorthorn cattle, as well as surveying. He was a member of the Land Board at Narrandera and held other public offices. He was appointed Licensing Magistrate for the Licensing District of Narrandera on 17 December 1896; he was a prominent member of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association and President 1913-1914 and president of the same association in Narrandera for eight years. He was also a judge of shorthorn cattle at the Royal Sydney Show.



Above left: James John Baylis. Above right: Henry Bonfield Baylis, James' only son at 'Goonigal' on his Arabian horse called 'Abdul'. Henry served in the 8th Field Ambulance in the First World War.

After purchasing his late father's home, James resided there for several years. He then advertised it for sale by auction on 6 March 1920 with almost a hectare of land and four stalled stables. After it was subdivided and sold in May 1920 James Baylis moved to Euroa, Victoria, near his only son, Henry. He died at Euroa on 2 April 1928 at the age of seventy.⁵

Henry and Jessie Rogers

'Goonigal' was purchased by Henry Rogers, a grazier from 'Back Brewarrana', and his wife Jessie, by 27 May 1920. Son of Jeremiah, Henry was born in the Monaro district c1849. He moved to Goulburn at the age of three and then to 'Back Brewarrana' at the age of 11. He and his younger brother Jeremiah (also known as 'Rod') later took over the management of the property. He married Jessie Davenport at Narrandera on 23 December 1895. Jeremiah died in Manly (Sydney) on Christmas Day 1925 at the age of 70.

On 21 February 1927, the property was transferred from Henry (by then a retired grazier) to his wife Jessie. Henry died at 'Back Brewarrina' just over two years later, on 9 April 1929.

In May 1935, Jessie Rogers transferred the house and land (over twenty-five acres) to Mary Agnes Horsley.⁶

The Horsleys

The Horsley family had owned the 'Yabtree' station on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River east of Wagga Wagga from about 1859. On the death of Richard Frederick Horsley in 1891, 'Yabtree', well-known for its fine woolled stud sheep, had been inherited by Richard Frederick Lachlan Horsley. Richard married Mary Agnes McCaig, a former teacher, in January the following year.

They couple had eight children: Mabel Ella (1892), Frederick Lachlan (1895), Ivy (1896) Gwyn Mary (1898), William Wallace (1920), Richard Neville (1901), Joan (1909) and Patricia Meg, known as 'Meg' (1911). The children were well known for their sporting ability and were all popular racing enthusiasts throughout the southern district.

When Richard Frederick Lachlan Horsley died in 1925, Yabtree station passed to the three sons. Frederick Lachlan (who had been managing the property since his return from the First World War in 1919) remained at Yabtree. Wallace named his portion 'Gundillawah'. Richard Neville, a Prisoner of War for four years in Germany, on his return sold his portion (which he named 'Yaven') to members of the family before he died in 1947. Mary and the girls remained on the property until Frederick Lachlan married in 1935.

On her son's marriage, Mary Agnes Horsley purchased 'Goonigal' from Jessie Rogers and retired into Wagga Wagga with her daughters. The ladies hosted many parties, Bridge afternoons and other successful functions at Goonigal, mainly to raise funds, for example, for Lewishan Hospital (later Calvary Hospital) and for the war effort. In 1938 the Horsley girls who had several horses running in the Wagga Gold Cup Meeting hosted a cocktail party at, 'Goonigal'. When Joan married Trooper J. M. (Mark) Watts of Wagga Wagga in June 1942 at St Michael's Cathedral, the reception was held at 'Goonigal'. The girls continued to ride in various picnic races including the Laverstock Grass Trial Stakes at the Yass Picnic Races in which for the first time only lady riders were allowed.

Mary Anne died in Calvary Hospital in December 1954 at the age of 84. Just over four months later, the Horsleys, who were keen to assist the returned soldiers and were strong supporters of the Wagga Wagga sub-branch of the RSL, accepted the offer of the sub-branch of £14,500 for the Goonigal property on 13 May 1955.⁷



Above left: Goonigal when the Horsleys moved in. Above left: Meg Horsley at the rear of Goonigal.



Mary Agnes Horsley with visiting American Servicemen at the front of 'Goonigal' during the Second World War.

RSL Club

After the site was surveyed in September 1955, several trees were removed including seven from the Kincaid Street entrance to the garage, and a palm tree in the small courtyard at the rear of the house. A tank stand and several hedges were also removed. The existing shed and shelter were demolished and old bricks were retained for use on the new shed which was to have a four-inch thick reinforced concrete floor slab. Osborne and McGrath were contracted to carry out earthworks and to build the concrete retaining walls for the bowling greens and tennis courts. Work began on the two bowling greens in 1956 under the guidance of B. C. (Butcher) Nixon. Although delayed several months by the floods, one of the greens was ready for play by April 1957. A second green was sown later. Two tennis courts were also constructed.

Plans for the proposed new clubhouse had been drawn by Stephen O'Halloran by January 1956. Leighton Brothers commenced work on the new building (in front of 'Goonigal' alongside the two recently-completed bowling greens) on 1 October 1957. Foundations were excavated and the front and side verandahs of the existing building demolished. According to the plans, there would be two storeys, a basement which was level with the bowling greens with a storeroom, cool room, dining room, locker room, bowler's lounge and a bar and a top section which was level with the existing house with an entrance foyer, a billiard room (with space for table tennis and carpet bowls and screens for motion pictures) separated from the main club lounge by sliding doors which could be moved aside to make one large room for large social functions. The main club lounge was to overlook the bowling green and have a public-address system and gas heating. The main entrance room was to be in Kincaid Street and the existing section used as manager's flat, boardroom, dining room and kitchen.

The new club was completed on 1 April 1958 and was officially opened by the President of the New South Wales Branch of the RSSAILA William (Bill) Yeo on 24 May 1958. The president of the club was then A. E. Dixon while the president of sub-branch was A. L. Baker. The two bowling greens were officially opened by T. S. (Tom) Shakespeare, the president of the Royal

New South Wales Bowling Association (and senior representative of the Combined Bowling Clubs in the state) on 30 August 1958.



'Goonigal' prior to the construction of the Club. The bowling greens are being prepared. The excavation in front of the verandah became the lower lounge while the verandah became the site of the bar.



The new RSL Club in 1958 with the 'Goonigal' homestead still visible at the rear



The Wagga Wagga RSL Club, 1965

When later additions were made to provide more dining and dancing facilities in the early 1960s, Stephen O'Halloran, the architect pointed out that it would be uneconomical to include the existing old residence in the future club. The club's main bar was situated where Goonigal's verandah had been positioned. Only a portion of Goonigal homestead remained and was used as the caretaker's residence.⁸

¹ James Gormly, *Exploration and Settlement*, first printed 1921, reprinted 2004, pp.188-191; Sherry Morris, *A Delicate Balance: A History of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital*, Wagga Wagga, 1988, pp.6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 17, 25, 32; *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 16 September 1876, 2 April 1891, 20, 30 June 1896, 16 July 1896, 11 September 1897, 6 July 1905; *Wagga Wagga Express*, 28 May 1859, 23 June 1859, 10 September 1859, 21 April 1869, 8, 15 August 1874, 28 August 1875, 16 September 1876, 14 October 1916.

² *Daily Advertiser*, 21 July 1915, 25 August 1926, 8 May 1928, 9 January 1985; *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 25 October 1892 (editor), 18, 21, 25 June 1898, 18 August 1898, 26 July 1899; William R Ellis, *Street Names of Wagga Wagga*, Wagga Wagga, 1990.

³ NSW Public Service Lists, 1858-1960; *Daily Advertiser*, 3 November 1925.

⁴ *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 28 November 1905, 10 July 1906.

⁵ *Daily Advertiser*, 12 May 1914, 24 July 1915, 4 May 1920, 18 October 1927, 4 April 1928; *Narrandera Argus*, 30 November 1906; *Wagga Wagga Advertiser*, 22 December 1896.

⁶ *Daily Advertiser*, 11, 13 April 1929.

⁷ *Daily Advertiser*, 13 June 1941, 1 May 1947, 9 December 1954; *Gundagai Independent*, 12 March 1936; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 November 1940; *Town and Country Journal*, 18 June 1942; *Tumut and Adelong Times*, 3 May 1938; *Young Chronicle*, 17 March 1936; Wallace Horsley, "Yabtree" 1829-1972 (143 years), *Journal of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society: People, Properties and Professions*, Number 5, 1982, pp.45-56.

⁸ For more details and references, see Sherry Morris and Harold Fife, *A History of the Wagga RSL Club*, Wagga Wagga, 2001.