Thematic History

of

Young Shire

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Introduction

The thematic history of the former Young Shire

This thematic history has been prepared as part of a community based heritage study undertaken in the former Young Shire in 2006-2008. It gratefully acknowledges the work of local researchers in recording the development of the region. Published and unpublished local history resources, and national reference materials, have been referred to in the preparation of this history, and as far as possible the recollections of current and former residents of the shire have been included in the study.

Locally based researchers and historians have very ably recorded many aspects of the story of the Young district through a series of historical narratives, reminiscences and oral histories. Published histories include first-hand accounts of the early days of European settlement of the region, including those of Sarah Musgrave and Mark Hammond, and personal recollections of farming life in the early to mid 20th century such as Charles Robinson's *Springview Remembered*. The Murringo Community Association has actively recorded the story of that area and Judith Langfield has published her research of the history of Anglicanism in the shire. Young Shire Council has sponsored a number of worthwhile histories including William A. Bayley's *Rich Earth* and Maree Lamb and Margaret Hall's history of local government from 1882 to 2002. Other published histories such as William Forbes' biography of George Cranfield, the McGregors' analysis of the Lambing Flat riots and Chris Starrs' history of the Young Roller Flour Mill add to the rich tapestry of the story of Young. The value of this work is enhanced by the scholarly publications of the Young & District Family History Group including *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860* and *Burials in Young Shire and Surrounding Areas*.

Events in localities around the shire have been recorded in centenary histories, including Dorothy Shumack's *Chronicles of Koorawatha*, and Wirrimah Community Group's *Wirrimah and its People*. The work of the Murringo Historical Centre in publishing its volumes of *News From Marengo* provides a valuable tapestry of events in the village of Murringo and surrounds. Local history resources include much other published and unpublished research.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive history of the Young Shire. Those who are seeking more detailed explanations of people, places and events are encouraged to refer to the works cited in the reference list that is included in **Section 10 References**. Where gaps have existed in existing narratives attempts have been made to provide a more detailed analysis.

Special thanks for assistance with preparing and editing this history should go to Margaret Hall, Maree Lamb, Joyce Simpson, Jeanette Tiedemann and Janice Ward.

This history should not be treated as a definitive history. Other researchers are encouraged to add to the written record of the vast, complex and unfolding story of the Young region.

The Australian Historic Themes

This thematic history is designed to tell the story of the former Young Shire within a consistent national framework. This framework was designed by the Australian Heritage Commission to organise information on the history of places into areas of activity.

By emphasising the human activities that produced the places we value, and the human response to Australia's natural environment, places are related to the processes and stories associated with them, rather than the type of function or place ...

Themes are not intended to follow a chronological order. Rather, they are generic, and designed to be applied and interlinked, regardless of the period or place. They embrace prehistory to the modern period and a multiplicity of human activities.[1]

This history has been organised within each National Historic Theme under the relevant New South Wales Historic Themes. The New South Wales themes are dealt with in alphabetical order under the general heading of the national themes.

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[1] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.

Timeline of Young Shire

This timeline is based on the Events of the Passing Years table included as an appendix to William A. Bayley's Rich Earth History of Young New South Wales. It includes major events considered to be of significance in the development of the district. Bayley's complete timeline is available on pages 219 to 221 of the 1977 edition of his history.

Additional events identified in other histories have been included where appropriate. Construction dates of churches and community halls are given to indicate the development of rural villages and localities.

1820   Surveyor Meehan explored the country between Tarlo and Grabben Gullen
1824   Hume and Hovell explored the country between Yass Plains and Port Phillip
1826   James White settled on Burrangong Creek
1827   Hazelton and Magee established the Marengo run on Willawong Creek
1829   Charles Sturt explored the Murrumbidgee River
1836   Major Mitchell traced the Lachlan River to its confluence with the Murrumbidgee

1850   Village of Marengo laid out
1860   Village of Koorawatha laid out
1860   National School opened in Marengo

1860   Gold discovered on White's lambing flat
1860   Courts of petty sessions established at Lambing Flat and Stoney Creek
1861   Anti-Chinese riots in January drove Chinese miners from the gold field
1861   *The Miner* newspaper established in February
1861   Lambing Flat Post Office established on 1 March
1861   Free Selection Act passed
1861   Lambing Flat and Burrangong named Young in April and Town of Young laid out
1861   First land sale in Young
1861   First Court House constructed. This was destroyed by fire in the July riots
1861   Protesting miners stormed the police camp on Camp Hill in July
1861   Young National School opened in July
1862   Burrangong Hospital opened in June
1862   First (timber) Church of England constructed in October
1862   Telegraph line reached Young in December
1863   Roman Catholic church and school constructed in December in Young
1864   *Burrangong Argus* newspaper established in October
1865   Wilkie Memorial Church of England opened
1865   Wesleyan Church built in brick in Young
1865   Young Church of England School opened in Young
1866   First flour mill constructed in Young

1870   Young School of Arts established
1871   Presbyterian Church constructed in brick in Young
1871   First Young Pastoral and Agricultural Show held in April
1873   *Burrangong Chronicle* newspaper established in December
1874   Sacred Heart Catholic Church constructed in Marengo
1876   St Mary's Catholic Church opened in Young
1877   Mechanics' Institute opened in Young

1879 Primitive Methodist Chapel opened in Young

1882 Borough of Young incorporated
1884 Young Public School constructed in brick on Camp Hill
1884 Monica Vale Provisional School opened near Koorawatha (Bang Bang)
1884 Police Station established at Marengo
1884 Temperance Hall opened in Young
1885 Murrumburrah to Young railway line opened
1886 Tubbul Shearer's Union formed in May
1887 Young to Cowra railway opened in January
1887 Amalgamated Shearers' Union formed
1887 Presentation Nuns arrived in Young to teach in Roman Catholic school
1887 Koorawatha Public School constructed
1889 The Borough of Young installed the first electricity supply to homes in the Southern Hemisphere
1889 Masonic temple and hall opened in Zouch Street
1889 Carrington Park established

1890 Rabbits first reported in the Young district
1890 Young Co-operative Roller Flour Mill established
1892 Sacred Heart Presentation Convent opened
1893 Amalgamated Shearers' Union absorbed by the Australian Workers' Union
1893 First meat chilling works established in Young
1893 Development of Young Showground on its present site
1894 Catholic Church of St Patrick constructed in Thuddungra
1894 First Roman Church opened in Koorawatha
1898 St Mark's Church of England opened in Monteagle
1899 Police Station established at Koorawatha
1899-1902 South African or Boer War

1900 Burrangong District Hospital opened on new site
1900 Marengo Mechanics' Institute constructed
1901 Koorawatha to Grenfell railway branch line opened
1902 *Burrangong Chronicle* became *Young Chronicle*
1902 St Paul's Church of England opened in Koorawatha
1904 Roman Catholic Church opened in Monteagle
1905 Young School of Arts building opened
1906 St Andrew's Church of England opened in Bendick Murrell
1906 Burrangong Shire formed
1907 Kennedy's Hall, later Koorawatha Memorial Hall, constructed

1910 Sisters of St Joseph commenced teaching in Koorawatha
1911 Koorawatha Post Office constructed
1911 St Luke's Anglican Church constructed at Thuddungra
1914 *Burrangong Argus* became *Young Witness*
1914 Koorawatha Literary Institute (Koorawatha Regional Rooms) opened
1914-1918 The Great War (World War I)
1915 J.W. Byrne the first settler in Bribbaree
1917 Stockinbingal to Forbes railway line opened
1917 Sisters of Mercy commenced teaching at the Sacred Heart Convent School, Murringo
1918 Woodonga Methodist Church constructed in stone
1919 Soldier settlement orchards established in the Young district

1920 First annual show held in Koorawatha
1921 Presbyterian Church opened in Lovell Street
1922 Gold discovered at Bribbaree
1922 Metcalfe style grain elevator constructed at Milvale
1922 St Brendan's Catholic Church and school constructed at Milvale
1923 Strand Theatre opened in Young
1923 Country Women's Association branch established in Young
1923 Roman Catholic Church constructed in Bendick Murrell
1923-1924 Soldiers' Memorial Tower and Civic Offices constructed in Young
1924 Bribbaree Pastoral and Agricultural Association formed
1924 Southern Cross Hall constructed in Young
1925 Church of England constructed at Wambanumba
1925 Construction of Bendick Murrell Memorial Hall commenced
1926 Young Fruitgrowers' Co-operative formed
1928 Presbyterian Church constructed at Bribbaree
1929 Young District Producer's Co-operative Association formed
1929 Wall Street Stock Market crash marks the beginning of the Great Depression

1930 Cool stores opened in Young
1931 Magnesite mining commenced at Thuddungra
1931 Branch of the Country Women's Association formed in Koorawatha
1932 St Columba's Catholic Church constructed in Koorawatha
1934 Young Swimming Pool opened
1935 Burrinjuck water supply reached Young
1935 St Matthew's Church of England constructed at Bribbaree
1935 Methodist Church constructed at Bribbaree
1937 Monteagle-Wirrimah Scenic Road developed as an unemployment relief scheme
1939-1945 Second World War

1941 Technical College opened in the former Young Gaol
1943 Young Poultry Chilling Works established
1943 Small Arms production annexe opened in Young
1944 Small Arms Annexe converted to Silknit Clothing Factory
1945 Burrangong Shire Council took over school bus services
1947 Burrangong Chronicle incorporated with the Young Witness

1951 Electricity supply to Bribbaree completed
1952 Burrangong Shire Council Chambers opened
1955 Bribbaree War Memorial Hall opened
1955 Existing Thuddungra Memorial Hall constructed
1958 War Memorial Church of St James, Hampstead opened

1962 Modern St Columba's Catholic Church constructed at Bribbaree

1971 Young Aerodrome completed

1980 Municipality of Young and Burrangong Shire amalgamated to form Young Shire

1992 Development of Young Chinese Tribute Gardens commenced at Chinaman's Dam

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.[2]

1.1 NSW Historical Theme: Environment – naturally evolved

Young Shire covers an area on the Southwest Slopes of New South Wales leading westward and southward into the Riverina. This is part of the South Western Slopes Bio-Region, which extends from Cowra into Western Victoria[3]. The topography of this region has been described as follows:

> *The South Western Slopes Bioregion is a large area of foothills and ranges comprising the western fall of the Great Dividing Range to the edge of the Riverina Bioregion. A very wide range of rock types is found across the bioregion, which is also affected by topographic and rainfall gradients that decrease toward the west. These physical differences have an impact on the nature of the soils and vegetation found across the bioregion. Inland streams pass across the slopes in confined valleys with terraces and local areas of sedimentation. Geology, soils and vegetation are complex and diverse but typified by granites and meta-sediments, texture contrast soils and a variety of eucalypt woodlands ...*[4]

This landscape features 'shallow, stony soils' on the tops of ridges and hills with soils lower down consisting of materials eroded from former mountains. Alluvial sands and loams are common with clays increasing towards the Riverine plains of the west.[5]

Native plant communities in this region consist of the following:

> *In the higher rainfall eastern hill country, woodlands and open woodlands of white box (Eucalyptus albens) are dominant. To the west and north these give way to vegetation communities dominated by grey box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) and white cypress pine (Callitris glaucophylla). Other tree species characteristic of the bioregion include red stringybark (Eucalyptus macrorhynca) on higher slopes, with black cypress pine (Callitris endlicheri), kurrajong (Brachychiton populneum), red ironbark (Eucalyptus sideroxylon), white gum (Eucalyptus rossi), yellow box (Eucalyptus melliodora) and Blakely's red gum (Eucalyptus blakelyi) occupying the lower slopes. Valley flats are dominated by rough-barked apple (Angophora floribunda), with river oak (Casuarina cunninghammia) found along eastern streams and river red gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) lining the larger central and western streams.*[6]

Remnant areas of Grassy Box Woodland, such as <u>Monteagle General Cemetery</u> and <u>Koorawatha General Cemetery</u> have been set aside to conserve important aspects of the plant and bird diversity of the region.

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[2] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[3] The South Western Slopes Bio-Region. [Online] p.119
[4] The South Western Slopes Bio-Region. [Online] p.120
[5] The South Western Slopes Bio-Region. [Online] p.120
[6] The South Western Slopes Bio-Region. [Online] p.120

2.   Australian Historical 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.[7]

2.1   NSW Historical Theme: Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

The area covered by Young Shire sits within the vast traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. Aboriginal culture maintained complex relationships between the people and the land that sustained Aboriginal society for millennia.

> *The inextricable bond between life and land is a fundamental premise of Aboriginal existence. All features of the landscape, and all life within it, were created during a creation period by ancestral creatures; some human, some animal, some neither. This period ... is present in the landscape itself, and the stories and relationships form an integral part of the traditional law that guides all life.*
>
> *This relationship to the land extends to an in-depth knowledge of the incredible wealth of resources available in the local area, including foodstuffs and raw materials for tool and implement manufacture.*[8]

Josephine Flood has noted that "if a time scale of human occupation of Australia were represented by one hour on a clock, Aboriginal society would occupy over fifty-nine and a half minutes, European society less than half a minute"[9]. The story of the Aboriginal people is "the longest continual cultural history in the world"[10]

The original people of the Young district appear to have ranged over a wide span of countryside and maintained links with groups in neighbouring regions. The rivers of the district provided a plentiful source of:

> *... shellfish and fish ... and the plants, tubers and nuts of the country between the rivers provided seasonal food: there were yam daisies in spring summer and autumn, wattle-seeds in July and August, orchid tubers in August and September. Larger game such as possums, kangaroos and emus were captured by groups of hunters to make up a varied and nutritious diet.*[11]

In parts of western New South Wales the Wiradjuri actively resisted the intrusion of European settlers into their lands. They have continued to retain a strong sense of identity despite persistent and repeated historical attempts to destroy them as a people. The loss of societal cohesion and impact of disease among Aboriginal people has been recorded in a number of places. As early as the 1790s, well before any Europeans ventured into the region, a small pox epidemic spread along traditional trade routes. A second epidemic occurred in the 1830s.

> *With no immunity to the virus, tribes were decimated. As the disease moved inland through the Wiradjuri region river system into South Australia it was*

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[7] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[8] Fox, P., 1996. *Warrumbungle National Park*. p.48
[9] Flood, J., *Archaeology of the Dreamtime*, p.15
[10] Flood, J., *Archaeology of the Dreamtime*, p.15
[11] NSW Heritage Office, 1996. *Regional Histories*. p.132

> *interpreted as the result of the powerful magic of distant tribes who had unleashed the terrifying power of the Rainbow Serpent. ... in the Wiradjuri region these times remained vivid for generations as a time of death. Fifty years later, the old people recalled how the sickness "Followed down the rivers ... Burying bodies was no longer attempted and the atmosphere became tainted with decomposing bodies.[12]*

As Europeans moved into the region they took up the prime grazing land along the river corridors and Aboriginal people were pushed onto marginal lands. Others lived on the fringes of European settlements 'out of curiosity or from whence they could participate in reciprocal exchanges'[13]. Interactions with groups such as these were recorded by early settlers, including James White's niece Sarah Musgrave.

According to Sarah Musgrave thousands of Aboriginal people occupied the Young district at various times. She recounts some observed aspects of their lives, including preparation for a major feast where wallabies, kangaroo rats, paddy melons, possums and birds were cooked:

> *... in rude ovens made in the ground. Holes were dug out into which coals and hot ashes were raked from a big fire that had been made close by. The animals were put intact into the holes, and more hot ashes were raked in on top of them, the holes afterwards being filled up with ashes and dirt. By this process, the animals cooked quickly, and when taken out, they were skinned, opened up, cleaned, and then eaten.[14]*

Musgrave also noted some Aboriginal ceremonial practices, including elaborate corroborees held at Burrangong and adulthood ceremonies held at a bora ground located in the vicinity of the existing town of Wyalong[15].

Early settlement in the district by Europeans appears to have succeeded largely as the consequence of a co-operative relationship between local Aboriginal people and early settlers. On entering the district James White apparently negotiated possession of the land with a leader of the local Burrowmunditory people who was given the name 'Cobborn Jackie'[16]. According to Musgrave Cobborn Jackie chose the site of White's Burrangong homestead[17] and guided his relationship with the local Aboriginal people. Cobborn Jackie and others also surveyed the routes of roads constructed by White to connect Burrangong to other nearby localities[18]. Groups of Aboriginal men also regularly applied their skills to cut and transport slabs of bark used for roofing by the Europeans[19].

This relationship appears to have been tempered by some distrust. Sarah Musgrave, White's biographer, noted that the Aboriginal people were 'afraid of firearms'. She wrote that 'They knew no god but were always careful not to displease the devil'[20]. Her comments illustrate a relationship that appears to have been based on a mixture of kindness and harshness typical of many colonial relationships.

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[12] Kabaila, P., 1996. *Wiradjuri Places. The Lachlan River Basin*. p.10
[13] Kabaila, P., 1996. *Wiradjuri Places. The Lachlan River Basin*. p.10
[14] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.15
[15] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.20
[16] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.2
[17] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.3
[18] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.9
[19] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.15
[20] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.17

In response to a situation of escalating violence on this and other frontiers of the colony Governor Gipps established the Native Police in 1839. Originally intended to protect all interests this force was allowed:

> *... to operate to protect settlers. White officers in charge of Aboriginal troopers, had substantial independence of the local magistracies and operated in accordance with the tradition of the punitive expedition, which was common enough in establishing colonies.[21]*

Members of the Native Police often misused their position to visit atrocities against the other Aboriginal people. Sarah Musgrave recounted one incident in which an innocent Aboriginal man was speared to death by a group under the command of a Native Police officer known as 'Commissioner' Bobby. This crime was perpetrated by Bobby after an unsuccessful expedition to capture the Namoi-based perpetrators of a kidnapping raid[22].

During the 19th century Aboriginal people were increasingly employed on pastoral stations working in shearing, droving, mustering, crutching, boundary riding, fencing, clearing and domestic work. During the gold rushes Aboriginal people provided much of the reliable labour on many properties.

As more intense pastoral and agricultural activity developed, gold rushes occurred, and subdivision of land increased the European population of the region a system of Aboriginal reserves was put in place. In 1909 the New South Wales government was empowered to take direct control of Aboriginal reserves under the provisions of the NSW Aborigines Protection Act. According to Faith Bandler this legislation:

> *... was an Act that denied equality to the Aboriginal people, that made them second-class citizens. It meant that their lives could be dominated by station managers, that their homes could be entered by police, that if a friend asked them to share a quiet drink they could be arrested and gaoled.[23]*

The provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act included a ban on the supply or consumption of alcohol. This ban lasted until the 1960s and was one of many small injustices that created resentment among the Aboriginal community.

In western areas of the state many Aboriginal people moved between the smaller reserves following seasonal work. The development of stone fruit industries around Young attracted seasonal Aboriginal labour from various areas, including the Erambie Mission at Cowra. Reliable workers were engaged on an ongoing basis and many worked in family units. Prune pickers employed at 'Clonnel', Maimaru in the 1960s were one such family unit[24].

During the 1950s the official policy of governments changed from protection to assimilation. From this time Aboriginal people moved away from government reserves and into towns.

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[21] Rowley, C.D., 1978. *The Destruction of Aboriginal Society*. p.39
[22] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. pp.18-19
[23] Bandler, F & Fox, L. (eds), 1983. *The Time was Ripe*.
[24] Information supplied by Maree Lamb, February 2008.

2.2 NSW Historical Theme: Convict

Many of the first European settlers in the region were either convicts on a ticket-of-leave, such as James White and his brother, or assigned convicts who worked as shepherds and labourers for the squatters.

> *The normal fate of the well-behaved convict was assignment to private service. ... the British government encouraged it, for it saved money by taking the prisoner off the government's hands. ... It scattered men throughout the colony, which broke up their 'evil associations', it taught the convicts those 'habits of labour' whose absence had so often started them on their criminal career, and it gave them experience, which would make it easier for them to gain useful employment when their sentence expired.[25]*

Writing in 1839 Charles Campbell indicated that the shepherd's life was excellent for reforming the behaviour of criminals:

> *He who leads it has constant but not laborious employment, enjoys the light of heaven and ... is secluded from the company of the drunken and dissolute.[26]*

Assignment created a cheap labour force that assisted many early free settlers to prosper. Convicts were sent with flocks of sheep beyond the limits of the colony (refer **Section 4.2 Land Tenure**) to become the vanguard of European settlement in areas such as the South West Slopes and Plains.

Colonial governments encouraged assignment of convicts as it was a far cheaper method of keeping them than maintaining them in penitentiaries or on road gangs. In 1837 it cost £17 per year to keep a convict on a chain gang. A convict on assignment cost £4.[27] Landholders reaped the benefit of the cheap labour force provided by assigned convicts to build up their fortunes.

As their sentences were completed emancipated convicts took up land or worked within the district. Ex-convicts are mentioned in many accounts of early settlement and the district's first bushrangers appear to have been escaped convicts (refer to **Section 7.3 Law and Order**).

2.3 NSW Historical Theme: Ethnic influences

The variety of ethnic groups, which have occupied or passed through the Young district have left little concrete evidence of their interaction with the place. A number of people of non-English speaking background have had a remarkable impact on the economic development of the area. Outstanding among these is the economic influence of Croatian born Nicole Jasprizza and Italian Carlo Marina in the development of the fruit growing industry (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**). Also prominent is the role of the cohort of German migrants who, after the 1860s gold rushes, played an important role in the development of commerce within the town of Young.

German miners were prominent among those who travelled to the Lambing Flat gold rush. Many stayed and built businesses that have left an impact on the town of Young. Young's Chinese Tribute Gardens are built around a dam originally constructed in the 1860s by Hermann and Johann Tiedemann and others to provide water for the

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[25] Shaw, A., 1977. *Convicts and the Colonies.* p.217
[26] Shaw, A., 1977. *Convicts and the Colonies.* p.217
[27] Shaw, A., 1977. *Convicts and the Colonies.* p.254

Victoria Hill sluicing claim. Although only dating from the 1920s Schimdt's Chambers, on the corner of Boorowa and Main Streets, represents the longstanding association of German watchmaker and jeweller Joseph Schmidt with this site. The Freudenstein family were early settlers in the Bulla Creek district and continue to be influential members of the community.

Perhaps the most significant evidence of ethnic influence in Young lies in the substantial buildings created by the Catholic Church under the oversight of the Reverend Father Hennessy. St Mary's Catholic Church and the complex of buildings surrounding it stand as a testament to the solidarity and faith of the district's Roman Catholic community, which was largely drawn from Irish stock.

The Chinese community has had an ongoing influence on the character of Young and its surrounds. The legacy of the old mining era includes the notoriety of the anti-Chinese riots of 1861 as symbolised in the 'Roll Up' flag. The presence of remnant water races in the hills around Young also provide a fading marker of Chinese ethnicity, as does the memory of Chinese market gardens (refer to **Section 2.4 Migration**). Following World War II Australian Chinese people tended to move from market gardening to café operation as a source of income[28]. A number of Chinese cafés and restaurants exist in Young. In a bizarre irony the most notably Chinese site in Young, Chinaman's Dam, was actually constructed by German gold miners. This site later became associated with Chinese market gardening and is now the location of an ornate Chinese garden.

A number of Greek businesspeople have also been involved in the story of Young Shire. Nicholas Laurantis, licencee of the Koorawatha Hotel from 1915 until 1919, became quite wealthy and was a substantial benefactor to the Greek Orthodox Church and Sydney University. A donation of £100,000 to the university supported the establishment of a Chair of Modern Greek Studies.[29]

Other ethnic influences are covered in **Section 2.4 Migration**.

2.4   NSW Historical Theme: Migration

The first migrations of Europeans into the Young region occurred from the 1820s. James White is the district's most celebrated pioneer settler (refer **Section 3.6 Exploration**). By the 1830s squatters were moving mobs of sheep and cattle from the Sydney through the Goulburn and Yass districts. This movement is covered in **Section 3.12 Pastoralism.**

Much of the large-scale immigration of the 19th and 20th centuries was generated by wars, rebellions and economic distress in various parts of the world. Upheavals of the 1840s and 1850s particularly affected Central Europe, including Germany, Italy, Ireland and China. It is not surprising therefore that many of the people who ventured their fortunes on the Lambing Flat goldfields were from these places.

Chinese workers were present in some parts of the colony as early as the 1830s. The cessation of transportation of convicts in the 1840s created a shortage of cheap labour in New South Wales. This led to an increase in the 'numbers of Chinese people arriving as indentured labourers to work as shepherds and irrigation experts'. It appears that all of these workers came from Fujian province. Some may have been

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[28] Williams, M., 1999. *Chinese Settlement in NSW a thematic history.* p.10
[29] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha.* pp.110-111

kidnapped.[30] Sarah Musgrave was quite shocked by the appearance of four Chinese men at Curraburrama Station some time around 1852. At the time she was unaware that there was 'such a person in the whole of Australia'. These men were evidently fugitives from Thomas Icely's property at Mudgee.[31]

The gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s led to increased immigration from many parts of the world with many coming from southern China in organised groups. In New South Wales the most prominent of these was the Yee Hing Brotherhood. This secret, triad-like organisation grew out of the disruption of the Tai Ping rebellion. This rebellion threw China into turmoil from about 1850. The Yee Hing organised groups of miners to come to Australia under a credit-ticket system.

> *Under this system, individuals secured credit for their passage through personal contacts in their local communities or through supportive merchant houses, often against the security of property. Workers repaid their loans with interest over time.*[32]

In was the role of societies such as the Yee Hing to ensure that debts were repaid by the immigrants once they arrived in Australia[33]. The Yee Hing operated from a base of local groups in regional communities. It eventually formed the Yee Hing Company and, in 1911, formed the Chinese Masonic Society[34].

Wilton notes that 'by 1861 there were approximately 13,000 Chinese in New South Wales with 12,200 in the mining districts'[35]. When the Lambing Flat rush commenced in 1860 Chinese men flocked to these diggings in large numbers[36].

Lambing Flat became the scene of one of the most notorious interactions between European and Chinese miners (refer to **Section 7.3 Law and Order**). Events on the Lambing Flat field in 1861 have been linked closely with the passage of The Chinese Immigration Restriction Act[37]. Although repealed in 1867[38] this act has been recognised as one of the cornerstones of the later White Australia Policy.

Chinese miners were not the only distinctive ethnic group on the gold field. Contemporary accounts record large groups of Irish and German miners. Mark Hammond's memoir of the Burrangong gold field included descriptions of the territorial behaviour of some groups of Irish miners. Hammond took up a claim at the foot of Chance Gully in the midst of an area dominated by 'Donegallers':

> *I soon found the reason for the excess of ground being left unchallenged. Those in possession were all Donegallers who carried terror with them wherever they went. … The reasons the Donegallers appeared to be unfriendly to the natives (Australian born miners) I have never heard explained. It is my own opinion that they envied them their popularity as horsemen, cricketers, dancers and in all kinds of sports, and in particular the greater attention paid*

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[30] Williams, M., 1999. *Chinese Settlement in NSW a thematic history*. p.4
[31] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.44
[32] Fitzgerald, J., 2007. *Big White Lie*. p.62
[33] Fitzgerald, J., 2007. *Big White Lie*. p.64
[34] Fitzgerald, J., 2007. *Big White Lie*. pp.81-82
[35] Wilton, J., 2004. *Golden threads*. p.12
[36] Wilton, J., 2004. *Golden threads*. p.12
[37] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.106.
[38] Williams, M., 1999. *Chinese Settlement in NSW a thematic history*. p.31

> *to them by the Australian girls. In all these the Donegallers had to take a*
> *back seat, and this made them both sullen and spiteful.*[39]

Immigrants from other places would also have an impact on the district. Carlo Marina, an Italian, former member of Garibaldi's revolutionary army of 1848 and prisoner of the Austrians and Germans, set up a butchery in Main Street, Young in 1860 and subsequently 'became a renowned pioneer fruit grower and orchardist'[40] (Refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**.). Nicole Jasprizza, an immigrant from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, is remembered as having established the commercial cherry orcharding industry in the district. (Refer to **Section 3.1 Agriculture** & **Section 9.2 Persons**.)

Germans were a significant cohort of the gold miners drawn to Lambing Flat in the early 1860s. Many of these miners stayed in the district to become active and influential members of the business community and contributed to the development of the local economy. Among these were Hermann and Johann Tiedemann who, with others, established the Victoria Hill sluicing claim in the 1860s and constructed the reservoir now known as Chinaman's Dam.

After the gold rush era great effort was put into clearing large tracts of land to foster pasture growth. Gangs of Chinese labourers were employed across the west to ringbark trees and carry out the three to four years of sucker bashing required to ensure no regrowth occurred. These gangs travelled from property to property, generally camping near a source of water.[41]

Restrictions on land ownership by immigrants from China encouraged their pursuit of opportunities not dependent upon access to land and established a long association with retail and commercial enterprise. This trend was reinforced by a narrowing of employment opportunities for Chinese people after 1901 that saw a 'dramatic collapse of the NSW rural (Chinese) population in the early years of the 20th century'[42]. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries some Chinese migrants established 'stores and other businesses to supply … customers throughout' the colony[43].

Many Chinese immigrants established market gardens that provided a valuable service to the European residents of the district. In her history of the Chinese in New South Wales Janis Wilton quoted the recollections of Young district resident Lyster Holland:

> *… after the gold pegged out, a lot of these Chinese stayed in the district. They*
> *had shops here in town. … every district had a Chinaman garden. Anywhere*
> *there was a dam or creek where they could get a bit of water, and they worked*
> *damned hard. They lived there under stressful conditions, living in little huts. I*
> *remember old Jimmy, an old neighbour of ours, a Chinaman, had his garden*
> *there and he'd load his cart overnight, before daylight in the morning walked*
> *his horse to go round all the farms, round the sawmills, round the road gangs,*
> *round the shearing sheds, and round the villages. 'Cause in those days people*
> *didn't have water to grow much vegetables, and these Chinamen they'd*
> *provide us with veg. They were our main supplier of vegetables … they were a*
> *great asset to the district.*[44]

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[39] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. pp.76-77
[40] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.95
[41] Buxton, G., 1967. *The Riverina 1861-1891 An Australian Regional Study*, pp.247-248
[42] Williams, M., 1999. *Chinese Settlement in NSW a thematic history*. p.36
[43] Williams, M., 1999. *Chinese Settlement in NSW a thematic history*. p.20
[44] Wilton, J., 2004. *Golden threads*. pp.29-30

Other Chinese settlers established retail businesses in Young. Accounts of the 1861 riots indicate that Chinese traders were active in the town at this stage. Others settled in the town later in the 19th century and operated a variety of businesses. The law required that they be naturalised before they could officially own and operate a business. Park Yuk and Con Lee were two Chinese storekeepers who applied for naturalisation. Park Yuk had arrived in New South Wales from Canton in 1864 and applied for naturalisation in 1873. At that time he was trading as a storekeeper at Young. [45] Con Lee had arrived in New South Wales in 1857 at the age of 18. He was working as a storekeeper in Young when he applied for naturalisation in 1882.[46] On Lee & Co was a major retailer in Young in 1875 and this company held a large parcel of shares in Young Cooperative Roller Flour Mill[47].

Young also hosted a relatively large Jewish community who arrived during the gold rushes. Lazarus Cohen arrived in Young in 1860 and was followed by others including the Meyers/Myers family and the Isaacs family. David Isaacs Myer was the son of Rabbi David Myer Isaacs, a renowned orator and the first Rabbi in England to deliver his sermons in English. David lived at Young in the 1860s where he worked for 'The Miner and General Advertiser'. An able journalist and powerful orator, he served as secretary of the Burrangong Race Club and founded the Burrangong Amateur Dramatic Society. He was also President of the Burrangong Prospecting Association and the Diggers' Mutual Society. David organised a committee for the relief of the 'Victims of the Recent Murderous Outrage'. He was also 'active in pressing for better police protection of gold transports and for better roads in the area'.[48]

Greek immigrants created another long held tradition in regional retailing. In 1916 there were reputed to be 625 Greek shops in Australia[49]. Greek cafes and fish shops are a legendary phenomenon throughout regional New South Wales. A number of buildings survive in the landscape as remnants of this phenomenon. In 1935 James Mechalopoulos erected a large café on the corner of Railway and Boorowa Streets in Koorawatha. He operated this establishment until 1957. Under new ownership it became the Koorawatha general store in 1959 and the Koorawatha Roadhouse in 1982.[50]

The mid 19th century saw an exodus of people from German states affected by the conflict and famines of the 1840s and 1850s. A number of these emigrants came to Australia, many seeking out opportunities to establish vineyards and small farms.

The Anglo-Celtic population of the area grew after certainty was applied to land titles from the late 1830s and station owners began to move into the district with their families. As development and trade increased people moved from other parts of New South Wales. Moves towards closer settlement ensured that this inward movement of population continued well into the 1950s. Free selection and later soldier settlement saw people moving into the area from other farming areas that were undergoing rural restructuring.

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[45] Chinese Naturalisation Database – Certificate No: 085 Park Yuk
[46] Chinese Naturalisation Database – Certificate No: 035 Con Lee
[47] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. p.51
[48] Bergman, G., 1982. 'Jacob Myer Isaacs'. p.244
[49] Turnbull, C. & Valiotis, C., 2001. '*Beyond the Rolling Wave' A thematic history of Greek settlement in New South Wales*. p.19
[50] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.110

An ongoing relocation of people northwards from Victoria has also been noted throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This movement of people was an outcome of processes that had commenced after the 1850s gold rushes in Victoria. As the dynamic of the goldfields moved towards reef mining and employment was available for fewer people settlers had moved north, seeking land in the pastoral districts of New South Wales. Many of these people, taking advantage of the New South Wales Free Selection system were forced onto marginal lands within the colony.

New South Wales also attracted settlers from South Australia. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries families escaping the distressed marginal agricultural areas in the north of South Australia moved into New South Wales farming districts. Many of these settlers were of German descent. Among these were Frederich August Siegert and the Bradtke family who settled in the Koorawatha district in 1906. He brought all of his possessions from South Australia in his waggon. Included in the load was a scarifier that had been dismantled for the journey.[51]

The period after World War II saw new patterns of migration. Newly settled migrants from Europe moved into many regional areas and made their mark. The post-war era also saw dramatic population movements within New South Wales. New infrastructure projects encouraged the movement of workers and established employers ensured that trainees and other workers seeking career progression moved into the area. The demise of steam locomotion on the New South Wales railways and the gradual decline of rail services have been accompanied by reduced economic activity in rail centres and along railway lines. Similarly ongoing downturns in the levels of labour required in the agricultural, pastoral and forestry industries have led to slow but inevitable reductions in the population of many outlying areas.

In recent times Young has hosted refugees from Afghanistan who have played a valuable role in the district's meat processing industry. The town also hosts a small Lebanese community.

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[51] Shumack, D. 1984. Chronicles of Koorawatha. pp.174-175

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 19th 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 the search for valuable resources. Much subsequent Australian history has revolved around the search for a staple on which to base regional economic development.[52]

3.1 NSW Historical Theme: Agriculture

Cherries are Young's most celebrated agricultural product. This cool climate, seasonal fruit has provided the town of Young with the epithet of 'cherry capital of Australia'. The story of the agricultural development of the district has many chapters, commencing with small scale farming ancillary to early pastoralism and experiencing dramatic growth after the 1860s gold rush.

The earliest crops of wheat, oats and barley were grown on pastoral stations such as James White's Burrangong to supply station needs. James White's niece Sarah Musgrave described the cropping process as follows:

> *The ploughing for these crops was done with a single-furrow plough, and the harrowing with an all-wooden harrow. The sowing ... was done by hand, and the crops were reaped with reaping hooks. The threshing was a tedious and a laborious work. At first the loose wheat stalks were put in bags which were tied up and beaten with sticks, but this method was too slow altogether. So my uncle brought an expert flailman from Sydney, and he, by working all year round, was able to thresh out sufficient wheat for flour and sufficient oats and barley for the stock.*[53]

During the frenetic era of the Burrangong gold rush small plots supplied vegetables to miners on the field. The gold rush coincided with the Robertson Land Act of 1861. This act, designed to encourage closer settlement, created a vehicle for failed miners to select holdings averaging 90 acres. By the end of the year following the opening of a land office in Young in January 1866 4,708 selections had been made.[54]

As the original large pastoral selections were broken up the small selectors implemented diverse farming practices including the large-scale cultivation of cereal crops. 'By 1871 there were 5,571 acres cultivated, producing 34,275 bushels of wheat, 6860 of maize, 567 of barley and 4,000 of oats'[55]. The creation of small selections coincided with a movement of wheat growing away from the coast, encouraged by closer settlement and outbreaks of rust in coastal crops[56]. Ongoing government moves to develop closer settlement across New South Wales were accompanied by efforts to encourage more wheat growing. Most early selectors had tended to grow small acreages of wheat that provided flour for their own consumption. Any surplus could also be sold.

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[52] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[53] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.21
[54] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.85
[55] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.86
[56] Godwin, L., 1983. The Life and Death of a Flourmill: McCrossin's Mill, Uralla. pp.67 & 68

Early cultivation was undertaken with difficult ploughs of ancient Scottish and English design and the grain sown and harvested by hand. James White's wheat, grown on Burrangong station, was initially taken to the mills in Goulburn to be ground until he purchased 'two steel hand mills imported from America'.[57]

Increases in the cultivation of cereals in the 1860s were accompanied by the growth of other kinds of agriculture. Chinese market gardeners began to supply vegetables to the local district, eventually marketing their wares as far as Yass, Goulburn and Wagga[58]. Market gardens were established in a few locations on the banks of watercourses with a regular supply of water. Many of these were established by Chinese immigrants (refer to **Section 2.4 Migration**) but vegetable gardening was not the exclusive domain of Chinese settlers.

The area around Young was found to be 'amongst the finest wheat lands of New South Wales. The Sydney Morning Herald trumpeted in 1865 that the district would '… before long be one of the most prolific agricultural areas in the colony'. 'By the 1870s … the growing of grain superseded the breeding of cattle and sheep.'[59]

New technology was gradually introduced from other areas. 'Steam threshers … travelled through the district … each year at harvest time'. American built McCormick horse-drawn harvesters were available from 1883. McKay harvesters were first demonstrated on F. Taylor's Rose Hill Farm at Monteagle in December 1890.[60] This farm was the venue for the demonstration of the McKay reaper and binder in 1891. This machine:

> *… did the work in one operation, eliminating reapers, binding, stooking, carting in, stacking and threshing. The machine stripped, threshed, winnowed and delivered into bags.*[61]

In line with developments elsewhere the New South Wales Department of Agriculture established an experimental farm in the Young district. Taylor's Rose Hill Farm was chosen for this purpose in 1892. Trials of wheat varieties were undertaken on this property.[62]

These technological developments, and the coming of the railway from 1885, encouraged broader cultivation of wheat. Soldier settlement schemes and other ongoing closer settlement also encouraged increases in the cultivation of crops. Grain elevators were constructed along the railway lines of New South Wales from 1918[63]. These structures facilitated the storage and transport of bulk quantities of cereals, gradually replacing the tedious and labour intensive processes of bagging wheat and other crops for transport. Storage and transportation of wheat is further covered in **Section 3.15 Transport**.

Cherry trees appear to have first been planted in 1847 in Edward Taylor's home orchard. In 1878 Nicole Jasprizza, taking stock from Taylor's trees, planted the first commercial cherry orchard in the district. The coming of the railway in 1885 (refer to **Section 3.15 Transport**) dramatically reduced transport times and opened new

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[57] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.17
[58] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.86
[59] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.87
[60] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.87
[61] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.87
[62] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.87
[63] Ryan, K., 1990. Storing the Golden Grain.

markets to growers. As a result over 70 other orchards were planted. Jasprizza continued to be the largest orchardist in the district 'and by 1933 his cherry orchard was believed to be the largest in the world'.[64]

Cherry orcharding continued to develop between World War I and World War II with new varieties being developed. The famous Ron variety was developed when a fruit inspector married the pollen from Noir de Gruben cherries in Karonga Orchard with flowers of an Eagle seedling. Ron was the son of the fruit inspector Mr Thornhill.[65]

Caleb (Kay) Sackett was a skilled nurseryman who moved to Young from Wallendbeen in 1927. After a disastrous excursion into growing prunes he established a cherry orchard at Kyeamba with Noir de Guben variety cuttings transferred from Karonga Orchard. After the decimation of cherry orchards in the drought of 1943-44 Sackett managed 'a co-operative nursery at Burrangong utilising the sewerage effluent from the Young treatment works'. This exercise helped re-stock many of the district's orchards.[66]

The district also saw the development of other orcharding enterprises:

> *Since the 1890s many other fruits had been grown near Young: quinces, apples, pears, oranges, grapes and strawberries. After 1910 apples rivalled cherries as the major cash crop, with their Blue Star packing brand and one of the largest concentrations of Granny Smith apple trees in Australia. The soldier settlers in the area after 1918 also planted apple trees, although prunes were their specialty.[67]*

During World War I the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act made provision for land to be available for discharged soldiers and sailors to establish small farms. Land around Young acquired by government early in the 20th century was considered suitable for the establishment of fruit orchards. (refer to **Section 4.2 Land Tenure**) Four areas were set aside for this type of soldier settlement. These were Prunevale (Kingsvale), Maimaru and Quamby, Waterview, Bendick Murrell and Wirrimah.[68] In 1919 initial prune tree plantings were undertaken and a sustainable harvest was established by the late 1920s. Initially prunes were sun-dried on farms prior to packing for market.[69] Dried prunes were packed into three-bushel jute bags and carted to railway sidings for transport to the Co-operative factory at St Leonards for grading and marketing[70].

A prune dehydrator was constructed by J. L. Norrie on his Koorawatha property in 1924. Central prune dehydrators, or dryers, were constructed at Maimaru and Wirrimah in 1929 to process the prune crops from these districts. A dehydrator was constructed at Kingsvale in 1944.[71] These plants consisted of wood-fired, brick-walled drying tunnels and prune graders. Rail tracks facilitated movement of product through the plant and allowed trolleys to be moved into and through the drying tunnels.[72] In November 1948 the prune dehydrators at Kingsvale, Maimuru and Wirrimah were purchased by the Young District Producers' Co-operative

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[64] NSW Heritage Office, 1996. *Regional Histories*. p.139
[65] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.102
[66] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.102
[67] NSW Heritage Office, 1996. *Regional Histories*. p.139
[68] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.4
[69] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.132
[70] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.10
[71] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.152
[72] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.13

Association[73]. The Young District Co-operative Producers' Association constructed a prune store in Nasmyth Street in 1936[74]. This was situated next to the Harden to Blayney railway line to allow direct loading into trains. It was officially opened by the assistant Under-Secretary for Lands, L. H. Guest on 16 January 1937[75].

The Young Fruitgrowers' Co-operative was formed in 1926 to handle the bulk distribution and marketing of cherries to the Sydney markets. 'In its first season 51,216 cases of fruit were forwarded to Sydney' by the Co-operative.[76] The Young District Producers' Co-operative Association, embracing Young and the new Soldier Settlement areas, was formed in 1929[77]. The Young Fruitgrowers' Co-operative proposed the erection of cold stores in 1926 and tenders were called for their erection in 1929. These stores were constructed by A.G. Brown for £4,447. Plant to the value of £1,885 was installed in the building. The facility had space for 10,000 cases of fruit.[78]

The building was razed to the ground by a disastrous fire in November 1940. Fire crews fought the fire all night and losses were estimated at £13,000. 'A new shed was immediately built on the site to handle prunes, peaches, plums and eggs. A new fruit grader to eliminate bruising, the first of its kind in Australia, arrived and was installed'.[79] After completion of the new building 'the Young branch of the Egg Marketing Board of NSW began handling eggs produced in the Young district'. The board leased premises from the Young Cool Stores from 1945 and pulped eggs for export here between 1947 and 1962. In that year the pulping operation was moved to Lidcombe.[80]

3.2 NSW Historical Theme: Commerce

The earliest commercial undertakings in the region appear to have been inns and hostelries. These were established at suitable points close to river crossings or on specific transport routes. On more popular transport routes these inns were often combined with general stores. Stories of some of these inns and stores are recounted in **Section 4.3 Towns, Suburbs and Villages**.

In the days of horse transport facilities for blacksmiths, farriers and the repair of livery were as important as inns and general stores. As the town grew many commercial opportunities opened to those with an eye for business. George Cranfield operated as a baker, confectioner, aerated-water manufacturer and brewer in the 1870s and 1880s. He became Mayor of Young in the 1880s.[81] (Refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**)

Frederick Gleich and William Hills established the Young Brewery in Garibaldi Gully in 1874 (refer to **Section 3.10 Industry**). Hills was conducting the business on his own by 1881. He began to devote more time to grazing and breeding cattle, eventually acquiring considerable property in the Young district.[82]

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[73] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.132
[74] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.152
[75] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.153
[76] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.132
[77] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.132
[78] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.152
[79] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.152
[80] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.153-154
[81] Deutscher, K., 1999. *The Breweries of Australia*. p.85
[82] Deutscher, K., 1999. *The Breweries of Australia*. p.85

Retailing in central commercial districts of towns, a phenomenon of the industrial revolution[83], has undergone major changes since the beginning of the nineteenth century. In New South Wales regional towns the earliest retailers appear to have been 'general providers', stores selling almost all the necessities of a growing community, operated by local owners[84]. The shopping and commercial precincts of regional centres have served as gathering and meeting places for decades as people have come to town to stock up on supplies and transact business.

The Watson brothers came to Young during the gold rush and set up a store at the western end of Boorowa Street in modest premises made from timber. Their business progressed rapidly with a need for larger premises. They built a larger building in 1861. The construction of such a large building at the time when the town and district were in their infancy is an example of business foresight, which was amply rewarded. The Watson Bros had many competitors but, over a period of time most disappeared. The store was gradually extended until it possessed an impressive frontage on Boorowa Street, enhanced by a balcony forming a promenade running its full length. The store was divided into many departments including wines a spirits, grocery, general produce, cookery, drapery, boots and shoes, agricultural machinery and ironmongery, the latter reported at one time to form one of the most complete stocks outside Sydney. Watson Brothers continued to operate in Young for many years with the store passing to W.F. Weeden some time in the 1920s. The building has also been operated as Fosseys and the State Bank of NSW until a change to The Reject Shop in 2003.[85]

Over time the general provider became less common as retailers began to specialise or to establish department stores. Regional retailers have faced ongoing change in the marketplace and the nature of delivery of retail services. From the 1870s Sydney-based stores such as Anthony Horderns mailed illustrated catalogues to customers across New South Wales 'to instruct people dwelling in the country in the theory and practice of SHOPPING BY POST'[86].

In the 19th century shopping in regional areas tended to follow a particular rhythm with shops being open six days per week and trading on Saturdays continuing until 10:00pm. The half-holiday movement advocated the closure of shops from 1:00pm on Wednesday and a notice was placed in the Burrangong Chronicle in 1894 asking that customers 'please do not shop after midday on Wednesdays'. From 1 January 1900 shops closed at 6:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9:00pm on Friday with Wednesday continuing as a half-day holiday.[87]

Chain stores such as Woolworths, established in Sydney in 1924, provided the next challenge to local retailers[88]. Many country-based businesses sought to emulate the model of the chain store by opening branches across a region. The latest challenge to retailers in regional centres comes from the development of shopping malls in regional centres. As the number of independent retailers declines, and as the populations of regional areas become more mobile larger towns are exerting more influence to the detriment of the retailers of smaller towns.

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[83] Webber, K & Hoskins, I., 2003. *What's in Store*. pp.10-11
[84] Webber, K & Hoskins, I., 2003. *What's in Store*. pp.17-25
[85] Young Shire Council. Watson Brothers Store interpretive sign.
[86] Webber, K & Hoskins, I., 2003. *What's in Store*. p.10
[87] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.118
[88] Webber, K & Hoskins, I., 2003. *What's in Store*. p.24

The cycles of boom and recession in regional areas can often be read in the architecture of their business districts. The business centre of Young contains many commercial buildings dating from the more prosperous periods of the town's history, including the 1880s, 1920s, 1930s and 1950s. This can also be illustrated in the changes in businesses operating from many commercial premises.

The building currently housing Hamblin's Amcal Chemist on the corner of Boorowa and Lynch Streets was possibly built in the 1880s. The site was occupied by Mr and Mrs Barnett from 1886 and passed to H.T. Toose in 1901. Toose operated a drapery store on the premises for four years before moving to Moss Vale. After the departure of Toose the building had several occupants until A.A. Trompf opened his drapery store here on 7 September 1911. Trompf had arrived in Young from Melbourne and was soon joined by his nephew A.R. Chellew in 1912. He became a partner in the business and the name changed to Chellew, Trompf & Co. The business thrived and extended into Lynch Street in the 1930s. During that time Mr. Chellew became sole proprietor of the business. It continued to trade as Chellew, Trompf & Co. until 1937 when it became A.R. Chellew & Son. The business eventually closed after trading for more than 60 years. In 1975 John Hamblin purchased the building and relocated Taafe's Pharmacy from 120 Boorowa Street. The building underwent extensive renovations before re-opening as Hamblin's Amcal Chemist.[89]

The response of retailers to catastrophic events such as fires is illustrated in the history of other buildings such as Schmidt Chambers. Joseph Schmidt was a German immigrant who arrived in Young in the early 1860s. He was a jeweller and watchmaker by trade and set up a business in Boorowa Street, where the main entrance to Donges IGA is now located. The Burrangong Argus reported on 3 June 1871 that Joseph Schmidt was erecting a new building on the southwest corner of Main and Boorowa Streets on land that he had purchased from Donald Manson. The premises were to be leased and had many different tenants over the next ten years, including a bakery and saddlery. The report also suggested that Schmidt was enlarging his jewellery and watchmaking store in Boorowa Street.[90]

Still trading in 1875, Schmidt's store fell victim to the fire, which raged through the northern side of Boorowa Street in March that year. He was able to salvage some valuable jewellery from the fire, however most other stock and buildings were totally consumed with an estimated loss of £25,000 as he was not insured. By the end of the same week, Schmidt had already begun fitting out his store on the corner that now contains Schmidt's Chambers. The saddler who was the tenant at this time was reported to be moving to the then School of Arts. Newspaper reports at the time commented on the magnificent style of the new store with a display of stock that would have credited any Sydney establishment. The new store began selling fruit trees, shrubs and flowering plants. Schmidt also rebuilt his original store in Boorowa Street and, in 1877, rented it to the Bank of New South Wales. In 1883 Joseph Schmidt also started work on another two-storey building on this corner block. The present two-storey building was built in the 1920s and since then has been known as Schmidt's Chambers.[91]

In the early and mid 20th centuries many small landholders and pastoral workers supplemented their incomes by trapping rabbits and foxes and selling their pelts. Skin buyer's shops were an important element of local economies and local papers

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[89] Young Shire Council. Hamblin's Amcal Chemist interpretive sign.
[90] Young Shire Council. Schmidt Chambers interpretive sign.
[91] Young Shire Council. Schmidt Chambers interpretive sign.

regularly carried reports of skin prices. In Young these operations coincided with a series of freezing works (Refer to **Section 3.10 Industry**).

3.3   NSW Historical Theme: Communication

The story of communication in the Young district is tied to the developments that occurred in the technology of communications during the 19th and 20th centuries. Postal services were supplemented by telegraphic communication, then by the introduction of telephone services and ongoing developments in electronic communication. At various times posts have been carried by horses, horse drawn coaches, trains and motor vehicles.

Postal services appear to have commenced in the district in the 1850s with the establishment of a post office at Boorowa in July 1854[92]. A postal receiving office was established at Monica Vale north of Bang Bang in 1855[93] and a postal office at Marengo in January 1857[94].

> *Settlers to the west had to arrange for letters to be collected for them, and the Caldwells and McGregor of the Bland ran a private horseback mail to collect and deliver letters for the squatters*[95].

Mail services to the district were not at first entirely reliable. Reports from Marengo in 1860 note that mail robberies were a regular occurrence and that mail was not always well secured. When writing to the Board of National Education in Sydney in November 1860 in support of Marengo school teacher Robert Stevens' request for a replacement pay cheque Mr Haddon of Marengo wrote:

> *... on or about 3rd inst. The mail bag to Binalong via Yass, which contained the Marengo letters, was unsound, and several letters were picked up by travellers on the road.*[96]

A post office was established at Lambing Flat near (or in) Allen's Great Eastern Hotel on 1 March 1861. Mail arrived on Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:00am. A post office building was erected in 1862. In December of the same year the telegraph line reached Young 'by way of the Lachlan'. Initially the telegraph office was housed in the corner of a private store and a dedicated office was not constructed until 1864. The post and telegraph offices were amalgamated in the 1870s. A new post office building was constructed in Young in 1878.[97] The Young post office building was extended in 1900[98]

Residents of Bang Bang and district petitioned for the establishment of a post office in June 1883. A postal receiving office was established at George Green's Bang Bang Hotel in September of that year. Green's hotel was a stopping place for the twice-weekly coach service between Marengo and Cowra. The receiving office was not popular and by 1884 only one letter per week was being lodged. It was closed in August 1884.[99]

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[92] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.18
[93] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.85
[94] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.18
[95] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.18
[96] Gow, , N. & B., 1974. 'Murringo Public School' in *News From Marengo 1860-1900*. p.1
[97] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.53-54
[98] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.119
[99] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.85

In January 1886 a thrice-weekly contract mail run was established along the railway line between Young and Cowra. This resulted in the re-opening of a postal receiving office at the Bang Bang Hotel. The office closed again in March of the same year. Monica Vale continued to operate as the main postal receiving office for the Koorawatha district. Monica Vale was moved 1½ miles south in July 1886. The status of this office was raised to full post office in December 1887. The office was moved to the Koorawatha Railway Station and its name changed to Koorawatha in December 1888.[100]

The development of the Koorawatha-Grenfell branch line railway in 1901 resulted in an increase in postal business at Koorawatha and representations were made to have a separate post and telegraph office established at Koorawatha. Land was purchased in Boorowa Street in 1909 and a new post office and postmaster's residence was erected in 1911.[101] A manual telephone exchange was installed at the post office in June 1914. This was replaced with an automatic exchange in March 1983[102].

Newspapers commenced operating in Young following the gold rush of 1860. The Miner and General Advertiser was first published on 2 February 1861. Other newspapers printed in Young during the gold rush era were the Cosmopolitan, the Burrangong Courier and Lambing Flat General Advertiser, the Burrangong Times, The Tribune and The Star. The Burrangong Chronicle was first published in December 1873. [103] The Burrangong Argus was founded in 1864 and operated under this name until February 1914 when it became the Young Witness. The Evening Witness was published during the early years of World War I. The Koorawatha Witness operated for a brief period in 1915.[104]

Agitation for the construction of a Young-Monteagle telephone line commenced in 1899 but a service was not started until much later[105]. A new telephone exchange with trunk line equipment was installed at Young in July 1961[106].

Young's first radio station was 2LT, 'The Voice of Young', which was granted a broadcasting licence in 1936. The station was officially opened on 16 February 1938.[107]

3.4   NSW Historical Theme: Environment – Cultural landscape

The natural environment of the area is described in **Section 1.1 Environment – naturally evolved.** The Young Shire contains a number of cultural landscapes that represent varying phases of the development of the economy and communities of the shire. Three types of landscape represent important aspects of the local economy. These are:

- Remnant landscapes of alluvial gold mining,
- Pastoral landscapes,
- Fruit growing landscapes.

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[100] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.88
[101] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.88
[102] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.89
[103] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.77
[104] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* pp.172-173
[105] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.119
[106] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.197
[107] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.177

Landscapes of alluvial gold mining are difficult to interpret. The general characteristics of these landscapes are described below.

3.4.1 Remnant landscapes of alluvial gold mining

It is often assumed by the casual observer that landscapes such as Blackguard Gully or the Krebs Lane gold diggings are the product of a single event or movement. This conception is commonly and often falsely applied to former mining landscapes. In 1991 Ritchie identified the problem presented to archaeologists in reading these areas:

> *Those who are familiar with the mining history of specific regions will be aware of ... examples of alluvial or hardrock mining sites which at first glance appear to be one interconnected contemporaneous system but in reality were not the product of single events or of one party's activities. Rather they evolved as a result of a succession of mining operations on the same claim.*[108]

A number of archaeological studies of long-lived alluvial gold mining areas have sought to describe the evidence of various types of gold mining activity.

During the early 1990s Susan Lawrence undertook a detailed study of the alluvial workings at Dolly's Creek southeast of Ballarat in Victoria. This area had been worked from 1857[109]. During field surveys Lawrence and her associates recorded 'hundreds of shafts … together with water races, dams, sluices and fireplaces'[110]. Like many other alluvial goldfields this area had been worked over an extended period of time with varying and increasingly sophisticated mining methods. These methods, and associated archaeological evidence, were described by Lawrence as follows.

> **Mullocky or hummocky ground – 1857 to 1860s**
> *Mullocky ground results from shallow sinkings where a number of shafts are sunk in close proximity and the paydirt is washed nearby in a cradle or sluice box…. Generally this landscape is characteristic of the earliest phase of mining where the richest ground can be worked at a profit in a relatively inefficient manner.[111]*

Mullocky or hummocky ground is visible on high ground near Krebs Lane and within the Blackguard Gully area.

> **Sluicing (ground sluicing) – 1861 to c.1874**
> At Dolly's Creek it was demonstrated that sluicing post-dated earlier shaft sinking. Lawrence noted that 'later sluicing of such (hummocky) ground is often successful because of pockets of unexcavated wash dirt left between shafts and because of lost gold in the tailings'[112]. Sluices tended to cut through earlier worked hummocky ground[113].

Blackguard Gully, Krebs Lane gold diggings and the banks of Milkmans Creek show evidence of ground sluicing activity.

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[108] Ritchie, N., 1991. 'Is There an Optimum System? The Recording and Assessment of Historic Mining Sites.' p.39
[109] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. p.77
[110] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. p.73
[111] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. p.78
[112] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. pp.78-79
[113] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. p.79

Hydraulic sluicing – late 1870s to 1890s
Hydraulic sluicing was introduced from California in the late 1870s. This process is described as 'voracious: the strip mining of the nineteenth century, it destroyed everything in its path'[114]. Hydraulic sluicing could also leave remnants of previous alluvial workings in exposed ground.

The lower sections of the Krebs Lane gold diggings demonstrate the dramatic impact of hydraulic sluicing on the landscape.

Barry McGowan has undertaken extensive study of the Shoalhaven River goldfields and has used his experience in this region to define a typology of alluvial gold mining. The Shoalhaven goldfields were worked in four major phases of activity as follows:

- Phase 1: 1869 to about 1875
- Phase 2: 1888 to 1896
- Phase 3: 1907 to about 1911[115]
- Phase 4: 1930s[116]

Mining in this area included some reef mining but largely consisted of alluvial mining. McGowan has described six types of evidence of alluvial mining represented on this field.

Type A: Heavily scoured creek beds and banks
This type generally represents pan and cradle working along watercourses. It comprises scoured creeks surrounded by shallow shafts or 'rounded piles and hummocks of wash dirt and soil'[117] and includes the mullocky ground describe by Lawrence. The Krebs Lane area represents an extensively scoured landscape. This scouring is the result of pan and cradle working (Type A), surfacing (Type B) and shaft (Type E) and drift mining (Type F), accentuated by modern hydraulic sluicing.

Type B: Shallow surfacing
Evidence of this type of working consists of 'auriferous dirt stripped to bedrock … at a very shallow level.' These areas have been 'sometimes worked by common sluicing' where possible.[118] The landscapes of Krebs Lane and Blackguard Gully show evidence of shallow surfacing

Type C: Paddocking
This method of alluvial mining was generally applied where the alluvial wash was boulder free. It consisted of '… a method of working a small area of alluvium by the excavation of the whole mass leaving a large pit.'[119]

Type D: Tailing mounds
'… elongated mounds of river worn stone, piled there after working of the face and floor of the diggings.' Stones stacked in this way were often, although not always, used to line the sides of races or small dams. They could

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[114] Lawrence, S., 2000. *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*. p.87
[115] McGowan, B., 1992. 'Aspects of Gold Mining and Mining Communities in the Shoalhaven Area of New South Wales: An Archaeological and Historical Study.' pp.46-48
[116] McGowan, B., 1992. 'Aspects of Gold Mining and Mining Communities in the Shoalhaven Area of New South Wales: An Archaeological and Historical Study.' p.43
[117] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.34
[118] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.35
[119] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.36

also be arranged to act as sluices or hold sluice boxes. These types of mounds can either be piled randomly (Type D1) or stacked very neatly (Type D2).[120]

Type E: Narrow trench-like shafts

These narrow shafts, otherwise known as drift shafts, 'are characteristic of high level auriferous drifts'. They were worked with pan and cradle.[121] Remnants of these types of workings are visible at Krebs Lane. These shafts can either be rectangular (Type E) or round (Type E2)[122].

Type F: Drift tunnels cut into the face of the workings

These 'occurred primarily in common sluicing claims where it was impractical to get at the wash by any other means.[123]

Hydraulic sluicing

McGowan also described the physical evidence of hydraulic sluicing activity on the Shoalhaven River goldfield. He noted that 'hydraulic sluicing was used primarily where the drift and overburden were too deep and often too poor to be worked by any other method'[124]. This process, 'involving the removal of the auriferous drift by the use of water conveyed under pressure to a hose', allowed for the efficient processing of large areas.[125]

As in many other areas hydraulic sluicing tended to be used on sites around Young to rework areas already mined by other methods. This resulted in a landscape featuring overlapping and often incomplete evidence of various phases of alluvial mining. The general characteristics of sites worked by hydraulic sluicing, such as the Krebs Lane gold diggings include:

- A very tall working face,
- The floor of the workings swept clear of stones an rubble, resulting often in abandoned hydraulic workings having a barren appearance,
- Evidence of a 'second or upper floor or bench, representing earlier areas of ground sluicing,
- The use of hydraulic elevators resulted in 'deep holes, filled with water, surrounded by low rounded mounds of tailings.

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[120] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.36
[121] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.37
[122] McGowan, B., 2003. 'The archaeology of Chinese alluvial mining in Australia.' p.16
[123] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.37
[124] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.41
[125] McGowan, B., 1996. 'The Typology and Techniques of Alluvial Mining.' p.41

Plate 3.1: The Krebs Lane gold diggings present an apparently chaotic landscape resulting from large scale hydraulic sluicing of a previously worked area.

3.5   NSW Historical Theme: Events

A number of memorials of varying size and grandeur, and numerous honour boards, seek to memorialise people from the district who have served their country in war. These include the clock tower and monument erected as part of the expanded Young Town Hall and civic offices. Australia's traumatic experience of World War I led to spontaneous community action to create memorials. Government regulation limited fundraising for the construction of memorials until after the end of hostilities in 1918.

During and after the war there was much debate about the role of memorials. Public opinion was divided between the desirability of pure monument and the creation of memorials that served a civic purpose. In Young, as in many other places, ornament and materialism were combined in one structure with 'the effigy of a soldier' mounted over the entrance of a memorial hall. [126] Other memorials erected to those who served in World War I varied from the small monuments erected at Bribbaree and Crowther to honour those who gave their lives and memorial halls erected at Murringo, Bendick Murrell and Thuddungra. Memorial boards and honour rolls were established in other places, including every school in the district.

The cessation of World War II saw the establishment government incentives that encouraged fundraising for utilitarian memorials. A Gallup Poll taken in 1944 had revealed that 90 per cent of Australians favoured the establishment of "useful" memorials after the end of the war. Only 4 per cent of those surveyed had indicated a preference for 'monuments, cenotaphs or shrines'. The majority of memorials to those who served in World War II built as hospitals, schools, halls, parks or other items of public utility.[127] This era saw the erection of memorial halls at Bribbaree and Thuddungra.

A trend that tended to emerge after the war saw communities that had built utilitarian memorials after World War I erect traditional memorials after World War II[128]. This

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[126] Inglis, K.S., 2001. *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape*. pp.138-144
[127] Inglis, K.S., 2001. *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape*. p.352
[128] Inglis, K.S., 2001. *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape*. p.358

appears to have been the case when Young, which had constructed a memorial on the façade of its town hall in the 1920s, erected an obelisk to the memory of those killed in World War II. This obelisk was erected to honour Victoria Cross winner Lieutenant Colonel C.G.W. Anderson and others who served in World War II. A memorial park was established in Young in front of the railway station. For his actions in the Malayan campaign Anderson was the first citizen of Burrangong Shire to be awarded the Victoria Cross (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**).

Honour rolls remembering those who served in both wars hang on the walls of community halls throughout the district. Other expressions of memory and gratitude exist in the form of memorial plantings, including the memorial park at Koorawatha. Numerous smaller memorials throughout the district recognise the lives and service of people who have worked for the community.

Various other memorials commemorate seminal events in the development of the district, including the discovery of gold and the anti-Chinese riots of 1861. Possibly the most pleasing of these is the Chinese Tribute Garden at Chinaman's Dam. Other monuments celebrate the completion of road and bridge works in various parts of the shire.

3.6 NSW Historical Theme: Exploration

William A Bayley's history of Young indicates that European exploration of Young was undertaken by individuals seeking land to pasture flocks and herds. According to Bayley:

> *Southern exploration (from Sydney), first begun by John Wilson, John Price and Roe early in 1798 and forgotten, was pressed forward by Surveyor Mechan in 1818 and by Hamilton Hume who discovered Yass plains, and by Charles Throsby who discovered the head of the Murrumbidgee River the same year, It was not until 1830 that Charles Sturt explored the Murrumbidgee but the site of Young was almost 100 miles north of that.*[129]

Despite Bayley's claim it is recorded that John Oxley passed just to the north of Young Shire, camping for some time near the Weddin Mountains and exploring parts of the Bland Creek, Marsden Swamp and Lake Cowal.[130]

The area around Young was beyond the 'Limits of Location' defined by Governor Darling in 1826[131] (refer to **Section 3.12 Pastoralism**). To effectively marshal limited government resources Darling constrained areas of settlement to 19 counties surrounding Sydney. Settlers beyond the limits of these counties were offered no protection by the police and no government services.

Early pastoralists, keen to take advantage of a growing economy persistently sought out new pastures and, during the 1820s and 1830s, a constant flow of cattle, sheep and their attendants headed into the interior. These pastoralist explorers were provided invaluable assistance by Aboriginal people who misunderstood their intentions of appropriating land.

James White, the first recorded squatter in the Young district, established his run at Burrangong with the assistance of local Aboriginal people. He became friendly with

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[129] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.15
[130] Musgrave, S., 1974. *The Wayback*. p.78
[131] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.16

one local whom he named 'Cobborn Jackie' who 'showed him Sandy Creek with its deep running stream'[132]. Others followed White and by the early 1830s many pastoral runs had been established in the district. Pastoral development during this period is covered further in **Section 3.12 Pastoralism**.

Some early accounts suggest that the first Europeans had an uncertain relationship with the country they settled. Travelling on foot to Marengo in 1834 John White, James White's brother, lost his way. 'His body was later discovered torn to pieces by wild dogs'[133]. It is likely that he perished in the scrub and his body became prey to these animals.

3.7   NSW Historical Theme: Fishing

The Wiradjuri, known as 'the people of the three rivers', relied heavily upon the food resources of the Macquarie, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers, including shellfish, fish and crustaceans. In his memoirs of his travels in the district in 1850s John Gale noted that Yeo Yeo Creek

> *... abounded in black bream (the Australian Bass) varying from 2lb. to 7lb. in weight. ... One peculiarity about the bream in the waters named is that in times of prolonged drought the creek, from its source to its estuary at Lake Cowal, is, with the exception of a few of its deepest holes ... absolutely dry ... and all signs of fish life have disappeared; yet as soon as ever the drought has broken and the water flows again, the bream make their appearance – not young fry, but fish of the weight already named.[134]*

Gale lamented the fact that Asiatic carp had infested the once pristine waterways[135]. Despite this the watercourses of the region have provided opportunities for recreational fishing since European colonisation.

3.8   NSW Historical Theme: Forestry

The area covered by Young Shire has hosted much small-scale forestry that has operated to support other industries or supplied the domestic market. Many early buildings in Young were constructed from timber milled at Peter Cram's steam sawmill. This mill commenced operation at Tyagong and by July 1866 it had been relocated to Lynch Street, Young (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**).[136]

Harry Nelson established a sawmill at Bimbi near the Weddin Mountains during the 1870s. In 1878 he sold this mill to Hugh Gault who had settled in at Lambing Flat in 1860. Some time around 1888 he sold this mill to Sam and Ted Millard who had been working as the mill's Young agents. The Millard brothers moved the mill to Young. Logs were transported to Young by rail and transferred to the Millard mill and factory by private tramway.

Two sawmills operated in the village of Koorawatha prior to 1910. These and subsequent mills harvested timber from the Illunie Range.[137]

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[132] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.16
[133] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.17
[134] Young & District family History Group Inc., 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860*. p.13
[135] Young & District family History Group Inc., 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860*. p.13
[136] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.72-73
[137] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.136

The Harcombe brothers, who farmed properties in the Bendick Murrell and Koorawatha areas during the 1920s and 1930s, operated a sawmill on Wommerah Creek at Fern Hill in the off season. This mill, powered by a large steam engine, had planing and tongue and grooving machines to mill construction timbers and floorboards. Hardwoods were cut in the Koorawatha Range and apple gum for shearing shed gratings along Bang Bang Creek. Timber from this mill was used to construct many shearing sheds and other buildings around the district. In the 1930s the mill cut 2,000 fence posts per year for Iandra station. The mill closed during World War II. 'One of the last jobs was cutting 300 bee boxes for the Walker Bros. of Wattamondara.[138]

Owen Griffith established a sawmill on the corner of Uppingham and Warrangong Streets in Koorawatha in the early 1940s. This mill continued to operate under a series of owners until at least the 1980s.[139]

3.9   NSW Historical Theme: Health

As with other services, colonial society depended largely on the family unit to provide medical care. Over centuries Aboriginal people had developed remedies for illnesses and injuries and the Europeans brought with them folk remedies from their countries of origin. There appeared to be some exchange of information and the application of the wisdom of different cultures to specific medical emergencies. A number of accounts of life during the early years of colonisation record the life-saving application of traditional Aboriginal treatments for illnesses and injuries.

Early chroniclers and diarists also noted their experiences of the healing ministrations of caring people. Mark Hammond recorded the care given to him by a female teamster on his journey from the Forbes to Lambing Flat goldfields in 1862. He had left Forbes suffering from an ear abscess 'which did not seem amenable to medical treatment':

> *That evening as I lay down under one of the wagons an administering angel came to where she heard me moaning. She had a look at me and found the whole side of my head swollen to a fearful extent. ... The angel was the good woman who had driven one of the teams all day. She went to her waggon and brought a little of oil and Bluestone. ... She fed a drop in my ear, then gave me some pills and left. She came again in the morning to see how I was ... She bathed the side of my head with hot water, and sponged out my ear, then put another drop of oil on a piece of wadding, with the result that the pain ceased and the swelling had almost disappeared by the following night.*[140]

The first formally trained medical practitioners moved into the region to provide health care after the gold rushes. The first qualified doctor, Dr. Falder, also coroner and magistrate, had to compete with several quacks and "chemists". Purgatives, "large purifiers" and ointments were always in strong demand.[141]

The paucity, and sometimes unreliability, of medical services led to many seeking traditional remedies or trying to self-manage illness and injury. Mark Hammond recounted a time when he was stung by a scorpion on the Burrangong goldfield. After excising the affected area with a razor he sought assistance from a chemist who supplied a whitish liquid to be applied with a piece of flannel applied to the wound.

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[138] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.156
[139] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.136
[140] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.103
[141] McGregor, H & J., *Roll-Up*. p.18

This treatment caused excruciating pain and burnt the flesh around the site of the bite. He ceased this treatment and sought the advice of a doctor who advised that, had he continued with it, he 'stood a chance of becoming a cripple'. Hammond expressed a youthful prejudice against hospitals, which he regarded as 'akin to poorhouses, and it was degrading to go into one'.[142]

In September 1861 a meeting was held at James Torpy's Cosmopolitan Hotel to plan for the establishment of a hospital in Young. The Burrangong Hospital was opened in a weatherboard clad building located on the north side of Edwards Street on 26 June 1862. Operation of this hospital was funded through a contribution of 1 shilling per ounce of gold mined on the field.[143] In 1870 a new hospital building with 10 beds was constructed in brick. This building was extended in 1880 to accommodate 14 patients.[144]

In 1896 it was decided to erect a new hospital and fundraising was commenced to achieve this. A foundation stone for the new Burrangong Hospital was laid on 26 September 1900 by NSW Premier Sir William Lyne on a site located to the south-west of Young. This facility was constructed 'by W.S. Millard at a cost of £2,670'. It has male and female wards, an isolation ward, an operating theatre and nurses' quarters.[145]

Over time private hospitals were established in areas where population had consolidated. When the Burrangong Hospital moved from its original premises these were re-opened by Matron Hoadley as a private hospital[146]. In 1908 a Private Hospitals Act established a framework to regulate the activities of these establishments. 'The Act applied to lying-in or maternity homes …, as well as to hospitals, which offered medical or surgical care'.[147]

Regardless of these improvements many in rural areas continued to carry out their own medical procedures. One of the memories of the Robinson family of Monteagle illustrates the innovativeness of home cures:

> *Grandad had a lump in his jaw which was hidden by his beard. He told us that when he was very young on the diggings he contracted tetanus and his mother could not feed him through his locked jaws. In order to overcome this problem she took a hammer and chisel with the idea of knocking out his front teeth. Whether or not she succeeded in this she did manage to break his jaw.[148]*

Grandad described how his mother treated his tetanus:

> *"She used to gather fresh cow manure, fry it in lard and clap it on hot."[149]*

Trained nurses acted as midwives in most communities and also provided assistance in the case of illness or accident. In Koorawatha Nurse Bray, the 'Ministering Angel' provided these services in the 1920s and 1930s. She also operated a birthing hospital

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[142] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. pp.109-111
[143] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.74
[144] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.75
[145] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.112-114
[146] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.114
[147] Gaff-Smith, M., 2004. *Riverina Midwives from the Mountains to the Plains*. p.75
[148] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.7
[149] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.7

located in Prince Street.[150] A maternity hospital operated in Wombat Street Young in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This was purchased by the Church of England in 1919 and was renamed St. John's Nursing Home.[151]

By 1920 extension of the Burrangong District Hospital had become a necessity. An X-ray unit was added in 1921 and in the same year a new wing, containing a men's ward, was constructed by Millard & Sons at a cost of £4,000. A maternity ward was planned in 1931. In the same year St. John's Nursing Home was taken over by the Burrangong District Hospital. The hospital was extended again in 1937.[152]

Rev. Fr. Hennessy was instrumental in establishing the Sacred Heart Hospital on the corner of Hume and Berthong Streets in 1911. This was the first Roman Catholic Hospital in country New South Wales. A maternity unit and new nurses' quarters were added to the hospital in 1935.[153] A new nurses' home was opened in 1960 and additions to the Mercy Hospital constructed in 1963-1964. 'A new building at Mt St Joseph's Home was opened in September 1972.[154]

Further information relating to the role of the Country Women's Association in improving health services in regional areas is contained in **Section 8.5 Social Institutions**.

A motor ambulance service for Young was first proposed in 1929 and £100 was donated by G.S. Whiteman to fund the purchase of a suitable vehicle. This was matched by local friendly societies and a Buick ambulance was purchased. A new ambulance was purchased in 1938. A site for an ambulance station on the corner of Cloete and Lynch Streets was donated in 1943. The ambulance station was opened in 1954.[155] An air ambulance service was established in 1967[156].

Philosophies of scientific parenting lead in the 20th century to an increasing amount of government involvement in teaching mothering skills and monitoring the health of babies. During the mid 20th century numerous baby health centres were established across New South Wales. In smaller communities these were often combined with other facilities. The Bribbaree Bush Nursing Association was one outcome of these developments.

3.10   NSW Historical Theme: Industry

The Young district has hosted a number of industries which were directly linked to the pastoral and agricultural pursuits of the district. Flour milling has played an important role in the industrial development of the town.

Many flour mills in New South Wales were driven out of business by supplies of cheaper South Australian milled flour from the 1880s onwards. Roller milling technology was introduced in South Australia in 1879 and was gradually introduced into other colonies from 1880 onwards. Milling of wheat using steel rollers created smooth flour without the bran and pollard common in stone-milled flour. The finer flour had a longer life and better baking qualities. Demand for roller flour increased

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[150] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.134
[151] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.168
[152] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.168
[153] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.168
[154] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.197
[155] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.169
[156] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.197

dramatically from 1880 onwards.[157] The expansion of the railway network tended to facilitate the movement of cheaper imports into many areas of the colony. In many cases this tended to drive local industrial undertakings into bankruptcy and caused a restructuring of local economies.

The competition between stone and roller milling was played out in Young in the later years of the 19th century. Young's first flourmill was erected on the corner of Boorowa and Lynch Streets by J. & J. Hayes of Boorowa in 1866. This mill was soon taken over by Watson Brothers. The mill was a large brick building with a brick smokestack that reached a height of 18 metres. One of the largest mills in New South Wales it was capable of storing 20,000 bushels of wheat and 100 tons of flour. The mill operated until 1895.[158] A second flour mill was operated by Peter Cram in conjunction with his sawmilling business from 1875. This mill operated until the 1880s and was demolished in 1894.[159] Chapman, Taylor & Co. in Nasmyth Street. In 1908 this mill transferred its "Silver King" trademark to Young Co-operative Roller Flour Mill Company Limited.[160]

Moves were made to establish a co-operative roller flourmill in Young in August 1888 when a prospectus was issued for the Young Cooperative Roller Flour Mill. The promoters of this venture had acquired land in Nasmyth Street on which to build a mill. It was proposed in the prospectus that the profits of the mill should be returned to the growers, eliminating the middle man. This first proposal failed and a second prospectus was issued in January 1890. A rival prospectus was proposed to purchase Cram's old mill and convert it to roller technology. This proposal failed. [161]

The Cooperative Roller Flour Mill was established in February 1890. A site in Lovell Street was purchased and a contract granted to Holworthy and Rennie for construction of a mill on 17 May 1890. Plant for the mill was supplied by T. Robinson & Co. The mill was completed by February 1891 and officially opened in March 1891 by Miss Ruby Gough, daughter of John Gough MP. The mill engine was named 'The Ruby' in her honour.[162]

In 1895 'a wheat conveyor (presumably a bag conveyor), railway overbridge and grain shed were constructed' and machinery installed to increase the capacity of the mill[163]. By 1896 the mill was purchasing 'all available wheat in the district' and procuring wheat from as far afield as Cowra and Albury[164].

In 1898 the company was wound up and re-established in almost identical form by the shareholders. Early on the company set in place management and shareholder policies that have ensured its existence as an independent operation while other mills have been taken over and eventually closed[165]. In addition the company established a practice 'of providing credit to the purchasers of its products and providing finance for the establishment of bakeries who were then tied … as purchasers of the company's flour'[166].

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[157] Godwin, B., 1983. 'The Life and Death of a Flourmill: McCrossin's Mill, Uralla'. p.68

[158] Young Shire Council interpretive panel. Watson's Flour Mill.

[159] Lamb. M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.30

[160] Lamb. M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.165

[161] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. pp.30-33

[162] Starrs, C., 1988. Gold Drop. pp.33-35

[163] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. p.37

[164] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. p.42

[165] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. pp.116-117

[166] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. p.45

The company registered its GOLD DROP brand as a trademark in 1907. This trademark was evidently registered in response to the appearance of an American branded flour of the same name in 1902.[167] The cooperative made ongoing investments into machinery to improve the operation and output of the mill and also undertook ongoing expansion. In 1908 the rival Chapman, Taylor & Co mill in Nasmyth Street was purchased and its operation taken over by the cooperative[168]. A new steam engine was purchased in 1913. This was used to power the Lovell Street mill and generate electricity for the operation of the Nasmyth Street mill.[169]

The Nasmyth Street mill was closed during 1923-24 and the land subdivided into building blocks. The mill building was eventually sold in 1929. The Lovell Street mill has continued operating.[170] In 1940 the GOLDEX brand was registered as a trademark[171] and in 1946 the company constructed six concrete silos and acquired a weighbridge from the former Cowra Military Camp. Buildings at the mill were also extended and a laboratory installed. A new rail weighbridge was installed in 1953.[172]

Plate 3.2: Early buildings in the Young Roller Flour Mill complex in Lovell Street.

During the decades after World War II the company resisted many attempted takeovers and closures. The mill's capacity was expanded and the business diversified into the production of stock feeds. The mill's original plant was specifically included in a National Trust listing for the following reasons:

> *This is the last remaining operating mill built for a co-op of the farmers themselves and representing the best design of its type for a smaller mill at the time it was built. The age and condition of the equipment make it most unusual not only in Australia but even in the UK where perhaps undue enthusiasm in*

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[167] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.51
[168] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.53
[169] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.57
[170] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.69
[171] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.76
[172] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop.* p.83

restoring wind and water mills with their stone grinding techniques has led to neglect of the Roller Mill technology and possibly also the USA where roller milling rapidly resulted in the dominance of very large mills.[173]

Young supported two breweries that operated over periods of 20 to 30 years. Gleich and Hills' Young Brewery was established in 1874 with work commencing on the construction of a brick building in Garibaldi Gully in August of that year. By 1881 it was being operated by William Hills who sold it to Frederick Sibbald and Henry Simmond later in the decade.[174] Sibbald and Simmond were:

> *... fined £30 plus costs, in default of six months' imprisonment, for allowing a cask of beer to leave the brewery fraudulently stamped. Their horse, cart and chattels were also confiscated.[175]*

The Young brewery was operated by Lang and Parker in 1893, ' then by Lang on his own … Harry Tovey was the owner when the brewery closed in 1897'. It was presumably a victim of the 1890s depression and competition from the Crystal Spring Brewery, which had been opened by local businessman and Young Mayor George Cranfield. Cranfield opened the Crystal Spring brewery in Clarke Street, at the foot of Burrowa Street, in 1885. Cranfield's beer gained the distinction of winning second prize at the Melbourne Exhibition in 1888. In 1891 he received an award at the Brewers' Show in London.[176]

A meat chilling works was constructed in Young in 1892 and chilling of meat for export was commenced in 1893. Initially the plant processed 2,000 carcasses per week, with this figure doubling within a short space of time. This was evidently not entirely profitable and, after the invasion of the district by rabbits the plant was applied to processing rabbits for export. Following a number of unsuccessful attempts to operate this plant at a profit it was closed and sold off in 1923.[177]

A brickworks was established in Young after the gold rush in the 1860s. Later in the 19th century a larger and more modern brickworks was developed by the Millard family on Burrangong Creek. By 1926 this works was producing 1.5 million bricks per year.[178]

Closer settlement and the establishment of soldier settlement areas led to rapid increases in small farming, and fruit and vegetable production during the early to mid 20th century (refer to **Section 3.1 Agriculture** and **Section 4.2 Land Tenure**). Rural production increases created a need for food processing facilities. During the 1920s large central prune dehydrators were established at Wirrimah, Prunevale and Maimuru. As constructed the plant at Wirrimah consisted of two wood-fired, brick-walled drying tunnels and a single prune grader. Rail tracks facilitated movement of product through the plant and allowed trolleys to be moved into and through the drying tunnels.[179] Hot air was blown into the drying tunnels from fire boxes located in the centre of the plant either side of a central rail line. This rail line was used to transport firewood into the plant from wood stacks located at the rear.[180] Twenty

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[173] Starrs, C., 1988. *Gold Drop*. p.68
[174] Deutscher, K., *The Breweries of Australia*. p.85
[175] Deutscher, K., *The Breweries of Australia*. p.85
[176] Deutscher, K., *The Breweries of Australia*. p.85
[177] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.151
[178] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.151
[179] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.13
[180] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.16

3,000 gallon water tanks located on either side of the building provided water for the plant[181]. Growers delivered their crop to the plant in wooden boxes. These were unloaded at a platform located at the Horseferry Road end of the plant[182].

Following unloading fruit was weighed and graded to remove any small, unmarketable fruit. The prunes were then sent through a near-boiling caustic soda wash and sieved into 'A', 'B' and 'C' sizes. They were then spread onto drying racks that were stacked and moved into the drying tunnels. During harvest time deliveries of prunes from growers were programmed to ensure the plant had enough fruit to sustain a 24 hour per day, seven day per week work schedule. The plant was initially powered by a small diesel engine and hot air blowers driven by a 25hp Tangye kerosene engine.[183]

In November 1948 the prune dehydrators at Kingsvale, Maimuru and Wirrimah were purchased by the Young District Producers' Co-operative Association[184]. From around 1949 the drying tunnels were heated by gas and the power source for the plant was changed to electricity in the 1950s. A third drying tunnel was erected in 1960 along the original central wood line.[185] The plant has been decommissioned and is now idle.

In 1949 a poultry and rabbit chilling works was constructed in Nasmyth Street, Young[186]. An earlier chilling works had been located on Chillingworks Road. During the 20th century most Australian towns had at least one rabbit processing plant and thousands of small selectors supplemented their meagre incomes by trapping and selling these small pests. The establishment of the Young Poultry Chilling Company Pty Ltd signalled the development of a poultry growing industry in the district. Changes in the nature of rural production and marketing led to the closure of this plant by 1979.

3.11   NSW Historical Theme: Mining

Aboriginal people were engaged in mining for centuries before the European occupation of Australia. Minerals were extracted to make stone tools and in some places ochres and clays were also mined. Minerals commonly used for toolmaking were quartz, silcrete, flint, obsidian, chalcedony and quartzite[187]. Many of these minerals were traded over long distances.

Young experienced a major gold rush in the 1860s when alluvial gold was discovered at Lambing Flat on Burrangong station in 1860. The first gold was found near what is now Short Street, Young by the Burrangong station cook and a character known as Alexander the Yankee. 'The area of alluvial gold was soon found to be extensive, some 20 by 16 kilometres' square. Miners flocked from other goldfields and by October 1860 1,500 men were working the area. By April 1861 this had grown to 10,000.[188] This goldfield was the site of one of the most notorious incidents of the Australian gold rushes. The Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots of 1861 led directly to the Colonial government passing Chinese immigration restriction legislation. (Refer to **Section 2.4 Migration** and **Section 7.3 Law and Order.)**

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[181] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.13
[182] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.16
[183] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.17
[184] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.132
[185] Wirrimah Community Group, 2004. *Wirrimah and its People*. p.18
[186] Young Municipal Council, Minutes of Meeting 3 February 1949
[187] Mulvaney, J. & Kamminga, J., 1999. *Prehistory of Australia*, pp.213-214
[188] NSW Heritage Office, 1996. *Regional Histories*. p.141

The Lambing Flat gold field was an almost exclusively alluvial field with non-substantial reef gold being found. Alluvial gold mining, in which quantities of gold are found in the silt of ancient river beds, required little capital investment and was classically referred to as 'poor man's diggings'. Alluvial gold rushes attracted large numbers of small prospectors who tried their luck then moved on to other rushes as these developed.

Arriving at a new field these miners, often working in pairs or family groups, pegged out claims ten feet square 'on any promising spot that was not already pegged'[189].

> *The first job was to sink a hole – about four feet square. In a two-man party one worked below, digging and filling buckets. The other hauled up the buckets on a rope or, with less effort, by windlass, and tipped the mullock onto an ever-growing heap. When the hole eventually 'bottomed' the man below carefully shovelled up the wash dirt and sent it to the top. With his Bowie knife he scraped along small ridges and crevices in the bed of the rock for in them much of the gold could be deposited. On a one or tow man claim the 'washing stuff' was stock piled. Saturday was the usual 'washing-up' day.[190]*

Other methods of alluvial mining and their effect on the landscape are described in **Section 3.4.1 Remnant Landscapes of Alluvial Gold Mining**.

The rush petered out fairly quickly with many prospectors moving on to new rushes at Forbes in 1861, Grenfell in 1866 and other rushes in New Zealand. More capital-intensive reef mining commenced in the area in 1862, with an ore-crushing mill being erected at Chance Gully in the north of the field.[191] As Bayley noted in his history of Young by1864:

> *The number working had diminished and the amount of gold won was steadily decreasing. The gold found on the field was always fine with no nuggets and the need for more water for sluicing became more pressing as the gold became harder to find. Gold sent by escort in 1861 was 109,879 ounces and in 1862 reached its peak of 124,648 ounces. It then decreased by half each year until by August, 1865 it was reported that 'Burrangong as a goldfield was on its last legs' ...[192]*

Some desultory mining activity continued with some stamper batteries being installed in the late 1860s to process quartz deposits. In 1870 two companies were formed to carry out larger scale alluvial mining operations. The Belmore Gold Mining Company worked Burrangong Creek and the Telegraph Gold Mining Company worked Oppossum Flat 'one mile below the junction of Main and Spring Creeks. The Burrangong Gold Mining and Prospecting Company undertook underground exploration 'three miles north-west of Young' in 1883[193], opening an 80 metre tunnel through solid granite[194]. The North Burrangong Company and South Burrangong Company were formed and failed in the same decade. The Burrangong Steam Sluicing Company was formed in 1887 to carry out sluicing operations in Burrangong

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189 McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.22
190 McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.23
191 NSW Heritage Office, 1996. *Regional Histories*. p.141
192 Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.38
193 Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.39-40
194 Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.239

Creek and some sluicing was undertaken at Victoria Hill. The 'Day Dawn Gold Mining Company was active 1892'. [195]

As in other parts of New South Wales the economic depression of the 1890s led to a resumption of gold mining activity. The colonial government encouraged unemployed men to prospect for gold and many left Sydney to seek a meagre living on the colony's otherwise abandoned gold fields. In 1895 men were prospecting on Spring Creek and by mid May of that year 300 miners were working on Tout's Rush at Irish Jack's Creek. This increase in activity encouraged investment in larger ventures and the South Burrangong Gold Mine was re-opened in 1895.[196] This operation closed in 1896[197]. In 1896 a partnership of local business people, including George Cranfield, formed the Garibaldi Gold Mining Company. This company acquired a lease at Stoney Creek 'six miles (nearly 10km) south-west of Young'[198]. It had failed by 1897[199].

By the end of the decade two companies were formed to undertake gold dredging in Burrangong Creek. These were the Travers Jones Gold Dredging and Sluicing Company and the Burrangong Gold Dredging and Sluicing Company.[200] The latter company floated a large steam dredge, 'The Burrangong', on a purpose-built dredge pond constructed on a tributary of the creek 3.2 kilometres west of Young[201]. Steam dredges were introduced in the late 19th century to process large volumes of low yielding alluvial wash. They raised the wash from the floor of the pond 'by continuous buckets or suction pipe', and passed it through screens, jigs and sluice boxes to recover gold[202]. After some early success this venture failed in 1903. Another venture tried to revive dredging in 1906 but this also failed.[203]

There were some unsuccessful attempts to revive gold mining during the Great Depression of the 1930s under New South Wales Government unemployment relief programmes[204].

A gold-bearing quartz reef was discovered east of Bribbaree in 1922 and a small gold rush ensued. The most successful claim on this reef was the Golden Lamb, which worked to a depth of 55 feet and yielded gold worth £400 in its first year. This claim was purchased by the Bribbaree Combined Company in 1923. This company worked the reef to a depth of 140 feet. The reef appears to have been worked out by the mid 1920s.[205]

A magnesite mine was established at Thuddungra in 1931 and the mineral initially mined by hand[206]. Magnesite is a source of magnesium for alloys and is also used in the manufacture of firebricks and other refractory products[207]. During World War II the mineral was calcined, or cooked, to produce alloys for aircraft production[208].

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[195] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.40
[196] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.239
[197] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.247
[198] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.245
[199] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.246
[200] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.267-268
[201] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.288
[202] Pearson, M & McGowan, B., 2000. *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual*, p.93
[203] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.40
[204] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.40
[205] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.145
[206] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.188
[207] Kass, T. et al, 1996. *Parramatta. A Past Revealed*. p.265
[208] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.188

Between 1941 and 1944 Broken Hill Pty Ltd produced magnesium by reducing calcined magnesite with calcium carbide. 'This production was absorbed by the Australian aircraft and munitions industries'.[209] The Young Mining Company operated the mine from 1952 and mechanised the mining process. Causmag Ore Co. Pty Ltd. was formed in 1952 and established a processing plant in Young to treat the ore.[210] This plant continues in operation.

3.12 NSW Historical Theme: Pastoralism

The general pattern of these early incursions into the region appears to have involved the identification of suitable pastures and the movement of cattle or sheep into the areas identified. Convict labourers, indentured servants or employees were left in small groups in isolated situations to tend the herds and flocks. By all accounts they generally lived in miserable circumstances deprived of decent food and in constant fear of attacks by Wiradjuri groups or bushrangers who had moved beyond the reach of the law.

In the early days Governor Brisbane's mounted police kept some order, although often squatters and their servants took the law into their own hands. A few punitive military expeditions had been mounted on the fringes of the region to establish the rule of British law. Policing of the frontier was taken over in the 1830s by the feared and hated Border Police. (Refer to **Section 2.1 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures**)

In 1836 Governor Bourke established regulations which legalised squatting beyond the limits of the Nineteen Counties[211]. The ensuing period, which coincided with the height of the economic boom of the 1830s, saw the consolidation of many landholdings around Young.

During this decade settlers such as Donald Cameron McGregor and Steele Caldwell established large runs along the level plains to the west of the current Young Shire[212]. Their landholdings extended to the Bland.

Calabash was created from a subdivision of Marengo Station in the 1860s. The Marengo run of 40,000 acres was originally taken up along Willawong Creek in 1827 by the partnership of Hazelton and Magee. Up to 1,400 cattle and 2,000 sheep were run on the unfenced property. Shepherds were employed to care for the flocks of sheep and protect them from marauding dingoes. Hazelton and Magee sold the run, identified as Murringo Station, to John Scarr during the 1840s. A survey map of 1849 shows Scarr's dairy, house, woolshed and blacksmith's shop. Scarr died in 1855 and the run was purchased by John Broughton in 1864. By 1870 Broughton was living in Young where he traded as a commission agent in partnership with J.A. Brock. (Young & District Family History Group 1988:52,199) Marengo Station was subdivided into smaller runs. Properties subdivided from Marengo include Calabash, Willawong and Wambanumba.

John Parkman was born in 1817 in Somersetshire, England and arrived in Australia via Port Phillip in 1841. In 1853 he purchased Calabash in partnership with William Kelly. (Young & District Family History Group Inc 1988:187) William Kelly was

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[209] Young Witness Pty Ltd, 1960. *Gold Young 1860-1960*. p.87
[210] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.188
[211] Morrisey, S. 1978, 'The Pastoral Economy 1821-1850'. p.59
[212] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.125

born in England in 1804 and also arrived in Port Phillip in 1841. He had married Mary Seaman and arrived with Mary and two children, Sarah and Thomas[213].

John Parkman married William Kelly's widowed daughter Sarah in March 1868. She had previously married William Richardson at Yass in 1853. John Parkman died in 1861 and Sarah married Samuel Tout in 1864. Sarah lived with at Calabash with all three of her husbands.[214] John Parkman and Sarah had three children, Emily – 1859, Robert – 1860 and John – 1861. Samuel Tout and Sarah had eight children. All were born at Calabash.

The original residence on Calabash was a small cottage located on the creek (Baker 2008). A 'fine palatial' two-storey homestead with encircling two-storey verandahs was built on Calabash in the 1890s. This house was destroyed by a massive fast-moving bushfire that raged through the district in December 1900.[215] Stone from the destroyed homestead was moved across the Galong Road and used in construction of a new homestead. Edward Cummins was killed when he tried to outrun the same fire on Calabash[216].

In 1906 a new cottage was constructed on the property to accommodate one of Sarah and Samuel's daughters and her new husband. This house was later extended with two large rooms and verandahs being added onto the front.

The economic downturn of the early 1840s impacted hard on pastoral runs at the fringes of settlement. Many squatters suffered severe losses and the pastoral industry was generally saved by the wholesale slaughter and boiling down of livestock. Their reduced fats were sold to Britain at a higher value than that of the animals' meat, hides or fleeces.

Increases in the price of wool in the late 1840s led to changes in land use and an increasing rise to dominance by sheep farming in the west of New South Wales. The fortunes of pastoralists were given an additional boost by the gold rushes of the early 1850s, which created an increase in demand for meat, and the American Civil War (1860-1864), which increased the English textile mills demand for wool. The gold rushes also led to shortages of labour on pastoral runs.

During the 19th century a network of travelling stock routes was established to facilitate the movement of stock around the colony. In many places stock routes traversed pastoral holdings. As stock was moved along these routes landholders had to be warned 24 hours in advance that stock would cross their boundaries.

> *This notice had to be given by hand, so that he could have time to shift his stock off the route and avoid getting them mixed up with the travelling mob. This was known as 'boxing up.' If this happened, the stock would have to be taken to the nearest yards and drafted out, and this might take several days. If the fault was with the drover he would have to pay the cost of drafting...[217]*

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[213] Young & District Family History Group Inc., 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King Pre 1860*. p.125
[214] Young & District Family History Group Inc., 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King Pre 1860*. p.125
[215] Gow, N&B., 1974. News Form Murringo, 1860-1900. pp.56-57
[216] Gow, N&B., 1974. News Form Murringo, 1860-1900. p.54
[217] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. p.26

The last two decades of the 19th century saw the movement of settlers into country that had been ignored by the earlier pastoralists.

The fortunes of most post World War II soldier settlers in the region were supported by the wool boom of the 1950s. Demand for wool, partly created by the Korean War, encouraged wool agents to advance credit for purchase of much needed equipment to these settlers

The 20th century saw substantial changes in land management practices and pastoralism. The wool boom of the 1950s saw substantial investment in many rural properties with homesteads and woolsheds being modernised, modified or replaced. Closer settlement reduced the viability of many of the larger homestead and woolshed complexes.[218]

The farming of sheep and cattle continue to be major contributors to the economy of the region. Many stations contain the infrastructure of a pastoral industry that has developed over a period of 180 years.

3.13   NSW Historical Theme: Science &
3.14   NSW Historical Theme: Technology

Some innovations in agriculture have occurred in and around the Young Shire. These are generally covered in **Section 3.1 Agriculture**.

Residents of Young Shire have also been involved in the implementation of innovations that have been developed elsewhere. In 1889 the Borough of Young was the first town in the British Empire to adopt electricity for both street and domestic lighting (refer to **Section 4.4 Utilities**).

In 1919 local doctor Frederic Purchas, who had gained some experience of X-ray technology during military service in World War I, asked Council's Electrical Engineer Alfred Patroni to build an X-ray machine. Working together Frederic and Alfred built a locally crafted X-ray machine that was put to good use by the Burrangong District Hospital.[219]

3.15   NSW Historical Theme: Transport

The earliest transport in the region was on foot. The Aboriginal people moved about this way, as did the early shepherds who moved at the same pace as the sheep they tended. European settlers brought the horse and bullock drays or horse drawn wagons for heavy transport. As settlement developed in the area horse tracks developed. Some of these later developed into roads for heavier vehicles. Early road routes tended to follow the lines of creeks and rivers, and the easier passes over ridgelines. In the Burrangong district James White relied on the surveying skills of local Aboriginal people to mark the routes of roads from his station to neighbouring localities.[220]

In his memoir of pastoral work in the north-west of New South Wales, *Time Means Tucker*, Duke Tritton, renowned swaggie, shearer and bush balladist, described the work of the bullocky. He noted that 'poor, patient bullocks … played a mighty part in making Australia a good place to live in'[221]. Bullock teams handled bulk transportation around the country well into the 20th century.

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[218] Sowden, H., 1972. *Australian Woolsheds*. p.29
[219] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.87
[220] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.9
[221] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. p.55

In his memoirs former gold miner Mark Hammond recorded a journey from Forbes to Lambing Flat made by himself and his brother with two teams, 'one driven by a man and the other by a woman. They were man and wife.'[222]

Coach services to Young were established at the time of the gold rushes. 'Minehan's horse coach laden with passengers was a frequent site' and Greig's coaches started a run between Young and Forbes in 1862. James Roberts operated a regular service to and from Young with an 'American coach'. Cobb & Co established services to the area in 1862 and by 1879 they were operating a large 30 passenger coach that had been fabricated at their works in Bathurst.[223] In 1877 the Marengo Hotel was being conducted by Timothy Downes and was the booking and pickup point for Bradley's coaches operating from Young and Cobb & Co. coaches operating from Boorowa[224].

As railways snaked out across the colony from the 1850s onwards they both revolutionised and supplanted earlier transport options. Coaching lines modified routes and opened new routes to adjust to the development of new rail termini. Coach operators appear to have been keen to establish routes to railheads developed under the ambitious 1879 railway expansion program of the Parkes-Robertson government.[225]

As early as 1873 Minister for Works John Sutherland had requested that surveys be made of potential railway routes across the colony. In 1874 and 1875 trial surveys of a number of lines were undertaken. These included a line from Blayney to Murrumburrah via Cowra and Young.[226]

Plate 3.3: Stone bridge originally built in the 1860s to carry the Temora Road over Milkmans Creek.

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[222] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.103
[223] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.56-57
[224] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.37
[225] Lee, R., 1988. *The Greatest Public Work*. p.97
[226] Lee, R., 1988. *The Greatest Public Work*. p.75

The coming of the railway had a significant impact on the economy of the region and on the lives of the people. The bulk transportation capability of the railway supported the growth of the wheat and fruit growing industries. After its incorporation in 1882 the Young Borough Council began to agitate for the construction of a railway from Murrumburrah. This proposed line followed the route through Murrumburrah, Young and Cowra to the Main Western Line at Blayney that had been survey by the Ministry of Works in the mid 1870s.[227]

The line to Young was completed in 1885, with a grand opening ceremony on Tuesday 26 March of that year. Bayley described the festivities as follows:

> *Visitors flocked to Young from surrounding towns including Cootamundra, Burrowa, Grenfell and Murrumburrah. A triumphal arch was erected over the line at Lynch Street gate. Facing Murrumburrah it carried "Welcome" and on the other side "Well done". The town was elaborately decorated with flags, bunting and streamers.*
>
> *The first government train arrived at 9:00am and carried the Balmain Coldstream band which had been engaged by the committee. Accommodation at hotels was taxed, verandahs and balconies being pressed into service. .... The unfinished station buildings were surrounded by spectators. The ministerial train arrived at 11:15 carrying several ministers and members of parliament who were received by the mayor and 1,000 children singing " Advance Australia Fair". A banquet catered by the Compagnoni Co. was held in the goods shed ...*[228]

Very soon after the completion of this line interests in Young began to agitate for the construction of a railway to Grenfell and Forbes. In 1898 the government announced plans to build a line directly from Koorawatha to Grenfell. Following construction of this line in 1901 a railway league was formed at Tubbul to press for the construction of an overland route 'from Stockinbingal to Forbes east of Weedallion mountain and west of Bribbaree'[229]. This line was eventually built through Milvale and Bribbaree to Forbes in 1917[230].

Roads were continually improved during the 20th century with ongoing advances in road construction techniques and funding for road improvements. In the 1890s roads in the Bland district had been described by the Burrangong Chronicle as 'wretched'[231]. After its establishment in 1906 Burrangong Shire Council began to oversee the improvement of district roads to the condition in which they could 'carry the heavy traffic, typical of which was the loading of up to 16 tons … of bags of wheat on a waggon'[232].

Construction of railways had helped to facilitate the expansion of wheat growing. Initially export wheat was handled in bags, however the construction of bulk grain handling facilities at locations such as Milvale and Bribbaree on the Stockinbingal-Forbes railway line in 1922 and on the Murrumburrah-Blayney railway line in the 1930s streamlined the transport of grain.

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[227] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.101-103
[228] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.103
[229] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.105
[230] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.142
[231] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.138
[232] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.139
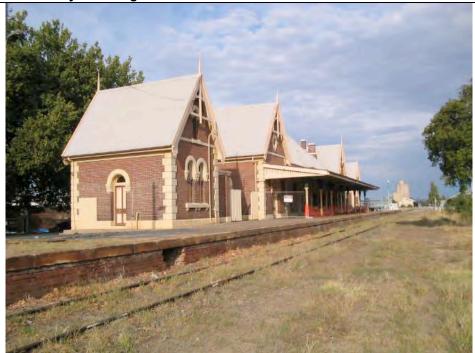
Plate 3.4: Young Railway Station with Young Roller Flour Mill in the background. The railway corridor hosts a number of businesses that once shipped the district's produce by rail.

In his memoir of life on Springview Charles Robinson described the laborious process of stacking bagged wheat before the construction of grain elevators.

> *The wheat was carted in bags to Monteagle siding where huge stacks were built each year. Lumping wheat must have been one of the hardest jobs possible then. All day long often in searing heat, two lumpers walked up the steps and stairs of stacked bags, building stacks about twenty bags high. ... The finished stack was ... laboriously roofed over with sawn timber and corrugated iron wired together. ... weather often rotted the bags through and wheat split, sometimes causing sections of the heap to collapse. Rats and mice often invaded the heap and there was a lot of waste.[233]*

Lachlan McLean recalled the scene at Koorawatha in harvest time before the construction of a storage silo in 1966.

> *In the harvest season it was a common sight to see long queues of horse drawn lorries and bullock teams waiting their turn to be unloaded at the railway station. The wheat was loaded from the harvesters into three bushel bags for cartage, these were stored under galvanised iron sheets until they could be transported to Sydney. During one exceptionally good season when thousands of bags were stacked in heaps at the railway, a mouse plague occurred. These mice chewed holes in the bags, resulting in wheat pouring out and spreading over the ground ... Local stray cows and horses wandered among the wheat and had a great gorge, some became bloated and died.[234]*

The construction of bulk storage facilities and grain elevators in the district from the early 1920s was a major advance in the storage and transport of grain crops. Grain Elevators at locations such as Bendick Murrell, Milvale and Bribbaree provide

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[233] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.71
[234] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.95

testament to the enormous civil engineering effort required to construct these facilities.

Railways, sidings and stations were the lifeblood of small towns in the early to mid 20th century. Sidings such as Scott's Siding near the present Maimuru silos enabled fruit growers in that area to avoid carting their produce and stock long distances by road[235]. Charles Robinson recalled that Monteagle received two passenger trains each way, six days per week, plus a daily mail train from Sydney. Regular goods trains provided supplies to the village.[236] Many children in rural localities travelled to school by train. Up to the 1950s many children living along the railway line north of Monteagle travelled each day to Cowra or Grenfell by train to attend high school[237].

From the 1920s councillors undertook an annual inspection of roads. This led to 'a valuable improvement to the roads of the shire'. The 1920s also saw substantial investment in main roads. The Young-Koorawatha road was improved under a joint funding arrangement from 1924 to 1927[238] and the Young-Wombat road was reconstructed in 1928.[239]

During the Great Depression the New South Wales Government provided funding to local councils for relief works designed to create jobs for unemployed men. This funding was used to improve infrastructure and was commonly applied to road works. Development of the Monteagle-Wirrimah Scenic Road was commenced as an unemployment relief programme in 1937. Sections of this road were sealed in the 1950s. Among other road infrastructure developments a road was constructed in 1941 to transport fruit from the Wirrimah fruit dehydrator to the railway station at Bendick Murrell.[240]

Improvements to transport were not confined to roads. After World War II Burrangong Shire Council 'vitally affected' education in rural areas with its 'progressive ... school bus programme'[241]. Council's 'Young Plan', providing a uniform fare for children and guaranteed subsidies to transport operators, saw over 600 children per day being transported to school over routes to Wallendbeen, Koorawatha, Maimuru/Bribbaree and Murringo[242].

From its inception the town of Young has been divided by Burrangong Creek. The first bridge constructed over Burrangong Creek was a footbridge constructed by the police in 1861 to connect their camp to the central areas of Young. The first road bridge was constructed over Main Creek in 1862. A portion of this bridge collapsed in February 1875 'and a new bridge was opened by Sarah Musgrave in September 1876.[243] A timber truss bridge built at the end of Lynch Street to connect to Wombat Street was also constructed in the 1860s. This bridge was later replaced by a timber girder bridge that survived until the mid 1950s.[244]

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[235] Information provided by Maree Lamb, February 2008

[236] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.67

[237] Shumack, D., 1984. Chronicle of Koorawatha. pp.94-95

[238] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.139

[239] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.140

[240] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.148

[241] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.143

[242] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.144

[243] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.50

[244] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.82

By the mid 1920s increasing traffic highlighted the deficiencies of the existing narrow timber bridges. A new bridge to replace the existing timber bridge at the end of Short Street was proposed in 1926.[245] On 4 April 1930 Young Municipal Council requested that the bridge be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic as it was in a dangerous state. Representations were made to the Main Roads Board for replacement of the bridge. Alderman Lazzarini even requested that Council build its own bridge, regardless of any plans of the State Government. A new reinforced concrete bridge was constructed in 1931 and opened in 1932.[246] A similar bridge linking Lynch and Wombat Streets was proposed by Council in 1946. Post-war shortages of steel led to a delay in its construction[247] and it was finally completed 10 years later in 1956[248].

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[245] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.160
[246] Young & District Historical Society, Burrangong Creek Bridge, Short St. Young
[247] Young Municipal Council, Minutes of Meetings. 1946-1950.
[248] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.196

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.[249]

4.1 NSW Historical Theme: Accommodation

The Aboriginal people of the district are recorded as having constructed shelters or mia mias out of boughs and bark. After European settlement Aboriginal people cut and transported bark for use in the construction of houses and outbuildings.[250] Many of the early European houses had walls constructed of pise or adzed or sawn slabs. The presence of good quality stone in the region saw much early construction in stone rubble or later in quarried granite or sandstone. The village of Murringo contains many fine stone buildings constructed late in the 19th century and early in the 20th. The abandoned Imperial Hotel on the corner of the Temora and Tubbul Roads stands testament to the quality of much of the early stone construction.

In his book on the history of European occupation of the Pilliga region Eric Rolls described the process of curing bark and setting it as roofing material:

> *When the sheet of bark was lifted off (the tree) it immediately rolled up. Two men straightened it and held it to soften over a low fire. Then they spread it flat and weighted it to dry. The overlapped sheets were held on the roof by crossed saplings known as 'outriggers' or 'over purlins' lashed to the purlins… On earlier roofs they were lashed with greenhide. Sometimes they were pegged down with wooden pegs. Ironbark pegs, round or square, dried slowly over a fire were almost as long lasting as nails.*[251]

Early dwellings on the Burrangong goldfield were often very rudimentary affairs. In his goldfield memoir Mark Hammond described a hut he and another prospector erected on their claim:

> *After measuring … off we commenced by fixing up a camp by the side of a big log lying on the claim. This was done by digging turf to build walls, after which we covered the place with a bit of calico, fixed up our bunks, lit a fire, and started our new home.*[252]

Many early houses were roofed or clad in shingles. The development of corrugated galvanised iron in 1847 revolutionised building design and construction in Australia. Cash constrained selectors, however continued to build houses of traditional materials well into the 20th century.

As the post industrial revolution world impacted more and more on the Young district housing styles grew to reflect national and international trends. The towns of the area tend to reflect the patterns of house construction that have prevailed across Australia at various times, although regional variations are quite strong.

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[249] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[250] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.15
[251] Rolls, E., 1982. *A Million Wild Acres*. p.292
[252] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.77

Some vignettes of domestic life are covered in **Section 8.2 Domestic life**.

4.2   NSW Historical Theme: Land Tenure

Prior to European settlement land tenure across Australia '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'.[253]

European settlers envisaged a totally different relationship to the land. They came with doctrines that saw land as a resource to be used for profit. The first pastoralists moved sheep and cattle into the area, beyond the boundaries of the colony, to supplement the pastures of their landholdings in other areas. Some of these people never saw the land on which their stock were pastured.

In 1836 Governor Brisbane legalised squatting beyond the limits of the 19 Counties[254]. The following decades saw a transition in the economy and governance of New South Wales. The first steps to responsible government were taken under the Constitution Act of 1842, transportation of convicts ceased and land ownership laws were amended to allow for the purchase of improved crown lands. These and subsequent changes saw an increase in the occupation of smaller landholdings and a gradual increase in the number of pastoral properties owned and occupied by families.

An Act 'for regulating the Waste Lands belonging to the Crown in the Australian Colonies' was passed by the British Parliament in 1846 and brought into effect in 1847 through Orders in Council. These Orders in Council divided New South Wales into three districts:

- Settled Districts – the original 19 counties plus the counties of Macquarie and Stanley.
- Intermediate Districts – runs of up to 1600 acres could be leased for eight years with additional fees for larger holdings.
- Unsettled Districts – comprising much of New South Wales. Leases of 14 years could be granted for each run of 3,200 acres.[255]

During the term of these leases the lessee 'had the right to make a pre-emptive purchase'. By the 1840s most of south-eastern Australia had been leased under these arrangements and the squatters were quickly perceived as having 'locked up' the land.[256]

Various legislative actions by the New South Wales Parliament during the late 19th century attempted to break the hegemony of the squatters over pastoral land and break the large landholdings of this group. The Robertson Land Acts of 1861 allowed for the selection of blocks of land from 40 to 320 acres. This legislation was intended to encourage immigration and create a class of landed yeomanry similar to that which existed in England. Many squatters used dummy purchasers to secure parts of properties over which they already held leases.

The free selection system allowed people with very little capital to take up landholdings at a cost of £1 per acre with a deposit of only 5 shillings per acre being required.

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[253] Kass, T., 2003 *A Thematic History of the Central West*. p.52
[254] Morrisey, S. 1978, 'The Pastoral Economy 1821-1850'. p.59
[255] Stuart, I., 2007. 'The surveyor's lot: making landscapes in New South Wales'. p.43
[256] Stuart, I., 2007. 'The surveyor's lot: making landscapes in New South Wales'. pp.43-44

They had the option of completing the purchase after three years or of paying five percent interest more or less indefinitely on the balance. ... In the short term, free selectors were tenants of the Crown on very favourable terms. At least in theory but, in practice, selectors often had little capital beyond the deposit.[257]

The Crown Lands Resumption Act of 1884 was another government sponsored attempt to break up large landholdings. It required the halving of large properties leased from the Crown. Many large runs were broken up and portions subdivided for sale.

Selection of land continued into the 20th century. This was supplemented after World War I and World War II by the soldier settlement schemes that continued the process of closer settlement. The rural landscape of the district was changed greatly by the soldier settlement schemes established at Maimuru, Wirrimah and Waterview after World War I. Stone fruit orchards were established on the small blocks created by these settlements. Prunes were planted and by the time the trees matured the price of prunes had collapsed and much of the crop was unsaleable[258]. The situation of many was worsened by the Great Depression and ongoing representations were made by returned solders' organisations on behalf of struggling soldier settlers during the 1930s. Many of the settlers at Waterview were given £300 to leave their blocks[259] and the subsequent amalgamation of properties created more viable rural enterprises.

4.3   NSW Historical Theme: Towns, suburbs and villages
Brief histories of the towns and villages of Young Shire are included in this section. These histories are presented in the order in which the settlements were developed.

4.3.1   Murringo (Marengo)
The Marengo run of 0,000 acres was originally taken up along Willawong Creek in 1827 by the partnership of Hazelton and Magee. Up to 1,400 cattle and 2,000 sheep were run on the unfenced property. Shepherds were employed to care for the flocks of sheep and protect them from marauding dingoes. Hazelton and Magee sold the run, identified as Murringo Station, to John Scarr during the 1840s. A survey map of 1849 shows Scarr's dairy, house, woolshed and blacksmith's shop. Scarr died in 1855 and the run was purchased by John Broughton in 1864. By 1870 Broughton was living in Young where he traded as a commission agent in partnership with J.A. Brock.[260] Marengo Station was later subdivided into smaller runs. Properties subdivided from Marengo include Calabash, Willawong and Wambanumba.

A weatherboard coach house was constructed on the property quite early. It was possibly used as a residence for some time and Marengo functioned as a way station and coaching stop in the late 19th century. The large hayshed and stables located south of the homestead were extended a number of times to accommodate up to 90 horses during this period. Chinese gardeners also tended large market gardens along the creek.

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[257] Townsend, N., 1993. Living on the Land: An Enterprising Selector. p.176
[258] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.40
[259] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.41
[260] Young & District Family History Group Inc. 1988. Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860. p.199

The village of Marengo was first surveyed in February 1849[261] and proclaimed in 1850[262]. It became a flour milling centre and resting place for teamsters. A post office was established at Marengo on 1 January 1857.[263]. Marengo served as the commercial and population hub and saw increased development in the 1860s as it benefited from increased traffic generated by the gold rushes at Lambing Flat and the Lachlan in the early 1860s.

The earliest hotel licence was that of Daniel Hancock in 1856[264]. By the early 1860s four hotels were operating within the village. William West built a hotel which was trading in 1860 as the Plough Inne when it was announced to be the 'nearest hotel to the goldfields'[265]. William West was born in Cornwall in 1806 and arrived in Sydney in 1841 with his wife Letitia and their children. He acquired property in 1848 and purchased many town blocks in Murringo from 1858. He appears to have built a number of buildings on a speculative basis then offered these for sale. These included two pubs, a store, blacksmiths shop, Post Office and other buildings in the village. William grew fruit in Murringo that he traded to Yass and Goulburn and also cured pork and salted meat, sold eggs and livestock, and made cheese as well as beer.[266]

The Plough Inn and adjacent store and smithy were offered for sale by William West in October 1860. The Plough Inn was at that time promoted as the only licensed hotel in the district. It contained nine rooms and a bar and featured stabling and outhouses. The licensee was Thomas Robinson.[267] In a very disparaging report on Murringo published in the Burrangong Argus in September 1865 the hotel had ceased trading and was described by a correspondent to the as 'a pretentious building of flaring brick, which was originally intended for a hotel, but which has long since closed for want of customers, and now stands desolate and forlorn, with its windows closed, its doors barred, and with grass growing around its forsaken portals.' The same report described the Travellers rest Hotel as 'a hideous erection of stone, looking as if it had been designed as a prison or a fort, so solid are its walls and so diminutive are its windows. This is the only hotel.' [268] West had built this hotel in 1862[269].

William West was born in Cornwall in 1806 and arrived in Sydney in 1841 with his wife Letitia and their children. He acquired property in 1848 and purchased many town blocks in Murringo from 1858. He appears to have built a number of buildings on a speculative basis then offered these for sale. William grew fruit in Murringo that he traded to Yass and Goulburn. He also cured pork and salted meat, sold eggs and livestock, and made cheese as well as beer.[270]

The Travellers' Rest was opened in 1862 and was operated by S. Matthew for many years. In 1870 he was fined £2 plus costs for 'allowing music and dancing … without permission'. The hotel was a venue for many public meetings. [271] In September 1878

[261] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.18

[262] Murringo Community Association, 2001. Murringo: Celebrating 150 Years.

[263] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.18

[264] Murringo Community Association, 2001. Murringo: Celebrating 150 Years.

[265] Murringo Community Association, 2001. *Murringo Celebrating 150 Years*. p.5

[266] Young & District Family History Group Inc. 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860*. pp.234-235

[267] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.1

[268] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.6

[269] Murringo Community Association, 2001. *Murringo Celebrating 150 Years*. p.5

[270] Young & District Family History Group Inc. 1988. *Pioneers of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and County King pre-1860*. pp.234-235

[271] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.12

Timothy Downes announced in the Burrangong Argus that he had resumed proprietorship of the Marengo Hotel[272]. William Ryan leased the hotel from Downes in August 1879[273].

Some time around 1900 the hotel was purchased by Mr and Mrs Cummins. The couple operated the hotel for seven years and subsequently for a further three years.[274] The freehold and licence of the hotel were purchased by David Mayoh in September 1927. Mayoh paid £3,300 for the licence.[275] The Boorowa News of 5 May 1933 noted that an application had been made to cancel the licence of the Marengo Hotel[276]. Cancellation of the hotel's licence was strongly contested by members of the community but Mayoh argued that 'trade was not supported to any extent by local residents. Travellers do not stay at Marengo, and he never had any tourists at the hotel, or permanent boarders'. The application to surrender the licence was granted.[277]

Development of Marengo had been largely stifled by the rapid growth of Young following the gold rushes. The construction of the Murrumburrah-Blayney Railway in the 1880s (refer to **Section 3.15 Transport**), and subsequent road construction and upgrading further reinforced Young's pre-eminence. As a consequence Murringo was reduced to the role of being a service centre for the farms and stations in its surrounds.

4.3.2   Young
The development of Young commenced with the gold rushes of 1860/1861. As news of the discovery of gold on James White's Lambing Flat spread hundreds of hopeful souls were drawn to the place. By November 1860 three thousand people had created a sprawling encampment[278]. The community grew rapidly as diggers arrived from all over the colony. The Empire newspaper estimated in May 1861 that about 20,000 people were on the diggings around Lambing Flat. A government census conducted in April 1861 had counted 11,500 people, including 2,500 females. [279] Mark Hammond arrived at Lambing Flat in early January 1861. He described the scene as follows:

> On the 7th we camped on the spot where the railway station at Young is now built. ... After a day or two we removed to a site in the street now known as Main Street, opposite McGurren's Bathurst Stores. ... Main Street was then the business part which consisted of bark-built places on either side of the old Southern Road through Burrangong. Crossing the flat the police station was on a hill on the opposite side of the creek where it is now. The business places in Main Street were not many; amongst them was Carlo Mareno's (sic) butchers shop; Cohen's Diggers Arms; The Yass Hotel by John Douglass; The Yass Stores by Chard; the Bathurst Store by Terence McGurren; Henry Greig's store, and a few other places that remained behind after the first rush.[280]

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[272] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.40
[273] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.44
[274] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News From Marengo, 1929-1939*. p.70
[275] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News From Marengo, 1929-1939*. p.124
[276] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News From Marengo, 1929-1939*. p.112
[277] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News From Marengo, 1929-1939*. pp.124-125
[278] McGregor, H.&J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.11
[279] McGregor, H.&J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.13
[280] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.69

Sarah Musgrave identified the first businesses established in Young as John Allen's Great Eastern Hotel, Robert and John Armstrong's chemist shop, John Hunter's boot and shoe store, John Murphy's general store, and Mrs Reuss' hairdressing saloon[281].

The town of Young, named for Governor Sir John Young, was officially established in May 1861 and 50 town lots were sold in that month for a total return of £700. The streets of the new town were "no more than 'marked lines of road', inches deep in dust or mud".[282]

As the gold rush continued 'buildings of a better class' were constructed along Main and Burrawa (sic) Streets[283]. During the remainder of the 19th century and the early 20th century the town continued to grow and prosper as the main service centre for the district. Grand buildings and new industries developed through this period. In 1906 the Municipality of Young was estimated to have a 'population of 2,845, and boasted some 673 dwellings of which 569 were inhabited and 11 uninhabited, also 93 shops.[284]

In 1957 orders were issued for the clearing of footpath obstacles, including petrol pumps and verandahs and verandah posts. 'This regulation resulted in the reconstruction of numerous shop fronts in Boorowa Street' and also resulted in the destruction of many fine verandahs. In 1959 a brick policy was adopted for a limited area of the town. Civic improvements continued through the 1960s and 1970s.[285] By the 'early 1990s Young's population was estimated at 10,900 with some 3,439 separate houses, 121 semi detached, 154 flats and 107 other dwellings[286].

4.3.3 Monteagle
William A Bayley described the development of Monteagle as follows:

> *The village of Bulla Creek grew from the "miles" gold diggings when the diggers took to farming. There was a village reserve one mile square which originally had a common of 257 acres. With the growth of population Lynel opened a store and a house of accommodation for travellers between Marengo and the Bland. ... Bulla Creek became known as Monteagle on December 16, 1881 with Lynel as postmaster. It was conducted in his hotel. Subsequently the post office was transferred to J. Hardman who built a store there – the first of any consequence – in 1884. Abraham Hines arrived in 1886 and set up another store which continued over a quarter of a century, in due course conducting the post office with it. A blacksmith and wheelwright opened business which in its turn was taken over by Hines also, whilst saddler and bootmaker shops were established.*[287]

A progress association had been formed in 1882 and the town further developed when Monteagle railway station was opened in 1890. The railway yard was busy with 'teams drawing wheat and wool to the railhead'.[288] Churches were built and a new public hall constructed in 1900[289].

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[281] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. pp.57-58
[282] McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.21
[283] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.72
[284] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.9
[285] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.10
[286] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002*. p.13
[287] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.91
[288] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.93
[289] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.133

4.3.4   Koorawatha
The Town of Koorawatha was first surveyed in December 1860 on the track between Murringo and Cowra. The village is located along the banks of Bang Bang Creek with the Bang Bang Hotel being located close to a creek ford[290]. The Murrumburrah-Blayney railway was built through the western side of the village in the early 1880s. This caused a shift in the commercial focus of the town with a new hotel and shops being constructed near the railway line. 'In the 1860s, 70s and 80s Koorawatha remained a small scattered rural district with an agricultural population.'[291] The locality was known as either Bang Bang or Koorawatha up to the 1880s.

Following the opening of a railway station the town developed and saw many civic improvements in the early 20th century, including the construction of a Literary Institute in 1914 and an inaugural annual show in 1920.[292] A branch of the Country Women's Association was opened at Koorawatha in 1931[293].

4.3.5   Bendick Murrell
The village of Bendick Murrell developed during and after the construction of the Murrumburrah-Blayney railway line. Prior to the construction of the railway residents of the locality of Sandy Creek had petitioned for the establishment of a school. This school was named Bendick Morrell. This school was relocated in 1886 to accommodate the children of workers constructing the railway and by May of that year a receiving post office was established. A school of arts was constructed in the same year. [294]

4.3.6   Tubbul
In the late 19th century a village developed at Tubbul in the middle of the rich grazing and agricultural country to the west of Young. A public school with an enrolment of 40 was established in 1888[295]. Prior to this in 1886 hosted the first meeting of the Shearers' Union (refer to **Section 5.1 Labour**). After 1900 landholders around Tubbul formed railway league to agitate for the construction of a railway line from Stockinbingal to Forbes[296].

4.3.7   Bribbaree
The village of Bribbaree developed on the western fringe of the shire after the construction of the Stockinbingal-Forbes railway line:

> *'Bribary Creek' appeared in 1916, its pioneer John William Byrne arriving on November 1, 1915 travelling in a sulky with his wife and family and living in a bag humpy until the town was surveyed.[297]*

The village was surveyed in 1916 and officially named Bribbaree Creek by the Lands Department. Blocks were auctioned at Young in 1917. John Byrne was the first chairman of the progress association formed in November 1916. Bribbaree had no water supply and water was bought by rail from Gundagai. A gold reef was

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[290] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.110
[291] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.88
[292] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.140
[293] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.141
[294] Langfield, J., 1995. *A Far Corner Of the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn*. p.110
[295] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.95
[296] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.105
[297] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.144-145

discovered near Bribbaree in 1922. This led to a gold rush and the establishment of a succession of reef mining companies (refer to **Section 3.11 Mining**).[298]

> *A Pastoral and Agricultural Society was formed at Bribbaree in 1924. It staged its first show in October, 1926 by which time the village had a daily train, government wheat silos, three stores, refreshment rooms, three churches, brickworks, bakers, butchers and other shops. The population had risen from 30 in 1919 to 127.[299]*

The population of the town reached 500 by 1936 and had two banks, a post office, '… co-operative store, blacksmith shop, motor garage', cafes and saleyards. The Railway Hotel was built in 1936[300]. A Bush Nursing Home was built in Bribbaree in 1934.

4.3.8 Milvale
The construction of the Stockinbingal-Caragabal railway line between 1915 and 1917. A railway siding was constructed at a place known as Oakvale siding, approximately 14½ miles north of Stockinbingal. In 1916 application was made for the establishment of a post office at Oakvale siding. The Postal Department suggested that the location be named Milroy and the Lands Department suggested Yanterilla. The name Milvale was eventually agreed to.

With changes in land use in the district and closer settlement a village developed around the railway station with a school being established in 1918 and large wheat silos constructed in 1922[301]. St Brendan's Catholic Church and school was constructed in the same year.

4.4 NSW Historical Theme: Utilities

4.4.1 Fire control
During the 19th century fire fighting was largely the responsibility of local communities. According to Bayley:

> *As early as 1860 it was recognised that the town was a great fire danger and needed a fire engine. … Fire fighting methods were primitive in the absence of water. In November, 1871 a stable near Hayes' Commercial Hotel caught fire and people roused from sleep fought the fire with a few buckets, wash bowls, watering pots and water jugs. The outhouses and an old fence between it and the Empire Hotel were demolished to prevent the spread of the fire.[302]*

In 1874 a fire swept along the northern side of Boorowa Street between Main and Lynch Streets, destroying the 'Albion and Criterion Hotels, jewellers and chemists, Oriental Bank and shops'[303]. A volunteer fire brigade was formed in 1876[304]. The brigade fought another large fire in Lynch Street in 1877[305]. During the 1880s interest in the volunteer fire brigade lapsed and the brigade ceased to operate in 1885[306].

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[298] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.145
[299] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.145
[300] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.145-146
[301] Ryan, K., 1990. Storing the Golden Grain. p.22
[302] Bayley, W., 1977 *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.70
[303] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.71
[304] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.71
[305] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.72
[306] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.114

Accounts of local fires recognise the efforts of the general community in fire fighting and attempts to recovery of possessions from burning buildings. When Camillo Marina's Australian Hotel in Young caught fire in 1897 local residents, including George Cranfield, George Westcott, Billy Rowan, J.D. Mackenzie, Joseph Schmidt and others helped Marina and his son remove furniture and stock. These men also worked to prevent the spread of the fire to neighbouring buildings. Their efforts were somewhat hampered by local larrikins who helped themselves to bar stock taken from the hotel and stacked in Boorowa Street.[307]

The Young volunteer fire brigade was re-formed in 1905. A water supply for fire fighting was secured by connecting the railway water supply and the former Salvation Army Barracks converted into a fire station.[308] This brigade appears to have no longer been functioning in 1907 when four shops in Boorowa Street were destroyed by fire[309].

Circumstances did not alter greatly in the Shire's villages. When the Railway Hotel in Koorawatha caught fire in 10 November 1959, the community responded to fight the fire. Local women formed a 'bucket brigade to save the stock, while the men fought the fire'.[310]

4.4.2   Water

During the early years of the settlement of the Young district water for drinking and domestic use was obtained from rivers or creeks or from barrels, tanks or cisterns that collected rainwater. On properties or in settlements located away from regularly flowing watercourses wells were sunk. These were generally lined with timber or stone to keep the water free of silt.

During the gold rushes the Yass Courier noted that water to drink in Young 'is a luxury that we have to pay dearly for'. In 1880 an ambitious scheme suggested that a water race should be cut from the Murrumbidgee River to supply water to the town. Wells had been sunk in Young to supply water for the town and during the 1880s Young Municipal Council continued to maintain and expand these wells. A well had been sunk in the bed of Burrangong Creek 'for the residents to draw water to mix cement'. By 1888 this well had fallen in.[311] To secure a better water supply Council considered engaging the Mines Department to drill for artesian water[312].

Various schemes were proposed but none was considered practical until the construction of Burrinjuck Dam was commenced. In 1919 the south-west towns discussed the possibility of piping water from Burrinjuck to a reservoir at Kingsvale[313]. This scheme was not implemented but, following ongoing representations to the Minister for Works a water supply from Burrinjuck was eventually connected via Jugiong in 1935[314]. Reticulated water supplies were extended to Koorawatha, Crowther, Bendick Murrell and Wirrimah from 1963 onwards[315].

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[307] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. pp.251-256
[308] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.116
[309] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.162
[310] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. p.111
[311] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.106
[312] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.106
[313] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.157
[314] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.158
[315] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.188

4.4.3   Sewerage

Waste disposal in Young was a problem from the time of the gold rushes. McGregor & McGregor described sanitary arrangements in Young at this time as follows:

> *Sanitary arrangements were, in general, a matter for the individual. Broken bottles and rubbish of every kind rose in stinking mounds behind stores and hotels. Pumpkin vines grew luxuriantly over them, while rats and goats rummaged in search of tit-bits (sic).*[316]

In the 1880s it was reported that 'waste and slops and noxious liquids from houses, shops and hotels were emptied into open drains. Backyard dunna-kins, open all day, reeked in hot weather and in the wet'[317]. Untreated effluent also found its way into old mining shafts, further spreading the stench. Problems with overflowing cesspits, blocked drains, and the refuse from stables and yards flowing into the streets in wet weather continued until well into the 20th century.

Installation of a sewerage system in Young was proposed from 1909 onwards. Such a scheme was not practical until a town water supply was available. A sewerage system was installed in 1938 after the connection of Young to the Burrinjuck water supply in 1935.[318]

4.4.4   Electricity

The first lighting system installed in Young appears to have been the Alpha gas-making apparatus installed by Watson Brothers in their Young store in 1878. This operated using compressed air and gasoline.[319]

Young was one of the first towns in Australia to install a municipal electricity supply and the first to provide electricity for street and house lighting. In 1887 the Borough Council was considering the construction of a municipal gas works and installation of a reticulated gas supply system for the town of Young.[320] The council considered proposals from gas engineers Neave & Co. for the construction of a gasworks and representations from Harrison and Whiffen for the installation of an electrical lighting system at a much lower cost[321]. Councillors spent much time and effort evaluating the competing claims of the proponents and eventually decided to seek tenders for an electrical lighting system. Tenders were opened on 22 May 1888[322].

Henry Kingsbury of Kingsbury and Company arranged a special demonstration of electric light at the Mechanics Institute Hall on Queen Victoria's Birthday, 24 May 1888. In the evening crowds gathered outside the hall to view this phenomenon.

> *A rumour spread that the light was 'a hoax', that it could not be shown in the hall and large number of people who wanted to see the light waited outside, rather than go in and 'be had'. ... doubts were swept away when the glasses hanging on the wires burst into light all at once, a white, intense, steady light. It took them by surprise. The penetrating brilliance of it in the hall exceeded even Cranfield's expectations of it.*[323]

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[316] McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up.* p.21
[317] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* p.90
[318] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.158
[319] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.70
[320] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.116
[321] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* p.75
[322] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* p.93
[323] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* p.94

Kingsbury and Company were selected to install the system and the area adjacent to the town hall was chosen as the site for the power plant. By April 1889 steam engines, dynamos and accumulators had been installed and a lighting supply switched on in Boorowa Street. Electricity was also supplied to homes for lighting.[324] The electricity supply was officially switched on by the Governor of New South Wales, Lord Carrington during his visit to Young on 11 December 1889[325].

The incandescent lights initially installed in Boorowa Street were not a success and were removed in 1891. From this time until the installation of arc lights in 1898 the only lighting in Boorowa Street came from businesses and hotels. The reliability of the system was brought into question at times with generation failures occurring when drive belts slipped off the dynamos at the power house.[326] Despite early technical problems the system was extended as the town grew.

Steam-powered electricity generation was supplanted by a suction gas operated plant in 1916 at a cost of £8000. In '1923 a 400 horsepower Atlas diesel engine and generator were installed' at a cost of £13,000[327]. When Burrinjuck Power Station was constructed in the early 1920s a hydro power station was installed below the dam wall. Young Municipal Council negotiated for electricity to be supplied from this power station. This required the substitution of the town's direct current system with an alternating current system compatible with the supply from Burrinjuck. The Burrinjuck Hydro-Electric Scheme was connected to Young in May 1928.[328]

Before 1950 electricity generation and supply in the state were the responsibility of local councils. Extreme power shortages and demands for extension of electricity supply experienced after World War II encouraged the New South Wales government to establish regional electricity supply authorities. The North Riverina County Council was established in September 1946[329] to supply water and electricity in the area including the Municipality of Young and Burrangong Shire.

Young Municipal Council was delegated responsibility by the County Council to supply Burrangong Shire and construction of a power line to Maimuru was commenced in 1946. Supply was extended as far as Bribbaree by 1951 by the end of 1955 900 rural customers were connected to the system.[330]

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[324] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.116
[325] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.109
[326] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.117
[327] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.156
[328] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.156-157
[329] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.146
[330] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.146

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 is 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.[331]

5.1 NSW Historical Theme: Labour

The diversity of work in a regional area is as diverse as the industries and communities that reside in that district. Young Shire has been home to a wide range of occupations linked to the land and servicing the industries that rely on the land, whether these are pastoral, agricultural, mining or tourism. The transport infrastructure of the region has also required labour for maintenance and operations. Road maintenance workers once were engaged to maintain particular sections of roads and railway fettlers lived along the lines they were engaged to maintain.

A number of writers have documented historical experiences of work in the Young district, and in other areas of regional New South Wales. The accounts of these writers have been drawn upon to provide a sketch of labour in the region for this thematic history.

Life and work in the pastoral regions of Australia are governed by the rhythms of the seasons and the cycles of rain and drought that affect the southern continent. The demands of work vary with the growth of pasture and growth of wool.

Patterns of obtaining labour for rural work varied throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the early squatters were able to access the relatively cheap labour available through the system of assigning convicts to settlers. From the 1840s free labour replaced the virtual slavery of the convict system and squatters started to seek other workforces. In various parts of New South Wales in the 1840s squatters experimented with workers from India, China and the South Pacific with varying degrees of success[332]. As gold petered out from the mid 1860s many erstwhile diggers drifted into pastoral occupations. Station owners wielded a great amount of power over these itinerant workers.

Each pastoral station maintained its core staff members who undertook or oversaw maintenance or domestic work on the property. The ongoing employment of these people, overseers, shepherds, cooks, gardeners, domestic staff, stable hands etc depended on the prosperity of the station. The rural labour force was supplemented at various times of the year by itinerant workers who tramped between stations following the flow of work. Duke Tritton, who spent years on the roads of the New South Wales northwest in the early 20th century as an itinerant worker, left detailed accounts of the life of the travelling bush worker. He recalled that stations issued travellers' rations to these itinerants 'as a means to ensure a plentiful supply of casual labour'.

The travellers' rations prescribed by the Pastoralists' Union consisted of 'ten pounds of flour, ten of meat, two of sugar and a quarter of a pound of tea'. Most squatters added extras such as 'a tin of jam or baking powder, sometimes a plug of tobacco or, in the case of a sick man, some of the rough medicines of the period'. Pastoralists noted as providers of generous handouts were popular and, according to Tritton,

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[331] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[332] Buxton, G., 1967. *The Riverina 1861-1891 An Australian Regional Study*, p.19

always had a plentiful supply 'of men to choose from, but the tight ones were always avoided by any self-respecting swagman.[333]

Prior to the beginning of the 20th century shearers worked on terms dictated by the squatter. Terms were harsh and the squatter had complete control over judging the quality of shearing and consequently the level of pay received by the shearers. A shearer not completing his contract was 'liable to a fine or even imprisonment'[334]. Shearers began organising by the 1880s to achieve improved conditions. In 1886 moves by pastoralists to reduce rates paid to shearers resulted in attempts to establish trade unions in the industry. A shearers' union was formed at Tubbul in May 1886 'to oppose the reductions contemplated by the sheep owners. The Tubbul Shearers' Union was the first of its kind in Australia. Elected office bearers were President C. B. Frater, Secretary W.G. Scott 'and a working committee comprising John Harris, Thomas Pegrum, James Geeves, Frederick Harris, James Summerfield and Thomas Whybrow.[335]

By 1887 the Tubbul union had become the Shearer's Union of New South Wales. The Shearers' Union of Victoria was formed in June 1886 with W. G. Spence as its Secretary. Spence worked with other shearers' organisations to build the Amalgamated Shearers' Union of Australia (A.S.U.). The Tubbul union was invited to join the A.S.U. A meeting in Young in November 1887 rejected this offer. Later in that year 'W. G. Spence … addressed a meeting at Young at which, swayed by his eloquence, the greater number of Tubbul shearers joined the A.S.U'.[336]

The Australian Shearers' Union began staging strikes from 1888 and by 1891 were in full-scale conflict with the pastoralists and colonial governments[337]. The drought and economic downturn of the 1890s, Federation in 1901 and a large-scale shearers' strike in 1902 created circumstances leading to improvements in working conditions. By the early 20th century pastoralists were required to provide improved accommodation for their shearers. In the 19th century 'accommodation was rotten .. huts built of bark or slabs, with leaking roofs, no windows, earth floors, bunks in three tiers and bare boards to sleep on'[338]. Following the Shearers' Agreement stations set about building better quarters.

Shearers were not the only workers to organise in the district in the 1880s. Following the formation of carriers' unions at Hay and Nyngan a meeting was held at Young in January 1889 to form the Lachlan Carriers Union. The purpose of this union was 'to unite and endeavour to remedy the wrongs and injustices' to which the district's carriers had felt they were subjected. Young Mayor George Cranfield was elected President of the new union.[339]

In the early 20th century the various tasks required to undertake a successful shearing were allocated before a shed started. The workers would elect an A.W.U. representative and then 'put in' a cook who then nominated his assistants. Other tasks around the shed, as described by Tritton, included:

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[333] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. pp.19-20
[334] Freeman, P., 1980. *The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology*. p.60
[335] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.97
[336] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.98-99
[337] Freeman, P., 1980. *The Woolshed: A Riverina Anthology*. p.60
[338] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. p.39
[339] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. pp.121-122

- *The "penner-up" was an important man in a shed. When the musterers brought the sheep from the paddocks to the shed, the penner-up took charge of them and was responsible for keeping the catching pens full.*
- *Pickers-up took the fleece as it fell on the board and spread it skin-side down on the wool table.*
- *Wool-rollers, two at each table, would strip three inches of skirting around it, roll the fleece, throw it in a bin where the classer would examine it and place it in a bin according to its class. The skirting went to another table where the piece-pickers would sort it into grades, clean, stained and burry.*
- *The pressers were kept busy. They worked on a contract system at so much per bale, and the rules of the shed did not apply to them in regard to working hours. It was not unusual to see them working long after the shearers had finished for the day.*
- *"The expert" is another important man in the shed. He is responsible for the smooth running of the machinery and has to have a thorough knowledge of everything mechanical in the shed.*[340]

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw many changes in the working lives of shearers. The change from hand to machine shearing changed the atmosphere of the sheds forever.

Shearers worked bent over with heavy strain placed on their backs. 'It was not unusual to see a man making his way on his hands and knees to his bunk. No one offered assistance as it was a point of honour to be able to reach one's bunk under one's own steam.'[341]

Plate 5.1: Shearers' quarters on Willawong, constructed in 1927.

Small landholders, taking up the increasing number of blocks opened up for closer settlement during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, provided a more stable labour source for many large properties. Many free selectors found their small properties alone could not provide a sustainable living for a family and were forced to seek outside employment.

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[340] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. p.40
[341] Tritton, H.P. (Duke). 1964. *Time Means Tucker*. p.41

George Robinson was a gun shearer who had 'rung' some sheds in the days of blade shears. His family relate one story of how he was engaged one year to shear at Henry Chew's woolshed and was sacked after the first day. George asked Mr Chew: "Aren't I shearing well enough Mr Chew?"

> *"You are the best and cleanest shearer in the shed George," was his reply,*
> *"but every other shearer is trying to keep up with you and they're breaking up*
> *the fleeces and cutting the sheep. If you were not here tomorrow, they will*
> *slow done and shear properly."[342]*

In his memoir of life on Springview at Monteagle Charles Robinson described many aspects of the rhythm of life and work on smaller properties in the mid twentieth century. He described the back-breaking work of shearing, initially undertaken by three men contracted from the local district.

> *I remember that the shearers shore a short run before they had breakfast. ...*
> *After this ... they trooped down to the house, together with the shed hands and*
> *consumed a hearty breakfast. ... When shearing stopped at five thirty the men*
> *walked to the house, washed and then had a 6:00pm tea.[343]*

For many years Charles and his cousin Ralph handled the shearing on Springview between regular farm chores.[344]

Robinson also described the laborious process of harvesting wheat with horse drawn headers in the 1930s. He would rise at 4:30am to feed and harness the horses that worked in teams of eight. Harvesting would start at 7:00am and continued for 12 hours. Teams of horses were changed during the day. The many joints and bearings of the header required oiling every hour and the header often had to be stopped to clear choking by weeds. After finishing for the day the horses were unharnessed and fed and the family ate tea at about 9:00pm.[345]

From the beginnings of European settlement in the Young district rural work has been shared among the members of families. In her memoir of life on Burrangong and other holdings Sarah Musgrave recounted the farming work she performed as a child. The relatively small, and often marginal, holdings created by the later free selection process (refer to **Section 4.2 Land Tenure**) relied quite heavily on the contribution of all able-bodied family members. In the 1870s children aged 14 years and under represented 40% of the total population of New South Wales, with the majority living in rural areas[346]. School inspectors' reports from this and later periods indicate that children were regularly kept home from school to assist with tasks such as sowing and harvesting crops and tending animals.

Children's involvement in labour was not without its dangers and many reports exist of young people being killed while undertaking tasks on behalf of their parents. In June 1876 the Town and Country Journal reported the death of a boy in Young:

> *... a little boy named Gregory Mannix was sent on an errand by his parents,*
> *and not returning that night the alarm arose that the child must be lost in the*

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[342] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ...".* p.25
[343] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ...".* p.123
[344] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ...".* p.124
[345] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ...".* p.117
[346] Murray, M., 1993. Children's Work in Rural New South Wales in the 1870s. p.227

bush or drowned.; the latter assumption, however, turned out to be too true, as on Sunday morning he was found drowned in a digger's hole about 20 feet deep.[347]

As noted in **Section 2.4 Migration** the latter half of the 20th century saw major changes in the technologies applied to work, and in the nature of local industries. These changes have had profound effects on the job skills required in the region and on the total number of persons employed. Much of the earlier seasonal work has gone with stations employing fewer hands and less opportunities for contract work. Smaller communities have consequently suffered declines in population and levels of commercial activity.

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[347] Murray, M., 1993. Children's Work in Rural New South Wales in the 1870s. p.236

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.[348]

6.1 NSW Historical Theme: Education

Literacy and education were generally valued in societies of the British Isles from which many of the early settlers of the district came. Scotland in particular maintained quite high levels of literacy in the early 19th century. In the frontier areas of New South Wales schooling of children was often carried out by members of households. Churches also played a role in educating young people. The Sunday School movement had originally commenced in the early 19th century by evangelical sects such as the Primitive Methodists to provide basic literacy and a knowledge of the Bible[349]. The establishment of schools in many areas was subject to sectarian divisions and sectarianism and religion have continued to play a major role in the politics of education in New South Wales. (Refer to **Section 8.4 Religion**)

In February 1860 the Marengo school committee petitioned the Board of National Education in Sydney for the establishment of a non-vested National School. A temporary school building of two rooms was constructed by local families to accommodate the 30 children in attendance. The families engaged a teacher named Edwin Meyer, aged 31, who had been educated in Bonn, Germany. The school was officially opened on 1 March 1860. By May 1860 the premises were being expanded to accommodate a Master and Matron. In January 1866 the Board of National Education wrote to the Marengo School advising that, according to the requirements of the Public Schools Act, government support would cease unless the school became a vested school owned by the state. In 1867 Marengo became a Public School. [350]

Plate 6.1: Early buildings at Murringo Public School.

Tenders were invited for the construction of a public school building of stone in Marengo on 1 May 1869[351]. The new school building, constructed of stone and measuring 25' x 18', was completed by August 1870. The original residence was a

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[348] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[349] O, Brien, G., The Primitive Methodist Church.
[350] Gow, N. & B., 1974. 'Murringo Public School' in *News From Marengo 1860-1900*.
[351] Gow, N. & B., 1974. *News From Marengo 1860-1900*. p.9

slab-walled building with a shingle roof containing three rooms. By 1877 this building was regarded as totally inadequate and its slabs rotten with white ants. Pressure from the local community led to the construction of a new stone-walled residence which was to form the nucleus of a larger dwelling. This building was constructed in 1878 by George Walters and Joseph Pereira at a cost of £272. The school building was extended in 1887 to cope with a sudden increase in student numbers. In 1908 a verandah was added to the school building and the internal walls of the stone school room were plastered by H.R. Blackett at a cost of £137/7/-. The name of the school was changed from Marengo to Murringo in July 1926. [352]

The first school in Young was established in February 1861 when Mrs Carter opened a school with 15 pupils. A National School was established in July of the same year. This school initially had 91 pupils. A school building was erected in Lovell Street in 1863 and the school relocated there in 1864. By 1872 the school had 182 pupils and in 1873 a new brick school building was completed.[353]

Government schools were established in other parts of the district as communities grew and populations shifted. In many cases communities made the initial moves to establish schooling.

The establishment of public education at Koorawatha illustrates this process. Some time around 1880 George Lenehan, a trained teacher from Ireland, established a private school on land he had selected north of Bang Bang Creek. This school, constructed with slab walls and corrugated iron roof, was named Bang Bang or Victoria. He subsequently sold this building to the Department of Public Instruction for £50. Lenehan requested that the school be named Monica Vale after his daughter. The Monica Vale Provisional School was opened in March 1884.[354]

The construction of the Murrumburrah-Blayney railway through the district and establishment of the Koorawatha Railway Station in 1886 led to an increase in the population living south of Bang Bang Creek. Following representations the Monica Vale Provisional School was closed and a new school constructed at Koorawatha in 1887. The new building was constructed by Thomas S. Plunkett of Cowra at a cost of £173/10/-. The school grew rapidly and makeshift buildings were constructed to augment the initial classroom. By 1910 these buildings were demolished and a new classroom and verandah constructed at a cost of £374.[355]

St John's Church of England Memorial School was constructed on the church reserve in Lynch Street, Young in 1866. 'As with the church (refer **Section 8.4 Religion**) funds for the building were raised by Mrs Clarke in memory of her former husband Captain J. L. Wilkie. By 1873 130 children were attending this school.[356] The school had originally been established in the early 1860s[357]. It operated spasmodically with varying levels of enrolment until the Public Instruction Act was passed in 1880 and public assistance to denominational schools ceased. Increased enrolment at Young Public School and the construction of the railway through the former school site led to the use of the building as the girl's department. Infants classes were housed in the Temperance Hall and boys at the Oddfellows Hall. St John's School building was

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[352] Gow, N. & B., 1974. 'Murringo Public School' in *News From Marengo 1860-1900.*
[353] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.65
[354] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. pp.14-15
[355] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha*. pp.16-22
[356] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.65
[357] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.120

demolished in January 1884.[358] A new public school was opened in August 1884. This building was constructed on the slopes of Camp Hill by Charles Hardy of Wagga. It included a headmaster's residence and a conspicuous Victorian Italianate tower.[359]

A Roman Catholic denominational school was also established during this period. Like many early Catholic schools it was housed in the original church building. Seventy children were attending the school when a meeting was held in 1870 to plan the construction of a dedicated Catholic school.[360] Five sisters of the Presentation Nuns arrived in Young on 17 July 1886 and opened the first convent school with 100 pupils. The school was previously conducted by secular teachers in the original timber and shingle roof church, which was opened in 1863, replacing the 1861 Bark Chapel. In 1874 this timber church/school had been moved to a new position west of the St Mary's church site, and it was here that the Presentation Sisters taught. This weatherboard building was demolished to make way for the Presentation Convent which was built in 1891 and opened on 14 February 1892.

In the 1920s, Young was the smallest town in Australia to boast a Christian Brothers College. Father Hennessey had opened a Catholic boys school in 1919 but it was staffed by lay teachers until the Christian Brothers arrived in 1925. The school was built of brick De La Salle style with interconnecting windows and doors to meet their rule of teaching in one area. St Joseph's Kindergarten opened in May 1934 to house junior pupils of the Roman Catholic denominational school. St Mary's War Memorial School was opened in March 1955 on the corner of Campbell and Dundas Streets.

In small outlying communities such as Milvale the Roman Catholic church, in this case St Brendan's, also served as a school. St Joseph's Catholic Church was opened in Boorowa Street, Koorawatha in 1894. In 1910 a group of teaching sisters from the order of St Joseph arrived in the town and moved into the presbytery in Hester Street. The sisters commenced classes in St Joseph's church on 10 October 1910 with 70 pupils attending. Construction of a new school near the convent commenced in October 1911. Mr Frost made bricks for the building in a brick kiln on Bergin's property. The building was ready for classes in 1912. Enrolment on the first day numbered 104. The school attracted children from around the district and operated at times as a boarding school. Teaching at this school was discontinued in 1959.[361]

The foundation stone for the Sacred Heart Convent in Murringo was laid on 28 November 1915 and Sisters of Mercy moved to Murringo to commence a Roman Catholic School in that village. A Convent school was eventually opened at the beginning of 1917. Forty-eight pupils, over half of the students from Marengo Public School, transferred to the new Convent school by March 1917.[362] Classes were originally held in the convent building. The Roman Catholic community spent years fundraising for a dedicated school building and a foundation stone was laid by Dr. Barry, Bishop of Goulburn on 5 May 1929.

[358] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.106-107
[359] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.107
[360] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.65
[361] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.69
[362] Gow, N. & B., 1974. 'Murringo Public School' in *News From Marengo 1860-1900*.

7.   Australian Historical Theme: Governing

This theme group 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.[363]

7.1   NSW Historical Theme: Defence

Young is one of the few places in Australia in which troops have been deployed to quell civil unrest. In February 1861 soldiers of the 12th Regiment of Foot and members of the Royal Artillery[364] arrived in the recently created town as part of the colonial government's response to the actions of militant gold miners (refer to **Section 7.3 Law and Order**). These troops camped in the area now occupied by Carrington Park and Young High School. These troops left Young in late May and early June of that year. Further outbreaks of civil unrest, including an attack on the police camp on 14 July 1861, led the colonial government to despatch a combined military and naval force drawn from the 12th Regiment of Foot and HMS Fawn to the town. The sailors returned to their ship in August but the infantry stayed on.[365] By July 1862, with the goldfields in decline and diggers moving on to other fields, the presence of the military was no longer required. On 31 July 1862, exactly one year after they had arrived the troops marched out of the town in full procession accompanied by a German band playing 'The Girl I Left Behind'[366].

As the town grew local citizen militias and military units were formed as part of the colonial government's defence plans. Rifle clubs were a significant component of these arrangements and these retained links with colonial and national defence forces. A committee for the establishment of a volunteer corps in Young was formed in March 1885 under the chairmanship of Mayor William Sharp.[367] On Boxing Day 1888 the Young Reserves held a rifle match against the Goulburn Volunteers followed by a dinner at the Australian Hotel. At the dinner toasts were drunk to, among other things, the dinner hosts Mr and Mrs Camillo Marina, colour sergeant Rennie and Lieutenant Millard.[368]

On New Year's Day 1899 the '1 Company Rifle Club's annual rifle competition and smoke night and concert in the drill hall' was attended by 100 men[369]. Men from the district enlisted to fight in the Boer War (1899-1902) and men and women fought in World War I and World War II and other Australian military actions. Local showgrounds were used as army camps and enlistment places at various times of national emergency.

In addition to the service of those who enlisted in the armed forces the people and government in the district played an active part in the defence of the country during World War II. In 1942 a feeder plant for the Lithgow Small Arms Factory was constructed in Boorowa Street, Young to manufacture small arms. Manufacture of rifles and machine guns was originally undertaken at Lithgow and by June 1942 this plant employed 5,058 workers. Plants at Bathurst and Orange employed 1,600 and 1,339. Together these factories were producing 200,000 rifles per year.

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[363] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[364] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.34
[365] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.47-48
[366] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.35
[367] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government*. p.34
[368] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.120
[369] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.263

In 1942 as part of a 'conscious policy of decentralisation' the Commonwealth Government opened smaller feeder factories in eight Central West towns with rail connections to Lithgow. These were Mudgee, Forbes, Wellington, Cowra, Young, Dubbo, Parkes and Portland.[370] The feeder factories, including Young, concentrated on the manufacture of parts for Lee Enfield .303 rifles[371]. In preparation for the establishment of the factory at Young classes in the Commonwealth Munitions Training Scheme were conducted on a part-time basis at the Young Technical School from May 1942[372]. The plant was opened on 22 February 1943 and employed 256 workers[373].

The expansion of small arms manufacture in the Central West had been a reaction to the crisis precipitated by Allied setbacks in the Middle East and the entry of Japan into the war in 1941-42. At the beginning of 1942 Australia had stood virtually alone with outside sources of defence materiel almost totally cut off. As this situation stabilised during the latter part of 1942 and early 1943 planners began to consider the need to scale back production of some items and increase others.

Plate 7.1: Silknit Building in Young was originally constructed to manufacture small arms components in World War II.

Reviews of munitions manufacture recommended an overall reduction of production capacity with much debate as to whether factories in the cities or in regional areas should be re-assigned for other purposes. It was decided that the Small Arms Factory in Young would be converted for clothing and textile manufacture[374].

In February 1944 women and children's underwear manufacturer Silknit commenced operations in the factory. The company installed 70 modern sewing machines that were sourced from the United States[375] and employed a staff of 200 to manufacture

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[370] Butlin, S. & Schevden, C., 1977. *War Economy 1942-1945*. p.67
[371] Griffiths, T., 2006, *Lithgow's Small Arms Factory and its People. Volume 1:1907-1950*. p.275
[372] National Archives of Australia. Item 6975346. Young, N.S.W. – Search against title – Site for Munitions Establishment.
[373] Griffiths, T., 2006, *Lithgow's Small Arms Factory and its People. Volume 1:1907-1950*. p.328
[374] Butlin, S. & Schevden, C., 1977. *War Economy 1942-1945*. p.399
[375] National Archives of Australia. Item 693383. Young New South Wales – Lease to Australian Silknit Ltd

cotton clothing for troops in New Guinea and South-East Asia. 'Following the war the factory switched to peacetime production.'[376]

In early 1942 a committee was formed under a Commonwealth Ministry of Munitions scheme to manufacture parts for military equipment in local motor garages. This programme, co-ordinated locally by managers of the Young Flour Milling Company, manufactured Bren carrier parts at the Flour Mills and the premises of C. Watson, E. Tuck, Norman's Garage, Ryrie's Garage and E. Clayton. It continued until the end of hostilities.[377]

During 1939 the British and Australian governments established a Wool Advisory Committee to co-ordinate the marketing and distribution of wool in Australia and London[378]. Under the control of this organisation wool was valued according to type and growers were paid accordingly. Prices were an improvement on those paid pre-war and growers were paid a bonus at the end of hostilities.[379]

Units of the Volunteer Defence Corps were established in the district during World War II. Membership consisted of men who had previous military experience but were unfit for front line service by 1939. Men working in protected occupations also joined the Volunteer Defence Corps. Caleb (Kay) Sackett, a local orchardist (refer to **Section 3.1 Agriculture**) and veteran of World War I, was commander of this unit. He was highly regarded by his men.[380]

> *On parade, the unit met at Young Showground and carried out drills, learned the workings of machine guns etc, ... Some weeks we went to the rifle range for target practice with our .310 rifles which were leftovers from the Boer War. Later we were issued with .303 rifles, then standard equipment.*[381]

Civil defence arrangements included the swearing in of Special Constables who were issued with armbands and possibly side arms. The Special Constables were given the responsibility of taking control of towns if the area was invaded. Edward Shumack and John Larson were appointed as Senior Constables in Koorawatha.[382]

The Women's Land Army was quite active in the district, assisting with local fruit and grain production and members of the Land Army camped at the Young Showground during the war. In addition to this Italian prisoners of war were billeted onto farms in the Young district from 1943 onwards (refer to **Section 7.1.1 Italian Prisoners of War**). Local people also remember motor vehicles fitted with gas producer units or reverted to using horses for everyday transport to reduce dependence on oil which was a precious strategic resource.

7.1.1   Italian prisoners of war 1943-1946

Following the spectacular military successes of British Empire forces in North Africa in 1940 British authorities were saddled with responsibility for 130,000 Italian prisoners of war. The majority of these prisoners were transported to camps in Australia, India, South Africa and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

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[376] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.153
[377] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.153
[378] Hasluck, P., *The Government and The People 1939-1941.* p.145
[379] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.115
[380] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.103
[381] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.99
[382] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha.* p.98

Initially Italian prisoners sent to Australia were housed in large prisoner of war camps. Soldiers below the rank of officer were given farming and construction tasks in various areas. By 1943 Australia was experiencing a deteriorating supply of manpower. At this time British authorities in India requested that Australia consider taking an additional 20,000 prisoners of war to assist in overcoming this problem. The Australian government considered this matter and in April 1943 gave approval for small groups of Italian prisoners of war to be employed on individual farms. The prisoners were to be paid by the employing farmers and provided with accommodation and food.

To administer this program Prisoner of War Control Centres (PWCCs) were established in regional centres. Each Control Centre was operated by:

> *... an army complement of seven whose task was to supply prisoners with their needs, maintain supervision and deal with employers' complaints and liaise with police in the event of a POW running away. Up to 200 Italians were to be placed with private employers on farms within a radius of 40 kilometres from each Control Centre.*[383]

Initial PWCCs were established at Parkes, Coonabarabran and Orange in June 1943. A Control Centre was established at Young in March 1944. This operated until November 1945.[384]

Prisoners of war were employed at a cost of £1 per week to the host farm. The employer was also required to provide full board and lodging in accommodation approved by the Department of Defence, and suitable clothing for work[385]. Each PWCC was responsible for a minimum of 100 POWs allocated to farms. Officers from the PWCC visited farms to inspect the conditions and conduct of prisoners and resolve disputes. A truck from the PWCC travelled to farms, distributing pay to the prisoners and providing them with mail, sweets, tobacco, and clothing.

In most cases the prisoners of war and their employer families developed strong and positive relationships. After repatriation to Italy at the end of the war many returned to Australia as migrants.

7.2 NSW Historical Theme: Government and administration

The face of government first presented itself at Lambing Flat in December 1861 in the form of Gold Commissioner David Dickson. Dickson was closely followed by Captain Zouch with eight mounted police and two detectives (refer to **Section 7.3 Law and Order**).[386] After establishing the government Camp on elevated ground on the southern side of Burrangong Creek Dickson set about the task of establishing a safe deposit place for gold, 'marked lines of road', issuing miners' licences and adjudicating on grievances between miners[387].

The first locally organised efforts at civic improvement appear to have involved the establishment of a Progress Committee in 1862. It was reported in May of that year that the committee was in communication with various government departments in relation to a number of proposed improvements, including:

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[383] Fitzgerald, A. 1981. *The Italian Farming Soldiers*. p.33
[384] Fitzgerald, A. 1981. *The Italian Farming Soldiers*. p.173
[385] Fitzgerald, A. 1981. *The Italian Farming Soldiers*. pp.34-35
[386] McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.15
[387] McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.16

- Construction of a bridge over Burrangong Creek,
- Improvements to the hospital,
- Erection of a post office,
- Establishment of a district court,
- Increase in the number of police,
- Establishment of a Court of Appeal,
- Definition of the boundary of Chinese diggings,
- Appointment of an Inspector of Weights and Measures,
- Appointment of an Assistant to the Postmaster,
- Forming the streets of Young.[388]

During the 1870s various approaches were made to incorporate Young as a municipality. The Borough of Young was finally incorporated in 1882 and an election held for the first group of Aldermen held on 17 October 1882. Following much debate the municipal boundary was set at the area encompassing 'the whole of the Municipal boundary as it is today'.[389]

Borough Council meetings were initially held in the sample room at Turland's Royal Hotel located on the corner of Boorowa and Lynch Streets. From these rather inadequate premises the Council made successful representations for the construction of a railway line from Harden and construction of a new courthouse. They also obtained land to be dedicated as a reserve and made the momentous and extraordinarily visionary decision to install electric street and domestic lighting (refer **Section 4.4.4 Electricity**). This second decision was to make 'Young the first town in the British Empire to have both its buildings and streets lit by electricity.[390]

Council purchased the Mechanics Institute building in Boorowa Street in 1888 including the half-acre of land on the western side of the building. Extensive alterations were immediately carried out and the building was enlarged and made into the Town Hall. Electricity generating plant for the town lighting system was installed behind this building. The Governor of N.S.W., His Excellency Lord Carrington visited Young on 11 December 1889 and officially opened the building and at 7 p.m. he switched on the town's electricity supply.[391] The lighting system had been in operation since 15 April 1889[392].

Young continued to grow and by 1895 municipality covered 3,460 acres and had an estimated population of 2,500 who lived in 641 dwellings. Before 1900 several of the original bridges over Burrangong Creek had been replaced and plans were in train to develop a new hospital.[393]

While the Borough Council continued to undertake improvements within the town of Young and to lobby government for increased services the area surrounding Young was left without direct local government until 1906. Burrangong Shire Council was established in that year after the passage of the Local Government Act. Councillors were appointed to the provisional Shire Council in June 1906 and elections held in November. Following the creation of the Burrangong Shire the name of the Borough of Young Council was changed to Young Municipal Council.[394]

[388] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.3
[389] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.6
[390] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.7
[391] History of the Library Service [Online].
[392] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.7
[393] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.8
[394] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* pp.8-9

> *Over the next seventy-four years Young Municipal Council and the*
> *Burrangong Shire Council, worked in unison for the general improvement and*
> *growth of the Young district as a whole, with numerous joint projects and*
> *ventures. Especially in times of hardship during WWI, the depression of the*
> *1930's, WWII and various times of drought.*[395]

Young Municipal Council and Burrangong Shire Council shared offices in the former Mechanics Institute building in Boorowa Street. During the 1920s the municipal council considered expanding its premises, which were described as by one Alderman as 'an antiquated dog-box that is a disgrace to the progressive township of Young'. In 1922 it was decided to incorporate a war memorial into an expanded town hall. New offices were built on the south-western side of the old Mechanics Institute building with a Soldiers' Memorial Tower connecting the two buildings. A bronze statue of a soldier 'on the alert' was set in a niche at the base of the tower.[396] The model for this soldier is reputed to have been local veteran Len Powderly. The extensions were unveiled on 31 May 1924[397].

Plate 7.2: The Soldiers' Memorial Tower erected in 1923.

As the 20th century progressed the two Councils grappled with the issues of improving roads and services within the municipality and the shire. The Young Bushfire Brigade was formed in the 1930s and the establishment of the Young Cool Stores was supported by both Councils. The Young Municipal Baths were opened in 1934 and by the 1940s a sewage system had been installed in the town. By '1944 the district

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[395] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.9
[396] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.10
[397] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.10

boasted a population of 10,320' with 4,320 living in the town and 6,000 in the Burrangong Shire.[398]

In 1952 the Burrangong Shire constructed its own offices in Lovell Street. This allowed the Young Municipal Council to remodel its own offices to provide much needed additional space. Remodelling of the Town Hall was completed in 1956 and in the late 1950s the Council set about remodelling of the business district of Young. The Young Municipal Council and Burrangong Shire amalgamated in 1980 and in 1981 'almost half a million dollars was spent upgrading' the Young Town Hall to accommodate the combined administration. Internal walls were removed and shops in the building's ground floor were removed to create more offices. Prior to this modification these shops had hosted the Salvation Army, Senior Citizens and the California Café. Further work on the building was required in 1987 to mediate the effects of rising damp and repair leaks in the roof. [399]

7.3   NSW Historical Theme: Law and order

A number of events and associations have given prominence to Young in the story of Australia. The Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots are perhaps the most notorious of these. The second most notorious association relates to the presence of a number of 'colourful characters' on the Lambing Flat gold field in the early 1860s. These characters included bushrangers Frank Gardiner and Johnny Gilbert.

Gardiner and Gilbert were not the first bushrangers to roam the Burrangong district. As in other parts of the colony the first wave of bushranging was perpetrated by escaped convicts. Sarah Musgrave noted that James White's original house at Burrangong was fitted with loopholes to act as defensive firing points against attacks by Aboriginals and bushrangers[400].

Between 1842 and 1844 a pair named Scotchey and Witton roamed the district after absconding from Waugoola station[401]. Their preferred method of operation appears to have been to approach an unsuspecting station or isolated home and bail up the occupants. They were threatened with firearms and lined up by one of the pair while the other searched the house for valuables. Sarah Musgrave described their attack on Burrangong station:

> *They took us all outside and put us in a row. One of the bushrangers kept guard over us with a loaded gun, while the other ransacked the house and gathered up anything of value to them ... us children were crying as hard as we could. The outlaw keeping guard gave me and Eliza 2lb. of bullseye lollies and we stopped crying at once.[402]*

Scotchey and Whitton apparently had a base in a cave in the Weddin Mountains. The thick bush of these hills protected them from detection.[403] Scotchey was killed by his comrades after he was wounded in a gun battle with Mr Fry, overseer of a station near Crookwell, and an old convict hut-keeper[404]. Witton was eventually captured and hanged in Goulburn[405].

[398] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.10
[399] Lamb, M, & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.11
[400] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* p.14
[401] White, C., 1970. History of Australian Bushranging Vol.1. p.177
[402] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* p.10
[403] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* p.12
[404] White, C., 1970. History of Australian Bushranging Vol.1. p.186
[405] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* p.11

Some aspects of life on the frontier tended towards violence as Aborigines and settlers jostled for control of the land. Sarah Musgrave provided one account of the excesses visited on the Aboriginal population by the Native Police (refer to **Section 2.1 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures**).

Contemporary accounts of gold rush Young record the activities of gangs of 'rowdies' and sly grog sellers. An initial absence of official law enforcement on the gold fields led to the creation of a 'Vigilance Committee' comprised of 'well-disposed persons'. The members of this committee set about tearing down shanties and smashing kegs of illegal liquor.[406] These events occurred just after the arrival of the first police contingent in the district in December 1860. This party consisted of eight mounted police and two detectives under the command of Captain Zouch. Zouch and Gold Commissioner Dickson (refer to **Section 7.2 Government and Administration**) established a government Camp on the site of the present Young High School. A police barracks and 'a very solid lock-up' were constructed on this site.[407]

Mark Hammond described in detail the activities of the 'Donegallers' who seemed to be present on a number of the New South Wales gold fields and 'carried terror with them wherever they went'[408]. The Donegallers seemed particularly fond of targeting persons of Australian birth. According to Hammond:

> *They moved about at night in gangs, and if they had a set on anyone they would single him out for an attack. ... One night they marched down to the residence of Crisp, the banker, a man who had refused them credit. He was in bed. They broke into the place, pulled him out and left him for dead, with a broken jawbone, from which he never properly recovered.*[409]

The gold rushes saw the return of bushranging to the district. Contemporary accounts regard Frank Gardiner as the 'father' of bushranging in the region in the 1860s[410]. He was born Francis Christie in Scotland in 1830 and grew up at Boro near Goulburn. In 1850 he was convicted of horse stealing in Victoria and escaped from Pentridge Gaol, returning to New South Wales. He was convicted of another horse stealing offence at Goulburn in 1854 under the name of Francis Clarke. He was given a ticket-of-leave in 1859 and by 1860[411] was supplying meat to 'a butcher's shop on Upper Spring Creek' at Lambing Flat[412].

Gardiner continued his illegal activities at Young, eventually joining up with Johnny Gilbert, Ben Hall and Johnny O'Meally. O'Meally was described by Mark Hammond as a 'cold-blooded cut throat'[413]. Like Scotchey and Witton before them the gang made a hide-out in the Weddin Mountains. The opinion of people who lived in the district during this indicates that popular opinion regarded Gardiner as a corrupting influence and Ben Hall, at least, as a victim of police persecution.

It appears that a number of the young men who rode with Gardiner originally entered on a life of crime out of a sense of adventure or youthful bravado, later regretting their

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[406] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll-Up*. p.20
[407] McGregor, H.&K., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.16
[408] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.76
[409] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.82
[410] White, C., 1970. *History of Australian Bushranging Vol.1*. p.203
[411] Gardiner, Francis (Frank) (1830-c.1903) [Online]
[412] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.84
[413] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.106

decisions. Sarah Musgrave recalled a conversation with Johnny Gilbert in her home at Burrangong in April 1863. She asked him what made him take up bushranging and whether he could not pursue another course. Gilbert replied:

> *"No. We are in it now and we can't get out of it. I tried to break away from Gardiner ... I didn't like him, nor did I like the bushranging game. ... There is nothing for me now, only to lose my head ... I haven't a chance."*[414]

Sarah Musgrave noted that Burrangong Station was a favourite haunt of the bushrangers 'because of its seclusion and the fine supply of horses that were kept in the paddocks'. On the night Gilbert was shot at Binalong he was riding 'Harkaway, a valued saddle horse stolen from Burrangong Station. She stated emphatically: "I firmly believe that there would have been no bushrangers but for Gardiner."[415]

Much has been written and conjectured about the Lambing Flat riots. A number of eyewitness accounts exist of events associated with the riots and tension and conflict between European and Chinese miners has been documented on other alluvial goldfields. Conflict came early to Lambing Flat when miners of European origin broke up the camp of a group of Chinese prospectors in November 1860. This appears to have been an isolated violent incident and organised agitation against the Chinese did not occur until early 1861.[416] Numbers of miners increased dramatically and by January 1861 European miners felt sufficiently threatened by the numbers of Chinese miners arriving to call a meeting 'to consider whether this is an European diggings or a Mongolian territory'[417].

The meeting, held near Golden Point on Sunday 27 January 1861, was attended by fifteen hundred diggers. Commissioner Dickson was also present with 'seven troopers and detectives Carns and Scarlett. The meeting was chaired by Charles Allen who stated that: "All we want is to get rid of the Chinamen as quietly as possible". J.B. Stewart, originally a weaver from Paisley in Scotland, gave a rousing and at times provocative speech in which he advocated expulsion of the Chinese from the field. At the same time he stated: "But, gentlemen, I would strongly advise you to keep within the bounds of the law and commit no breach of the peace".[418]

Regardless of this and the cautionary words of Commissioner Dixon the diggers chose to take the law into their own hands.[419] Mark Hammond regretfully described the actions of diggers in February 1861:

> *... the miners ... rushed the Chinese camp at Oppossum Flat, and there brutally ill-used them. Without a minute's notice they had to gather together whatever they could; their tents and stores were set fire to; their windlasses pitched into the shafts; and they themselves were driven before a howling mob like a flock of sheep. What the Chinese were unable to carry away, others did, who remained behind to plunder. They were followed by the miners through the town and up Blackguard Gully, and there for miles on the road to Burrawa. The rioters only returned from the hunt when the shades of evening began to come over them.[420]*

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[414] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.68
[415] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.69
[416] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.38
[417] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.39
[418] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.39-40
[419] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. pp.71-72
[420] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.72

He also described the ill-treatment of sick Chinese miners and the plunder of their possessions[421]. Many of the Chinese hunted from the field took refuge Burrangong, Currawong and Wambanumba stations. Lambing Flat remained in an agitated state for some weeks and Captain Zouch arrived with 15 extra mounted troopers to reinforce the police already on the diggings[422]. The miners gathered over 3,000 signatures for a petition seeking exclusion of the Chinese from Lambing Flat. This was given to Commissioner Cloete who forwarded it to Sydney. Two days after the presentation of the petition on 12 February 1861 the colonial Parliament considered a Bill to regulate Chinese immigration.[423]

Later in February, at a meeting held in Tom Walsh's store, about 80 miners formed the Miners Protective League for 'the mutual protection of … lives and property' and to address miners' grievances. J.B. Stewart as elected president and Charles Allen secretary. Meetings were held at Spring Creek and Stoney Creek to recruit members and the League published a manifesto of demands in March 1861. Members of the league, including James Torpy cautioned the government against allowing the Chinese to return. [424]

The government decided at the same time that Chinese miners should be allowed to return to the goldfield as, under the law, they had equal rights to the Europeans to prospect for gold. Commissioner Cloete decided to allow the Chinese to return to a section of Blackguard Gully. As Chinese miners began to return to Lambing Flat hysteria began to mount within the European community. A brawl developed between Europeans and Chinese in Blackguard Gully. When police arrived they arrested 'fourteen or fifteen alleged rioters – all Europeans', and gathered 'some witnesses – all Chinese'. In response to the arrests European miners gathered in mobs and paraded through the streets of Young. It was estimated that up to 6,000 men, many of them armed, were involved in sporadic hooliganism and attempts to intimidate the police.[425]

In response the colonial government, fearing a breakdown in law and order, 'decided to dispatch a body of troops to the scene. A force of 120 men of the 12th Regiment of Foot, 43 artillerymen with two 12 pound howitzers and 21 mounted police left Sydney in ten chartered omnibuses on 25 February 1861. This force was commanded by Captain Atkinson. [426] Premier Cowper and John Robertson also travelled to Lambing Flat to enquire into the miners' grievances and attempt to resolve the situation[427].

Prior to the arrival of the military Cowper held a number of meetings with the miners and the leaders of their League and he was generally very well received. Despite his oratory they were not moved in their opposition to the presence of Chinese miners on the field. Before his departure he instructed Gold Commissioner Cloete 'to have a furrow ploughed around the richer areas of the field'. The Chinese were prohibited from crossing this furrow. One half of Blackguard Gully was made available to the Chinese miners.[428] The field generally quietened and the military were withdrawn on 23 May 1861[429].

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[421] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.72
[422] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.44
[423] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.45
[424] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.47-48
[425] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.48-49
[426] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.52-53
[427] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.54
[428] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.64
[429] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.66

The situation was generally quiet until news arrived on Lambing Flat that a large group of Chinese miners at Native Dog Creek near Canowindra had attacked some Europeans who were trespassing on their claims. On 30 June 1861 a roll up of 1,000 to 2,000 miners, incensed by a further rumour that 'fifteen hundred Mongolians had landed in Sydney, and armed with sticks, pick handles and gun, gathered to act against the Chinese. This mob moved towards Victoria Hill and Back Creek, destroying Chinese property in its path and severely beating many of the Chinese miners in the area.[430]

Initially the police did little to quell the violence but, following orders to arrest 'everyone of the ringleaders … who could be apprehended', arrested three men on Sunday 14 July. Late in the day a mob gathered in Tipperary Gully and the members of a brass band rounded up to lead up to 1,000 incensed miners towards the police camp on the southern side of Burrangong Creek.[431] The miners, variously armed with 'shot guns, horse pistols, revolvers, rifles, long knives' and sticks[432], carried before them the famous 'Roll Up' banner. The large mob reached the police camp in rain and gathering darkness and their leaders asked for the release of the three prisoners.

After Captain Zouch refused the miners' demand they rushed the police camp where Commissioner Griffen and police troopers had formed a protective line in front of the police lockup. According to some reports Griffen read the Riot Act as the crowd approached. The police fired above the advancing mob and in consequence two men were killed.[433] These were 'William Lupton, a miner and a Punch and Judy showman' who was struck by a stray bullet[434].

Most of the crowd dispersed while some miners stayed behind logs and trees on the slopes of the hill and traded desultory fire with the police. This exchange went on for about two hours in very dark and wet conditions before the rioters finally withdrew. Three police and some miners were wounded in the exchanges.[435]

With only 50 officers and a number of special constables, and in the face of ongoing threats, Zouch felt vulnerable in his position. After sending a gold escort to Sydney he withdrew most of the police to Yass to await further orders. In the absence of the police miners' leader William Spicer encouraged the maintenance of law and order, threatening to punish looting by death. A miners' militia of up to 400 men was formed and a Vigilance Committee established to police the town.[436]

The government, fearing further unrest, dispatched as many police and military personnel from Sydney as it could muster. This contingent consisted of 112 men of the 12th Regiment of Foot under the command of Captain Wilkie, 60 sailors and marines a field piece from HMS Fawn and additional foot police. They arrived on 31 July and order was restored to the gold field.[437]

A court house had been constructed on Camp Hill. This was destroyed in the riot of July 1861. A replacement court house was completed in July 1862. This building had

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[430] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.67-68
[431] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.76-78
[432] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.78
[433] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.78
[434] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.79
[435] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.79-80
[436] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.80-86
[437] McGregor, H. & J., 1999. *Roll Up*. pp.91-96

timber walls and a shingle roof. By 1865 the shingles has deteriorated and the building was described as not weatherproof and by 1870 the building was being criticised as being generally in disrepair. The need for establishment of quarter sessions at Young led to the construction of a new court house on the corner of Lynch and Cloete Streets in 1874.[438] This building was opened in July 1878[439].

A grand new court house was proposed to be constructed on the corner of the police paddock on Camp Hill in the 1880s. Despite objections from the citizens of Young construction of this building proceeded in 1884. It was constructed 'by Gough and Co of Young at a cost of £12,000' and opened in April 1886. The building was described as 'very large and majestic and very inconvenient' and a 'monument to government extravagance'. Most court proceedings continued in the older building in Lynch Street.[440] In 1923 Judge Bevan proposed that all court proceedings be held in the Lynch Street court house. This building was extended and the grand court house was re-opened as Young Intermediate High School on 29 April 1925.[441]

Young Gaol opened in 1876 and at the time would have housed approximately 50 prisoners and 40 wardens. It was designed to accommodate 90 inmates. The gaol had three wells, one of which was 70 feet deep and was used to supply water for washing and the gaol's large vegetable garden. Trades, including saddlery, tailoring, bookbinding, brush making, tinware and shoe repairs, were taught in the gaol. The facility also had a large library. By 1903 the gaol was hosting an average of 31.6 prisoners and was costing £2,259 per year to operate.[442] It was closed in 1914, with inmates and wardens being offered the option of joining the armed forces. It was re-opened in 1918 as branch of Parramatta Gaol for habitual offenders. The gaol was closed permanently in 1923 despite local petitions to keep it operating.

7.4   NSW Historical Theme: Welfare

The concept of welfare as a function of government developed from liberal and socialist philosophies of the 19th century. The desire to create a society characterised by fairness and a just allocation of resources was one of the defining notions of the federated nation that was established on the Australian continent in 1901. This was a utopian notion that, in the eyes of many, failed to eventuate.

During the 19th century and much of the early 20th century welfare was provided by benevolent institutions, the churches and friendly societies such as the Order of Oddfellows. During the 20th century government became increasingly involved in the provision of welfare services.

Aboriginal Australians experienced one of the earliest exercises of a government sponsored welfare system. The NSW Aborigines Protection Board was established in 1883. This was the instrument of a philosophy that encouraged separation of Aboriginal people from mainstream society. This was a system of control. Aboriginal people were not permitted to drink in hotels and a curfew applied to their visits to towns such as Young.

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[438] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.52-53
[439] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.55
[440] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.108-109
[441] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.170
[442] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.109

From the mid 20th century this system of exclusion and separation was gradually broken down as prevailing government philosophies changed. From the late 1940s the system was altered to encourage Aboriginal people to move to town.

The Great depression, which began in 1929, led to massive unemployment across the country. Unemployed men wandered the countryside in search of work. Local news reports included regular stories of these 'bagmen' illegally riding goods trains. In giving evidence on such a case in Goulburn Police Court in October 1933 Police Constable Munro observed that: "There must be a million bagmen at Young already. Everyone of them says he is going there cherry picking".[443]

In Young the local Unemployed Association organised 'collections of mutton, vegetables, fruit and anything of a useful nature' for distribution to the households of local unemployed people. The Young Witness stated that:

> *… farmers and orchardists and householders generally are very generous, and donations of sheep, fruit and bags of flour have been readily given. In a district teeming with abundance there is no reason why people should starve and the Unemployed are doing the right thing in organizing to help themselves.*[444]

In response to high levels of local unemployment governments developed systems for the delivery of social welfare and to utilise unemployed people on infrastructure projects. Local councils were actively involved in the delivery of emergency relief work.

The Burrowa News of 1 February 1935 announced the allocation of funds for 'boots and clothing for the unemployed' to be distributed through local unemployment relief depots as follows:

- One pair of braces, one pair of boots and one pair of socks for men and boys,
- One dress length (of fabric), one singlet, one pair of shoes and one pair of stockings for women and girls.[445]

Provision of welfare and relief during the Great Depression was not solely the domain of government. In an extension of the longstanding tradition of offering travelling rations (refer to **Section 5.1 Labour**) property owners and those in work provided sustenance to unemployed people travelling the roads. According to Charles Robinson '… there was a hut about a mile north of Springview homestead beside the stockroute, where many swagmen camped before coming up to the house for a handout'[446].

Government assistance during the depression was not confined to handouts. The Department of Mineral Resources provided subsidies to consortia of businesspeople to undertake mineral exploration. One local syndicate conducted drilling operations searching for oil 'in the mountain gap between Koorawatha and Young'. This group sought a subsidy but were refused.[447]

During the Great Depression Crowther School became unwillingly involved in the provision of relief to unemployed people. In 1932 Senior Constable Chitty of

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[443] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo*. p.122
[444] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo*. p.42
[445] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo*. p.154
[446] Robinson, C., 1994. "One of These Days …". p.88
[447] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.186

Koorawatha was called to the school to investigate damage caused by swagmen who had taken up residence in the school building.[448]

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[448] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.98

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 political 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 – the 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 categories of economy or workplace.[449]

8.1 NSW Historical Theme: Creative endeavour

Creativity has no formal boundary. Our society generally recognises a divide between the professionally creative and amateurs. In the working communities of regional areas creativity has often been expressed as an extension of daily life. Some residents of these areas have followed creative professions while many members of the community have worked beyond their normal occupations to provide pleasure and entertainment to others. **Section 8.3 Leisure** includes description of community activities such as dances and balls, which involved creative endeavour.

The Young Philharmonic Society was established in 1908 with 100 artists performing under the baton of W.F. Roberts. The Young Musical and Dramatic Society began performances in 1938 but its activities were curtailed by World War II. Re-formed in 1947 the society had a short life and was re-formed again in 1954.[450]

In 1926 Young received some notoriety as the venue for filming a silent epic film *The Birth of White Australia*. Produced by Phil K. Walsh for Dominion Films this film sought to depict the events of the Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riot of 1861 with much filming occurring around Young and its former gold diggings. Distribution of the film suffered from the advent of talking movies in 1929.[451]

8.2 NSW Historical Theme: Domestic Life

A number of histories of the region recall the rhythms of domestic life and the recurring task required to maintain a household. These rhythms swing around the relentless battles to feed families and maintain an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene. Scientific discoveries of the 19th century highlighted the need for domestic cleanliness to fight disease or the possibility of disease. During that century cleanliness came to be associated with moral virtue. The most despised in society were most often assessed in terms of perception of their cleanliness with 'moral sensibility' being presumed to be 'governed by the same mechanisms as physiological health'. Under this paradigm 'a poor or sick person' was considered 'likely to be an evil person'[452]. The antithesis of this was the notion that 'cleanliness is next to godliness'. Regardless of circumstances most women took great pride in the presentation of their houses.

There are many accounts of cooking with camp ovens on open fires well into the 20th century. Relative prosperity translates into the sophistication of domestic working arrangements. The wealthy have always employed servants or contractors to handle

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[449] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[450] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.177
[451] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.176
[452] Upton, D., 1992 'The City as Material Culture'. p.61

difficult or unpleasant domestic tasks. Retailers have long prospered selling appliances to reduce the drudgery of domestic toil. The expansion of electricity supply mid 20th century created markets for newer innovations and introduced much modern gadgetry to the area.

In the days before refrigeration was available in homes the challenge of preserving meat created much work for households. Charles Robinson recalled that, during his youth, his family slaughtered a sheep once a week. Part of the sheep was cooked and the remainder salted. Salting involved either soaking the meat in brine or rubbing it down with a mixture of salt and herbs. The meat was turned and re-rubbed each day until it was used. Mutton was also minced to make pies. In winter the family killed one or two pigs. These were dry salted and smoked with gum leaves. After smoking the pieces were hung in the kitchen ceiling where the smoke from the fuel stove gave it more colour and flavour.[453]

Much analysis of gendered spaces within homes has been undertaken in recent decades. Whilst informative many of these analyses seem to come from an upper class perspective that failed to recognise the role of the back door as the 'normal' entrance to most Australian homes or the importance of the kitchen as a gathering place. Sound archaeological analyses of the use of space within the homes of working people recognise the importance of the kitchen as a place of warmth in winter and a place of light for all kinds of close work.[454]

In most Australian homes the front door was a place to meet the representatives of authority, the policeman or the minister and the parlour or lounge was only used to entertain such figures, or to lay out the bodies of the newly deceased.

The introduction of radio, whether powered by mains electricity or a car battery, or a crystal set, tended to reinforce the role of the kitchen as a gathering place. Over time the radio tended to move into the living room and television, when introduced, was often regarded as such a status symbol that it was given pride of place in the living room.

House design in the 20th century tended to alter to reflect the advantages of domestic innovations. Kitchens moved into the main building and by the 1920s housing designers were promoting the 'servantless' house that included the modern innovations of electric or gas hot water and cooking, and electric house cleaning. When Young Municipal Council reduced its domestic electricity tariff in 1925 it announced that this reduction would 'permit of the economical use of a number of labor and time-saving domestic appliances, particularly Electric Cooking Stoves.' The Young Chronicle challenged Council to 'take steps to assist the housewives of Young to eliminate drudgery, reduce working hours, make her work a pleasure and save money' by introducing a time payment scheme for the purchase of domestic appliances.[455]

The Californian Bungalow of the same era invariably included the innovation of a low-walled sleepout or sleeping porch to facilitate the Australian practice of sleeping on camp beds outside an oppressively overheated house on hot summer nights.[456]

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[453] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ...".* pp.62-63
[454] Casey, M., 2004. 'Falling through the Cracks: Method and Practice at the CSR Site, Pyrmont'. pp.35-40
[455] The Young Chronicle, 13 October, 1925.
[456] Butler, G., 1997. *The Californian Bungalow in Australia.* pp.18-19

The built environment of the Young Shire reflects changes in the use of materials and in fashions of domestic design. In the early 1860s gold miners erected tents and other makeshift structures and as the town of Young developed sawn timber became a commonly used material. This was supplemented by brick as production of this material began to be undertaken locally. Many surviving early buildings in rural areas were constructed from stone. Early settlers and later selectors built homes of slab and pise. Charles Robinson described his grandparents' home, built in 1879 at *Rosemont*, Monteagle by his grandfather William Robinson:

> *He selected this property … and built a two roomed unlined, un ceiled house made of narrow, sawn slabs. This building still stood until about 1950.*[457]

Young contains many homes constructed with locally manufactured bricks. Millards conducted a successful brickmaking and building enterprise for many years.

8.3   NSW Historical Theme: Leisure

Leisure activities were and are often communal occasions that have great importance in the life and development of all communities. Historically such activities have included picnics, sporting events (refer **Section 8.6 Sport**), amateur theatricals and dances. In the days before mass media people tended to make their own entertainments that were often seasonal or planned around specific events such as Christmas, Queen Victoria's Birthday (later Empire Day) or community organised carnivals.

Hotels and public houses have long been places of leisure. These establishments have hosted dances and dinners, and continue to be popular places for people to socialise. Camillo Marina's Australian Hotel was a favoured venue for civic functions in Young in the late 19th century. On Boxing Day 1888 the Young Reserves held a rifle match against the Goulburn Volunteers followed by a dinner at the Australian Hotel. At the dinner toasts were drunk to, among other things, the dinner hosts Mr and Mrs Camillo Marina, colour sergeant Rennie and Lieutenant Millard.[458] When a delegation from Redfern Municipal Council travelled to Young in July 1889 to inspect the town's electric light system they were booked into 'Camillo Marina's Australian Hotel that was entirely lit by electricity'[459]. On the evening of 26 July they were treated to a dinner in the hotel's sample room. On the following night refreshments were served at the hotel for the visiting representatives of Redfern and Cowra Councils[460]. Camillo Marina was also contracted to provide the refreshments for the town hall reception held on the visit of Lord Carrington in December 1889[461].

Balls and dances played an important role in bringing communities together. Accounts of the Burrangong goldfields include descriptions of concerts and dances, with many public houses operating theatres or dance halls to attract patronage and boost trade. German bands, comprising three or four brass instruments and a drum, were favoured.

> *Of necessity most dancing couples were men, and, wrote an observer, "it was a strange sight to see forty or fifty couples of men, in their muddy clothes and heavy boots, solemnly dancing the Mazurka".*[462]

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[457] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days …"*. p.10
[458] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.120
[459] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.148
[460] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.154
[461] Forbes, W., 2003. *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.165
[462] McGregor, M. & J., 1999. *Roll-Up*. p.27

The shortage of women on the goldfield led to some publicans importing young women to partner their patrons.

> *The girls were engaged in Sydney and Melbourne "not for their dancing qualifications, but for their personal appearance". They were paid by the proprietor to dance with his patrons and to encourage them to spend money at the bar. Sunday was a free night. On all other evenings they were on duty from eight to midnight. As there was only a handful of them they seldom sat out a dance ... they were supplied with three pairs of dancing shoes a week.*[463]

Race meetings took on a carnival atmosphere. A three-day meeting held in 1861 was accompanied by 'Punch ringing out his beautiful music, the fattest girl in the colony being exhibited, quoits, wrestling and the noble art of self-defence, shown in all its glory'[464]. Visiting theatrical companies drew large crowds to hotel ballrooms and by July 1861 the town had its own Amateur Dramatic Association. Visiting circuses, travelling boxing shows and various games of chance also provided popular entertainments[465].

Travelling entertainments continued to be popular well into the 20th century and many local halls served as venues for various amusements. The itinerant life of travelling performers was often quite harsh. During one particularly harsh winter William Robinson of Monteagle noticed a group of caravans drawn up alongside the road in the travelling stock route. On inquiring regarding their circumstances he was told that:

> *The cold, wet winter had reduced their 'houses' so drastically they were now 'broke'. In addition, some members of the troupe were very ill and it seemed that they had reached the end of their tether.*[466]

William took them to his house and 'put the sick folk to bed'. He and his wife nursed them back to health and, on their recovery, arranged for local work. The entertainers held a show for the town before moving on. They visited regularly from that time on, 'bringing presents for Grandma and putting on an impromptu concert'.[467]
Circuses regularly visited the district, providing thrilling entertainments and rare glimpses into the great diversity of the human and natural worlds. The Wirths' Circus tour of September 1932 included:

> *The Great Aloys Peters, the greatest sensation of the world, in his thrilling dive of 75 feet with his head in a hangman's noose; ... Kazberg's wonderful troupe of Russian Cossacks, ... the Four Uessems, the world's greatest hand and head balancers specially engaged from ancient Rome ...; the greatest performing white polar and brown bear act in the world ... trained horses and ponies, ... elephants and wild animals and the wonderful Wirth Family.*[468]

Town and village shows were also popular sources of entertainment. Sideshow alleys featured a variety of freak shows and vaudeville entertainments such as the horned

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[463] McGregor, H & J., 1999. *Roll-Up*. p.27
[464] McGregor, H & J., 1999. *Roll-Up*. p.29
[465] McGregor, H & J., 1999. *Roll-Up*. p.28
[466] Robinson, C., 1994. "One of These Days …". p.8
[467] Robinson, C., 1994. "One of These Days …". p.9
[468] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo*. p.101

horse (half bull, half Shetland pony), "Jolly Ray" – the world's fattest girl, a man eating a motor car, a fossilised mermaid and Vanessa the Undresser[469].

Travelling boxing troupes were a regular feature of Australian shows. The beat of a drum ringing out across the showground was a clarion to the call "Who'll take a glove?", leading young men to try their strength, courage and skill against young hopefuls or former champions[470]. During hard times the prize money from tent bouts was a much sought after. For more information on boxing shows see **Section 8.6 Sports**.

Accounts of the development of Young are dotted with references to picnics and other outdoor leisure activities. For many years in Young St Patrick's Day was a virtual public holiday with shops closing and many sport and family activities. Picnics were often arranged as fundraisers or to mark special occasions. According to Charles Robinson:

> *Picnics were held at Murringo Gap where a placid stream meandered between two mountain ranges. This was, and is, a very pleasant place and a level area can be used for ball games. One year our only cricket ball ran down a rabbit burrow after which we spent a long time digging with sticks to retrieve it ... Sometimes we scaled the very steep range on the northern side and viewed the panorama westward from the top.[471]*

As the populations of the district became more settled and communities developed around rural localities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries community halls became venues for many forms of popular entertainment, including supper dances and balls. Local bands, including Croke's Orchestra from Koorawatha, were formed to provide entertainment and rhythm for the dancers. Cecil and Kath Croke formed this band in the late 1930s and played throughout the years of World War II, drafting in additional musicians from the army camp at Cowra from time to time[472]. Many community halls dot the landscape and continue to function as places of gathering and celebration. Prominent among these are the Southern Cross Hall in Young, Murringo Memorial Hall, Bendick Murrell Memorial Hall, Bribbaree Memorial Hall and Koorawatha Memorial Hall.

With the development of cinema many halls were drafted into use as makeshift picture shows. Mr Van Garten charged 1/- for residents of Koorawatha to attend silent screenings in the 1920s. He not only screened the movies but provided musical accompaniment on the hall's piano. Talking pictures were screened monthly at the Koorawatha hall in the 1930s by the Amusu Touring Talkies company from Mandurama. A young bell ringer was sent around the village to announce the name and time of the movie. "He patrolled the village, ringing the bell and singing, '*Roll up, tumble up, never mind your washing up, come to the pictures tonight*'".[473]

The first moving pictures in Young were screened in the Town Hall in September 1908 by Martin's Bioscope and Moving Pictures. Young began to be visited by travelling picture shows and a number of cinema operations were established. Standard Pictures commenced in 1910 and Lyric Pictures in 1914. Lyric Pictures traded as the Lyceum Pictures. Initial screenings were made in the Town Hall and

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[469] Robinson, C., 1994. "One of These Days …". p.82
[470] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Australian Prize Fighting*. pp.75-76
[471] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.79
[472] Shumack, D., *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.117
[473] Shumack, D., *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.116

picture shows saved the building from being a 'white elephant'. Competition for Saturday night screenings led to Council calling for tenders for this time of week. J. Kouvelis' Imperial Pictures secured a lease of the Town Hall but did not operate in the building.[474]

Kouvelis constructed an open air picture show, trading as Imperial Pictures and the Lyceum Picture Hall was constructed on the corner of Boorowa and Clarke Streets. In 1921 Kouvelis constructed a new cinema on the site of the Lyceum Picture Hall at an estimated cost of £10,700. The Strand Theatre was officially opened by Young Mayor Alfred Rabbets on 30 April 1923. Proceeds from the opening night on 18 May 1923 were donated to the fund for the Young Soldiers' Memorial.[475]

The cinema was sold to A.J. Bartle in 1925. Bartle installed a sound system in 1929 to enable the screening of the new talking movies. This system cost £5,000. The Strand Theatre was acquired by the Hoyts cinema chain some time after 1956. Their sign was not placed on the cinema until 1962. The cinema eventually closed in 1973, a victim of the increasing popularity of television. In 1973 a drive-in theatre had also been established in Briggs Street, Young.[476] This drive-in continued to operate well into the 1980s[477].

8.4   NSW Historical Theme: Religion

At the end of the 19th century religion in regional New South Wales was generally an identifier of the place from which individuals had emigrated, or in which their parents were born. '… Scots tended to be Presbyterians, the English Anglicans (Church of England) and the Welsh, Methodist, while 70 per cent of the Irish were Catholics, the remainder being Anglican or Presbyterian. Some Germans were Catholics, some Lutheran.'[478] Old enmities from reformation era Europe and from the English conquests of the British Isles tended to create a Protestant-Catholic divide that lasted well into the 20th century.

The churches were slow to respond to the spiritual needs of the population drawn to Burrangong by the gold rush. Newspapers complained in March 1861 that the diggings had 'no priest, no clergymen of any sort to minister to the spiritual needs of ten thousand'. By the end of that month a Roman Catholic priest and Wesleyan preacher had visited the area. 'In the absence of churches one held divine service in a dancing saloon, the other preached from an open air pulpit made of empty boxes.'[479] The goldfields were also visited by a Roman Catholic Bishop who addressed the miners on at least one occasion.

As communities developed various denominations worked to create their own education structures to reinforce their doctrinal position to young adherents (refer to **Section 6.1 Education**). Perhaps the most successful of these was the Catholic education system which relied heavily on the sacrificial service of members of the teaching orders such as the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St Joseph. In celebrating the centenary of the work of the Sisters of Mercy in the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst in 1966 Bishop Albert Thomas said:

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[474] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.176
[475] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.176
[476] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.208
[477] Young Shire Council Ass: 2655
[478] Cremin, A., 2001. *1901 Australian Life at Federation: An Illustrated Chronicle*, p.74
[479] McGregor, H & J., 1999. *Roll-Up.* p.18

> *The pattern has not varied much, the duties have always been the same and the performance of the duties likewise the same. Children to be taught the Love of God, adults to be brought back from the wayward path, charity expressed for the love of Christ – these were and still are the purposes why the Sisters came, why they worked ...[480]*

In the 19th century and though much of the 20th century the practice of Christianity was considered by many to be a vital aspect of citizenship. Much effort was made to bring Aboriginal people and immigrants from non-Christian countries under the influence of Christian teaching.

Traditional aboriginal belief systems and practices demonstrated an inextricable link between land, people and belief. As mentioned in **Section 2.1 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures** these links were largely broken during the period of European colonisation of the area. White settlers and missionaries actively expunged Wiradjuri cultural traditions in an attempt to 'civilise' and 'assimilate' Aboriginal people into white society.

Special missions were established in Western New South Wales to bring Christianity to Chinese immigrants. In the late 19th century the Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of England churches appointed Chinese-speaking ministers to carry out missionary tours throughout the colony.[481]

The existence of places to worship was of equal, if not greater, importance to many of the people of New South Wales. As communities were established moves were made to create spaces and buildings for the practice of religious observances. Early settlers experienced isolation from the clergy of all Christian denominations.

The first Church of England church in Young was a timber building erected in 1861. It was 'opened in an unfinished state by the Rev'd R.H. Mayne' in November 1861. Following its opening a Sunday school was advertised. By 1864 this church was sold for 30/- and services conducted in a room in the Young Courthouse and later in a building in Boorowa Street[482].

The first permanent church was a brick structure named in memory of Captain John Lunan Wilkie of the 12th Regiment of Foot. Wilkie had led the troops that arrived in Young July 1861 in response to the goldfield riots. Wilkie, aged 28, died in February 1862 when he fell from his horse in a fit of apoplexy. 'His military funeral was one of the most impressive and spectacular events the town had witnessed'. His young widow led efforts to raise money for the memorial church.[483] She personally donated £500 towards its construction and collected large amounts in Young and England[484]. A foundation stone for the church was laid on 21 March 1865. St John's was the first permanent church of any denomination on the Burrangong Goldfield[485]. (Refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**.)

In 1892 the Church of England in Young sought designs for an extension of the 1865 church. A foundation stone was laid on 12 July 1893. The extension consisted of a

[480] Sisters of Mercy, 1966. *Sisters of Mercy – Bathurst 100 years – 1866-1966*, Foreword
[481] Wilton, J., 2004. *Golden Threads: The Chinese in Regional New South Wales 1850-1950*, pp.99-101
[482] Ellerman, 2000. *A Brief History of the Church of St. John The Evangelist Young and Margaret Wilkie*. pp.2-4
[483] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.36-38
[484] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.58
[485] Kinsela, J., 1986. *The Church of St. John the Evangelist Young. Guide Book. Historic Outline*. p.1

sanctuary and transept. It was constructed from blue granite quarried at Bendick Murrell and sandstone from Bundanoon. The original brick church was retained as the nave. On 26 November 1913 a foundation stone for a new nave was laid by Young businessman George Spencer Whiteman.[486] The nave of the 1865 Wilkie Memorial Church was demolished in 1914 to make way for the new structure[487].

The Roman Catholic Church first started ministering to the needs of its faithful in 1859 when priests began occasional visits to the district. Lambing Flat was made a dependency of Burrowa in 1865 and was made a separate parish in 1871. The first parish priest was Rev. H. Finnegan. His parish included Cootamundra, Temora, Grenfell, Wyalong and Koorawatha. A small bark clad church had been erected near the police camp in Young in 1861.[488]

The second Roman Catholic Church in Young was a weatherboard clad building with a shingle roof. It was constructed on an allotment in the town by Leeder van Iderstein and Company and was blessed by Rev. Cooke on 1 October 1863. This building served as a church and as a denominational school. In 1874 this building was moved to make way for the construction of the present St. Mary's Catholic Church. The foundation stone for St Mary's was laid on 6 December 1874 and blessed by Rev. Dr. Lanigan, Bishop of Goulburn. He also opened the church on 8 November 1876. The church was built in the shape of a cross with a nave, chancel and transepts. A bell was cast for the church by J. Murphy of Dublin. This was set in the tower by J.P. Leeder.[489]

The Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher laid a foundation stone for extensions to St Mary's Roman Catholic Church on 26 May 1907. These extensions were blessed and opened by Cardinal Moran on 10 May 1908. The chapel for St. Mary's Convent was opened in October 1922. To celebrate Rev. Hennessy's 50 years of service as a priest the parish arranged the construction of a tower and steeple for St Mary's Church in 1931.[490] Through personal energy and vision and the combined effort of his parishioners Rev. Monsignor Hennessy undertook a remarkable building programme that demonstrated the strength of Young's Roman Catholic community and provided the town with a remarkable built heritage (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**).

In 1962 St Mary's was modified with the demolition of its south wall and construction of an extension by A. Donnelly. The church roof was also covered in copper. 'The church was re-opened and blessed by Rev. Dr. Eris O'Brien on 23 June, 1963.'[491]

The first Presbyterian minister appointed to Young was Rev. Cameron. He was appointed to Young and Grenfell on 18 September 1867. Services were held in a bark clad building on the Temora Road until this structure was blown down in a storm. It was replaced by a timber structure in Cloete Street. Construction of a church located at the southern end of Lynch Street was commenced on 12 September 1871.[492] A site for a new church was acquired on the corner of Lovell and Lynch Streets in 1919 and the foundation stone of a new building was laid on 28 April 1920. The church was constructed with blue stone quarried from Bendick Murrell with steps and arches of

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[486] Ellerman, 2000. *A Brief History of the Church of St. John The Evangelist Young and Margaret Wilkie.* p.7
[487] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.167
[488] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* pp.59-60
[489] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.60
[490] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.166
[491] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.199
[492] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.62

local grey granite. The roof was clad in slate. The building was officially opened on 14 December 1921 by the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Assembly of Australia. A church hall was constructed in 1932 and extended in 1937.[493]

The first Wesleyan Church in Young was constructed on the corner of Cloete and Lynch Streets in 1865. A time capsule was placed under the building's foundation stone. It was opened on 4 March 1866.[494] Plans for a new Methodist Church were prepared by A.G. Newman of Sydney in 1908 and a foundation stone was laid on 11 March that year. The church was opened on 28 July 1909 by Rev. Joseph Beale, President of the Methodist Conference. The original brick church was renamed Epworth Hall at this time.[495] Epworth Hall was demolished in 1959 to make way for a new building. The foundation stone for the War Memorial Youth Centre was laid by Rev. Bowyer Hayward, President of the Methodist Conference on 26 April 1959.[496]

Plate 8.1: St Brendan's Catholic Church at Milvale also served as a school. It is now a community hall.

The built heritage of the Young Shire reflects the ascendancy of Christianity in its towns and villages. Each of the larger towns has its collection of Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches that were built by public subscription and community effort. Small church buildings, such as the Woodonga Methodist Church and the War Memorial Church of St James, Hampstead dot the rural landscape.

The practice of Christianity has changed over time with changes in patterns of attendance and adherence to denominations. The late 20th century also saw a breakdown in the sectarianism that once characterised the Christian community of Australia. Charles Robinson accounted an amusing anecdote indicating the depth of sectarian feeling that once prevailed:

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[493] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.167
[494] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.61
[495] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.167
[496] Bayley, W.,1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.199

Granny Mac, (was) a well-known character in Monteagle's early history. She was a very bigoted person, as many people were in those days on both sides of the denominational fence. Granny bought a cow from a Protestant and refused to use its milk until she had baptised the cow into the Catholic faith. She put the cow in the bail and went inside her house to get a bottle of holy water from her mantlepiece, but by mistake picked up a bottle of turpentine. Returning to the bail she splashed this liberally over the cow's head as she changed its denomination. The turps got into the cow's eyes, causing it to bellow and leap about violently. With an air of great satisfaction Granny shouted, "Listen to the Protestant devils coming out of her!"[497]

In contrast to this amusing superstition there are many historical instances of Christian denominations in the shire sharing resources, including joint use of buildings.

In 1994 the former drive-in theatre in Briggs Street, Young was converted into a place of worship by the Lebanese Moslem Association. An ornamental minaret tower was constructed over the main building in 1995 and a new meeting room constructed in 1997.[498]

8.5 NSW Historical Theme: Social Institutions

Australian communities share common threads of community endeavour. Social organisation, social services and social cohesion have long been supported by societies established for the good of their members and/or the good of the community. Volunteer effort drives and sustains many of these institutions. The built environment is studded with buildings, monuments and works which stand as testament to the development and impact of these organisations.

One of the most enduring of these is the Country Women's Association which was founded in New South Wales in April 1922. Formed to foster the 'community spirit' and a sense of 'self help'[499], the CWA has branches in almost all communities and is active in providing a focus for the women of the country. Early campaigns of the CWA included ongoing lobbying and agitation to improve women's health services and create maternity and mother care facilities in public health facilities[500]. CWA Branches continue to raise money for charities and community projects, as well as catering for social functions.

Accounts of the visit of New South Wales Governor, Lord Carrington, to Young in December 1889 show the number of friendly societies that were active in the town at that time. On their arrival at Young Lord Carrington and his entourage were greeted by crowds including members of the Prince of Wales' Lodge Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, the Good Templars, the Presbyterian Band of Courage, the Wesleyan Band of Hope, and the Hibernian Australian Catholic Benefit Society.[501] At the governor's welcome Miss E. Millard noted that the chief aims of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, the Good Templars, the Band of Courage and the Band of Hope were:

"... to spread the principles and promote the cause of total abstinence. It is not necessary to remind your Excellency that in this colony, as in England,

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[497] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days ..."*. p.25
[498] Young Shire Council Ass: 2655
[499] Kingston, B. (ed.), 1977. *The World Moves Slowly*. p.36
[500] Kingston, B. (ed.), 1977. *The World Moves Slowly*. p.36
[501] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street*. p.160

> *intemperance is the chief source of both crime and poverty, and a most
> serious obstacle to both national advancement and successful government."*[502]

The Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF) operated in Young. In the days before large-scale government funded social welfare organisation such as this provided health and sickness benefits to its members. It was also a point of social networking for people moving between communities. Lodge members often found referrals for employment or other assistance through the Oddfellows.

The Freemasons were also active in the area, establishing lodges in the larger communities. The former Burrangong Lodge of St John No.393 in Zouch Street is a grand and handsome building that reflects the size and importance of a lodge that has operated for well over 130 years. A photographic montage of Lodge members from 1910 shows the social and commercial status of lodge members in the community of Young. The Masons continue to operate in Blackett Avenue, Young.

A School of Arts, run by a committee, was established in Young after a public meeting in 1870. It operated from rented premises and apparently stopped functioning after a few years. The foundation stone for a Mechanics Institute was laid in May 1875 and when it was completed it became Young's most important building. The School of Arts collection of books was acquired, newspaper subscriptions were taken out and a new reading room opened in the Mechanics Institute building on 2 July 1875. The Mechanics Institute was never a financial success, probably lacking public support, and was later mortgaged to the Bank of N.S.W. In 1886, when the debt was £3,515, it was decided to ask the Municipal Council to take it over as a Town Hall and Public Library. The Mechanics Institute remained closed for a year with a meeting in December 1887 being attended by only seven townsmen.[503]

The Young School of Arts was formed under the leadership of G. S. Whiteman in 1900. Mr. Whiteman placed a room over his drapery store at the disposal of the committee free of charge for a reading room, and gave £100 to the funds. The School of Arts was officially opened in August 1900 with the Library being transferred from the Town Hall. Cards, draughts and billiards were added later. A building fund was set up and a site fronting on Lynch Street, between Burrowa and Lovell Streets was secured. Interest was not strong, but due to the efforts of G. S. Whiteman the foundation stone for the School of Arts building was eventually laid on 10 August 1904.[504]

Drought delayed the collection of donations for the building fund and finally Mr. Whiteman gave half the cost of a building to the value of £600. The building was constructed by H. R. Blackett at a cost of £650 and was opened free of debt on 11 January 1905. It continued operation as a School of Arts until 1944 when the Public Library Act was passed and a Council library was established in the same building.[505] This library is one of the few in New South Wales still operating in its original location.

A public meeting was held at Weekes' Marengo Hotel on 10 April 1900 to consider the erection of a public hall at Marengo. William English of Belowra chaired the meeting. English and fellow district residents spoke strongly in favour of the

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[502] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* p.164
[503] History of the Library Service [Online]
[504] History of the Library Service [Online]
[505] History of the Library Service [Online]

establishment of a Mechanics Institute. The meeting resolved to proceed with this venture and £25 was promised by those present.[506] When constructed the small hall contained a reading room, office and entertainment area[507] (Marengo Community Association 2001:8).

It was intended to construct a second larger hall but this was not seriously considered until after World War I. A foundation stone for the memorial hall was laid by Mrs Margaret Johnson on Anzac Day 1928. The new hall was connected to the original Mechanics Institute by a walkway and the Mechanics Institute converted into a supper room.[508] Memorial gates for the hall were donated by the Pride of Murringo Grand United Order of Oddfellows.

A branch of the Country Women's Association was formed in November 1923 'after an address by Mrs Stephen Laver of Cotswald, Grabben Gullen, president of Crookwell Branch, the first formed in Australia in 1922'[509]. Mrs Helen Marina was elected as the first President of the Young Branch (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**). A branch of the CWA was opened in Koorawatha on 31 October 1931 by Mrs Marina and Myra Laver[510]. The CWA played an important role in improving health services for women and children in regional areas (refer to **Section 3.9 Health** and **Section 9.1 Birth and Death**).

8.6   NSW Historical Theme: Sport

Human beings have always engaged in competitive activities that have been designed to train members of society for work or war. Team sports have also been used to enhance social cohesion and redirect individual attention away from social or economic hardships.

Competitive sports were part of the early gold rush scene in Lambing Flat, with the first horse race being held on Boxing Day 1860. A cricket match was held between Stoney Creek and the Flat around the same time.[511] Horse races were held at Stoney Creek on 26 January 1861. Mark Hammond recalled entering a mare in this race but, 'as a consequence of not being the required weight', he had to find another rider. He gave this task to none other than the later notorious bushranger Johnny Gilbert. After the race Gilbert befriended Hammond and later stole his horses![512]

Horse racing has continued to be popular with a number of racing venues being operated across the district. In Murringo horse races were originally held in the streets of the town.

Horse races were held at Koorawatha from late in the 19th century with early races possibly being held 'on the flat beside the Back Creek on the Greenethorpe Road'. The Koorawatha Jockey Club was formed before 1901 and a race course was established beside the Young Road on the original town common around 1900. Mr J.P. Costello was granted grazing rights for the new race course on the 'condition that he fence, ring-bark and sucker same'.[513] Koorawatha Racecourse was a popular venue with horses being easily transported to the town by rail. Races were often held on a

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[506] Gow, N.&B., 1974. *News From Marengo, 1860-1900*. p.49
[507] Murringo Community Group, 2001. *Murringo Celebrating 150 Years*. p.8
[508] Murringo Community Group, 2001. *Murringo Celebrating 150 Years*. p.8
[509] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.158
[510] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.141
[511] McGregor, H. & G., 1999. *Roll Up*. p.16
[512] Hammond, M. *Remembered With Pride*. pp.79-70
[513] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.197

Wednesday afternoon.[514] Trengrove Park Grandstand is a remaining element of this racecourse.

Plate 8.2: Trengrove Park Grandstand, Koorawatha.

During the Great Depression swagmen camped in a shed on the racecourse. Ron Richards, a boxer who later went on to win Australian and Empire middleweight boxing titles[515], camped there once for about six weeks. While he was there he taught many local young men to box.[516] The grandstand served the course until racing was discontinued in 1937. The Jockey Club was dissolved and John Moloney leased the property for grazing at a cost of £23 per year. The grandstand was relocated to the current Koorawatha Showground and other goods, including a starting machine, saddle cloths, a red coat, jockeys' room, stalls, judges' box, front fence and square fence sold at auction.[517]

The Burrangong Pastoral and Agricultural Association was formed at a meeting held in the Criterion Hotel in October 1870. The association commenced with 100 members and held its first show on 17 April 1871. A sheep show was instituted on the late 1870s. The first showground on the Wombat Road (Wombat Street) proved to be inadequate in size and in 1886 a new showground was developed '… on the front and back roads to Moppity' 1½ miles from Young Post Office and within half a mile of the railway trucking yards. A show shed 60 feet by 40 feet was built of corrugated iron and the parade ground sown with couch and lawn grass, white clover and other English grasses. There were 56 cattle pens and 80 sheep pens. A poultry shed with 40

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[514] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.198
[515] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Prize Fighting in Australia*. p.135
[516] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.198
[517] Shumack, D. 1984. *Chronicles of Koorawatha*. p.198

coops was also built. A grandstand was constructed on the new site in 1888 by D. Rentoul.[518]

By the early 1890s the Pastoral and Agricultural Association was outgrowing the second showground. In 1893 the Lands Department offered an exchange of the land on Moppity Road for a more usable site of equal size, comprising part of Garibaldi Park on Burrowa Road. After approaches by the Association the Department of Lands included the whole of Garibaldi Park in the exchange.[519]

In addition to hosting annual shows the showground hosted sheep shows from 1929 and trotting meetings from the 1920s. Night trotting and dog racing commenced at the showground in 1954.[520] During the Second World War the Showground accommodated members of the Womens Land Army and was also used as a drill and training ground by the local Volunteer Defence Corps[521]. The showground continues to host trotting events.

In regional areas sports have provided opportunities for communities to connect with neighbours and with persons in other communities. Tennis provides a powerful example of the role of sports in community development within the Young Shire.

Tennis courts, and the remnants of tennis courts, dot the landscapes of almost all current and former communities. It is also unusual for pastoral properties to be without a tennis court. Tennis was particularly popular from the 1920s to the 1970s. Local newspapers regularly ran reports of tennis competitions such as the Catholic Federation Tennis Cup[522] and Penson Cup[523]. Tennis teams operated in communities throughout the district. Surviving tennis court complexes at Bribbaree, Maimuru, Monteagle and Wirrimah are examples of the community effort applied to the development of communal courts.

Cricket has long been popular with communal cricket grounds being developed in many places. During the 1930s the Young and District Cricket Association's Mayne Shield competition that was played on pitches at Maimuru, Thuddungra, Burrangong, Young, Kingsvale and Wambanumba[524]. The Reilly Cup was another district cricket played in this era[525]. Cycling became popular from the 1890s and bicycle races, held at local sports fields, were well attended.

Rifle shooting has long been popular. This activity was supported by colonial and Commonwealth governments as part of the country's defence infrastructure (Refer to **Section 7.1 Defence**).

Other sports have been more closely linked to the skills required on the land. Horse-pulls, wood chopping, camp drafts and polocrosse have all provided opportunities to demonstrate skills and abilities linked to the occupations of the contestants. These

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[518] Young & District Family History Group Inc., 1996. *Young P&A Association 125th Annual Show – A Brief History 1871-1996.* p.1
[519] Young & District Family History Group Inc., 1996. *Young P&A Association 125th Annual Show – A Brief History 1871-1996.* p.1
[520] Young & District Family History Group Inc., 1996. *Young P&A Association 125th Annual Show – A Brief History 1871-1996.* p.2
[521] Information provided by Stuart Freudenstein, July 2007
[522] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo.* p.7
[523] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo.* p.166
[524] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo.* p.152
[525] Probert, L. & Gow, N., 1991. *News from Marengo.* p.147

sports have grown beyond the occupational area to become pastimes in their own right.

Boxing was once considered an important element of developing character and physical ability. 'Boxing was taught in YMCA gymnasiums, in Police Boys Clubs, by priests and in the armed services.'[526] These young men tested their skills in the tent boxing shows that travelled the country. The first boxing shows toured New South Wales from the 1840s and boxing was a popular entertainment during the gold rushes[527]. Jimmy Sharman, the greatest of the travelling boxing show promoters, commenced his career in the Cowra district and Riverina[528].

Sharman relied greatly on his own showmanship and the bravado of young men to build the popularity and success of his shows. His shows featured boxers with grandiose titles, including Rud Kee who was billed as the Champion of China[529]. His boxers often mingled with the crowd, pretending to be locals keen for a fight. Charles Robinson recalled attending the Young Show where 'a farmer boy from Cootamundra' 'began arguing with Jimmy and finally got up on the board'. When attending the Cowra Show a week later Charles saw this same young man paraded on the board as the Champion of Western Australia![530]

The late 20th century saw the development of swimming facilities with a concrete swimming pool being constructed in Young in 1933[531]. A swimming club was formed to arrange a carnival for the opening of the baths. This took place on 7 March 1934.[532] The swimming pool was renovated and a new pavilion constructed in 1959, A toddlers' pool was added in 1966.[533]

Early bathing facilities, including fenced areas and dressing sheds were established at a place called 'The Cutting' prior to 1900. A small-scale scandal occurred in the early 20th century when it was reported that bathers could be seen from the Temora Road. At this time the Police Offences Act forbade bathing at any place in view of a public road between 8:00am and 6:00pm.[534] Prior to the construction of swimming pools swimming holes in local creeks and rivers were popular places to cool off. The construction of a railway weir on Bang Bang Creek created a recreation and swimming place for the residents of the Koorawatha district. The presence of this facility led to the establishment of a swimming club in the 1930s. This club held a carnival at the weir each Boxing Day.[535]

[526] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Australian Prize Fighting.* p.87
[527] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Australian Prize Fighting.* p.76
[528] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Australian Prize Fighting.* p.80
[529] Corris, P., 1980. *Lords of the Ring. A History of Australian Prize Fighting.* p.83
[530] Robinson, C., 1994. *"One of These Days …".* p.83
[531] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.173
[532] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.174
[533] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.210
[534] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.123
[535] Shumack, D., 1984. *Chronicle of Koorawatha.* p.95

9. Australian Historical Theme: Marking the phases of life

Although much of the experience of growing up and growing old does no readily relate to particular heritage sites, there are places that can illustrate this important theme. Most of the phases of life set out below are universal experiences.[536]

9.1 NSW Historical Theme: Birth and death

Birth and death mark the beginning and end of life. The rituals and beliefs surrounding both are markers of culture. During the period since the European occupation of the Young district birthing practices have changed dramatically with a shift from traditional Aboriginal birthing and European home birthing guided by the wisdom of midwives to 20th century notions of assisted and medically supervised birth.

The isolation of many women in regional areas, and the distances from which help had to be called, led to the death of many women due to the complications of childbirth or post-natal crises. In colonial times women on average 'had a baby every 18 months to two years'[537]. Local histories contain tragic stories of early female deaths associated with childbirth.

Mary Gilmore's observations of the Wiradjuri people indicate that their midwives had very sophisticated approaches to birthing that ensured the safety of the mother and child. In accordance with tribal traditions older Aboriginal women selected special places for women to undergo labour. These places were screened off, the ground swept clean and fresh eucalypt leaves methodically laid to create a soft, clean and antiseptic carpet. Children were born on this mat.[538]

During the early years of European colonisation of the region the skills and care of Aboriginal midwives saved many otherwise isolated European women and their babies. Up to 80% of European births in this period 'took place on eucalyptus leaves in the manner of the Aboriginal tradition'.[539] Aboriginal birth practices also increased the efficiency of labour in ways not embraced by European society until the advent of the Active Birth movement of the 1980s.

> *In traditional Aboriginal society, the woman adopted the squatting position to give birth whereas non-Aboriginal women were restricted to lying flat on the bed. Research has shown that any position other than lying flat on the bed increases the pelvic outlet by 28%. Labouring women are now encouraged to birth in any position which suits them.*[540]

As the European population increased midwives from England, Scotland and Ireland began to practise in the various settlements of the region. These women were on call day and night to attend births in towns and on farms. As the 19th century progressed lying-in hospitals were established by midwives in country towns. A brief account of these hospitals is included in **Section 3.9 Health**.

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[536] Australian Historic Themes Framework, 2001.
[537] Gaff-Smith, M., 2004. *Riverina Midwives from the Mountains to the Plains*. p.27
[538] Gaff-Smith, M., 2004. *Riverina Midwives from the Mountains to the Plains*. p.18
[539] Gaff-Smith, M., 2004. *Riverina Midwives from the Mountains to the Plains*. p.18
[540] Gaff-Smith, M., 2004. *Riverina Midwives from the Mountains to the Plains*. p.23

Country women, led by the Country Women's Association, began to agitate in the 1920s for improved birthing facilities and mothercare support to 'save the babies for Australia'. The Association asserted:

> *... that five hundred nursing mothers were lost in 1924 in New South Wales through the lack of proper accommodation and nursing ... 'Women are no more born mothers than they are born lamplighters,' says a prominent worker of the Association. 'All women need to be taught to be good mothers. The city provides ample facilities, and it is the Country Women's Association's aim to provide suitable enlightenment to the women of the west.'*[541]

The C.W.A. was responsible for the establishment of baby health centres in many parts of the shire, including Young and Koorawatha. A baby health centre was opened in Young in October 1930. This centre was located in premises owned by Mrs Helen Marina, CWA President, with funding being provided by local philanthropist George Whiteman (refer to **Section 9.2 Persons**).[542] Other specific sites in the former Young Shire associated with birth and mothering include the Bribbaree Bush Nursing Association and Koorawatha Regional Rooms.

The former Young Shire contains many sites in which the dead have been interred or remembered. Small cemeteries and isolated graves dot the region, providing testament to the practices of burial prevalent during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In her memoir Sarah Musgrave recounted some Aboriginal mourning and burial practices that she observed while living at Burrangong during the early years of European settlement. During 1837 a warrior was severely injured during a battle with Gamilaraay people in the Namoi region. He was carried back to Burrangong on a stretcher made from bark. He was nursed at Burrangong by two women, presumably his wives, and James White's friend Cobborn Jackie and eventually died after six months. Musgrave observed that on his death the man's two wives became frantic:

> *They screamed and tore at their hair; and then, following a custom of the tribe to demonstrate grief, seized tomahawks and chopped criss-crosses in their own heads until their faces were streaming with blood. ... (they) each took a large burning stick from the fire and rubbed them up and down their bare legs from the knee to the hip, until the flesh was actually roasted on the surface ... and then, with their bare nails, they tore furrows in the flesh of both legs until the blood oozed out.*[543]

This man was prepared for burial by tying his body up 'with old rope and kurrajong bark, bending his arms by the side and the knees up to the chin, with feet resting down'. The corpse was then buried in the ground. Musgrave notes that this burial was unusual as it was not accompanied by the burial of a child. Children apparently remained unburied until their body could be interred with that of an adult 'to ensure sufficient protection for the child in the grave'[544].

Mark Hammond described the first burial ground at Lambing Flat as follows:

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[541] Kingston, B. (ed.), 1977. *The World Moves Slowly*. p.36
[542] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales.* p.158
[543] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* pp.16-17
[544] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back.* p.17

> *A hundred yards further on (from the site of the present railway station)*
> *was the first burying ground on the Flat and a few had been entered (sic.)*
> *there. One or two graves had been fenced with round saplings in lieu of*
> *palings or pickets.[545]*

This burial ground was quite small and inadequate for the needs of the population. The present cemetery was included in the town plan of Young drawn up in April 1861. This was located on the Wombat Road. In 1865 the government called tenders to fence the cemetery to keep out pigs and goats. The cemetery was initially operated by a trust, which kept poor records of interments. The cemetery at this time was also badly arranged.[546]

Local cemeteries were managed by denominational trustees until 1 October 1967 when 'the Local Government Act was amended to give local councils control of cemeteries'. Transfer to local government control led to more regular maintenance and beautification of public cemeteries.[547]

9.2   NSW Historical Theme: Persons

A number of prominent citizens of Young Shire have been listed in this section in alphabetical order. Accounts of these persons are taken from previously published sources. There are may more people who have made significant contributions to the region. Some are mentioned in other sections of this history.

9.2.1   Lieutenant Colonel Charles Groves Wright Anderson MC, VC (1897-1988)

Charles Anderson was born in Cape Town, South Africa on 12 February 1897. During World War I he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the King's African Rifles. He gained jungle warfare experience fighting against the German led Askari in East Africa and was awarded the Military Cross. On 21 February 1931 he married Edith Tout and together they moved to a property near Crowther in 1934. He joined the Citizens' Military Forces in early 1939 and by August 1941 he had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and given command of the 2/19 Battalion AIF.[548]

Anderson won the Victoria Cross while serving with the 8th Division in Malaya in 1942. During the Japanese invasion of Malaya in January 1942 he assumed command of the 2/19th and 2/29th Battalions and an Indian battalion of the 45th Brigade following the almost complete destruction of the 45th Brigade headquarters in an air raid. He commanded a fighting withdrawal of the 2/19th and 2/29th Battalions, delaying the withdrawal of the 2/29th to allow an isolated Indian battalion to reach safety. Anderson personally led infantry attacks to break encircling Japanese formations.[549] During the second such attack 'he personally put two machine-gun posts out of action with grenades and shot two Japanese with his pistol'. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore and did not return to Australia until late in 1945.[550]

He was the first citizen of Burrangong Shire to be awarded the Victoria Cross. According to William A Bayley:

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[545] Hammond, M., 1988. *Remembered With Pride*. p.69
[546] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.58
[547] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. pp.195-196
[548] 1/19 Battalion Association Inc (Online)
[549] Long, G., 1973. *The Six Years War*. pp.142-143
[550] 1/19 Battalion Association Inc (Online)

> *Young Municipal Council decided to re-name Railway Park in honour of the hero and a subscription list was opened to provide a memorial. The Chamber of Commerce opened with £300 and G. S. Whiteman with £200*
>
> *At the close of the war the hero on his return was escorted into town by a police escort and attended by Eighth Division ex-prisoners. The townspeople made holiday and accorded him a tumultuous welcome ... The Young R.S.L. created him a life member in 1947 and on Saturday, April 3, 1948, Anderson Park was dedicated when he unveiled the memorial to the fallen of Young on a pillar there.[551]* (Bayley 1977:165)

In 1949 Anderson was elected as Country Party member for the Federal seat of Hume. He held this seat until 1951 and was re-elected in 1955, remaining in parliament until 1961. He died on 11 November 1988.[552]

9.2.2   Lieutenant Colonel Eric Campbell DSO (1893-1970)

Eric Campbell was born the son of solicitor Allan Campbell and his wife Florence (nee Russell) at Young on 11 April 1893. After a private education he was employed in his father's office and was commissioned in the Australian Field Artillery in 1914. He joined the Australian Imperial Force as a Lieutenant in April 1916, serving with a field battery in France and later was attached to General Headquarters. He served with distinction, being promoted to Major by 1917 and awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1919.[553]

After World War I he was admitted as a solicitor and by 1931 he was a reputable businessman living with his wife in Turramurra. At this time he was a director of Australian Soaps Ltd, Discount and Finance Ltd and other companies. He retained an interest in military matters and was active in the Militia, commanding the 9th Field Artillery Brigade in 1924. In 1925 he became involved in the shadowy world of paramilitary activity, helping to organise 'a secret force of 500 ex-officers to try to put down a seamen's strike'.[554] By 1930 he was involved with the secretive anti-socialist paramilitary group known as The Guard. This group 'was determined to act as a counter-revolutionary force should the communists get their way in Australia'[555].

Disgruntled with what he perceived as lack of action by The Guard to curb what he regarded as the excesses of Labor Premier Jack Lang he formed the New Guard in February 1931. Campbell's intemperate and often inflammatory language brought him into conflict with members of The Guard and with the NSW Police Commissioner. He was involved in planning the actions of Captain Francis de Groot who cut the ribbon on the Sydney Harbour Bridge before Jack Lang[556]. After this act the New Guard declined. Campbell's increasing authoritarianism and militancy alienated many members. Embracing Fascism he visited Europe in 1933 and met Fascist leaders. In 1934 'he published *The New Road*, a case for Fascism and Mussolini's corporate state'.[557]

In 1941 he returned to the Young district, living at Billaboola, part of Memagong station and practicing in the town as a solicitor. He served as President of Burrangong

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[551] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.165
[552] 1/19 Battalion Association Inc [Online]
[553] Campbell, Eric (1893-1970) [Online]
[554] Campbell, Eric (1893-1970) [Online]
[555] Lalor, P., 2005. *The Bridge*. p.293
[556] Lalor, P., 2005. *The Bridge*. p.294
[557] Campbell, Eric (1893-1970) [Online]

Shire in 1949-50 and eventually moved to Yass in 1957. He died in Canberra on 2 September 1970.[558]

9.2.3 Cobborn Jackie (-1874)

Cobborn Jackie was a leader of the local Burrowmunditory people who was given the name 'Cobborn Jackie' by James White[559]. White's early success in establishing a pastoral run can be partly attributed to the generous assistance and support he received from Cobborn Jackie and others. According to Musgrave Cobborn Jackie chose the site of White's Burrangong homestead[560] and guided his relationship with the local Aboriginal people. Cobborn Jackie and others also surveyed the routes of roads constructed by White to connect Burrangong to other nearby localities[561]. Groups of Aboriginal men also regularly applied their skills to cut and transport slabs of bark used for roofing by the Europeans[562].

According to Sarah Musgrave Cobborn Jackie died at the Aboriginal Mission at Grolan Plains near Forbes in 1874. 'His death was the result of an injury caused by falling into a cellar in Young'.[563]

9.2.4 George O'Malley Clarke (1836-1899)

George O'Malley Clarke, son of an Irish medical practitioner, was born in Paris. He migrated to Australia during the 1850s gold rushes and obtained employment with the government as Clerk of Petty Sessions at Goulburn. He was appointed junior gold commissioner at Lambing Flat in 1860, supporting Commissioner Lynch in his duties. 'He was popular among the miners … needed no armed escort and was said to have never once been sworn at'. Clarke and Lynch were suspended from their duties after the Lambing Flat anti-Chinese riots in July 1861.[564]

He was reinstated to his duties in early August 1861 and examined prisoners taken during the riot. He was promoted to Senior Gold Commissioner in 1866 in the Southern Goldfields. In 1875 he was appointed a Chief Mining Warden in Adelong but returned to Young in the same year as Police Magistrate and Commissioner of conditional purchases under the Land Acts. He was regarded as having 'unflinching integrity and sound judgement'.[565]

Clarke believed that 'any man in a public position who was worth his salt always lent tone to a movement, when his utterances and opinions would command respect and carry weight' and was active in local affairs.

> *With his flamboyant platform manner he was an excellent chairman of public meetings. In October 1865 he was gazetted a trustee of the newly-consecrated Church of England and in 1866 of the parsonage and school; in July 1870 he convened the meeting which established the Young School of Arts; in March 1874 he was chairman of the local board when the public school was opened; he was many times chairman of the hospital committee which built several brick extensions; in October 1870 he was founding president of the Pastoral and Agricultural Association whose annual shows after April 1871 helped to*

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[558] Campbell, Eric (1893-1970) [Online]
[559] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.2
[560] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.3
[561] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.9
[562] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.15
[563] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.78
[564] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]
[565] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]

*foster cotton and tobacco growing, market gardening and sheep breeding;
in January 1868 he was the first president of the Turf Club and in September
1876 of the Cricket Club. An energetic townsman, he did much toward the
incorporation of Young in October 1882.*[566]

George Clarke was appointed as a Stipendiary Magistrate in the Sydney Metropolitan
area in January 1882. By 1890 he was Presiding Magistrate at the Central Police
Court and acting Chairman of the Licensing Bench. He moved to Melbourne after his
retirement in 1893 and died there in 1899.[567]

9.2.5 Margaret Turner Clarke (1836-1887)

Margaret Turner Clarke, wife of George O'Malley Clarke, was a daughter of Charles
McLachlan and his wife Isabella. She was educated in England and became an
accomplished harpist. She travelled to Sydney with her husband, Captain John Lunan
Wilkie, of the 12th Regiment and later moved to Young with him during the period of
the Lambing Flat ant-Chinese riots. 'She was horrified at the misery among the
15,000 miners there'. Her husband died on 1 February 1862 after a fall from a horse
and she returned to her family in England. She was one of the first women to train at
the nursing college established in 1860 by Florence Nightingale at St Thomas's
Hospital, London.[568]

She returned to Lambing Flat in 1865 and sought out and relieved those 'whom the
want of luck in gold-mining had left in absolute need of the common necessaries of
life'. In November 1865 she formed a Visiting Relief Society. In February 1866 she
was given an address and a packet of gold dust by the Burrangong diggers who
described themselves as 'the many who bless you'. She married George O'Malley
Clarke in 1866 and continued her private medical and financial help to distressed
families. She visited England in 1875 and 1879. Her particular interest was in the
Church of England. In England in 1863 she had spoken of the want of religion and
education on the goldfields to Rev. William Pownall, whom she encouraged to go to
Young. In memory of her first husband she gave £500, a third of the total cost, for
building the Church of St John. She also raised £200 in the colony, engaged a London
architect, imported the encaustic tiles, font and other furnishings, and herself did all
the needlework. Until replaced in 1893 it was known as the Wilkie Memorial Church.
With 'the indefatigable skill with which [she] prosecutes her begging designs', she
helped to raise funds for a Church of England school in 1866, a parsonage and a
public school at Young in 1870 and an Anglican Church in 1873 at the near-by village
of Wombat.[569]

In 1882 she went with her husband to Sydney where she helped to found the Home
and Training School for Nurses and formed a ladies' committee 'to seek out and
relieve, with food and proper attendance, the sick whose poverty would otherwise
place such relief beyond their reach'. She died at Woollahra on 8 August 1887.
Among her legatees were the Church Society of the Anglican Diocese of Goulburn
and the City Mission in Sydney.[570]

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[566] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]
[567] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]
[568] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]
[569] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]
[570] Clarke, George O'Malley (1836-1899) [Online]

9.2.6 Peter Cram (1824-1900)

Peter Cram, Young's first Mayor, was born in the County of East Lothian, Scotland on 23 July 1824. He migrated to South Australia in 1852, spending eight years there until moving to New South Wales in 1860. He is noted as a highly skilled timber craftsman who was at one time fitting out steamboats on the Murray and Murrumbidgee. He established his own sawmill at Tyagong Creek and eventually erected a sawmill at Young in 1862. This mill was expanded to incorporate a flour mill known as the Burrangong Flour Mill.[571]

Peter married Letitia Connell at Bumbaldry on 27 September 1867 and together the couple had eight children. By July 1875 Peter was operating the Burrangong Steam Flour and Saw Mills. The flour mill had three pairs of mill stones and was made redundant by the introduction of steel roller milling technology in the 1880s.[572]

Like many of Young's early businessmen Peter Cram was active in the community and was a member of the Young Progress Committee. He was appointed first Mayor of Young following municipal elections held on 17 October 1882. Peter was also an Elder of the Presbyterian Church and a Trustee of Presbyterian Church properties in Young. He was also one of the foundation members of the local Freemasons' lodge, a member of the Young Fire Brigade and took an active interest in the development of the Burrangong Hospital. He died on 26 August 1900.[573]

9.2.7 George Cranfield (1855-1933)

George Cranfield was born in London in 1855. He was employed by Barrett and Co., the company that held the patent for the "stopper bottle", marketing the new bottle to cordial manufacturers. Cranfield travelled to Sydney in 1873 with Mr Barrett to establish a branch of the company in Sydney. He was successful in selling to cordial makers in Goulburn, Yass, Boorowa and Young and on the way he met Mary Sheeky whom he married in Goulburn in April 1878. [574]

Following the marriage the couple moved to Young where their four children were born. George set up business in Young as a baker, confectioner and aerated water manufacturer, and in 1885 he established the Crystal Springs Brewery (refer to **Section 3.10 Industry**). George was interested in the development of Young and joined the Young Progress Association (refer to **Section 7.2 Government and Administration**) and was one of the first Aldermen of the inaugural Borough Council elected in 1882. He served as Mayor in 1888 and 1889. As an opinion leader in Council he was a key figure in decisions that helped to set the direction of the development of Young, including the purchase of the Mechanics Institute Hall, installation of a municipal electricity supply system and the metalling of Boorowa Street.[575]

With others he formed The Burrangong Gold Dredging and Sluicing Company Ltd in 1899[576]. He was unusual in being both a successful business entrepreneur and a champion of the rights of working people. He was instrumental in forming the Lachlan Carriers Union and was elected President in 1889.[577]

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[571] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.29
[572] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.30
[573] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.30
[574] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.39
[575] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* pp.39-40
[576] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.40
[577] Forbes, W., *Bow Bells to Burrowa Street.* pp.121-122

9.2.8 Monsignor Jerome Hennessy (1855-1941)

The Reverend Monsignor Jerome Hennessy is remembered as a tireless worker for the advancement of Roman Catholicism in Young in the early 20th century. Ordained as a priest at the age of 26 in 1881 Monsignor Hennessy came to Young in 1889. He is credited with leading the development of many important Catholic institutions in Young, including the Sacred Heart Hospital, Mount St Joseph's Old People's Home, Southern Cross Hall, the kindergarten and infants school opened in 1934, and the Christian Brothers' residence.[578]

The community of Young celebrated his 50 years as a priest in 1931 a public testimonial was planned for the diamond jubilee of his time in Young in May 1941. 'Unfortunately he died in the Old People's Home a few weeks short' of this event.[579]

9.2.9 Nicole (Nicholas) Jasprizza (c.1834-1901)

Nicole Jasprizza was born in the town of Janjina in Dalmatia (now part of Croatia) in the early 1800s and emigrated to New South Wales in 1860. Working on the gold fields he realised that more money could be made supplying the miners with food than by prospecting for gold. He commenced growing vegetables and his first crop made a profit of £50. He became naturalized in 1865 and married Bridget Mary Bowles in 1867. Around 1876 he opened 'Cherry Vale' and pioneered commercial cherry growing using farming techniques taught to him by his father. 'By 1884 Jasprizza had 900 acres of land on which he grew vines and fruit trees and grazed cattle and about 600 sheep. He was shot dead in his house on McHenry's Creek on 8 May 1901. The murderer was never found, despite a reward of £300 being offered.[580]

9.2.10 Carlo Marina (1832-1909)

Carlo Marina was an accomplished pastoralist who, by selective breeding, improved upon the quality of Merino stock originally imported by John Macarthur. He was born in 1832 in Piacenza, Italy (then part of the Duchy of Parma). The son of a merchant he undertook some engineering training then left home to study music in Milan. He joined the army of the Kingdom of Piedmont and fought in its 1848 war against Austria. He fought in the battle of Novara in 1849, was captured and escaped, later fighting alongside Italian revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi in the siege of Rome.[581]

In 1856 Marina arrived in Melbourne and by 1861 he had established the 'Real Diggers' Butcher' at Young. He married Eliza Tout at Yass on 18 August 1861. The following year they leased the Moppity run and gradually converted this to freehold. In 1879 he 'took first prize for washed combing wool at the Agricultural Society's Show in Sydney, where he regularly attended the sheep sales. In the 1880s and 1890s he never ran less than 12,000 sheep.' He was also a successful horse breeder and vigneron.[582]

Marina was successful in many spheres and was a great local benefactor. He was also renowned as an host and entertainer who provided hospitality to visiting dignitaries such as Lord Carrington and Henry Parkes.[583]

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[578] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.166
[579] Bayley, W., 1977. *Rich Earth. History of Young New South Wales*. p.166
[580] Jasprizza, Nicholas (Nicole) (c.1834-1901) [Online]
[581] Marina, Carlo (1832-1909 [Online]
[582] Marina, Carlo (1832-1909 [Online]
[583] Marina, Carlo (1832-1909 [Online]

9.2.11 Helen Marina MBE (c.1860-1940)

Helen Taylor, daughter of Edward Taylor and Mary Hain[584], married Carlo Caesar William Marina of Moppity, son of Carlo Marina and Eliza Tout (see above), on 24 September 1884[585]. Helen was the first President of the Young branch of the Country Women's Association and was also South West Group President of the same organisation. She served as president of the Young branch for 17 years until her death in 1940 at the age of 79. Helen was awarded an MBE for her services to the community[586].

She lived at Verona on Moppity Road and maintained a brick house in Cloete Street as a town house and base for her CWA work. She also owned a building next door to this house that was used as the CWA rooms. In 1989 the CWA built a block of units in Young that was named for Helen Marina.

9.2.12 Edward Taylor (1831-1911)

Edward Taylor was born on 8 October 1831 in Hampshire, England. On 9 February 1856 he married Mary Hain and the couple emigrated to Australia with their two daughters in 1860, eventually settling in Tipperary Gully. Edward was a nephew of James White.[587] On his deathbed White appointed Taylor as a trustee of his estate along with Young Postmaster Mr. Macarthur and William Regan. Macarthur died soon after James White's death in 1865. William Regan and Edward Taylor managed White's properties at Burrangong and Currumburra for 11 years with Edward managing Burrangong station and William Regan managing Currumburra.[588]

By 1866 Edward and Mary had established a property 'north of Young, in the area of McHenry's Creek'. They later relocated to Rose Hill, north-east of Young.[589] Taylor is recorded to have planted the first cherry trees in the region in his home orchard. Nicole Jasprizza used stock from Taylor's orchard to plant his first cherry trees in 1878.

Edward Taylor was a very civic-minded individual who was active in the formation and operation of many local associations. He was a member of the railway committee and the Burrangong Hospital and was also a longstanding committee member of the Burrangong Turf Club. 'He was also associated with the establishment of the Young Co-operative Flour Mill and the Young Land Board'. Together with Carlo Marina and John Allen he was 'instrumental in establishing the Burrangong Pastoral & Agricultural Association'. Edward was 'the first member to be honoured with Life Membership'.[590]

Edward was active in moves to establish local government in Young and was a signatory to the petition to from a municipality. In the Borough Council election of October 1882 he polled the second highest number of votes behind Peter Cram. He served as Mayor of Young in 1892-1893 and 1897-1898. He died on 8 February 1911 and is buried in Young General Cemetery.[591]

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[584] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.45
[585] Marriage Certificate 48788, 1884
[586] Young Witness 18 February 1988.
[587] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.45
[588] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Wayback.* p.71
[589] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.45
[590] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.46
[591] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2002. *Young 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.46

9.2.13 James Torpy (1832-1903)

James Torpy was born at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland in 1832. He emigrated to Victoria in 1853 and worked on the goldfields, later moving to Sofala in New South Wales. He was a hotel keeper in Young in 1861 at the time of the anti-Chinese riots and became a leader of the Miners' Protection League and spokesman for the miners. He addressed a meeting attended by Governor Sir Charles Cowper in March 1861. In July of the same year he 'was chosen as miners' delegate to present a petition to Governor Sir John Young'. He was arrested in Sydney and charged with offences related to the anti-Chinese riots. Charges were dismissed after the prosecution witness disappeared.[592]

> *At the time of Torpy's defence of miners' rights, he lost much support when a mining claim in which he was principal shareholder was sold to some Chinese. He was accused of acknowledging the right of the Chinese to work on the field. In a letter to the Miner and General Advertiser he asserted that he had not been inconsistent and that he 'would rather make a profit out of an enemy than a friend'.[593]*

After marrying Isabella Jane Walwyn in Goulburn in 1863 he moved to Forbes, then to Orange where he was quite successful in business, but failed in a number of attempts to enter politics.[594]

9.2.14 James White (-1865)

James White and John Exile were transported to New South Wales on the convict ship 'Earl Spencer', arriving in the colony on 9 October 1813. He received his ticket-of-leave in 1826[595]. According to his niece Sarah White he travelled into the district now known as Young and camped in an area known to the local Wiradjuri as Burrowmunditory.[596] With the guidance of a Wiradjuri leader whom he called Cobborn Jackie he found a well-watered location on Sandy Creek. The Wiradjuri name for this place was Burrangong. White was the first European pastoralist to settle in the district.[597]

With the assistance of Cobborn Jackie White oversaw the construction of a road connecting Burrangong to Marengo[598]. He made other improvements on his property and within the district, and also established other runs. He lived at Burrangong until his death on 5 September 1865[599]. He was buried in the small cemetery at Burrangong station.

9.2.15 George Spencer Whiteman (1847-1948)

George Whiteman was born at Cobbitty on 4 October 1847. At the age of 14 he moved to Goulburn to learn the drapery trade. In 1872 he married Eliza Matilda Wright in Sydney. The couple moved to Melbourne and then to Ballarat where he purchased a drapery store. In 1882 he moved with his family to Young where he established a drapery business in a building previously occupied by Hopkins and

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[592] Torpy, James (1832-1903) [Online]
[593] Torpy, James (1832-1903) [Online]
[594] Torpy, James (1832-1903) [Online]
[595] Information provided by Margaret Hall, January 2008.
[596] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.2
[597] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.3
[598] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.9
[599] Musgrave, S., 1984. *The Way Back*. p.71

Gate. He titled this business Burrangong House and sold general drapery, clothing, boots and shoes.[600]

Described as 'thrifty and abstemious … he never drank, smoked or gambled' and he was able to amass enough wealth to retire in 1905 at the age of 58, selling his business to W.F. Weeden. Whiteman was widely recognised for his generosity in support of community and religious activities. While still conducting his business he became benefactor of the Young School of Arts. He donated £100 to the School of Arts and provided a room above his drapery store. He was also a major contributor to the cost of construction of the School of Arts building in Lynch Street. This building still operates as the Young Regional Library. At various times he was also actively involved in the Burrangong/Young Pastoral and Agricultural Association, the Farmers & Settlers Association, Burrangong Church and Burrangong Sunday School, Far West Children's Scheme, Country Party and Phoenix Literary & Debating Society. [601] When a motor ambulance service was proposed for Young in 1929 Whiteman donated £100 for the purchase of an ambulance and £300 towards the cost of construction of an ambulance station.

In 1899 Whiteman was elected as an Alderman on Young Borough Council. He served seven terms on Council between 1899 and 1917 and served as Mayor in 1904-1905, 1906-1907, 1908, and 1911-1912. He died at the age of 100 at the Sacred Heart Hospital, Young on 7 June 1948.[602]

George Whiteman in remembered as a great benefactor of the community of Young. From his youngest days he maintained a philosophy of giving one tenth of his income to the poor[603]. The built environment of Young contains many examples of the lasting community benefit of Whiteman's generosity.

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[600] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young. 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.60
[601] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young. 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* pp.60-61
[602] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young. 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* pp.61-62
[603] Lamb, M. & Hall, M., 2003. *Young. 120 Years of Local Government 1882-2002.* p.61

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