

**WWDHS
NEWSLETTER
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Meetings:

July: Nil

August 16: Lunch and Meeting at the Romanos Hotel 12.30 pm

September 20: AGM

**Wagga Wagga and District Family History
Monthly Meeting, 21 July 7.30 p.m.**

Gay Hendriksen, a well known curator, writer and researcher, based in Sydney, will be speaking about the Parramatta Female Factory at the Family History Society rooms in Tarakan Avenue at 7.30 p.m.

All members of the Historical Society are invited to attend.

LUNCH AT ROMANOS HOTEL

The meeting on 16 August will be a combined committee and general meeting at the Romanos Hotel. Lunch at 12 for 12.30 start. The meeting will follow lunch. There will be a guest speaker or a Power Point presentation.

Welcome to new members, Frances Kendall, Mark Christison, Janette Cabot, Linda Shaw, Molly Millington, Steven Cook, Brian Morelli and Alison Roberts.

WWDHS Patron: Michael McCormack M.P.

**WAGGA WAGGA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
PO BOX 90, WAGGA WAGGA. 2650.**

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Annual Subscriptions

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MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due on 1 July 2021. The fees are still \$20 for singles and \$30 for families. Payment can be by cheque or EFT. The Society's bank account: BSB 062600, Account Number, 0080 0270.

Geoff Burch new additions to the society's web page include:

The Bend: this includes several historical items previously located within an area enclosed by a bed in the Murrumbidgee River (the beach area and land to the east of, and including Church Street. They include Wagga's first pound, the original cemetery, Dixieland, the first bowling club and many church buildings.

<https://www.wwdhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Bend-published-20210617.pdf>

A new article tracing the history of the **Mount Austin homestead** is now up on the society's web page. It was named after Michael Austin Donnelly and famous as the location where the murder of Christ Bolger took place. The property is currently on the market.

<https://www.wwdhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Mount-Austin-Homestead-publish-20210526.pdf>

Brian Walsh

Another member, Brian Walsh, has kindly provided an electronic copy of Sylvia Walsh's publication *Neath the Mantle of Saint Michael - Saint Michael's Catholic Church and Parish Wagga Wagga, 1858-1987*. Now accessible on our website at the following URL

https://www.wwdhs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Neath-the-Mantle-of-St-Michael_sylvia-walsh-low-res.pdf

A CORRECTION TO NEWSLETTER No. 447, April-June 2021, p.9

Sergeant Len Fuller in London in 1941 with the Australian High Commissioner, Stanley Bruce, later a Prime Minister of Australia. The caption should have read, 'the Australian High Commissioner, Stanley Bruce, former Prime Minister of Australia'. He was the Prime Minister of Australia from February 1923 to October 1929 and the Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom from February 1933 to October 1945. Thank you Ian Bennett for drawing my attention to the error!



Wagga Wagga City Library

Wagga Wagga City Library advises that the free remote access to ancestry.com, for library members, has been extended until the 31 December 2021.

DR HENRY GARDINER

Dr Henry Gardiner, a member of our Historical Society for 33 years, is now leaving Wagga Wagga to live with his family in Merimbula. Henry has had a very successful career in education and made a significant contribution to our community.

Henry was born near Griffith in 1934. He attended the local Yoogali Village School and Griffith High School and then graduated from the Wagga Wagga Teachers' College with a NSW Teacher's Certificate in 1954. He later added the following degrees, attained at the University of New England in Armidale: a Bachelor of Arts double major in English Literature and Psychology/Education in 1961; MLitt in Literature/Drama in 1963 and 1983; DipEd Admin in 1971; MedAdmin (Hons) in Politics and Education in 1973 and a PhD in Policy Analysis in 1984.

From 1955 until 1963, Henry taught in one-teacher, primary and secondary schools in remote and regional towns and cities in New South Wales. He also taught classes for adult education in departmental evening colleges. From 1964 to 1969 he was a Lecturer in Literacy and in Literature and Drama at the Wagga Teachers' College. From 1970-1971 he was Head of English Literature and Language at Goulburn Teachers' College and later Director of Practice Teaching. He was Vice Principal from 1973 and Deputy Principal of the Goulburn College of Advanced Education (former Goulburn Teachers College) and Acting Principal in 1979.

Henry held many key positions on such bodies as the Charles Sturt University Board of Governors and the Academic Senate (the principal academic body of the University), the Committee of Chairs, NSW/ACT Academic Boards and Senates and he contributed to the development of policy papers in a number of areas.

In 1982 he was appointed as Assistant Deputy Principal of the Riverina College of Advanced Education (former Teachers' College) and from 1984 he was the Dean of Studies for the newly established Charles Sturt University-Riverina. He retired in 1994.

During the formation of Charles Sturt University, Dr Gardiner served as Academic Senate Deputy Chair. He organised agendas, chaired meetings and contributed to major organisational academic structures, such as the Academic Regulations Committee and the Appeals Against Exclusions Committee and he steered the fledgling university into the concept of cross-campus faculties.



He was also a member of the Vice-Chancellor Selection Committee for the recruitment search and appointment processes for Professor Blake, a member of the Board of Directors and the University Foundation and President of the Riverina Management committee for the Foundation (1995-2012). He was also committed to professional bodies supporting educational providers in the region. He was President of the Teachers College Lecturers Association (1965-1969); Wagga Teachers College Alumni Association inaugural secretary (1996); Riverina Institute of TAFE Advisory Committee member (1997); Kurrajong School Board Chairman (1965-1969); President of the Board of Directors for the Riverina Community College Ltd (1990-2013); and President of the Evening and Community Education Council (1998-2001).

He maintained his association with the university, performing the duties of Esquire Bedell at graduation ceremonies for many years from 1995. He supported the development of Charles Sturt University and education in general in our region.

Henry Gardiner was a valued member of the Koorringal Rotary Club for many years. He pioneered many projects including the establishment of the Rotary Peace Monument and Wagga Wagga's Annual Peace Day Ceremony.



Henry Gardiner at the Rotary Peace monument site

Henry and Margaret (pictured right) became members of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society in about March 1988. Henry was elected to the Board of Directors on 18 September that year.

From September 1992 he served either as President or Vice-President of the Society continuously until 2016, a total of 24 years.

In addition, Henry was a member of several sub-committees including the Museum Advisory Committee and the Member De-accessioning Committee. He was Public Officer from about 2011 until 2018.

He was awarded Life Membership in September 2016.



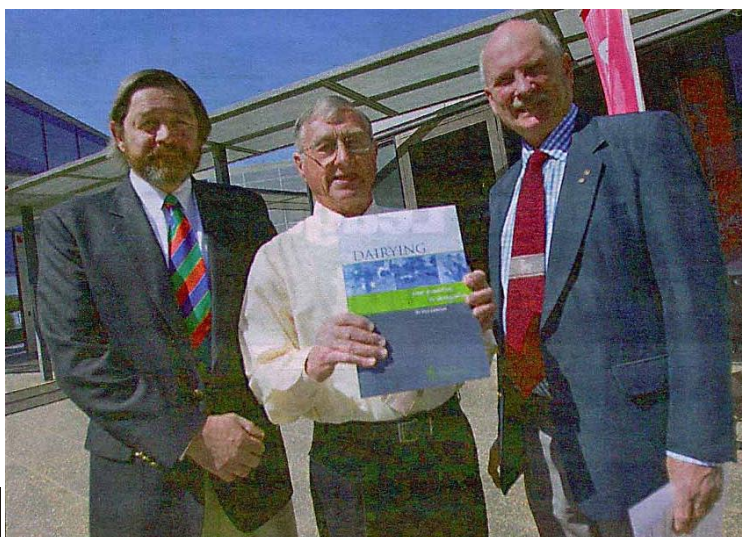
Henry was president at the time of the transfer of the management of the museum to Wagga Wagga City Council. He made sure that the society always had an input into the management of the museum through the establishment of the Museum Advisory Committee. It was also Henry who established the Charles Sturt University Scholarship program and he was actively involved in several reviews of our constitution.



Henry and Margaret enjoyed the Society's excursions. Above left, Henry examining the old Gundagai Bridge. Above right, Margaret and Henry with Robert enjoying after tea at June.

Right: Henry Gardiner at the launch of a book on the dairying industry in southern NSW, written by a member of the Historical Society, Des Cowley (centre). Dairy consultant Lyndon Taylor is on the left and Des Cowley in the centre.

Daily Advertiser, 25 September 2009.



Left: Henry at his last meeting of the Society on 19 April 2021 after he was farewelled by Vice President, Geoff Haddon (pictured) and all of the members present at the meeting.

WE WILL MISS HIM BUT WISH HIM ALL THE BEST

HEPBURN AND LOVETT

By Sherry Morris

John Edward Lovett and John Edward Hepburn, both known as 'Jack', joined the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War and both trained at 2 Service Flying Training School at Forest Hill. Both Jacks married local ladies and both decided to remain in Wagga Wagga after the war. In 1947 they established the well-known local firm, Hepburn and Lovett.

John Edward Lovett

John Edward Lovett was born on 16 October 1920 at Wardell, NSW. He was the son of John Charles Lovett and Stella Jane Foggo who married in September 1910.¹ The family later moved to Stockton. John was an apprentice fitter at BHP Steelworks at Port Waratah, Newcastle, for about four years.

During the Second World War, Jack Lovett enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at the Mobile Unit in Newcastle on 3 June 1940. He was then aged 19 years and eight months. He had dark complexion, blue eyes and black hair. (His photograph taken on enlistment is pictured on the right). After his Recruit Drill Course at Richmond, he was assigned to the Engineering School at Ascot Vale as a trade fitter and soon reached 'satisfactory proficiency'. On 6 May 1941, he was transferred to No.2 Service Training Centre (2 SFTS) at Forest Hill, Wagga Wagga. Here he learnt to fly Avro Ansons. On 13 June 1941, he was transferred to the United Kingdom.



While overseas Jack served with 458 squadron (RAAF) and later with 460 squadron (RAF). He was then, in September 1943, sent to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). After graduating from the RAF Flying School in Canada with a commission, he was awarded his Pilot Flying Badge and posted back to United Kingdom on 11 August 1944 and again attached to the RAF. After four years overseas in the United Kingdom and Canada, Flying Officer Jack Lovett returned home, spending a week at Masau in the Bahamas on his way. He disembarked in Australia on 15 July 1945.²

On his arrival in Wagga, he immediately proceeded to 90 Tarcutta Street, the home of Diana and William (Billy) Stafford Hill and his future bride, Lorna Margaret Hill. Their engagement had already been announced in the *Daily Advertiser*, on 1 May 1943 and in the *Newcastle Morning Herald* on 8 July 1943 while he was still overseas.³ Jack and Lorna were married by Archdeacon S. J. West at St John's Church of England, Wagga Wagga, in September 1945. Lorna 'was gowned in a befrilled period frock of ivory silk net and tulle, caught with orange blossom on the shoulders, over magnolia satin and Chantilly lace, what featured long leg-o-mutton sleeves and a very lovely train falling in cascades from the draped bustled waistline, over which was worn a six-tiered cut tulle veil, held in place with pleated tulle and orange blossom.'⁴ Jack and Lorna had two children, Ian Stafford Lovett in 1949 and Diana Margaret Lovett three years later.⁵

Jack and Lorna lived at 190 Tarcutta Street until they moved to Beckwith Street about 1968. Jack became a well-respected citizen of Wagga. He was elected as the president of the Air Force Association, keen to assist former members of the RAAF in every sphere of life. He believed that it was important to find employment for them, to educate them about Pensions Tribunal and Rehabilitation and to raise finance to support them. In his spare time, he enjoyed a game of golf at the Country Golf Club where his father-in-law was the secretary. The couple enjoyed balls notably the Wagga Diggers Ball at Kyeamba Smith Hall which was attended by 800 people.⁶

John Edward Hepburn



John Edward Hepburn (pictured left) was born in Lismore on 2 August 1922, the elder son of Andrew (Andy) and Flora Hepburn of Dibbs Street, Lismore. He enlisted in the RAAF during the Second World War. While training in Wagga, he frequented the magazine section of Hunters Store in Fitzmaurice Street. There he met Joan Patricia Nixon who had been working in Hunters. Joan, the second daughter of Bertie Clarence (Dick) Nixon and Marjorie Elizabeth Nixon, was born in Wagga on 2 December 1924.

Joan Nixon had attended Gurwood Street Public School and Wagga Wagga High School and worked on the switchboard at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital before she obtained work at Hunters. During the War, she often took servicemen, including John Hepburn, home for a meal. John soon became favourite of the whole family who all called him 'Johnnie'. John Hepburn was later transferred to Melville Island (at the end of 1943 or beginning of 1944) and Joan decided to join the WAAF, then just 18 years of age. She worked in the Medical Section of the Air Force and was mainly stationed at Warburton in the Victorian Alps as an Occupational Therapist, working mainly with soldiers who were suffering Shellshock.⁷

Joan and John were married at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Wagga Wagga on 7 April 1945. The bridesmaids were Joan's sister Nancy and Miss Margaret Cook. The best man was Sergeant Doug Horner and the groomsman was LAC Bill Robinson. From the 1950s to the 1980s the couple lived at 35 Gossett Street in Wagga Wagga.⁸

Hepburn and Lovett

Hepburn and Lovett commenced business in Wagga Wagga in 1947 in an old tin shed in Baretta Lane off Edward Street with a capital of £300. Their first venture was manufacturing pin punches (which removed metal pins from holes) and morse taper drill sleeves (used to reduce or size up morse taper tooling). They used war disposal machinery bought through the Repatriation Depot. By 1948, they began general engineering work and were gradually expanding. By the end of the year, they were advertising for fitters and turners and oxy and electric welders and claimed that their work would be under congenial conditions and 'with the most modern plant in the Riverina'. Early the following year they were advertising for a junior office assistant and for first class turners.⁹

In 1949, Hepburn and Lovett boasted that it carried full stocks of engineering requisites. In that year, Tutt Bryant, a leading national manufacturer and distributor of construction equipment from 1938, announced that Hepburn and Lovett were their authorised dealers in Wagga Wagga

and District and guaranteed their service to the owners. Hepburn and Lovett had a specially equipped service truck so it could provide exclusive mobile service facilities throughout the Mitchell, Illabo, Kyeamba, Gundagai, Coolamon, Lockhart, Tumut and Jindera shires. In October that year it was selling earthmoving equipment, Le Touranead dozers, Power Control Units, Allis Chambers graders, Barter-Greene bucket loaders and ditchers.¹⁰

CRAWLER TRACTOR OWNERS
HAVE YOUR UNIT FITTED WITH SILVER STEERING BOOSTERS

- Eliminate operator fatigue.
- Reduce slipping of clutches.
- Eliminate excessive use of brakes.

Fit Silver Steering Boosters to your tractors and increase machine and operator efficiency by reducing the pull on steering levers from 125 lbs. to as low as 15 lbs. Installed by any mechanic in 30 minutes, the Silver Steering Booster is a simple mechanical spring arrangement.

AVAILABLE FOR ALL
STEERING CLUTCH TYPE TRACTORS
 FROM

Hepburn and Lovett
 GENERAL ENGINEERS,
 BARRETTA LANE, WAGGA. PHONE 3423.

HEPBURN & LOVETT
 Take Pleasure in Inviting You to Inspect Our Stand
 NEAR THE SHEEP PAVILION



Where we are demonstrating part of range of Tutt Bryant equipment including the following:—
 T.B. Junior Post Hole Digger.
 T.B. Utility Saw Bench.



Rex Speed Prime Pumps.
 Allis Chalmers Speed Control Grader.
 Wing and Pilot Engines.
 Lincoln D.C. Welding Plant.

Early advertisements

When coalminers went on strike in 1949 and caused power restrictions in Wagga Wagga, the resourceful owners of Hepburn and Lovett used electric motors driven by a car engine to work their machines. They advertised that they had installed adequate emergency power plant and all their machines – turning, milling, grinding, electric and oxy welding and the tile making machine – were all working.¹¹ In 1950, Hepburn and Lovett moved into new premises in Edward Street and advertised as the 'Riverina Leading Engineering Workshop and Warehouse'.¹² In the 1950s, Hepburn and Lovett branched into merchandising as well as engineering and welding supplies. They sold various sizes of cement, brick and block making machinery for use on building sites.¹³

Riverina's Leading Engineering Workshop and Warehouse
OFFER SPECIALISED SERVICE IN

FITTING AND MACHINING MOWER RECONDITIONING
ELECTRIC WELDING OXY WELDING
MACHINERY INSTALLATION AND REPAIRS

And Can Supply
WELDING EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS' TOOLS
PHOSPHOR BRONZE
ALL TYPES OF ENGINEERS SUPPLIES
 Wrought Iron Gates Made up to Your own Specifications

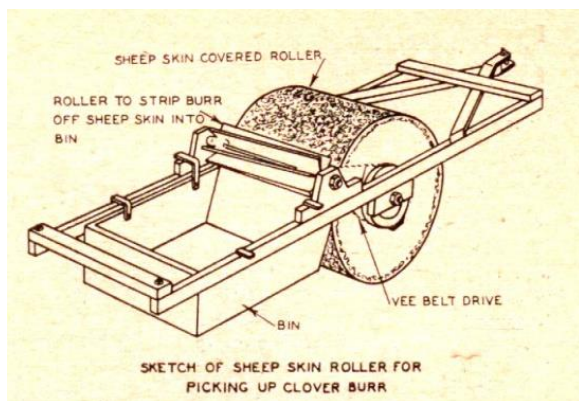
Hepburn & Lovett
 General Engineers
 Edward St., Wagga P.O. Box S101 Phone 3423

Advertisement, Daily Advertiser, 21 June 1950

Heplov Sheepskin Roller

Hepburn and Lovett were also able to design and produce their own products, notably the Heplov Sheepskin Roller. These rollers had been used from the early 1930s, after it was discovered that subterranean clover and superphosphate added to the soil could improve pasture production and deal with weeds (particularly skeleton weed). This led to great increases in wheat yields in following seasons.

The sheepskin-covered rollers were used to harvest the burrs which contained the seed for subterranean clover. They picked up the burrs from scarified ground and a geared and revolving brush then swept the burrs into a hopper. The burrs of clover were then cleaned and sewn to improve the soil fertility. The first sheepskin roller clover harvester was invented and patented in Australia by P.W. Forest of Boyup Brook, Western Australia, in the early 1930s. Hepburn and Lovett, produced its roller in 1952. It was the first plant for clearing and processing clover seed harvesting in Wagga Wagga.¹⁴



Above left: Sketch of a sheep skin covered roller labelling its parts. Above right: A typical sheep skin covered roller. Below: Heplov sheepskin roller.



Sheeprollers at work



Sheep Skin rollers at work



Above: Sheep Skin Rollers in use



Diana Lovett, daughter of John Lovett, one of the inventors of the Heplov Sheepskin Roller at the Museum of the Riverina (Council News, 2 July 2016).

Clover harvesting in the 1950s was one of the Riverina's most lucrative industries (as well as the dirtiest). The roller invented by John Lovett and John Hepburn was an important machine which boosted crop production, particularly wheat, across the Riverina. By 1954 Hepburn and Lovett had also produced a thresher that had an output of twenty-five bags per hour.¹⁵

In 1958, the Hepburn and Lovett building was again too small. When it was extended, it was ten times the size of Hepburn and Lovett's original factory. Hepburn and Lovett had purchased one and a half acres on Lake Albert Road and constructed a new factory on the site.

By 1961 Hepburn and Lovett had been appointed district agents for Fiat tractors, taking delivery of its first four Fiat tractors in October that year in time for the Wagga Show. In fourteen years, it had progressed from a two-man concern to a business with wide interests, a large factory and employing twenty men. By September 1972, Hepburn and Lovett were celebrating twenty-five years of service. By this time they had moved to Dobney Avenue.¹⁶

Involvement in Wagga Community

Each year Hepburn and Lovett displayed numerous items at the Wagga Wagga Show. In 1949, for example, their display included:

- Allis Chambers 'W' Speed Patrol
- Tutt Bryant Utility Saw Bench
- Tutt Bryant Junior Post Hole Digger
- Rex pumps
- 'Wing' and 'Pilot' engines
- Silver Steering Booster
- Exhaust Cap
- Lincoln D.C. Electric Welder.¹⁷

In 1950, its display drew large crowds to watch demonstrations of a wide range of tractors and farm machines, Tutt-Bryant products including Junior Post Hole Digger with attachments, GB


medium tandem grader, Rex centrifugal self-priming pumps, Lincoln welding machine, utility saw bench with joiner machine, utility saw bench with band saw attachments, small air cooled engines and general engineering stores. In 1951, Hepburn and Lovett not only exhibited many items at the Wagga Show near the entrance gates, it organised a demonstration of a pilot model Tutt Bryant grader (Allis Chambers) by Jack O'Malley who spread 100 cubic feet of loose earth over 69 metres in Morgan Street in 40 minutes.¹⁸

In 1953 it displayed a floodlit tower for Wagga Baths, motor ramps, sheep crates, tractors, welding equipment, irrigation equipment, Coventry Victor Diesel engines, Mono and Harland Centrifugal Pumps, fire-fighting equipment and foundry equipment.¹⁹ In 1954 Chamberlain farm equipment including a scarifier and tractors, a Tutt Bryant pump and Brownbuilt steel office furniture were displayed. That year it also demonstrated Tutt Bryant items at the Farmers and Settlers Association sponsored field day and machinery demonstration which was attended by about 3000 people.²⁰

At the Wagga Show

See the T.B. Junior
Post Hole Digger

It digs holes, in any soil, up to 3 feet in depth and 9 inches in diameter. As well as digging post holes, the T.B. JUNIOR, with attachments cuts down trees suitable for fencing posts, trims to post length and drills them for wiring.



ALSO ON DISPLAY JUST INSIDE THE MAIN GATE

Tutt-Bryant Motor Grader (Model G.B.)
Tutt-Bryant Utility Saw Bench
Rex 1½ and 3in Portable Pumps

Advertisement for Hepburn and Lovett display at the Wagga Show

Hepburn and Lovett made many donations to local clubs and individuals including the Apex Club and Girl Guides in 1951 and it donated a trophy for the Wagga Wagga Boat Club Anniversary Regatta in 1954. They contributed to appeals including an appeal for the widow of Ronald Francis Heydon who was killed when crushed under an overturned earth scoop tractor, leaving four children, the oldest just 8 years old (and one crippled with polio).²¹ They also provided assistance when it was flooding.



Hepburn and Lovett truck assisting to pump water from the basement of Romanos Hotel during the flood in 1950



Hepburn and Lovett's first premises in Baretta Avenue off Edward Street



Hepburn and Lovett's premises



Hepburn and Lovett at Dobney Avenue

Hepburn and Lovett remained in business until 1998 when it was voluntarily wound up.²² Jack Lovett died in August 2004 at Mossy Point near Bateman's Bay while his partner, Jack Hepburn died in Cairns in July 2017.

¹ *Richmond River Herald*, 16 September 1910.

² National Archives of Australia (NAA), A9300, Lovett, JL.

³ *Daily Advertiser (DA)*, 1 May 1943, 18 July 1945; *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 8 July 1943.

⁴ *DA*, 15 September 1945.

⁵ *DA* 21 October 1949, 10 January 1950, 30 August 1952.

⁶ *DA* 2 June 1947, 7 August 1947, 12 June 1947, 18 September 1948; and Electoral Rolls.

⁷ Jennifer Joy Nixon, *Nixon Family Memoirs 1834-2005*, Quick Print, 2005; *DA* 17 April 1945.

⁸ *NSW Electoral Rolls*, 1954, 1958, 1963, 1977, 1980.

⁹ *DA*, 5 October 1961, 7 December 1948, 28 January 1949, 2 February 1949.

¹⁰ *DA*, 26 March 1949, 25 June 1949, 20 August 1949, 8 October 1949.

¹¹ *DA*, 14 July 1949.

¹² *DA*, 3, 15, 17 June 1950.

¹³ *DA*, 17 January 1950.

¹⁴ *DA*, 5 October 1961

¹⁵ *DA*, 18 December 1954.

¹⁶ *DA*, 5 October 1961, 15 September 1945, 22 September 1972.

¹⁷ *DA*, 20 August 1949.

¹⁸ *DA*, 21, 24 August 1951, 24 October 1951.

¹⁹ *DA*, 27 August 1953.

²⁰ *DA*, 25 March 1954, 26 August 1954.

²¹ *DA*. 2 July 1951, 11 October 1951, 2 August 1952, 16 February 1953, 1 February 1954.

²² Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – Business, 24 February 1998, Issue 138, p.534.