

A Thematic History of the Central West

Comprising the NSW Historical Regions
of Lachlan and Central Tablelands

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State Heritage Register Project

This thematic history was prepared as part of the State Heritage Register Project. This project aims to identify for listing on the State Heritage Register places and items which demonstrate the key stories in the historical development of the districts of the Central West.

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Introduction

Imagine that the State Heritage Register is a book, called *An Illustrated History of New South Wales*. The book is very big, and broken up into nine volumes, each volume being one of the Australian Historical Themes. Each volume is broken into chapters, with each chapter being one of the NSW Historical Themes. Each chapter contains and refers to the heritage items that can best illustrate the stories within that chapter.

Each theme, or chapter, contains several regional stories. These stories allow each heritage item to be located within the historical development of the Central West region, and in turn within the historical development of New South Wales and Australia. They are generally arranged in a chronological order where appropriate, thus:

Volume 1: Australian Historical Theme: Tracing the Evolution of the Australian Environment
Chapter 1: NSW Historical Theme: Environment – naturally evolved

Volume 2: Australian Theme: Peopling Australia
Chapter 2: NSW Historical Theme: Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures
Chapter 3: NSW Historical Theme: Convict
Chapter 4: NSW Historical Theme: Ethnic influences
Chapter 5: NSW Historical Theme: Migration

Volume 3: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Chapter 6: NSW Historical Theme: Agriculture
Chapter 7: NSW Historical Theme: Commerce
Chapter 8: NSW Historical Theme: Communication
Chapter 9: NSW Historical Theme: Environment - cultural landscape
Chapter 10: NSW Historical Theme: Events
Chapter 11: NSW Historical Theme: Exploration
Chapter 12: NSW Historical Theme: Fishing
Chapter 13: NSW Historical Theme: Forestry
Chapter 14: NSW Historical Theme: Health
Chapter 15: NSW Historical Theme: Industry
Chapter 16: NSW Historical Theme: Mining
Chapter 17: NSW Historical Theme: Pastoralism
Chapter 18: NSW Historical Theme: Science
Chapter 19: NSW Historical Theme: Technology
Chapter 20: NSW Historical Theme: Transport

Volume 4: Australian Historical Theme: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities
Chapter 21: NSW Historical Theme: Accommodation
Chapter 22: NSW Historical Theme: Land Tenure
Chapter 23: NSW Historical Theme: Towns, suburbs and villages
Chapter 24: NSW Historical Theme: Utilities

Volume 5: Australian Historical Theme: Working
Chapter 25: NSW Historical Theme: Labour

Volume 6: Australian Historical Theme: Educating
Chapter 26: NSW Historical Theme: Education

Volume 7: Australian Historical Theme: Governing
Chapter 27: NSW Historical Theme: Defence
Chapter 28: NSW Historical Theme: Government and Administration
Chapter 29: NSW Historical Theme: Law and order
Chapter 30: NSW Historical Theme: Welfare

Volume 8: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life
Chapter 31: NSW Historical Theme: Creative Endeavour
Chapter 32: NSW Historical Theme: Domestic Life
Chapter 33: NSW Historical Theme: Leisure
Chapter 34: NSW Historical Theme: Religion
Chapter 35: NSW Historical Theme: Social Institutions
Chapter 36: NSW Historical Theme: Sport

Volume 9: Australian Historical Theme: Marking the Phases of Life
Chapter 37: NSW Historical Theme: Birth and Death
Chapter 38: NSW Historical Theme: Persons

The preparation of the pilot program has principally involved the use of the NSW Historical Themes and in turn, the development of sub-themes that articulate the application of those themes within the region.

The regional stories can also be further refined to show their application within local areas. In this way, a heritage item can be located within its local, regional, state and national contexts, and a level of significance can be developed. Underlined text in these histories indicates that the place or object referred to has been identified as a potential SHR item.

This history sets out in tabulated fashion the state themes. It enhances knowledge of the various elements, which constitute the physical heritage of this state. However, it is not a model, which should be used for the preparation of the **contextual** history of any study area. This format enhances knowledge, but it is a only constricted and partial view of that history. Each theme is not fully set within its context, and, unless there is a mind-numbing amount of repetition, it cannot be. Unlike a contextual history, it cannot be read from beginning to end, but is designed to explain each specific theme. For a fuller understanding of the historical process, a contextual history would be needed. This thematic approach organises and communicates knowledge, but it does not provide the fuller understanding that a contextual history would provide. This history, therefore, has been prepared with a specific purpose in mind – to assist in identifying potential items of State significance that could qualify for listing on the State Heritage Register.

Each of the regional stories that have been developed is briefly outlined below, with reference to each of the potential heritage items that can illustrate each story.

The local stories have not been developed in this project. Local communities are encouraged to develop their local stories within this context.

This Thematic History has been prepared by Terry Kass and was based upon an earlier draft prepared by Bruce Baskerville of the NSW Heritage Office.

Volume 1: Australian Historical Theme: Tracing the Evolution of the Australian Environment

The environment exists apart from being a construct of human consciousness. However, a thematic approach recognises the human factor in the natural environment, and how our understanding and appreciation of the environment has changed over time

(*Australian Historic Themes*, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 1: NSW Historical Theme: Environment – naturally evolved

The Central West covers a region of great antiquity in geological history. The present natural topography of the region stretches westerly from the mountainous flanks of the Great Dividing Range, through the undulating Tablelands to the flat floodplains of the Lachlan. As the topography changes so do the soil types and geological formations that provide evidence of the formation of this ancient landscape. Rainfall flows westwards, through rapid streams and limestone caves in the east to ever broader and slower river systems in the west with associated seasonal wetlands. The natural vegetation and associated ecosystems of these land forms similarly varies from dense eucalypt forests in the east through to the cypress pine woodlands and open grasslands of the west.

The traditional Wiradjuri stories of the creation of the region's land forms and ecosystems and provide another history of the region's environment that also offers an insight into the spiritual and philosophical beliefs of the Wiradjuri nations.

The natural history of the Central West has shaped and influenced both Wiradjuri and non Aboriginal settlement in the region. This is reflected in the various settlement patterns, transport routes and place names given to natural features. It is also reflected in the region's network of nature reserves, national parks and other lands protected because of the scientific and nature conservation values attributed to them.

Despite extensive land clearance in the region since the 1830s, and especially during the twentieth century, environments containing important plant communities remain throughout the Central West. Looking at these environments on a regional scale can give some indication of the landscapes of the Central West as they appeared in the nineteenth century, and the ways in which they have changed since then.

The Great Dividing Range generally marks the eastern boundaries of the region, and straddling that boundary is Wollemi National Park, which supports a rich and diverse flora and fauna associated with the Sydney Sandstone Complex. Eighteen rare and endangered plant species have been identified with the park. The vegetation is generally representative of the xeromorphic flora of sandstone outcrops in the Sydney region, however many other vegetation types occur throughout the park including rainforest, woodland, dry heath and swamps. At least eighteen rare plants have been identified in the park, including *Acacia*, *Callistemon*, *Grevillea*, *Persoonia*, *Kennedia* and *Eucalyptus* species.

In the mountainous east of the region particular plant communities help to define granite outcrops. The pink granite outcrops of Evans Crown Nature Reserve, for

example, are surrounded by woodlands of apple box, yellow box and candlebark with ribbon gums along the watercourses. The understorey in the woodlands contains many small shrubs and ground covers, such as the native cherry, while open clearings are carpeted with grasslands containing a high number of grass species. These plant communities reflect the rugged granite country soils and slopes, and are home to several marsupial and bat species, platypus, and a wide variety of birds.

Like the Wollemi National Park, the Kanangra Boyd National Park marks the mountainous eastern boundaries of the region. The park contains subalpine snow gum communities, as well as subalpine bogs and swamps, which occur where, cool air drains into plateaux depressions. Boyd River Bogs, the montane heaths around Kanangra Walls, and the spray zones around the edges of the southern Blue Mountain Cliffs, are unique microhabitats supporting unique communities. These vegetation communities are part of continuous natural bushland, which stretches from the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, to the Wollondilly River. There is a high diversity of vegetation types within this area, providing habitat for the park's rare plant and animal species. Many rare plant species have also been identified here, with several representing restricted or isolated populations. The vegetation covering the top of the ridges is generally characterised by low open eucalyptus woodland with a diverse, heathy understorey, while areas at higher altitude support open heath and closed scrub communities. On the Boyd plateau in the south-west, the cold climate has led to the development of sub-alpine woodlands dominated by snow gums (*Eucalyptus paucifolia*), and in poorly drained areas, various swamps dominated by sedges and shrubs can be found. The Boyd Plateau Bogs are of biogeographical interest because of their close affinity with the alpine and subalpine bogs of the Southern Tablelands. There are also several species of rare plants associated with these vegetation communities. Lower slopes support open forest, although this varies with aspect and exposure. Sheltered areas allow for moist, tall open forest, as well as rainforest marked by stands of red cedar and blue gum, some of which have never been logged due to the inaccessibility of the terrain. The wider valleys and river flats feature different vegetation associations, with river oak being prominent. The deeper soils of the south-west of the park support tall open forest dominated by species such as brown barrel and ribbon gum. These communities, and those associated with them, constitute a significant proportion of the total distribution of Southern Tableland vegetation.

The sandstone karst country in the south east of the region is often defined by its caves, but can also be identified by its dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands. The Abercrombie Caves and Reserve, for example, is dominated by several eucalypts such as red gum, apple box, brittle gum, scribbly gum, red box and yellow box in the dry sclerophyllous woodlands, with some outcrops of broad leaved peppermint, argyle apple, white box and candlebark. This porous sandstone country also supports tall mallee scrublands, as well as the now rare species *Grevillea laurifolia* and *Acacia chalkerii*. Kangaroo grass and poa form the ground covers beneath the woodlands, while casuarinas, wattles, tea trees, heaths and ferns line watercourses. These plant communities support populations of large marsupials such as eastern grey kangaroos and a diverse bird life, while the caves support several bat species that feed upon the plant life.

In the south west of the region it is highland terrain that has provided the refuge from clearing for distinctive plant communities. The Weddin Mountains National Park encompasses the Weddin Mountain Range with distinctive plant communities on the lower and upper slopes. The higher and more exposed areas are dominated by low woodland of spearwood, mallee and cypress pine and an understorey of various shrubs. The lower slopes are clothed in an open woodland of eucalypts such as red gum and white box, with some cypress pine and an *Acacia* understorey. This woodland is claimed to be representative of the woodlands that covered the Lachlan Plains before the introduction of pastoral stock, extensive land clearing and changes to fire regimes that lead to the spread of the cypress pine forests that now characterise much of the area. The woodlands of the Weddin Mountains remain an important habitat for many marsupials and particularly birds.

The vegetation of the region changes from east to west at the same time as geological and climatic factors. Conimbla National Park embraces a transitional zone between the drier west and the moister east, and this is evidenced by many of the plant communities being on the margins of their ranges. The lower altitudes of this hilly, but not mountainous, area are also reflected in these vegetation patterns.

The vegetation of the park is predominantly low open forest and open forest dominated by nine species of eucalypts and with a conspicuous black cypress pine component, and scattered kurrajongs. Mugga ironbark exists near its eastern range margin at Conimbla while red stringybark is at its western range limit. The floristics of these open forest communities and also to some extent their structures vary with aspect and shifts in soil quality. Cypress pine forms dense stands on rocky, dry sites. The variably developed understorey is populated by sclerophyllous shrubs including *Gompholobium*, *Pultenea*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Astroloma*, *Leptospermum*, and *Calytrix* species. A diverse group of forbs including over thirty species of sometimes regionally uncommon terrestrial orchids form the ground cover. Wattles are also common, and the combined understorey and ground layer components produce spectacular wildflower displays for which Conimbla is well known. The park's margins where clearing has taken place support dense shrubby regeneration.

The open forest communities of the park constitute a significant regional gene pool and feature at least two tree species (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* and *E. sideroxylon*) at their range limits. They also contain many regionally uncommon plant species including the rare greenhood, which is one of a rich (more than thirty species) assemblage of terrestrial orchids found here. Conimbla also contains the rare *Eucalyptus melliodora*-*E. dealbata* association, which exists only within, limited areas of the region. The vegetation communities of the park support a varied population of birds and animals.

The western part of the region is notable for its broad downs and floodplains. Significant areas of natural vegetation are therefore associated with water bodies rather than highlands. Lake Cowal is a notable intermittent wetland that marks the transition between the tablelands and the western plains. The lake supports numerous habitats with a vast and diverse collection of flora and fauna and also demonstrates well the range of vegetation types associated with lakes that are replenished by river flood waters.

The Central West white box woodlands include the woodland associated with Omegal cemetery, Stuart Town (Wellington Shire) and Canowindra, Molong and Toogong Cemeteries in Cabonne Shire.

The natural vegetation communities of the Central West that have survived land clearance programs (mainly for agricultural purposes) tend to be associated with the geographical extremes of the region, such as the mountains of the east, the highlands on the centre and the wetlands and rivers of the west. The intensity of past land clearance practises, although primarily driven by soil types, water availability and accessibility, have also been shaped by topography as reflected in the locations of the 'islands' of remnant natural vegetation across the region. The identified potential items reflect the regional spectrum of pre-invasion landscapes of cold climate forests, sandstone eucalypt woodlands, mulga woodlands and cypress pine woodlands, intermittent wetlands and wide river valley woodlands. Heaths, grasslands and other vegetation communities attractive to pastoralists and farmers are only represented by small remnants within mainly wooded reserves. The identified potential items help to understand the extent and impacts of non Aboriginal settlement in the Central West, and the ways in which the composition and distribution of plant communities in the region was 'read' by, and used to guide, settlers in their colonisation of the region.

The bird life (or avifauna) of the Central West is a rich and complex natural resource that generally tends to increase in richness and complexity westwards, reflecting the migratory patterns of many bird species and the location of large wetlands and lakes.

The eastern, mountainous areas of the region such as the Abercrombie Caves and Reserve provide habitats favoured by reasonably sedentary species, although some migratory birds are also found. Magpie larks, magpies, kookaburras, rosellas, fairy wrens, mistletoe birds and silver eyes are common in the reserve, often restricted in their distribution to denser patches of vegetation. The superb lyrebird is found in the reserve and is regarded as existing at its western range margin as a relict of a formerly more extensive central western population. The vulnerable peregrine falcon is also present in the reserve along with a good complement of migratory song birds that the peregrine feeds upon. The reserve furnishes foraging and breeding habitat for several species of irruptive and/or migratory song birds such as the rainbow bee eater.

Lyre birds can also be found in hilly, isolated areas of the Tablelands, such as Fernbrook Farm & Wildlife Refuge north of Bathurst, where a yellow box woodland with resident lyre birds was declared a private wildlife refuge in 1966 - said to be the first private wildlife refuge west of the Blue Mountains.

In the central highlands of the region, over 150 species of bird have been recorded at Conimbla National Park. These have included the peregrine falcon, with at least three other endangered or vulnerable bird species – the turquoise parrot, the regent honeyeater and the superb parrot, together with several other regionally uncommon species, some of which are at or near their distributional limits. The park also furnishes critical foraging habitat along a major movement corridor for seasonal or irruptive migratory song birds (particularly many species of honeyeater, which rely on the nectar resources of the open forests on the ridges and of the adjacent regenerating land.

There are also several species considered regionally uncommon, such as the painted button quail and the crested shrike tit, or unusual records beyond normal ranges, such as Gilbert's whistler, the white fronted honeyeater and the black honeyeater. Conimbla's bird assemblage is a mixture of species from the dry inland region and from the moister coastal fringe and uplands with many occurring at or near range limits. It is also situated on an important migration route for passerines including the honeyeaters.

Further west, The Weddin Mountains National Park provides a significant habitat for remnant flora and fauna, characteristic of the highlands of the western slopes of New South Wales. It displays a high diversity of native fauna species including 109 bird species, such as Gilbert's whistler, the turquoise parrot and the painted honeyeater, all vulnerable and rare species.

Wetlands are almost always important in terms of bird distribution and Lake Cowal is no different in this regard. The lake is an intermittent wetland of varying size depending upon seasonal rainfall and especially flooding of the Lachlan River and its tributaries. It is one of the most significant waterbird concentration areas in New South Wales. It is an important site for migratory birds, and supports a high diversity of bird species with 172 species recorded in the area, including a breeding population of eighty-two species, of which thirty eight are waterfowl. It regularly supports very large numbers of waterbirds, particularly ducks, ibis, geese, swans, coots, and waders including migratory waders protected under international migratory bird treaties. Twelve of these species are listed in the China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and ten species listed in the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA). The intermittent nature of the lake makes it of high value for waterbirds, many of which migrate between the wetlands of inland Australia in response to their cyclic drying and filling. Endangered bird species which breed in the area include the magpie goose which is listed as rare and vulnerable and the freckled duck, which is listed as threatened. This species is also listed as rare nationally by the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union. The concentration of large numbers of waterfowl in a relatively small and accessible area makes Lake Cowal a good site for researching the breeding and feeding behaviours, and the general ecology, of waterbirds.

Conimbla National Park

The eastern grey kangaroo (*MACROPUS GIGANTEUS*), is near the western margin of its range at Conimbla as is the regionally uncommon and vulnerable eastern pygmy possum (*CERCATETUS NANUS*). Fauna of the park has not been well documented although eastern grey kangaroo, red-necked wallaby, pigmy possum, sugar glider, and echidna have been recorded.

Conimbla also possesses a regionally representative fauna. Echidnas (*TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS*) and several large macropods (*MACROPUS GIGANTEUS GIGANTEUS*, *M. RUFOGRISEUS BANKSIANUS*, *WALLABIA BICOLOR BICOLOR*) are common. Several species of possum, including sugar gliders (*PETAURUS BREVICEPS*) and eastern pygmy possum (*CERCARTETUS NANUS UNICOLOR*), are present along with undetermined species of bandicoot and *ANTECHINUS*. *CERCATETUS NANUS* exists at its western range limit at Conimbla and *M. GIGANTEUS* is also towards the western margin of its range. The park's herpetofauna is not well documented but several inland elapids and lizards including the shingleback (*TILIQUIA RUGOSA*) are reported.

Abercrombie Caves and Reserve

Amongst the other vertebrate groups are the long necked tortoise (*CHELODINA LONGICOLLIS*), several elapid snakes including *PSEUDECHIS PORPHYRIACUS* and *PSEUDONAJA TEXTILIS TEXTILIS*, skinks (including *SPHENOMORPHUS QUOYII*, *TILIQUIA RUGOSA RUGOSA* and several small fossorial species) and the goanna (*VARANUS VARIUS*), together with several frog species.

The streams support populations of yellow belly (*MACQUARIA AMBIGUA*), catfish (*TANDANUS TANDANUS*) and other native fish plus exotic rainbow trout (*SALMO GAIRDNERI*). The reserve's invertebrate fauna is also worthy of mention. Within the streams is a range of waterfleas (*DAPHNIA* spp.), mussels (*VELESUNIO AMBIGUUS*, *ALATHYRIA* sp.), water snails and yabbies (*CHERAX DESTRUCTOR*), while the caves support many invertebrate troglophiles including at least eight species of spider. Among these is the cave shawl web spider (*BADUMNA SOCIALIS*), which builds extensive webs on the ceiling of the caverns. This taxon is known only from the massive open arches of the Abercrombie and Jenolan systems.

Weddin Mountains National Park

The Weddin Mountains National Park provides a significant habitat for remnant flora and fauna, characteristic of the highlands of the western slopes of New South Wales. It displays a high diversity of native fauna species including six amphibian species, 109 bird species, eighteen mammals and thirteen reptiles. The place includes the brush tailed rock wallaby (*PETROGALE PENCILLATA*),

Volume 2: Australian Theme: Peopling Australia

This theme group recognises the pre-colonial occupations of Indigenous people, as well as the ongoing history of human occupation from diverse areas.
(*Australian Historic Themes*, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 2: NSW Historical Theme: Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

The Aboriginal people of the Central West are part of a living and vibrant culture that has adapted to the invasion and occupation of the region by people from other cultures. Twenty-first Century Wiradjuri cultures have their own practices and identities, and their own remembrances and histories of their interactions with other peoples.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Wiradjuri linguistic group occupied the land from south of the Murrumbidgee to north of the Lachlan as far as the upper reaches of the Macquarie River. Small clans or related family groups moved around regularly within fairly discrete territories following seasonal and ritual patterns. The rivers contributed to food supplies and many meeting places and sites of special significance were located along them. There are (or were) relatively large numbers of carved trees associated with important sites, especially burial places.

On the Central Tablelands areas most favoured by the local Wiradjuri also attracted the most interest from colonial settlers. This led to several battles, and the building of defensive homesteads. The colonial Limits of Location, defined in October 1829 followed the Wammerawa or Wambool (Macquarie River) and formed a *de facto* border. The colonial authorities established a headquarters at Bathurst, and a convict station at Wellington, both forming military outposts along this border as it passed through the region.

Local Wiradjuri people had many apprehensions about the colonial settlers and their military attendants, and by the 1840s when there was widespread dislocation of Aboriginal culture. The handing out of blankets and supplies at Hartley and Mudgee in the 1840s and the holding of Corroborees in the hills around Mudgee until the 1850s were some of the last reported signs of a traditional Aboriginal presence in the Central Tablelands. Significant numbers of Aboriginal people remained on the Lachlan Plains for many years after the arrival of Europeans, and relationships with the rivers and plains continued to be important. However the continuance of traditional or cultural practices such as Corroborees becoming increasingly difficult as crops and stock took over more and more land.

Reserves and missions began to be established through the region from the 1890s to contain and control Wiradjuri refugees, and to create a stable pool of labour. During the early to mid twentieth century the removal of children of Aboriginal and non Aboriginal parents was widespread, with many being taken to homes beyond the region. Reserves created on the outskirts of towns created landscapes of segregation in many districts. A lack of public services, lack of opportunities, control by

unsympathetic authorities and general poverty made life on many of the reserves harsh and distressing.

Town reserves, however, also provided a space for families to stay together and allowed some sense of identity to be fostered among the displaced. Wiradjuri communities demonstrated a resilience that fuelled the current cultural renaissance beginning in the 1970s and 1980s following the abandonment of segregationist policies by the NSW and Commonwealth governments. Today the Wiradjuri communities of the Central West are focussed on several towns, and great efforts are being made within these communities to overcome many of the legacies of the past as they continue to adapt and grow.

Chapter 3: NSW Historical Theme: Convict

Despite living in a society in which status, kin and birthplace precisely defined one's place, the Wiradjuri had no form of incarceration or servile subjection. Thus, the entry of white Europeans into the Central West and Lachlan with their society sharply divided into free and convict was a profound shock to the Wiradjuri.

The term 'convict system' refers to the incarceration of prisoners convicted of criminal offences in the United Kingdom and certain British colonies and transported to New South Wales between 1787 and 1840. Transportation to the colony ceased in 1840, but it was some years before the system was finally wound down as sentences expired. The system was restructured several times during its half-century of operation in the colony, and this is reflected in several of the regional themes. Approximately 60 000 men and women were transported to the colony during this period, mainly from England and Ireland. The operation of the convict system in the region began in 1815, and was generally confined to the area between the Macquarie River and the Blue Mountains.

Old Govt House Group, Bathurst

Cox's Road/The Western Road,

Hassans Walls Site

Wellington Convict & Mission Precinct

Dairy Farmers Factory, Bathurst (convict hospital potential archaeological site)

Based on literacy and occupation, between 6% and 14% of all convict workers were 'labour aristocrats', and they retained a group cohesion in NSW. In 1826 Sir Robert Peel ordered the colonial authorities to isolate the 'educated' convicts from the rest of the transported workers by sending them to remote agricultural stations. At best this order was carried out intermittently, since colonial governors came to value the skills of the transported 'educated' convicts.

Wellington Convict & Mission Precinct

If geographical isolation was incomplete, then job segregation more than compensated. Over 70% of all transported urban craftsmen were appointed to jobs, which utilised their skills. A large proportion of skilled workers were assigned to government service, and work organisation corresponded closely to that in English workshops. In the colony where skills were scarce, convict artisans might have exercised an enhanced level of independence and felt a higher degree of self importance than they did as free workers in England.

From 1788 convicts could be 'assigned' to private settlers – essentially, they could be hired as workers for food and clothing (and in the remote Tablelands, shelter) and paid a minimum annual wage of £10 sterling to men and £7 sterling to women - a rate set by the governor in 1816. Sometimes bonuses were paid in tobacco, tea or sugar.

Assigned convicts in the region generally provided unskilled or semi-skilled labour on pastoral properties. This has left a legacy of purpose-built convict quarters on former stations such as Bathampton (pre-1828?), Oakleigh, Rockley (c1828) and Charlton

House, all in Evans shire. These stations all occur in the hilly south eastern districts of the region, where pastoral activities predominate.

These convict quarters are essentially simple rectangular stone structures, either small cottages or larger sheds like a barracks. Stoke Stable, in Carcoar, was built in 1849 with convict labour for Stoke House hotel. The simple rectangular shape and use of limestone rubble walls reflects the convict quarters of Evans shire, although the use of the building for animal housing differs as does its urban location on the road to the south.

These structures collectively illustrate the sort of rough accommodation provided for station labour, whether human or animal, as well as the cheapness of employing a labour force that could be used to quarry and build in stone. The convict quarters demonstrate the role of convict labour on private pastoral properties in the 1820s and 1830s in what was at that time the frontier districts of the colony, and the place of the region in the convict-oriented economy and society of early nineteenth century New South Wales.

Merembra

Chapter 4: NSW Historical Theme: Ethnic influences

Ethnic and cultural difference initially was sharply distinguished by the contrast between white European settlers and the darker Wiradjuri inhabitants.

The Central West and Lachlan region has become the home to several shared cultural traditions, and to exchanges between such traditions. It is perhaps the cultural traditions and ethnicity derived from England that is the most pervasive and, because of its naturalisation, the most difficult to see. Place names such as Bathurst, Wellington and Orange typify this influence. Yet, although the English like to think they represent all of Britain, the Scots, Welsh, and Irish form distinct sub-cultures, as do the Cornish. Each group is well represented. In some localities their presence has created a recognizable local style. The Welsh and Cornish were often miners and they have left their mark at places such as Byng. The Scottish Presbyterian influence is demonstrated at Coerwull. Other British influences remain evident in buildings exhibiting Scottish, Cornish and Irish construction techniques.

Abercrombie House, Bathurst

Turf or sod house, Taradale

Springfield House, (Cabonne Shire)

European influences can be understood in the vineyards and wine making practices of French and German vintners. Yet, they were not the only Europeans to have an impact in the nineteenth century. Belgian Emile Serisier was an important influence on early Dubbo, but he went there after a sojourn at Wellington. A network of Europeans stretched across the district. Many went into retailing. The impact of Greeks as café proprietors was marked. Often they were the first ones to bring innovations in service and presentation such as the milk bar, which was highly popular from the 1930s onwards.

Champsaur vineyard, Forbes

Influences closer to Australia are mainly Chinese, still evident in many old mine sites and memories of Chinese market gardens and ringbarking. Chinese were also prominent as retailers in many towns, and have left a legacy of buildings associated with their businesses such as at Wellington and Stuart Town. There is also a hint of African influences in the names of early pastoralists such as 'Black Sims' of Merool Station. A number of Maoris worked on pastoral stations or odd jobs through the district.

More recent ethnic influences have come as part of the great post war migration of refugees and displaced peoples in the 1950s and 60s, including returning prisoners of war from Cowra POW camp and European factory workers at Orange. Former military camps became migrant camps, especially at Bathurst, but also at Cowra and Parkes. All of these ethnicities have mixed with the underlying Wiradjuri cultures and contributed to a sense of Central West identity.

Cowra POW Camp

Chapter 5: NSW Historical Theme: Migration

The movement and resettlement of peoples in the region reflects the broader movement of peoples in NSW since the early nineteenth century. There they came up against the Wiradjuri who were contending with and influx of lighter skinned people, principally from Britain, but also from other parts of Europe and Asia.

Generally, people have moved from the port and suburbs of Sydney over the mountains and into the region during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, motivated by the availability of alluvial gold, then of cheap farm land and philosophies of the need for 'closer settlement'. The pull of work in various mines, which operated across the Central West and Lachlan, fuelled a migratory lifestyle for miners. After crossing the seas from Cornwall or Wales, these miners and their families moved from mine to mine as mines opened up and closed down. Chain migration was an important factor, as one member of the family came first, set up a base and then sent for other members of the clan. Copper mining and later gold mining and the mining of coal attracted such men and their families. By the later nineteenth century, shale mining and limestone mining was also acting as a magnet for these men. Many men worked as waged labour in the mines, though others worked on a tribute system. A different mode of employment was that of the free gold miner working for himself.

Hill End historic site

Greektown archaeological site

The Central West and Lachlan also experienced notable inter-colonial migration from South Australia and Victoria, especially in the search for gold. Farmers from Victoria and South Australia and those from further east in New South Wales moved in to take up land. The opening of the Lachlan and Bogan lands coincided with major changes in agriculture in NSW. Machinery which became available for wheat growing encouraged selectors to take up larger areas of land since it was more efficient and economical to do so. Farmers from Victoria and South Australia had been instrumental in developing these methods of cultivation.

Another wave of migration occurred with the seasons. As different tasks were undertaken in the agricultural year, such as shearing, planting and harvesting, seasonal workers arrived to offer their labour to assist with the work. Usually, they were unskilled. Many of them were non-British, since that was the only work available to them. Accommodation for them was provided on many rural properties.

The movement of people into the region had several results besides increased population, such as the resistance by Wiradjuri communities to being relocated to make way for newcomers, and the creation of refugee Wiradjuri communities on missions and reserves.

Two specialised migrations of the twentieth century have also left their mark on the region: the emigration of orphaned or economically deprived children from Britain, and the settlement of displaced persons from war-torn Europe. More recently, the story of migration in the region has involved the movement of people from hamlets

and villages into regional cities such as Orange, and the movement of people from out of the region to Sydney in a reversal of the early movements.

Fairbridge Farm

As in all stories of migration there are tales of fear and hope, of being pushed or pulled: ultimately, the region is probably representative of other country regions in NSW where migration has been a prime factor in creating the present population and its distribution in the Central West.

These new peoples left their mark. Sometimes, particular ethnic practices or skills affected the area. In other cases, they became significant for other reasons. Evan Antonie Lumme came to Australia from Estonia in the late nineteenth century. His photographs of Mandurama and district in the early twentieth century provide a sharply focussed insight into the lives of small farmers and small town communities in the district.

Volume 3: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Local, Regional and National Economies

While Geoffrey Blainey conceived of Australian history as dominated by the ‘tyranny of distance’ this concept is alien to indigenous Australians. Eighteenth and nineteenth century developments in technology made it possible to link the continent to distant marketplaces, and the incentive for almost every expedition by the first European explorers was in search of valuable resources. Much subsequent Australian history has revolved around the search for a staple on which to base regional economic development.

(Australian Historic Themes, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 6: NSW Historical Theme: Agriculture

The cultivation and rearing of various plant and animal species has a long history in the Central West. Prior to white European settlement, the Wiradjuri managed the biosphere of the area, in order to maximise the production of desirable foodstuffs.

Convict settlements such as Bathurst became the nucleus for farms supplying the town. In 1823, Lieutenant Percy Simpson led a group of convicts to the Wellington Valley to found an “Agricultural Station” for gentleman convicts. Cultivation of small gardens to supply squatting homesteads was often the first signs of agriculture in many areas.

Grain growing particularly of wheat was an important industry. Much of the wheat cultivated in the colony of New South Wales was still grown in the County of Cumberland into the 1860s. However, the 1860s outbreak of stem rust as a result of wetter conditions devastated the growing of wheat as well as the farming communities, which relied upon it. The expansion of wheat growing westwards over the mountains was accelerated by the loss of wheat lands east of the mountains. Coupled with that shift was the parallel movement of the farming families who had previously found their living in the County of Cumberland growing wheat on leased land. Now they sought wheat-growing land by taking up land as Conditional Purchases east of the mountains.

Coombing Park homestead

The wheat growing frontier gradually expanded westwards as a consequence of the opening up of new land and the decided advantages of a drier climate for wheat growing. Coupled with new techniques and the development of new wheat varieties, the application of machinery, the spread of wheat growing had a major impact on the landscape of the Central West and Lachlan areas. As the growing of wheat supplanted pastoralism on many properties a new network of transport and a new infrastructure of support facilities, such as mills, and equipment suppliers emerged. Flour mills to mill the wheat and, later, silos to store the grain prior to shipment by rail became major landmarks in the area, once railways were available.

Land which was thought to be too dry was found to be ever more suitable for wheat as new varieties were developed and as the application of graduated quantities of

superphosphate and trace elements were used to counter any deficiencies in the soil. Thus, marginal land at the western fringe of wheat growing in 1900 around Trundle and Tullamore, had become prime wheat land by the 1920s, a process mirrored throughout the west. Whereas in 1904, the western fringe of wheat growing was thought to be Grenfell, it was being grown near Condobolin and Yalgogrin by 1912. The 10" rainfall isohyet seems to mark the western most frontier of wheat growing.

The move by wheat farmers into inland areas had a marked impact on the quality of wheat grown. The drier climate increased the gluten content and improved its baking quality, making it more competitive on the world market. From the 1870s onwards, the introduction of new steel roller technology into flourmills in place of the old stone rollers gave millers better control of their product and an incentive to buy better grades of wheat. The flour produced by the new mills was finer and less contaminated with by-products. A new era in milling technology was arriving and the wheat growers of the drier west were ideally placed to provide the quality product demanded by the millers.

The creation of the Grain Elevators Board and its programme of constructing silos from 1918 onwards at shipment points along the railways, which snaked across the area, linked the grain farmers to markets much more successfully.

Markets for wheat and other farming produce were initially small, since the towns of the Central West and Lachlan areas were minuscule in the 1840s and the difficulties of transport meant that Sydney was not easily accessible for perishable products. But the discovery of gold was a boon to local producers who found a ready market for their produce.

Where wheat will grow, other grain crops will also flourish. Oats, rye and barley were also planted. More recently, as the market for wheat has become less profitable, other crops have been grown on land previously used for grain growing. The most notable innovation has been the introduction of oilseeds, particularly canola, in areas such as Parkes.

Fodder crops and the cultivation of improved pasture link agricultural and pastoral land-uses. They have been grown in the area since early settlement and are a major influence on the economy and landscape along the Cudgegong River.

Market gardening has long been an activity near country towns, or in areas, with good transport connections to major markets such as Sydney. The area around Bathurst and Kelso was one such early nucleus, though even by the 1920s, Wellington was shipping market garden products to Sydney. The Oberon plateau was renowned for its peas and potatoes, Brussels sprouts and broccoli from the early twentieth century onwards. Such activities concentrated on shipping fresh produce. The development of market gardens largely for canning purposes were major initiatives of the 1920s, especially at Bathurst where the firm of Edgell established a major canning plant. A cannery had been proposed for Cowra for 1944 (?), but its inauguration was brought forward sharply due to heightened demand during the Second World War.

The cultivation of fruit was a major development in the district. Orchards specialising in soft summer fruits, such as plums and peaches developed near Dripstone and Stuart

Town. A number of varieties of fruits and flowers were developed by horticulturalists in that area. The cultivation of such produce has declined in that district and that land-use has contracted southwards. Orange developed as a major centre growing cool climate fruit such as apples and pears. Its predominance in this activity is marked, and has been closely linked to key innovators who planted what might be called experimental crops in order to test the suitability of the climate. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture, through its experimental stations bolstered the nascent industry through its experimental work and on-farm assistance.

The Department of Agriculture's experimental stations and assistance programmes have been influential in the development of suitable cultivars for orchardists, as well as a range of appropriate varieties for grain growers. Techniques of crop management have been developed which have aided farmers.

Bathurst Agricultural research station

Orange research station

Condobolin research station

Viticulture developed in a number of areas. Dubbo (just outside this area) was an important early centre for the cultivation of grapes. Vineyards were also established near Forbes including the Champsaur and Chislett vineyards. Mudgee also became a centre for grape production, followed by its emergence as a noted wine-growing district of Australia with its wines with recognisable local characteristics of colour, bouquet and flavour. Along with the Hunter, Mudgee was recognised as major NSW competitors to the South Australian wine industry. More recently, the cultivation of cool climate grape varieties around Orange has promoted its emergence as a centre of more delicate cool climate wines which have attracted a devoted following.

Champsaur vineyard, Forbes

Chislett vineyard, Forbes

Irrigation is not so prominent a feature of agriculture in this area, as elsewhere such as along the Murrumbidgee or the Murray Rivers. There are no major irrigation settlements such as at Griffith or Loxton. Nevertheless, the impact of irrigation has been profound. Major and minor dams on the rivers which drain the area, provide irrigation water for downstream stockholders and agriculturalists. Thus, the Wyangala Dam, one of the earliest irrigation dams in NSW lies within the area, as do the Burrendong, Windamere and Carcoar dams, all built to provide water for downstream users. The agricultural use of the water is mainly used to supplement existing water supplies in order to tease out the holding capacity of the riverside land or to enable the growth of high value crops along the Macquarie and Lachlan Rivers.

Chapter 7: NSW Historical Theme: Commerce

The buying, selling and exchange of goods and services has formed the basis of most economic systems. Pre-colonial Wiradjuri systems of exchange did not involve cash but the entry of white men into the area brought a host of new and desirable goods, ranging from the highly prized steel handed axe to the equally desirable bottle of grog. Thus, even the interplay between the Wiradjuri and the white man in the less emotionally charged area of commerce was a mixed blessing.

Commerce within the Central West seems to have revolved mainly around local retailing, especially in the form of inn keeping and shopkeeping. The lowliest levels of inns and general stores were often the earliest retailing facilities available in the area. Such places frequently became the places where courts first met, inquests were held, and post offices were established. They were also places where money could be placed in the safekeeping of the proprietor by nearby residents or itinerant workers in the absence of an accessible bank. If they were sited with an eye to commanding passing trade, at key places, such as river crossings, these early stores or inns became the nucleus of future settlements. Thus, William Parslow's inn became an importance focus in early Molong.

Royal Hotel, Bathurst

Rising Sun inn, Limekilns

As settlements emerged and grew, a much greater range of commercial facilities arose to chart the town's growing importance. To the original general store were added inns, bakers, drapers, butchers and a host of other specialised small retailers. As towns developed, an internal hierarchy of businesses emerged. There was often a higher-class hotel catering to middle class and professional travellers and a few rougher establishments dealing with, rather than catering for, the rough bush worker. The grocers of the town might range from prominent retailers in the centre of town commanding key positions attracting all passing trade, ranging down to those on the "wrong" end of town, marginal men or women making at best a marginal income from the lower end of the trade.

Finn's Store, Canowindra

Dalton's store, Orange

Some retailers merge into artisans or skilled workers, making and selling specialised goods. These included such specialised trades, as harnessmakers, pastry cooks, blacksmiths, saddlers, and stonemasons. What came first – the desire to sell or the hand-based skill offering its wares to the discerning public?

Leo Duff's Barber Shop, Wellington

Although commercial activity within the region has been largely dominated by local retailing, but there have been large-scale retailers with a regional or sub-regional "pull". One instance of a retailer with a large "pull" was the firm of Dalton Brothers in Orange. Larger retailers such as Daltons exerted an influence over a wide area. People seeking more sophisticated goods, or eager to compare and contrast the variety of goods on offer focussed on towns with a regional influence such as Bathurst or Orange where comparison shopping was possible. The hierarchies, which thus

developed in the nineteenth century, were further enhanced in the twentieth century by the motor car. As the main towns became even more accessible, the smaller towns were increasingly left with general retailing services rather than stores offering a wide range of many types of goods. Today, one can buy groceries in Parkes and Wellington but anyone seeking a department store, or larger scale discount store, such as Big W or Target, needs to go to Orange or Bathurst where there are abundant stores of that type.

Some retailers evolved into more than simply local or regional businesses, with their reach extending beyond the Central West and Lachlan. The Western Stores is the prime example of this type of business, though its hearth land was the area around Dubbo.

Banking has been prominent for the links it established beyond the region. Financial networks supporting the pastoral and agricultural industries have been important, especially in times of hardship, and are reflected in the number and distribution of bank chambers throughout the region. Even the smallest centres had banking outlets. Even Trundle, a relatively small centre had two banks, the Union Bank and the Bank of New South Wales, by 1910. With the increasing amalgamation of banks the number of banking outlets declined catastrophically.

The use of cash has been central to transactions since the 1830s, but credit arrangements offered by banks and local stores, have also played a notable role. Important as banks were as sources of capital, their interaction with their clients became less direct during the twentieth century. Banks were anxious to avoid the humdrum of everyday small accounts and channelled a good deal of funding through stock and station agents who provided advice, goods, managerial skills, seeds, stock food, hardware and host of other goods to farmers as well as finance, either as a current account or on a longer term basis.

Some specialised retailing emerged catering for tourists, especially at the caves, most notably Jenolan Caves, though there were some businesses focussed on the Wellington Caves. Hotel and boarding house accommodation has been commercially important across the area, partially as a service to travellers but also to tourists.

Jenolan Caves

The emergence of chain stores in Sydney and suburbs in the 1910s was followed by the establishment of outlets in the larger country towns by the 1930s. One chain store, the Western Stores, emerged from the Dubbo area, and extended its network into the district. Many of the chain stores devoted their floors to variety goods and clothing and drapery. Groceries and foodstuffs were not always included in their lines.

The emergence of the supermarket in the post-war period brought a new well-backed competitor into many towns in opposition to the smaller established family firms. The impact of the variety type chain stores, such as Target, and Big W eventually eliminated competitors dealing in these lines in many towns, concentrating their own stores in major centres such as Orange, Dubbo, or Bathurst. On the other hand, supermarkets remain in many towns offering their range of groceries and foodstuffs, though in some cases, their position is tenuous.

Chapter 8: NSW Historical Theme: Communication

Communication by the spoken word, the wink, the slight shift of the body, the smirk of the face and the handshake were all known long before settlement of the area. Aboriginal inhabitants used these as well as some forms of graphic communication. Body language such as this was used by the Wiradjuri to show their welcome (or otherwise) of white explorers of the area, such as Mitchell.

The white settlers brought their own forms of graphic communication in the form of handwriting and printing. The need to send messages, usually in written form caused the emergence of postal services. Originally, they were semi-official but a network of post offices emerged, as did a web of official postal routes usually serviced by contractors. The routes taken by these contractors were often later bypassed as better routes became available. For example, many of the tracks used by the company of Cobb and Co, operating out of Bathurst, were later superseded and constitute part of the heritage of the district.

The post office was usually the first official agency to be established in any centre. In many places, it was the only official agency of government to be available. Post offices were being established by the 1830s (??) onwards, becoming ever more grandiose until they achieved the majesty of the Bathurst example, paired with the courthouse. More commonly, post offices were simply agencies within an existing small business. Only the larger towns or settlements were graced with a formal purpose-built post office.

Parkes Post Office, 39 Currajong Street

Postal Pillar Box, Inglis Street, Mudgee

Bathurst Post Office

The other original mode of communication brought by the white settlers - printing - also began to make its impact felt. Printing presses commenced operating. Other presses followed, mainly associated with a local newspaper. Newspaper proprietors, were as often printers first, journalists next, and last, and often the most ineffectively, entrepreneurs of printing and communication in their community. Many newspapers sprang up across the area, mostly in towns, almost always at the larger mining camps, and wherever there seemed a chance to make a success. Condobolin's *Lachlander* newspaper was one of the longest to remain in the same hands and one of the oldest newspapers in Australia. Often the buildings of these local newspapers survive but not their machinery. The premises of Robert Porter's *Wellington Gazette*, which still survive, one part of the premises still painted with the name of the newspaper.

Telegraphy services were extended to the area and created a network of telegraph lines linked at telegraph offices in the main towns. Although associated with the post office, the telegraph office was commonly a disparate building with its own staff and identity. Telephone services commenced supplementing and finally replacing telegraph services from the late nineteenth century onwards. Telephone exchanges were constructed in major centres, such as at Bathurst, Orange and Parkes. They were often significant employers of young girls and women in towns with little other employment to offer them except in retailing.

Communication by radio also emerged. It was mostly used as a medium for entertainment, but radio networks were created for strategic purposes such as wartime communication and fire fighting as well as for emergency services. The emergence of Citizen's Band (CB) radio, predating the current infatuation with the mobile telephone drew its band of adherents, most notably long-distance truck drivers seeking an outlet for communication as well as amusement on long journeys. In time, digital communication facilities were made available, and as the technology continues to evolve, will broaden the communication spectrum.

Sunny Ridge outbuildings, Blayney

Chapter 9: NSW Historical Theme: Environment - cultural landscape

The cultural landscapes of the Central West reflect the modifications made to the natural landscape by human activities, and demonstrate the interactions between people and places. They also illustrate the ability of the human species to change environments to suit their needs and desires, unlike other species. Some of these landscapes have been purposefully designed, for example some private gardens and public parks, while others have evolved, and continue to do so, as reflections of land use and management practises, for example rural landscapes.

Erambie mission, Cowra

Initial white settlement of the Central West and Lachlan did not find a natural landscape but one which had been managed by Aborigines for their own purposes and by fire for many centuries. Nevertheless, initial white occupation was able to take over the landscape as it was. The best parts, to their mind at least, were the open grassed plains with scattered tree cover, created by the Aborigines for game. These grasslands were ideal for pastoral settlement, requiring no more effort than simply droving livestock onto it.

Errowan Park, Blayney

However, not all land was ideal for pastoral or agricultural settlement. Some of it required modification to bring it to the state seen as most appropriate for the needs of white settlers. Thus the ringbarking and clearing of trees, the removal of scrub vegetation further west was undertaken. Sometimes, it occurred on open country in order to increase the carrying capacity of the land for stock or for arable use, or in more heavily timbered areas, to make it available for pasture or crops. The planting of fodder and other crops such as wheat had a marked impact on the landscape. Not only did it change the appearance of the land but it also diminished the number of bio-species considerable on any area of land. The emphasis on wheat and grain cultivation in the Lachlan and the more westerly parts of the Central West has meant the emergence of a distinctive landscape dominated by broad open fields with a meandering railway line across it punctuated every few kilometres by a silo and a siding.

Removal of forests for timber was another part of the process. In some parts, the original forests were superseded by the planting a new crop of tree, usually of softwood species, in order to produce millable timber more rapidly. Thereby the landscape, its colours and the tree species, as well as the complex ecosystem were replaced by a darker-hued monoculture based on imported tree species.

Townscapes in the new towns also emerged with particular landscape elements, some integral to the town, and others, more general in their possible location. The urban park, closely planted and managed was not seen much outside the town. The golf course, the racetrack and the speedway, could be.

Cook Park, Orange

Murray's Garden, (Evans Shire)

Haeflinger's Garden, (Evans Shire)

The impact of mining, particularly for gold, had a marked impact, especially since the activities of early prospectors were broad as they scoured every creek and valley in search of the elusive metal. The extensive impact of gold prospecting was later supplanted and then replaced in many areas by the more intensive technologies of reef mining, by water sluicing methods of gold recovery or by dredging. At the extreme, the difference between the shaft mine mostly associated with gold and coal and the open cut, most commonly associated with coal mining fostered markedly different mining landscapes.

A host of specialised activities created their own distinctive landscape. Water management was one of the most intensive, though the absence of large-scale irrigation schemes on the Central West and Lachlan has meant that its impact is subtler than at Griffith, for example. Dams built to store water for such schemes drowned original landscapes as well as features such as the Chinese water-races now covered by the Burrendong Dam. The other major change is the lake landscape created by dams such as Burrendong Dam, Chifley Dam and Windamere Dam. A large body of water where there had previously been semi-dry paddocks ensured the formation of landscapes of recreation, as people, miles from the sea became avid boat-owners.

Cudgegong Joss House

Military land-use involves the creation of hatted encampments, which have a distinct appearance, such as at Bathurst and Parkes, but the corollary is the stabilisation of pastoral land-use in many areas as military training grounds. Another variant is that of the explosive testing range, such as at Bogan Gate.

Wellington Convict & Mission Precinct, Parkes RAAF Station

Tourist landscapes emerged around the artificial dams. They also cluster around scenic attractions; such as the Zig Zag Railway and at Jenolan Caves, where a complex of tourist orientated facilities only survive on the basis of the caves. Farm holidays and the passion for bed and breakfast holiday establishments has meant the proliferation of tourist facilities which create their landscapes, comprising barracks, huts, stables and residential quarters, such as at Little Hartley Farm, or the bed and breakfast establishments around Oberon. At times, they preserve older houses and farm buildings. In other cases, they foster the erection of buildings with pseudo-Federation detail or “natural” bush cabin style accommodation in timber.

Remembrance usually has a modest impact on the landscape, being reserved for memorials, which form part of the parks or streetscape of towns. Much larger is the impact of the Japanese gardens, cemetery and other elements at the site of the Cowra POW camp, or in cemeteries sometimes focussed on a church.

Japanese Gardens and POW Camp, Cowra Hoskins Memorial Church gardens, Lithgow

Equally widespread in its impact has been the desire to preserve “natural” landscapes. These too are as much “cultural” in their fundamentals since they derive from a definite decision not to use the land but to “manage” it in such a way that it retains those qualities which preserve it as close to its natural ecologic balance, or state of flux, as possible.

Goobang National Park

Chapter 10: NSW Historical Theme: Events

The quiet passing of the annual cycle of seasons was broken by special events, which enlivened routine and signalled the achievement of significant milestones. Wiradjuri ceremonies marked the coming of age of boys and girls, as well as important occurrences, such as birth and death and heralding the harvest of seasonally available foodstuffs.

Graduation ceremonies from local schools were surpassed by the annual show, which drew the people of the district into competition and permitted farmers to learn of new developments and to assess how different methods of production compared. The showground was traditionally the site for such events. The importance of the annual show was recognised by the NSW government, which annually gazetted local show days as holidays for the surrounding district. Schoolteachers, in particular, were the public servants most directly affected, since on that day, they were permitted to close the school so pupils could attend the show.

Land for showgrounds had long been set aside in many towns by the Crown. In time, a corpus of buildings was constructed to meet the needs of the show society and their exhibitors and for sideshows. In many towns, the showground forms a significant collection of buildings redolent of country crafts, sideshows and the smell of livestock. Showgrounds were not just stops on the circuits of sideshow proprietors and the professional exhibitor. They have also acquired a role as part of the network of locations where enthusiasts of leisure pursuits, such as quilting, stamp-collecting, motor cars, meet to exhibit, extol, explore and exchange.

Parkes Showground

Bathurst Showground

Special ceremonial occasions emerged to recognise key events, which gouged their way into public memory. In some towns, attempts to create such ceremonial occasions around events such as the founding of the town had little impact. The passing of an earlier white explorer was sometimes marked by the unveiling of a special plaque but usually left no permanent event on the annual calendar. It was the searing impact of the Anzac landing, which became so deeply entrenched in private memory, and public memorial that it was to become a major annual event across Australia.

Deliberate attempts to create landmarks, mainly for tourist purposes had an impact, though after the initial opening, such landmarks left little in the public memory, apart from the attraction created. Thus, every town was anxious to find a high enough point to which a road could be built to create a lookout over the town.

More recently, specially focussed events have emerged as highlights in the annual calendar. Festivals, particularly those celebrating regional food and wine, have become a lifestyle event, a market place and a showcase for regional specialities. The earliest of these appear to have been held at Mudgee. Orange soon joined the trend. Apart from celebration of the past such as festivals highlighting the heritage of gold in the region, other special interest festivals have emerged, such as the Festival of the Winds(?) arranged around ballooning at Canowindra.

Chapter 11: NSW Historical Theme: Exploration

Geographical exploration, in the sense of making unknown places known to a society, has probably been a feature of human societies for millennia. In the Central West, exploration generally refers to making places unknown to colonial society known to it, but it must be remembered that these same places were already known to local Wiradjuri communities, and terms such as ‘discovered’ or ‘the first person to see...’ are usually not appropriate.

In 1813 surveyor George Evans crossed the Blue Mountains and entered the Central Tablelands, beginning an era of official exploration that was quickly followed by settlers seeking to exploit the resources of the region. In 1815 Evans renamed the Lachlan River (Wiradjuri name Galiyarr) but did not venture further west than Eugowra. John Oxley explored part of the Lachlan Plain in 1817 making a large circuit from Forbes and Bogan Gate southwest to Griffith, north to Lake Cargellico (which he renamed Regent’s Lake) and along the Lachlan River to Kiacatoo 40 kilometres west of Condobolin. Heading north from the river he passed close to Peak Hill and on to Wellington. Further official exploration then ended until surveyor Thomas Mitchell came through the region in 1835.

Private exploration was also a notable feature in the region, particularly in the Lachlan districts, where pastoralists entered the district between Oxley’s and Mitchell’s journeys. Pastoral families such as the Higgins’ and Woods’ occupied tracts of land during the late 1820s around Forbes and Grenfell, and as late as the 1850s John Reagan, of another local pastoral family, was exploring and naming places such as the Humbug River.

The more recent explorations have made the region a base for exploring the heavens with the establishment of the radio telescope at Parkes in 1961.

Chapter 12: NSW Historical Theme: Fishing

Before white Europeans entered the Central West and Lachlan, the Wiradjuri harvested the bounty of the skies, the land and the rivers, taking fish when they were available.

Commercial fishing has made little impact on the Central West and Lachlan, but the cool waters of the upper reaches of the rivers has been ideal for the growth of trout. Recreational fishing has been a steady influence on the development of the district. The area around Oberon and on the Abercrombie River is well known for its trout fishing and draws a number of enthusiasts.

The efforts of private acclimatisation societies such as the Orange Acclimatisation Society have stocked the rivers of the district with suitable fish for anglers. Introduced rainbow trout and brown trout have been released into all of the rivers by societies affiliated with the Central Acclimatisation Society, as far downriver as Canowindra.

Native fish such as Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch have been released into the dams and lakes of the area such as Carcoar Dam, Burrendong Dam, Lake Canobolas, Bumberry Dam, and Lake Cargellico. These stockings allow the species to populate the Macquarie, Cudgegong and Lachlan Rivers with these fish for anglers.

One of the least organised but most popularly followed angling pursuits is fishing for yabbies, which are found in a number of farm dams.

Chapter 13: NSW Historical Theme: Forestry

Much of the area was covered with “Forest” land. This was not forest, as the term is understood today, but was open wooded country with sparse trees, which was seen by the early settlers as ideal for pastoralism. Much of this ideal landscape was the product of Wiradjuri land management practices. They had little need for millable timber and fostered the extension of grasslands to maximise foods they could harvest. What is now known as forest and other tree cover did exist and was the source of timber for mine props, general construction and for house building.

Millable timber was found in various locations such as near Wellington and Mudgee, along the Macquarie River, and near Parkes. Sawmillers reduced this timber to useable sizes and shapes. Brown stringybark and blue mountain ash were generally used as mining timber. Timber for house construction and furniture as well as general uses was obtained from manna gum, messmate, brown barrel and mountain gum.

Forest Reserves were created by the Lands Department in order to preserve timber. However, in many cases, these Reserves only preserved the timber temporarily until the trees were cut out and the land was made available for settlement. Mills were highly mobile and followed cutting of the forests. More established permanent sawmillers set up their equipment near the major towns, such as Bathurst, and Orange.

Cutting trees for firewood has long been a business in the area supplying local needs as well as markets far away. The trade declined as the use of timber fuel became less popular. However, the resurgence of timber as a heating fuel especially in slow combustion stoves has revitalised the industry. It has also made it a threat to native trees across the area, particularly in the drier parts, west of Molong where the loss of trees in paddocks has deleterious effects on stock shelter, vegetation regeneration and water tables.

New forests were created by regrowth sometimes spontaneously seeded but more commonly by a structured scheme of planting in the twentieth century, when replanting with radiata pine became a buzzword. Usually, these new forests consisted of introduced softwood pine species suitable for rapid growth, thereby supplanting native forests of hardwood. The most significant of these were established near Oberon and Yetholme, as the native forests were cut out. The area near Mt Canobolas and southwards was also the focus of re-forestation efforts as small farms were acquired for planting with a new crop for regular harvesting - forests.

Prison camps at Kirkconnell, Newnes and Oberon were established in order to utilise low-security prison inmates for re-forestation schemes.

Timber processing is a significant industry in many towns, though often only a minor part of the economy. Oberon, on the other hand, is largely reliant upon the CSR Wood Products factory, which provides significant employment, particularly for the younger people of the town.

Forest products not only included timber. Eucalyptus oils were distilled from the leaves of the tree. Charcoal was burned from trees less suitable for timber or firewood.

Eucalyptus distillery, (Bland Shire)

Chapter 14: NSW Historical Theme: Health

“Health” meant ample food, physical prowess and resilience for the Wiradjuri. Isolated from most diseases by the seas surrounding Australia, they conquered the microbes of their ecosystem and could probably expect a lifespan similar to what most Europeans could then expect. In the early nineteenth century, White Europeans brought exotic diseases to which the Wiradjuri had no immunity. Havoc reigned upon the health of the Wiradjuri until they developed some immunity, though the health of the Wiradjuri is still a matter of concern up to the present day.

For the bulk of early settlers, health care meant home remedies or recourse to a range of patent medicines, but even early residents were fully aware of the need for professional medical care. If a doctor were genuinely needed, he would be fetched. In cases of less extreme emergency, the pharmacist might be the answer. Both medical practitioners, some with dubious qualifications to their name and pharmacists were available in the Central West from the earliest days. Doctors came and went from most areas and records of the arrival of the “first doctor” in a locality are quite diverse.

Hospitals were also established. Most of the earliest ones grew out of the need for accident care for injured miners, such as the Peak Hill Hospital. Community concern underlay the establishment of many hospitals in the towns. Often the product of heroic efforts in collecting subscriptions, coupled with astute lobbying of politicians for government grants, institutions such as the Wellington Hospital, were proudly pressed forward by proud townspeople as evidence of the quality of life, the sophistication and the advanced nature of their town.

Bathurst Hospital

Hospital Cottage, Lithgow

Wellington Hospital

Peak Hill Hospital

Many towns could not support a resident doctor or hospital. Some of them were served by Bush Nurses who served to bridge the gap between the home remedy and a long journey to the nearest town for medical care.

The needs of organising health care and insurance underlay the establishment and support of friendly societies across the area. Often friendly societies did not create a physical presence, such as office, or a hall. They served as a safety net in a time when there was no readily available free medical care, or welfare. An associated development was the creation of united friendly society pharmacies, when all or most of the friendly societies of a town combined to establish a pharmacy, which gave preference to members at a lower cost.

A most profound shift in medical care in the twentieth century has been the ejection of what were private life course events to public facilities. The events of birth and death have shifted from care by close family members within the peaceful and familiar surrounding of the home to care by impersonal professionals, in public or semi-public clinical environments.

Birth was initially an event handled by the family or neighbours and friends in the domestic home. It then shifted from the home to the maternity hospital, which was often privately run in larger houses by female maternity staff. Most towns had at least one private maternity hospital. Once maternity hospitals became less acceptable due to the opposition of professional medical opinion and higher standards of accreditation, birth shifted to the public hospital. There, it was increasingly handled by professional staff, often assisted with increasing technology, often to the great relief of the mother, although a countervailing tendency has been under way.

Baby Health Centres were an important initiative from the 1910s onwards in providing quality advice and assistance for new mothers. In some centres, they eventually obtaining specialist buildings devoted solely to that purpose, such as in Orange. In other towns, the Country Women's Association oversaw the provision of such facilities often in their own rooms, such as in Wellington.

Similarly, death, a private event managed as best as one can manage such a moment of completion, was traditionally handled at home. Subsequently, it became a matter for clinical management in the hospital. More recently, it has increasingly become an event associated with the aged care hostel or more commonly, with the nursing home.

Chapter 15: NSW Historical Theme: Industry

“Industry” defines a broad category of human enterprise, ranging from simple hand based workshop based modes of production utilising little machinery aimed at producing items individually to satisfy a specific order and extends, at the other extreme, to methods based on highly mechanised plants turning out large quantities of goods in serial production runs. There is not only an evolution across time. Simple modes of production on a handicraft basis continue to survive and even flourish alongside more highly mechanised production. What might be appropriate for one product and place might not be suitable for another.

Small-scale handicraft production of basic implements and tools characterised Wiradjuri industry. Its output was limited and often for personal use only, but it produced a range of items of great use to them. When first confronted with the output of European manufacturing, they threw away almost everything as useless to them, prizing the steel axe above all else. To some Wiradjuri, broken glass which could be fashioned into exceedingly sharp tools was much more valuable and useful than the trinkets offered by the white man.

In response to the immediate needs of the main land use of the district, the processing of agricultural and pastoral products, both for local consumption and for “export” out of the area was often the earliest industrial processing undertaken. It included manufactories and processing works such as abattoirs, boiling down plants, freezing works, tanneries, flour mills, woolscours and canning plants. The freezing works at Daroobalgie near Forbes was one such enterprise.

Tannery, Blackdown homestead, Bathurst

Food processing for local use was almost as early in its application in the area. The needs of local residents fostered the development of bakeries and breweries such as the Bell Brewery at Wellington. Simple processing of local and imported raw materials to cater for the needs of the local building trade as well as some production for “export” fostered the development of enterprises such as brickworks or timber mills. Power driven sawmills were located in the large towns as major enterprises sawing timber, planing boards to suit the needs of local customers and producing mouldings, such as J H Gain’s Steam Joinery sawmill in Orange. Mobile bush sawmills reduced freshly cut trees into transportable or saleable billets close to where the timber was grown and cut and harvested.

Brickworks were equally mobile. Even brickworks based in larger towns were often modest affairs burning bricks in open clamps, such as those on Bushrangers Road, Wellington. Other brickmakers were mobile following railway lines and supplying the needs of the construction gangs. Many of the brick bridges and culverts along the railway line to Mudgee and to Wellington were produced locally in pits opened up by the contractor or his suppliers in order to meet the immediate needs of constructing the line and then closing in the absence of a local market.

Abernathy & Co stonemason’s lathe, Newell Highway, Forbes

Mineral processing dealt with raw materials won from the ground within the Central West and Lachlan or brought in from beyond. A dizzying array of gold recovery

processes was applied to treat the ore in order to extract the valuable mineral. Usually, these processing plants were coupled with batteries of crushers to break up the ore laden rock. Non-ferrous metals were also won in the area, most notably copper. The Central West and the Lachlan were the heart of the initial boom in copper prospecting, mining and refining in the colony following hot on the boom in South Australia. Processing of copper ore was undertaken at Lithgow, where the plant also treated ore from distant mines such as Cobar. Metal refining at Lithgow was initially attracted by the availability of coal. This was a factor in the establishment of a major iron and steel manufacturing plant in the town by the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Shale oil mining and processing was another aspect of the treatment of ores found within the region. Oil shale was found at a number of locations such as at Glen Davis, Newnes, Airly and Hartley Vale. Processing works were established at Newnes in 1906. That plant was later moved to Glen Davis in 1939.

Glen Davis

The manufacture of soft goods, particularly clothing was an important town based industry in the region. In towns with few other employment openings for women, clothing manufacture was a significant element in the economy. Gloves were manufactured at Parkes. Orange manufactured woollen goods. Lithgow produced ladies underwear. The Coerwull woollen mills were an early nineteenth century enterprise established nearby.

Coerwull Woollen Mills

Metal manufacturing, often seen as the measure of manufacturing sophistication, was represented by the full gamut of enterprises running from simple blacksmithing by hand in small workshops through to complex machine based works. Every town had its blacksmith and they were regularly situated along major routes, where their skills were in demand by wheeled and horse drawn transport. Agricultural machinery makers evolved from some of the blacksmithing firms. The Mitchell Farm machinery works at Parkes was one example. Lithgow with its iron and steel processing, its coal reserves, and ready access to Sydney via rail drew a number of such works. Motor car garages, which opened for business from the early twentieth century onwards, provided competition for the blacksmith and, due to the needs of their customers often became minor manufacturing plants in their own right. During World War Two, one of the garages in Cowra even managed to turn out a field gun, for the war effort.

The most sophisticated manufacturing works was the Lithgow Small Arms Factory, established before the First World War to produce rifles and pistols for the Australian Army. Later it added to its repertoire with machine guns, bayonets and other munitions, as well as a number of products for civilian use such as movie projectors, golf clubs and caterpillar tracks. The plant was a leader in quality production producing finely tooled parts to exacting specifications, which had to be robust as well as interchangeable. Despite these requirements, that did not stop some of the work being decentralised during World War Two. A network of feeder plants was established in towns across the Central West, often utilising female labour to produce bayonets, rifle and machine parts. Apart from Lithgow, plants were set up in Bathurst, Orange, Forbes, Wellington, Mudgee, Cowra, Young, Parkes, Portland and Dubbo. Once the war was over, these plants became the basis for post-war manufacturing in some of these towns. The whitegoods manufacturer, Email, set up its operations in the former small arms plant at Orange.

Lithgow Small Arms Factory

Manufacture of electrical goods or electronics is represented in the area by the Email works at Orange. Clyde Engineering works produced diesel-electric locomotives at Bathurst for many years.

The process of industrial development is also well represented in its reverse, de-industrialisation. The closure of manufacturing plants has left a legacy of works, which demonstrate the development of the district but no longer operate. Clothing and soft goods manufacturers have closed in towns such as Parkes, and Lithgow, leaving a gap in work opportunities for the women of the town. Often the plants where these manufacturing activities remain, either as a full range of buildings or as isolated evidence.

Yet, the most stunning de-commissioned industrial plant is the former iron and steel works at Lithgow where the solid plug of hardened steel and slag is all that remains of the blast furnace and now stands like a giant eolith in an industrial wasteland. Surely, it will tell the citizen of the thirty-first century stumbling upon the scattered evidence of the distant twentieth century of the Christian era as much as the menhirs of the Gauls and the stone faces of Easter Island.

Hoskins Steelworks, Lithgow

Chapter 16: NSW Historical Theme: Mining

Identifying and extracting ores, stones and earths has been an important commercial industry in the Central West since the 1840s. There is some evidence of Wiradjuri mining activities, such as on the shores of Lake Cowal where stone for tools was mined.

The focus of nineteenth and twentieth century mining in the region has been on gold, coal, copper and shale oil. However, significant deposits of silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum (at Mt Tennyson) and diamonds (on the Cudgegong) have also been exploited.

Copper was the first metal mined in NSW. By 1845, copper mines were operating at Copper Hill near Molong and Lipscombe Pools Creek near Canowindra. By 1848 there was also a mine at Summerhill near Rockley. This makes the Tablelands the site of the oldest copper mines in NSW. Many have left archaeological remains of smelters, engine mounts and shafts, adits or open cuts. Dozens of mines appeared throughout the Bathurst, Orange and Cowra areas, including Oberon, Tuena, Woodstock, Carcoar, Blayney, Rockley and Trunkey Creek. Many were worked for short periods only and appear to have produced little or no copper. Little development work was done on them other than shafts and drives. The more productive mines included the Lloyd Copper Mine at Burruga (1878 – 1919), Cadia Copper Mine (mid 1860s – 1922+) and the Sunny Corner Mine (1878 – 1895). In the Mudgee/Wellington area the situation was similar with some of the more productive mines including Belara Copper Mine (1880-1908+) at Goolma, Mount Stewart Mine, Leadville and Goodrich Copper Mine near Yeoval. Most deposits are found in country rock which meant that it was mined by hard-rock methods either by shafts, drives and stoping or open cut. The techniques are similar to reef gold mining.

As many of the sites in the region were long distances from good transportation sending the bulk copper ore for processing was not an option. Many mines, including Cadia and Sunny Corner, invested in smelters, which could reduce the copper ore to a matte with a higher copper percentage. Copper mining in the region decreased significantly after the 1920s.

Cadia, Copper Hill and Sunny Corner reflect the more successful copper mines and due to their success and longevity, provide evidence of existence many of the shorter-lived mines do not. They also demonstrate the isolation of these sites and the methods used.

Payable gold was discovered in the Bathurst district in 1851, bringing large numbers of people from the colonies and overseas to the Central Tablelands. New towns such as Sofala and Rockley grew beside the mines as gold-seekers and service providers flocked to the goldfields. In the 1870s the focus shifted to the Hill End/Tambaroora area although the yield from areas such as Sofala and Wattle Flat remained high until the First World War. In the Lachlan River area the earliest gold rush was at Forbes in 1861 on Bugabigal station, now the site of Lachlan Vintage Village. Miners progressed to the north to the Currajong diggings later to become Parkes and south to around Grenfell and Weddin Mountain. Major strikes in the Lachlan River area were

at Lake Cargellico (1870s), Peak Hill (1880s) and Wyalong (1890s) and were worked until c1920. Throughout the region alluvial mining gradually gave way to reef mining. As the gold seekers left some of the towns such as Forbes, Parkes, Lake Cargellico and West Wyalong continued to develop, becoming significant country towns while others gradually faded.

Other minerals were primarily located on the Central Tablelands. At Lithgow the establishment of the railway in the 1860s allowed the exploitation of the area's coal reserves for the first time, paving the way for industrial development in the region. Copper had been a significant discovery in the 1840s and was exploited primarily from 1862. There were numerous mines between 1845 and 1898 including Cadia, Sunny Corner and Burruga. Despite the Central Tablelands having the longest history of copper mining in New South Wales the success was overshadowed by gold fever, as were all other mining activities. Sunny Corner, along with Dark Corner also produced gold, silver, zinc and antimony. Shale oil extraction at Hartley Vale, Newnes, Glen Davis and several other places dominated that industry in Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Since the 1920s mining in the region has declined.

The earliest coal discoveries were at the mouth of the Hunter River about 1791. In 1848 coal operations began at Lithgow as well as at Newcastle and the Illawarra after the Australian Agricultural Company's monopoly on coal ceased. Mining began at Lithgow in 1863. It was the impetus for the boom development of the town of Lithgow the area being the focus for coal mining in the western coalfield, which extended from Lithgow to Ulan (northeast of Gulgong). Dating from this period is the Hermitage Colliery. Here the Tunnel Mine was begun in 1868 by J J Poole. Output of the mine increased significantly when the Lithgow Vale Colliery, the first colliery at Lithgow(?), acquired the site in 1873. This coincided with the opening of the existing railway siding, demonstrating the importance and impact of railway facilities. The first shaft was sunk at Oakey Park Colliery in 1887. Ongoing investment in new machinery such as beehive coke ovens and crushing machinery was a response to increasing production requirements as well as intending to increase production. Oakey Park shifted its focus when William Sandford built a blast furnace nearby in the early 1900s. The impact of economics and competition was demonstrated by these mines when they, along with many other collieries, were forced to close during the Depression of the 1930s. In 1940 the Commonwealth Colliery, the first open cut mine in New South Wales opened. The remnants of these mines, together with others in the region, demonstrate the impact of changing technologies and techniques on the industry as well as the effects of social and economic change. The concentration of some of the most significant coal fields in the region in the Lithgow area reflects the earliest extensions of the railway and the proximity of markets as well as the patterns of deposits.

Mining for shale oil commenced at Hartley Vale commenced in 1866. The ore was sent to a Sydney refinery by rail for conversion to kerosene. During the late nineteenth century oil shale ore continued to develop as an industry. The Lithgow area became the heartland of the Australian oil industry before Australia's first commercial oil-well was sunk in 1953. Mining of oil shale began at Newnes in 1903. From 1906 development accelerated following the formation of the British firm the Commonwealth Oil Corporation under Sir George Newnes. Newnes was one of

Australia's largest shale oil operations. Although the demand for shale oil peaked in 1912 the fickleness of the industry is demonstrated by the success of Newnes and the building of retorts at Torbane while Joadja near Mittagong failed due to competition in kerosene production from the USA. In 1937 the National Oil Proprietary Ltd. at Glen Davis was established at a time when there was significant public awareness of the need for increased self-sufficiency.

The remains at Hartley Vale, Genowlan, Torbane, Newnes, Marrangaroo and Glen Davis collectively tell the story of the fortunes of the shale oil ore industry and the impact of overseas competition. The importance of the railway to industry was demonstrated when the Hartley Vale operation ceased in 1916 and the plant and equipment were transferred to the Newnes works which were connected to the main rail system. Like coal mining, the most significant sites of the shale oil ore industry in the region were found in the Lithgow area, the access to markets and transport a significant factor. The mine remains and those of the associated towns and amenities give an insight to the way in which isolated industry provided for its workers and their families in order to help ensure an ongoing workforce and therefore the ongoing success of the mines while ever the mineral resource was plentiful and in demand.

Chapter 17: NSW Historical Theme: Pastoralism

Breeding and raising animals for human use, and especially for the consumption of meat, wool and hides, has been practised in the Central West and Lachlan since the early nineteenth century. Wiradjuri pastoralism was practised in the form of seasonal burning of grasses and grasslands to maintain an environment attractive to grazing animals such as kangaroos. The open park-like landscapes, which they created attracted pastoralists as well as the kangaroos. They have since been obscured and replaced by land clearance and bush regrowth.

The colony needed good, open, quality grassed areas for grazing and the region appeared to meet these requirements. Under Governor Macquarie, land west of the Macquarie River was reserved for government stock and agricultural stations, while limited numbers of land grants and grazing permits were made to individual colonists east of the river. A government station was set up at Bathurst from 1815. Kelso was developed from 1818 onwards by small settlers. In 1823 a remote convict stock station was developed in the Wellington Valley west of the river, and a private town later developed at Montefiores on the east bank.

When Governor Darling redefined the Limits of Location as the furthest boundaries of settlement in 1826 the entire Central Tableland was opened to private settlement. By 1835, settlement had begun to extend to the Lachlan River region and by 1858 large pastoral runs had been created by settlers in many parts of the region. Initially, cattle settled some areas, such as the drier areas and the more rugged parts of the Central West, but sheep gained the ascendancy in most areas. Large pastoral properties developed such as the those held by the Lowe, Rouse, Cox and Bayley families around Mudgee.

Bygoo homestead group

Coombing Park homestead

Errowanbang homestead

Settlement of the drier Lachlan area relied heavily upon taking up land along the rivers, but most the best land had been taken up by the 1850s. The backblocks were ignored, but stockmen travelling across them occasionally located waterholes, such as at Trundle. These allowed the careful stocking of the backblocks especially in wetter years. The introduction of water-saving technologies from Victoria into the Riverina demonstrated to stockholders how to settle the deeper backblocks. Hence, the digging of wells and tanks proceeded in the Lachlan as land became scarcer and the backblocks became ever more attractive. A network of Water Reserves along the rivers and Travelling Stock Routes permitted movement of stock across land, which had formerly been the sole domain of a squatter.

The introduction of wire fencing was another innovation, which hastened the take-up of the backblocks. It enabled squatters to control their stock and separate them from other herds. Investment in such developments was heightened by the 1862 Land Acts, which gave some security of tenure to pastoralists, but also emphasised the imperative to spend money on improvements to demonstrate their hold on the land. Tanks, wells, fencing, stockyards, not to mention homesteads, shearing sheds and woolscours all

demonstrated investment in the land and formed the basis for acquiring land from the Crown as freehold as defence against selectors.

Extension of the wheat frontier ever further westwards made the position of pastoralists more insecure. Free selection allowed them to claim parts of squatter's runs as land for growing wheat. Successful defence against selectors did not rely upon the quality of the land or its suitability as pasture. It came from astute manipulation of the land laws and explains why similarly endowed areas had vastly different results from free selection.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century Closer Settlement encouraged intensive use of smaller farms, resulting in the breaking up of the large pastoral runs. In the more western area of the region this translated into a movement away from cattle and sheep grazing to wool and wheat growing by the 1930s. Smaller properties owned by "graziers" rather than "squatters" could not rely solely upon sheep, so the wheat/sheep association emerged as a flexible mode of production on smaller farms.

Dairying emerged as another alternative though it was often based near towns. Control of the number of dairy licences by the Milk Board kept the number of dairies to a basic minimum. Horse breeding was also undertaken on some properties though the replacement of horse drawn transport by motor powered equipment has meant that breeding is largely of saddle and racing horses.

An infrastructure to service the needs of the pastoral industry emerged (see Industry). Boiling down works, abattoirs such as Daroobalgie near Forbes, and tanneries treated the animals making them ready for human consumption. Stockyards and saleyards enabled trading in livestock to continue effectively. Stock and station agents undertake many service functions for the industry.

Sheep and cattle continue to be dominant industries despite the increased prominence of mining, tourism and industry in the eastern areas of the Central Tableland.

Chapter 18: NSW Historical Theme: Science

Scientific endeavour in the Central West and Lachlan initially concentrated on the discovery of the unknown and meandered in the realms of applied science rather than of pure research. Pure research came later and significant discoveries were later made in the region.

Initially, the Wiradjuri themselves were the subject of white European scientific curiosity. Scientists and enthusiasts had a deep fascination for the Wiradjuri, which continued for decades, seeking the ethnographic element, rather than the individual personality. Collection practices and ignorance or wilful flouting of Wiradjuri cultural practices and taboos left a legacy of bitterness that persists to the present day.

Absence of knowledge of the area's flora and fauna spurred the initial efforts of scientific inquirers in the region. Likewise, its geology was a matter of considerable interest for its possible practical value for mining. Later, a better knowledge of the area's soils and the potential for crop and livestock use was sought in order to utilise the area's natural endowments more effectively.

“Science” was originally practised by individuals, either on their own behalf or for wealthy patrons. Curiosity, rather than craving for profit, inspired their quest. There was little or no formal institutional framework for scientific enquiry. The Australian Museum was not yet formed when the area was being explored. Distant scientific bodies in Britain were the recipients of the fruits of early scientific enquiry.

Exploring parties, which traversed the area, were the first seekers to know the region and its mysteries better. Many official expeditions included some personnel with some scientific expertise. The expeditions of Allan Cunningham were a steady botanical progress through the interior of New South Wales locating numerous new species of plant. Bathurst served as the base for his expeditions, which were subsequently published.

Amateur enthusiasts promoted their findings by publication of their theories or promoted their findings through the Royal Society of New South Wales. They included the Parramatta based William Woolls, a noted early botanist, and William Branthwaite Clarke whose geological investigations of goldfields were heavily focussed on the fields of the Central West and Lachlan.

Yetholme Copper Butterfly habitat

Due to its relative accessibility from Sydney, the Central West was on the travel itinerary of many noted visitors. The journey of Charles Darwin across the Blue Mountains has been identified as having a modest influence on the formulation of his theories of evolution.

Formal institutions were later established to research, classify and store the fruits of scientific endeavour, such as the Botanical Gardens and the Australian Museum, but both of these institutions were based in Sydney and the ambit of their interest was

wider than the land west of the mountains. Much more significant for the Central West and the Lachlan was the establishment of agricultural research stations within the area. Created to explore the natural environment and to find practical solutions to the problems of farming, their research was, by force of circumstances, applied rather than pure, but their findings were applied right across the area and had a considerable impact on land-use and landscape.

A soil science research station established at Wellington was a key scientific investigator in the district. Its researches and their impact reached far beyond the area and the modes of ploughing, crop managements, run-off control are major factors in many landscapes west of the Great Dividing Range.

Colleges to train people for occupations such as teaching, expanded to embrace a wider range of disciplines and in time, evolved into universities. Although the imperatives of government funding have left many of these with little involvement in research as distinct from teaching, there are some tertiary institutions, which have made a marked impact on the advancement of scientific knowledge. The University of Sydney campus at Orange is one of these.

Mitchell Campus original farm

Yalgogrin homestead

The long geological history of the area has attracted not just mineral explorers. Investigation of the archaeology of the distant past has occurred in the district, some of it spurred by discoveries in locations such as Jenolan Caves. At the simplest level, the mix of bones and feathers jumbled on the cave floors at Jenolan and Wellington, provide insights into past ecosystems. Formal excavation of archaeological sites adds to knowledge.

The Parkes Radio Telescope was put into operation on 31 October 1961 with financial support from NASA. It became a significant element in the network of astronomical research facilities and had a role in manned space expeditions, most notably in the 1969 manned expedition to the moon.

Chapter 19: NSW Historical Theme: Technology

Technology is an umbrella category which encompasses both the application of a particular mode of doing something to achieve a desired physical output, as well as the innovation of a new technique for undertaking tasks, more efficiently, more cheaply, or to provide a particular result which was not previously possible.

Within the limits of the wood, stone or animal products available to them as raw materials, the Wiradjuri applied appropriate technologies to fashion all of the tools and implements they needed to survive.

Technology applies to the hand-based skills applied to tasks such as cutting turf for roofing, pugging clay to make bricks, or stirring the pot so that jam will not burn. Equally, it also applies to the application of sophisticated mechanised process, such as the application of machinery by Newcrest Resources at Cadia in order to recover minute quantities of gold from the underlying rock strata.

Drystone walls, Little Forest

Turf or sod house, Taradale

Windradyne's humpy, Bathurst

As such, this theme applies to the application of the full range of hand-based and machine-assisted technologies which have been utilised, such as the burning of bricks in open fired kilns on Bushrangers Creek Road, Wellington, to the sluicing operations for gold carried out in at Sofala, and the application of freezing technology at Daroobalgie near Forbes to freeze livestock for export, and the use of precision metal-working machinery at the Lithgow Small Arms Factory to manufacture a full range of military small-arms and host of other metal goods.

Innovation is equally significant. Wind-driven pumps, an iconic landmark across Australia, raised water from sedimentary layers of rock saturated with water, in order to provide for man, beast and crop. Dams have been the focus of considerable innovative techniques such as those at Junction Reefs and Belubela. Burrendong Dam possesses a notable spillway, with a slotted roller bucket dissipator of an improved design to reduce the water flow and stop the boil downstream.

Queen Charlotte Vale Dam

Junction Reefs Dam, Lyndhurst

Belubela Dam

Abernathy & Co stonemason's lathe, Newell Highway, Forbes

Quartz Roasting Pits, Hill End

Glen Davis Town and shale oil works

Chapter 20: NSW Historical Theme: Transport

Wiradjuri pathways crossed and criss-crossed the district. Not only did they create local communication networks enabling groups to move from one feeding ground to another. They also provided long distance trade routes whereby resources available in one area, such as red ochre, were traded along the network to other areas where they were desired but not obtainable. Onto this complex pattern, the white man imposed his own transport networks often ignoring the existing track system, particularly in later decades. Initially, though Wiradjuri route ways were invaluable for permitting access.

Roads were important to the movement of white settlers. Indeed, the earliest public enterprise in the Central West, which predated settlement was the building of a road over the Blue Mountains. In this instance, at least, the Central West is almost unique amongst the regions of New South Wales. The road came first then the settlers. In most other areas, the reverse was the case.

Cox's Road Victoria Pass

The necessary network of roads to serve the settlements of the Central West and the Lachlan evolved gradually growing out of a series of rough tracks, aboriginal pathways and bullock tracks. Once settlement was sufficiently advanced, such tracks gradually acquired the status of roads. In order to carry out works on them, the colonial government characteristically ensured that they were correctly measured and aligned. They had to be surveyed and gazetted as public roads, before any work was undertaken by the Roads and Bridges Branch of the Public Works Department.

Other route ways developed as Travelling Stock Routes, laid out as pathways for the movement of livestock from one area to another. Mostly, these converged towards major markets such as Sydney. In many cases, a road for wheeled vehicles and other travellers passed down the middle of such TSRs. Travelling Stock Routes were also officially gazette, just like roads, and their impact on the landscape has been profound, not only as route ways but also as reservoirs of native trees and plant species. Where many Travelling Stock Routes pass, all the land on either side has been so carefully managed that few native species survive. Often the Travelling Stock Route is the only repository of such bio-resources.

Inns positioned along the roads and Travelling Stock Routes catered for the traveller. Some were of high quality serving the coaching trade, whilst others were less salubrious. A constant element in most travellers' accounts of the colony was the detailed description of the quality (or otherwise) of the inns in which the sojourners spent the night. Most of these inns have disappeared completely, but the sites of many inns are known and represent potential archaeological resources. Some inns still survive, though rarely still in use as hotels.

Collitt's Inn

Animals powered all the transport in use. Pedestrianism was a necessary art for most of the population, but for passengers, who could afford to pay for travel or for shifting goods, wheeled transport pulled by horses or bullocks, and even occasionally by goats

was the only option. Coaching lines emerged providing regular services. The first coach service to Mudgee, for example, commenced in 1853. The renowned firm of Cobb and Co commenced operating from their Bathurst base in 1862. In time, the firm of Cobb and Co became the best known coaching business providing comfortable, speedy and regular services. Yet, as the century drew on, they and the other coaching lines as well as goods carriers were in retreat as railways took away more of their long distance customers. Both carriers and coach repositioned themselves to become feeders to the railways rather than offering long distance services.

Lachlan River road bridge, Forbes

Construction of a railway line across the mountains was a major engineering undertaking and was not initially attempted, but such was the demand for a railway across the mountains that it could not be avoided forever. Engineering difficulties made the construction a difficult undertaking. The construction of the Zig Zag in 1869 overcame the major difficulty of the descent towards Lithgow.

Zig Zag railway viaducts

The line reached Bowenfels on 18 October 1869 and was pressed forward, so that Bathurst was reached on 4 April 1876. Thereafter, contending interests seeking the railway to their town lobbied, petitioned and promoted in order to achieve a railway line to their town. Competition between Mudgee, Wellington, or Molong to obtain a railway line was keen. The decline of road transport was the corollary of the penetration of rail, but the need to maintain roads to serve communities without rail connection and to feed passengers and goods to the railway ensured that there was still some attention devoted to roads, but on the balance, roads suffered financially against the attention devoted to rail.

Bathurst Railway Station

Forbes Railway Station

Rail support facilities were created to ensure the working of the line. Bathurst received workshops. Wellington became the site of a depot. Many other facilities were erected in other towns as well as changing the social mix of some towns. Once there was a contingent of railway men, the social dynamics of country towns were changed.

Construction of the railway also altered settlement patterns. Villages grew up along the line where there had been none, such as Kerr's Creek and Mumbil on the line to Wellington. In other instances, nascent villages shrivelled and died once their population moved closer to the new railway line. For example, the tiny settlement of Bogan Gate on the western line shifted southwards to the new railway line.

The emergence of motor transport by the early twentieth century did not initially provide much competition to rail transport, but the potential was there. In 1906, the maintenance of country roads passed out of the hands of the NSW Public Works Department to the newly created shires. Only main roads were still under the control of the PWD. Right across the state, both the new shires and older municipalities, in rural and urban areas found that they were unable to maintain roads as the impact of the rubber tyre on their roads was magnified as the number of motorcars and trucks increased. Better methods of construction and greater funding was the answer for the

local authorities but for the main roads, the efforts of the Department of Public Works was not seen as adequate. To keep main roads in repair and to extend them became the responsibility of a new government department, the Main Roads Board created on 1 January 1925, which became the Department of Main Roads in 1932.

An extensive programme of road construction continued thereafter. The creation of major highways commenced in 1925 accelerated in the 1950s, with major works to upgrade existing roads to highway standard. Along with the overwhelming of rail by road transport there has also been a re-focussing of transport networks. The connection between the Indian Pacific running along the railway with the Newell Highway at Parkes has meant that the town has been repositioned as a major transport centre, with bulk loading facilities and the depots of major trucking firms.

Air travel arrived almost as soon as the motorcar, but it was much slower to make an impact. Early country town airports were relatively modest affairs, consisting of little more than landing strips. Airport construction during World War Two had some impact on the area, but few of the airfields built were converted to civil use because they were usually too distant from the towns they could serve. The 1950s witnessed the major extension of air services into the region, especially through the efforts of the firm of Butler Air Transport in providing country air services.

The growth of the firm of Hazelton Airways has been a major impact on the town of Cudal(?), which, in contrast to all expectation, became the centre of operation of the firm as well as a centre for aerial industry in New South Wales.

Volume 4: Australian Historical Theme: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

Although many people came to Australia in search of personal gain, they realised the need to co-operate in the building of safe, pleasant urban environments. Australian urbanisation and suburbanisation have special characteristics, which set them apart from similar phenomena elsewhere in the world.

(Australian Historic Themes, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 21: NSW Historical Theme: Accommodation

The earliest settlers of the district did not place great emphasis on accommodation apart from the most basic. Many of them learned how to construct shelter from bush materials learning from the Wiradjuri, who had been housing themselves for centuries before white Europeans arrived. The stripping of bark from trees for walls or roofing was not a European skill, but one developed by the Wiradjuri. Members of the Wiradjuri were initially employed to carry out the task of stripping bark for the white man. In time, the new settlers learned to do it themselves.

Convicts at Bathurst and Wellington had to provide their own minimal shelter, as well as that of their overseers, guards and officials. Squatters and selectors setting up their first shelter from the vagaries of the weather and diggers rushing to their next claim were little concerned with comfort. Both miner and squatter had little interest in building better accommodation often on land to which they had no secure title. Rough and temporary accommodation was all that they had, whether the comfort of a canvas tent or a bark shelter did not matter. Selectors were most concerned with getting their land into production to produce a cash crop. In time though, better housing was built by all of them. Initially it might be of split timber slabs or maybe earth or pise. Machine sawn timber and sheets of corrugated iron, imported from overseas gave them a more reliable material with which to build. Across the Central West and Lachlan, miners and settlers occupied various sites, which were later abandoned. The ruins of their habitations mark many of these sites. Others lack even that, but all of them provide evidence of the movement of a new wave of people into the district and of their attempts to fashion the landscape to their advantage.

Old Government Cottages Group, Bathurst

People with wealth and position often erected more substantial houses. Squatters' homesteads were usually larger than those of other settlers, but what made them notable was the fact that they were often set in the midst of what were almost small villages. Not only was there the homestead, but also there were residences for some of the key staff, barracks to house seasonal workers, barns and sheds to house produce and equipment. Some even had their own production facilities such as bakeries.

Wilbertree, Mudgee

Guntawang, Mudgee

Yamble, Mudgee

Charlton House & barn

In the towns, there were a few larger houses erected by the social elect of the community. These were often large and imposing residences, preferably of brick or stone with lavish applied decoration. Such houses provide evidence of the role of this

social elite and make plain their social and political power. However, important as they were, they were only a small part of society. They tell an important part of the story, but it is still only a part of the whole. More evocative of the lives of the normal folk are groups of small cottages and the terrace rows in more modest streets. It was in dwellings such as these that the general run of people actually lived and they tell us far more about the lives of people than a few isolated lavish mansions.

Dunryleague, Orange

Other Dalton family residences

Work based communities were evident in places such as farms or on stations where accommodation for shearers, fencers, and other staff was provided. The shearing shed, shearers' quarters and the homestead were often the most fundamental accommodation elements on many properties, not to mention, a host of other general and special purpose buildings for housing machinery, equipment, tools, farming inputs and needs as well as livestock.

Traditionally, young shop staff in larger retailing businesses lived on the premises, sometimes undertaking a few minor chores such as cleaning, or acting as caretaker. Small shopkeepers often lived above their shop or behind it though this was less evident in country towns than in the city. Yet, many towns still possess banks with the manager's accommodation behind, where a genteel and relatively prosperous lifestyle existed behind the stately "shop" in front. Hospital staff, most particularly nurses also lived at or near their workplace.

Bank, Swift and Percy Street, Wellington

Another category which has many similarities to these work-based places of residence were the institutional communities which cover a broad range, such as religious monasteries or convents, gaols, where the criminally convicted were housed. Military camps possessed some of the elements of the monastery as well as elements of living above the shop whilst not quite being in gaol.

Bathurst Gaol

Bathurst Uniting Church group

Places of temporary accommodation were normally associated with work camps, such as the barracks in Mumbil erected in the 1950s to house workers for the Burrendong Dam. There is a contrast between the barracks and the freestanding cottages, which were provided in the same town for married and more privileged staff of the dam. Workers' camps followed railway lines as they were constructed, to thrive for a few years and then to disappear as the work moved on. Gold miners were equally likely to create temporary townships, which boomed for a while and then disappeared, such as McGuigan's near Parkes. Camps to house the unemployed were of two types - the official, often associated with work on a special project, and the unofficial when they camped in public reserves and other areas when no other accommodation was available to them.

McGuigan's near Parkes

Travellers, despite, their complaints, were really well catered for. Inns, some of them offering accommodation as well as liquor, were some of the earliest businesses in every locality. Special accommodation to cater for travellers, or tourists was also built such as Caves House at Jenolan Caves. The post-1950s boom in the provision of

motel style accommodation is well represented with every small town possessing at least one such establishment. Caravan parks cater for a similar need usually catering for seasonal workers in this area.

Caves House

The manufacture of building materials also commenced. Initially, it was largely timber, some of which was locally produced, as were bricks. However, much of the building material available came from beyond the area. In rural areas, the initial emphasis on timber was replaced as machine made materials became available with corrugated iron and later with fibro-cement.

Vernacular building styles and the use of local materials gave the area's housing a character, which defined its local origins as well as the ethnic origins of the original house builder. Pise buildings were found in towns and in the countryside. Building in timber was common, and included the hand adzed slabs seen on some farm buildings. Equally notable was the use of large section sawn slabs used as vertical exterior cladding in a number of cottages on Parkes and Wellington and in other settlements of the Central West.

Parkes pise house

8 Gisborne St, Wellington

12 Gisborne St, Wellington

60 Whiteley St, Wellington

Financing the construction of accommodation was largely a matter of mortgage finance. Some people were able to build with their own financial resources, but resort to mortgage was a common method of financing building. Most mortgages were initially from private individuals. Banks and insurance companies were loath to lend to ordinary homebuilders, preferring large builders, commercial enterprises or farming investments.

Building societies made finance available for some, though their impact was undercut by the short repayment periods. The earliest building society in the area seems to be one formed at Orange in 1865. Thereafter, a number of other societies followed until most of the larger towns had a society.

In the late 1930s, the state government fostered a more secure and affordable form of building society in order to facilitate home ownership. These societies were co-operative building societies. They were based on the "Mudgee" type society. A group of building societies in the Mudgee area were terminating building societies with a longer term than usual and generally offered a much better and more achievable loan than most other societies. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies identified the "Mudgee" type society as offering the best model for expanding home ownership through building societies. Therefore, the NSW state government fostered the new style co-operative society by extending the lending term of the "Mudgee" type society and ensured that a financial institution backed them. The result was a huge boom in housing construction across the state in the late 1930s as new homeowners sought to build their dream home. The boom continued after the Second World War. Amongst the first co-operative building societies to be formed in NSW in 1935 was one at Orange. This type of building society was the model under which the St George

Building Society was originally formed. It has, of course, expanded substantially since then and has more recently become a bank.

Chapter 22: NSW Historical Theme: Land Tenure

Prior to white settlement, land tenure for the Wiradjuri was based upon birth and kinship rights subtly melded into a complete cosmology of life, birth, death and existence, which did not depend on separating land from person. Unlike European systems of land tenure, the land was not owned. It was not transferable. It could not be sold or exchanged. Since it was a part of the person.

Alienation of land west of the Mountains was initially strictly controlled by Governor Macquarie. Macquarie handed out large parcels of land to major pastoralists, including those associated with the construction of the road over the mountains. This policy was reversed in 1823 by Governor Brisbane who allowed pastoralists to take their livestock across the mountains onto the plains. Governor Darling subsequently allowed private land grants west of the mountains.

The long struggle between the squatting interests of the colony and the various Governors was fully played out in this district. Squatters seeking grass for their stock had reached well beyond the western extremities of the Central West by the late 1830s, though occupation of the westerly lands was hampered by Aboriginal resistance and occasionally, by problems with water supply. The first squatting licenses were issued in 1836, and Commissioners of Crown lands were appointed for the districts beyond the Nineteen Counties. The western parts of the Central West then lay within the Wellington and Lachlan Squatting Districts. Within the Nineteen Counties, in which the bulk of this area lay, squatters occupied vacant Crown land on the payment of an annual fee.

Boundary of Limits of Location (Bathurst)

Tension between squatters seeking a low-cost leasehold tenure and the government seeking to promote freehold settlement remained a major issue in the district but, being relatively well watered, much of the area eventually became freehold land occupied by family farms. However, the texture of the landholding and the impact of tenure on the landscape did not follow a simple pattern. Alienation of the land by sale and grant proceeded largely to the largest landholders.

Barmedman Station group

Reserves were created to allow public access to various necessities such as water, to allow access to crossing places on rivers, to provide camping grounds for teamsters and to preserve likely village sites. However, the major creation of reserves did not occur until after the 1862 land acts.

Land was sold by auction. A good deal of rural land was sold in this manner. By 1861, approximately half of the land alienated in the colony had been passed to private owners on the basis of grant and half from auction sales, mainly after 1831. In the nascent townships auction was the initially the only way to obtain land.

Carcoar settlement

The 1862 Lands Acts had a marked impact. Not only did the Acts permit free selection of unalienated land by “bona fide” selectors, but also they clarified the occupation of crown land by pastoralists. The impact of the Acts was not simply

confined to the taking up of crown land in a more laissez-faire manner. Leaseholders needed to implement survival strategies to protect their lands. They were allowed the right of pre-emptive purchase of parts of their runs, which had been improved by the construction of buildings, tanks, wells, stockyards or other structures. The recurring struggle between squatter and selector is relatively well known. Less well known is that the Acts caused the creation of numerous reserves across the area. If all unalienated land could be selected, land for the crown, or for public purposes needed to be reserved to protect it from selection. Thus, Reserves for Villages, Commons, Trig Stations, Travelling Stock Routes, Access to Water, Camping Grounds and so on were created.

Hill End Common

Wattle Flat Common

Mount Tilga Trig station

Additionally, the category of Improvement Purchase was created. Often this was utilised by pastoralists or squatters. Equally importantly, it was used by miners to purchase land they occupied under a Miner's Right, which they had "improved", usually by the erection of a cottage. However, Improvement Purchases also covered a plethora of commercial enterprises. Within mining towns, such as Hill End, Forbes, Parkes and Stuart Town, these Improvement Purchases created the initial anchors on which the town layout coalesced. But whereas in Parkes, they have been merged into a more regular street layout, in Stuart Town, and Hill End (?), their impact on the landscape and texture of the settlement is still apparent.

A wholesale tidying up of flaws in the initial Acts of 1861 was completed by the 1884 revisions of these Acts which also created a more structured procedure for land to be taken up as Conditional Purchases. Pastoral runs were divided into two parts, the Resumed and the Leasehold section of the runs, with the Resumed part held on a short-term tenure ready for alienation for Conditional Purchase. The act also created a more transparent procedure and a new administrative structure to oversee the process of alienation. Land Boards were created across the state composed of knowledgeable men, and operating like a Court to arbitrate on matters of land tenure and landholding. Thereafter, corruption was considerably alleviated. Lands Department officials no longer made the decisions. They only provided evidence at the hearings at the Land Board. The Land Board Offices built to house these bodies are represented by the Orange Land Board Office in Kite Street.

Orange Land Board Office, Kite Street

Forbes Land Board Office

Subsequent Acts, aided in making smaller farms available on holdings which were more attuned to the carrying capacity of the land. The 1895 Act created the new tenures of the Homestead Selection and the Homestead Grant where land was measured for sale in small blocks usually near towns and was offered for sale. Applicants had to pay a deposit, reside on the land within three months, and for five years thereafter as well as to erect a residence upon it.

Closer settlement became the rage in the twentieth century once available land for settlement had been exhausted. The 1904 Closer Settlement Act allowed for the acquisition of large estates from landholders and the subsequent subdivision of the land into smaller holdings for alienation. The 1910 Closer Settlement Promotion Act

permitted three or more people to negotiate privately to purchase land and then seek Crown approval. The Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act of 1916 set up a procedure similar to these for returned men. It was mostly carried out by the use of single farms or small group purchase schemes. All of these had an impact on the pattern of landholding, as larger estates were cut up into smaller blocks for family farms. A countervailing trend, which subsequently emerged, was the amalgamation of many of these blocks as the areas proved to be too small for a single-family farm, due to lower carrying capacity than expected and to the need for larger areas of land for more efficient working by large machinery.

Despite the alienation of large areas of land in freehold tenures, a good deal of land still remains in the hands of the crown. Sometimes, the land is still in the name of the crown and an occupier uses it whilst he or she continues to pay off the purchase price of that portion or leases it. Leasehold tenures are found even in some of the villages. For example, Permissive Occupancies still govern landholding in some small villages such as Euchareena.

Chapter 23: NSW Historical Theme: Towns, suburbs and villages

Since the Wiradjuri moved in kinship groups, they tended to group their sleeping places in camps, often in the same locations, as they moved across their land in annual cycle to harvest the products of the land, river and air.

The foundation of new settlements in the colony of New South Wales was governed by official town policies which sought to establish a network of towns and villages at regular intervals, laid out on a regular officially sanctioned town plan. Normally the street layout of government towns was a grid. As parishes were laid out and surveyed, hopefully in advance of settlement or as settlement proceeded, Village Reserves were set aside by government surveyors in suitable locations as sites for future towns and villages. Many of them never progressed to become villages. Other sites were later found to be more suitable due to the presence of a group of settlers, an inn, a crossing place on a river or the site of a mineral find. Many villages set up by the crown were stillborn, never becoming more than the site of an inn or a few cottages, such as Neurea.

Hartley Historic site

Private towns were established in locations thought to be economically viable. One of the earliest of these was the town of Montefiores on the north side of the Macquarie River opposite the town of Wellington. Coerwull near the future site of Lithgow was another (?)

Courts of petty sessions encouraged nascent settlements to become administrative centres and were thus important influences promoting town formation. Wellington was already a small settlement after its convict settlement had been closed down, but the establishment of a court of petty sessions drew a crowd of people there to seek arbitration of their differences.

The initial settlement of the Central West created a host of towns, such as the future towns of Bathurst, Mudgee, Orange, Wellington and Molong. The discovery of gold created a flush of new towns, which totally confounded the orderly town founding procedures of the Crown. Gold camps, which grew into sizable settlements with some permanence, based on the long term prospects for mining, included Sofala, Hill End and Gulgong. These towns were not only in locations, which had not been set aside for villages, but they also confounded the orderly layouts of towns too. Mining claims scattered at random across the landscape, interspersed with commercial premises, usually with one “main street” meant that the town layout finally gazetted had to compromise to recognise these existing rights. Thus, the layouts of gold towns are more organic and less of a grid than those of the officially founded towns such as Bathurst and Orange.

Irish Town, Hill End

Hill End village

Sofala

Gold created a second layer of towns and villages in the Central West. Few of the towns, which arose from gold, became major centres. In the Lachlan region, on the other hand, gold was responsible for almost all of the major settlements, such as

Forbes, Parkes, Grenfell, West Wyalong and Lake Cargellico. Unlike the original towns of the Central West where the original government grid defined the town layout, most of the towns of the Lachlan possess a more complex geometry in their layout, where a government grid had been superimposed on a patchy spread of settlement brought about by gold.

Other forms of mining apart from gold created another range of new towns. Coal and shale were the reasons for the establishment of the towns of Glen Davis, Newnes, and Lithgow. Portland on the other hand, derives its origins from limestone mining and cement production (?)

The extension of railway lines through the Central West and Lachlan was a key factor in the emergence of host of smaller villages. Kerr's Creek, Mumbil and Dripstone emerged on the railway line to Wellington. Elong Elong was gazetted on the railway line to Mendooran. Condobolin was transformed from a minor camp into a significant town after the railway arrived in March 1898.

Originally, Village Reserves were sited on flat land, with ready access and some water supply. Hence, many of the towns were often situated in a valley. The hilly landscape around Dripstone and Wellington strongly define their aesthetic appeal. Other towns were less optimally situated. The gold towns arose where the gold was found. Other towns, which emerged from other mineral deposits, were similarly affected, but there was still an imperative to position them with optimal resources. Thus, a location in a valley was usually the most appropriate. Yet, this also had its dangers, Orange's initial problems were most eloquently described by its original name, Blackman's Swamp!

Whilst smaller settlements and villages grew little or even faded, the larger towns expanded spatially, developing suburbs. Bathurst grew to absorb the early settlement of Kelso. Orange expanded into a suburb known as East Orange, which, despite its origins, resolutely refused to co-operate with the main town, creating its own municipal council and long going its own way. Parkes grew southwards along the Newell Highway, towards many of the early gold diggings.

Social differentiation also set different areas apart, on the basis of class and status. Aboriginal reserves were rarely near the town so the Wiradjuri found their own suitable accommodation. The occupation of the Wellington Common by Wiradjuri groups confirmed their local persistence. East Orange was differentiated from the main part of Orange, largely on class grounds and a different style and quality of building. Villages initially served the local area, housing rural workers, or, once regular employment became available on public works, such as roads, they were often the home of road maintenance workers. More recently the smaller villages have declined as people have been drawn to the larger centres for their housing and other facilities. But the villages have not died. Apart from those seeking the less stressful life that they offer, villages are occasionally the resort of those seeking cheaper accommodation such as those on unemployment benefits or fixed incomes.

Urban hierarchies also emerged, as major centres asserted their regional dominance. The major centres are Bathurst and Orange, which are the home of state government offices and state-wide departments such as the Central Mapping Authority at Bathurst and the Department of Agriculture at Orange. They have the most sophisticated

medical and professional services, plus the widest range of retail and commercial enterprises serving the whole region. Towns of the second order include Mudgee, Forbes, and Condobolin which offer professional services, education, a more limited range of retail outlets, though usually still comprising a wide range. Towns of the third rank include Lake Cargellico and Peak Hill, which offer only a very limited range of commercial services, and few, if any, professional services. The villages, such as Euchareena, Cookamidgera, Yetholme and Hartley comprise the rest.

Land-use control within towns have made an impact in the post-war period, shunting industry to suitable locations, and providing some controls over housing coupled with building regulations. Land-use controls in rural areas have also had an impact, notably on noxious industry and mining, such as the Newcrest mining development at Cadia. The Central West was selected by the Whitlam Labor government's Department of Urban and Regional Affairs in the 1970s as a regional growth centre named the Bathurst-Orange Growth centre, a proposal that never achieved any practical result before the scheme was shelved.

Chapter 24: NSW Historical Theme: Utilities

A mobile lifestyle meant that the Wiradjuri had little need for formal systems to supply necessities such as water or garbage disposal. Camps were positioned near water sources. Rubbish was disposed of nearby. The camp shifted to another location before the off-casts had time to become a danger to health.

Initially, there were no utility services when white Europeans settled the area. Water, the essential for all life, was obtained from readily available sources, later supplemented by above ground tanks and excavated wells even in the towns. More sophisticated water storage measures were applied such as large storage cisterns, but these were largely the preserve of substantial landowners who could afford the expense and were assured of their security of tenure.

The NSW Public Works Department built water supply schemes to supply some of the larger towns. The Country Towns Water Supply Scheme was overseen by the Public Works Department and included the construction of dams and the supply of water reticulation systems. The first water scheme built by this measure was the Bathurst water supply, which was opened in 1888. Parkes was supplied by its own scheme in 1892. Thereafter a host of schemes were constructed, and often later augmented to supply the growing towns of the Central West and Lachlan.

The need for modest expenditure since the municipalities were responsible for the final cost of the schemes was a vital influence on how the schemes were designed and applied. The use of the cylindrical arch dam was pioneered by PWD engineer Cecil Darley as a means of providing strong but relatively inexpensive dams for these schemes. The first of Darley's dam was the Lithgow No 1 Dam completed in 1896. Other towns in the region supplied with cylindrical arch dams include Parkes (Bumberry Dam), Wellington (Wellington Dam), and Mudgee.

Wellington Dam

Bumberry Dam

In rural areas, almost all settlers had to arrange their own supply scheme, a situation that still applies in most areas.

Gas was initially seen as a lighting medium, with heating for industry and cooking seen as a minor application. Town gas supply was a mixture of private and municipal schemes. Parkes obtained a municipal gas supply in 1911. Whatever the benefits of gas, it was a privilege only available to town dwellers, since the cost of reticulation works was too great to offset the possible return from the modest number of consumers.

Bathurst Municipal gasworks

Electricity, on the other hand, became much more widely available. The initial schemes, almost all in the towns were often very small affairs, lighting but a few blocks. Both private and municipal supply schemes operated from the late nineteenth century onwards. Due to the need for smaller capital expenditure to make even a small scheme viable, the supply of electricity in rural areas was much more widespread than gas. A network of small electricity suppliers was able to provide

something that the gas companies with their large plants with coal fired retorts could not. The mining settlement of Peak Hill had a modest supply as early as 1906, run off the Proprietary mine. In Trundle, a local café proprietor had a small supply scheme operating in 1925, to be followed by supply from a local garage. State government electricity supply schemes began to service a wider network than these modest private enterprises. When the Wyangala dam was being constructed in the 1920s, a hydro-electric power station was included in the design.

A regional power supply network now supplies rural customers. The creation of a host of county councils for electricity supply from the late 1940s onwards was instrumental in creating much more powerful electric supply authorities who were more financially efficient and more aggressive in extending the reach of their supply networks. From the 1950s onwards, electricity was extended to rural suppliers and has resulted in electric power being available to most rural consumers.

A network of high-tension power lines brings electricity across the state to consumers. Coal-fired electric power stations are the main method of generating electricity, such as the huge Pipers Creek power station near Lithgow, which supplies a large area.

Sewerage was largely a matter for private arrangements. In rural areas, sewerage is still a matter of minding your own business. In the towns, however, the health implications were too great to rely upon private arrangements. In time, private provision was replaced by public schemes. The first public sewerage collection and disposal schemes were mainly pan collection systems, which were widely being inaugurated in the early twentieth century.

The NSW Public Works Department provided reticulated sewerage schemes. Schemes similar to the Country Towns Water Supply Schemes provided sewerage for larger towns. Initially, the Public Works Department Sewerage Branch looked after matters in Sydney and suburbs. But it later extended its reach into the country, in the early twentieth century. Lithgow was supplied with a sewerage scheme in 1912, Bathurst in 1915 and Orange in 1917. Other towns had to wait until the 1930s when the employment of men on Unemployment Relief Schemes provided water-borne sewerage disposal services for towns such as Wellington and Parkes.

Volume 5: Australian Historical Theme: Working

Although a lot of what we call work is related to the economy, most of it is not undertaken for profit. A great deal of the work done in the home is neither paid nor counted as part of the national economy. Some of the most interesting recent social history written about Australia concerns work and workplaces.

(Australian Historic Themes, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 25: NSW Historical Theme: Labour

Kin and family based food-gathering methods and patterns characterised the Wiradjuri. For a few hours work a day, they could obtain enough food to sustain them, far fewer hours of exertion than white Europeans needed in order to coax their crops from the reluctant soil, or to manage their roving herds of livestock.

Convict workers and the peculiar method of forced labour under which they were controlled was the first labour management scheme to enter the area. This method of employment was soon overwhelmed by the employment of convicts assigned to free employers and by free men. However, the construction of gaols in the area, once the need to incarcerate new offenders became clear, extended the forced labour mode of production. Often town gaols were too small to provide any work schemes for inmates apart from labouring in the vegetable gardens and some basic hand-based crafts. However, the construction of larger gaols, most notably Bathurst, brought a full programme of employment openings for inmates. The emergence of prison camps at Kirkconnell, Newnes and Oberon as work outlets for lower security prisoners ensures the continuation of this mode of production.

Wellington Convict Settlement

Bathurst Gaol

Work ranges from professional occupations through commercial activities with their own special forms of knowledge and expertise, notably in small business through to the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. Pastoral and agricultural labour occupied the attention of most early workers, and continues today. Even the ostensibly “unskilled” jobs, such as horse breaking, droving or as a general hand on a property had their distinct sets of special knowledge. Shearing sheds, workers’ barracks, stockyards, woolscours are all associated with this range of activity.

The self-employed were important as innkeepers or owners of a small business, and they provided many of the early services and retail outlets. Equally important as a self-employed individual was the miner, who sought his fortune on the basis of his own and his mate’s efforts. Historians working in Victoria, such as June Philip, have outlined the progressive decline of the independent miner to the wage earning mine employee. The progression of the independent miner to the mine employee has been charted for Sofala by the work of Matthew Higgins, where employment on gold dredges became the final resort of miners.

Grenfell Diggings

In order to serve the district a full range of occupations was needed from the basic labourer to the professional. Skilled labourers ranged from those employing

handicraft/artisan techniques, particularly in the early period as well as those operating complex machinery, such as employees of the Lithgow Small Arms Factory. Waged semi-skilled work in factories, shops, mines occupied many in the Central West and Lachlan.

Residences and gardens, Lithgow Small Arms Factory

From being a small part of the workforce in the nineteenth century, the white collar worker became ever more common in the twentieth century, embracing a host of para-professional, and office tasks. Women were engaged in such work but their role was more commonly in shops, or with child oriented employment, such as nursing or teaching or in semi-skilled occupations on the factory floor. Nevertheless, the paucity of employment for women in offices, or factories in many towns and villages left them with few employment options.

Workers created protective labour organizations in order to shield themselves from work accidents, loss of work and the ill effects of management. Thus work based benefit societies emerged which acted as insurance bodies for times of illness, injury or hardship. Organizations to provide cheaper goods were also created such as co-operative retailing outlets. To protect against arbitrary decisions by management, workers formed trade unions. Lithgow as the most industrialised centre of the region was a significant centre of worker and trade union activity.

Lithgow Trades Hall, Railway Parade, Lithgow

Union Offices, Railway Parade, Lithgow

Unemployment relief work was not an invention of the twentieth century but was being used in the nineteenth century to abate the ill effects of unemployment. During the 1890s, the unemployed were put to work at a variety of public projects, such as the construction of the Bumberry Dam as the water supply for Parkes. Unemployment relief schemes of the 1930s included the provision of sewerage schemes in towns such as Wellington and Parkes, and the construction of scenic roads such as that to the lookout above Wellington.

Bumberry Dam

Ethnic labour had long been an element of working in the Central West and Lachlan. After all, many of the convicts were Irish, a people looked down upon by those of good British stock. The entry of Indians and Chinese initially as farm labour also stirred the racial pot in more ways than one. The influx of large numbers of Chinese to the goldfields fuelled racial tensions. They continued as workers by taking employment on pastoral properties, most notably as members of Chinese clearing gangs after the alteration of the 1884 Lands Act permitted ringbarking as an “improvement” for land valuation purposes.

During World War Two, the use of Italian prisoners of war as farm labour accustomed many rural families to a less exclusive racial mix, followed after the war by the migration of many Europeans to Australia. Post-war migrants, some of them ex-Italian POWs, others Displaced Persons from eastern Europe whose countries had been brought under Soviet occupation, were a large contingent of workers, especially since most were contracted to serve the government for two years as part of their emigration agreements. The former military camp at Bathurst was a major depot for the early arrivals. Some went to Cowra and Parkes where camps functioned as well.

Volume 6: Australian Historical Theme: Educating

Every society educates its young. While European education places a great emphasis on the formal schooling system, education encompasses much more. (*Australian Historic Themes*, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 26: NSW Historical Theme: Education

Teaching and learning have long been important activities in the Central West and Lachlan. Wiradjuri teaching occurred over a long period, and was characterised by verbal transmission and was specific in detail to clan or related group. The early colonists provided their children with rudimentary home schooling in the ‘three R’s’, sometimes with the help of a governess. The establishment of the public school system in 1848 resulted in several National Schools opening in the Tablelands such as Bowenfels South, Orange and Bathurst, in conjunction with the gold rushes with a simple, secular curriculum. The legislation also permitted religious groups to establish Denominational Schools. Due to the wide spread of churches and small congregations, there were arguably more Denominational Schools than National Schools, though they usually operated in an existing building, such as a church or hall.

Cow Flat School

Coerwull Academy

Reform of the government educational framework occurred in 1866, which united all education under one board. It also allowed a wider network of schools to be created, with the Provisional School being added as a medium for public education. The Provisional School was much more poorly endowed than the National School, with parents rather than the government providing buildings and furniture, and teachers of a lower standard than those in the National Schools. Most of the schools opened in the Central West and Lachlan from 1870 to 1900 were provisional schools. Yet, they permitted education to reach such remote areas as Lowther, Sodwalls, Condobolin and Little Hartley in the 1860s.

High schools were first established under the 1880 Act. Amongst the first to commence operations in 1883 was Bathurst High School. Aboriginal Schools were also established in the same decade. The establishment of reserves and missions in the region was accompanied by the segregation of education, with mission schools being set up for Wiradjuri children in which a basic curriculum suitable for future servants and labourers was taught.

Denominational Schools continued to operate though from 1883 onwards, they were deprived of government finance. Yet, they did not wither and die, as the secularists hoped. For Roman Catholics who were the main beneficiaries of the denominational subsidy, the shortfall was taken up by the entry of large numbers of nuns and brothers from teaching orders to the colony. The spread of public schools in the region was matched, from the 1890s, by the development of church schools, especially Catholic schools staffed by orders of nuns. These schools followed similar curricula to the public schools, as well as providing tuition in music and other social skills. This curriculum was similar to that offered by the few ‘grammar’ schools of the period in Bathurst and Orange.

St Joseph's Convent, Perthville

The provision of denominational education and public education still left a niche for private schools to operate. Although they were often small, they were still the preferred option for some people. Indeed, in some localities, especially those serviced by a provisional school some parents sent children to a privately run school because the quality of teaching was superior to that of the government school with its inexperienced staff.

Secondary education was strengthened by changes in the twentieth century. Greater emphasis was placed upon secondary and tertiary education, so more secondary schools emerged to meet the need. There were also special secondary schools, such as the Home Science School aimed at educating girls and the District Rural School which provided secondary education as well as instruction in farm mechanics and agriculture, for boys and home science and horticulture for girls.

The expansion of public secondary education was matched by the provision of private secondary and primary education. The Catholic system was the most widespread, but other religious groups were also involved. At Orange, the Anglican Church opened Trinity Grammar School in 1953. Wolaroi College was opened by the Methodist Church in 1926, continuing a private boys' school commenced in 1887.

At the turn of the twentieth century the technical college was established in Bathurst with a focus on the sciences, trades and general adult self-improvement, and was the forerunner in tertiary education in the region. The development of Bathurst as a university town and centre for education in the Central West has been ongoing for over a century.

Old Bathurst TAFE College

Volume 7: Australian Historical Theme: Governing

This theme is as much about self-government as it is about being governed. It includes all the business of politics, including hostility to acts of government. (*Australian Historic Themes*, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 27: NSW Historical Theme: Defence

Periodic raids and warfare between rival Wiradjuri groups appeared to have occurred over the centuries. Wiradjuri warfare had been, at times, necessary for defence, but as often it had been a form of entertainment in a society with few other means for young men to vent their latent energies. This was heightened with the arrival of the white man, who upset the balance between the groups and their relationships with their feeding grounds. Overturning the original order heightened conflict between black and white and black against black.

Volunteer defence units were formed in many towns in the late nineteenth century. This has left a legacy of drill halls and rifle ranges across the area, all of them established to cater for the militia on which New South Wales initially pinned its defence hopes in the later nineteenth century. The area was a major recruiting area for cavalry units, and many noted cavalymen of the AIF in the First World War came from the area. The Central West was also the heartland of some units such as the 6th Light Horse, which fought in Palestine and the Middle East.

Although defending the homeland has had several impacts in the Central West, there are two wars that stand out and link the region to Australia and the world. Place names such as Vittoria, Lucknow and Raglan reflect imperial wars of the 19th century; and the Cooee March of World War One passed through much of the region recruiting soldiers. However it is the surviving evidence of the Frontier Wars of the 1830s, and of World War Two, that indicate the substantial role these two wars played in shaping the region.

The 'Frontier Wars' refers to the armed resistance mounted by Wiradjuri warriors in defending their homelands from British and colonial incursions and occupation, mainly in the 1830s. There was no clear frontier line as such, but rather guerrilla-style attacks on isolated stations and the destruction of crops and livestock; matched by mounted expeditions and attacks on Wiradjuri camps by soldiers and settlers. It was a war not unlike elsewhere on the Australian frontiers, although perhaps a little better reported on the eastern Tablelands than elsewhere.

There were no fixed frontiers in World War Two either, although the Brisbane Line was planned to pass through the Lachlan districts in the event of an overland invasion. The operation of the war in the Central West reflected the aerial nature of defending the homeland against Japan, with dispersed facilities for producing arms, munitions, components and uniforms, a string of air force training bases and facilities, and a network of local lookouts and gun emplacements directed at the skies. The POW camp near Cowra was isolated from transport routes and major towns, with little likelihood of airborne assault or rescue.

Cowra POW Camp

One of the more unusual facilities was the explosives testing range established during World War Two at Bogan Gate.

Chapter 28: NSW Historical Theme: Government and Administration

Though white European settlers imposed a paradigm of “tribes” with “chiefs” as leaders upon the Wiradjuri, in their analyses of Wiradjuri society, such a view simply failed to recognise the locus of status and power within Wiradjuri society.

Colonial government and administration initially flowed downwards from the body of the Governor, a vice-regal personage, appointed by the Crown in Britain to administer the colony, on a semi-military basis. Though a profound adherence to the rule of law protected the colonists from the excesses of arbitrary government, it remained a top-down form of administration.

Old Government Cottages, Bathurst

A small advisory council was appointed in 1826 to provide advice to the Governor, but he remained the main source of power for decades. A colonial administration was created under him in order to manage the colony. The colonial public service gradually absorbed members of the native-born into its personnel and structures.

A modest devolution of self-government occurred when Roads Trusts were created to manage parish roads in the colony and to charge fees or tolls for their upkeep. They had little or no impact in the Central West.

On the other hand, District Councils had large potential impact. They were created as an initial experiment in local government. District Councils were formed on 12 August 1843 for the Hartley and the Bathurst-Carcoar Districts. On 19 September 1843, a District Council was formed for the Mudgee-Wellington area. Nevertheless, they were virtually moribund.

The colonial government continued to manage the area and to provide most of the services. The central administration was accessible through the legal network set up to manage the colony. Courthouses served as administrative centres before any form of government developed in the area. Magistrates sitting in combined session acted as a de facto form of government, communicating the district’s needs to the central administration in Sydney. Public officials, such as the clerk of petty sessions, the registrars of births, deaths and marriages (after 1856) and the land officers were frequently housed in the same building as the courthouse.

The granting of self-government to New South Wales in 1856, considerably lessened the power of the Governor and gave political power to the colonists, but at the local level, it merely meant a slightly less removed system of control, since local needs were still met through the same administrative framework as before. Apart from the courthouse, the District Survey Office and the local Lands Officers, the CPS and the local police constable still managed many matters, such as the appointment of pound keepers, the issue of licences, oversight of roads and public works, and the distribution of charity.

The Local Government Act of 1858 altered this, though not for all areas. Only as localities were incorporated could they achieve the boon of managing their own roads and services. The first area to be incorporated was Orange, which was incorporated on

9 January 1860. Mudgee followed on 21 February 1860, as did Bathurst on 13 November 1862. The Act was changed a number of times, but the major flaw was that it was largely utilised by the towns to create an authority to oversee their settlement. Most rural areas remained unincorporated until 7 March 1906, when the State Government compulsorily created shires across much of the state, thus ensuring that it divested itself of the care and upkeep of many roads and bridges across the state.

The Federation of the Australian colonies in 1901 was a process achieved by the efforts of many men across many districts. NSW has many significant sites associated with the press for federation, such as at Corowa and Tenterfield. Though many citizens were apathetic about the issue, some were not. Bathurst was one centre with a strong interest in Federation. Once achieved, federated Australia needed a national capital. A number of sites across the Central West such as at Orange and Bathurst, Carcoar, Forest Reefs and Wellington were actively considered before the site of Canberra was finally selected.

Chapter 29: NSW Historical Theme: Law and order

Although the idea of a policeman was alien to Wiradjuri society, the concept of law and order was not. All of Wiradjuri life was governed by a set of taboos and practices, which arose as much from a cosmological view of existence rather than from a legalistic one. Maintaining Wiradjuri laws and customs was a set of sanctions, prohibition and punishments based upon a graduated scale, which reflected the severity of any offence.

The apparatus of law and order and the need to maintain control came over the Blue Mountains with the construction of the first road. Convict workers constructed the road itself. In order to control the men building it, there were guards assigned to the working parties. Initially, convict settlements had been established in the Central West at Bathurst and later at Wellington. Small military garrisons in the area maintained order.

Once the convict system began to wind down, there was no such recourse to military solutions to maintain order. However, a quasi-military force had been raised to maintain order beyond the Limits of Location, which defined the Nineteen Counties set aside for settlement by the order of 14 October 1829. The western edge of these counties ran in a line roughly south from Wellington just east of Molong and down towards Yass. The mounted police were established to oversee law and order beyond the limits of location under the general oversight of the Commissioners of Crown Land in each Squatting District.

Within the Nineteen Counties, law and order was more formal. Courts of petty sessions were established at a number of centres, the first at Bathurst on 3 October 1832. Police constables were stationed in the settlements.

Courts of petty sessions encouraged nascent settlements to become administrative centres and were thus important influences promoting town formation. Wellington was already a small settlement after its convict settlement had been closed down, but the establishment of a court of petty sessions drew a crowd of people there to seek arbitration of their differences. The bulk of cases heard in the courts were matters of civil law rather than criminal law. Once commerce commenced in the district, it brought the usual range of disputes into being.

As the area developed, higher courts, such as District Courts and Supreme Courts, were also established. The need to house such activities resulted in the erection of ever grander courthouses in district centres. The grandeur of the courthouses was not simply a reflection of their role in awing the populace with the might and majesty of the law. Courthouses served as administrative centres before any form of government developed on to the area.

Bathurst Courthouse

The establishment of police buildings was a corollary development. Initially they were in the form of mounted police barracks, but more formal police stations also emerged, as the towns needed them. Often major towns possess a “legal precinct” with courthouse, police station, lock-up all in close proximity, such as at Wellington.

Police Station and Stables, 82 Market St, Mudgee
Mounted Police cottage, Forbes

The nature of early colonial society and the golden wealth won from the ground, encouraged lawlessness. Outbreaks of bushranging gave the police ample scope to show their skill, or otherwise. Notable hold-ups occurred in the district, a number of them perpetrated by Ben Hall, who was captured near Forbes and whose grave now lies there.

Escort Rock

Ben Hall's grave

Police lock-ups held minor cases on short sentence such as a daily or weekly sentence. More prolonged sentences were committed to the minor gaols which emerged in towns such as Mudgee. Slow and difficult transport meant that a plethora of small gaols were created. These gaols often housed the full range of criminals from short-sentence prisoners to hardened men and women, some awaiting the gallows. Only with the establishment of fast and reliable transport with the railway could many of the smaller gaols, such as Wellington be closed down. Major regional gaols, such as at Bathurst, were created to serve the whole state.

Bathurst Gaol

Rehabilitation as distinct from incarceration as well as the promotion of useful labour for inmates superseded older forms of punishment. Labour in gaol could not only have a therapeutic effect, but it gave confined men activity and allowed them to earn a modest income to supplement their gaol rations. Labour in low security prison camps became more common from the 1930s onwards. Re-forestation work was one of the most commonly used ways of using prison labour. Within the Central West, the re-forestation camps at Kirkconnell, Newnes and Oberon are major prison establishments. More recently, the need for increased gaol accommodation has seen a vigorous competition between towns of the Central West to receive a new gaol, a contest from which Wellington emerged as the victor.

Petty criminality occupied most of the police and the criminal law authority, and the bulk of prisoners in gaols were there for relatively minor infringements of the legal code. Yet, inmates could also be incarcerated for offences against the person such as wounding men, assault, often domestic, or for offences against property, such as livestock stealing or wounding, breaking and entering, burglary, larceny, false pretences, and laws against morality such as soliciting or procuring an abortion.

“Frontier” violence was a major issue in the early days, when settlers fought against aborigines, who kept up an effective guerrilla war against the new settlers. Once the aborigines were made relatively quiescent, the problems of sparse settlement and marginal men in marginal occupations meant that there were outbreaks of bushranging and murder. More commonly, murder, a capital offence, was committed within the context of domestic violence, rather than of premeditated violence by one man against another.

Courts of a different character were also created in the area to deal with matters of rights and infringement of those rights. Mining Courts modelled on the Victorian

example were set up to mediate affairs between gold-digging miners. One of the earliest such courts was formed at Forbes in 1862.

Such arbitration courts were later paralleled by arbitration courts to deal with matters arising between capital and labour. Usually the main cases were held in Sydney, but there were inquiries into the cost of living by such courts in the Central West in order to set a fair rate for employees working within the area.

Chapter 30: NSW Historical Theme: Welfare

Charity and welfare has traditionally been doled out with parsimony. What welfare services were originally available in the Central West and Lachlan were found in convict hospitals and in the asylums for the indigent and insane as well as orphanages situated in Sydney. If anyone in the Central West or Lachlan was judged to be in need of such care, say an aged miner, on the Sofala goldfields, no longer able to care for himself and possessing no family, the police would recommend that he be sent to the asylums for the aged in Sydney or Parramatta, thus taking him out of the district. The establishment of charitable institutions, both those maintained by the state and those, which were privately run, was mainly confined in the Sydney basin.

Care of the sick, aged, orphaned or decrepit was charge upon the whole Wiradjuri group and not the responsibility of a few individuals.

Philanthropic organizations alleviated local distress. Catholic relief organizations, and the Salvation Army were bodies, which undertook some care and provided some assistance, as did private Relief Associations in some towns. Wealthy benefactors made donations which created benevolent institutions *****. Any in area?

Charitable relief could be issued as out-relief where the poor and unemployed were given financial assistance or help in kind, such as goods or clothes. Such help was usually through the agency of such private organizations as the Salvation Army or St Vincent de Paul.

The institution of the Old Age Pension by the NSW government in August 1901 considerably reduced the need for the aged poor to enter asylums. It permitted the aged to live independently out of institutions and prevented married couples being split up. It was a major influence on reducing calls upon the resources of the state for institutional care and increased the number of aged people able to live within the community.

Institutional relief was available for orphan children, unwed mothers, the insane, and the aged. The effects of both World Wars were seen in the number of injured and crippled, returned men. Occasionally some were placed on farms. Whilst some were given employment opportunities, other men were less capable of independent lives and needed institutional care.

The Croagh Patrick Orphanage conducted by the Daughters of the Charity of St Vincent de Paul operated at Orange from 1928 until 1982 as a boys' orphanage. The building, erected in 1883 had been bought by the church, which had previously used it as a novitiate for the Patrician Brothers. The Salvation Army conducted its Bathurst Maternity and Rescue Home from premises in Piper Street from the 1890s until 1919. Salvation Army Maternity Home, Bathurst

The Bloomfield Mental Hospital near Orange which was in operation by the late 1940s functions as the principal psychiatric hospital for western NSW. A range of smaller community facilities in many of the towns also have a role in mental health.

From 1938 until 1973, the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong took children from the United Kingdom and educated them. Whilst the aim was to foster immigration, it also had a charitable element.

Much of the relief handed out throughout the Central West and Lachlan was supplied through official channels. During the 1930s, dole stations were located at all police stations, where the unemployed could collect their rations before being moved on again. Relief was also doled out at officially sanctioned stores where dole coupons could be exchanged for goods, such as at Knuckey's Store in Wellington.

Knuckey's Store, Percy Street, Wellington

Work was provided for the dole, and there are a number of public facilities erected by such efforts. However, some of them were never finished, the most telling example of which was the Sandy Hollow Railway.

Sandy Hollow Railway

Institutional care for the handicapped, such as the mildly mentally defective has rejected institutional care, so that they are now living in the community. In order to give them an income and a role in life, sheltered workshops have been set up to utilise their labour power.

Volume 8: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

Australians are more likely to express their sense of identity in terms of a way of life rather than allegiance to an abstract patriotic ideal. One of the achievements of this society has been the creation of a rich existence away from the workplace. While some of the activities encompassed in this theme are pursued for profit – horse racing and cinema, for instance – their reason for being is the sheer enjoyment of spectators. While many people could not pursue careers in art, literature, science, entertainment or the church without being paid, those activities do not fit easily into the categories of economy or workplace.

(*Australian Historic Themes*, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 31: NSW Historical Theme: Creative Endeavour

Creativity has no formal boundary. The professionally creative, such as the architect, the theatre or film director or the dancer rated creativity as a foundation for their life's calling. The amateur, on the other hand, simply derives pleasure and kudos from their efforts.

The Wiradjuri did not recognise such a divide. All were amateurs and all were professionals. Creativity was applied where appropriate and could relate as much to a cultural practice as to formal applications of technology.

Architectural professionals who have made their mark on the Central West and Lachlan are varied, Many Sydney-based practitioners being represented as well as the various government architects, as they are across the state. On the other hand, architect Edward Gell, is represented almost solely by his body of work in the Central West.

Abercrombie House, Bathurst

The impact of conscious landscape design is seen in many of urban parks such as in Bathurst, Orange and Wellington. The design work of Ilmar Berzins in the parks of Orange is a notable example.

A number of significant literary figures have associated with the region. Of these, the most widely known is Henry Lawson who was born at Grenfell and had a long association with both Mudgee and Eurunderee. "Rolf Boldrewood", the pseudonym of magistrate T A Browne, lived in a rented house at Guntawang near Mudgee, and is best remembered for his novels of early colonial Australia, such as *Robbery Under Arms*.

There are numerous other authors and poets associated with the area, some with a long intimate association, others with a more transient relationship. They range from award-winning children's author, Joan Phipson, who lived much of her life near Blayney to the novelist, Dymphna Cusack who was born at West Wyalong but only spent a short time there. Kylie Tennant and her husband, Darcy Niland, lived in the district and wandered the area, an experience that underlay her novels, *Tiburon* and *The Battlers*. Darcy Niland's novel, *The Shiralee*, was also set in the Central West.

The influence of the Central West and Lachlan on the fine arts should not be underestimated. Whilst there is relatively little impact on dance, there is a considerable impact on Australia song traditions. John Meredith, a collector of traditional and folk song, undertook a good deal of his collecting in the Mudgee-Gulgong area, where old miners and long time residents were a fount of early song variants, Many of these he later published in his *Folk Songs of Australia and the men and women who sang them*. The work is a tribute to early oral collecting techniques, with telling vignettes of his informants, as well as their song variants. Many songs were based on traditional tunes and lyrics but the variations were a sign of the creative power of the less articulate of society.

The same area has had a noted influence on the arts of painting and drawing. The strong influence of Hill End is seen in the work of many artists such as Russell Drysdale whose “Hill End” series of paintings was a major artistic landmark.

There have been a number of films associated with the area or which have been filmed in the Central West and Lachlan. *Sunstruck*, the tale of a schoolteacher from England (Harry Seccombe), posted to a bush school was largely filmed near Parkes. More recently, the film *The Dish* has focused on the role of the Parkes radio telescope in the 1969 mission to put a man on the moon.

Domestic and amateur crafts have also been well represented in works in the Central West and Lachlan. The creations of quilters, knitters and the adherents of crochet are often seen in country shows. Enthusiastic model builders, particularly those impassioned by railways, assemble and display their finely crafted and often highly accurate works everywhere.

Chapter 32: NSW Historical Theme: Domestic Life

The term “Domestic life” conjures up images of bliss centred on the home, with its familial associations and its modes of production and relaxation. Yet such elements are not integral to all domestic arrangements. Masculine working accommodation is often far less genteel and arrangements in lodging and boarding houses do not quite fit this stereotype.

Living arrangements were largely masculine when early settlement of the Central West and Lachlan proceeded. Convicts were housed in barrack style accommodation or in hutted accommodation, which separated men from women and ensured some control. The early shepherd or stockman who tended the sheep or cattle of the early squatters were mostly housed in small huts, which were tended by a hutkeeper, often an older, less active convict or ex-convict.

On the other hand, except for specific gender or age-based activities, the Wiradjuri lived, worked, played and slept in kinship groups.

As free settlement proceeded, family centred domestic arrangements became more common. The entry of women into the region was a key influence of the evolution of the domestic environment. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the ideology, which insisted on the “separation of spheres”, was becoming more pressing. It insisted that men worked and went into the wider world to battle for the family’s prosperity, whilst women managed the domestic sphere, ensuring that it was a haven from the troubled world outside. Such an ideal was rarely achieved. But it was a powerful influence and was especially important for the middle classes. Even for them, it often remained an ideal rather than a reality. The lower middle class wife married to a shopkeeper or innkeeper was heavily involved with her husband’s business. Indeed, the domestic skills of the publican’s wife were an essential element in transforming the pub for drinking into the hotel providing high-class accommodation for travellers. Farmer’s wives were also a part of the family economy and domestic work was only one of their many responsibilities. The ideology of “separate spheres” exerted its influence on all classes in society but was most effectively implemented by the wealthy. In combination with the passion for new types of ornamentation, the result was the fussy domestic interiors of late nineteenth century, which were dust-traps and could be managed only with a servant. Family-focussed daily routines also emerged with family bible readings, taking the sacraments together and other routines, which strengthened the Christian family focus.

For workers, the ideal could be achieved but it was always woman’s achievement. Since so many of employment opportunities were temporary, families moved frequently, following mining or seasonal employment. Mining huts mellowed by the touch of a woman were an achievement not often recognised. Many such cottages may be seen in the Gulgong and Hill End photographs of the Holtermann collection.

A more settled lifestyle even for workers in the twentieth century meant that a more sustained effort could be made successfully to create an ideal domestic interior, such as in Ben Chifley’s house. Subsequently, the increasingly child centred lifestyles of

most families resulted in further evolution of domestic arrangements during the twentieth century. More emphasis was placed on open space, and an absence of clutter and the creation of specialised rooms for children.

Ben Chifley's House, Bathurst

Worker accommodation for those employed in isolated locations often utilised barrack accommodation or individual huts, the character of which varied considerably. Even in the earliest gold mining camps, before women arrived in any number, the individual huts of the miners varied, some sleeping and messing by themselves, some on the basis of a shared arrangement with one man delegated as hutkeeper.

Construction camps for major public works or construction projects were originally a matter for private provision, but employers later provided barrack accommodation such as for the erection of Wyangala Dam or Burrendong Dam. A variation on the barrack style of accommodation was military barracks, which mushroomed in many places in World War Two to serve the army encampments, the RAAF training bases, and other facilities as well as Cowra POW Camp. Their interiors with their serried ranks of carefully placed beds, and the limited space available to each man were a sharp contrast to the domestic ideal. At war's end, the conversion of these camps into migrant camps transformed their Spartan domestic interiors.

Whilst ethnic difference is often noted in the construction or usage of different buildings, it is in the domestic sphere that the differences are most acutely displayed. The business interior of the country town café was heavily influenced by its chrome and glass surfaces all in the latest Art Deco style. It was a marked contrast to the rear of the shop where the family lived, with images of the homeland and religious icons denoting their adherence to traditional mores of Greek Orthodox custom. The religious imagery of the Roman Catholic house was markedly different to that of the Chinese but though the religious practice was different, the underlying impulse was the same.

Whilst the interior of the dwelling was one aspect of the domestic sphere of the individual and family, the garden and the use of other buildings on the allotment was another integral element of their lifestyle. Food was traditionally produced in back gardens whilst the front was for display purposes, but even here, the element of choice was paramount once there was time to devote to such pursuits. Variations in planting and layout emerged from personal preference and taste as much as from family needs. Garden edging in specially produced ceramic tiles, bricks, or found stone or beer bottles gave a particular character to the individual garden, some of which are now repositories of rare plant cultivars.

Murray's Garden, (Evans Shire)

Haeflinger's Garden, (Evans Shire)

Chapter 33: NSW Historical Theme: Leisure

Many people derive their pleasures not from an active involvement in competitive sport, but from individual activities. Some amuse themselves by watching sport or a cultural performance or by indulging in a hobby.

Leisure for the Wiradjuri was bound up with cultural practices, marking certain milestones, as well as regular participation in group activities, such as corroborees. Play for children was often just that, a simple activity which fostered hand-eye co-ordination, developed the body and gave pleasure. Soon, however, it became increasingly like training for subsistence, moving along a continuum from play towards food gathering, and the honing of essential skills.

Active pursuits such as bushwalking, hunting or fishing, or simply walking in urban parks, going bowling are examples of leisure pursuits. Early settlers participated in quiet pursuits such as walking as well as more active ones such as hunting. Various crazes enlivened leisure time. Apart from the established forms of sport, and gambling, changing technology gave them new outlets. The invention of the bicycle was followed by a craze for bicycling, not just as transport, or as a sporting medium but also for the simple pleasure of riding free and unfettered to where you could. The emergence of bushwalking as a leisure pursuit grew markedly in the 1930s, and the creation of National Parks has fostered the activity.

Machattie Park, Bathurst

Kanangra Boyd National Park

Abercrombie Caves

Lake Cowal

Traditionally, the pursuit of reading was probably the most common leisure activity, undertaken by early settlers. There were few ways to acquire books but the creation of cultural institutions such as Schools of Arts, and libraries by municipal councils provided for their needs. Cultural performances were also major ways of entertainment. Even the early gold diggings were on the circuit of singers, such as Jenny Lind, touring opera companies, circuses, musicians, magicians and a host of other performance based activities. The sophistication of the metropolis was brought to smaller towns, with the erection of such institutions as Gulgong's Opera House. More commonly such performances took place in halls, or Schools of Arts.

Gulgong Opera House

By the late nineteenth century, the formation of bands was popular, particularly amongst workers and the lower middle class. In an era with no pre-recorded music, the bands were the only way in which most people could experience music. Bands gave young men an outlet for their energies and also enable them to earn a little money casually. Many municipalities subsidised local bands. It was for them that the band halls and bandstands in many parks were erected. It is notable that the Salvation Army took up the band as one of the elements of their street preaching. Although they withered as the twentieth century wore on, bands still exist.

Cinema emerged as a major form of entertainment in the early twentieth century, initially through the efforts of travelling film exhibitors, and then by the erection of

open air cinemas and finally by the erection of purpose built cinemas. Even small towns and villages were provided with their own cinema. Many of these former cinemas remain, mostly converted to some other use such as retail store or supermarket, but some are still in use.

Amusu Cinema, Manildra

Entertainment became more attuned to electronic methods of dissemination as the twentieth century wore on. The provision of radio broadcasting from the 1920s onwards provided a new entertainment medium. It was followed by television from the 1950s onwards and then by other forms of electronic entertainment, such as video and DVD. A number of radio and television stations were created in the Central West and Lachlan broadcasting to the region.

Individual hobbies were the favoured pursuits of some people. They include such passions as model railway building, philately, or bottle collecting to name a few. Most create a moveable collection, sometimes of heritage value, rather than a built object. Nevertheless, there are many places where such enthusiasts meet to display and swap, such as halls and showgrounds.

Chapter 34: NSW Historical Theme: Religion

Wiradjuri systems of belief did not compartmentalise secular and religious matters. They were closely interwoven into all aspects of life. The new white settlers were adept at keeping the two in separate compartments. Some of these new settlers were deeply religious and all that they did was infused by a deep religious sensibility. For the bulk of settlers, though, religion was a matter for dealing with at an appropriate time.

Convicts who comprised the earliest major group of white settlers were even less attached to religion. Thus, it was a nice irony that the attempt to establish a mission station to convert the Wiradjuri to the new Christian system of belief was undertaken in the Wellington Valley, once the convict outpost there was closed down. Later, missions such as those at Bulgandramine, acted as refuges for them from the worst impositions of white settlers.

Wellington Mission

Bulgandramine Mission

The white man did not bring a unified religious outlook to the Central West and Lachlan. There were deep divisions of belief, most particularly between the Roman Catholics and the Protestant faiths. Everywhere there were settlers there was a contest between the different faiths. In some places, competition was muted, such as at Orange where the Roman Catholics were given substantial support and assistance by non-Catholic believers. In many areas, the Anglican persuasion was dominant due to its association with the more powerful members of society, as well as official promotion.

Yet Anglicanism did not prevail in all areas. There were strong enclaves of all faiths. Methodism was often associated with miners, such as at Byng. Presbyterianism prevailed in some centres such as Coerwull where Presbyterian notable, Andrew Brown, erected the church at his own expense. Catholics, despite the impediments of being largely a religion of the poorer members of society, and the active obstruction of Protestant interests, thrived in some places. Roman Catholics were highly successful in Orange, where (despite the name of the town), they became major notables and erected a number of significant buildings. The congregations of most faiths erected places to worship according to their beliefs, some of them magnificent architect designed churches with soaring spires, such as the Presbyterian Church at Wellington, others modest community efforts, such as the Methodist Chapel at Byng.

Presbyterian Church, Coerwull

Methodist Chapel, Byng

Malachi Gilmore Hall, Oberon

The non-conformist Protestant faiths, of which Methodism was the major example, were prone to fracture into many small sects. The Methodists were a prominent example, with Wesleyan Methodists and Primitive Methodists often vying for adherents in the same town. Smaller sects, such as the Church of Christ, Unitarians and others eventually found their congregations were not viable and merged with the others. These mergers caused constant flux in religion throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists eventually merged. The

major merger of the non-conformists occurred on 22 June 1977 when the Methodist Church, some Presbyterian and Congregational Church congregations merged creating the Uniting Church. The merger ensured that there were many churches surplus to the needs of the combined church.

The creation of new faiths countered the trend towards amalgamation. As the evangelicals of the Anglican Church mellowed and as the radical features of the Methodists were diffused newer faiths, passionate in their belief and full of the fervour to proselytise arose. The Salvation Army emerged in Sydney in December 1882. Branches emerged in many suburbs and towns. By the 1890s, they were already conducting a maternity and rescue home in Bathurst.

Salvation Army Maternity Home, Bathurst

Apart from the Wiradjuri, who retained some of their traditional beliefs despite the missionary onslaught, there were other non-Christians. The Chinese brought their own beliefs and retained them, practising their beliefs and occasionally erecting places of worship. Moslems also passed through the district, such as the hawkers from Lebanon and the Afghans but do not appear to have built any places of worship.

Cudgegong Joss House

Chapter 35: NSW Historical Theme: Social Institutions

Apart from their kin and wider language group, the Wiradjuri lacked formal institutions.

Two broad categories define social institutions – those created to provide some mutual benefit for members and those created to service a common interest. Prior to the inauguration of some modest social welfare by the government in the early twentieth century, the individual or the family had to provide relief in time of crisis. To extend this safety net, people established mutual benefit societies, to provide aid in time of sickness, injury, unemployment or old age. Friendly societies, as they were called were often part of a wider network, such as the Oddfellows, or they were part of church-based network such as the HABCS, the Hibernian Australian Catholic Benefit Society. The Freemasons formed an active network across the colony and were often successful in erecting their halls in many towns and suburbs.

Royal Lachlan Lodge

A concern for self-improvement underlay the movement to establish mechanics institutes or Schools of Arts. Often the impulse came from society's "betters" seeking to open opportunity the lower orders, though in many cases, workingmen were also part of the movement towards creating local societies. In many areas, the initial aim of the society was the initiation of a scheme of improving activities, whether they were lectures on the role of the tragic hero in Shakespeare's plays, a series of debates on current issues or vocational training. The erection of premises to house such activities was an important aim and was achieved in many areas. So many towns boasted a School of Arts or Mechanics Institute in various states of prosperity, and some still retain the buildings. During the twentieth century, other bodies emerged to cater for the thirst for self-improvement, through something other than schools. Educational galleries were opened, some such as historical societies, catalogued the past of the district, whilst others, such as natural history museums like the Age of Fishes Museum at Canowindra, looked into the environmental background to life.

Gallery of Minerals, Bathurst

Mutual interest of another calibre underlay the formation of another type of special group. Lobby groups seeking to obtain a major railway line, or other important local benefits were formed for specific purposes, and often did not outlast the issue which inspired their creation, but the results of their efforts are still visible, most notably the railway lines which take a particular route to a certain town rather than to its rival. Wellington successfully obtained a place on the route of the main line to Dubbo in the 1880s due to the efforts of its lobbyists. Its rival, Molong, did not obtain a through connection to Dubbo until 1925.

Progress Associations or hobby groups are also special interest groups but they have a longer life than the single-issue bodies. The impact of such groups varies according to their aims. Progress Associations have had a marked impact on some towns. One type of special interest group, the Acclimatisation Society, successfully released animal and plant species into the local environment, some with disastrous effects, such as the Scots thistle or rabbit. Other releases such as trout spawn into the cool streams of the

Central Western district and the lakes of the Lachlan have provided a positive local tourist benefit.

Clubs had been formed for specialist groups in the nineteenth century. From the 1920s onwards, a new group of prominent clubs emerged with the formation of returned servicemen's organizations in many towns. Often they commenced operating on a shoestring budget but such was their appeal to many returned men that these clubs continued to grow albeit slowly. It was not until after the Second World War, that they boomed. The 1954 Royal Commission into the Liquor Laws recommended the issue of additional club licences to break the liquor monopoly with special priority for ex-servicemen's clubs. Hence, the number of clubs exploded due to changes in the liquor and the gaming laws. The returned service clubs were major beneficiaries, but other clubs, sporting, social or special purpose in aim also benefited, until the club lifestyle acquired a momentum of its own. Many of these clubs also provide social benefits to their community, sponsoring sporting clubs, social activities, and some welfare.

The scouting movement encouraged the creation of troops in many localities, both for boys and girls. Scout halls thus dot the landscape of many towns and suburbs.

Undoubtedly, the Country Women's Association is the premier social institution in many towns, providing a host of support services, and comfort for women. The CWA buildings in towns, such as Parkes and Peak Hill are important centres, which have been erected through the efforts of the local community putting their faith in a strong reliance upon self-help.

Chapter 36: NSW Historical Theme: Sport

Tests of skill, strength and endurance occupied the Wiradjuri at certain times. Occasionally, it was a structured activity, but it could emerge on an informal basis.

Even before there were townships, there were horse races. Early settlers in the Central West and Lachlan brought their horses with them and their animals became the basis for one of the earliest and most popular sporting activities, whether a spontaneous race between workmen or specially organised race events which might occupy days of the annual rural calendar. Most early races were undertaken on rough courses in the grasslands of the area. Later, racing clubs were formed. They were able to obtain Crown reserves for use as racetracks or showgrounds where tracks for such purposes were provided. Grandstands, stables and other facilities followed.

Nehlungaloo Station

Rylstone Showground

Hunting, especially of kangaroos and wallabies, often on horseback was another highly popular activity. The question whether it was sport or vermin control was unclear. Indeed, did it matter? As the landscape became more closely settled and criss-crossed by roads, fences, fields of grain and houses, such opportunities were diminished, but the appeal of hunting, fishing, and shooting did not. It still attracts many enthusiasts in the area. Some Wiradjuri still practise their traditional hunting skills.

Other forms of animals based contest arose, such as greyhound racing, trotting and the racing of pigeons.

Increasing leisure brought the opportunity for regular sports activity, usually focused on the rubber or leather ball. That most English game - cricket - was usually the first team game to be played. Various forms of football, tennis, and baseball later challenged its appeal. The emergence of the Saturday half-holidays enabled regular teams to form, so that by the late nineteenth century, local newspapers were devoting considerable space to the exploits of various teams from their distribution area. Sports fields emerged, often just a flat cleared space, but by the twentieth century, the construction of such fields was a major element of municipal investment for leisure.

Other tests of skill, fitness or endurance emerged, based on walking (“pedestrianism”) which had a strong following in the nineteenth century. The sport of running also appealed, as did track and field events, such as discus, hurdling etc.

Whilst success in such sports was often the results of a certain skill, which might be partially deepened by strength, endurance or fitness achieved from work, other sports were more directly related to work. Ploughing matches were popular competitive activities in the nineteenth century and some notable contests occurred, especially in the Orange district. Contests of sawing or using the axe also emerged.

Wheeled transport brought about a progressive widening of the differing forms of sport. The bicycle quickly attained a devoted following, not only for the mobility which it gave workers previously conditioned to getting there by foot, but also for its

competitive possibilities. Various Leagues of Wheelmen emerged in many places, only to wither and then die as the motor cycle attracted the most active wheelmen followed by the motor car as they became ever more accessible in price. The premier car-racing venue in the district is the Mount Panorama Circuit in Bathurst.

Aerial contests have also emerged, not so much focused on the aeroplane as the hot air balloon, which is the reason for the annual ballooning festival at Canowindra. Boating or racing had little appeal on rivers, which twisted and wound their way through the area, but the creation of lakes behind the major dams has considerably expanded the scope for competitive boat racing. This has given a new aspect to Lake Cargellico and the dry hillsides around Lake Windamere.

The construction of swimming pools in the towns of the area from the 1920s onwards gave them a chance to participate in the passion for swimming, which gripped Australia in the twentieth century. Olympic competitions were held in unlikely places such as Wellington, whose pool was open in 1925. They became significant swimming venues attracting many notable swimmers and athletes.

Many of these activities created their own special facilities, as well as sites of commemoration where notable victories were won, though these are often lodged in people's memories rather than on official plaques. Venues to cater for special skill based sports were also needed such as acrobatics.

Not all sports were for the young and active. Lawn bowls had adherents in many towns and villages, often drawing its recruits from the more elderly members of the community, though even this has been rumoured to be changing. The bowling club with its carefully guarded turf is as distinctive a feature of many towns as the showground or racetrack. Some towns also have ten-pin bowling alleys, a sport which initially came to the district with the gold miners from the United States in the nineteenth century.

Volume 9: Australian Historical Theme: Marking the Phases of Life

Although much of the experience of growing up and growing old does not readily relate to particular heritage sites, there are places that can illustrate this important theme. Most of the phases of life ... are universal experiences.

(Australian Historic Themes, AHC, Canberra 2001)

Chapter 37: NSW Historical Theme: Birth and Death

Birth and death are two of the physical certainties of human life in the Central West as elsewhere. They mark the beginning and the end of personal experience, but also mark points of both continuity and disruption within families and societies. The term 'birth' involves not only giving birth, but also conception and contraception, the stages of pregnancy and ante-natal and post-natal care, and shades into death through miscarriage, termination and infant death.

Salvation Army Maternity Home, Bathurst

Wiradjuri birth and death customs were defined precisely by their cultural background. In death, significant men could be memorialised, such as the Wiradjuri grave mound found by John Oxley in 1817, beside the Lachlan River with a craved tree on either side.

Similarly, the term 'death' involves not only the point of dying, but also methods of death from accidental to murderous to natural, the disposal of the dead through funeral rituals and burial procedures, and the meanings of death as illustrated in memorials and graveyards. These age-old rhythms have been as evident in the Central West as in any other place of human habitation. The place where "the first white child born in the district" occurred is often remembered, as is the place where a notorious bushranger was killed in a shoot-out. But the story of birth and death is also about traditional Wiradjuri birthing places, the multiple baby deaths and miscarriages in an isolated settler family, the creation of memorial gardens to remember lives given in defence of the land, and the funerary urns marking the burial ground of Chinese miners.

Marsden Family Vault, Blayney

Rothery Family cemetery, Cliefden

Yuranigh's grave, Molong

Chapter 38: NSW Historical Theme: Persons

In the Central West, as elsewhere in Australia and other settler societies, knowledge of named persons who helped create that society are known and remembered, in contrast to older societies. 'Firsts' such as explorer George Evans are well known, as are places associated with him. Early pastoral families and their properties are often remembered and commemorated. Leaders such as Windradyne and Ben Chifley are remembered by their deeds and the houses they once lived in. Sports people are remembered by their triumphs and their training grounds, such as Marjorie Jackson. Intellectuals are remembered by their works and places that influenced them, such as Louisa Lawson or Brett Whiteley. Persons are also remembered in a communal as well as individual sense, often in forms such as a family farm or a place name (such as 'Parkes'). Places can be significant for their associations with particular persons. The persons in this chapter fall into two main groups: those from beyond the region who have been influenced by it and have contributed to its cultural identity, such as poets, artists and architects; and those who have lived in the region for much of their lives and have earned their living from the region, such as business people, politicians and bush rangers. There will, of course, be many more persons who have made significant social contributions with local and family contexts and who are not identified in this chapter.

APPENDIX

Central West Pilot Program – Sub-themes for further research

Volume 1: Australian Historical Theme: Tracing the Evolution of the Australian Environment

Chapter 1: NSW Historical Theme: Environment – naturally evolved

1.1 Regional theme: Geoperiod Devonian Epoch Early 370 to 400 million years ago

Conimbla National Park

1.2 Regional theme: Geoperiod Jurassic Epoch Middle 160 to 170 million years ago

Talbragar Reserve

1.3 Regional theme: Geoperiod Quaternary Epoch Pleistocene 10 000 to 1.7 million years ago

Jenolan Caves

1.4 Regional theme: Geoperiod Tertiary Pliocene 1.7 to 12 million years ago

Wellington Caves

1.5 Regional theme: Geoperiod Triassic Epoch Middle 205 to 215 million years ago

The Pagoda Country, Goulburn River National Park

1.6 Regional theme: environments important for plant life

1.7 Regional theme: environments important for bird life

1.8 Regional theme: environments important for animal life

1.9 Regional theme: pre-invasion ecosystems illustrating changing human land uses

Weddin Mountains National Park

1.10 Regional theme: mountains and peaks providing landmarks for humans

1.11 Regional theme: cliffs and escarpments influencing human settlement

1.12 Regional theme: caves and underground spaces known to humans

1.13 Regional theme: conserving and protecting natural features

1.14 Regional theme: Lakes and wetlands supporting human activities

1.15 Regional theme: natural landscapes valued by humans

1.16 Regional theme: Rivers and water bodies important to humans

Volume 2: Australian Theme: Peopling Australia

Chapter 2: NSW Historical Theme: Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

2.1 Regional theme: Gundungurra nation – evidencing creation stories

2.2 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – lines of communication

Coura Ford

2.3 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – practising important ceremonies

Corroborree sites in the Mudgee Hills

2.4 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – marking places of burial

Bulgandramine Mission, Lachlan Valley carved trees, Grave of Windradyne, Grave of Yuranigh

2.5 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – defending the land

Mount Pleasant battlements

2.6 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – working for pastoralists

Brundah Station

2.7 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation - adapting European wares

Collection of 19th Century Wiradjuri glass artefacts

2.8 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – living on missions

Bulgandramine Mission, Erambie Mission, Willow Bend Mission, Nanima Mission, Wellington Convict & Mission Precinct

2.9 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation – living in towns

Condobolin Aboriginal Reserve, Lake Cargellico Aboriginal Reserve, Peak Hill Aboriginal Reserve,

2.10 Regional theme: Wiradjuri Nation – obtaining food and supplies

Knuckey's Store, Wellington
Lake Cowal

2.11 Regional theme: Wiradjuri nation - cultural renewal

Wellington Common

Chapter 3: NSW Historical Theme: Convict

3.1 Regional theme: administering the convict system

3.2 Regional theme: isolating 'special' convicts

3.3 Regional theme: working for the Crown

3.4 Regional theme: working on private assignment

3.5 Regional theme: providing health and welfare facilities

3.6 Regional theme: emancipation and returning to civil society

Chapter 4: NSW Historical Theme: Ethnic influences

4.1 Regional theme: Chinese agricultural practices

4.2 Regional theme: Chinese commercial practices

4.3 Regional theme: Chinese mining practices

4.4 Regional theme: Chinese remembrance customs

- 4.5 Regional theme: Chinese religious practices
- 4.6 Regional theme: Cornish mining practices
- 4.7 Regional theme: English rural building practices
- 4.8 Regional theme: Irish rural building practices
- 4.9 Regional theme: French wine making practices
- 4.10 Regional theme: German wine making practices
- 4.11 Regional theme: maintaining Chinese communities
- 4.12 Regional theme: maintaining Greek communities
- 4.13 Regional theme: maintaining Scottish communities
- 4.14 Regional theme: multi-national contacts with local communities
- 4.15 Regional theme: segregating people on the basis of ethnicity

Chapter 5: NSW Historical Theme: Migration

- 5.1 Regional theme: resisting the relocation of Aboriginal peoples
- 5.2 Regional theme: settling child migrants in institutions
- 5.3 Regional theme: settling post-WW2 migrants and refugees
- 5.4 Regional theme: emigrating from one colony or state to another

Volume 3: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Local, Regional and National Economies

Chapter 6: NSW Historical Theme: Agriculture

6.1 Regional theme: marking the transition from pastoralism to agriculture

6.2 Regional theme: clearing land for farming

6.3 Regional theme: farming wheat and other grains

6.4 Regional theme: growing vines and maintaining vineyards

6.5 Regional theme: market gardening

6.6 Regional theme: orcharding

6.7 Regional theme: experimenting with new crops and methods

6.8 Regional theme: farming in intermittent environments

6.9 Regional theme: processing wheat and other grains

6.10 Regional theme: Sharefarming

6.11 Regional theme: Training for young farmers

6.12 Regional theme: using specialised agricultural equipment

Chapter 7: NSW Historical Theme: Commerce

7.1 Regional theme: baking and pastrycooking

7.2 Regional theme: banking

7.3 Regional theme: blacksmithing

7.4 Regional theme: innkeeping

7.5 Regional theme: keeping cafes and restaurants

7.6 Regional theme: keeping garages and service stations

7.7 Regional theme: shopkeeping

7.8 Regional theme: warehousing and storage for commercial enterprises

7.9 Regional theme: operating a tourist venture

Chapter 8: NSW Historical Theme: Communication

8.1 Regional theme: communicating by mail

8.2 Regional theme: communicating by the printed word

8.3 Regional theme: communicating by telegraph

8.4 Regional theme: communicating by radio

8.5 Regional theme: communicating by telephone

8.6 Regional theme: communicating by electronically

Chapter 9: NSW Historical Theme: Environment - cultural landscape

9.1 Regional theme: landscapes and gardens of domestic accommodation

9.2 Regional theme: landscapes drowned beneath dam waters

9.3 Regional theme: landscapes of contemplation and devotion

9.4 Regional theme: landscapes and gardens of cultural and natural interaction

9.5 Regional theme: landscapes and gardens of food production

9.6 Regional theme: landscapes of military activities

9.7 Regional theme: landscapes of mining

9.8 Regional theme: landscapes of remembrance

9.9 Regional theme: landscapes of sport and recreation

9.10 Regional theme: landscapes of urban amenity

9.11 Places important in developing conservation processes

9.12 Landscapes of segregation

Chapter 10: NSW Historical Theme: Events

10.1 Regional theme: holding annual shows

10.2 Regional theme: providing a venue for significant events

10.3 Regional theme: developing local landmarks

Chapter 11: NSW Historical Theme: Exploration

11.1 Regional theme: exploring and surveying for the Crown

11.2 Regional theme: exploring beyond the earth

11.3 Regional theme: guiding the explorers

11.4 Regional theme: routes taken by Surveyor Thomas Mitchell

11.5 Regional theme: routes taken by Surveyor John Oxley

Chapter 12: NSW Historical Theme: Fishing

12.1 Regional theme: trout fishing for pleasure

12.2 Regional theme: fishing for native fish for pleasure

Chapter 13: NSW Historical Theme: Forestry

13.1 Regional theme: cutting timber for mine, mill and house

13.2 Regional theme: extracting volatile oils

13.3 Regional theme: maintaining regrowth and new forests

Chapter 14: NSW Historical Theme: Health

14.1 Regional theme: caring for mothers and babies

14.2 Regional theme: caring for the sick in hospitals

14.3 Regional theme: operating and belonging to friendly societies

14.4 Regional theme: operating private and religious hospitals

14.5 Regional theme: operating public hospitals

14.6 Regional theme: operating aged care facilities

14.7 Regional theme: providing medical care

Chapter 15: NSW Historical Theme: Industry

15.1 Regional theme: extracting and processing botanical compounds

15.2 Regional theme: manufacturing agricultural implements and machinery

15.3 Regional theme: manufacturing building materials and products

15.4 Regional theme: manufacturing defence materials

15.5 Regional theme: manufacturing foodstuffs

15.6 Regional theme: smelting ores to extract metals

15.7 Regional theme: manufacturing pottery and earthenwares

15.8 Regional theme: reusing and relocating industrial plant and equipment

Chapter 16: NSW Historical Theme: Mining

16.1 Regional theme: converting coal into coke

16.2 Regional theme: miners living together

16.3 Regional theme: miners relaxing

16.4 Regional theme: mining for coal

16.5 Regional theme: mining for copper

16.6 Regional theme: mining for gold

16.7 Regional theme: mining for oil shales

16.8 Regional theme: mining for phosphates

16.9 Regional theme: mining in aquatic environments

16.10 Regional theme: processing mineral ores and earths

16.11 Regional theme: quarrying marbles and ornamental stone

Borenore Cave Fossils and Marble Deposits, Caluela Marble Quarry, Cudgegong Marble Quarry, Fernhill Farm & Wildlife Refuge

Chapter 17: NSW Historical Theme: Pastoralism

17.1 Regional theme: dairying

17.2 Regional theme: horse breeding and raising

17.3 Regional theme: killing and dressing stock

17.4 Regional theme: sharing pastoral resources

17.5 Regional theme: woolgrowing

17.6 Regional theme: working for pastoralists

17.7 Regional theme: beef cattle breeding and raising

17.8 Regional theme: lamb and mutton raising

Chapter 18: NSW Historical Theme: Science

18.1 Regional theme: biological research

18.2 Regional theme: researching archaeological relics and landscapes

18.3 Regional theme: researching botany

18.4 Regional theme: researching fauna

18.5 Regional theme: researching geology

18.6 Regional theme: researching new agricultural production techniques

18.7 Regional theme: researching palaeontology

18.8 Regional theme: researching the stars and space

Chapter 19: NSW Historical Theme: Technology

19.1 Regional theme: technologies for flood mitigation

19.2 Regional theme: technologies for underground mining

19.3 Regional theme: technologies of bridge building

- 19.4 Regional theme: technologies of dam and weir building and maintenance
- 19.5 Regional theme: technologies of food processing
- 19.6 Regional theme: technologies of industrial manufacturing
- 19.7 Regional theme: technologies of telecommunication
- 19.8 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building
- 19.9 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building – natural found materials
- 19.10 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building – pise and mud brick
- 19.11 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building – sod and turf
- 19.12 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building – stone rubble
- 19.13 Regional theme: technologies of vernacular and traditional building – timber slabs
- 19.14 Regional theme: technologies of wool processing
- 19.15 Regional theme: technologies of new building materials and techniques
- 19.16 Regional theme: technologies for obtaining metals from earths
- 19.17 Regional theme: technologies for underground mining

Chapter 20: NSW Historical Theme: Transport

20.1 Regional theme: building and maintaining public roads

20.2 Regional theme: engineering the public railway system

20.3 Regional theme: maintaining animal based transport

20.4 Regional theme: engineering the public road system

20.5 Regional theme: maintaining motorised road transport

20.6 Regional theme: operating the public railway system

20.7 Regional theme: providing and using pedestrian tracks and ways

20.8 Regional theme: administering the public railway system

Volume 4: Australian Historical Theme: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

Chapter 21: NSW Historical Theme: Accommodation

21.1 Regional theme: accommodating prisoners and internees

21.2 Regional theme: accommodating students in boarding schools

21.3 Regional theme: accommodating the unemployed in temporary places

21.4 Regional theme: accommodating travellers and tourists

21.5 Regional theme: housing for farm and station hands

21.6 Regional theme: housing for industrial managers and owners

21.7 Regional theme: housing for mission residents

21.8 Regional theme: housing in shop based accommodation

21.9 Regional theme: housing industrial workers

21.10 Regional theme: housing medical staff

21.11 Regional theme: housing migrants

21.12 Regional theme: housing public servants and officials

21.13 Regional theme: housing the clergy and religious

21.14 Regional theme: housing the prosperous – mansions in town and country

21.15 Regional theme: housing townfolk – terraces and cottages

21.16 Regional theme: housing working animals

21.17 Regional theme: traditional aboriginal housing

Chapter 22: NSW Historical Theme: Land Tenure

22.1 Regional theme: administering and alienating crown lands

22.2 Regional theme: bounding administrative areas

22.3 Regional theme: communal forms of land occupancy and management

22.4 Regional theme: leasing land for mining

22.5 Regional theme: marking trig stations and other survey points

22.6 Regional theme: naming places (toponymy)

Chapter 23: NSW Historical Theme: Towns, suburbs and villages

23.1 Regional theme: Aboriginal reserves on urban fringes

23.2 Regional theme: decentralising metropolitan activities to provincial cities

23.3 Regional theme: developing private towns

23.4 Regional theme: developing towns in response to topography

23.5 Regional theme: mission settlements

23.6 Regional theme: planned towns serving a specific industry

23.7 Regional theme: planning relationships between key structures and towns

23.8 Regional theme: sharing urban resources

23.9 Regional theme: vernacular towns serving a specific industry

Chapter 24: NSW Historical Theme: Utilities

24.1 Regional theme: providing drinking water

24.2 Regional theme: providing gas

24.3 Regional theme: providing electricity

24.4 Regional theme: providing sewerage services

Volume 5: Australian Historical Theme: Working

Chapter 25: NSW Historical Theme: Labour

25.1 Regional theme: providing migrant labour

25.2 Regional theme: working as a manager or executive officer

25.3 Regional theme: working at enforced labour

25.4 Regional theme: working for the defence services

25.5 Regional theme: working for the dole

25.6 Regional theme: working in factories

25.7 Regional theme: working in mines and quarries

25.8 Regional theme: working independently at mining

25.9 Regional theme: working independently on the land

25.10 Regional theme: working on pastoral stations

25.11 Regional theme: working with hand tools and implements

25.12 Regional theme: working complex machinery and technologies

Volume 6: Australian Historical Theme: Educating

Chapter 26: NSW Historical Theme: Education

26.1 Regional theme: public (primary) schooling

26.2 Regional theme: public (secondary) schooling

26.3 Regional theme: public (tertiary) education

26.4 Regional theme: private (religious) schooling

26.5 Regional theme: private (independent) schooling

26.6 Regional theme: schooling in temporary premises

26.7 Regional theme: training teachers

Volume 7: Australian Historical Theme: Governing

Chapter 27: NSW Historical Theme: Defence

27.1 Regional theme: defending the homeland

27.2 Regional theme: detaining enemy personnel and aliens

27.3 Regional theme: making supply and ordnance

27.4 Regional theme: observing and looking out for enemy movements

27.5 Regional theme: repatriating returned service personnel

27.6 Regional theme: training military personnel

27.7 Regional theme: The Frontier Wars 1820s-1840s

Chapter 28: NSW Historical Theme: Government and Administration

28.1 Regional theme: developing roles for government – parks and open spaces

28.2 Regional theme: developing roles for government – providing education

28.3 Regional theme: developing roles for government – public land administration

28.4 Regional theme: direct vice regal governance (pre 1856)

28.5 Regional theme: federating Australia

28.6 Regional theme: local and municipal self governance

Chapter 29: NSW Historical Theme: Law and order

29.1 Regional theme: dispensing justice

29.2 Regional theme: incarcerating prisoners

29.3 Regional theme: living a life of crime

29.4 Regional theme: policing and enforcing the law

29.5 Regional theme: scenes of criminal activities

29.6 Regional theme: prisoners changing the landscape

Chapter 30: NSW Historical Theme: Welfare

30.1 Regional theme: providing natal care for illegitimate children

30.2 Regional theme: providing work for the dole schemes

30.3 Regional theme: making philanthropic benefactions

30.4 Regional theme: caring for the indigent and aged

30.5 Regional theme: providing for your own illness and old age

30.6 Regional theme: caring for the insane

30.7 Regional theme: caring for Aboriginal children

30.8 Regional theme: providing care for unmarried mothers

30.9 Regional theme: providing charitable out-relief

30.10 Regional theme: caring for the victims of war

30.11 Regional theme: managing charitable organizations and care

30.12 Regional theme: employing the handicapped

Volume 8: Australian Historical Theme: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

Chapter 31: NSW Historical Theme: Creative Endeavour

31.1 Regional theme: designing in an exemplary architectural style

31.2 Regional theme: designing, making and using banners and flags

31.3 Regional theme: editing and publishing newspapers

31.4 Regional theme: inspirational environments and events

31.5 Regional theme: performing important ceremonies and rituals

31.6 Regional theme: making and acting in films

31.7 Regional theme: making and using vernacular furnishings and decorations

Chapter 32: NSW Historical Theme: Domestic Life

32.1 Regional theme: at home with a national leader

32.2 Regional theme: living in a migrant hostel

32.3 Regional theme: living in converted commercial premises

32.4 Regional theme: living in factory accommodation

32.5 Regional theme: living on a soldier settlement block

Chapter 33: NSW Historical Theme: Leisure

33.1 Regional theme: climbing mountains and peaks

33.2 Regional theme: enjoying public parks and gardens

33.3 Regional theme: going boating and sailing

33.4 Regional theme: going bushwalking

33.5 Regional theme: going dancing

33.6 Regional theme: going fishing

33.7 Regional theme: going swimming

33.8 Regional theme: going to see the caves

33.9 Regional theme: going to the car racing

33.10 Regional theme: going to the pictures

33.11 Regional theme: going to the pub

33.12 Regional theme: going to the theatre

33.13 Regional theme: visiting lookouts and places of natural beauty

33.14 Regional theme: visiting places of romantic inspiration

33.15 Regional theme: going shooting

Chapter 34: NSW Historical Theme: Religion

34.1 Regional theme: conducting missions

34.2 Regional theme: practising Anglicanism

34.3 Regional theme: practising Catholicism

34.4 Regional theme: practising Methodism

34.5 Regional theme: practising Presbyterianism

34.6 Regional theme: practising Protestant unity

34.7 Regional theme: practising Salvationism

34.8 Regional theme: practising traditional Chinese beliefs

34.9 Regional theme: providing halls and other community facilities

34.10 Regional theme: providing schools and education

Chapter 35: NSW Historical Theme: Social Institutions

35.1 Regional theme: belonging to a friendly society for mutual benefits

35.2 Regional theme: belonging to an institution for self-improvement

35.3 Regional theme: developing and maintaining a local museum

35.4 Regional theme: joining together to study and appreciate local history

Chapter 36: NSW Historical Theme: Sport

36.1 Regional theme: racing horses

36.2 Regional theme: racing motorcars

36.3 Regional theme: training sportspeople

36.4 Regional theme: shooting for sport

36.5 Regional theme: playing games with a ball

36.6 Regional theme: enjoying bowling

36.7 Regional theme: competing in boats

36.8 Regional theme: running, jumping and throwing

36.9 Regional theme: testing skill

36.10 Regional theme: swimming

36.11 Regional theme: competing in the air

36.12 Regional theme: testing style

36.13 Regional theme: testing work skill

36.14 Regional theme: racing on wheels

36.15 Regional theme: racing animals

36.16 Regional theme: competing on the snow

Volume 9: Australian Historical Theme: Marking the Phases of Life

Chapter 37: NSW Historical Theme: Birth and Death

37.1 Regional theme: giving birth in maternity hospitals and homes

37.2 Regional theme: burying and remembering notable persons

37.3 Regional theme: burying the dead in customary ways

37.4 Regional theme: operating and maintaining small or isolated burial grounds

Chapter 38: NSW Historical Theme: Persons

38.1 Regional theme: associations with Andrew Brown, industrialist

38.2 Regional theme: associations with Ben Chifley, prime minister

38.3 Regional theme: associations with Ben Hall, bushranger

38.4 Regional theme: associations with Brett Whiteley, artist

38.5 Regional theme: associations with Donald Friend, artist

38.6 Regional theme: associations with Edmund Blackett, architect

38.7 Regional theme: associations with Edward Gell, architect

38.8 Regional theme: associations with Henry Lawson, poet and writer

38.9 Regional theme: associations with J Horbury Hunt, architect

- 38.10 Regional theme: associations with James Barnet, architect
- 38.11 Regional theme: associations with J F Hilly, architect
- 38.12 Regional theme: associations with John Olsen, artist
- 38.13 Regional theme: associations with Louisa Lawson, feminist and author
- 38.14 Regional theme: associations with Marjorie Jackson, athlete
- 38.15 Regional theme: associations with Paul Sorensen, landscape architect
- 38.16 Regional theme: associations with Russell Drysdale, artist
- 38.17 Regional theme: associations with Walter Liberty Vernon, architect
- 38.18 Regional theme: associations with William E Kemp, architect
- 38.19 Regional theme: associations with Windradyne, Wiradjuri warrior
- 38.20 Regional theme: associations with Yuranigh, explorer and guide